

# Rail Trail News

Published four times a year by the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail  
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48640-0505  
[www.LMB.org/pmrt](http://www.LMB.org/pmrt)

November, 2009

Vol. 17 No. 2

Welcome to the Fall/Winter edition of our Newsletter. We have streamlined our release schedule to optimize costs and bring you the most important news of upcoming trail events and projects.

Please also check the Friends web site [www.lmb.org/pmrt](http://www.lmb.org/pmrt) where all the latest news flashes, information on rides and formal newsletters are posted.

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## Board Members

Marilynn Marry joined the Friends Board. She is an active cyclist and a great organizer, she will be a great asset to us. Also Mark McCartney joined as Vice President. Mark is an active biker, walker, roller bladder and jogger. His CPA and analytical skills will be welcomed.

## Rails to Trails Conservancy Trail of the Month and Hall of Fame

Our Pere Marquette Rail Trail was recognized in October as Trail of the Month and will be honored in 2010 in the 25-member Hall of Fame according to Karl Wirsing, Conservancy Communications Director. "We choose the Pere Marquette because of its scenic value, high use, amenities, quality of maintenance and more" said Karl. Additionally, Nancy Kupiarz, executive director of the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance said "It serves as a demonstration project when we're talking to other communities about trails, we always offer to take them up to the Pere Marquette to show them what a trail can do for a community." Also Midland City Council issued a proclamation recognizing the Pere Marquette Rail Trail at the November 9 City Council meeting.

For details see the Rails to Trails Conservancy web site <http://www.railstotrails.org/news/recurringFeatures/trailMonth/archives/0910.html>

## 2010 Events

Here's advanced notice of our two main events in 2010 – watch the Friends web page and e-mails for further details in early Spring:

**2010 "Annual General Meeting":** come and give us your support and input on Thursday, April 22 at the Carriage House, Doan Midland History Center, 3417 West Main St, MI 48640. Doors open for refreshments at 6:00 pm, meeting starts at 6:60 pm, ends approx 8:00 pm.

**2010 "3 Trails in 3 Days" & 17th Annual Friends Walk, Skate & Ride:** mark your calendars for our one and only annual fund raiser. As last year we are partnering with the Bay City and Saginaw Friends in support of the Great Lakes Bay Regional pathway project.

Friday, July 23 Saginaw: Saturday, July 24 Midland: Sunday, July 25 Bay City including the picnic with door prize drawing.

## Safety First Corner

Safety on the Pere Marquette Rail Trail is a two way street. Safe use will only happen when everybody, faster and slower users, involved gets in on the action. Following these simple rules, it will be safer for everyone.

First and foremost, for all users, the rule is “Keep to the right except to pass.” It is amazing how many people wander the width of the trail, spread their group across the full width, or even stick to the left hand side.

Next is “Be aware of other trail users”. That means occasionally looking behind you to see if anyone is approaching. Be aware which way to move when somebody needs to pass. Moving left, standing in the middle of the trail, or splitting your group left and right are moves that make things risky for everyone!

Faster users need to moderate their speed and announce when passing (spoken or with a bell) and slower users can help safety by acknowledging those announcements with a wave, turn of the head, or moving to the (right) side.

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## 2009 Annual Ride Report

This year’s ride was a great success – our thanks to everyone who participated and helped. Our Annual Bike and Skate event this year was combined with the 3 Trails, 3 Days event supporting the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail project. A total of 110 riders participated, up significantly from the 2008 ride, with 55% (61) of the riders pre-registered. Sixty-two riders (56%) signed up for all three days, 46 riders registered for Midland only, and two riders registered for Bay City only. Clearly, the one day option (44%) was very popular, with Midland drawing the most. Ninety-two percent of the riders were from the tri-county area, 2% from the thumb, 5% from southeast Michigan, and 2% from out-of-state, travelling from Park City, Indiana. They traveled through a few months ago, heard about it, and came back for their wedding anniversary. Over \$1700 worth of door prizes were given away at the picnic following the ride on Saturday.

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## Membership Section

Welcome to our new members. We hope you’ll all play an active role through volunteering to help with maintaining and promoting the rail-trail and our activities.

Dan Barr  
Bob & Jo Balwinski  
Don Whitney

Cottage Creamery  
Chris & Regina Curtis

## Improving the Trail Activities 2009

Several major projects are making headway to fulfill the vision of Connecting Michigan to build the cross Michigan Bicycle Route #20. We gave over \$10,000 to some of these projects this year to help them be successful.

**Great Lakes Bay Regional Rail Trails (MBS Connection):** The Bay to Saginaw project is proceeding on schedule and planned for completion in 2011 subject to obtaining funding. Preliminary discussions have started on the Midland to Bay City route with the rail and pipeline owners who could potentially provide the right of way for the pathway. If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite. You can review the Phase 2 report on <http://www.co.midland.mi.us/departments/extra.php?id=21&pid=613>

**Midland Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP):** The NMT Advisory Committee plan for non-motorized transportation capabilities and infrastructure in the City was formally adopted by the City Council on July 27. A League of American Bicyclist (LAB) "Bicycle Friendly Community" workshop was successfully run and validated our plan. A new NMT Committee has now been formed to drive implementation of the plan. Expect to see new Designated Bike Routes and Bike Lanes in 2010! If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite, e-mail [davewaite@charter.net](mailto:davewaite@charter.net).

**Sanford Lake Park to Rail Trail Connector:** Midland County Parks & Recreation have completed construction of an 8 ft wide pathway to connect the Pere Marquette to Sanford Park. If you would like to know more contact Kim Haller at the Midland County Services Building, e-mail [khaller@co.midland.mi.us](mailto:khaller@co.midland.mi.us).

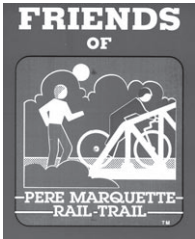
**Clare Extensions:** The trail extension from the new tunnel to the center of Clare was opened in September. Additionally, Clare Parks & Recreation working with MDOT now have a multi-phase, multi-year plan to extend the rail to trails pathway west of Clare.

**Farwell section:** The first 5 mile section is complete from the Moose Lodge to two miles west of Farwell. If you would like to know more about this project contact Don Kolander of the Clare County Parks & Recreation, e-mail [kolanderd@clareco.com](mailto:kolanderd@clareco.com)

**Adopt a Trail:** 2 organizations are partnering with the Friends to adopt a section of Trail and improve the appearance and housekeeping. If you would like to know more about this project contact Kelly Busse, e-mail [bussek@charter.net](mailto:bussek@charter.net).

**Trail Maintenance Fund:** The end of the year is approaching and it's a good time to think about donations. One great option is a donation to the "Midland Area Community Foundation", specifically into the "Midland County Rail-Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund". See [www.midlandfoundation.org/donate.htm](http://www.midlandfoundation.org/donate.htm). Donations to this fund qualify for the 50% Michigan tax credit (up to \$200 single, \$400 couple). That means a \$400 donation may only cost you \$200. And if you itemize, the donation is typically deductible on Federal taxes too!

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**FRIENDS OF THE  
PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL**  
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**Business members:** Cottage Creamery, Chippewa Nature Cntr, City of Clare, Ray's Bike Shop

### HELP SUPPORT YOUR RAIL-TRAIL

The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail is one of Michigan's premiere linear parks. You can help enhance and maintain this superb facility by using the form below to make a donation to the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail and/or become a FPMRT member. FPMRT is a non-profit organization pledged to improve, promote and maintain the Midland-to-Clare link in Michigan's extensive rail-trail system. If you enjoy the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail now is the time to show your support. Both membership fees and donations are fully tax-deductible . Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone( \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to be notified of Rail-Trail activities or would be willing to get the newsletter electronically in order to save us costs, please include an email address.

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (FPMRT) and mail to:  
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48641

Membership Categories (indicate amount in \$):

Annual Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Family \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Year Individual \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Year Family \$80 \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Individual \$300 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Family \$600 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in addition to membership: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would consider volunteering, please include phone number: \_\_\_\_\_