

FRIENDS OF THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL

www.fallingwaterstrail.org

CONCORD TRAILHEAD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Zeller, President
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Kathi Bigelow, Trustee
Timothy Payne, Trustee

CALENDAR

April

15—Great Paddle

1—4 PM

Cascades Park,
Jackson

22—JAOC Earth Day

1—4 PM

Grand River

www.great-mi.org for
details

Go GREEN!

If you normally get this newsletter in the mail, but have an email address, please let us know.

We would love to save a tree and postage by sending this newsletter to your email address. Please send your email address to hmburnet@gmail.com.

By Jeff Jackson

If you park at the Concord Trailhead or are on the trail heading west, you may have seen the signs that the bridge is closed to travelers.

With good reason as the Village of Concord has begun construction of the "Mill Pond Park."

This winter's mild temperatures have made it possible for construction to begin on the west end of the Falling Waters Trail.

Cross Lake Construction of Horton submitted the winning bid and immediately began work.

Items all ready completed include fill that has been brought in and compacted to

create additional parking, as well as stone that has been laid as a base for the boat launch on the south side of the bridge.

Concrete slabs have been delivered to be installed on top of the stone.

Improvements to the bridge have also been completed as sections of deteriorated concrete was replaced and new railings were installed.

Though the bridge is open, construction of the park is still underway. During this time, there will be intermittent blockages at the trailhead. They are expected to complete the construction by this spring. Until then, trail users are encouraged to use the parking lot at Teft

Road (Lime Lake) to access the trail.

Like the Falling Waters Trail, this project was made possible by the generous donations and support from area foundations, businesses, and individuals.

Donations towards further planned improvements are always welcome and appreciated.

Checks can be made payable to "Village of Concord" (Memo: "Mill Pond Park") and dropped off at or mailed to:

Village of Concord
Parks & Recreation Committee
110 Hanover Street
Concord, MI 49237

2011 FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Michael Bannasch

Thanks to all of our friends and supporters, the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail was able to raise nearly \$27,000 in 2011 to be used for things like maintenance, development and promotion of the trail.

This level of support was very similar to 2010, although the mix of sources was different. 2011 relied more heavily on the increasingly popular Wild Life Marathon.

We actually spent all the money we raised in 2011 plus a bit more with our expenditures totaling just under

\$28,000. The major categories of spending were:

- Wild Life Marathon expenses = \$16,100
- Grant to Village of Concord for trailhead improvements = \$10,000
- Informational (Newsletters & Website) = \$550
- Trail Clean-Up = \$500
- Administrative/Overhead Expenses = \$850

Looking forward to 2012, we have about \$26,800 in the bank, ready to assist the County Parks Department with the cost

of various projects in the works such as:

- Paving parking lots at trailheads
- Bathroom at Teft Road trailhead
- Weather shelter(s) along the trail
- Benches at trailheads and along the trail
- Ongoing maintenance

Volunteerism—making a difference by focusing selflessly on the needs of others!

THANK YOU 2011 SUPPORTERS OF THE TRAIL

BY MICHAEL BANNASCH

Once again, thank you to all of those who supported the Falling Waters Trail with their donations in 2011:

Al & Nancy Wagner
Allegiance Health
Barbara Anderson
Bart & Linda Clark
Benjamin & Mary Smith
Betty Desbiens
Brandon & Linda Ransom
Brooks & Wanza Grantier
Bruce Eaton
Caster Concepts
Charles & Christina Murphy
Charles Dingess

Craig & Diane Brush
Cynthia Nemetz
D. Patrick & Sandra Merkel
Dahlem Conservancy
David Kammer
Earl & Linda Snider
Ethel Van Schoyck
George Laws
James & Pamela Rossman
James & Janet Seitz
James & Rebecca Matthews
Kelli Hoover
Kenneth & Hazel Dodge
Kent Withrow
Kristine & Colvin Matthews
Libby & Michael Greanya
Linda Vorce

Mark Lelle & Dianne Guenin-Lelle
Michele Poole
On Two Wheels, Inc.
Patricia Huebner
Robert & Barbara Stadel
Robert & Geraldine DuBois
Roy Rider
Steve & Eleanor Robbins
Terry & Michelle Crosley
TLC Michigan, LLC
Tom & Jann Kilgore
Tom Dabrowiak
Wayne & Karen Leja
Willard & Jane Speck

WE THANK YOU!

WEATHER SHELTERS ON THE TRAIL!

BY BRANDON RANSOM

The City and County Parks Departments recently partnered with the Jackson Rotary Clubs to install two weather shelters on the Falling Waters Trail as well as the Inter-City Trail.

These 10'x14' metal shelters were installed by two groups of volunteers from the Rotary Clubs in late fall. The shelters will offer some protection from the elements in the coming years.

One shelter is located approximately ¼ mile east of the Lime Lake causeway on the Falling Waters Trail. The other shelter was constructed halfway between Park Road and West Avenue on the Inter-City Trail.

Each shelter will be outfitted with a bench and crushed limestone to provide accessible surfacing.

We wish to thank the breakfast and noon Rotary club members in Jackson for

their financial and volunteer assistance with this project.

We would also like to thank the Weatherwax Foundation for their contributions to the project. A special word of thanks to Rotary members Kathy Lincoln, Jack DeBoe, Butch Hasenwinkle, Don Siegel, and Mike Way for coordinating the volunteers and the installation of the shelters.



FRIENDS OF THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL

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Membership Form

Select	Membership Type	Amount
	Individual (Annual)	\$20
	Family (Annual)	\$30
	Lifetime	\$200
	Corporate	\$500
	Maintenance and	\$
	Renewal	

Name			
Address			
City			
State		Zip	
Phone (Day)			
(Evening)			
E-Mail			

[Newsletter by email only, unless specified that you do not have email]

Make your tax-deductible check payable to: Friends of the Falling Waters Trail

Mail to: Friends of the Falling Waters Trail, c/o Jackson County

Wild Life Marathon

Run on the wild side!

Join us on Sunday, October 14, 2012

We offer 6 amazing events:

- Marathon Run (26.2 miles)
- Half-Marathon Run (13.1 miles)
- Half-Marathon Walk
- 5K Run (3.1 miles)
- 5K Walk
- Kids Wild Dash for kids age 10 and younger (<1/4 mile)

Register before 8/15/2012 for earlybird pricing

www.wildlifemarathon.org

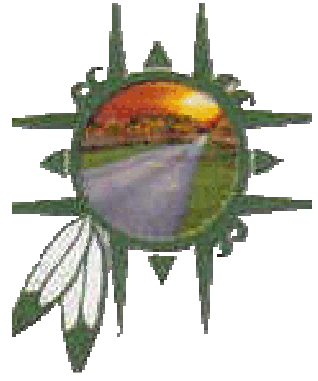
Wild Times start at 8 AM

Concord High School

219 Monroe Street Concord, Michigan 49237



email questions: director@wildlifemarathon.org



TRAIL BRUSH TRIMMING

BY BRANDON RANSOM

For those of you that use the trail often, it is quite evident that there is an issue with vegetation encroaching on the shoulders of the Falling Waters Trail.

The County Parks Department has been researching a number of methods by which to control the brush and vegetation growth.

The Department of Natural Resources requires that the County Parks Department maintain certain clear zone dimensions of vegetation and

brush on the trail. After completing the research, the department has decided that it is likely the best method to utilize an articulating mowing unit that it is mounted on a tractor.

The County Road Commission currently has one of these units and we will be looking to sub-contract the trail work to them on an as-needed basis (probably every other year or so).

Timing of the brush cutting will be very important to the appearance of the trail. We

will be looking to have the operation completed by early spring so that the early growth of the season will cover in quickly.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause to trail users. However, we really do appreciate your support in our efforts to keeping our trail users safe by removing this brush and encroaching vegetation. Proper maintenance of the trail is, of course, a priority for the parks department.

The Falling Waters Trail is one of 131 Rail Trails in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. This 10.41 mile trail is part of over 1,431 miles of Rail Trails in the state.

JCPA is Online!

The Jackson County Parks Association can be found online at www.jacksoncountyparksassociation.com

WILD LIFE MARATHON

BY TIMOTHY PAYNE

Place a bright mark on your calendar for Sunday, October 14, 2012, when the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail will host our fourth running of the Wild Life Marathon.

The weather may be cool like the first running, or it may be on the edge of hot like the last two year. Regardless, this year promises to be just as exciting!

QUICK WRAP UP OF 2011

We had a phenomenal showing of over 500 athletes! It was also awesome hearing the entire crowd cheering on our Kids Wild Dash athletes.

We had top proceeds of over \$9,100. However, we chose to thank our many non-profit volunteer groups by donating \$1,450 between the Girl Scouts, Concord Fire Department, Concord, JCC, and Spring Arbor University

cross country team.

A huge "Thank You!" to Tammy Neelis and our small army of volunteers!

PLANNING FOR 2012

We have decided to keep our 2012 rates the same as last year. With tiered rates, you can enter as an early-bird before August 15, 2012 at the low rates of:

- Marathon \$45
- Half-Marathon \$35
- 5K \$20
- Kids Wild Dash \$1

Comparing the price of the Marathon alone to neighboring events and our price cannot be beat!

NEW for 2012...

In 2011, our growth was as a result from Eaton supporting healthy lifestyles and encouraging their employees to participate.

With this in mind, we have come up with a Business

Package to encourage other companies to promote healthy living within their organization.

We hope to have this posted on the wildlife-marathon.org website by this spring.

Services we will continue to use include chip timing [except the Kids Wild Dash] by Runner's Edge. They have done a great job and help keep our costs down.

Photography will be provided by Running Guru again this year. Most running events charge a lot of money for athletes to order pictures. We have arranged for athletes to download unlimited pictures for free. However, athletes may also choose to order prints online for a fee.

FinishSafe did a great job with our bibs, and they provide a great service.