

# FRIENDS OF THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL

[www.fallingwaterstrail.org](http://www.fallingwaterstrail.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Zeller, President  
Bruce Bigelow, Vice-President  
Kenneth Burnett, Treasurer  
Helen Burnett, Secretary  
Gail Keagle, Trustee  
Jeff Jackson, Trustee  
Kathi Bigelow, Trustee

## CALENDAR

### FFWT Monthly Meetings third Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM

Cascade starter house -  
1992 Warren, Jackson

### April

#### •19 Earth Day Celebration

1 to 4 PM

Cascades Park

#### •22 Salute to Volunteers

7 PM

Jackson County Tower  
Building

### May

#### •2 Trillium Transplanting

10 AM

Tractor Supply, Spring-  
port Road

#### •4 Annual Dinner

5:30 PM

Cascades Manor House

## FALLING WATERS TRAIL UPDATE

### CONCORD'S MILL POND PARK - FALLING WATERS TRAILHEAD

The Friends of the Falling Waters Trail supports the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant application filed by the Village of Concord's Parks and Recreation Department for the construction of Concord's Mill Pond Park-Falling Waters Trailhead.

We believe that Concord's Mill Pond Park will assist with

the recreational, transportation, and economic opportunities the Falling Waters Trail offers the citizens of Concord, Jackson County, surrounding counties, and all visitors.

A link to a support letter that you can review and print is available at [www.fallingwaterstrail.org](http://www.fallingwaterstrail.org). We encourage you to review, print, complete and sign, and mail to: Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Concord

Parks and Recreation Committee, 110 Hanover Street, Concord, MI 49237.

Included in this support letter is a drawing of the proposed Mill Pond Park. It is an impressive plan that will welcome trail users coming into Concord.



Cast your shadow on the trail!

## COMMUNITY

### FFWT WILD LIFE MARATHON | HALF-MARATHON | 5K RUN/WALK

On Sunday, October 11, 2009, please join us for the first annual FFWT Wild Life Marathon. You will begin and end in Concord as you venture from downtown to the Concord Trailhead and the Falling Wa-

ters Trail for all running and walking events. Come and enjoy the Wild Life on the trail. You never know, you might see some critters too.

Proceeds will benefit the Falling Waters Trail through various improvement and maintenance projects to the trail. We

will be posting details at multiple websites such as [www.runmichigan.com](http://www.runmichigan.com), [runjackson.com](http://runjackson.com), and at [www.fallingwaterstrail.org](http://www.fallingwaterstrail.org).

*Walking is a way to enjoy nature. Running is a way to catch it off guard.*

- Timothy Payne

## HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS

### SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

There will be a salute to all volunteers of the Parks System - including the Falling Waters Trail. Anyone who has volunteered in any capacity is invited to come to the Jackson County Commission meeting at the Jackson County Tower Building at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 22, 2009.

Whether you are a regular

volunteer or have helped out on a clean-up day, a planting day, or one of our events - please come and join us

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

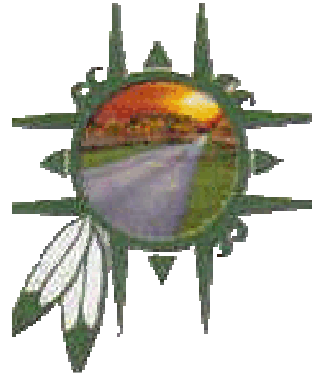
The 3rd annual Earth Day Celebration will be at the picnic pavilion at the Cascades Park on Sunday, April 19, 2009 from 1-4 pm.

If you have not yet experi-

enced Scott Tenbrink's famous "Smoothie Bike" this alone is worth the trip.

Many different events for the family - we (FFWT) will be offering bike safety tips.

There will also be several hands-on activities and most of the areas outdoor organizations will be there. A little bit of everything to see and enjoy!



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.

A WORD OF THANKS, AND CONGRATULATIONS

KUDOS TO JIM, WELCOME TO BRANDON

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to Jim Guerriero who is retiring as director of the Jackson County Parks Department after 34 years of service. The county parks system has been a huge part of why Jackson County is such a wonderful place to live and raise a family and Jim's

stewardship has kept these parks in beautiful shape.

Among all those who created our outstanding Falling Waters Trail he stands out as the leader - the go-to guy that made it happen. An example of his tenacity - of all the grants he has pursued over the years for the parks system, he has only had one rejection!

We wish him the best .

We also welcome Brandon Ransom as the new director. As supervisor of the out county parks system - he was the on site manager for the construction of the Falling Waters Trail and is dedicated to keeping our trail one of the best in the state. Thank you Jim and congratulations to Brandon!

ANNUAL DINNER AND PARK MEETINGS

ANNUAL DINNER

The combined annual dinner for the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail and the Jackson County Parks Association will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at the Cascades Manor House.

Social hour and a silent auction will start at 5:30 pm. Items are needed for the silent auction. Please - contact Diane Nazuruk at dinazuruk@yahoo.com if you have anything to donate for the auction.

Proceeds are to be split between FFWT and the Parks Association.

Cost of the dinner is \$11, tickets can be purchased in advance at the Parks office or at the door.

A WORD FROM BRANDON RANSOM...

PARKING AND SIGNAGE

Two years ago, when the engineering for the Falling Waters Trail was under way, we addressed the issue of parking for trail users. Three trailheads were planned with about 75 total parking spaces among the three areas. Little did we know that we would soon have a "problem".

It became readily apparent that more parking would be necessary. As a result, we have expanded the parking lot at Weatherwax Road by

150% to now accommodate 50 vehicles. At Teft Road, we are in the process of completing drawings there that will give us another 50 spaces adjacent to the trail. That's right, the new parking area on Teft Road will be adjacent to the trail, making for a safer and more convenient parking experience near the halfway point of the trail.

We are also in the process of working on getting some better directional signage to better route people to these trailheads. We have received feedback from those not

familiar with the area, that the trail is not easy to find and some additional signage would help. I am working with MDOT and the Jackson County Road Commission to see if we can place some signage along main thoroughfares and primary trunk lines to assist people in finding parking for the trail.

I am hopeful that these improvements can be in place some time this spring.

Happy Trails!  
Brandon Ransom,  
Out-Parks Supervisor

BEAUTIFY THE TRAIL

TRILLIUMS!

We have the opportunity to save trilliums from a site that is to be developed and transplant them along the Falling Water Trail.

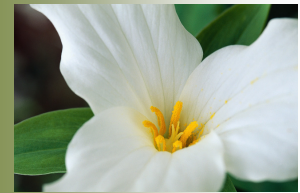
Please join us on Saturday,

May 2, 2009 at 10 am - meeting in the parking lot of Tractor Supply on Springport Road. Bring your shovel and gloves - we will still meet in case of light rain - but not in a downpour.

We will then regroup at the Weatherwax trailhead parking lot to transplant them along the trail. This is going to be fun! - call Nancy Seydell at 569-2535 for any further information.

Trilliums on the Trail!

Trilliums are a large genus of flowering plants in the lily family, (Liliaceae). All trillium rank among the easiest of flowers to identify. The word trillium literally translates into three lily. They are lily



plants characterized by three leaves and flowers with three petals. Trilliums are commonly described as low growing, ground cover plants found in forested areas.

Wild Life Marathon

We are in need of volunteers to help organize, publicize, finalize, and work at this fantastic running event. Please email Tim Payne at marathondirector@fallingwatertrail.org with your interest or questions. We are also looking for sponsors. If you would like to sponsor this event, please let Tim know.