



# BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

JUNE, 2009

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## MAJOR PROJECTS BEING PLANNED

### Trail Extension to the Elberta Waterfront:

The Village of Elberta and the Trailway Management Council have just begun working on a plan to extend the Trail from M-22 in Elberta to the Elberta Waterfront Park, the site of the restored Lifesaving Station.

This will be the fourth phase of our long standing dream to have the Trail connect the Lake Michigan Beaches of Frankfort and Elberta i.e. a "Beach-to-Beach Trail". When completed it will add a whole new dimension for Trail users. We expect that Elberta and its waterfront will become a very popular destination for Trail users biking from Frankfort and Beulah.

We have worked on this for a long time. Phase one, 10<sup>th</sup> St. in Frankfort to M-22 near River Rd., was completed nine years ago. Phase two, the bridges across the Betsie River to M-22 in Elberta, was completed in 2002. And the third phase, the Trail from 10<sup>th</sup> St. to the Lake Michigan Beach was constructed by the City of Frankfort on their property in 2004.

As proposed, this segment will extend from the M-22 crossing in Elberta, north of the pumping station in the Elberta Park, to the DNR owned former Railroad corridor, across property owned by the Elberta Land Holding Company to the Waterfront Park.

There is much planning yet to be done. We will keep you informed. And we still have our sights on the ultimate goal; the completed Beach-to-Beach Trail.

**Mollineaux Road Trailhead:** Trail users driving from the east access the Trail from Mollineaux Rd. to avoid the aggregate surface along Crystal Lake. They now park in what was an old driveway and, on busy days, on Mollineaux Rd. itself. This creates a dangerous situation because they unload and assemble their bikes, children, etc. on the road. Fortunately, there have been no accidents.

Landscape architect Susan Kirkpatrick has prepared preliminary plans for a Trailhead here and another at River Rd. (below). The property at both sites is owned by the DNR. We will be fine tuning the plans with them and, as each project develops, will keep you informed.

**River Road Trailhead:** Many people use the parking area off River Road between the Trail and the Betsie River to access the Trail and the boat launch. The space is adequate but the parking lot is in very poor condition. The surface is sand, not gravel, and it slants with runoff, erosion and silting of the River. We are working with the DNR on a joint project to improve the parking lot and the boat launching facility.

### **Sediment Basin and Culvert Improve-**

**ments:** Just west of County Farm Rd. along Crystal Lake, there is a spring that overflows the Trail causing repeated washouts. Minor repairs have not worked. A permanent solution, to the tune of \$10-12,000, should be completed by July.

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Visit our web page: [www.BetsieValleyTrail.org](http://www.BetsieValleyTrail.org)

## **Many, Many Thanks to:**

**Sylvia Comlugs, Rose Dennis, Doris Kell, Don Minard, Jim Murray, Bill Pearson, Dan and Sue Remahl and Lucille Robson**

for

folding and distributing Trail Maps

**Bob Appelford, Moby Benedict, Jerry Boyd, Tom Davy, Bob Hawes, John Hayes and Bill Olsen**

for

Clearing winter-downed trees and branches from Frankfort to Thompsonville this spring

**Bob Condon, Bill Olsen, Pete Peterson and Pete Weir**

for

Replacing 14 signs and one mile marker between Beulah and Thompsonville

**Susan Kirkpatrick**

for

preparing the conceptual plans for the River Rd. and Mollineaux Rd. Trailhead/Parking Areas

**Denis Cannart, Tom Davy, Phil Mix and Bill Olsen**

for

Trimming brush from the Trail shoulders

**Nancy Honchell**

for

letting us use her trailer for the trail work projects

**Tom and Mary Osborn**

for

letting us store the tractor and our tools and supplies in their pole barn

### **All those who participated in our 2009 Adopt-a-Trail spring cleanup**

#### **Friends of Betsie Bay**

Joel and Krista Anhalt and their children Rocco and Savina, Jordan Bates, Julie and Larry Clingman, Shauna Fite, Suz McLaughlin, Thelma Novak, Tom and Jackie Richmond, Fred and Jeanne Stransky, Bonnie Warren and Greg and Clarissa Wright

#### **Elberta Methodist Church**

Virginia Craker, Joyce Gatrell  
Jim Holmes and Ken Holmes

#### **Benzie Bicycle Club**

Judy & Bob McQuilkin, Dianne Munt,  
and June and Jerry Powley

#### **Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail**

Dennis Holcomb, Jan Robb,  
Pat Shaefer and Scrib Shaefer

#### **Crystal Mountain Employees**

Kathy Maginity & her "little sister" (Big Sister's program) Staci Deboer, Tony Baynard, Ron Shepard, Terri Jones, Chris MacInnes and Nancy Call

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### **FBVT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Terms expire July 2009**

Tom Davy  
Mary Osborn  
Bill Parris-Treasurer

#### **Terms expire July 2010**

Larry Burks-Vice President  
Pete Peterson  
Karyn Thorr-Secretary

#### **Terms expire July 2009**

Nancy Call-President  
John Ester  
Chris Kitzman

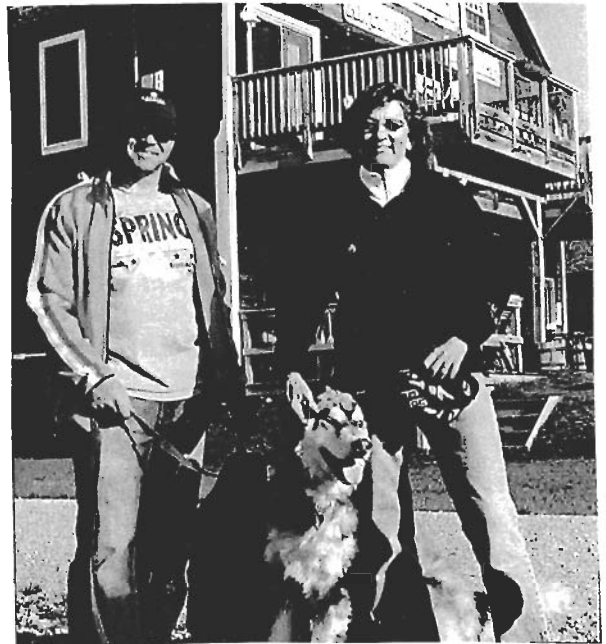
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### **PLEASE HELP KEEP THE TRAIL CLEAN**

Each spring, scores of volunteer hours are spent preparing the Trail for the season. The trees and branches which fall during the winter are cleared, Adopt-a-Trail groups pick up trash (there isn't much), signs are replaced and a variety of minor repairs and improvements are made.

As you use the Trail, please continue to take a moment to throw a fallen branch into the woods and pick up the occasional bottle or piece of paper. We appreciate that very much!!!

## BETSIIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER



**Spring cleanup:** Top (l to r): Jerry Boyd, Tom Davy, Bob Hawes and Moby Benedict clear downed trees and brush. Tony Baynard, Terri Jones (bottom left), Ron Shepard, Chris MacInnes and Karma (bottom right) participated in their Crystal Mountain Employees Adopt-a-Trail project to clean up debris and trash from Thompsonville to Beulah. Thanks, guys!!!

## **ANOTHER GREAT YEAR ON THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL**

Several years ago, Keith Westphal led the effort to construct about 100 bluebird houses and place them along the Betsie Valley Trail. Each fall he checks each house to assess nesting success,

Keith reports that 2008 saw the greatest use of the bluebird boxes ever. Forty of the fifty boxes were used and 27 of these were used by bluebirds. Another 11 were used by tree swallows, one by a house wren and one by a chickadee. Tree swallows enjoyed an 82% nest success rate fledging an estimated 36 young. The bluebird nest success rate was only 54%, but as there were 27 nests they still managed to produce an estimated 58 young bluebirds. The lone wren nest was successful, but the only chickadee nest was not.

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## **FBVT to CO-HOST BENZIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "AFTER HOURS"**

On June 18, 2009, from 5-7 p.m. the FBVT Board of Directors will join with State of the Art Gallery and Boekeloo Financial services to co-host an "after hours" in Downtown Beulah. The event will feature beverages and snacks (donated by local merchants) in the State of the Art Gallery and a tent behind the gallery. The old depot (Trailhead/Visitors Center) is adjacent and will be open with tables, displays, coffee and desert. There will be a 50-50 drawing. All members of FBVT are invited. Admission is \$5, payable on entrance at the State of the Art Gallery. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with the event is asked to contact Nancy Call at 231-378-2000, ext. #3300.

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## **GARLIC MUSTARD**

We are not planning to organize Garlic Mustard "pulls", but anyone so inclined is urged to pull it any time. But please don't leave the "pullings" on the Trail. Thank you!!!!

## **BETSIE BAY 10-MILER AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Endoman Promotions is partnering with the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail to hold the 1st Annual Betsie Bay 10-Miler, a 10-mile, point-to-point, foot race on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. The race will start at the west end of Main Street in Frankfort at 8:00 a.m. and will take racers down Main Street to the Trail at Mineral Springs Park. From there runners will follow the Betsie Valley Trail to the finish line at the Village Park on the shore of Crystal Lake in Beulah. The Benzie Bus system will provide courtesy rides from Beulah back to the starting line in Frankfort, leaving Beulah at 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Information and registration options can be found on-line at [endomanpromotions.com](http://endomanpromotions.com) or by calling 213-651-0957. A portion of the proceeds will go to the FBVT to help fund Trail projects and operational costs .

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## **PORT CITY RUN JULY 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Port City Run, an annual event to benefit the Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools track program, will be held again this year on July 18<sup>th</sup> starting in Frankfort's Open Space. Profits from the event go towards purchase of equipment for the Frankfort track & field program. The distance runners on the team often use the Betsie Valley Trail for training.

The run usually draws about 200 runners, features a 1 mile fun run, a 5K walk, a 5K run and enjoys extensive local participation. Runners start gathering at 7:00 a.m. and the race starts at 8:30. Long time sponsors include Moore Mechanical Plumbing & Heating, Crystal Lake Clinic, Rick Taylor Builders, Nielsen Farms and Delta Industrial Valves.

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## **ADDRESS CHANGE?**

If so, please call 231-352-6049 or e-mail [akoclark@att.net](mailto:akoclark@att.net)

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## BETSIIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

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Terry Freisinger and grandson Cade (top) and Zane Brooks finish the 2008 Port City Run. Zane is the Manager of the Frankfort track and field program and, according to coach Jeff Towsley, has "lots of potential in mid and long distance racing". The race uses two miles of the Betsie Valley Trail.

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Visit our web page: [www.BetsieValleyTrail.org](http://www.BetsieValleyTrail.org)

# BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER



**Tour 'de Tykes & Tour 'de Tiny Tykes, October, 2008**

# THE BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

Dear Members,

I hope you had ample opportunities this past year to use and enjoy the Trail. I'm happy to say that we did. Chances are that most of us think about the Trail in conjunction with our personal lives – a great place to walk, or bike, or take a run. But.... have you ever considered the Trail as a venue for your organization's event?

This summer, Sunrise Rotary is hosting the First Annual *Ride For Kids* on July 18, and Endoman Promotions will be sponsoring the *Betsie Bay 10-Miler* – a 10 mile Trail run from Beulah to Frankfort on August 1. The Frankfort High School track program's primary fundraiser is their annual *Port City Run* on the Trail in July. The Friends of the Betsie Valley Library sponsor the *Betsie Valley Run* each October, and various local teachers have used the Trail for educational purposes in much the same way the Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain has been used as an outdoor classroom for kids.

You support the Trail, and it's yours to use. For most informal events, no authorization is required. Just use the Trail as your venue, and have fun! If you wish to host a major event on the Trail, both the Trail Ordinance and the Event Application are available via links on our web site – [www.betsievalleytrail.org](http://www.betsievalleytrail.org).

We have this incredible resource just waiting to be enjoyed, and there's no charge for using the Trail. (Donations, however, from hosting groups are always welcome!) If your group or organization would like to stage an event, we encourage you to do so. Just check out the Ordinance & Event Application online and then... start planning.

In the mean time, there's hiking, biking and rollerblading to be done, so get out there and enjoy one of the most beautiful Trails Michigan has to offer.

Happy trails.

Nancy Mullen Call  
President



**We need your help to continue to develop and maintain the Betsie Valley Trail. Contributions are appreciated.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Membership levels:** Single (\$10) Family (\$15) Donor (\$25) Patron (50) Benefactor (\$100) Sponsor (\$250)

**Operating Account** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Betsie Valley Trail Capital Account** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your tax deductible contribution to:  
**Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, P.O. Box 474, Beulah, MI 49617**

## Annual Meeting

10:00 a.m., Saturday July 18th  
Century 21 Sleeping Bear Realty  
US-31, Beulah

## Agenda

Financial Report  
Progress and Planning Report  
Comments from members  
Election of two Directors



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P.O. BOX 474  
BEULAH, MICHIGAN  
49617-0474

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## MAJOR PROJECTS PLANNED

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