

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE TRACE

Calendar of Events

May – National Bike Month
(www.bikeleague.org/programs)

May 3 & 4 – Mark Twain Live
Benefit for the Wabash Trace
Depot Deli in Shenandoah
May 3rd at 7 PM, May 4th at 2 PM
Advance tickets at the Depot Deli

June 7 – National Trails Day
(www.americanhiking.org)

June 7 – Wabash Warm-up
(see article)

June 14 – Maui in Malvern
(see article)

August 9 & 10 – Wabash Century
Campout and Meteor Show
(see article)

September 20 & 21 – “En Plein Air”
Malvern (see article on back page)

www.wabashtace.org

www.wabashtaceend2end.com

Go to these web sites for updated information on trail events!

Wabash Warm-up on June 7th

Becca Castle – SWINT Board Member

To join forces with over 3,000 other National Trails Day celebrations nationwide and as a fundraiser for our very own Wabash Trace Nature Trail, we are holding our annual **Wabash Warm-up** Saturday, June 7th. Those who enjoyed the fundraising ride with us last year, thank you! Those who weren't able to make it, you don't want to miss it again!

Through collaboration with local musicians, artists, and businesses, we were able to put together a day-long event filled with fun for everyone! Just as last year, we will begin the ride at Latte Da in Malvern. Between there and our ending point, the Depot Deli in Shenandoah, we will have stops on many of the bridges along the 22 mile span. At the various “bridge breaks” there will be live music and refreshments provided by the sponsor of the stop. The arrangement of the stops makes it possible for people to go their own pace and gives non-riders the capability to drive to the nearest cross-road and walk to the bridge celebrations.

Everyone we have talked to who attended last year had an unbelievable time and couldn't wait to do it again next year! We are hoping that this fun event can continue to not only raise money and awareness for the Wabash Trace but also for our local musicians and artists.

Overnight camping and housing accommodations can be arranged for anyone in need, and again this year there will be a bus transporting riders from Shenandoah to Malvern on Saturday morning. Anyone interested in being either a musician or a bridge sponsor, please contact Bill or Becca. More information can be found on the bikeiowa.com calendar or by emailing Bill Hillman at billhillman@mchsi.com or Becca Castle at rebeccalynn@hotmail.com. Support the Wabash Trace on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 7th!

Maui in Malvern Returns

June 14th

With great excitement and anticipation, the Malvern Area Betterment Association (MABA) will sponsor the second annual **Maui in Malvern** on Saturday, June 14, 2008. Tentative plans include a Breakfast Pancake Feed, Race the Trace, Children's games and rides, City-wide Garage Sale, Car & Hot Rod Show, Luau Lunch (all new menu), Interactive Luau Dance Show, diverse vendors, Island Music, Main Street Business Decoration Contest, and more.

Organizations interested in participating should contact MABA co-presidents Spencer or Kimberly Terry (712.624.8300), or spencerterry@hotmail.com. Many hours and dollars are spent in offering the Mills County area with this great event, and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Many events during the day raise money for specific causes (Lions Club, Friends of the Library, BPW, and Historic Society). If you are interested, or would like your group to be involved, please contact MABA immediately!

Maui in Malvern comes to our city, as MABA continues to serve it's purpose to foster and promote good community relationships among all

persons and groups in our city and the surrounding area; to encourage a spirit of cooperation in seeking and implementing ways to improve our total community life through sponsorship of beautification projects, cultural events, youth-engaging projects, fundraising to improve public facilities, erecting or maintaining public buildings, monuments, or works; combating community deterioration; and lessening the burdens of local city government.

Leis, grass skirts, and other items will be on sale too! Come show off your island attire as a 'best island attire' contest will be held with exceptional prizes!! We'll look forward to seeing you Saturday, June 14th.

Wabash Century Campout and Meteor Show

August 9 & 10

Our 7th annual ride and camp-out will be held August 9th & 10th.

The ride will begin in Council Bluffs and will end at IKES, about five miles southeast of Shenandoah. The return trip on Sunday will complete the 100 miles. The entry fee for this event is \$45.00 that includes:

- Camping gear transport from Council Bluffs to IKES and back to Council Bluffs on Sunday.
- Dinner, beverages, camping and Perseid Meteor Show.
- Evening entertainment.
- Sunday morning breakfast.
- T-Shirt
- Games and prizes.
- SAG at each trailhead.
- Free swimming pass for the Shenandoah pool.
- Ride packet with info on the Wabash and much more.

Enjoying the beauty of the Trace, exploring the small towns along the trail and just having fun is the purpose of this event. It is a leisurely ride ridden at your own pace. Stop along the way for a drink, lunch, or a snack.

For additional information or a registration form, contact Larry Barmann at (712) 623-9512 or lbarmann@yahoo.com.



2008 Trail Passes Now Available

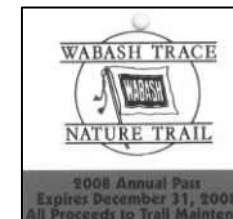
The Wabash Trace Nature Trail is not tax supported. **Trail passes and donations provide funding for the maintenance of our 63-mile trail.** 2008 trail passes can be purchased at the following locations:

➤ **Bike Rack** - Omaha, NE

- **Bike Way** – Omaha, NE
- **Endless Trail** - Council Bluffs
- **High Gear**- La Vista, NE
- **Olympia Cycle** – Omaha, NE
- **Trek Store** – Omaha, NE
- **True Wheel** - Council Bluffs
- **Xtreme Wheels**- Council Bluffs
- **The Depot Restaurant** - Shenandoah
- Trail pass envelopes at the trail heads on the Wabash Trace.

➤ Complete the form below and mail to SWINT.
You can also use the form below to renew your membership to SWINT, or become a first-time member. Your membership and involvement in SWINT is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

Southwest Iowa Nature Trails, Inc. 2008 Annual Trail Pass and Membership Form



Annual Wabash Trace Trail Pass	\$10.00 each
Contributor Annual Membership	\$12.00
Supporter Annual Membership	\$25.00
Sustainer Annual Membership	\$50.00

2008 Wabash Trace Nature Trail passes # _____ @ \$10.00 each \$ _____

2008 Membership – Contributor, Supporter, or Sustainer (circle one) \$ _____

Donation to the Wabash Trace Nature Trail (always welcome) \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Volunteer Activities – We are an organization that relies heavily on volunteerism. Your involvement is greatly appreciated as well as personally rewarding. Please indicate any activities that you find of interest. A SWINT board member will follow up with you ASAP.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing & Trimming Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Organizing Rides and Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining the Trail Surface | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Newsletter Articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SWINT Board Member | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining the Mountain Bike Trail that runs from Council Bluffs to Mineola | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (my organization is) interested in adopting a mile of the Wabash Trace. | |

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address/phone number _____

Mail to: SWINT, PO Box 522, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0522
For trail pass requests, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
Thank you for your support of the Wabash Trace Nature Trail!

“En Plein Air” in Malvern September 20 & 21

Last September the Malvern Area Betterment Association (MABA) sponsored an event that featured art, community interest and plenty of fun. The “En Plein Air” competition, a French term meaning “painting out of doors”, was held on a windy fall day, and attracted 12 artists that began painting on Saturday morning, and completed their works of art by Sunday afternoon. These works were then judged and prizes distributed to the first 3 places. The art work remained in the Malvern Library for one month for the public to view and/or purchase. MABA is planning this event again this year for the weekend of September 20 & 21. Plans are to expand the event, encouraging artists to paint views of the Wabash Trace near Malvern and/or a setting in the city of Malvern. Other events, working artists, live music and other ‘yet to be determined’ activities are being planned. Anyone interested in participating or wanting to join the festival please visit Malvern’s website: malvernia.com – upcoming info to be coming soon, last years events can be

viewed under “gallery” on the website, or email cheryljones1@mac.com.

NW Missouri Trail Update

Over 2 years ago the Maryville and Nodaway County trails committee was established to rekindle and review the needs for a comprehensive trail system throughout the City of Maryville, Mozingo Lake, and Nodaway County areas. One area of review includes a possible link of these potential new trails with the Wabash Trace.

The Missouri Department of Transportation is planning a major redesign of Highway 136 between Rock Port and Bethany starting next year. We plan to engage MODOT to support a trail along this route. Such a trail will require all the communities along Highway 136 to work in partnership with MODOT. If successful it would pass just south of the Iowa Wabash Trail head at Blanchard, Iowa. Taking Route M from Blanchard south to 136 would be approximately 9 mile trip. Route M is a secondary road with no prepared shoulder.

We believe that a working partnership with MODOT will

ultimately connect these two trail networks. The challenges are great, and we are just at the starting gate with our trail plans. Most of our communities in Northwest Missouri have not had any experience with trails. Thus, we have a big challenge to get folks to appreciate the value and the importance trails can bring to their communities quality of life and economic vitality. Our shared futures both in Southwest Iowa and in Northwest Missouri could be vastly enriched if we can find common ground to someday interconnect our trail systems.



Nishnabotna River Bridge
North of Shenandoah
Kathy Barmann

WABASH NEWS

Newsletter of the Wabash Trace Nature Trail



SPRING 2008

Wabash Trace Maintenance

Jake McGargill-SWINT board member

2007 was a year that none of us want to repeat. It all started in early May when a tornado struck south of Imogene, toppling trees and damaging the bridge a mile south of town. With the hard work from SWINT board members, we removed the trees and opened up the trail. The bridge had to wait for a couple of months to be repaired but we got it open for traffic. Then the rains came, causing extensive damage due to flooding on the Nishnabotna River north of Shenandoah and causing other damage to the Trace in other areas along the trail. Our Board President, Bill Danforth even helped drag a dead cow off the trail north of the Nishnabotna River bridge. Because of the flooding, we were forced to bring in several loads of ballast material to repair the damaged trail surface.

Things went a little smoother for most of the remaining summer. Bob Drake and his Youth Corps group did a great job of helping mitigate some of the damage caused by the storms and to perform the regular maintenance that has to be done every year on the Trace.

We tried something a little different in regard to managing the weeds that seem to crop up in the middle of the trail in different areas. In the past, we had sprayed the whole length of the trail with Roundup early in the spring. It was a fairly costly procedure and only held the grass and weeds down for a month or so. So we decided a couple of years ago to just spray the middle of the trail and only in those areas that had a significant amount of grass or weeds.

We enlisted the help of my brother, George who agreed to use his RTV and a sprayer that we had rigged up to do what needed to be done. For anyone who has traveled the areas that used to be infested with lots of grass, I think you would agree that the results were much better this past year.

Then in August, Mother Nature struck again. A horrible windstorm hit an area south of Silver City, flattening the surrounding corn fields and once again downing a number of trees along the Trace. Once again board members and other volunteers stepped forward to clear the trail. The last big event that still hasn't been resolved was the ice storm that hit in early December. The hardest hit areas were south of Shenandoah and most of the damage will have to be taken care of as early as possible this spring. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this project.

All in all, it has been a busy and costly year. Along with the extra cost to take care of the damage caused by the weather, we had extra expenses with the tractor and mower that we use to keep the grass mowed along the trace.

Now more than ever we need your continued support with trail passes, SWINT memberships, and donations.

This year again, we will be hiring a crew chief and a group of young people to work this summer on our Youth Corps group. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this type of work, please let us know.

We would like to extend a big **Thank You** to all who helped out last year with time and money. We look forward to your support again this year.

Thursday Night Taco Ride

Greg Losh-SWINT board member

This is the 13th year since we started riding as a organized weekly ride. As most know the Thursday Night Taco Ride has become the world's largest weekly bike ride. For safety of all please bring a front and rear light and ride single file while the trail is busy, mostly between 6 and 9 PM.

The taco ride hits a milestone this summer making it to 500th Thursday night of socializing and cycling. The 500th week party is planned on August 14, 2008. The exact date is in July but with the weather and RAGBRAI, this later date should work better. There will be a large party planned in Mineola. As most know, one of the many of the fun things that take pace on the Taco Ride happens at Margaritaville on the way to Mineola. There will be cookouts and wine and cheese nights. Riders bring snack, hotdogs, cheese, and wine to share with other riders.

Most weeks SWINT board members sell trail passes at the trail head, or just drop your fee in one of the two collection poles at Council Bluffs, or purchase your pass at one of the local bike shops. If you park at the school make especially sure to pick up after yourself. Alcohol is not allowed on school grounds.

Volunteers Maintaining Trails

Greg Losh-SWINT board member

Almost all maintenance that takes place on the Wabash is done by volunteers. The Thursday Night Taco Ride group plans tree trimming after storms and to control overgrowth during the summer months. We also grade the trail between Council Bluffs and Silver City when it needs it. If you would like to help, workdays are posted on the Thursday Night Taco Ride web page. <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/thursdaynightride/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SWINT
PO Box 522
Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0522

We Welcome your Input

We are always looking for ideas that would make the Wabash Trace Nature Trail even better. If you have an idea we would love to hear from you. Please call SWINT board president Bill Danforth at (712) 246-2591 or send him an e-mail at wcdanforth@mchsi.com