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# Through the Gateway

Volume 27 Issue 1 Spring-Summer 2019

## Presidents Letter

by Dennis Lindeke

Happy summer all! Late winter and spring were certainly a challenge for even the heartiest of Minnesotans. Great to be back on the open trails, seeing the trees green up and listening to the chorus of frogs and birds. Speaking of birds; as of this writing, there about 30 baby bluebirds growing up in our 16 nest boxes along the northern part of the Gateway Trail.

The big GBCTA summer scavenger hunt is rapidly approaching, on July 13<sup>th</sup> in the Mahtomedi/Stillwater area. See this newsletter and our website for more information and registration. Only \$10 for an entire family!

Summer means construction season, and the bridge project most significant to the Association has started at Hadley Ave., near Fleet Farm in Oakdale. Once complete, bikers and pedestrians will no longer have to cross this busy and dangerous intersection. Funds were also approved to construct the trail reroute at L 'Orient Ave, replacing the current and rather awkward path along streets and sidewalks on this portion of the trail. See the DNR report for more information on both of these important projects.

Recent Disbursements (or, where your money goes): The Association just approved two donations: 1) \$500 to the DNR for new mile markers on the Gateway Trail, and 2) \$500 to the City of North St. Paul, for the construction of permanent restroom facilities at Rotary Park.

Board transitions: Several long serving members of the Board of Directors retired following our Annual Meeting in April. These were: Joan Kahle-Berger (Secretary), Pat Kuslich (Treasurer), and Greg Lindholm, Dan Parnell and Jim Rosamilia from the Board of Directors. I wish to thank all of these wonderful folks for their service to the Association, and to the users of our trails.

*President's Letter continued on Page 2*



The Association-sponsored a table at the Rotary Park trailhead as part of National Trails Day this year, and it was a very busy place!



GBCTA Annual Meeting, April 2019: DNR representative Rachel Hintzman provides an update to those in attendance.

And please join me in welcoming five talented new folks as their replacements to the Board: Kerri Kolstad (Secretary), Laurie Mainquist (Treasurer), Ed Sanderson, Lorrie Beaulieu, and Janie O'Connor (all to the Board of Directors). Each brings a different set of skills to the Association, as we all work to best serve the users of the trails. **Enjoy the trails!**

### **DNR Update**

by Rachel Hintzman PAT Area Supervisor

Happy Summer! As we transition from a wet, snowy spring to a sunny, warm summer, the DNR has plenty of exciting updates that will occur along the trails in the coming months.

#### **L'Orient Street Reroute**

The legislature approved the proposed LCCMR recommendation, including funds for the reroute of the Gateway State Trail along L'Orient St. in St Paul, utilizing the new Maryland Ave. tunnel. Engineering work will occur this fall, and construction may begin as soon as the summer of 2020.

#### **Westminster Bridge Replacement**

The DNR received funding to replace the Westminster Bridge, and repave a portion of the Gateway Trail east of the bridge in St Paul. Construction will begin either this fall, or in the spring of 2020.

#### **Hadley Avenue Crossing**

Most trail users are probably aware of the major construction project at the Highway 36 and Hadley Ave. intersection in Oakdale. The project will install a traffic interchange and a bridge over Highway 36, and will include a tunnel for the Gateway State Trail under the new traffic route. The Gateway Trail is closed at this location during construction. There is a marked trail detour, and traffic access to the 55<sup>th</sup> St. parking lot is available. Trail tunnel construction will most likely be completed sometime in 2020.

#### **Trail Maintenance**

The DNR has been busy this spring blowing off the trails, repairing a trail shoulder collapse near Manning Ave., clearing culverts created by beavers, and starting the summer-long project of mowing. We plan to begin repairs soon on a collapsed culvert at the entrance to the 55<sup>th</sup> St parking lot.

#### **Gateway Extension**

There are a number of pending easement acquisitions between Pine Point Park and William O'Brien State Park. We hope to make announcements about closing those acquisitions sometime in early summer. The DNR, with partners from the City of Scandia and the engineering firm Bolton and Menk, are working to design an approximately one mile segment of the Gateway Extension near Scandia. All of the easements needed to connect William O'Brien State Park to Scandia, of which this segment is a part, have been acquired. We need additional funds to construct the trail, but getting a jump start on design work may improve the chances this project is funded when a request is made in the future. DNR staff are analyzing options for connecting this planned extension to state park facilities.

Thanks to the Association for all the great work they do. I hope to see you on the Trail!

### **More New Benches for the Trail**

by Ian Harding

Three building sessions have been held so far, and a total of 9 volunteers have participated in the project. In all, volunteers have completed 4 benches. Precision layout jigs created by Dennis Lindeke and Ian Harding have sped up the building process, and the group also received updated drawings from the DNR that reflect the current bench design. The DNR will install recognition plaques on the benches ("Built by GBCTA Volunteers") when they are installed along the trail this summer. Some will replace old benches, and some will go up at new locations. More building sessions are planned for the fall of 2019 – see the website for details and *come join us!*

### **Mark your calendars! Saturday, 13th July**



Join us for a scavenger hunt along the Gateway trail from 9am to Noon, sponsored by the GBCTA. The hunt starts at Wildwood Elementary School. We will have snacks, prizes, information about the GBCTA, and exhibits on site. Fee is \$10 per family. Visit our website ([www.gatewaybrowns creektrail.org](http://www.gatewaybrowns creektrail.org)) to register and to get more information. **See you there!**

## GBCTA WEBSITE UPDATE

Many have noticed and appreciated the major redesign to our website. Thanks to our web manager, Ian Harding, for all the work and time he puts into the site! Please take a moment to visit us online, see the improvements, and visit our new page devoted to birding along the trail. You can also get updates about trail activities, all the construction along the trail, and view our board meeting minutes and bylaws.

### Current Website Statistics:

- Approx. 300 visitors/month in winter
- Approx. 900 visitors/month in the summer!
- Visits to Pages: Home 95%, Events 30%, Maps 15%, News 15%
- Visits by Technology: PC = 53%, Phone = 39%, Tablet = 8%

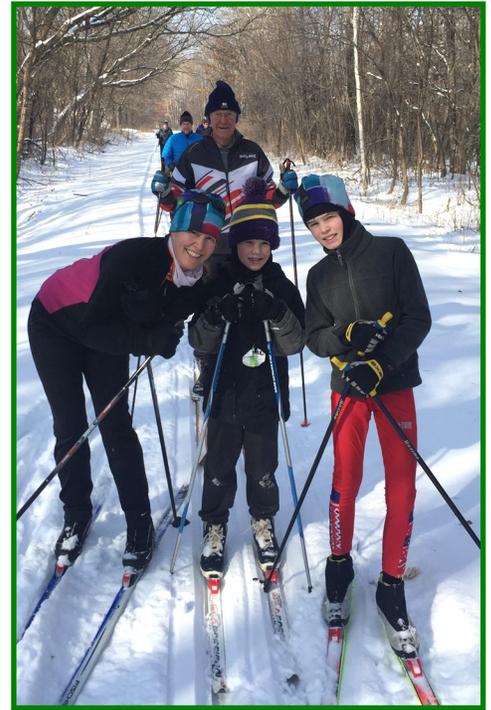
**Membership:** 154 active members

### Topics of interest:

Volunteering = 70%, Biking = 65%, Run/Walk = 42%, XC Ski = 34%,  
Birding = 25%, Wild Plants = 15%, Roller Ski = 11%

*Polling interests enables the Association to better connect with our membership*

Statistics and content by Ian Harding



A group of happy cross-county skiers pose for a picture along the trail at the annual GBCTA Ski event. The snow and trail conditions were nearly perfect this year!



**Image Left:** On February 28th 2019, Dennis Lindeke, Steve Wolgamot, and Mike Brooks meet with Senator Amy Wazlawik as part of the BikeMN Summit Day at the Capitol. Other BikeMN Summit participants (120 or more) met with their Senators and Representatives in a well-coordinated effort to support bikes and pedestrians in MN.



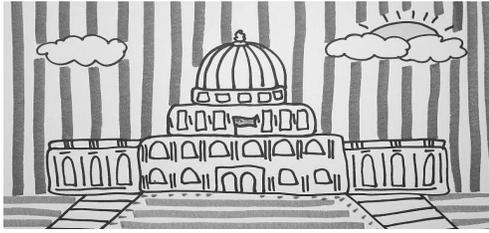
An 1868 'Boneshaker', which is a type of velocipede (foot-powered) bicycle. *Sample image*

## Washington County Parks: SPOKES & FOLKS Exhibit

### *The Evolution of Bikes & Trails in Washington County*

Washington County Parks will sponsor an exhibition of bicycling at the Washington County Historic Courthouse. Come to learn about and celebrate the amazing and varied history of bicycles, and the vast network of trails in Washington County! The exhibit will highlight a wide array of bicycles from the late 1800's to the present day, including an 1868 Boneshaker, an 1880 Penny Farthing, a 1945 Swiss Army Courier, and a special edition 1998 Harley Davidson bicycle. Kids can honk bike horns & ring bells to their heart's content in the Horns, Bells & Bikes section while learning how children's bicycles have evolved over the years. Visitors can stop in the Wheels of Time section to watch a video on how people mounted and rode bicycles during

the days when bicycles were taller than them. The courthouse exhibit runs from 1<sup>st</sup> June through the end of the year, and is curated by local Stillwater scholar Megan Arney Johnston.



## Legislative Report

The Legislature concluded the 2019 session in its usual flurry of last minute activity. The Environment Bill (Minnesota Lottery portion) included \$3 million for grants to local parks and trails, \$2 million for state parks and trails acquisitions, and \$5million for state trails development. This may help with the completion of the Gateway Trail from Pine Point to Scandia. A \$500,000 request for monies to go towards the Scandia to

William O'Brien Park portion of the Gateway trail was in this year's bonding Bill, but that bill did not pass. Because of this, we will need to focus on funding in the 2020 session.

One good piece of news is that a bill pushed by Scandia trail users did pass. The bill allows state trails to have a waiver on land designated as "Conservation Easements", which heretofore required a wait of 7 years before development. All such easements into the park from downtown Scandia have been acquired already, so when funding becomes available, the DNR can go ahead with plans for the trail from Scandia into O'Brien State Park.

*Information from Parks and Trails Council, article by John Oldendorf*

## Scandia Biking Group

by Janie O'Connor

In 2016, candidates for local offices determined it would be good to keep our rural culture, yet still move forward as a community. Hearing this, the author reflected on all the cyclists who come through town on a summer's day. What if we could increase interest in our local history, and still keep our rural designation? With the support of newly elected Mayor Christine Maefsky and friend Marlys Johnson, the nucleus of an organization was formed that year, and named Cycling Scandia. It now consists of a Board with five members, and has the non-profit designation 501c3. As the Gateway trail extension draws near, Cycling Scandia has made good progress towards providing for the needs and wants of Scandia residents, and local and visiting cyclists. *Editor's note: We welcome Janie O'Connor to the GBCTA Board, and are excited to promote synergy and collaboration between these two organizations.*

## The Inaugural Scandia Rocks and Rolls Ride, 1 June 2019

by Janie O'Connor

Soon after forming the Board of Directors in 2019, members decided the Cycling Scandia group needed a "signature event." One Board member knew Dale Setterholm, local Scandia resident and U of M geologist, who was contacted and agreed to lead a 15 mile geological tour for cyclists. The inaugural ride this year had five stops for descriptions from Dale of significant geological features in the Scandia area. To ensure group safety, two tours were given on same day; one in morning and one in afternoon, with 12 cyclists in each tour. The committee had no idea how long it might take to fill all the slots for this first event, and were delighted when all the morning slots were filled within 72 hours of registration opening, and all the afternoon slots filled only 5 days later. After the success this year, watch for the Scandia Rocks and Rolls Ride in 2020!

## National Trails Day 2019

by Lorrie Beaulieu

The Gateway Brown's Creek Trail Association celebrated National Trails Day on June 1, 2019, by hosting an information and rest station along the trail at Rotary Park in North St. Paul. The Association offered trail information, maps, membership forms, and of course the ever-popular granola bars and lemonade!

The morning and the weather were beautiful, and the trail was busy. A number of Board members volunteered to greet and talk with all of the bikers, walkers, and rollerbladers out enjoying the day. It was a great opportunity for us to help users understand the Association and its mission and goals.

In addition to conversations and treats, we asked folks to fill out a survey about how they use the trail. Information collected helps the Association learn about the needs and wants of trail users, and helps direct our future plans and activities.



More visitors at the GBCTA welcome table at Rotary Park, North St. Paul on National Trails Day

cooking; true German comfort food. I know the menu very well, and my favorite is the Jagerschnitzel! However the item I eat most often is soup of the day.

*We notice your website says: “Reach the Gasthaus by foot, bike, skis, snowshoes, horseback, snowmobile, car, motor cycle, and helicopter! Do you know if Gateway trail users come by?”*

Yes, we often see trail users stop in for a beverage or a meal. Because we are in such a secluded spot, and the trail is so close, many have found us for the first time while out on the trail, and they wind up coming back to see us again.

*This restaurant has a long and rich history in the Stillwater area. It’s a favorite place for many to have ‘dinner out’. Tell us a little about what this building, the location, and the surrounding community mean to you.*

I consider this place my home, and have been working here for 33 years. I like to tell people that I live here, and sleep next door! What I strive to do is ensure the experience people have here is memorable, and what I enjoy most is being able to share that experience with them.

We’d like to thank Kim for her hospitality. Next time you’re out on the trail and thinking about a refreshment, lunch, or dinner, don’t forget this wonderful spot in Stillwater on Lofton Street, just west of Manning Avenue.

**Gateway at McKnight Townhomes Construction**

A new townhome development has begun along the Gateway State Trail in North St. Paul. Located just north of the intersection of South Avenue E and 3rd Street N, the construction project is managed by M/I Homes builders. The company website mentions the Gateway Trail prominently in the current description of this work. The first building to be completed (shown in image) will house two model homes. It is scheduled to be open by late-summer, with a grand opening set on September 7. M/I Homes plans to offer 100 single or multi-bedroom townhomes on the site.



**Image Right:** An active area of the construction site, photo taken from the bridge over McKnight Avenue along the Gateway Trail.

**Rotary Club to fund permanent restrooms along the trail**

For the past several years the City of North St. Paul and the North St. Paul- Maplewood-Oakdale Rotary Club have partnered to develop Rotary Park, situated along the popular Gateway State Trail, which runs through the heart of the City.

The park trailhead currently has 31 parking spaces, temporary restroom facilities, and 2 picnic shelters. The Rotary Club raised funds for a permanent restroom facility, and construction started in late May. Having a trailhead with permanent restrooms is of great benefit to all users of the Gateway Trail. From taking a rest break along the trail, having a picnic, taking in public events, or exploring North St. Paul, the Rotary Park trailhead is a great asset to the community and to the trail.

**2019 Gateway Brown’s Creek Trail Association Board / Association Officers**

<b>President</b>	Dennis Lindeke	<b>Treasurer</b>	Laurie Mainquist		
<b>Vice President</b>	Beth Hayden	<b>Officer at Large</b>	Liz Stejskal		
<b>Secretary</b>	Karrie Kolstad				
<b>Association Board of Directors</b>					
Laurie Beaulieu, Ian Harding (Website Manager), John Kimberly, Rob McKim, Pam Meyer, Everett Myers (Facebook, Social Media), Peter Nord (Chair, Ski Event), Janie O’Connor, John Oldendorf, Ed Sanderson, Liz Stejskal (Editor), Barb Wahman (Volunteer Liaison) and Kim Weber (Special Projects)					
<b>Honorary Board Members and Trail Liaison</b>					
Judy Drew (Equestrian Liaison), Noreen Farrell, Bob Hagstrom, Doug Schwartz, Peter Seed, Vik Wilson					
<b>DNR Parks and Trails Supervisor</b>	Rachel Hintzman	<b>DNR Trail Naturalist</b>	Linda Radimecky	<b>DNR Acquisition/ Development Specialist</b>	Brandon Helm

**Return Address:**  
Gateway Brown's Creek Trail Association  
P.O. Box 9295  
North St. Paul, MN 55109

## The Back Page

[www.gatewaybrowns creektrail.org](http://www.gatewaybrowns creektrail.org)



### **Business Partner Spotlight: The Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter**

by Liz Stejskal

Many of you may already know about this German restaurant, hidden away in a quiet and charming corner of Stillwater, and only a block or so south of the Gateway Browns Creek Trail. It was particularly beautiful when I visited there on an afternoon in late May. The owner, Kim Quade welcomed me, and we sat down in the dining room to talk.

*Can you talk about the business philosophy of your restaurant?*

One of the most important things is to be able to carry on the traditions established here so many years ago. I want the Gasthaus to be a special oasis for people; one that is about old world traditions; family traditions. I also hope to open up the world of delicious German cuisine to everyone who walks through the front door.

*You host quite a few events throughout the year. Which one is the most popular with patrons?*

Without a doubt Oktoberfest, which runs over two weekends. It is our 'all-hands-on-deck' time, and we serve about 5000 patrons each weekend. On one of those weekends, we support a unique public biking event called the Hero Gravel Classic, which starts and ends here. Those registered participate in the bike ride and then relax and enjoy Oktoberfest.

*What is your favorite item on the menu?*

It's very important to me that we serve traditional from-scratch,  
*Continued on Page 5*



The Gasthaus welcomes you!