



FRIENDS OF THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL

www.fallingwatertrail.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Open, President
Open, Vice-President
Helen Burnett, Secretary
Lisa Wortman, Treasurer
Todd Zeller, Trustee
Penny Rumsey, Trustee
Tim Payne, Trustee

CALENDAR

April

26—Earth Day Celebration
12 PM—3 PM
Cascades Park, Jackson

May

5—Annual Meeting
5:30—9 PM
Cascades Manor House, Jackson

June

7—Day on the Trail
10 AM—2 PM
Teft Rd Trail Head, Spring Arbor

October

12—Wild Life Marathon
8 AM—2:30 PM
Concord High School,
Concord

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 us your email address to:

info@fallingwatertrail.org.

THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL NEEDS YOU!!!

Like the trail? Wonder what you can do to keep it as nice as it is? We have a few options for you. We offer several suggestions in this article.

1. Please take a few minutes, follow this link (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HkQ2zAhUN8o-w8A9Go-xW6OIdIap_7ZG14RGrHILbpE/viewform) to answer a few questions about the trail, short term, and long term goals to keep our trail beautiful and in good shape. The Board can use this information to make community minded decisions.
2. Do you have writing skills and would like to write an article related to the trail. Even if it is a one-time
3. Would you like to take a larger part in FFWT newsletter? We could use someone with computer skills and would like to put the written articles into the format you are now reading. Many hands make light work. Either guest writers or board members write articles. If you have skills to assist with our quarterly publication, please contact us at info@fallingwatertrail.org
4. Now for the big question. Like I said earlier, many hands make light work. We have amended our number of board positions from 6

contribution, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact us at info@fallingwatertrail.org

to 7, and consequently we have two positions open. If you are looking for a way to get involved with the community, we can use just about any talent that you can offer. If you are interested please contact us at info@fallingwatertrail.org and leave us your contact information. Our next meeting will be May 13th @ 1992 Warren Ave (Jackson County Parks office).

5. Last and not least – Have you renewed your membership for 2014? If not there is a membership form in this newsletter and we would love to hear from you.



CURRENT PROJECTS ON OUR RADAR...

Upgrades take time and money. You have read it before and we like to keep it in front of you. If you have been on the trail this month, you have seen the mud in the parking lots. This is especially difficult for roller blades and strollers. A mud stripe up your back for bicyclists is also a challenge. Poor parking conditions also prevent our handicap community from enjoying the trail. To resolve these issues, we would like to raise money to put a surface on

the parking lots.

Another goal we have is to put in a more permanent toilet system. A structure that allows more privacy and an actual structure with what is referred to as a waterless toilet system. You see them at State and National Parks. In the long run, they are less expensive than fees to rent and maintain our current portable toilets. However, the initial build of these solutions are rather costly.

We are in discussions with the Jackson Foundation to determine the feasibility of creating an endowment fund so monies will accrue interest and we can engage in making upgrades using the interest from such an endowment. If you have any fundraising ideas and skills to assist with this and you are willing to share your talents, please let us know by email at info@fallingwatertrail.org.

These projects (two lots surfaced and two new toilet sys-

Email us at: info@fallingwatertrail.org



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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 and mail to: Friends of the Falling Waters Trail, c/o Jackson County Parks, 1992 Warren, Jackson, MI 49203

2014 Annual Meeting

Please join us Monday, May 5th, 2014 for our Annual Meeting of the Jackson County Parks Association and the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail. Festivities begin at 5:30 with meet and greet, followed by dinner and then a word from guest speakers. Meeting to be held at the Cascades Manor House at 1970 Kibby Road, Jackson. Our guest speakers will be Scott Robbins and Mike Hoskins to share updates on the parks. We will also hold a short meeting, and will vote on the proposed board of directors.

Please RSVP no later than April 20th by sending an email to info@fallingwatertrail.org or calling Helen Burnet at 517-358-1708. Cost is \$11 per person at the door.

Trail Day to be held on June 7th

Our second annual Trail day is coming once again. Come meet people who have interest in the outdoors, the trail and ways to enjoy the trail. Allegiance Health will once again offer bike helmets, On Two Wheels and the Armory Bike Union will fill tires and offer minor bicycle adjustments. Learn about Geocaching and visit the Divers that you see at Lime Lake on the trail. This is a great event to bring the family to. Trail Day is held at the Teft Road Trailhead. Drive to Teft Road Trailhead and ride to either Weatherwax Road or Concord and back. Or park at Weatherwax Road or Concord Trailheads and ride to the Teft Road. Trail day runs from 10 AM to 2 PM. Come join us!

Come see what are doing!

We formally invite any member or potential member to join us at any of our board meetings. They are held at the Jackson County Parks & Recreation Office, (Cascades Golf Course) 1992 Warren Ave, Jackson. Meetings start at 6pm.

2014 Meeting Dates

- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9
- November 4

2014 PROJECTS (CONT)

tems for Weatherwax and Teft Road trailheads) can total \$250,000 for materials and labor. This is a big undertaking. We have received

many compliments from those of you in the area and persons from outside of Jackson County and outside the State of Michigan. We would

like to continue to grow as a recreational destination in Jackson County.



2014 WILD LIFE MARATHON



Set your calendar for Sunday, October 12th for our 6th running of the Wild Life Marathon.

We are excited in providing couple immediate announcements:

- ◆ First sponsor of the 2014 year is **Jackson Hosts Lion's Club**. They have supported the Wild Life Marathon since our first event.
- ◆ In order to compete with all of the running events offered in Jackson and surrounding counties, we will not be increasing our 2014 rates. Our already low rates for the Half and Full marathon events are hard to beat.
- ◆ Wild Life Marathon gets their first major sponsor of

the year with **Experience Jackson**.

- ◆ If you or your business would like to help our event grow, please offer monetary or service sponsorship. More information is available at www.wildlifemarathon.org. Once at the home page, click on the sponsorship link.



2014 Wild Life Marathon Rate Chart				
Registration	Marathon	Half-Marathon	5K	Kids Wild Dash
Early Bird	\$50	\$40	\$20	\$1
After 8/15/2014	\$55	\$45	\$20	\$1
After 9/15/2014	\$65	\$55	\$25	\$1
Shirts guaranteed for preregistered by 9/15/2014				
Entries may be transferable to another athlete, but are not refundable or transferrable to 2015. Transfers must complete and sign a registration form prior to the event. Non-refunded fees may be tax deductible as a donation to the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail. Ask your tax adviser for details.				

How do you cast your shadow on the Falling Waters Trail? Tell us your story and we may publish in upcoming newsletters. Send your submission to us at info@fallingwatertrails.org

PHOTOS FROM 2013 WILD LIFE MARATHON

TURKEYS ON THE TROT

What do you think the origin of turkeys in Michigan are? Actually they are native to at least the southern portion of the state, but were wiped out about 100 years ago due to loss of habitat and the last one killed in Van Buren County in 1897.

An active effort to re-establish them was begun, but was not successful until 1954 when birds purchased by the Department of Conservation from Pennsylvania were brought to the Allegan County State Game area and within 10 years there were 2000 birds, enough to have a spring hunt. Additional efforts by the Department of Natural Resources introduced birds from Missouri and Iowa and by the late 1980's we had a statewide population of 200,000. There are days I think that many of that number are here with us in Jackson County, an entire rafter. Yes there is debate what a group of turkeys is called but most references called it a rafter. It is estimated that there are 7 million turkeys

today in North and Central America.

Some fun facts about turkeys - Wild turkeys can fly at 55 mph and run at 30 mph. And did you know they roost in trees?

A male gobbler can be 4 feet long head to tail, 24 pounds and a wing span of 5 feet. The heads can change color related to emotion from red to pink then white or blue. We all know males are toms and females are hens but did you know that very young turkeys are called poults and adolescents are called jakes?

Much like a peacock, the males will put on a show of feathers for mating purposes. The young are raised through the summer, are up and running within 24 hours to forage for food.. Incubation is a period of 28 days. A hen can lay as many as 18 eggs.

The family feeds in grasslands and open forest areas for high protein insects. Hence we see them on the trail now and then. The winter

takes them to stands of mast producing trees (trees that produce acorns and other nuts). They sleep in trees - yes that flight we spoke of earlier - 55 mph, can put them up into a tree, and they will glide back down.

They communicate by clicks and gobbles. Hens click and toms gobble. Their gobble can be heard as much as a mile away.

Help us keep wild turkeys wild. Do not feed them, whether it is on the trail or in your own yard. They do well with finding insects and then nuts of various sorts during the winter. Another reason not to feed them is that they have been known to become quite aggressive in suburban areas where they have been feed. They come to expect it and will attack.

Enjoy they beautiful colors and the way the saunter about. Revel in their flight as they seem too large to be able to lift off into the air. And enjoy your domesticated turkey on Thanksgiving.



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.



Friends of the Falling Waters Trail presents...

Saturday June 7, 2014

10 AM - 2 PM

Weatherwax Road Trailhead  Held at Teft Rd Trailhead  Concord Trailhead

DAY ON THE TRAIL