



# TART TALES

## New and Improved

It is not surprising that the most common questions we receive are when, where and how a new trail will be constructed. TART Trails is pleased to share the progress of several new and on-going projects this year:

### Leelanau Trail

This is an exciting year for the Leelanau Trail as we prepare to start paving the 6.5-mile stretch from Lakeview Hills to Revold Road in May. We anticipate it will be complete by early July. A challenge match from the Noverr Family and challenge pledge from The Cowell Family helped spur fundraising earlier this year. We still have around \$40,000 to go to reach our \$500,000 campaign goal. L. Mawby Vineyards is donating \$1 from each bottle of Connect sparkling wine (sold at local retailers) to help celebrate the paving and raise funds. Raise a glass to toast a great summer on the trails!

### Boardman River Trail

TART Trails took on a new trail system last year – the 24-mile Boardman River Trail, which will eventually connect the Vasa Trail to the Boardman Lake Trail in Traverse City. Under the leadership of Mudgett-award winner Richard Naperala, easements for the first two sections of the trail have been secured. We're waiting on approval from the DNR before construction can begin. In the meantime, we continue to work with our partners to determine the alignment through

the Nature Education Preserve and Garfield Township south of Boardman Lake. Construction will be approached in phases as exact locations and easements for each section are finalized.

### Boardman Lake Trail

“When will the Boardman Lake Trail extend all the way around the lake?” The great news is that the City received a DNR Trust Fund Grant to extend the trail from Oryana to 14th Street and it is anticipated to be completed in 2013. TART Trails continues to help with the design and secure easements needed to complete the trail south to Medalie Park and eventually south to the Boardman River Nature Center.

### Buffalo Ridge Trail

The first phase of the Buffalo Ridge Trail opened in November 2011. The half-mile trail runs between TBA-ISD in the Commons to West Middle School along Franke Road. The trail was built in conjunction with the new South Campus Entrance that will be finished this spring. Garfield Township and TART Trails are collaborating to find funding to continue the design and construction of the trail to the new YMCA and Kid's Creek Park. Stay tuned!

### Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail

A partner in the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee, TART Trails is charged

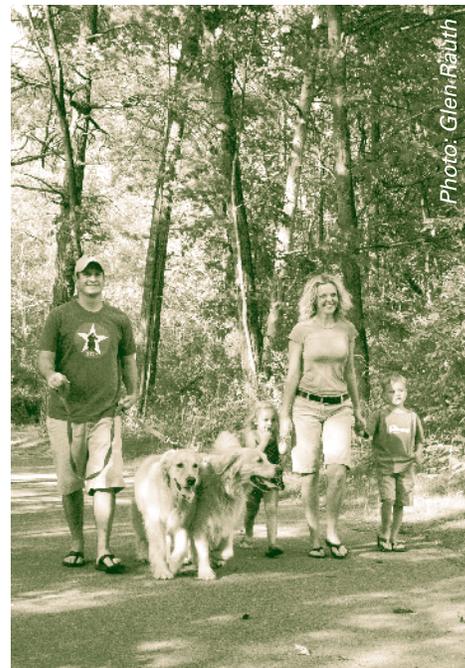


Photo: Glen Rabth

Boardman Lake Trail

with raising the private funds for the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail. This will be a 27-mile trail through the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Leelanau County. To date, more than \$6 million in public funding and over \$1 million in private funding has been secured. The first section (nearly five miles) of the trail from Glen Arbor to the Dune Climb is scheduled to be completed this July.



## Round, Round, Get Around — Written by Julie Clark

One of the things I love about living in Traverse City is the way people choose to move around the region. Our trails are used in all four seasons. This was the first year of the TART Trails Snow Removal Initiative. Led by a group of dedicated volunteers, the snow removal crew worked to ensure the trail was consistently cleared from Cherry Bend to Bunker Hill. They also tackled the Boardman Lake Trail between Oryana and the library with shovels in hand. This dedicated team made it possible for people to make their way around town throughout the winter.

Spring made an early arrival here in Traverse City. With the warm weather, people were outside enjoying the sunshine and spending time on the trails. When the storm blew into town in March, an amazing team of Ambassadors, volunteers and trail users cleared the way and the trails were up and running in no time at all.

Having options is important. Our trail network is an incredible asset to the region. Part of what makes a good trail network a great one is the connections it creates. Providing options for people to choose how to move around the region and access resources is a win for individuals and the community. A walkable, bikeable community is better for the entire region's economic, social and environmental sustainability. It's better for our physical and mental health, too.

It is important that we work hard to continue to connect trails, a spine for non-motorized transportation, with a road network that is safe for all users. Ask folks that live in Holiday Hills, just off Bunker Hill, or south of 14<sup>th</sup> Street along Cass Road, what it feels like to try to get to the trails. Whether it is a new trail, a complete streets approach to road design, or the simple addition of signage and striping, we are continuing to work with our local governments and other



Photo: Gary Howe

Julie Clark, Executive Director

non-profit partners to prioritize and plan for ways to help people make their way around the region. Your support and involvement is critical. TART Trails staff and Board are constantly amazed by the generosity and commitment of our friends and donors that help us continue to work on our vision of happy, active people enjoying a world-class trail system. Enjoy your time on the trails!

## Changing of the Guard

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Wayne Olsen, DDS to the TART Trails board. Wayne enjoys bicycling, running, boating, kayaking, gardening and woodworking. He looks forward to helping TART Trails with trail development, maintenance and community events.

Dr. Doug Spence stepped down after a successful eight-year tenure on the board. Doug has been an integral part of the TART Trails family and although we will miss his presence on the board, we are glad that Doug will continue his involvement with the organization by serving on the Development Committee.

The board also had several changes at the executive level. Dr. Brian Fisher, DDS was elected president in February, as Scott Howard's term ended. Brian has been on the board since May of 2007, most recently serving as vice president. He is excited about his new role, "Whenever I'm on the TART Trails system I am doing something outdoors that is healthy and invigorating and the many faces I see all seem to be smiling. I am excited to be part of something that is so positive for our community as a whole and for each of us individually."

Scott will continue to serve on the board as Past President. Other newly elected positions include Susan Vigland as vice president, and Chris DeGood as secretary. Both Susan and Chris joined the board in 2009.



Congratulations to Brian Fisher on his new role as TART Trails' board president.

# TART TALES

## TART Trails 365

In August 2011, while the rest of Traverse City was basking in the dog days of summer, Mike Trahey and Jason Lowetz were concerned about snow covering the TART Trail; which would limit non-motorized transportation. They contacted TART Trails independently of each other, but both exuded an extraordinary amount of enthusiasm and passion to get the job done. Jason's memorable first email exemplifies their shared dedication and vision:

*"I am willing to start a rally and do whatever it takes ... to raise money for the clearing. I would also be OK with performing some sort of amazing feat, like shoveling [the trail] with a spoon."*

By September, we met with the City and determined how to coordinate our snow removal efforts. Next, we needed equipment. After tireless fundraising led by TART Trails board member Dr. Thomas Auer, with the help of volunteer Roger Murvall, we secured a reduced-rate lease with the John Deere Work 'N Play Shop.

On New Year's Eve, a sparkly new John Deere tractor (nicknamed Phoebe) with a front-mounted snow blower rolled into town. Volunteer tractor operators – Glen Ruczynski, Roger Murvau, Jason Rohraff, Matt Zerilli, Jason Lowetz, and Nate Capper – were trained and organized into two crews with rotating shifts. When a minimum of three inches of snow accumulated on the trail, they put Phoebe into gear and traveled the 20 miles roundtrip along the TART Trail between Cherry Bend and Bunker



Photo: John Robert Williams

**"Phoebe", The Work 'N Play Shop tractor clearing the TART Trail**

Hill roads. Clearing the trail required an average eight hours, depending on snow and weather conditions.

The result? Cyclists, runners, dog walkers and smart commuters rejoiced! Ongoing operating costs to keep fuel in the tank and perform maintenance were sustained through donations from individuals, businesses and trail neighbors, including Harrington's By the Bay, Airway Automation, Bay Home Medical and Rehab, and Yen Yoga & Fitness.

Overall, the first season of the TART Trails Snow Removal Initiative was quite a feat – complex with numerous moving parts.

Nonetheless, having the trail used year-round and hearing stories of users' appreciation make it well worth it. We are already gearing up for next winter, with a goal to raise \$10,000 to operate and expand our reach. TART Trails works year-round to pursue our long-term vision of *Happy, active people enjoying a world-class trail system.*

Interested in supporting TART Trails Snow Removal Initiative? Please contact:

**Lee Maynard**  
*Trail Planning & Program Director*  
[lee@traversetrails.org](mailto:lee@traversetrails.org)  
 231.941.4300



## The Zombie Run: From Right-Brainstorm to Success

TART Trails is thankful for the time and energy that race directors Melinda Webster and Matt Ross put into making the Zombie Run such a huge success. In the past three years, the event has raised more than \$33,000 for TART Trails, and 2011 had more than 1,000 participants. We recently asked Matt and Melinda about their experience of planning the most unique run in Traverse City.

### What prompted you to start the Zombie Run?

*Melinda:* My stepfather Matt and I started running together as a hobby and completed a couple of 5k and 10k races in the area. Three years ago, while having a beer at Right Brain Brewery (RBB), we came up with the idea for a zombie themed run. Russ Springsteen, the brewery owner, quickly endorsed the idea and offered his facility as the event venue. RBB has been our biggest sponsor ever since. The run is always a fundraiser, and we donate the proceeds to TART Trails since Matt and I support the organization and utilize their trails on a regular basis. Matt is



photo: Allen-Kent Photography

Matt Ross and Melinda Webster

a physician's assistant and I am a registered nurse at Munson Medical Center. Neither of us had any previous experience with organizing large community events, so it is continually a learning experience, but it is a fun and creative way to relieve stress and give back to our community.

### What is most rewarding in planning the run?

*Matt:* It is most rewarding in that it allows me to work with my family and friends to help benefit my community. We all feel strongly

about the place where we live and know that TART Trails plays an integral part in making Traverse City such a wonderful place. Each year we find inspiration from the community's contribution and the runners' dedication to the zombie theme. We strategically planned the route to take place on the trails.

*Melinda:* We are inspired when runners say that they have not previously been on parts of the trail, including the Boardman Lake Trail. We are happy to help provide exposure to these wonderful trails.

### Anything new planned for the 2012 run?

*Melinda:* There will be some big changes for this year, specifically the route, as Right Brain will be moving to its new 16<sup>th</sup> Street location. We hope to use the new location as our venue, but still intend to utilize the trails for the course.

## 501 Miles by Bike

Imagine riding your bicycle from the Canadian border to the Indiana border along a designated route through the rural U.P., across the Mackinac Bridge and along the western shoreline of Michigan, passing through the many coastal towns and cities that dot the Lake Michigan Shoreline. This is what awaits your trip on U.S. Bicycle Route (USBR) 35 when it officially opens later this spring.

The U.S. Bicycle Route System is a proposed network of bicycle routes that connect two or more states, a state and an international border or other U.S. Bicycle Routes. The Michigan

portion of USBR 35 extends 501-miles from Sault Ste. Marie in the north to New Buffalo in the southwest corner, passing through our area along the TART Trail and Leelanau Trail. The USBR 35 Corridor Committee developed the route and is composed of representatives from Sault Ste. Marie, Petoskey, Traverse City, Manistee, Ludington, Muskegon, Holland, South Haven and Saint Joseph. U.S. Bicycle Routes are carefully selected to offer safe connections for road cycling between urban, suburban and rural communities. The Committee conducted public meetings in the fall of 2010 and secured resolutions of support

from all affected local and state agencies. The application for the designation was submitted this spring and should be approved by May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The public is welcome to celebrate with TART Trails and other involved organizations at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the old train depot, home of The Filling Station, immediately north of the library on Woodmere Avenue in Traverse City. For more information on U.S. Bicycle Routes, visit the Adventure Cycling Association website at: [www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs](http://www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs)

# TART TALES

## Volunteers Restore the Trails

The snowstorm on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, wreaked havoc on the trails. Heavy, wet snow downed power lines, trees and debris, leaving damage that took weeks to repair.

TART Trails is humbled and cannot say thank you enough to the volunteers for helping with immediate and ongoing trail cleanup following the storm. We were impressed with the quick response from the groomers, snow removal crew, TART Ambassadors, work bee volunteers and all of the trail users that helped get the system up and running – many of whom did so anonymously.

The storm was a reminder of how wicked weather can serve as a blessing in disguise. In tandem with creating tremendous amounts of work, it reminded us of the strength of



Snow Removal volunteers Jason Lowetz, Jason Rohraff and Glen Ruczynski help clear the TART Trail.

our dedicated community of TART Trails volunteers and Ambassadors. Year-round, most trail maintenance is accomplished by groups and individuals that donate their time and roll up their sleeves to get the job done. The trails would not be what they are without the support of volunteers ranging from

trained chainsaw operators to cookie bakers. This spring, we are excited to welcome the United Way of Northwest Michigan onboard as a monthly TART Trail maintenance group. They will adopt various sections of the trail each month from spring through fall to pick up litter, maintain gardens, update kiosks and perform other maintenance tasks.

In late August, TART Trails will host a trail maintenance training (stay tuned for an exact date). If you are interested in learning more about volunteering or becoming a TART Trails Ambassador, please contact:

Lee Maynard  
Trail Planning & Program Director  
lee@traversetrails.org  
231.941.4300

## Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date!

**Tails to Trails: 4-Paw 5K** – Saturday, May 12  
[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

**Bayshore Marathon** – Saturday, May 26  
[www.bayshoremarathon.org](http://www.bayshoremarathon.org)

**Recycle-A-Bicycle Bike Swap** – Saturday, June 2  
[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

**Smart Commute Week** – June 1–8  
[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

**Cherry Capital Men's Chorus to benefit TART Trails** – Sunday, June 24  
[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

**CCCC Ride Around Torch** – Sunday, July 15  
[www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org](http://www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org)

**Tour de TART** – Friday, July 27  
[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

**Cherry Roubaix Races** – August 10–12  
[www.cherry-roubaix.com](http://www.cherry-roubaix.com)

**United Way Day of Caring** – Thursday, September 6

**Leelanau Harvest Tour** – Sunday, September 16  
[www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org](http://www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org)

**Trail Work Bee** – Saturday, October 20  
[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

**Zombie Run 5k** – Saturday, October 27  
[www.tczombierun.com](http://www.tczombierun.com)

**Turkey Trot** – Thursday, November 22  
[www.trot.evugo.com](http://www.trot.evugo.com)



## TART as Part of Your Plan

Barry Harper is an avid cyclist and took advantage of the mild winter weather to log over 600 miles during the first two months of the year! He has designated TART Trails in his estate plan and when asked to share a few words as to why TART Trails, Barry thought Sir Arthur Conan Doyle summed it up best:

*When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road [or trail], without thought of anything but the ride you are taking. (1/28/1896)*

If you would like to designate TART Trails in your estate, please contact:

**Pam Darling, Development Director**  
231.941.4300  
pam@traversetrails.org

## I support TART's Long-Term Vision:

Happy, active people enjoying a world-class trail system.



### TART Board of Directors

- Brian Fisher, *President*
- Susan Vigland, *Vice President*
- Chris DeGood, *Secretary*
- John Paul, *Treasurer*
- Scott Howard, *Past President*
- Tom Auer
- Brian Beauchamp
- Jim Dombrowski
- Meagan McLain
- Wayne Olsen
- Kelley Peterson
- Kevin Pryor
- Mike Tarnow
- Matt Vermetten
- Howard Yamaguchi
- Ross Richardson, *Grand Traverse County Appointee*

### TART Staff

- Julie Clark, *Executive Director*
- Pam Darling, *Development Director*
- Lee Maynard, *Trail Planning & Program Director*
- Deb Westphal, *Office Manager*
- Arianne Whittaker, *Marketing & Outreach Director*

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me/us email updates Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to volunteer

### Show Your Support with Your Tax-Deductable Contribution

\$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustainer's Circle    \$1000    \$5000    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me/us about making a planned gift or gift of stock

Check Enclosed    Recurring donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month

Please charge my/my partner's  VISA    MC    American Express    Discover # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My/my partner's company will match my gift. I'll send the forms.

Please do not publish my/our name(s) as a donor.

## Thank You!

Mail form to: TART Trails, PO Box 252, Traverse City, MI 49685  
TART is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

# TART TALES

## Special Thanks to...

**Pearl's New Orleans Kitchen** and **Short's Brewery** for the inaugural **Bluegrass, Bourbon, Blues and Beer Fest** to support trail expansion toward Elk Rapids.

**Goodwill Industries Workforce** led by **John O'Neil** for work along the Vasa, Leelanau, TART and Boardman Lake trails this past fall.

The **Career Tech Center Skilled Trade Students**, led by **Randy Kitzman**, for extensive work on and around the Caboose. Thanks to **Dave Monstrey** and **Tom Phillips** for getting this project up and running!

**Higher Grounds Coffee**, **Pleasanton Brick Oven Bakery** and **The Underground Cheesecake Company** for supplying refreshments for the Buffalo Ridge Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Thanks to **Pine Rest Traverse City Clinic** for hosting the event.

The **Master Gardeners** that planted daffodil bulbs near the Caboose in freezing rain – **Kathie Scott**, **Barb Solomonson**, **Jan Doren**, **Luc**, **Dorothy Ruble** and **Cindy Miner**. Thanks to **Aroma's** for providing hot drinks.

**Up North Media** and the volunteers and race participants for making the **2011 Traverse City Turkey Trot for Charity** a huge success. TART is a grateful recipient of \$5,000 from the event!

The **Downtown Merchants** and shoppers that helped TART Trails raise \$1,109.63 on Shop Your Community Day.

**Hagerty Twelve Days of Giving** volunteers **Jeanette Zerilli** and **Jada Morgan**, who installed a new Boardman Lake Trail sign near Oryana.

**Mike and Terry Tarnow** for hosting the staff and board holiday party, and **Scott's Harbor Grill** for catering.

The **Community Foundation of Suttons Bay** and **Bingham Endowment** for a grant to support paving the Leelanau Trail.

**Brick Wheels**, the **Vasa Ski Club** and **Timber Ridge** for collaborating with us on Winter Trails Day.

Mark Stone of **Michigan Maps Online** for creating an updated, full-color Vasa Pathway and Single-track map for display at the warming hut.

**Flight Path Creative** for their work on our newsletter.

**Rotary Charities** for a grant of \$40,000 to Complete Streets.

**Snow Ball** attendees and the following businesses and individuals that made it a smashing success: **Bay Area Recycling for Charities**, **Michael Kent** of **Allen Kent Photography**, **Maggie Coco** for the disco ball, **Timber Ridge Resort**, **Morsels**, **Jennifer Borkovich** of **Plascon** for design work, **Right Brain Brewery**, **Short's Brewing**, **Leelanau Cellars**, **Bill Borre**, **Grandview Catering**, **Mickey Humpula** and **Chelsea Strate** for making pizzas.

**Priority Health** employee **Melissa Sole** for nominating TART to receive a \$1,000 donation as part of their 25th anniversary celebration.

**Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail** cabinet members who led a snowshoe hike and helped at the Glen Arbor Chili Cook-Off in February: **Tom Ulrich**, **Kerry Kelly**, **George** and **Carol Quarderer**, **Matt** and **Katy Wiesen**, **Tom Dunfee**, **Sandy Miller**, **Barbara Nelson-Jameson**, **Megan Crandall**, **Peter Van Nort** and **Anderson's IGA Market**.

**Yen Yoga & Fitness** (YYF) for hosting a spin-raiser to benefit the TART Trails Snow Removal Initiative. YYF instructors **Kelley**, **Trish** and **Sara** donated their time and talent, and **Glen Ruczynski**, **Ali Bridson** and **Nate Capper** volunteered at the TART Trails information booth.

**Paul Maurer** and **Mike Scharpf** for clearing the Cherry Bend and Fouch Road trailheads all winter.

**Jim Dombrowski** for manning the Vasa Open Houses and **Vera Fisher**, **Shannon Gillespie**, **Linda Christie** and **Linda Flynn** for baking delicious cookies.

**The Filling Station** for hosting the Groomer Appreciation Party, and our groomers for making the most of a short ski season: **Paul Tata**, **Jim Dombrowski**, **Roger Raehl**, **Doug Scofield**, **Glenn Rauth**, **Bill Heitman** and **Gary Joslin**.

**Specialized** bicycles in partnership with **McLain's Cycle & Fitness** for awarding a \$3,000 Youth on Bikes grant to fund supplies for TART's youth bicycle and pedestrian safety program.

Organizations that awarded grants for the **Recycle-A-Bicycle** program: the **Art & Mary Schmuckal Foundation** for \$2,000, **Cherryland Cares** for \$1,100, the **Cherry Capital Cycling Club** for \$3,000, **Rotary Good Works** for \$2,500 and The Tribal Council of the **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians** for \$6,000.



Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc.  
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# TART TALES

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## Trail Tips

The network of trails is an amazing asset for our community that is enjoyed by walkers, runners, skiers, cyclists, families and pets. As summer approaches, there is increased traffic on the trails. TART Trails shares the following tips to make your trail experience safe and enjoyable:

### Trail Safety:

- Be aware of your location on the trail. On the Vasa Pathway, there are emergency locator signs at every kilometer along the 3k, 5k, 10k and 25k trails. Please take notice of these signs the next time you are out and be aware of your location as you pass by them. This will increase the speed of emergency response.
- Carry a cell phone and dial 911 in the event of all emergencies. Bring a friend if you can.
- Know basic first aid and CPR.

- Stop at all stop signs.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and carry water with you.
- Wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or inline skating. Be sure that all of your equipment is well maintained. Use lights and wear reflective clothing at night, sunrise, sunset and in fog or rain.

### Help make your time on the trails a great time for everyone:

- Be considerate of all trail users.
- Cyclists yield to slower traffic, especially children.
- Keep to the right, except when passing.
- Cyclists should ride single-file when other users are present.
- Alert others when passing by calling out “on your left” in advance.
- Keep pets on a 6-foot leash. Clean up after your pet.
- Respect private property. Stay on the trail.



Vasa Pathway emergency signs