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Fox Cities Greenways Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for FCGI's Annual Meeting! The meeting is Thursday, January 26th 2017, at Riverview Gardens in Appleton. It promises to be an evening of celebration as we recap a year of accomplishments and look forward to the challenges of 2017. It is also a chance for members, volunteers, and the general public to get a look at what we as a Board do to pursue our mission of "*Fostering the Development and Preservation of Trails and Greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region.*"

The agenda for the evening starts with social hour at 5:30 pm, where guests can mingle, engage with exhibitors, and enjoy beverages from the Stone Cellar and hors d'oeuvres. The meeting begins at 6:30 and will mirror aspects of a regular Board Meeting, including acceptance of the prior year meeting minutes and a financial report. The bulk of the meeting will be used to celebrate our accomplishments, give awards, and take a peek into what the future holds.

The theme for the evening is "*Stand Up for Trails! How to make your voice heard*". The highlight of the night will be a guest speaker.

Whether this is your first Annual Meeting or your 20th, we'd love to see you there!

Thursday, January 26, 2017

Riverview Gardens
1101 S. Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54915

Topic: Stand up for Trails! How to make your voice heard.

5:30-6:30pm: Social,
Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar,
door prizes

6:30-8:30pm: Business Meeting,
Speaker, Awards

FREE for Fox Cities Greenways
Members, \$10 General Public

RSVP preferred— email:
fcgreenways@gmail.com

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President's Letter

Hold on to your hats...it has been a whirlwind year!

First, let's begin with our co-sponsorship of a **Trail Running Clinic** at Menasha Public Library in July, where many were introduced to the thrills of trail running.

The Fox Valley's **first rickshaw** made its appearance at Brewster Village in July, thanks to the membership of Fox Cities Greenways. This incredible program provides people of all ages and differing abilities the opportunity to access our trails!

In September, we co-sponsored the first **Bike and Pedestrian Safety Clinic** for World Relief – Fox Valley and the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. Participants received bike and pedestrian safety skills instructions, trail etiquette information and were provided with donated bike helmets, trail maps and so much more. Stay tuned for another clinic to be organized in spring of 2017.

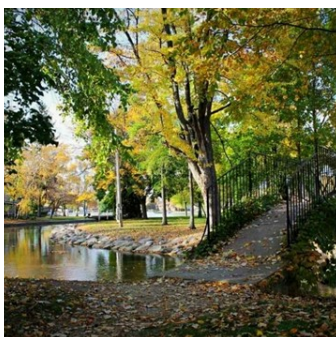


Photo: Stephanie Polk

Top Fox at the Refuge rolled out on a beautiful autumn morning. Participants walked, ran and biked along the Fox River on a wooded trail, through Peabody Park and quiet residential streets. A special shout out to the event organizers Gordy and Linda McDaniel and all the volunteers who made this event possible!

Fox Cities Greenways **"Together for Trails" contest** finished its second year with a record number of photos promoting the exceptional beauty of our parks, waterways and trails in the Fox Valley.

This year ends with a huge thank you to our membership, the Jean Koffend Fund and our anonymous donor. Your generous response to the Matching Grant Membership Challenge made it possible to **donate \$20,000 to the "Loop the Little Lake: Trestle Project."** We did it...oh yes we did!

My year as president of Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. comes to an end. I want to thank our committed Fox Cities Greenways Board and my mentors (you know who are) for their support and encouragement. Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. will move forward in the capable hands of Andrew Dane.

My message to Andrew...

*"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood,
and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans;
aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble,
logical diagram, once recorded, will never die." - Daniel Burnham*

To the Fox Cities Greenways Inc. membership, it has been both a pleasure and honor to serve.

Cheryl Zadrazil

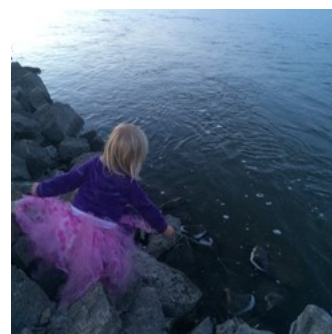


Photo: Stephanie Vos

Fox Cities Cycling (FCCA) has been part of Fox Cities Greenways since it began and has become more independent over the years. The boards of both organizations have been meeting throughout 2016 to clarify the purpose of each group and agree on how to work together most effectively.

Beginning in 2017 membership to FCCA will be free in an effort to increase membership for cycling activities and advocacy. Fox Cities Greenways will maintain the below membership options using the funds to deliver on our mission to *Foster the development and preservation of trails and greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region!* as well as provide an annual budget for FCCA activities. Thanks to all contributing members for their financial support of these efforts.

This change will take affect immediately making all Fox Cities Greenway members of FCCA and will be reflected in the year end membership renewal.

\$35 - Guardian Membership

\$50 - Sentinel Membership

\$100 - Advocate Membership

\$250 - Conservator Membership

\$500 - Trailblazer Membership

\$1000 - Pathfinder Membership

For more information about FCCA or to join online: <http://www.foxcitiescycling.org/>

For more information or to join Fox Cities Greenways: <http://foxcitiesgreenways.org/>

Look for Fox Cities Cycling Association and Fox Cities Greenways on Facebook

Top Fox Event a Success!



The Top Fox 5K run/walk and the 8 mile bike ride at the Refuge had 140 participants. The weather was perfect, the music by the School of Rock was fun to listen to and the Stone Cellar's stand was very busy serving root beer and beer. Participants commented on how much they loved the historic run/walk past the Grotto's. Bicyclists enjoyed touring the Little Chute Windmill, treats at the Bakers Outlet, and the scenery and wildlife on the beautiful Little Chute Trail. Several of the run/walkers drove to

the Windmill to take advantage of the tours, too. Everyone enjoyed the cookies, muffins, cheese platters, and handmade awards.

A big **Thank You** to "The Refuge" for hosting our event, our sponsors—Scheels and Evergreen Credit Union and all our volunteers.

Handmade Awards



Greenways Loop the Little Lake Challenge Grant Update

In 2015 Neenah and Menasha city councils approved the **Loop the Little Lake Trestle Project**. At that time, Fox Cities Greenways received an anonymous challenge grant of \$10,000. Since that time, we received almost \$6,000 in donations from members and others to support this project. To ensure we leveraged 100% of the challenge grant, the Fox Cities Greenways board in October authorized using unallocated funds to match the balance of the grant.

The stated goals are listed below and you can find more information at: <https://www.neenah.org/projects/navigate-neenah/> construction is expected to begin in 2017.

This \$20,000 donation makes up almost 15% of the non state funding needed to support the project, thanks to all who contributed to this important addition to our area trails, making our community stronger and more connected.



Blue = existing trail
Red = new trail section

Key aspects of the project include:

- Provide “way finding” points throughout our trail systems and communities.
- Connect our trail systems to each other.
- Provide additional water access points
- Connect pedestrians & silent sports enthusiasts to the story of our area- it’s history, development, and environment
- Increase traffic to our key destinations and business districts for economic sustainability
- Promote healthy living.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Clinic



Fox Cities Greenways, Inc., Active Bike and Fitness, Fox Cities Cycling Association, Forward Service Cooperation, Wisconsin Bike Fed, World Relief - Fox Valley and the Fox Valley Warming Shelter partnered to organize the September 18th 2016 Bike and Pedestrian Safety Clinic. Mark Fluette from Active Bike and Fitness in Appleton hosted the clinic which provided bike and pedestrian safety skills and trail etiquette tips, provided helmet fittings and bike tune-ups. In addition, clinic sponsors donated bike helmets, bike bells, bike lights, bike locks, trail maps and water bottles.

Planning for a spring 2017 clinic is currently underway. Please contact Michelle Bachaus, michelleb@wisconsinbikefed.org or Cheryl Zadrzail at fccgreenways@gmail.com if you are interested in either donating bike and pedestrian safety equipment or lending your skills and talents at the Spring 2017 Clinic.

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. has partnered with Brewster Village and Fox Cities Cycling Association to establish a **Cycling Without Age** program in the Fox Cities. While most of us are able to ride a bicycle, there are people in the community with mobility issues or who lack the independence to experience the joys and benefits of cycling. Cycling Without Age uses specially designed rickshaw bicycles to provide nursing home residents and people with differing abilities the opportunity to experience the joys and benefits of cycling in a social setting while enjoying the fresh air and the community around them.

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. has donated the first rickshaw to Brewster Village as part of its initiative to not only increase the use of trails, but make them available to people regardless of age or ability. Brewster Village's goal is to build a fleet of rickshaws to not only serve the residents of Brewster Village, but the Fox Cities Community. Fox Cities Cycling Association will provide volunteers and coordinate pilot training. In future years, the program will be expanded to include additional rickshaws, locations, and cities in the Fox Valley Region.

Our Partnership

Brewster Village, Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (FCGI), and Fox Cities Cycling Association (FCCA) are uniquely situated to establish a Cycling Without Age program in the Fox Cities. We have also reached out to several other organizations that are interested in partnering with us once we fully establish the program. It is our expectation that we will be successful in establishing the program in 2016. We hope to expand the Cycling Without Age program in future years, adding more rickshaws and locations in order to serve additional organizations and communities in the Fox Cities region.

What You Can Do!

We are rapidly approaching our fundraising goal to purchase and donate the second rickshaw to Brewster Village.

DONATE to the best of your ability - mail your donation to:
Fox Cities Greenways
P.O Box 5
Menasha, WI 54952-0005

Volunteer:

Train to become a volunteer rickshaw pilot:
Brewster Village, Patti.Scheibe@outagamie.org
(920) 832-5399



Learn more about the Cycling Without Age program, both locally and internationally by visiting our website www.foxcitiesgreenways.org

Talk about us, talk about us, talk about us...share this Cycling Without Age article with friends, neighbors and family. Ask the Cycling Without Age Team to provide a presentation for your club, service group, corporation, church or nonprofit. Contact cherylforgreenways@gmail.com or Fcca.cyclingwithoutage@gmail.com

Goals for 2017 and Beyond

The FCG Board spent a considerable amount of time in 2016 updating our Strategic Plan. We developed a 3-year "roadmap" with the help of an outside facilitator who conducted a 1/2 day workshop in March. Our organizational mission remains the same - Foster the development and preservation of trails and greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region!

We began the update by re-thinking *how* we achieve the mission. There was strong agreement that we want to become more proactive in the future, versus reactive. How do we help develop a bigger vision for greenways and trails in the Fox Cities (and beyond), while also remaining nimble enough to take advantage of short term opportunities to support great local projects and initiatives? We spent time brainstorming our current needs as an organization as well as our future needs, and came up with seven broad initiatives to help guide into the future. For each initiative we identified strategies for 2016, 2017, and 2018, as well as a long-term 'Vision of Success. Our 2017 strategies include:

1. **Advocacy, Education, and Information** - Leverage Paper Trail for increased visibility
2. **Fundraising** - Meet with Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region & others to explore new funding strategies
3. **Organizational Development** - Consolidate organizational documentation and post to website
4. **Board Development & Succession** - Board training & implement new board member recruitment program
5. **Partnerships** - Prioritize & begin developing 1-2 priority partnership opportunities
6. **Staying Nimble** - Support 1-2 opportunity projects including exploring potential for new Fox Cities Trail Map
7. **Big Vision** - Plan and possibly host a regional Trails Summit

If you would like to contribute your ideas, time, energy, or passion to support the 2017 work plan please contact Annette Look (fcgreenways@gmail.com) or Andrew Dane (daneandrew@gmail.com). Thanks for all your support!

Photo Contest: *"Together for Trails"*

Fox Cities Greenways proudly announces this year's winners of the *"Together for Trails"* photo contest. We had a record number of entries! Together we shared trail stories, photos and locations of the many parks, waterways and trails which makes our Fox Valley communities unique.

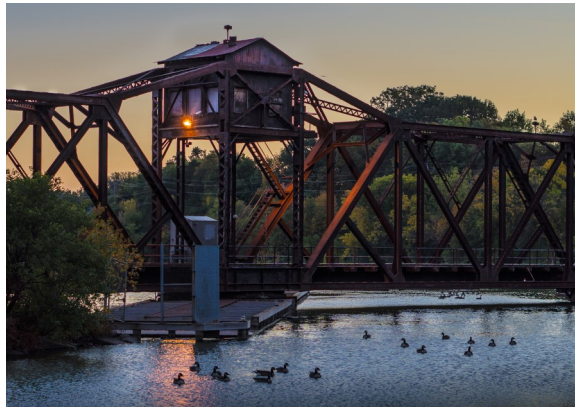
A special thank you to the Fox Valley Photography Meetup Group for their assistance with contest promotion and judging. Congratulations to our winners and a heartfelt thank you to all of the participants who sent us incredible photos!

Winners received cash prizes or gift cards and all were provided a FCGI Membership . Attend the Greenways Annual Meeting—member and guests will have the opportunity to vote for "Best of Show." Keep our photo contest in mind as you use the trails in 2017 and share your passion!

Category: Discovering the natural beauty of our Trails: wildlife, flora and fauna



Second Place:
Oak Tree -
Margaret Klose



First Place:
Days Past -
Mike Heffner



Third Place:
Sitting Pretty -
Darlene Michaletz

Category: Exploring and Sharing Trail Experiences with Family and Friends: activities, artwork, destinations, traveling safety and destinations



Second Place: Discovery -
Stephanie Vos



First Place:
Sunshine on the
Newberry Trail -
Linda Sheffle



Third Place:
Yellow Leaf Trail -
Frank Childress



PO Box 5
Menasha, WI 54952-0005

Change Service Requested



Scan this QR code
with your
smartphone to
access FCGI's
website!

~ Fostering the Development and Preservation of Trails and Greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region ~

Join Fox Cities Greenways Today!

Winter 2016-17

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Annual Membership:

- ☐ \$35—Guardian ☐ \$50—Sentinel ☐ \$100—Advocate
☐ \$250—Conservator ☐ \$500—Trailblazer ☐ \$1,000—Pathfinder

☐ Please apply my membership to FCCA restricted fund

☐ My company has a matching gift program: Company : _____

I wish to receive my newsletter via...(please circle one) Postal Mail Email

Mail this form to **Fox Cities Greenways, P.O. Box 5, Menasha, WI 54952-0005**

You may also join or donate online with Pay Pal at www.foxcitiesgreenways.org.

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Email us with any questions at fcgreenways@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!