



Menard County
Trails &
Greenways

Ways to Discovery!

Summer Newsletter 2022

Annual Meeting & PARTY!

July 12th

6 - 8 in the evening

at

Hand of Fate Brewery

Plan to join us for a fun evening with old and new friends. The evening will include a short presentation recapping Trails & Greenways activities over the past year, board member elections, socializing, and a look-back slide loop.

**FOOD PROVIDED ~~ CASH BAR
DOOR PRIZES!!**

Everyone who attends receives a chance to win a door prize.

Pay your dues and you get an extra chance to win!

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For Planning Purposes Please RSVP to Libby: lshawgo@gmail.com

MCTG FY 23 Begins

Our new fiscal year begins July 1, which means annual dues are due. We hope you can join us on July 12 for the Annual Meeting and Party where you can pay your dues in person.

Otherwise, you may send a check to MCTG, PO Box 221, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Or, you may pay online at: <https://menardcountytrailsandgreenways.org/join/>

Anyway you choose to remit we value your membership, and dues remain \$10/person or \$20/family!!



2022
Board
Elections

MCTG board member terms run 2 years, with members serving no more than 3 consecutive terms. The following board members have reached the end of their first 2-year term: Karen Erchinger, Kent Massie, Dan Robertson, Chris Rudin, Jenn Satorius, Libby Shawgo, Guy Sternberg and Terri Treacy. All have agreed to serve another 2-year term. Per our bylaws, we will hold an election at the Annual Meeting on July 12th. All members attending the meeting will be able to vote.

Join, Renew, Stay Informed at <https://menardcountytrailsandgreenways.org>

Let Our Voices Be Heard -- Build a Dedicated Hike & Bike Path Linking New Salem Historic Site with Petersburg



**Notice of Public Meeting
about IL 97
from New Salem through
Petersburg**

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be hosting an open house public meeting for Phase 1 roadway improvements to IL 97 and IL 123.

The meeting will not have a formal presentation but exhibits and maps will be available for viewing. IDOT representatives and consultants from the engineering firm Thouvenot, Wade and Moerchen will be available to answer questions and gather public input about the project.

Any residents interested in this project are invited to attend Tuesday, **June 21, 2022 from 4:00-6:00pm at the PORTA High School.**

For years we've advocated for a safe hike / bike path linking New Salem State Historic Site with Petersburg. With the resurfacing of Rte. 97 on the horizon, this is the perfect time to ensure this goal is realized.

It's important that we show strong public support for a hike / bike path along Rte. 97. Please attend the public information meeting on Tuesday, June 21 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the PORTA High School, and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to attend as well.

We are also advocates of a more walkable Petersburg. Trails & Greenways supports the Petersburg mayor in his request for installation of two pedestrian right-of-way crosswalks along Rte. 97 at Douglas and Jackson Streets (main E/W streets downtown that cross Rte. 97). Having traffic stop for pedestrians in crosswalks will make walking in downtown Petersburg safer and more enjoyable for residents and visitors.



Looking Ahead

June

- 18th - Adopt-a-Highway*
- 21st - Rte 97 Open House Public Meeting (see above)

July

- 12th - MCTG Annual Meeting & Party

Sept

- 13th - Adopt-a-Highway*
- 17th - Petersburg Harvest Fest (MCTG booth)

Oct

- 15th - Annual Sangamon River Fall Float
- TBD - Autumn bike ride

Nov

- 8th - Board of Directors meeting
- 12th - Adopt-a-Highway*

Other - dates to be announced

- River Clean Up
- Friends Floats -- When conditions are right we hope to organize a couple spur of the moment floats on the Sangamon and/or one of the lakes at Jim Edgar Panther Creek. If you're a canoesit/kayaker and interested in being included on a contact list, please let Jenn (jsatorius@gmail.com) know.

* Adopt-a-Highway Rte 97 litter pick up--meet at New Salem entrance at 9:00 AM. Trash bags & safety vests provided.

Updates will be posted through our email list.

You can also Follow Us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/MenardCTG>

A Look Back at FY 22



The first year of the Habitat Restoration Project at New Salem State Historic Site was a huge success. Beginning November 5, 2021 and ending February 27, 2022, 19 volunteers spent 300+ volunteer hours cutting, stacking and treating honeysuckle within the interior of the Cardinal Trail loop (plus some). Karen Erchinger, with a little help, removed the honeysuckle from the area along the backside of the Lincoln Statue near the New Salem entrance, and native trees and shrubs were planted. And, during the springs of '21 & '22, 18 volunteers (including a small group of young 4-H kids and their folks pulled 108 bags of garlic mustard! On April 15 this year, 3 project volunteers assisted the IDNR with a prescribed fire.



Left: Historic Wayside Park Celebration -- an event to celebrate our partners and new IDOT sign.
 Center & right: On April 3rd year we partnered with Petersburg Athletic Association to celebrate Earth Day. Families came out to pick up litter in Hurie and Founders parks; honeysuckle was removed along the riverfront in Hurie Park; construction on a new dugout at the girls' ballfield was started.



Left & center: For over two decades Trails & Greenways has cleaned up litter from our IDOT Adopt-a-Highway segment that runs along Rte. 97 through New Salem State Historic Site to Petersburg. Chris Rudin printed a new magnetic sign for the pickup truck that moves filled bags to the drop point. Unfortunately, there is never any lack of litter!!
 Right: Several enthusiastic 4-H members and their folks helped pull garlic mustard this spring.