



# Menard County Trails & Greenways

*Ways to Discovery!*

**Winter/Spring Newsletter 2022**



## New Salem Habitat Restoration Project

A year ago we announced the habitat restoration project at New Salem State Historic Site to remove invasive species including bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and garlic mustard from the 65-acre upland area around Cardinal Trail. Working under the supervision of INDR Natural Heritage Biologist, Ray Geroff, the objective of this long term project is to restore the historic landscape of the area.

In April and May, 13 volunteers spent 41.5 hours over 3 days pulling 30 bags of garlic mustard.

Between July and September, Karen Erchinger, with a little help from Mike, Terri and Guy, removed invasive species along the little creek that runs behind the Lincoln statue at the main entrance to New Salem. In that same area, Karen planted native species that had been donated in memory of her dad, Walt.

By early November, the temperatures had cooled enough to get to work on honeysuckle removal on Cardinal Ridge. Between November 5th and New Year's Eve we held 16 workdays in which 21 volunteers worked 194 hours and removed honeysuckle from 7.5 acres. Since the first of the year, 10 volunteers spent 125.5 hours removing the remaining honeysuckle from the interior of the Cardinal Trail Loop, plus a little more along the road near the trailhead.

Hands down, Karen Erchinger deserves a gold star for her tireless devotion to the project!!

Ray is working to schedule a burn for the area. As springs unfolds we're very excited to see the results of our labors!

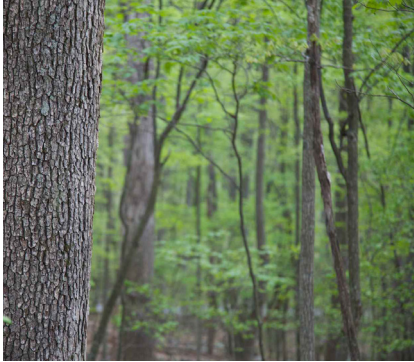
Also, with spring coming, we'll be scheduling some garlic mustard pulls. If you're interested in volunteering, please get ahold of us: [MenardCTG@gmail.com](mailto:MenardCTG@gmail.com)



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



## MCTG / Broadgauge Partnership Establishes Menard County Forest Fund



Menard County Trails & Greenways and Broadgauge have entered into a partnership dedicated to beautifying our community by planting and preserving native trees on public lands in Petersburg and Menard County.

Broadgauge established the Menard

County Forest Fund with an initial \$10,000 donation. Plus, \$1 from every completed dinner reservation at Broadgauge will go towards the Forest Fund. MCTG will administer the Forest Fund with the creation of a grant program in which grants will be awarded to organizations that will plant and/or preserve trees on public lands and/or easements.

Additional donations are welcome and will qualify as a charitable contribution to a not-for-profit organization.

As soon as the application process is established, MCTG will invite organizations to apply for grants that will pay for trees or forest maintenance. More information about the application process will be provided as soon as it's available.

\* \* \*

Support the Forest Fund: Book a reservation at Broadgauge today at: <https://www.broadgauge.com/reservations>  
Wednesday and Thursday evenings often have the best availability.

## Adopt-a-Highway



Many thanks to Chris Rudin, our new Adopt-a-Highway chairman, for organizing the ad-hoc clean up on Saturday, March 5th, and to the 12



volunteers who spent an hour filling 20 bags with litter! Our segment runs 2 miles along Rt. 97 from the south edge of town to the top of the hill at the south end of New Salem State Historic Site.

Future clean ups are scheduled for April 9, June 25, September 10 and November 12.

More hands mean more fun and more time to enjoy coffee and sweetrolls at The Talisman!!

## Looking Ahead - 2022

Check for updates as well as additional events and activities via email, Facebook and website.

### April

- 3rd (tentative) - Celebrate Earth Month & Promote National Trails Day
- 9th - Adopt-a-Highway
- TBD - garlic mustard pull(s) at New Salem
- Wayside mowing & pollinator bed maintenance begins

### May

- TBD - garlic mustard pull(s) at New Salem
- 10th - Board of Directors meeting
- TBD - hike New Salem to observe habitat restoration project

### June

- 25th - Adopt-a-Highway

### July

- 12th - MCTG Annual Meeting & Membership Appreciation Party

### Sept

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

### Oct

- TBD - Annual Sangamon River Fall Float
- TBD - Autumn bike ride
- Honeysuckle removal at New Salem as weather permits throughout fall & winter

### Nov

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

## Welcome New Members

Many thanks and welcome to all the new members since the beginning of our fiscal year. Eleven family memberships and four individual memberships brings the total number of memberships to 45. We encourage you to invite your friends and family to support us. They can join via mail: PO Box 221, Petersburg, IL 62675 or online at: <https://menardcountytailsandgreenways.org/join/>  
Anyway they choose to remit, dues remain \$10/person or \$20/family!! And, donations of any size are always welcome!!

## Follow Us on Facebook

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

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

# Menard County Trails & Greenways Committees & Special Projects

## Everyone Welcome! Join Us!

### Membership & Communication (Alana McKean)

This committee maintains the membership list and Listserve, posts to social media, maintains the website, produces printed materials (brochures, signs, etc.)

*If you're a techy with skills we can use your help.*

### Program & Events (Terri Treacy)

Earth Day Clean Ups

Bike Rides

Sangamon River Watershed Celebration

Booth at Petersburg Harvest Fest

Sangamon River Fall Float

Various outings, programs & presentations

*If you have ideas for programs, or a knack for organizing events, your talents can be put to use on this committee.*

### Wayside Maintenance (Guy Sternberg)

This committee maintains the Wayside Park and includes weekly mowing during the growing season, tree care and pollinator waystation care.

*The mowing team is always looking for additional volunteers to join the mowing rotation. And, the pollinator planting needs a dedicated crew to keep the area weeded, and, when needed, watering.*

### Adopt-a-Highway (Chris Rudin)

The Trails & Greenways Adopt-a-Highway segment runs 2 miles along Rt. 97 from the south edge of town to the top of the hill at the south end of New Salem State Historic Site. Litter is picked up on average 4 times per year.

*Pickup dates for 2022 will be announced through the Listserv and on our Facebook page.*

### Trails (Land & Water) (Kent Massie & Jenn Satorius)

Land trail work include projects such as:

- Sangamon Valley Trail Extension  
*Committee stays abreast of the status of the extension into Menard County*
- Petersburg/New Salem trail  
*IDOT to hold a public meeting for input into this proposal--stay tuned!*
- Menard County Bike Routes & Signage  
*This committee has posted blogs on our website featuring a couple bicycle routes in Menard County (more to come!) The committee is interested in pursuing the establishment of Bike Route signs along routes that*

*connect points of interest in the county. If biking is your passion, this fledgling committee would love your help.)*

Water trail work includes projects such as:

- National Water Trail Designation
- Sangamon River Access

*The committee is currently investigating various grant opportunities for the establishment of permanent Sangamon River access near Gudgel Bridge. If improving river access is important to you, the committee can use the help.*

- River clean-up sweeps.

*Nothing formal planned at this time; any future sweeps will be announced on the listserv and Facebook page.*

### New Salem Habitat Restoration Project (Terri Treacy)

Under the supervision of INDR Heritage Division, MCTG has developed a 5-year plan to remove invasive species in order to restore the historic habitat New Salem State Historic Site. We are currently in Phase I of the project, which encompasses approximately 65 acres on Cardinal Ridge where Cardinal Trail is located. We pull garlic mustard in the spring, and cut honeysuckle and other invasive shrub species in the fall and winter (as conditions allow).

*Let us know if you're interested in helping with invasive species removal--we'd love for you to join the roster of project volunteers. Contact us for details.*

### Sangamon River VirtualEd (Jason DeBoer & Mike Wiant)

This committee will be producing a series of educational videos covering a wide range of topics such as ecology, biology, geology, archaeology, and other natural history aspects of the Sangamon River.

*If you're interested in helping to provide content, photos, river transport (e.g. jon boat) or even a drone, we're looking for volunteers to lend their expertise to this project.*

### Menard County Forest Fund (Douglas Pope)

In partnership with Broadgauge of Petersburg, we have established a fund to award grants to organizations that will plant and/or maintain trees in Menard County.

*In the first phase of this project we need volunteers to help design the grant criteria and develop the application forms. Volunteers will then be needed to administer the grants--review grant applications, determine eligibility, followup on funded projects, etc. We're looking for volunteers that have expertise with non-profit grants.*

## Join Us!

To join a committee or for more information about any of our committees, contact Terri at:

- [menardctgt@gmail.com](mailto:menardctgt@gmail.com) or
- 618-521-1030

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