April 3 – May 4
Healthy Steps

April 21 & July 13
Canal Cleanups

May 17
Captain’s Ball

June 8 – 9
Huntington Towpath Century Ride

July 20
Canoe Adventure

For a complete list of 2019 events, visit www.ohioeriecanal.org.

SUPPORT OUR CENTURY RIDERS THIS SUMMER!
Nearly 150 cyclists are signed up to participate in this year’s Huntington Towpath Century Ride, bicycling 101 miles in support of the Towpath Trail. If you would like to support our riders in their journey, visit towpathcentury.dojiggy.com.

Towpath 50
The inaugural Cleveland Clinic Towpath 50 welcomed more than 100 cyclists to the Towpath Trail on a beautiful fall day.
Along the Towpath

by Dan Rice, OEC Canalway President & CEO Executive Officer

Last year saw much development along the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail, and connector trails. As we continue building partnerships throughout Summit, Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties, we remain grateful for the support of the people who call our National Heritage Area home. Though we’ve made great strides in working toward our mission over the last year and years prior, we look forward to continuing our work in 2019 and beyond to build strong, sustainable, and active community spaces along the Towpath Trail.

Recent milestones along the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area include:

Kimble Easement
On February 6, 2019, Tuscarawas County Commissioners signed a 10-year license agreement with Kimberly Company for the use of an unused rail line for an extension of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition assisted in facilitation of these conversations, and will take part in the development of the land, which will extend the Towpath Trail another four miles. We are incredibly grateful for the support of Kimberly Company and the Kimberly family as we move forward with this development.

McDonnell Trailhead Connector
In fall of 2018, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources approved nearly $7 million in Great Ohio Trail Fund grants, including $386,645 to the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition for construction of a quarter mile of trail connecting the McDonnell Trailhead on the Stark-Tuscarawas border to the existing Towpath Trail north of Delware. The project is expected to be underway in 2019 and completed by early 2020.

Natural Resources Act of 2019
The U.S. Senate and House of representatives passed S.47, The Natural Resources Act of 2019, which included a funding cap increase from $7 million to $30 million for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. The bill has since been renamed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act and signed by the President of the United States. The funding cap increase provides temporary relief as we continue working with our members of Congress on a permanent funding cap renewal. We are extremely grateful to all of our elected officials for their tremendous support of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and Towpath Trail!

We are excited to welcome another year of events, programs, and projects along the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, while celebrating the work we’ve accomplished in the last year and beyond. I invite you to join us at our programs and events in 2019 to show your support. Working together, we are creating a legacy for future generations.

Along the Towpath

Fostering Adventure and Leaving a Legacy

The Bland Family
Raymond and Janice Bland loved exploring the canals of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Both natives of Warren, Ohio, the couple spent countless hours exploring the historical routes of the Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal, the Ohio & Erie Canal, and other systems throughout the state.

“Their values very much became part of our values,” says Karen Peterson, daughter of Ray and Jan. Karen and her sister Joyce Bower believe what were called “Sunday Fun Days” growing up, which included exploring places such as Historic Zeal and Roeback Villages.

As Karen and Joyce grew up and moved out, Karen says Ray and Jan would continue Sunday adventures, walking completed sections of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bland passed away suddenly in 2007 and Jan passed away in January 2018, leaving a legacy they had built over decades. To ensure support continued for causes dear to their hearts, the couple planned for charitable giving. This planning led to financial support of nearly 50 organizations across Ohio, including a $5,000 donation to the Towpath Trail endowment fund of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition.

The donation to the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition is supporting the Towpath Trail endowment fund through Akron Community Foundation. This money will be used to ensure local communities continue to be connected with the natural, cultural, historic, and recreational assets of the Ohio & Erie Canal and Towpath Trail.

To learn how you can make donations to support the future of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, visit www.ohioeircanal.org. For more on this story, visit our Medium page at medium.com/towpathtrail.

We are incredibly grateful to Raymond and Janice Bland for their generous donation to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail Endowment Fund.

– Dan Rice, President and CEO
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

Left to right: Dan Rice with Karen Peterson and Joyce Bower.

Thank you for your continued support for the Ohio & Erie Canalway and Towpath Trail. For more information about our events, please visit our website at www.ohioeircanal.org

See you along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail!

Dan Rice

Byline:

Along the Towpath...
Upcoming Events

Healthy Steps
April 3 – May 4, 2019
Join us for our free health and wellness program along the Towpath Trail! Healthy Steps encourages people to explore the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area while promoting healthy living and healthy eating.
To register, visit our website or contact Lynn Williams at williams@ohiomiroad.org.

Canal Cleanups
April 21 & July 13, 2019
9 AM – 12 PM
Canal Cleanups offer a number of opportunities throughout the year to become a steward of your local natural resources. Over the past 15 years, volunteers have removed more than 100 tons of trash from the Ohio & Erie Canal, Towpath Trail, Summit Lake, and surrounding areas.
For more information, visit our website or contact Lynn Williams at williams@ohiomiroad.org.

Canal Boat
May 17, 2019
6 PM – 9 PM
Hilton Akron Fairlawn
The Captain’s Ball is a premier fundraiser that benefits the OECG and our efforts to build the Towpath Trail throughout northeast Ohio, as well as thank members of the community for their support. This year, we are honoring Dr. Brian Harter, President of Cleveland Clinic Akron General as honorary Canal Boat Captain.
To purchase your ticket, contact our office at 330.374.5657.

Huntington Towpath Century Ride
June 8 – 9, 2019
In the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition’s largest fundraiser of the year, more than 100 bicyclists raise money for the organization, continued development of the Towpath Trail, and development of connector trails.
For more information, visit towpathcenturycycle.com or contact Alyssa Jones at ajones@ohiomiroad.org.

Canoe Adventure
July 20, 2019
Reach Opportunity Center at Summit Lake
Our main water event of the year, Canoe Adventure, offers travelers the chance to paddle through the urban areas of Akron, along the Towpath Trail, and across Summit Lake, the “high point” of the Ohio & Erie Canal.
Visit our website to learn more or contact George Eley at geley@ohiomiroad.org.

Join, Renew, Upgrade!
Annual Memberships:
- Student/ Senior: $10
- Individual: $20
- Family: $30
- Trail Builder: $50
- Bridge Builder: $75
- Partner: $150
Includes all benefits of the Partner level plus complimentary use of the Richard Brown House conference room for organizational purposes, and a 10% discount to all OECG public events.
- Other:

Membership Application:
Name
Address
City
State
Zip
Phone
Email
Total
Would you like to work on a committee? (Yes/No)
Recommended by:

Payment:
- Check enclosable (payable to OECG)
- VISA, MC, Discover/Discover Card No.

# on back of card
Name on Card
Signature
Exp. Date

Please return to:
OECG • 47 W. Exchange Street • Akron, OH 44308
www.ohiomiroad.org
The OECG is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your charitable gift is tax deductible. Your gift will go a long way in helping us achieve our mission of education, preserving history and aesthetic development along the Ohio & Erie Canalway through steward, Stark, Summerville, and Coshocton Counties.
Trailblazer Spotlight

Akron RubberDucks
The RubberDucks have been representing Akron in minor league baseball since 1997, while supporting the Akron community off the field with multiple fundraising opportunities, education days for local middle school and elementary school students, and a Helping Hands Program.

Big Red Printing
Big Red Printing provides a wide range of specialized services for all of your printing and graphics needs, meeting the needs of each client with precision and care. Throughout their 26 years of experience, Big Red Printing can proudly say that they have never once missed a deadline.

Central Graphics
For the past 19 years, thousands of businesses have trusted Central Graphics to design high-end custom signage, displays, and graphics. Their team works tirelessly to meet deadlines and is committed to providing your company with a quality sign that will generate a positive return on your investment.

Chas. E. Phipps
The mission of the Chas E. Phipps Company is to help contractors put work in place correctly, efficiently, and profitably by supplying high-quality and innovative products and equipment, technical expertise, and trusted service.

ComDoc
Determined to provide an unparalleled customer experience through the power of people, technology, and innovation, ComDoc brings state-of-the-art technology to businesses everywhere.

Environmental Design Group
Providing professional planning, design and engineering services, Environmental Design Group makes it their goal to shape, define, utilize, conserve, and restore land and water resources. The group has worked for a variety of different clients on a wide range of projects since 1986.

Ernie’s Bicycle Shop
With a variety of brands to choose from, Ernie’s Bicycle Shop offers services and rentals for your biking needs. Ernie’s Bike Shop promotes hard work and happy living in their business, passing the benefits along to those who enter their stores.

GPD Group
GPD Group is an architectural, engineering, and planning interdisciplinary firm founded in 1961 on the importance of family and fulfillment of work. The company serves many different markets, providing their clients with a wide array of talent to complete any project.

Harwick Standard
Harwick Standard has serviced the rubber, thermoplastics and other polymer-related industries for more than 80 years, aligning itself to create and maintain strong relationships with customers and suppliers.

Hazen & Sawyer
The professionals at Hazen and Sawyer always seek challenges, promising a solution to any water engineering problem. The pursuit of these goals means that Hazen and Sawyer employ extremely experienced environmental engineers dedicated to providing clean drinking water to their consumers.

H.M. Miller Construction
Family-owned since its start in 1972, H.M. Miller Construction specializes in underground utilities in the northeast Ohio area. The company is comprised of more than 100 full-time employees, performing work in grading, paving, sewers, utility installation, and pile driving.

ms consultants
Annually ranking within ENR’s Top 500 Design Firms, ms consultants is an engineering, architecture, and planning firm. The company is known for its comprehensive and integrated approach to each client and project, offering multiple technical disciplines to a variety of markets and project types.

Novatry Electric Company
As one of the oldest companies in Akron today, Novatry Electric Company continues to provide outstanding service in commercial, industrial, and residential electrical construction, maintenance, and design.

Partners Environmental Consulting
By providing our clients with unique environmental, safety, engineering and surveying solutions, Partner’s has emerged as an industry leader of environmental, safety engineering, and surveying services.

Thomarios
Since 1948, Thomarios has pushed to exceed industry standards for quality while providing a safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible working environment. Both quality and integrity still remain today in all Thomarios employees, and show in each and every project in which Thomarios is involved.

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP provides business and legal counsel to clients throughout the United States and around the world. Each client receives an unflagging commitment to excellent legal representation and outstanding client service.

Zimmer Biomet
Zimmer Biomet’s surgical line of products is a proud partner to thousands of medical facilities worldwide, supporting a patient’s journey through the hospital and meeting the unique needs of physicians.