



ECGA Mission: To partner with local, state, and national agencies and organizations to promote the establishment, stewardship and public enjoyment of a traffic-free, multi-user trail linking cities and towns between Maine and Florida.

Week-A-Year Tour Kicks Off!

At 5:30 AM on August 7th, 25 blurry-eyed but excited cyclists gathered in the parking lot of the Clarion Hotel in Portland, Maine as the large tour bus pulled up right on time. They loaded up their bikes in a van and trailer before boarding the bus for a long shuttle up to the northern terminus of the East Coast Greenway. At the Canadian border in Calais, Maine, they were greeted by New Brunswick representatives of the Trans Canada Trail as a send off on the first "Week-A-Year" Tour.

This was the first year of the week-a-year concept, where trustees and members of the Greenway will cycle approximately 350 mile sections of the ECG each year. All participants booked their own hotel reservations and everyone's luggage was transported in a van and trailer. The group started in the northern states as there is currently more trail on the ground there. The tour will work its way south as more off-road sections of the ECG get developed.

The cyclists were made up of representatives from many of the states the ECG winds through. A couple from Nevada even heard about the ride and joined us, and another woman came in from Chicago. But the most impressive thing about Marilyn was that she was 80 years old. The youngest rider on the tour was 15 years old, and the most traveled canine on the ECG, a yellow lab from Maryland named Sadie, also trotted along or rode in her trailer.

Many in the group had a goal of seeing sections of the trail they have been working on and advocating for. (cont. pg. 2.)

At the Canadian Border in Calais, Maine



Boats on the Greenway

Fishermen are well-known to be persistent and patient, but they are also inventive. Greenways provide convenient access to tempting fishing destinations, like abandoned railroad bridges or canal paths. Fishermen will often walk in on greenways to access the less-fished areas not easily reached by cars or, displaying their inventiveness, will strap a bait bucket and rod tube on a bicycle rack and ride with ease to their favorite fishing spot.

Louis Hall of Orono, Maine is one such fisherman to use a bicycle to reach a remote fishing spot - he often fishes from one of the many bridges along the Downeast Sunrise Trail (DEST), the longest section of the East Coast Greenway in Maine.



The DEST is an 85-mile, multi-use trail that runs through easternmost Maine crossing blueberry barrens, cranberry bogs and forests connecting a dozen small towns like Hancock and Pembroke. This scenic section of the Greenway provides remote wilderness experiences - moose, bear, beaver, osprey and eagles are often sighted.

What are not easily seen from the trail are the fish. The DEST closely follows the coast and crosses numerous streams, rivers and tidal estuaries along with many remote ponds. These remote ponds not only provide spawning habitat for the last wild Atlantic Salmon populations in the United States but are also home to numerous other game fish.

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From the Director

Getting Trail on the Ground in Lean Financial Times

When Ingrid Barry of Massachusetts learned that funding wasn't available for the proposed Danvers Rail Trail and wouldn't be for years, she knew that she and the town had a problem. She had specifically purchased a house on a street near where a trail was to be built – an abandoned rail line lay just a few hundred yards from her home. She understood the quality of life benefits for her and her husband in retirement living so close to a trail.

Undaunted, Barry started looking for a way to get the trail built. One day via an internet search she stumbled across an organization called Iron Horse Preservation Society. The Nevada-based group was started by Joe and Ryan Hatstrup, a father and son team. For some communities lacking the resources to build trails, there appeared to be little hope until Iron Horse rode into town.

For the price of the steel sold after taking up the used rails, Iron Horse will construct a graded trail with a crushed stone surface – at no cost to the town, county or state.

Iron Horse has a machine to pull up the rails and another that extracts the railroad ties out of the ground. Once those are carted away, holes are filled in and the path is leveled with a grader. The trail surface is often turned ballast from underneath the ties, but most communities prefer to supplement with a top layer of inexpensive stone dust that is compacted for a smoother surface for bicycles, strollers and wheel chairs. Iron Horse also covers the cost of disposing of the used ties, considered hazardous waste in some states.

Iron Horse had been converting old rail beds to trails in the western United States for five years but never east of the Mississippi – until they met Ingrid Barry. In the



Iron Horse worker removing rails in Massachusetts

short time since Barry invited them to Massachusetts they have contracted with a dozen communities, mostly north of Boston. Two of them are key segments of the East Coast Greenway in the process of being built – an 8 mile section of the Border to Boston Trail through the towns of Danvers, Wenham and the southern half of Topsfield; and eventually the 9 mile Northern Strand Community Trail through Everett, Malden, Revere and Saugus.

Iron Horse Preservation Society is a non-profit organization, and they get the work done with a small crew, sometimes just two or three workers in a town. The only issue some communities have with Iron Horse is that the process can take longer than expected, but when the trail is done with the price right, missed deadlines are soon forgotten. This is but one example of the creativity of another trail advocate faced with tight funding yet overriding passion and commitment to see non-motorized recreation and transportation facilities get built.

Week-A-Year Tour (cont.)

ECGA board chair David Read also had a personal goal of having a lobster roll and fresh blueberry pie each day of the week-long tour. His justification: “We need to show our trail helps stimulate local economies - someone has to do it!”

The first two days of the ride were spent on the newly opened 85-mile Down East Sunrise Trail. August is wild blueberry season in Maine and some stopped to pick a handful or two in the vast fields the trail goes by.

The cyclists rode between 40-65 miles per day, which allowed for some downtime, socializing and group dinners. This northern section of the ECG goes through some beautiful but fairly rural areas. As a result the ride almost didn't happen because there were not enough hotels and B&Bs to house a group of this size in one of the more remote sections of mid-Maine. That was until Unity College, known for its environmental curriculum, offered to put our group up in their dorms – and feed us.

Seven days later the group rode back into Portland past the restaurants along Commercial St. and then back

into the parking lot they had departed from a week earlier.

Dave Read noted there is no immediate need to decide if you want ‘salt or no salt’ on your margarita in Key West, our southern terminus, as it's expected to take nine years of week-long rides to cycle the entire 2,900 ECG route.

In 2012 the group plans to do the next segment from Portland, Maine through New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to Hartford, Connecticut. If you wish to be put on the list for information about the 2012 ride, please email Debbie at info@greenway.org.



Sadie and Dan enjoying the trail

Attention ECGA Members!

**Join the ECGA Board of Trustees,
Trail Council, other Members, and
Staff for our Trail Council and
Annual Members Meetings**

October 22nd, in Stuart Florida

9 AM - 5 PM

At the Best Western Plus Downtown Stuart
1209 S. Federal Highway, Stuart, FL, 34994

Board elections: members can vote for
new trustees at the meeting, by mail or
email. The slate of trustees is on our
website - www.greenway.org

Visit www.greenway.org, call 919-797-0619, or
email debbie@greenway.org for more info.

Boats on the Greenway (cont.)

Louis knew that one needed a kayak or canoe to reach the best fishing holes on these ponds.

Being an inventive fisherman, Louis built a boat trailer from scrap material and old bikes. He and Sally Jacobs, the former president of the Sunrise Trail Coalition, transported the bikes, the kayaks and the home-made bike trailer to the Washington Junction trailhead, one of four trailheads with established parking along the DEST.

Success!!! The trailer carried two kayaks down the DEST to the not-to-be-named remote pond ---adding further diversity to the term "multi-use" trail.



Photos by Sally Jacobs

See www.downeastsunrisetrail.org for more information on the Down East Sunrise Trail. Go to www.greenway.org under Explore the Greenway for ECG maps and cue sheets.

Join Our Awesome Volunteer Team!

Want to get more involved in helping forward the mission of the ECGA? We are looking for volunteers at every level, from local events to state committees to board members. Please contact us at info@greenway.org or 919-797-0619, or you can find your state committee contacts at www.greenway.org to see how you can get involved!

To learn more about serving on the ECGA board, or if you know someone you'd like to recommend, please contact our Board Chair, Dave Read, at dave@readfamilyhome.com.

HELP CREATE AN AMERICAN LEGACY - BECOME AN ECGA MEMBER!

The nonprofit **EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE** needs your support to make this trail a reality! Please make the commitment to help us create an American legacy by offering your support as a member or mile sponsor. With trail activity gaining momentum across the nation, there's never been a better time to get involved!

SPONSOR A MILE and get your name on the ECG!

- ❖ \$100/mile increases our central staff capacity to complete the ECG.
- ❖ \$200/mile also helps fund the state committee of your choice.

All mile sponsors receive a **free one-year membership** in the ECGA and will be recognized on a kiosk along the Greenway!

- I want to sponsor ____ miles of ECG in ____ (state) at \$100/mile.
- I want to sponsor ____ miles of ECG in ____ (state) at \$200/mile.

I have enclosed a check made payable to the ECGA for \$_____.

Kiosk inscription: _____

- Individual Life (\$1500)
- Family (\$60)
- Close the Gaps Club (\$1000)
- Individual (\$40)
- Trailblazer (\$500)
- Student (\$25)
- Pathfinder (\$100)
- Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to ECGA and send to the address below.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible

EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE

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The East Coast Greenway is an urban trail system linking together scores of local, firm-surface trails into a unified, 2,900-mile route. It spans 15 states plus the District of Columbia between Maine and Florida. This developing trail provides safe, traffic-free travel, exercise, recreation, and tourism opportunities to 40 million Americans who live near it and millions of visitors to the region.

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**5315 Highgate Dr. Suite 105
Durham, NC 27713
919-797-0619 info@greenway.org**

From the Director

Dear East Coast Greenway Teammates,
I'm happy to report that the organization is making tremendous progress. Our headquarters move to Durham, NC this spring has helped us energize stronger momentum throughout our southern route. With our field offices in New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and Florida, we are now well-positioned to foster healthy and sustainable communities throughout our corridor.

Our membership and volunteer base has grown 50% over the last year to now reach more than 12,500 people. And healthy finances give us the strength for continued trail progress moving forward. Our staff and volunteer team couldn't be more of a pleasure to work with as we bring scores of miles of new greenway online every year. (For details, see our State of the Trail Report and Annual Report at www.greenway.org.)

Together, we are building an American treasure that everyone can enjoy!

- Dennis Markatos-Soriano

Are YOU in the KNOW?

**Be sure to get our monthly e-newsletter
Email info@greenway.org to get on the list!**

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