



TOP OF MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION

TOMMBA BOARD

Bill Aten
Chris Benson
John Cowan
Tim Faas
Kerri Finlayson
Jim McLain
Robin Stanley
Steve VanDam
Lynn Wolf

Member Moments



On June 11, TOMMBA members Jennifer and Andy Kolp exchanged wedding vows. Their passion and commitment for each other (and mountain biking) is clearly evident in this wonderful photo. After the wedding, the couple took a mountain biking trip to Minnesota to celebrate their lives together. When you see Jennifer and Andy on the trails, be sure to take a moment and congratulate them.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

AVALANCHE: Sidewinder improvements will be complete in July on the downhill section. We transported about 15 yards of clay mixture from the parking lot up the service road and added it to new and existing features. Many of the berms and rollers have been reshaped and mixed with new soil to keep the surfaces firm. We also added several new features. As with all new trailbuilding, please ride these carefully until they are watered in with rain and fully set (slow, gentle roll). ●

BOARD UPDATE

STEVE SCHNELL is stepping off the TOMMBA Board. He was one of the original cadre that brainstormed the idea of forming a local mountain bike group and, with help from IMBA and the Northern Michigan Mountain Biking Association, they made it happen. What started as a handful of people has grown to more than 250 members. The original vision this group articulated was to have 100 miles of trails in our region and for every rider to live within a 15-minute drive to a trail. TOMMBA still has that vision as it continues to work on new trail development.

Steve has been on the Board of Directors since TOMMBA's founding and has been in a leadership role off and on ever since. His most recent role was Board chair. Steve started biking when he was 4 years old and started mountain biking in 1986. The thing that Steve is most proud of as he steps away is the number and breadth of people that have stepped up to support the TOMMBA vision in many different ways, from building trails to raising money for professionally built trails, and everything in between. Steve is adamant that what TOMMBA

has accomplished is the direct result of the many unnamed people that have stepped up to help. The second thing Steve is most proud of is the increase in trail miles that have been built since TOMMBA was formed.

Steve will still be involved with TOMMBA as a volunteer and his personal interest going forward is to explore and increase the variety of trail opportunities that are available for all types of users in our area. Believe it or not, he also wants to do more biking!

As Steve steps aside **Lynn Wolf** is stepping into the chair position. Lynn began her mountain bike journey as a kid riding in the Tannery Woods and Barn Mountain (what we now know as Avalanche). It wasn't until 1995 that she obtained her first "mountain bike" and riding became a passion – a passion that has grown into becoming a Certified Skills Coach, organizing yearly Skills Clinics, joining the TOMMBA Board and now taking on the position and challenge as TOMMBA Chair.

Her vision is to support TOMMBA and continue the focus on a balance of building riding opportunities for all riders while maintaining our growing trail systems. You'll also see opportunities to get more deeply involved in the TOMMBA community through trail building, maintenance and events. ●

NEW TRAILS

TANTON: As part of our land use agreement with LTC, we're adding a second beginner level loop at Tanton. This will actually be 2 loops with a total distance of approximately 1.75 miles. These trails will be designed with the beginner rider in mind but will also be a perfect warm up/cool down for an advanced rider or just another option for all riders to add mileage. The trail corridor is flagged so expect construction to begin in July and will continue project the rest of this build season with completion expected next spring. If you are able to help with this work, please contact John at trails@tommba.org for details.

BOYNE FOREST TRAIL SYSTEM: Marquette Flowtrack will be back in Charlevoix County to start construction of a new section of trail in September, with completion scheduled this fall. The new build plans are firming up now and you'll likely see an exciting new jump line within the Double Dog area and added features throughout the trail system to provide new challenges to your rides. We have a \$35,000 grant for a portion of the build, yet need your support to complete the project. ●

Thank You



Great Lakes Energy provided TOMMBA with a \$2500 grant to fund necessary repairs and maintenance on our essential excavator. We simply cannot provide the quality of trails to our membership without the generosity of those organizations that support us. Thank you.

Call it Boyne Forest Trail System instead of Boyne School Forest

BACK IN 2013, TOMMBA worked on an agreement with Boyne City Public Schools to allow us to build our first trail system on 120 acres just north of Boyne City. Initially the trail system was known as the Boyne School Forest trails. Eventually we reached agreements with other adjacent properties, partnering with the State of Michigan to build trails on a portion of the 175 acre, state-owned parcel adjoining the northernmost BC School parcel. Next we worked with the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy to purchase a 40 acre parcel which became the TOMMBA Trails Preserve. This allowed us to connect to an 80 acre parcel owned by the city of Boyne City and including the new main parking lot on Old Horton Bay Rd. Today the trails cover all 4 of those separate properties and as much as we would like to continue to call them the Boyne School Forest trails we now call it the Boyne Forest Trail System. ●

