

The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

June 2017

Volume 26, Issue 1

Always find time for the things that make you feel happy to be alive!

- Anonymous

From the computer desk of the President

By Rich Kundman-President MYTC (724-747-5894)

I'm not sitting at my computer desk writing this. I'm sitting at a desk in a motel room on the California coast at the start of a vacation. My plan is to check off a few more National Parks from my bucket list. The only problem with this particular list is that the more I check off I find more parks that I want to see. Hence the longer it gets.

The bucket list I have for the trail is much the same. The more we accomplish as a trail group the list of things that needs done grows longer. One accomplishment I am most satisfied with is our growing list of committed volunteers. These are the folks who come out and help keep the trail in great shape. We've cleaned up the area between the trail and our maintenance building and we've erected a new sign. It was placed there to let our trail users know that it is volunteers who maintain the trail. It also lets everyone know when and where we start our work details.

I'm sure I sound like a broken record (or perhaps a broken MP3) about volunteering, but as with any nonprofit we only prosper if there are enough people to keep it viable. So give your trail group one or two Saturdays a month. For those retired and looking for something to do on a Wednesday, we are starting an 8 o'clock work detail at the end of May.

Other happenings include the building of a new covered picnic table a mile south of Twele Road. Also, check out our updated Visitors' Center in Boston. This summer we plan to finish the Durabond bypass millings and have scheduled a program of marking, labeling and assessing all of our trail culverts. Then, there is the never ending job of mowing grass, brush cutting and clearing downed trees along our fifteen plus miles of trail.

So enjoy the trail and remember to say thank you to those who keep it in great shape.

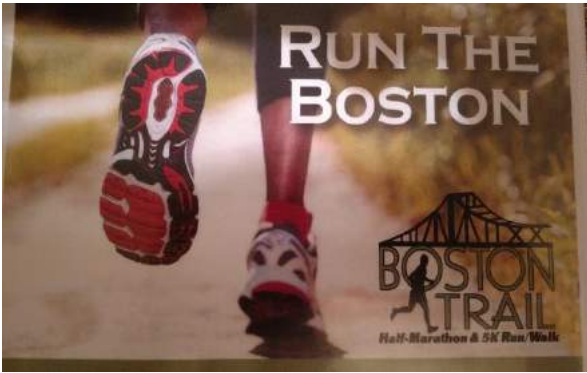
Boston Visitor Center

By Marei Burnfield

We are pleased to report, thanks to Mother Nature, that we were able to open and staff the visitor center earlier this season. As I pen this in mid-May, guests from 7 states and 1 foreign country have stopped in, signed the guest journal, and pinned their home location on the wall map. Recently, volunteers gave the exterior of the visitor center a fresh coat of paint in new colors. Inside, we have five newly designed tee shirts and tank tops available for purchase.

Since visitor center staffing depends on the availability of volunteers, we are unable to post business hours. We do try to open every weekend, if the weather cooperates! If you are interested in meeting great travelers from all over the world, try volunteering at the Boston Visitor Center! Please feel free to contact me, Marei Burnfield, at 724-972-2278. Hope to meet you!





7th Annual Boston Trail Half-Marathon & 5K Run/Walk

By Kathie Fawcett

On April 22nd, the Mon/Yough Trail Council held their seventh annual half-marathon and 5K run/walk fundraiser. Although cold, wet and breezy with highs in the upper 40's, racers and walkers alike participated to support the cause. This year's event had 455 individuals between the half-marathon and 5K.



Runners/Walkers at the Starting Line

Thanks to the contributions of the **Allegheny Health Network Jefferson Hospital** which provided support in both donations and volunteers. While braving the cold, volunteers helped from passing water to the runners, to assisting at the stretching table. Their continued presence ensures our organization can keep the trail in the best possible shape. Events like this race ensure individuals can stay healthy by continued trail usage.



Gary Lobaugh from PA American Water



Thank you to ALL who volunteered in this year's race from Greenock VFC, Elizabeth Township EMS, Elizabeth Township police, AHN/Jefferson Hospital employees and staff, MYTC members, California University of Pennsylvania students and Pennsylvania American Water who staffed and supplied all of the water both along the trail as well as at the finish line.

2017 Sponsors

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Allegheny Health Network/Jefferson Hospital | |
| Jim Shorkey Family Auto Group | |
| Levin Furniture | The Elizabeth Companies |
| Pennsylvania American Water | |
| Carriage Inn | The UPS Store-White Oak |
| Vista Metals | Fawcett Trucking |
| Northwest Savings Bank – Elizabeth Branch | |
| Pozzuto's Auto Service | |
| Bour Associates | Road ID |
| NUGO Nutrition | The Embroidery People |
| Greenock VFC | Elizabeth Township EMS |
| Elizabeth Township Police Department | |

Look for information for the 2018 race that will be coming out this fall.



We look forward to seeing everyone next April!
Happy Trails ☺

SAVE THE DATE

Yough 'n' Roll

By Kathy Banfield

Membership Appreciation Day-**Saturday, June 17, 2017**

Mon/Yough Trail Council will hold the twenty-fourth annual Yough 'n' Roll bike ride on Saturday, June 17th, 2017. The ride at your own pace event will take place along the Youghiogheny River Trail portion of the Great Allegheny Passage from Boston, PA to Smithton, PA. Come and join us to support your trail volunteers and enjoy a ride on the trail! This year's ride continues to be one of Mon/Yough Trail Council's most successful fundraising events, raising thousands for its mission of sustaining maintenance and operation of the trail.

The event consists of a choice between a 40-mile ride to Smithton and return or a 20-mile ride to Sutersville and return. Rest stops are manned by MYTC volunteers. Pre-register to receive an event T-shirt. After the ride, hot dogs and refreshments will be provided as part of Membership Appreciation Day.

Even if you are not biking, come and celebrate Membership Appreciation Day with us from 11:00 to 1:00 on June 17th. Free hot dogs, snacks and refreshments will be served at the Boston Trailhead and at the Queen Aliquippa Campground at Dravo Cemetery. Volunteers will staff the Visitor Center which is stocked with a variety of t-shirts and trail information.

Registration brochures for the Yough 'n' Roll will be mailed to past participants. Brochures will also be available on the website at "thebostontrail.com". Walk-ups are welcome but are not guaranteed an event T-shirt. So please come join us on June 17th and enjoy a morning on our beautiful trail.

SAVE THE DATE

4th Annual J. Terrence Farrell Memorial Bike Ride

by Belinda O'Keson

Come out and support your community. The McKeesport Hospital Foundation along with the Lions of district 14B will host the **4th annual J. Terrence Farrell Memorial Bike Ride**. The event will take place on the Mon-Yough trail, Saturday, **September 30, 2017**.

The ride will begin at 8:30 AM under the Boston Bridge. Riders will have the option of the 7 1/2 mile ride to the Dravo Cemetery or the 20 miles to Smithton Beach. We will host a celebratory lunch at noon, in the Frew Pavilion.

It is our mission to support organizations and charities in McKeesport and surrounding areas. Last year we distributed funds to the **American Heart Association, McKeesport Heritage Center, the Carnegie Library of McKeesport, Friends of the River, the Mon/Yough Trail Council**, as well as, **Lions of district 14B and The Twentieth Century Club of McKeesport** for their annual fundraisers to support the blind and Kane Hospital, respectively.

As something new, we decided to sponsor an adaptive bike for a special needs child through the "**My Bike**" program with **Variety**, the children's charity. The bike will be given to a child this year. It is our hope to sponsor a bike every year. There is no greater joy than to see a child live life to the fullest and not be left out, left behind or excluded. Variety is seeking to identify eligible children with disabilities for its "My Bike" Program. Feel free to contact us at jtfbikeride@gmail.com, for more information.

We would like to continue our efforts, grow this event and support this community. Save the date and we'll see you on the trail!

Semper Fi - Always Faithful - Always There

By Dan Piesek

If the title has a familiar ring to it; it is borrowed from the United States Marine Corps slogan. As past introductions, the “Three” are typical; of hundreds past and present that make the Yough River Trail and the Mon/Yough Trail Council what it is.

Let George Do It

George Sievern is one fellow that has dedicated himself to trail activities and business. George has been seen in many roles for many, many years. He has been active since he started filling a variety of tasks and continues on the job. Directing traffic or manning parking during events; George is the master chef of the hot dog grill on Trail Appreciation Day. This guy puts a 100% effort in all he does. Does George work on trail maintenance? You bet, many times he is out the cutting and hauling brush, clearing fallen trees, and moving dirt as needed. George was one of the MYTC members that pushed for the box car project when it looked like it was not to happen. George’s friendly greeting is always welcome at meetings and work parties.

Super Sales Person – Always On The Trail

Pam Magyar is the person to hire if you have something to sell. She however must believe sincerely in the product. What Pam sells is the Yough River Trail and everything that makes it “click”. The visitor’s Center had a rocky start, but it was Pam that made it the important part of MYTC that is developing and becoming an important part of MYTC since the heavy traffic from Pittsburgh. Through her personality and interest in people, Pam has succeeded in establishing the Visitor’s Center as a great asset for MYTC. Her effort and means of persuasion are responsible for many new members and of course piles of merchandise. Be careful - she is a terrific salesperson, you may be bringing home another T shirt.

Not Seen, But Everything Is Running

Cliff Rein might not be at MYTC business meetings, but he surely keeps things running. Cliff is one of several guys we rarely see, be he is on the job every Saturday work party at the shop. There he is up to the elbows in oil and grease with a mechanical problem that just will

not go away. Eureka - Cliff sweats out the problem leaving a smooth running machine. Weekend after weekend - problems huge and small - result in a happy ending. An engineering background surely has an advantage for Cliff along with a unique drive and interest in doing a service for the Mon/Yough Trail Council.

McKeesport Hospital Foundation Safety Grant

By Mark Place

Thanks to the generosity of The McKeesport Hospital Foundation and with support from our public safety partners; Elizabeth Township Area EMS, Greenock VFC and the UPMC AED program office we have been able to obtain a grant for the purchase of two state of the art Phillips HeartStart FRx automatic external defibrillators as well as funds to completely upgrade our fire extinguishers at our maintenance base, visitors center and on key equipment during 2017.

Presently volunteers are being trained in the use of the AEDs and first responder CPR. In the near future the units will be in service at the Boston Visitor’s Center and at the Trail Maintenance Base in Greenock. They will also be deployed at events such as the Boston ½ Marathon and 5K Race in held in April and the Yough-N-Roll ride in June. The 2017 ½ Marathon was actually the first event we had the units in service! These units will provide a vital cardiac arrest response for our 40 regular volunteers and thousands of trail users every year.

As an all-volunteer organization the cost to purchase or replace assets like our maintenance building, tractors, trucks and mowers is a constant financial challenge. The installation of the appropriate fire extinguishers will provide much needed coverage for these vital assets.



Safety in Numbers

By Dan Piesek

A ride within the fifteen mile section of the Yough River Trail of the Great Allegheny Passage is magnificent in the Spring with all the new fresh and colorful blossoming everywhere you look. Accolades in words cannot even attempt to compliment this “treasure” that is so dear to all of us at MYTC. When one talks to trail riders, compliments abound. A couple at the Taste Freeze the other day were from Montana headed to Washington, D. C. They were amazed at the beauty of the wooded areas adjoining the trail, and yet had only traveled from Pittsburgh. They became very excited when were told of the highlights they are to encounter.

Of the many special features and sights of the trail. it was stressed that it is very safe on this section as they had their camping gear and were going to rough it. But unfortunately this cannot be stated for other sections of trails locally and nationwide. The bad news is that in some remote areas, some riders have been robbed and threatened.

To keep our “treasure” full of happy riders enjoying the trail, some things may be done. The most important thing is to have a good rapport with the local law enforcement, which we have. This is extremely important, for constant observation within reason is the best remedy.

Here comes the commercial! The MYTC/RTC **Monitor System** is the most practical answer. At “charm school” as MYTC (who wrote, organized and promoted the system used today) the training is simple, brief, and practical. Training is utilized that all **monitors** are on the same page. So, if you are a rider, please consider being one of the **monitors**. With the way things are going, safety on the trail is probably the most important item of all the many tasks that are performed by the dedicated volunteers. We need you to help in this situation - “Safety is in Numbers”. Happy Trails!

Spring Cleaning and Trail Maintenance Update Cal U Volunteers Spend Morning on Trail

By Tim Banfield

As we move through spring and into summer, the trail will be busy with bike riders and walkers and you may also come across orange-shirted volunteers on the trail, particularly on Saturday mornings.

These MYTC volunteers have been busy throughout the year on maintenance projects to make the trail ready for everyone to use throughout the spring and summer.

Recently, a number of new volunteers turned out to lend a hand to MYTC by assisting with “Spring Cleaning” on the trail. A group of 14 students from California University of Pennsylvania came out on a chilly Saturday in March to clean-up debris that had accumulated over the winter along the trail. This effort was organized by MYTC intern, Jamie Parry, a student at Cal U. The volunteers pictured cleaned up a mile-long stretch of trail from the Sutersville parking lot up to Smithdale.

Another project completed over the winter months was an overhaul and tire replacement of MYTC’s 1980 International dump truck. Volunteer gearheads Jim Williams and Chris Williams completed this effort along with volunteers Don Baker and Mark Place.

In 2016, MYTC volunteers logged over 3,000 hours on the trail, including about 1,000 hours on the tree clearing project that was featured in the previous Milepost edition and about 200 hours in support of the Dura-bond bypass repaving, along with grass mowing, clearing fallen trees, maintaining tools and equipment.

MYTC holds regular work sessions on Saturday mornings, meeting at 08:00 at the end of Locust Grove Road along the trail in Greenock, off of East Smithfield ST about two miles upriver from the Boston Bridge.



Construction Alert!

Municipal officials have notified the Allegheny Trail Alliance that there may be pipeline construction along the Boston => McKeesport section of the trail starting in October. However, the trail will remain open during any construction. Details are not yet final.

Tragic Day for Yough River Valley Whiskey Lovers

By Bob Cupp

The Overholt Distillery was located north of Connellsville across the river from Yough River Trail Milepost 56 at Broad Ford or Broadford, as the P&LE Railroad called it. It was built in 1853 when the original operation at nearby West Overton needed more space; the distillery's ruins remain visible today. The founder, Abraham Overholt, was the maternal grandfather of Henry Clay Frick, one of the most successful industrialists in American history.

The distillery's ownership was passed down through the Overholt family and, eventually Mr. Frick became the owner. Later, Andrew Mellon, acquired a two-thirds interest in the business.

You can still see the remnants of the bridge piers from the abandoned P&LE Railroad's Broadford Branch, crossing the Yough near the site of the distillery. The bridge was originally built by the Youghiogheny Northern Railway to access the coke ovens across the river. A footbridge was built under the railroad bridge to enable Overholt Distillery managers to walk to work from their homes on the opposite side of the river.

In 1905, much of the distillery was destroyed by a major fire. The following account of the fire appeared in the Greensburg Daily Tribune, published Nov. 20, 1905: "The biggest bonded warehouse of the mammoth Overholt distillery at Broadford, one of the largest in the country, and containing 28,000 barrels of whiskey, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, entailing a loss estimated at \$1,250,000. The adjoining warehouses were saved with great difficulty.

The blaze started about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The flames first made their appearance on the third floor of the warehouse. A short fight was made with the aid from the surrounding community and the word was sent to Connellsville for reinforcements. The fire department sent from Connellsville went to the scene. Later Uniontown and McKeesport sent engines and hose.

In climbing a scaling ladder, Walter McCormick was severely injured. William Keller, while placing a hose over the grain elevator, near the burning warehouse, was badly burned.

Buggies from all over the countryside lined the hills all around the distillery. Trains over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were delayed on account of the fierce flames which roared across the tracks of the road. At 10 o'clock last night the walls of the burning warehouse fell in.

The Overholt plant is one of the biggest in Pennsylvania. The loss of the whiskey is estimated at 1,260,000 gallons.

Twenty-one years ago the bonded warehouse of A. Overholt and Company was burned on the same site. At that time 7,000 barrels of whiskey were lost. The sight was one that will long be remembered by those who witnessed it. The fire was intensely interesting from a spectator point of view and on account of the immensity of the loss. The flames soaring high into the heavens attracted people for miles around. It is estimated that the crowd numbered about 10,000. When darkness fell, the light from the fire became more vivid and came faster than ever. Barrels of liquor flowed in torrents from the burning walls." Fortunately, the business recovered from this tragic fire with major renovations completed in 1914. Famous for its Monongahela Rye and Youghiogheny River Rye, during Prohibition, the distillery continued to make whiskey for "medicinal" purposes.

Overholt Distillery closed for good in the late 1950's and was bought-out by Jim Beam, who still makes "Old Overholt 4 Year Old Straight Rye Whiskey" today. It's just made in Kentucky instead of Broad Ford, Pennsylvania.

Sources: Greensburg Daily Tribune, Nov.20, 1905

The Great Allegheny Passage Companion by Bill Metzger



The remains of the old Overholt Distillery were visible from Yough during a 1993 canoe trip. Vandalism has resulted in further damage.



These are the remnants of a footbridge used by Overholt Distillery managers to walk from their homes on the opposite side of the river

Buena Vista Swimming Pool

by Terry Vota

As you ride the Great Allegheny Passage thru Buena Vista, you may have noticed the swimming pool near MP 120.

What you might not know is that pool has been a community institution since 1950!



Pool Dedication – 1950

Insert photo – Conrad Maley -Original Pool Authority Founder



~2015 photo

Buena Vista Fire Department Volunteers build the pool in 1950. It is funded entirely by the non-profit Buena Vista Fire Department with Ladies Auxiliary help. As reported in a TribLive.com article, Fire Department officers indicated that they barely “break even” and usually lose money each year by keeping it open. But their objective is to give the local families a safe environment to enjoy the summer. Fire department officers reported that “It is our opportunity to give back to the community. A commitment was made back in the 1950’s and we’re carrying it on. We’re not going to let it stop”.

I wonder how many local pools have managed to remain open for 67 years!

The Fire Department was able to obtain a grant in 2015 from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County to install water slides, new fencing and make restroom

renovations. They have also been able to build two covered pavilions. With these additions, attendance has increased. Current Fire Department President is Mike Hansen and he indicates they welcome trail users to stop, visit the concession stand and use the facilities.

Unless you lived in the Elizabeth Township area in the early 1950’s, you probably don’t remember a small railroad that circled the lot between the pool and the current Great Allegheny Passage trail. The Fire Department built the train and station. It was made locally and used for many years at their Firemen Fairs. It was then donated to the Central Community Fire Department who used it at their fairs for 6-8 years.



~1956



~1956

The current Pool Committee Manager is Tom Knestaut and he reported that they welcome trail users to stop and use the facilities. The pool general admission cost is a very reasonable \$6 with season passes available.

There is a bike rack for users of the Great Allegheny Passage that might want to take a break from the trail. When the pool is open, the concession stand, with a covered pavilion, is also open and available.

If you are riding the trail and see vintage/antique cars, trucks and motorcycles in the Fire Department lot, it is because the Fire Department also sponsors a Car Cruise every year. The date this year is **September 10, 2017**.

The Fire Department is currently looking for anyone interested in 2017 summer employment; as Lifeguards, Pool attendants or Concession Stand attendants.



**Please welcome our newest members!
November 2016 – April 2017**

1. Kathy Calla - Pittsburgh
2. Elaine S. Capo - McKeesport
3. David N. Faust - Irwin
4. Chris/Dawn Grainer - Elizabeth Twp
5. Kim Hanna - Buena Vista
6. Pam Harden - Penn
7. Rachel Hovne - Pittsburgh
8. Dottie Ingersoll - Pittsburgh
9. Michael Levenson - Pittsburgh
10. Matt Miller - Pittsburgh
11. Jennifer Oley - McKeesport
12. Jamie Parry - Clairton
13. Jeff Pavetti - Jeanette
14. Christopher Priano - Pittsburgh
15. Ralph Rectenwald - Pittsburgh
16. Salvatore Staltari - Pittsburgh

We also wish to again extend a sincere thank you to the members who have generously renewed their membership for the 2017 season. Your continued support is appreciated!

By Eileen Lenart, Membership Chair

Regular Work Sessions on the Trail

MYTC holds regular work sessions during good weather on **Saturday mornings, meeting at 8:00 AM** at the end of Locust Grove Road along the trail in Greenock, off of East Smithfield Street about 2 miles upriver from the Boston Bridge. To be added to MYTC's email distribution list for weekly notices on work sessions, go to the MYTC website – www.thebostontrail.com and click on the "contact us" button to submit your name, email address, phone number, and mailing address.



MYTC Maintenance Building

Help MYTC to "Socialize"

It's easy to help the Mon/Yough Trail Council promote its news and events via the social media site, Facebook.



Search for Mon/Yough Trail Council on Facebook and "like" the site. This will push MYTC posts to your Facebook site. When you see a post that you like, share it to spread the news to other Facebook users and to encourage them to "like" MYTC on Facebook to have updates forwarded to their pages.

There's no charge to share information on Facebook.

Council Directory

Mission Statement

In 1991, the Mon/Yough Trail Council (MYTC) was founded to promote the rail corridor conversion to public access trails along the Youghiogheny River. Today, MYTC remains a non-profit, 501(c)3, all volunteer Pennsylvania corporation dedicated to sustaining trail maintenance and operations in order to encourage multi-purpose recreational use.

2016 Officers

President

Rich Kundman

Vice President

Mark Place

Treasurer

Tim Banfield

Secretary

Belinda O'Keson

Directors

2015 – 2017

Dave Bartley
Marei Burnfield
Bill Hall
Charlie Smith

2016 – 2018

Linda Hippard
Rich Kundman
Belinda O'Keson
Mark Place
Terry Vota

2017 – 2019

Tim Banfield
John Eisenbarth
Kathie Fawcett
Eileen Lenart
Dave Ringler

The Milepost is published by the Mon/Yough Trail Council with the support of the RTC. Articles published include Council activities, trail development, local and regional information, and other items of related interest. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and may not represent the official positions of the Council. Reprint of the publication prohibited without express consent of the originating author and/or the Milepost. Copyright 2005. All rights reserved.

Meetings

You are welcome to attend informative monthly meetings, held 6:30 pm, the second Thursday of each month at the Greenock Fire Hall, Elizabeth Township.

Contact us:

MYTC

P.O. Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135

www.TheBostonTrail.com

Mission

To do our part to enhance the enjoyment of all who are, and will, have the experience of traveling the Rails-to-Trails journey by promoting and performing the maintenance, repairs, restoration and beautification of our portion of the Great Allegheny Passage.

Membership Application

Yes, I want to be a member of the
Mon Yough Trail Council

Membership Level	Contribution
------------------	--------------

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$250 |

Please check here if renewal

In addition, I would like to contribute
\$_____ to the MYTC.

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Age ____ Occupation _____

Signature _____

Required

____ I would like to be contacted to volunteer.

____ I would like to receive a membership card.

Please make checks payable to and
mail to:

MYTC Membership

P.O. Box 14

McKeesport, PA 15135



Non-Profit
Organization
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Mon/Yough Trail Council
PO Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135
www.TheBostonTrail.com



*Mon/Yough Trail Council's
Yough River Trail Newsletter*

*The following businesses have generously supported the Mon/Yough Trail Council.
Please show them your thanks by patronizing their businesses.*

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American Water Charitable Foundation
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Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory
Howell Craft Inc.
Jim Shorkey Family Auto Group
Klingensmith Insurance Agency
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McKeesport Hospital Foundation
Mueller Appraisal Services
Northwest Savings Bank-Elizabeth Branch
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PA American Water Company
Petkanics Charitable Fund
Pozzuto Auto—White Oak
R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware
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The Elizabeth Companies
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The UPS Store—White Oak
Trailside Treasures
Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh
Foundation
Travelers Insurance
Vista Metals
Yough Twister

