

# The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

December 2017

Volume 26, Issue 2

*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)

Wow, I can't believe it has been 3 years since I was first elected president of our trail group. It has been truly an honor and a privilege to work with so many dedicated people who love this trail. To all those who have said over the years that I was doing a good job, let me say "Thank you". I was taught to always do my best when taking on a task. That is what I have tried to do, simply my best. I plan on being actively involved with the trail after I finish my term, although after 3 years it will be nice to have a break from being president.

Looking back on all WE'VE accomplished as a trail group, I am grateful to the people who have helped to keep the trail in great shape. I had the privilege to speak to many users who said that our section of the GAP is one of the best kept. That always brought a smile to my face and a heartfelt feeling of accomplishment. So, what have we done in 2017 ... starting at the north end of our section of trail to the southern end:

- 1) The Boston visitor's center and storage shed got a fresh coat of paint and new parking lines painted.
- 2) The visitor's center had some new faces, expanded hours, a wider selection of merchandise, new flower pots and an expanded butterfly garden.
- 3) A bicycle work stand was installed at the visitors' center.
- 4) We did drainage ditch work from Boston to Buena Vista.
- 5) In preparation for the sewer line from the Buena Vista sewage plant to Dead Man's hollow we have been marking and cleaning out the culverts.
- 6) We installed new maintenance building signs.
- 7) The American Water Company workers opened up drainage ditches between Buena Vista and Dravo.
- 8) A second shelter was built at the camp ground and a permanent fire ring was installed.

- 9) Finally, a new covered picnic table was built along the trail between Greenock and Dravo by the Elizabeth Forward High School tech class.

So, a heartfelt thank you to all who made my time as president a great experience.

## Boston Visitor Center

By Marei Burnfield

### Popular Vacation Destination!

It appears that the GAP trail in our backyard continues to be a popular vacation destination! According to the guest journal at the Boston Visitor Center, the volunteer staff had the pleasure of welcoming guests from 33 states and 5 foreign countries.

As of end of October, 376 volunteer hours were logged at the center over the past 7 months. Thank you to the new and returning volunteers who made this possible.

**All this personal effort and expanded inventory resulted in record sales and profit for 2017.**

What's new? In October, the Saturday volunteer work group was busy doing preparation work for two new installations. A Dero Fixit Bike repair Station was



located between the Boxcar and the Visitor Center. This was made possible by a grant from the American Water Charitable Foundation. Also, an AED unit will be located near the front ramp of the building.

Please consider joining us as a volunteer next season.

Until then, enjoy the trail.

## Water Company Continues Annual Event - Employees Spend Day on Trail

By Tim Banfield

On Friday, October 13, employees from Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC), based out of their Operations Center in Elizabeth, continued what has become an annual event, by assisting Mon/Youth Trail Council with a maintenance project on the trail.

With the help of the PAWC crew and use of a PAWC back hoe and dump truck, we were able to get a tremendous amount accomplished. Employees that participated from PAWC were Marei Burnfield, Linda Yarbrough, David Dunn, Kevin Kotch, Mike Sostaric, Brad Ebert, and Rich Boyles.

They spent the day on an area of the trail between Buena Vista and the Queen Aliquippa campground at Dravo Cemetery, where water was starting to flow onto the trail from a backed up drainage ditch. The crew cleaned out the ditch with the PAWC equipment. This effort will keep the trail in much better shape. In addition, the crew gathered the larger tree limbs from along the ditch and hauled them to the campground to be used for firewood. The Great Allegheny Passage is a major attraction in our region, and trail users from around the world stay overnight at the campground nearly every night from April to November.

Marei Burnfield, who serves on MYTC's Board of Directors and works for PAWC coordinated the day's activities with MYTC's Trail Maintenance Committee members, including John Warhold, Rich Kundman and Tim Banfield, and made the arrangements for her co-workers to participate in this effort.

MYTC really appreciates the effort put forth by the group from the water company in assisting with this important maintenance needed on the trail. Altogether, nearly 50 volunteer hours were spent on the project. We want to thank Marei Burnfield in particular, MYTC member and volunteer, for initiating this project.



## Eastern Continental Divide Mural

By Terry Vota

Thanks to Leslie Pierce for contacting Sandra Finley

For MYTC riders that venture down the GAP toward Cumberland, a scenic sight is when the trail passes over the Eastern Continental Divide just past Deal, in Somerset County. There are 4 interconnected murals on the overpass structure. The mural was funded by the SW Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission in 2008/2009 with Sandra Finley as the Project Manager.



According to an article in the Somerset County Daily American, it was important to portray the volunteers in this mural because they made the trail possible and help maintain it. The mural artist chosen was Wayne Fetto, whose name can be found at the bottom of one of the murals. He is from Lancaster County and created many of the murals along the Lincoln Highway. Sandra worked closely with Wayne and she and Linda Boxx supplied him with volunteer photos to use.

How does this relate to MYTC? Well, at least 3 of our current members are depicted on that mural. Here are a couple of the mural photos and some names; see if you can match the names with the photos!



A

Tim Banfield, Bill Hall, Charlie Smith and Jack Yermin are depicted.



B

C

D

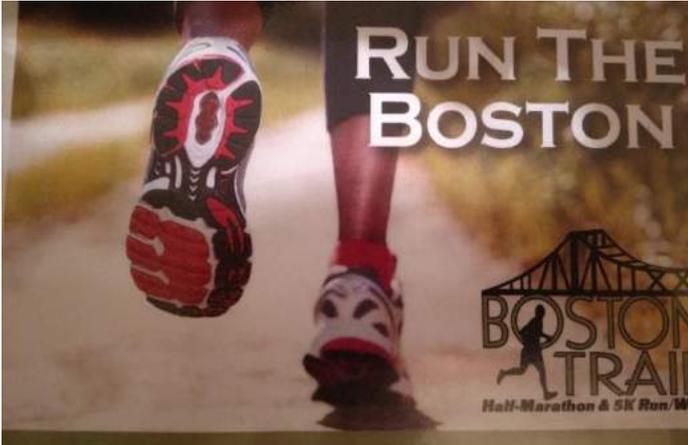
Answers are at the end of the newsletter.

# SAVE THE DATE

By Kathie Fawcett

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018**

## Boston Trail Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk



100% of the proceeds help in the maintaining and improving the Boston trail. Staffed by volunteers who work to keep the trail looking its very best. Please come and help support this important fundraiser so that we can continue in making this trail the best it can be.

To register, go to [RUNSIGNUP.COM](http://RUNSIGNUP.COM) and for more information, go to [THEBOSTONTRAIL.COM](http://THEBOSTONTRAIL.COM)

# Yough 'n' Roll

By Kathy Banfield

## Trail Appreciation Day

On Saturday, June 17, the Mon/Yough Trail Council had their 24th Yough-n-Roll Bike Ride and Trail Appreciation Day. It was a beautiful day and we had a nice turnout. There were 20 or 40 mile trail rides. The 20 mile ride turned around at Sutersville, and the 40 mile ride turned around at Cedar Creek. There were rest stops with drinks and snacks at Dravo Cemetery and Cedar Creek. Lunch was provided at the end of the ride. George Sievern has been our hot dog chef at Boston for many years. And Mark Place also cooked hot dogs at the Queen Aliquippa Campground at Dravo Cemetery.

We would like to thank all the participants and volunteers that help support the ride. We would especially like to thank our new sponsor, Howell Craft, Inc. The proceeds provide maintenance funds for the Boston to Westmoreland County portion of the GAP.

### A BIG THANK YOU to our sponsors for their support:

LEVIN Furniture  
McKeesport Hospital Foundation  
R. C. Walter & Sons Hardware  
Howell Craft, Inc.  
Paul E. Bekavac Funeral Home  
Gilbert Funeral Home & Crematory  
Yough Twister  
Big Bang Bicycles  
Klingensmith Insurance Agency  
Mueller Appraisals  
Trailside Treasures  
The Embroidery People



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual J. Terrence Farrell Memorial Bike Ride

by Christine Farrell Zacharia

The fourth annual J. Terrence Farrell Memorial Bike Ride took place on Saturday, September 30th on the Mon-Yough Trail. The event is hosted by the McKeesport Hospital Foundation, the Lions, Mon-River Fleet and the Mon/Yough Trail Council.

This year's ride has proven, yet again, to be a huge success due to our loyal sponsors and our novice and veteran participants. We had many new cyclists from North Huntingdon to Beaver Falls. As in the previous years, the ride began at 8:30 a.m., under the Boston Bridge, with the option of either a 7 1/2 mile ride to the Dravo Cemetery or a 20 mile ride to Smithton Beach.



At noon, the riders met at the Frew Pavilion for a light lunch. Before departing, family and friends gathered at Mr. Farrell's memorial bench in observance of his dedication to the City of McKeesport.

There was also a special dedication of a memorial bench, for Rex Timko, by close friends of the family. He was nine years old when he lost his battle with Late Infantile Batten Disease. This young boy was known for his infectious smile and love of life. Because of Rex, the co-chairs, Belinda O'Keson and Christine Zacharia, learned of Variety, the Children's Charity.



Last year, a portion of the proceeds were used to donate 1 adaptive bicycle, in Mr. Farrell's name, to a child with special needs. We hope to continue to work with Variety to donate another bike, or two, this year. They would like a child from McKeesport or surrounding areas to receive a bike. It is their hope that this child would be able to participate in a portion of the

bike ride next year. It will be the 5th annual bike ride. If you, or anyone you know, could be a candidate for an adaptive bike please contact Christine at [jtfbikeride@gmail.com](mailto:jtfbikeride@gmail.com).



Belinda O'Keson and Christine Farrell Zacharia, have opted to resume Attorney Farrell's humanitarian work for the McKeesport Community. Last Year endowments, in Mr. Farrell's name, were made to Friends of the Riverfront, McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center, Carnegie Free Library of McKeesport, the Mon-Yough Trail and the Lions, Mon-River Fleet. They will make a donation to the American Heart Association. Heart disease and stroke are the leading cause of death in the United States.

The family would like to see this event grow, continue to make new friends and support local charities. Next Year the ride will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2018. Come meet us on the trail!

## WESTMORELAND HERITAGE TRAIL UPDATE

By Bob Cupp

Phase 3 of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail has been completed. Westmoreland County officials, volunteers and local citizens gathered Saturday, September 30 to celebrate. This 5.9-mile section goes from Murrysville, through Penn Township and Monroeville to Trafford. New trail access points include Parkside Creamery near B.Y. Park in Trafford (just off Route 130 along Forbes Road), Saunders Station in Monroeville, and the Roberts Trail Access on the south side of Route 22 in Murrysville

Development of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail began with the Saltsburg to Trafford Feasibility Study, completed in 2002, which evaluated the possibility of constructing a trail across northern Westmoreland County from Saltsburg on the Indiana County border to Trafford on the Allegheny County border, a total

distance of 22 miles. The first five-mile section (from Saltsburg to Slickville) was opened in 2008. The Slickville to Delmont section was completed in 2013.

Many challenges remain to connect Murrysville with Delmont, including the need to obtain some additional right-of-way between Delmont and Export. Another challenge is to enable cyclists and walkers to safely travel over or under Route 66 just north of Delmont.

The good news is that in January, Governor Tom Wolf announced that the county received a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant for \$1 million to build 3.4 miles of trail from Murrysville to Export. The plan is to complete that section by 2019.

The dream is to someday extend the Westmoreland Heritage Trail from Trafford to connect with the Great Allegheny Passage. For those who may say, "That will never happen," supporters of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail respond, "WHY NOT?" In the not too distant past, the same doubt persisted about completion of the Great Allegheny Passage from Pittsburgh to Cumberland.

### Regular Work Sessions on the Trail

MYTC holds regular work sessions during good weather on **Saturday mornings, meeting at 8:00** 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](http://www.thebostontrail.com) and click on the "contact us" button to submit your name, email address, phone number, and mailing address.



MYTC Maintenance Building

## What's in a Name?

By Bob Cupp / Terry Vota

As you ride along the MYTC section of the GAP from McKeesport to the Westmoreland County Line, you encounter many small towns. Did you ever wonder how they got their names?

**McKeesport** - David McKee and his son John came from Scotland and in 1795 received a land grant for 306 acres of land at the forks of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers. They listed it as McKees Ferry, then McKees Port; later combined to McKeesport.

**Versailles** - in 1788, Allegheny County was formed and divided into 7 townships, including Moon, St. Clair, Mifflin, Elizabeth, Versailles, Plum and Pittsburgh. The French name Versailles was used in honor of the French allies during the American Revolution. The section along the Youghiogheny River was incorporated as Versailles Boro in 1894.

**Boston** - This area was originally known as Elrod's Crossing because of a Ferry operated by Colonel Elrod in the late 1700's. Markers indicate that it was later named for Boston, Massachusetts, in ~1845, by one of the Duncan Brothers of the coal mining company, Duncan, Cornell and Company.

**Greenock** - it was named by William and Isabella Black who sailed from Greenoch, Scotland in 1840 and found their way to the Youghiogheny River. They named it for the last town they had seen in Scotland.

**Dravo** - in 1856 William Dravo opened a coal mine a short distance below Buena Vista, near Stringtown, and named the area for himself.

**Stringtown** - it was founded before 1850 and was strung out for a half mile between Buena Vista and Dravo. The village was linked with Shaner on the opposite side of the Youghiogheny River via a sky ferry.

**Buena Vista** - a land warrant was issued to Isaac Greer in 1785 with the name "Beauty Spot". It was later laid out by James McGrew in 1849. In 1857, after the US won the decisive Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican-American War, several towns in the US (Iowa, Michigan, Virginia, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Alabama, and New Jersey) were named in honor of that victory.

**Industry** - a land warrant was issued to Llewellyn Howell in 1785 with the name "Peaceful". It was settled in the early 1870's by miners from Ocean No. 2 Mine with the mine being the only "industry" for that town.

**Frank** - it was the name assigned to the Post Office at Industry in order to eliminate confusion with another western Pennsylvania town of the same name.

The P&LE Railroad referred to Frank as Scott Haven, actually the name of the village located across the river.

**Douglass** - it was named for Colonel William Douglass and was a station on the Pittsburgh, McKeesport & Youghiogheny Railroad. Located across the river from Sutersville, the current location of the Tastee Freeze and Driscoll's; both popular trail stops.

**Blythedale** - a land warrant for this area was issued to James Finney in 1785 with the name "Blooming Grove". Records show that it was later named for John Blythe, original owner of the Sarah Mine.

**Sutersville** - it was founded in 1870 by Eli Suter, a large land owner, saw mill operator, grist mill operator, steamboat owner and operator of Suter's Ferry across the Youghiogheny River.

**Smithdale** - a land warrant for this area was issued to Robert Smith in 1801 with the name "Smithfield"; later changed to Smithdale.

## Trail Maintenance Update

By Tim Banfield

During this past summer, a number of volunteers turned out to lend a hand to Mon/Yough Trail Council (MYTC) by painting a couple buildings at the trailhead in Boston. This group painted the visitor center and also later painted MYTC's maintenance shed that is located near the visitor center. The visitor center is modeled after the center on the Pine Creek Rail Trail through the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. The paint color selection was intended to be consistent with the railroad motif at the trailhead. Volunteers that helped with painting included Linda and Terry Vota, Mark Prescott, Marei Burnfield, Bill Brand, Clyde Frabizio, Kathy Banfield, Lois Verminski and Joanna Stewart.



Thanks to everyone that helped!

Please come to Boston and stop at the Visitor Center to see their work.



The Visitor Center is staffed by volunteers on many Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Spring, Summer and Fall.

Many workers show up every Saturday AM at the Maintenance Center and tirelessly help to open drainage ditches, cut fallen trees, stack firewood, cut grass along our 15 miles of trail, repair and maintain equipment, build shelters, install benches etc. We could not survive without this heroic weekly effort.

Eastern Continental Divide Answers: A=Charlie Smith; B=Tim Banfield; C= Jack Yermin; D=Bill Hall



## Please welcome our newest members!

April – September 2017

1. MARYANN CROSS, GLASSPORT
2. EVA CROWE, UNIONTOWN
3. TOM DOUGHERTY, PITTSBURGH
4. TERRY AND RENE FAUST, ELIZABETH TWP
5. BARBARA GAMRAT, NORTH VERSAILLES
6. TOM GORDON, PITTSBURGH
7. SARAH HELZLSOUER, BOSTON, PA
8. KAREN L. HILLIARD, MONROEVILLE
9. BENJAMIN KUNDMAN, PITTSBURGH
10. RON ORR, INDIANA, PA
11. DIANNE PAVETTI, JEANETTE
12. WAYNE PENTRACK, PITTSBURGH
13. MARK AND LISA PRESCOTT, MCKEESPORT
14. MR RANDOLPH, N HUNTINGDON
15. CAROLYN SAVIKAS, PITTSBURGH
16. JASON SMITH, MCKEESPORT
17. ANNETTE STOLZE, PITTSBURGH
18. MIKE TROY, BEAVER FALLS
19. JAMES AND BRENDA WALSH, MONROEVILLE
20. TOM WASELESKI, SEWICKLEY
21. JAY WILSON, TURTLE CREEK
22. JAMES WOODALL, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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

## 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

Mary Reed

### 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

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### 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](http://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



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**Mon/Yough Trail Council**  
**PO Box 14**  
**McKeesport, PA 15135**  
[www.TheBostonTrail.com](http://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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Allegheny Regional Asset District  
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Basic Carbide  
Bekavac Funeral Home  
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Bour Associates  
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Crawford Foundation  
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Levin Furniture  
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Shaw Weil Associates  
Steffan Industries  
The Betsy Shoppe  
The Elizabeth Companies  
The Embroidery People  
The UPS Store—White Oak  
Trailside Treasures  
Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh  
Foundation  
Travelers Insurance  
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Yough Twister

