



The Great Allegheny Passage logo is a registered trademark of the Allegheny Trail Alliance and is used with permission.

Mon Yough Trail Council
PO Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135

www.TheBostonTrail.com

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 West Newton, PA
 Permit No. 28

*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.*

Adam Inlay Web Design
 Allegheny Land Trust
 Allegheny Regional Asset District
 Atlas Resources, L.P.
 Bekavac Funeral Home
 Big Bang Bicycles
 Bour Associates
 Carriage Inn
 Chevron Humankind Program
 Crawford Foundation
 DJ Nick Funn
 DW Plumbing
 Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory
 Hoots Again
 Isbir Construction
Jefferson Hospital
 Jim Shorkey Family Auto Group
 Klingensmith Insurance Agency
 Levin Furniture



McKeesport Hospital Foundation
 Mueller Appraisal Services
 NuGo Nutrition
 Pemberton's
 Petkanics Charitable Fund
 Pozzuto Auto—White Oak
 R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware
 Rich's Parkside Den
 River City Junction
 Road ID
 Robert C. Lucas, Attorney
 Shaw Weil Associates
 Steffan Industries
 The Betsy Shoppe
 The Embroidery People
 The UPS Store—White Oak
 Trailside Treasures
 Vista Metals
 Yough Twister



The MILEPOST

Mon Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

May 2015

Volume 24, Issue 1

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

- Anonymous

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

By Bill Hall and Judy Marshall



Allegheny Health Network

**Jefferson
 Hospital**

The staging area at the Boston Trailhead was alive with great music as 600+ runners and walkers greeted friends and families, adjusted their timers and ear buds, stretched, and got sufficiently pumped to begin this well-planned and well - supported race that benefits maintenance of 15 miles of the Youghiogheny River Trail, part of the Great Allegheny Passage.



Participants included elite runners, area running clubs, week-end runners, first-time runners, families, kids, grandmas and grandpas and moms with strollers, each out for a good time.

Jefferson Hospital again participated by being a major sponsor as well as providing pre and post-race stretching areas. Three water stations along the course were also run by volunteers from the Jefferson Hospital.

Participating this year was Jacob Buchheit. Jacob competed in the 5K on his adaptive bike provided by Variety, The Children's Charity through their "My Bike" program.



Shown here with Jacob are (left to right) Mary Beth Lowery, Director of Marketing, Communications and Development at Jefferson Hospital, Louise Urban, President and CEO of Jefferson Hospital, Jacob, Eileen Buchheit (Jacob's mom) and Patricia Liebman, Chief Operating Officer at Allegheny Health Network.



*And...
 they...
 are...
 off!*



2015 Sponsors

Jefferson Hospital
Jim Shorkey Family Auto Group
Levin Furniture
 Carriage Inn
 DW Plumbing
 Hoots Again
 Pozzuto Auto – White Oak
 Rich's Parkside Den
 The UPS Store – White Oak
 Trailside Treasures
 Vista Metals

DJ Nick Funn
 Eliz Twp. EMS
 Eliz. Twp. Police Dept.
 Embroidery People
 Greenock VFC
 NUGO Nutrition
 Road ID



Tireless volunteers. Thanks to each for creating the success!



Photos by:
 Mary Ellen and Mike Driver
 Betsy Manderino
 trailphotos.biz



Allegheny Land Trust volunteers
 distributing information about
 Dead Man's Hollow.

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.

2015 Officers
President
 Rich Kundman
Vice President
 John Eisenbarth
Treasurer
 Linda Hippard
Secretary
 Mary Reid

Directors
2013 – 2015
 John Eisenbarth
 Rich Kundman
 George Sievern

2014 – 2016
 Cathy Bartley
 Bob Hoffman
 Judy Marshall
 Pam Magyar
 Mary Reid

Newsletter Editor
 Mary Ellen Driver

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

MYTC WORK PARTIES
 Every Saturday
 (weather permitting)
 Meet at the end of
 Locust Grove, Greenock

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.

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.

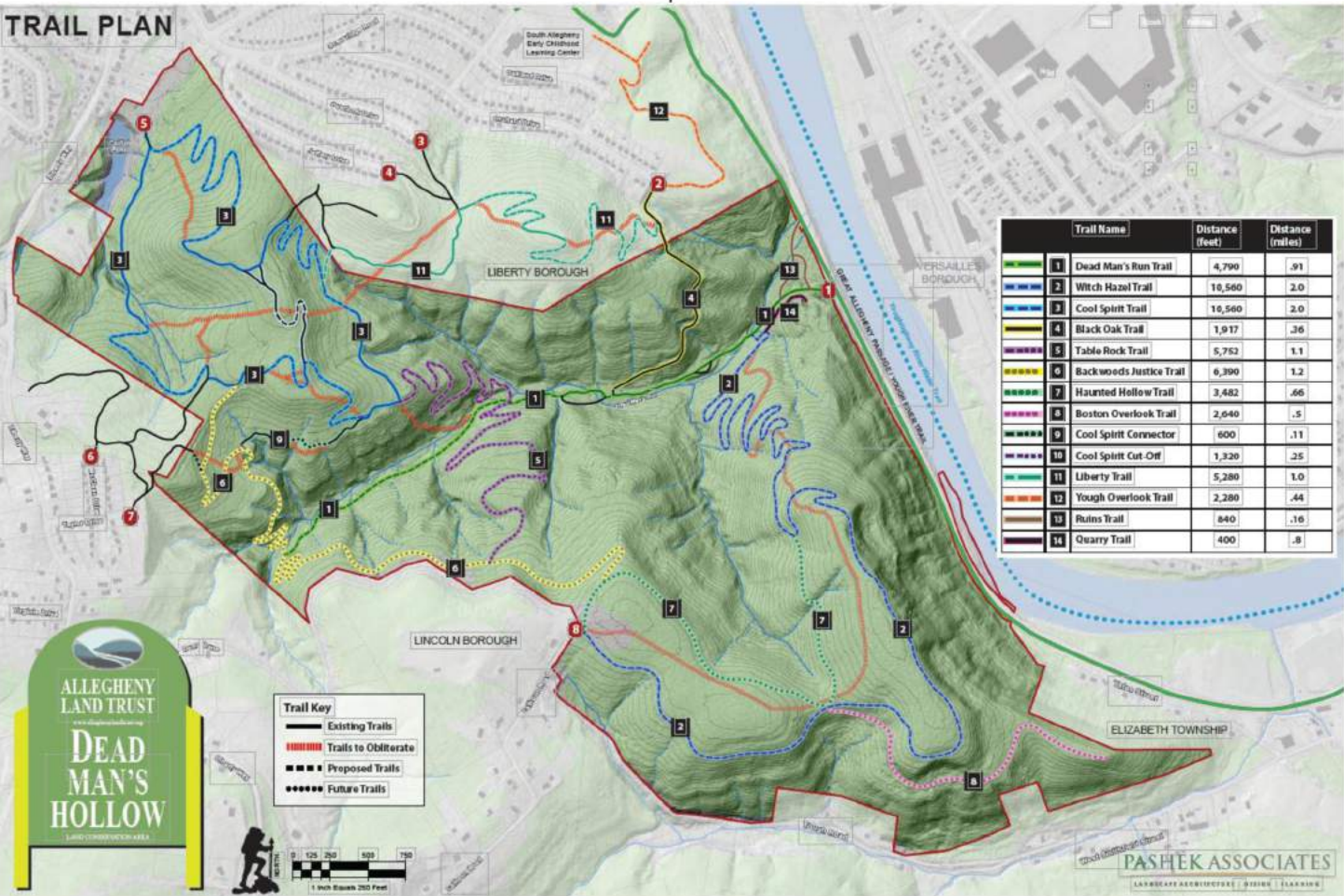
Please print:
 Name _____
 Address _____

 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



Dead Mans’ Hollow Update

By Keri Rouse, Community Coordinator for Dead Man’s Hollow
Public AmeriCorps Apprentice

It may be called Dead Man’s Hollow Conservation Area (DMH), but this green space is alive and well! Located along the Great Allegheny Passage near the Boston trail access, the 440 acres of DMH are home to a flourishing wildflower population, the industrial ruins from bygone industries, and a number of stories supporting its ominous name.

After months of development and invaluable input from friends, neighbors, and partners, the DMH Conservation Area Management Plan has been completed and can be viewed on the Allegheny Land Trust website www.alleghenylandtrust.org. The comprehensive plan will assist Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) in enhancing the recreational and educational opportunities at DMH, protecting the Hollow’s unique habitats, and sharing the green space’s rich history and lore with visitors.



The Plan, which will take approximately 10 years to complete, emphasizes the implementation of sustainable and accessible trail design and outlines repairs to current trails. Once completed, the trail distance will have grown from 6 to 10 miles.

As you examine the map and the Trail Key, you will notice Existing Trails, Proposed Trails, Trails to Obliterate, and Future Trails. This tiered approach will allow ALT the flexibility to implement recommendations over time with “Proposed Trails” being designated high priority goals and “Future Trails” being designated as long-term objectives. Efforts this year are focused on Trail 3 on the map above - Cool Spirit Trail. (A larger, more easily read map will soon be available at the Visitor’s Center).

You can get involved in revitalizing this largest privately owned conservation area in Allegheny County by volunteering at DMH today. Call or email ALT Stewardship for more information at 412-741-2750 or www.krouse@alleghenylandtrust.org.

Letter from the MYTC President



Greetings to all those who love our Trail! I would like to welcome all new members who are receiving this newsletter for the first time and to thank all our long-time members who have supported this trail organization for so many years. **A special thanks to Bill Hall, outgoing president, for his leadership these past three years.** I believe an organization is only as good as the people who are involved in it. For those who continue to write the checks that pay for the supplies and equipment, to the volunteers who keep the Trail in the best possible shape for all to enjoy, you are the ones who make this a great organization and I thank you! As the new president, I plan to do my best so that our Trail remains a favorite destination.

As I write, the sun is shining on this balmy spring day and I’m thinking about how nice it will feel to get back on my bike riding the Trail. Enjoying the Trail depends on how well it is maintained. One of our big jobs as an organization is keeping the grass cut along the Trail, all 15 miles of it. If you would like to help out, we could use more volunteers! If interested, we will show you how to use the equipment. A growing concern of ours is that the trail is showing its age. After 20 years of use we are encountering some major maintenance issues. A serious problem is that our drainage ditches are filling in and we are experiencing more washouts along the trail. We have received a grant to do some remedial work but it is not enough to address all the drainage problems.

Another responsibility of our organization is to keep the Trail’s budget ‘in the black’ each year. Even though our membership dollars go a long way, we still have to organize a few fundraisers each year. Our biggest is the **Half-Marathon and 5K**. The second fundraiser is the summer **Yough and Roll** bike ride. Without these fundraisers to supplement our dues, we could not meet our financial obligations and would not last very long as an organization. Both events rely tremendously on volunteers so I’m hoping you can find a few hours to help out. But dues and fund raisers can’t meet all of needs – especially the large infrastructure maintenance requirements. For these, we will need grants from outside organizations. Unfortunately, at this time we don’t have anyone who could write the applications. So one final appeal...if you have any experience in writing grant applications and are willing to help us out, please call me (724) 258-2690 or any board member and let us know. It would be greatly appreciated!

See you on the trail, *Rich Kundman*

Yough River Trail Fundraisers to Benefit from Eagle Scout Service Project

By Marei Burnfield

Volunteers who assist in event day preparations for Half Marathons and 5K Walk/Runs held on the Yough River Trail throughout the year will find that the time-consuming task of measuring and setting up distance markers will be considerably easier this season.

Nicholas Ruffing, 17, of Elizabeth Twp., a junior at Serra Catholic High School and a Life Scout with Troop 1640 in White Oak, designed and installed thirteen (13) permanent distance markers between Boston and Greenock, and in the process earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Mon Yough Trail Council volunteer John Eisenbarth met with Nicholas in late summer of 2014 to discuss potential project ideas. It was determined that the installation of permanent distance markers would benefit numerous organizations utilizing the Trail for fundraising events during trail season.



The various materials used to complete the project were donated by local businesses and/or purchased with money Nicholas secured as a result of a fundraising campaign he initiated. He was responsible for organizing a group of more than 10 volunteers that included fellow scouts, adult scout leaders, family and

friends. Multiple work sessions were required in the evenings and on weekends. Nicholas and his group of volunteers were able to complete the project in December, 2014. In addition, Nicholas presented the Mon Yough Trail Council with a generous donation of \$497.15 at the conclusion of his service project. This donation was the surplus money generated from his fundraising efforts designated for the project.

The Mon Yough Trail Council would like to thank **Nicholas Ruffing** for a successful, well done project that benefits the Trail tremendously. We also applaud him for achieving this milestone in Scouting!

Gentlemen...Start Your Engines!

By Dan Piesek, Story Teller

We have all heard this familiar command at the start of the Indianapolis 500 and other races, but do you realize this command might very well be heard in the background today as you and I bike and walk along the Yough River Trail? The Pittsburg Speedway Association and Park Club had options to construct a raceway and expected work to start in 1916. The group gathered \$600,000 for the purchase and development of 600 acres lying on the table-land overlooking Youghiogheny Country Club and Buena Vista. Just above the cemetery at Dravo and up Henderson Rd. was the sight that would feature a two mile auto racing track and a one mile horse racing track. In the plans were construction of a hotel and other support buildings. The venture was backed by many prominent Pittsburgh men including E. E. Reick (owner of Reick's Ice Cream) and D. L. Clark (the candy magnate), along with a list of Pittsburgh's "Who's Who" as investors.

The big plans were to have the area become a leading resort destination since the property, adjacent to the P&LE Railroad, was interestingly half-way between New York and Chicago. Unfortunately, the plans were never realized and the reasons why were never revealed. Speculation and opinion summarized that it was defeated by the owners of the local mills and mines, for it is well known that such an enterprise would serve as competition for workers. Added to this was World War I, a time when attention was more focused on war production than recreation.

But that is not the end of the story. In the 1960's, sports car racing was growing in the US because peppy little sports cars were being brought back by GIs returning home from Europe, where the sporty two-seater vehicles were the rage. Race tracks were set up in Connellsville, PA and Cumberland, MD, but use was limited to one week per year. A race track constructed at Watkin's Glen in upper state New York was built as a permanent site for use year round. A track was also being planned for Ohio. The need for a track closer to Pittsburgh was recognized and the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) encouraged such a track and gave both their approval and sanction for its development.

One day a group of sports car owners and racers gathered at Dravo cemetery for a meeting to view and discuss the possibility of building an auto race track on the flat at the edge of the cemetery property, between the railroad and the river. The SCCA, the authorizing group, along with members of South Hills Sports Car Club, North Hills Sports Car Club and Porsche Club of America, Allegheny Region, surveyed the layout and listed possibilities. The group later obtained an architect,

identified funding sources and sought zoning permits from Elizabeth Township.

Red McCurdy, sports car racer and reporter for the McKeesport Daily News along with photographer Elmer Brewer, sports car owner, were instrumental in publicizing the project. It was moving along very well when home owners high up on the hills overlooking the river and possible race track, voiced their displeasure because of the noise and crowds. Legal action was threatened, so the project was tabled until a later date.

Today, as you ride past the section of the overgrown river plateau, think how different the area would be if in the distance you heard echoing through the Yough Valley "Gentlemen...start your engines".



Please welcome our newest members:

Zach Burnfield - Webster, PA

Kathie Fawcett - Elizabeth Twp, PA

Chris Gemeinhart - West Mifflin, PA

Dana Huston - Buena Vista, PA

Eileen Lenart - McKeesport, PA

Maureen Lockard - Monroeville, PA

Dan Lyons - North Huntingdon, PA

Christopher Mark -Squirrel Hill, PA

Jim Sikorsky - Greensburg, PA

Linda Vota - Elizabeth, PA

A sincere thank you is also extended to the members who have generously renewed their memberships for the 2015 season. Your continued support is appreciated.

Mareé Burnfield, Membership Chair

VISITOR CENTER: Last year, for the first time in many years, new folks stepped up to the plate to help staff the Center to distribute maps and brochures, give advice, sell merchandise, and promote membership. A dozen plus volunteers logged 44 days, and 146 hours.



Volunteer Tim Bamfield

Not tallied are countless hours that have been spent writing articles for and editing a newsletter, developing and maintaining a website, coordinating events and fundraising activities, and answering numerous email inquiries.

I am probably 'preaching to the choir' and suspect that if you are reading this, you are probably already involved in some way. But just in case you are not, we need more participation with much needed maintenance (see President's letter), helping at the Visitor's Center, newsletter assistance, grant writing or a special skill that you or a pal has that we haven't thought of. (Attorneys welcome!).

We are looking for a new volunteer Newsletter editor – Mary Ellen Driver is planning on retiring from the role!

Answers to Common Questions Posed to MYTC Officers and Board Members

FAQ's

Q. Are helmets required to bike on the Trail?

A. Helmets are required for all sanctioned bike races. At other times, your own safety and that of others should drive your decision. Concussions occur not just in football. As skilled as you are as a cyclist, people sometimes walk in front of you and other cyclists might stop directly in your path. Think of it like a seat belt or air bag in your car. It

just makes good sense to start this habit. If you have kids, it's a good example to set.

Q. What time does the Trail open and close?

A. The Trail is open from dawn to dusk. It's a good idea to have a bike light at dusk so that others can see you.

Q. How do I make reservations to camp at the Dravo Camp Ground on the Trail?

A. No reservations are required. Camping is on a "first come, first serve" basis. Amenities on this 10-acre site include free drinking water and firewood. Toilets are also available. There are NO shower facilities.

Q. What is the policy for dogs on the Trail?

A. Dogs must be on a leash AT ALL TIMES – not just when a walker or cyclist is nearing. In addition, owners are required to scoop and remove the waste of the dog.

Q. Are any of the pavilions along the Trail available to rent?

A. Yes, the Milestone Center Pavilion located in Buena Vista can be rented. For further information contact Tom Swanson @ 412-473-8021.

Save the Date
22nd Annual Yough n Roll
Bike Ride
Saturday, June 20, 2015

Scenic bike ride along the Youghiogheny
River - with 20 or 40 mile options
Starting at the Boston Trailhead

Also featuring
Membership Appreciation Day for all
members
11:00am to 1:00pm

Join us for hot dogs & refreshments at the
Boston Trailhead Visitor Center

Past participants will receive a mailed
registration form. Others may register on the
website.

Pre-registrants will receive an event
T-Shirt

Details: www.thebostontrail.com