

# The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

April 2019

Volume 28, Issue 1

*One of the greatest gifts that you can give is your time.....*

## From the President

By Mark Place (412) 877-0050

2018 was a study in contrasts.

The extreme wet weather was very hard on the trail and the trail maintenance volunteers over the last year. We really got slammed in July and then again in September with multiple landslides, slips and maybe 150-200 trees down on or across the trail. Thanks to a rapid response from a local contractor and available volunteers, most trail closures were measured in hours and only one was more than 24 hours due to the volume of mud and debris on the trail. The Visitors' Center was struck by slide debris in July but thanks to Marei Burnfield and her team, was open for business over the busy 4<sup>th</sup> holiday week temporarily operating from a canopy.

On the brighter side our hard working volunteers totaled over 3500 hours of service with much of it focused on storm damage remediation this year. The ½ Marathon/5K and the Yough 'n Roll ride and walk were both very successful thanks to hard work by those committees led by Kathie Fawcett and Kathy Banfield respectively. Membership advanced to a record 505 this year and that financial support is vital to our mission of providing the best trail possible for all trail users; bike riders, walkers, dog walkers, stroller pushers and those who just enjoy sitting on a bench and enjoying the view. Our new Ford F550 dump truck has been a huge help and time saver. We put over 1000 miles on it between June and March of this year almost all on the trail. Our new web site is up and running and loads very fast whether you are on your phone, tablet or home computer. We are committed to faster updates and are now posting minutes from our monthly meeting after they have been accepted the following month.

I would like to especially recognize one of our corporate partners, PA American Water and the American Water Foundation. Not only do they support our trail events with their custom made hydration station/water bottle filling truck, they also have provided annual financial support in recognition of employee Marei Burnfield's many volunteer hours.



In addition, the local PA American Water Maintenance Center in Elizabeth participates in maintaining the trail through an annual day of service. This is huge as these highly trained volunteers also bring some of their equipment. In one day, with support from MYTC volunteers and equipment we have been able to complete projects that would take our crew several weekends.

Does your employer support community outreach projects or provide matching funds for employee donations? If so, we would love to put together a project that your company and co-workers would be interested in completing. If you and your employer or co-workers have a skill or an interest, we have a need.

## Lost & Found

The Visitor Center at Boston handles Lost/Found items.

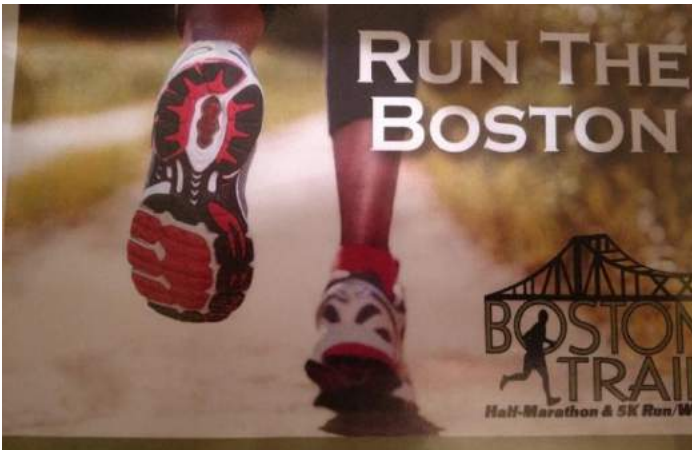
- If you find an item, just drop it off to someone at the Visitor Center.
- If you lose an item, check at the Visitor Center to see if anyone has turned it in or call Marei at 724-972-2278.

## SAVE THE DATE

By Kathie Fawcett

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019**

### 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)

## SAVE THE DATE

By Kathy Banfield

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019**

### Yough 'n' Roll / Trail Appreciation Day

The twenty-eighth annual Yough 'n' Roll will be held on the morning of June 15th, 2019. 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 to support our mission of sustaining operation and maintenance of the trail.

The event consists of a choice of 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.

Registration brochures will be mailed to past participants. Brochures will also be available on the website. Walk-ups are welcome but are not guaranteed an event T-shirt. So please come join us on June 15<sup>th</sup> and enjoy a morning on our beautiful trail.

We will also be celebrating Trail Day on June 15 from 11:00 to 1:00. Free hot dogs, snacks and refreshments will be served at the Boston Trailhead. Volunteers will staff the Visitor Center which is stocked with a variety of shirts and trail information. So please come join us!



# So Long for Now.....

By Christine Farrell Zacharia

It is with a very heavy heart that I write my last column for the Mon/Yough Trail Council. In 2018, on the last Saturday in September, we decided that we would go out on a high note with our final J. Terrence Farrell Memorial Bike Ride. We thought that we would be able to carry on the ride for several more years, but as you know, life has a way of pulling us into many directions.

I never really pictured what the end of this journey would look like or how it would feel. I reflect on the 5 years of hosting this bike ride and what I have found is that my father had many loyal friends from every walk of life. I watched all of you show up to ride or to show support. I have enjoyed every story and learning about the kind of friend my father was to each of you but most importantly the kind of friend you were to him.

Thank you for making this possible each year. We could not have done this without all of you. Together we raised enough money to buy 13 bicycles for children with disabilities through Variety, the children’s charity and support locally the McKeesport Heritage Center, The Carnegie Library of McKeesport, The Lions, the Friends of the River, White Oak Animal Safe Haven, Operation Warm and the Mon/Yough Trail Council.

I speak for Belinda and I, when I say we are humbled by your generosity and kindness. All of you took the time to support the ride but you also supported us while we tried to navigate the loss of my father. We held on to this ride because we could not fully accept that he was gone. This ride was the one thing that brought us all together, it was a day that we could sit and remember him, talk about him and feel his presence.

My hope, as we move forward, is that you will continue to leave rocks when you sit on his bench, ride down the trail on the last Saturday in September, share your memories with each other and when he crosses your mind....Speak his name. See you on the trail.



# Boston Visitor Center

Bring on Spring!

By Marei Burnfield

New Season! New Memories! New Merchandise!

It’s no secret that the trail provides multiple recreational opportunities for folks of all ages! During the chill of winter, while browsing through the many photos captured at the visitor center during the past season, we can’t help but eagerly look forward to even more memorable moments, upcoming events, greeting guests from around the world, and yes, new members and volunteers!

The visitor center, staffed by volunteers, is gearing up for the 2019 season. We will be open for business during the upcoming annual half marathon event on **Saturday, April 20, 2019**. Presently, we are in the designing process for our new merchandise. It will include a few new embroidered items and newly designed clothing. There will be something for everyone! We intend to open for the season, **Saturday, May 11, 2019**, unless nature has other plans! Early on, our hours will vary depending on volunteer staff available, but at this time, can confirm that we will be open all weekends from 9 am until noon, weather-permitting. As the weather warms, we are confident additional days and hours will follow. We will keep you posted on our Facebook page. If you would like to join us as a volunteer at the center, please feel free to contact me at 724-972-2278. See you soon!

Visitor Center Photos.....





## Eagle Scout Project

By Mark Place

Thanks to trail volunteer John Warhold, we are working with 15 year old Eagle Scout candidate AJ Marflak from White Oak on his Eagle Scout community service project.

AJ and Scout troop 284 really enjoy camping at our Queen Aliquippa campground along the trail near Buena Vista and wanted to give back to the trail. The campground was originally built with extensive assistance from two local Scout troops many years ago.

With support from his family and troop leaders AJ has accepted the challenge of renovating and upgrading the storage container located at the campground. This 40' long former shipping container is vital to our mowing and maintaining the campground area, toilets and the drinking water well.

The work will include treating rusted areas, pressure washing the inside, installation of additional shelving, painting the outside, installation of skylights and vents, repair of the mower ramp and last, but not least some low maintenance landscaping.

MYTC will be supporting this much needed and appreciated project with paint, roof sealer, wood chips and various equipment and supplies. If you want to help support this costly project there will be a donation jar at the Visitors Center in Boston as soon as it opens for the season. If you want to lend a hand let us know and we will put you in touch with AJ.

If you know of any youth groups looking for a great place to camp or for a service project, please let us know. All trail users are welcome at the campground and there is no charge for camping there. There are many project opportunities up and down the trail for all age groups and interests.



## Volunteer Awards 3500 what?

By Mark Place

What in the world does 3500 have to do with your trail? 3500 is an amazing story of volunteer commitment to operating and maintaining our section of the GAP. These 3500 documented hours were performed by fewer than 50 volunteers from our membership of 505 between November 2017 and November 2018. Countless other hours never get documented.

Every volunteer hour is a vitally important volunteer hour, and as I have shared previously if each of our 500+ members was able to volunteer for even 2-3 hours a year it would make a major difference. While you may see the trail maintenance crews out with tractors, shovels, chain saws etc. and want no part of that, there are countless other volunteers working on the web site, newsletter, social media, visitor center, fundraising, ½ Marathon-5K, Yough 'N Roll and even flower beds.

What I call the **Heavy Lifters** are those folks that were able to contribute 50 hours or more and we would like to recognize them for their service as we did at the annual banquet. We also recognized friends and family that made their time commitment possible.

### 50 Hours or more

#### Trail/Maintenance Shop

- Al Berkheimer
- Ken Simmons
- Terry Vota

#### Visitor Center

- Bill Hall

### 100 hours or more

#### Trail/Maintenance Shop

- Bill Brand
- Kathie Fawcett
- Paul Haurilesko
- Bob Hoffman
- Rick Hunt
- Cliff Rein
- John Warhold

#### Visitor Center

- Marei Burnfield
- Karen Hilliard
- Jeff Pavetti

#### Trail Monitors

- Cathy Bartley
- Dave Bartley
- David Ringler

### 200 hours or more

#### Trail/Maintenance Shop

- Don Baker
- Tim Banfield

- Mark Place
- Charlie Smith

### 300 hours or more...WOW

#### Trail/Maintenance Shop

- John Eisenbarth – 332.45
- Rich Kundman – 310.49

## 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. Many workers show up every Saturday.

## 2018 Volunteer Awards

Each year the Awards Committee nominates one or more volunteers for special recognition. At the annual banquet November, framed certificates of appreciation and recognition were presented to **Bill Brand and Rick Hunt** for their outstanding service in 2018.

Bill and Rick both participated in trail maintenance activities throughout the year and are a pleasure to team with regardless of the task or weather.



Rick was one of the two zero turn mower operators that keep the area around the campground looking great all season. In addition, he is one of our dump truck drivers and

chipper operators. Rick and his wife Rhonda will be relocating to England for work and we will miss them both as they set up the UK branch of the MYTC. 😊

Bill has been a major player on our drain maintenance and repair team and never seems to tire. If there is a "hands on project" of any kind, Bill is a guy you like to have on your crew. He also helps with equipment maintenance and his mechanical skills have solved many problems on our fleet of museum-age equipment.

## Comments from Membership Chairman

By Eileen Lenart

Please welcome our newest MYTC members. Without new members where would we or any other organization be? Not growing that's where! Every organization needs new members with new ideas and fresh energy. The year 2019 has been a repeat of 2018....rain, mudslides, trees blocking the trail, snow and nauseam....and our volunteers in all-weather worked to keep the trail open.

**Thank You** - all new and experienced volunteers

### New Members -Sept 1, 2018 TO Feb 28, 2019

David Edinger, Finleyville  
Gregg Farrar, Elizabeth Twp.  
Margaret Felkay, McKeesport  
Ellen Gainer, Pittsburgh  
Katherine Homrock, Pittsburgh  
Robert Kepics, West Newton  
Christopher Longwill, Turtle Creek  
Hal M. Rubinstein, Pittsburgh  
Gregory A. Salkeld, Mononghela  
Richard Salkeld, McDonald  
Thomas Taggert, New York City, NY

## MYTC Communications Update

Website has been updated! [www.thebostontrail.com](http://www.thebostontrail.com)



There is now a "QR" code to access our website.



Visitors can use credit cards at the Boston Visitor Center.



Members can use PayPal for their annual membership.



Search for Mon/Yough Trail Council and "like" the site. This will push MYTC posts to your Facebook site.

## Tastee Freez / Yough Twister

By Terry Vota

Anyone traveling the MYTC section of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) is sure to know about ice cream and yogurt at the “Yough Twister” in Blythedale at the Sutersville Bridge near GAP MP 117. Long time locals however, still remember it as the “Tastee Freez”.

The Tastee Freez saga started in 1950, when Leo Moranz invented a soft serve pump that competed with the existing Dairy Queen process. In its prime in 1957,



Tastee Freez – Blythedale ~1955

Tastee Freez had over 1800 locations, most of them franchises all across the USA, many in the Tri-State area. However, for various reasons, Tastee Freez could not compete,

lost franchises and currently has only 23 stores nationwide, with the closest in Paden City, WV. Dairy Queen, however, has over 6400 nationwide locations.

According to local residents and cousins Beverly Capranica and Pat Petrovich, their uncle and father Deano Soncini and business partner Richard Sacconi (original owners of the Valley Motor Services & Gas Station across the street) bought the empty lot in 1955 with the purpose of building the Tastee Freez.

The 1<sup>st</sup> owner of the business was Beverly’s cousin Albert Catani who rented the building from Deano and Richard. The lot/business was sold in 1972 to Patricia and Ray Driscoll who ran the operation for years.



Yough Twister – Blythedale ~2018

the Tastee Freez franchise and changed the name to Yough Twister in ~2004.

It is currently owned by their son and wife, Cynthia and Ray Driscoll, with their 3 sons as operators. According to Ray Driscoll, they dropped

Also according to Ray, business increased with completion of the GAP and, in 2013, they opened the Driscoll Restaurant, located behind the Yough Twister. Both of these businesses remain favorites with locals and Great Allegheny Passage riders and walkers.

## Clean-up Projects Prepare Trail for 2019

By Tim Banfield

As this issue goes to press MYTC’s Trail Maintenance crew is busy preparing the trail for the 2019 season. A landslide near Dead Man’s Hollow in 2018 did not block



the trail but brought down much debris and many trees. MYTC volunteers cleaned up the trees to allow passage through this section, but the slide debris was more than volunteers could handle

so a contract was recently awarded to Karl Blaha Excavating & Trucking to clear the mess. This clean-up was completed in early March.

Also between GAP Mile 128 and 129 near Deadman’s



Hollow, a 150-ft section along the paved trail collapsed in the aftermath of flooding rains during September 2018. Over the winter, MYTC’s Trail Maintenance crew developed a work plan to

address this problem and awarded a contract to MSB Excavating to begin initial repairs. MYTC volunteers removed trees in the work area to allow contractor access. The first phase of these repairs will be completed by April. Thanks to Generation Stone Works in Boston for donation of the fill material. Funding for contractor work is being provided through the Regional Trail Corporation and the Allegheny Trail Alliance.

Many volunteers helped deal with these problems in addition to doing all the normal maintenance such as mowing grass along the trail, at the campground and at trail parking lots, clearing fallen trees blocking the trail, and cleaning out drainage ditches, along with keeping all the equipment in working order at MYTC’s shop. Volunteers work on Saturday mornings throughout the year, and also on weekdays, to complete these tasks.

## 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.

### 2019 Officers

#### President

Mark Place

#### Vice President

John Eisenbarth

#### Treasurer

Tim Banfield

#### Secretary

Mary Reid

### Directors

#### 2017 – 2019

Tim Banfield

John Eisenbarth

Kathie Fawcett

Eileen Lenart

Dave Ringler

#### 2018 - 2020

Cathy Bartley

Marei Burnfield

Mary Reid

Charlie Smith

#### 2019 - 2021

Sarah Helzlsouer

Mark Place

Linda Vota

Terry Vota

### 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.

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 2019. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be contacted to volunteer.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive a membership card.

Make checks payable 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.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Adam Inlay Web Design   | McKeesport Hospital Foundation                    |
| Allegheny Health Network/Jefferson Hospital                   | Northwest Savings Bank-Elizabeth Branch           |
| Allegheny Land Trust  | NuGo Nutrition                                    |
| Allegheny Regional Asset District                             | PA American Water Company                         |
| American Water Charitable Foundation                          | Petkanics Charitable Fund                         |
| Basic Carbide   | Pozzuto Auto—White Oak                            |
| Bekavac Funeral Home  | R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware                       |
| Big Bang Bicycles   | Rich's Parkside Den                               |
| Bour Associates   | River City Junction                               |
| Carriage Inn  | Road ID   |
| Chevron Humankind Program                                     | Robert C. Lucas, Attorney                         |
| Crawford Foundation   | Shaw Weil Associates                              |
| Driscoll and Sons   | Steffan Industries                                |
| Fawcett Trucking  | The Elizabeth Companies                           |
| Gary and Mary Anne Sedlacek Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation | The Embroidery People                             |
| Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory                            | The UPS Store—White Oak                           |
| Howell Craft Inc.   | Trailside Treasures                               |
| Huntley & Huntley Energy Exploration LLC                      | Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation |
| Klingensmith Insurance Agency                                 | Travelers Insurance                               |
| Levin Furniture   | Yough Twister                                     |
| 8 Mary E. Cole Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation              |   |

