

The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

October 2020

Volume 29, Issue 2

Election Ballot and Annual Membership Meeting Information – Page 6!

Note: We expect trail to be closed (MP 120 – MP 129 ; Industry => DuraBond) from ~15 October 2020 => ~15 April 2021 for Sewer Line installation.

From the President

By Mark Place (412) 877-0050
mplace@johnplaceinc.com

2020 has been an interesting and challenging year for your trail as we all have dealt with the effects of COVID 19. Our two major fund raising events; the ½ Marathon and 5K run/walk and the Yough N Roll ride were both canceled. The Visitor's Center did not open.

We are so grateful for the significant increase in membership, and generous donations that help support trail operations along with our event sponsors that have committed to 2021. We are also grateful for support from the Allegheny County Regional Asset District for funding of critical trail repair projects, the Colcom Foundation for their support of the various regional trails who lost income this year, and the American Water Foundation for funding of the new hydration station being installed at the Boston trailhead.

Trail usage was up substantially this year as our friends and neighbors escaped to the outdoors. Our parking areas often were full all day, 7 days a week. I am especially proud of our volunteers who were able to continue supporting trail operations while following appropriate social distancing, face masks and personal safety. Without these dedicated volunteers, the trail would never have supported such heavy use this year.

Elizabeth Township Sewer Project

As I write this in mid-September bids have been received for a ~9 mile long Elizabeth Township sewer project that has been in design for over a decade. This sewer line will run along the trail between Dura Bond Bypass ~MP 129 and the treatment plant in Industry ~MP 120. **See our Webpage/Facebook for updates!**

Regional Trail Corporation (RTC), which owns the trail between Pittsburgh and Connellsville, has entered into an agreement with the township that will close the trail from October 15th, 2020 to hopefully no later than April 15th, 2021 as the new sewer line is constructed. The goal is to have the trail open by April 15th but there will be work continuing into May with cleanup, restoration and seeding. We are working closely with the RTC, and the township to post updates on our respective web sites (thebostontrail.com) and our **Face Book** pages.

While this offseason closing is unprecedented, it will bring significant water quality improvement to the Youghiogheny River and critical updates to the trail including improved drainage and a new riding surface over the entire project distance. Restoration work will not begin until planting season but by this time next year the trail should look great. Please be patient and look for updates in social media and local print outlets.

In closing

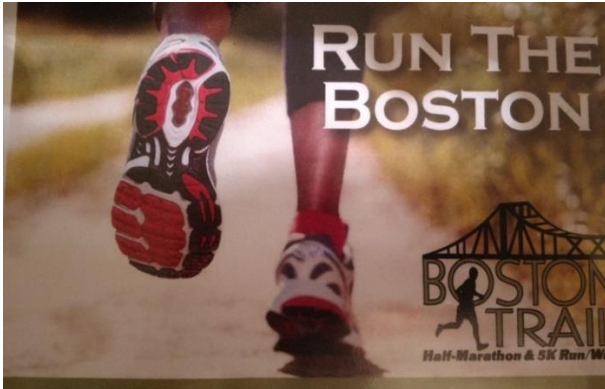
This is my 3rd year as President and under our by-laws the reigns of the organization will pass to another Board member in December for 2021. It has been a tremendous experience leading this organization over the past 3 years. We are blessed with a dedicated Corp of member volunteers and I thank them for their time, and their support. Many years ago, I was told when running for office in a volunteer organization that the #1 goal was do no harm. I hope that I have followed that path well. Working together I think we have accomplished a great deal and the organization remains on solid footing moving forward.

Save the Date

By Kathie Fawcett

The new rescheduled date is:
Saturday, June 5, 2021

Boston Trail Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk



We are always looking for volunteers to help with setting up, parking cars and cleaning up after the race.

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](https://runsignup.com) and for more information, go to [THEBOSTONTRAIL.COM](https://thebostontrail.com)

Save the Date

October 4, 2020

Note: Plans are in-work for a "POP-UP-Day" near the Visitor Center on **Sunday October 4** starting at 8:00 AM; we will have some tents set up with trail merchandise.

Trail riders continue to report that the Boston Visitor Center has the "best variety of shirts on the trail".

Boston Visitor Center

By Marei Burnfield

Well, the 2020 trail season is about over, and what a "ride" it has been. As many are aware, we decided early on during the pandemic to remain closed, not only due to restrictions, but out of concern for the health of everyone! We long to visit with our many friends and guests next year.

We are pleased, that even during a pandemic, generous



people have donated bikes in support of our seasonal bike collection drive that benefits Red Lantern Bike Shop. Thank you to the donors and to Gary Sedlacek, for transporting these four awesome bikes to the Red Lantern Bike Shop for our group.

Also, sincere thanks to member Linda Vota, who generously shares her sewing talent with us. Linda has sewn and donated many bike themed masks that we are selling for \$5 each with the profits benefiting ongoing trail maintenance. She also designs and donates the beautiful embroidered "toddler tees" we sell at the center when we are open for business!



If you are interested in purchasing a mask, toddler tee, or have an inquiry about merchandise, please feel free to contact Marei Burnfield, Visitor Center Chairperson, at 724-972-2278.

We look forward to 2021 and hope to be welcoming everyone in person again. Stay safe and healthy.

Trail Maintenance Update

By Tim Banfield

MYTC Partners with Olympus Energy for Campground Improvements

A volunteer crew from Olympus Energy lent a hand to MYTC on Friday, August 21. Thirteen volunteers turned out to complete some important tasks that needed attention at the campground at Dravo Cemetery. The campground, which is used by travelers on the "Great



Allegheny Passage" from around the world, has shelters, camp sites, restroom facilities,

picnic tables and access to the Youghiogheny River.

Work tasks completed by the volunteers included spreading wood chips around benches and along trails to river, doing some trimming of bushes/trees around the restroom facility, and cleanup/removal of dead trees throughout the campground, along with painting of a new bench along the trail. MYTC volunteers continued dead tree removal in the campground on Saturday, August 22, with help from the Dongilli family and friend who are local trail users.

MYTC supplied the tools and refreshments, while the dedicated crew spent a few hours out of their work day to get the tasks done. MYTC volunteers Greg Farrar, John Talaga and John Warhold helped coordinate the efforts.



Thanks again to Olympus Energy for their support of Mon/Yough Trail Council through sponsorship of the Boston Trail Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk along with taking the time to help out in the community.

Regular Work Sessions



MYTC holds regular work sessions during good weather on **Saturday, meeting at 8:00 AM**, at the end of Locust Grove Road along the trail in Greenock, about 2 miles upriver from the Boston Bridge.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the

newsletter, serve on committees and monitor the trails.

Membership News

Your response and support have been amazing! Thank you so much. Since we had to cancel our two fundraisers this year, we were worried about finances, but you pulled through. For the first time ever, according to Rich, we are 500 members plus. Many folks have also sent notes of gratitude for the maintenance crew and this has been encouraging for all of us volunteers. It is wonderful to see the trail busy with all ages, from small children learning to ride a bike to families walking together to thru riders to retired folks like Rich and myself.

If you would be willing to receive the newsletter through the email, please let me know. This does save time and expense. You can email me at mytcmembership@gmail.com to let me know.

Thanks again and we hope to see you on the trail.

Looking ahead, please be sure that we have **both** your home address and email address so that we can get the Milepost newsletter to you.

Candace and Rich



Welcome to all our new members!!!

Frances Yarger	
Rosalind Kendal	White Oak
Stanley Stein	Pittsburgh
Tae Min Hong	
Patrick Fox	
Robert Winners	Monroeville
Robert Urbaniak	Elizabeth
Les Holliday	
George Cann	
Robert Dolhi	McKeesport
Eagle Home Inspections	Greenock
Danielle Edwards	North Versailles
James Hardin	
Jeremy Hill	Harrison City
Paul Johnson	Allison Park
Heather Pavlik	White Oak
John Ragen	
Wm. C. Amos	Trafford
Joseph Gregor	McKeesport
Diane Healey	Munhall
Rose Lavelle	Irwin
Rick Marflak	White Oak
Daniel Natale	North Huntington
Ed Reynolds	Elizabeth
Harriet Scheiner	Pittsburgh
Scott Steffey	Sutersville
Guy Stofman	Oakmont
Elizabeth Yurchison	Elizabeth
Richard Keitel	
Bernard North	Greensburg
Jay Barry	Pittsburgh
Claudia Detwiler	Pittsburgh
Janine Bell	North Huntington
Sharon & Gerald Baur	East McKeesport
Cathy Bordner	Pittsburgh
John Bosco	North Versailles
Melinda Brown	Elizabeth
Juliann, Gregory Brzozowski	Bethel Park
Elaine Griffin	Pittsburgh
Linda Herward	Pittsburgh
Linda Kuhn	Jeannette
Bob Lasser	East Pittsburgh
Richard Roberts	Elizabeth
Michelle Snyder	McKeesport
Karen Verminski	Elizabeth
Dennis P. Farkosh	West Mifflin
Marcel Just	
David Cashmere	Pittsburgh
David Scatena	Cheswick
Lisa Vancheri	Monroeville
Erika Van Sickel	Pittsburgh
Aaron Mutimer	
Lisa Shiroma	Blacklick, OH

MTYC Receives Grant

MYTC receives 2020 American Water Charitable Foundation Grant.

CAMDEN N.J., (July 22, 2020) – The [American Water Charitable Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by [American Water](#), the nation's largest publicly traded water and wastewater utility company, today announced the recipients of the 2020 Keep Communities Flowing Grant Program awards. Twelve projects in eight states will be supported by grants totaling \$153,377.

“The American Water Charitable Foundation is proud to support communities served by American Water to directly enhance local environmental and sustainability efforts through the Foundation’s Keep Communities Flowing Grant Program,” said Carrie Williams, president of the American Water Charitable Foundation. “Through the Program, we fund high impact projects and initiatives that further American Water’s ongoing commitment to being a good neighbor and steward of the environment.”

The Keep Communities Flowing Grant Program was developed in 2019 by the American Water Charitable Foundation to support communities served by American Water with community-focused projects that directly improve the quality of life for residents and the surrounding ecosystems. The Program provides grants up to \$20,000 to support 501(c)(3) organizations, programs and projects that connected to one or more of American Water’s core focus areas of Water and the Environment, Water and Healthy Living, Environmental Education, and Community Sustainability.

The 2020 grant recipients, which are located throughout American Water’s service areas across the nation, include the following:

- **Mon/Yough Trail Council**, McKeesport, PA received \$19,200 to purchase a hydration station for installation on a major trailhead located along an 11-mile portion of the Great Allegheny Passage.



Grantees for this program required a local American Water sponsor (**the Elizabeth, PA Operations Center and Marei Burnfield -MYTC Director**) and were selected based on criteria including clarity of project goals and projected impact, innovation and strength of project, and evidence of community and volunteer engagement.

Junebug's

A Reminder of Sutersville's Historic Past

By Bob Cupp

Back in the days when there was plenty of work in the local coal mines, one of Sutersville's most popular spots was the Osburn House Hotel, now known as Junebug's, a popular local restaurant and bar. The hotel was built by Matthew Osburn, who later became one of the new borough's first councilmen.

Osburn labored in all kinds of occupations. He was a driver for the Westmoreland Coal Company's mines for some time, and in 1862, became Superintendent of the Y. C. H. Coal Company's mines along the B. & O. Railroad. After many years' service with that company, in 1880, he became the Inspector of Cars for the B. & O.

In 1883, he opened a hotel in Smithton, but the following year, according to the Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Westmoreland County, he built "one of the best hotels in the county" in Sutersville. "The Osburn House is a fine, conspicuous frame building, 40 by 80 feet in dimensions, four stories in height, and is well-arranged and completely furnished throughout for the comfort and accommodations of its many patrons. Mr. Osburn understands his business and the cuisine and bill of fare are equal to those of a first-class city hotel."

During Sutersville's heyday, the crowds overflowed from the Osburn House and the other hotels in town, making Saturday nights one big street party in Sutersville. Out-of-town businessmen would take the train to Sutersville, check into the Osburn, rent a horse and buggy at the nearby livery stable and call on clients. The trains would come almost to the hotel's front door.



Sutersville is much quieter now, although freight trains continue to rumble through town on a regular basis, day and night. With the passing of time, the

hotel is long gone - but the building remains active, occupied for many years by Junebug's Restaurant and Bar. It's one of the oldest buildings in town, topped with apartments now instead of hotel rooms.

Andrasto Casoni was the "Junebug" for whom the business was named. He was the longtime manager of

the business named after him. He was succeeded in that capacity by his daughter, Libby Boden.

I fondly recall stopping at Junebug's with some MYTC friends for some liquid refreshments after late evening bike rides, before the Yough River Trail was completely built. Those were the "good old days" for me. But then any day is a good day....along the Yough River Trail.

References:

- (1) Tribune-Review Focus Magazine 07-28-02, Sutersville: Small-Time Life Resides Beside River and Rail, By Gerard De Flitch
- (2) Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1890, John M. Gresham & Co., Philadelphia

Editor's Note: At the restaurant we talked with Brandy Kenders, Andrasto Casoni's granddaughter, asking how he got the nickname "Junebug". She related he was born in Blythedale and was a large (~14 pounds) baby. His parents (from Italy) spoke broken English, called him Junior and often pushed him (because of his size) in a buggy. So people called him "junior-in-a-buggy"; shortened to Junebug!

Keeping the Trail Tidy

By Jeff Pavetti

As you may know, MYTC maintains nearly 15 miles of the Great Allegheny Passage on a 100% volunteer basis. In 2020, we successfully recruited a small group of volunteers who have adopted a mile or two of the Trail for periodic litter pickup and removal. Special thanks to George Cann, who immediately adopted a mile of trail after joining the MYTC this July.

Other MYTC volunteers who kept the Trail clean this year included Marei Burnfield, Jeff Pavetti as well as the crew at the Maintenance Shop.

We hope that you will consider joining us in 2021. Please contact Jeff Pavetti at jeffpavetti@gmail.com or call 724-527-1866 for details.

Social media sites for Mon/Yough Trail.

Facebook



WebPage-www.thebostontrail.com

Memorials along the Trail

As you ride along the MYTC portion of the GAP, you are sure to notice the memorial benches. There are 35 (+ 2 covered picnic tables) along our section. We plan to list them all in a future newsletter issue.



If you are interested in purchasing one, the cost is \$450. (6" x 4" bronze plaque) or \$500. (9" x 4" bronze plaque).

MYTC agrees to maintain them for 10 years.

Contact Tim Banfield at tbanfie@comcast.net for more information.

Special thanks for the recent gifts in memory of:

Paul Haurilesko

Larry Nelson
Cliff and Cora Rein
Evan Novosel and Cheryl Desure
Anonymous
Beth Leon
Level Green Lions Club
Mrs. Marybeth Colbaugh
Paula Haurilesko

Rich Carl

John and Christine Considine
Michael Kuglar
Linda Metz
Jo Anne Carl
Judy Filipowski Insurance Services, LLC



Trail Signs



Note Note Note

Because of COVID-19, the Annual Membership Meeting (with refreshments only) will be held during our regular November Meeting.

Please email Kathy Banfield (kderdich@gmail.com) if attending to help us prepare seating and refreshments

November 12 7:00 PM Greenock Fire Hall

Elections will be held at this meeting

Nominations accepted prior and at meeting

BALLOT

Ballots may be mailed if unable to attend -
Mon/Yough Trail Council PO Box 14 McKeesport, PA 15135

Board of Directors – Nominations:

Vote for maximum of 4

- ☐ **Cathy Bartley**
 - Board member since 2018
 - Chairs the Trail Monitoring Committee
 - Retired small business owner
- ☐ **Candace Cook**
 - Chairs the Membership Committee
 - Retired Presbyterian Minister
 - Member of RTC Fundraising Committee
- ☐ **Eileen Lenart**
 - Board member 2017-2019
 - Chaired the Membership Committee
 - Retired real estate professional
 - Retired USAF Colonel
- ☐ **John Warhold**
 - Trail maintenance volunteer for MYTC/WYRT
 - Responsible for signage and bench maintenance
 - Retired restaurant operations and management
- ☐ _____

Please verify that "write in" candidates are willing to accept the nomination and are eligible to serve.

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.

2020 Officers

President

Mark Place

Vice President

John Eisenbarth

Treasurer

Adrian Marini

Secretary

Mary Reid

Directors

2018 - 2020

Cathy Bartley
Marei Burnfield
Mary Reid
Charlie Smith

2019 - 2021

Sarah Helzlsouer
Mark Place
Linda Vota
Terry Vota

2020-2022

Tim Banfield
John Eisenbarth
Kathie Fawcett
Rich Kundman
Adrian Marini

Meetings

You are welcome to attend informative monthly meetings, held **7:00 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.

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



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Mon/Yough Trail Council
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McKeesport, PA 15135
www.TheBostonTrail.com

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*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 Health Network/Jefferson Hospital
 Allegheny Land Trust
 Allegheny Regional Asset District
 American Water Charitable Foundation
 Basic Carbide
 Bekavac Funeral Home
 Bour Associates
 Chevron Humankind Program
 Crawford Foundation
 Driscoll and Sons Café
 Eagle Home Inspections
 Gary and Mary Anne Sedlacek Fund of the
 Pittsburgh Foundation
 Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory
 Howell Craft Inc.
 Olympus Energy
 Klingensmith Insurance Agency
 Levin Furniture
 Mary E. Cole Fund of the Pittsburgh
 Foundation
 8 McKeesport Hospital Foundation



Northwest Savings Bank-Elizabeth Branch
 NuGo Nutrition
 PA American Water Company
 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 Elizabeth Companies
 The Embroidery People
 The UPS Store—White Oak
 Trailside Treasures
 Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh
 Foundation
 Travelers Insurance
 Yough Twister

