

The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

May 2021

Volume 30, Issue 1

Trail Is Open !!

From the President

By Tim Banfield

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I will be serving as President of MYTC in 2021 and look forward to an exciting year for a number of reasons.

First, Mon/Yough Trail Council (MYTC) will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2021. The group got its start in June 1991 when it was formally organized to promote the conversion of the rail corridor along the Youghiogheny River into a multi-use trail. MYTC has been working since then to perform its mission of developing, maintaining, repairing, restoring, beautifying and promoting its portion of the Great Allegheny Passage along the Youghiogheny River from the 15th ST Bridge in Port Vue through Liberty, Lincoln and Elizabeth Township to the Allegheny County/Westmoreland County line in Elizabeth Township. MYTC will be recognizing this anniversary throughout the year at our events and activities.

Trail Events

Second, after the challenging year 2020, as we all have dealt with the effects of COVID-19, MYTC plans to resume its major fundraising events - The Boston Trail Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, June 5 along with the Yough "N" Roll Bike Ride on Saturday, September 18. Community Appreciation Day is also planned in conjunction with the Yough "N" Roll on September 18. MYTC's Visitor Center at Boston will also be re-opening while keeping social distancing consistent with COVID-19 protocols. Look for more details on MYTC events in this issue of the Milepost and updates posted on our website at thebostontrail.com.

Trail Status

Also, as highlighted in the October 2020 issue of The Milepost, the trail has been closed since November

2020 for installation of a sewer line that runs along the trail between Deadman's Hollow ~GAP Mile 129 and the Elizabeth Township treatment plant in Industry ~GAP Mile 120. Your patience will be appreciated as the finishing touches on this project are being completed and this section of the trail should be re-opening as this issue goes to press. Further construction activity at the Boston Trail Head is expected throughout 2021 as the next phase of this project involves expansion of the pump station there. A special Thank You goes out to Mark Place, MYTC Director and immediate past president, who served as MYTC's liaison to the project team and spent many hours providing input so that the trail was restored as planned."

As noted later in the Newsletter, additional bike repair stations have been installed at Twele Field and Dravo Campsite with another planned for Sutersville.

Thanks to everyone for their support of MYTC

I want to take this opportunity to thank MYTC's outgoing officers – President Mark Place, Vice-President John Eisenbarth, and Secretary Mary Reid along with departing directors Marei Burnfield and Charlie Smith for their outstanding service over the past three years (and longer). Join me in welcoming board members Cathy Bartley, Candace Cook, Eileen Lenart and John Warhold, who all will be starting a 3-year term in 2021.

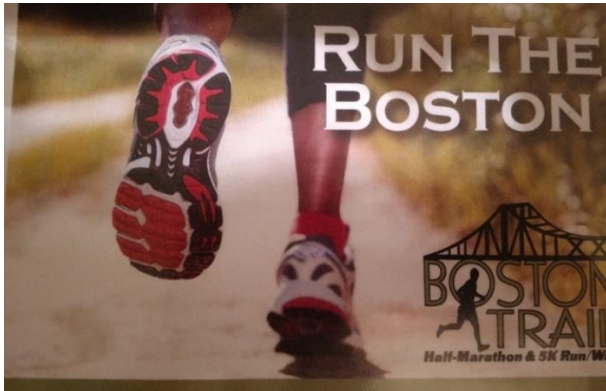
MYTC's dedicated corps of volunteers is the foundation of the organization and key to its continued success. In 2020 these volunteers persevered through the challenges of COVID-19 and logged at least 4,000 hours in various tasks. The support of our membership is also key to the organization's efforts, and I want to thank all those who have recently renewed their membership for 2021 along with thanking everyone who volunteered in one way or another in 2020.

Save the Date

By Kathie Fawcett

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)**

We are "capping" the number of runners at 500 this year; so if you are interested, don't delay!



By Kathy Banfield / Candace Cook



Saturday, September 18, 2021

- Yough "N" Roll
- Community Appreciation Day
- 30 Year Anniversary Celebration

Yough "N" Roll

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. 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. Brochures will be mailed to past participants and you can register on our website; www.thebostontrail.com

Community Appreciation Day / 30 Year Anniversary Celebration

This will be a special celebration of the Mon/Yough Trail Council's 30th anniversary. It will begin on Saturday, September 18 at 11:00 AM at the Visitors Center in Boston, following the 20- and 40-mile Yough "N" Roll bike ride. In addition to the free hot dogs, snacks and refreshments, there will be games and prizes and fun activities for the children.

Some local elected officials are planning to attend.

Everyone is welcome!

Boston Visitor Center

By Marei Burnfield

We are pleased to announce that on Friday, June 11, 2021, the Boston Trailhead Visitor Center will be reopening for the 2021 season. We look forward to welcoming our friends and guests from near and far.

To protect the health of our volunteer staff and guests, we will be applying social distancing policies on the deck and inside the center itself. Masks will be required and there will be a limit of two people permitted inside at a time.

Inside you will find a new selection of kid's tees, ladies scarves, bicycle themed socks and facemasks in addition to our popular adult tees. In honor of our 30th



anniversary year, we are bringing back some of our most popular tees from previous seasons. You will also be able to purchase official GAP merchandise and GAP Trail Guides.

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

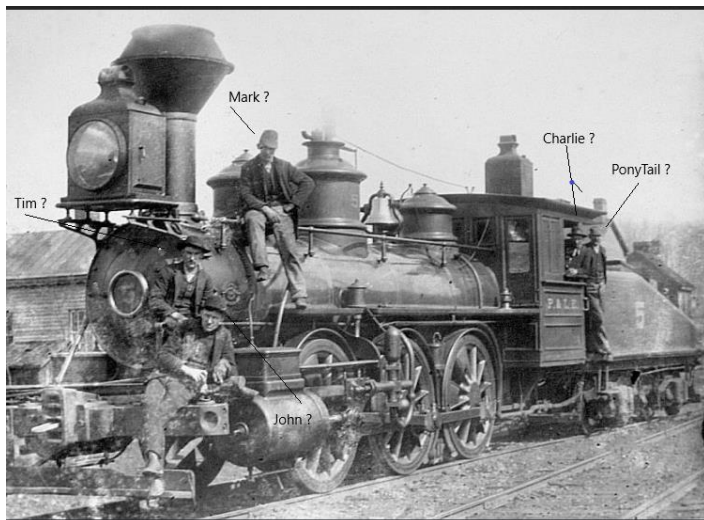
We are, again this season, collecting used bicycles to donate to the Red Lantern Bike Shop. To continue with our 30th anniversary theme, we have set a goal of collecting thirty used bicycles this season. If you have or know of any bicycles needing refurbished and rehomed, please consider donating them.

As I pen this, our planned days and hours of operation will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8 am – 12pm. However, depending on volunteer availability, you most likely will find staff there during the week. We will update our hours and days via our Facebook page once we are up and running!!!

For questions regarding visitor center hours and days of operation, volunteering, donating bicycles or anything else pertaining to the center, please feel free to contact Marei Burnfield at 724-972-2278.

A Little MYTC History

138 years ago, The Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad, which ran from Pittsburgh to Youngstown, extended the rail line from McKeesport to Connellsville.



The trains carried coal, coke and steel to and from the steel mills. In 1982, the last mine along this section of the track closed. In 1990, the P&LE filed to abandon the line, but instead the right-of-way was acquired for trail development, and the tracks were soon removed and replaced with a crushed limestone trail surface.

30 years ago, the Mon/Yough Trail Council was formed to help create and oversee the multipurpose



PhotoScan by Google Photos

use of this portion of trail, known locally as the Boston Trail.

Today it is

a part of the Great Allegheny Passage trail that connects Pittsburgh with Cumberland, Maryland. At Cumberland, the GAP trail then connects with the C&O Canal Towpath, which goes into Washington, D.C. The trail is the best possible reclamation of the land that was the legacy of the 19th century railways and steel industry.

Membership News

Thanks to our members for your encouragement.

Comments received include:

- "In light of the critical role the trail has played in allowing us to get outside and move around during the pandemic and with the spring cycling season on the horizon, I thought it was time for a donation that truly reflects the importance of the trail and the work you do to maintain it."
- "Thank you for the wonderful job you do."
- "Thank you! Love the trail."
- "Thank you for such a wonderful maintained trail. We enjoy every time we ride!"
- "Thank you for all your hard work: for keeping the trail looking beautiful." "Please keep up the good work"

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.

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.

Welcome to all our new members!!!

Leslie Cole	McKeesport
Ronald Jackson	McKeesport
Thomas R Kalka	Pittsburgh
Joe Noblick	N. Huntington
David Otroba	McKeesport
Stephanie Walsh	McKeesport
Wen Xie	Pittsburgh
Thomas Wagner	Pittsburgh
Sue Biddle	Elizabeth
James & Kristen Kubes	Elizabeth
Ken Carr	McKeesport
Andrew Mor	Pittsburgh
Steven A. Dytman	Pittsburgh
Siddharth Pant, Andrea Dimartini	Pittsburgh
Joe Crosett	Pittsburgh
Elsa Limbach	Pittsburgh
Betsy and Tom Plietz	Pittsburgh
Larry Walsh	Confluence
Jamie Uy	
Sally Love	
Sam & Kathryn Hens-Greco	Pittsburgh
Nora Johnson	Pittsburgh
Dr. Kevin Ryan	McKeesport
Carl Schunk	McKeesport
Steve Perekiszka	Pittsburgh

Mary Anne Broskey	Pittsburgh
Stephanie Helsel	
Michael Bertoty	N. Versailles
Susan Bertoty	N. Versailles
Frederick Cullen	Elizabeth
Ron and Caren Donaldson	Export
Mary Jane Elsesser	N. Huntinger
Rebecca Gaugler	Pittsburgh
Lauri Frederick	Sandy Lake
Pam Moore	Pittsburgh
Jane and Frank Pascarella	Monongahela
John P Resnik	Elizabeth
Jackie Smith	Pittsburgh
Pamela Stetor	McKeesport
Stefano Fina	McKeesport
Jim, Debbie Boughner	McKeesport
Roy Bires	Pittsburgh
Helmet Thompson	N. Huntington
Linda Arnold	Greenock
Steve Tomkowitz	

As members of the Mon/Yough Trail Council, you contribute to the future of the trail and you encourage the volunteers to keep up the good work.

A BIG welcome to our 45 new members- so glad to have you on board! For those of you have renewed your membership, we are very grateful for your continued support.

Thanks **so much** for being on this adventure with us.

Candace and Rich



Keeping the Trail Tidy

By Jeff Pavetti

Many of our visitors are surprised to learn that our Trail Council maintains 15 miles of the Great Allegheny Passage on a 100 % volunteer basis.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who make a commitment to periodically pick up litter along the Trail. In 2020, those volunteers included Kathy Banfield, Joanna Stewart, Lois Verminski, George Cann, Marei Burnfield and Jeff Pavetti.

We would like to welcome you as a new volunteer this year, for as little or as much time as fits your schedule.

You can set your own hours—we only ask that you commit to walk your designated area at least once a month from May to October.

Please contact Jeff Pavetti at jeffpavetti@gmail.com or call 724-527-1866 to learn more or to sign up.

Elizabeth Township Sanitary Sewer Project

By Mark Place

This project was conceived almost 15 years ago to eliminate stormwater being discharged into the Youghiogheny River in Industry and Buena Vista during storm events. Rather than expanding the existing undersized and aging treatment facility, the



agreement with PADEP required the township to pump the storm and wastewater ~9.5 miles to the updated McKeesport sewer system. Engineering studies determined that the most cost effective way to convey

the sewage was to pump the sewage through new 16" and 30" pipes installed in a right of way along the trail.

Negotiations between the Township and Regional Trail Corporation with input from MYTC began in 2019. A multi-



year agreement was signed in 2020 and construction began in late November 2020 with the substantial completion being April 29, 2021, a very fast schedule.

As part of this agreement, various projects were undertaken to preserve and restore the trail. All trail drains in

the work area were cleaned or replaced. Many of these drains were installed by the railroad over 125 years ago.

22 slides areas were addressed, some requiring thousands of tons of stone to ensure that the new sewer was protected and that the trail and the sewer did not



slide into the river. To minimize the trail closure time,

the contractors were permitted to use the trail as access to the work areas. Because of that damage to the trail surface, the entire work area received a new riding surface mostly compacted #10 limestone.

New gates and bollards were also specified and should provide years of service. 2021 is the 30th anniversary of MYTC and we think you will find the trail in the best shape ever. From the 12" deep mud of



winter to the new grass coming in, it has been an interesting 6 months! We will have more pictures on display at the Visitor's Center

for the Community Appreciation Day September 18th. And now to our beautiful trail ready to enjoy for another 30 years....

New Bike Repair Stations

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor



and the GAP Conservancy, we received two new bike repair stations last Fall. Each of these high quality units features a full size tire pump, a repair stand and many tools needed to do basic repairs and tire changes. One unit has been mounted at the shelter across from the

Twele Road parking lot and the other has been mounted near the well pump at the Dravo Cemetery/Queen Aliquippa Campground. These two stations join our first station located next to the Boston Visitor's Center boxcar. A 4th station will be installed at the Sutersville parking lot in coming weeks.



Maintenance Committee News

By Mark Place

Since Tim's report in the Fall Edition, our work maintaining and repairing the trail and maintenance equipment has continued following the applicable COVID safety protocols. Our core volunteers spent many a cold or snowy Saturday in the shop preparing equipment for the 2021 season. With roughly ½ of our 15 miles closed from November through May our focus has been on the trail South of Industry (MM120), completion of a major erosion control project just North of St David Street gate in Greenock and on the final repairs to the slide damage on the Dura Bond Bypass (MM 129).

Bids were taken this Spring for repair or replacement of multiple drains and swale restoration to provide better drainage. Our drain master Rich Kundman will be working with the low bidder-Elizabeth Equipment. Tim Banfield handled the bid process.

After major slide repairs in 2019 from the 2018 wet weather we were advised to let the many hundreds of



stone settle for a year before resurfacing. With COVID, that stretched to two years. Bids were taken for the resurfacing this Spring and DUN-Rite Construction

was the low bidder. Additional work was authorized when adjacent paving was found to be failing. New safety fence will be installed in coming weeks.

Bids were also taken for repair of a major erosion problem endangering the trail. That work included over 100 feet on bank stabilization and was completed by the low bidder, Blaha Excavating, in advance of the sewer line work.

These projects were funded with a grant from Allegheny County Regional Asset District, multiple grants and bequests supporting trails and generous member donations in all totaling nearly \$50,000. Special thanks to Generation Stoneworks, a family owned architectural limestone company in Boston, who donated many, many tons of recycled limestone for our trail projects. Thank You!

Trail grooming has started where we left off in 2020 in Industry by our Saturday team. The trail has been returned to the full 10' width and rolled to Red Falls. Work will continue in May as we complete work

through to the gate in Smithdale.

Volunteers interested in maintaining all aspects of the trail are always welcome.

Regular Work Sessions

MYTC holds regular work sessions during good weather



on **Saturday, meeting at 7:30 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.

As noted in the President's letter, our volunteers donated over 4000 hours last year; please come and help!

Social Media Sites

Facebook



WebPage-www.thebostontrail.com

We have also established:

- A **PayPal Account** that can be used via our website for on-line transactions.
- A **Square Account** that can be used at the Visitor Center for transactions.

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.

2021 Officers

President

Tim Banfield

Vice President

Kathie Fawcett

Treasurer

Adrian Marini

Secretary

Sarah Helzlsouer

Directors

2019 - 2021

Sarah Helzlsouer

Mark Place

Linda Vota

Terry Vota

2020-2022

Tim Banfield

John Eisenbarth

Kathie Fawcett

Rich Kundman

Adrian Marini

2021-2023

Cathy Bartley

Candace Cook

Eileen Lenart

John Warhold

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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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 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
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Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory
Howell Craft Inc.
Hufnagel Excavating
Olympus Energy
Klingensmith Insurance Agency
Levin Furniture
8 Mary E. Cole Fund of the Pittsburgh
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McKeesport Hospital Foundation
NuGo Nutrition
PA American Water Company
Petkanics Charitable Fund
Pozzuto Auto—White Oak
R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware
Rich's Parkside Den
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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
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