

The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

October 2021

Volume 30, Issue 2

Election Ballot and Annual Banquet/Membership Meeting Information – Page 6!

15,768,000..... Minutes
262,800..... Hours
10,950..... Days
1,560..... Weeks
360 Months
3Decades

30 Years!!! & Counting

Boston, PA, Elizabeth Township – Saturday September 18th

The sun shined brightly on the Mon/Yough Trail Council's 30th Anniversary celebration. It seems like not THAT long ago, those pioneer volunteers were picking up trash and debris, clearing weeds and brush (with an occasional bee sting or bout of poison ivy) and doing whatever was necessary to get things ready. Ready to proceed with the plans to help build a seven mile corridor of the Great Allegheny Passage from Boston to Buena Vista. A dream it seemed, that in 1991, was awakened and put into motion! Unlike today, there were no benches, no maintenance headquarters, no visitor's center, no campground, no railroad car on display, no equipment like tools, trucks, mowers, tractors or anything...only People! Like-minded people with a vision.

Now 30 years later, ALL the volunteers from then until now, without forgetting those who we've lost along the way, can look around with pride to see SO MUCH accomplished! Now, with over 500 current members and a band of brothers and sisters that give their time and talents, the MYTC is on solid ground and will continue as a "World Class" asset to its adjoining communities. We should keep it polished and be proud of this jewel for the generations to come.

Thanks to ALL that made this vision a reality and especially to those who continue to make it shine and

flourish. You SHOULD be proud and you know what...???

It was worth all..... 946,080,000 seconds of it!!!
Long, Healthy & Happy Trails By Ken Medved

Naming the Great Allegheny Passage

Edited by T.Vota from Tribune Review – March 28, 2021

The task of naming the network of trails stretching from Pittsburgh to Cumberland was brought up at an initial planning meeting in the mid-1990s. Ideas were thrown out, but naming something that didn't yet exist took a backseat to the actual work, Linda McKenna Boxx said. "Let's see if we can actually build the trail and see if the name appears," she said.

Well they built it, and back came that pesky missing piece. In 2001 at the Confluence Community Center in Somerset County, dozens of volunteers gathered to finally settle on a name.

Boxx, who was leading the effort, said there were 40 or 50 potential monikers for the former rail line turned trail system. Many had the word "Allegheny" in them. Bob McKinley, who was trail manager for the Regional Trail Corp. at the time, suggested the name have the word "passage" in it. "Passage really had a strong resonance with everybody," Boxx recalled.

Another volunteer, Bill Metzger, proposed adding the word "great", which he thought would make a nice acronym and logo, she said.

There it was – the Great Allegheny Passage

The decision 20 years ago still stands for a hardworking group of volunteers then and now, as well as the millions who use the trail system.

"We've gotten a lot of great compliments on the name because it makes people want to do it. It's like an adventure", Boxx said.

MYTC Appreciation Day / 30 Year Celebration

By Candace Cook

September 18 was a day of appreciation- for our community, our donors and for all who helped the trail become what it is today. We had a good time, too. My friend Ellen made balloon animals for children AND adults. Every so often we could hear a balloon pop and Ellen would quickly make a replacement.



The basket raffle was a big hit and BIG thanks to Rose who got us gift cards from local businesses. The donors included: Sager Mosaics, Bill's

Golfland, Grand Central Pizza, Dollar General, Carriage Inn, The Trailside, Williams Ace Hardware, Warhold Plumbing, Heating and A/C, Zak's Bike Shop, REI and board members and trail members. Thank you so much!

Another big hit was the "bike" wheel of fortune which Rich made from a bike wheel and a TV stand. Trail members Adrienne & Chris were wonderful at getting folks to spin the wheel and win a prize. No one could walk away without winning something.



GAP author, Bill (don't call him Bruce) Metzger joined us and signed copies of his newest book, "The Great Allegheny Passage Companion". Next to him was railroad conductor Rich Kundman who passed out train hats and whistles to children. A lot of good stories were shared around their table.



And that was not all! Plenty of local organizations joined us: Metal/Industrial artist, Dan Piesik Live Music with Natalie and Andy Gregg Elizabeth Township Historical Society Beehive Coke Oven Historian, Mike Mance

Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center
Rivers of Steel History Center



Garden Club of McKeesport
Costa RicArt, Ricardo Solis
Deadend Diner food truck
Black Market catering and
handmade beef jerky.

What a day it was!!! We appreciate everyone who made it a very special day.

Keeping the Trail Tidy

By Jeff Pavetti

Our Trail "Team Clean" had a very successful year in keeping the Trail tidy. Collectively, we logged 108 plus hours in removing trash and litter from the Trail and surrounding areas. A final report and tabulation of hours will be made as of the end of October.

Volunteers who assisted this year include Kathy Banfield, Joanna Stewart, George Cann, Jeff Kruzic, Marei Burnfield, Taylor Reeping and Jeff Pavetti. Special thanks go out to a Community Service contingent of students from Elizabeth Forward High School, who assisted with trash removal from the high banks of the Yough River. Our newest volunteer Jeff Kruzic has patrolled the Sutersville to Westmoreland County line and has cleaned up some chronic trash dumping sites along this stretch of the Trail.

Also thanks to Elizabeth Township Commissioner Kyle Walk for coordinating the placement of wheeled dumpsters in the Boston parking lot.

We invite you to join us next season as a volunteer trash and litter picker on the Trail. Please contact Jeff Pavetti at jeffpavetti@gmail.com for details.

Social media sites for Mon/Yough Trail.

Facebook



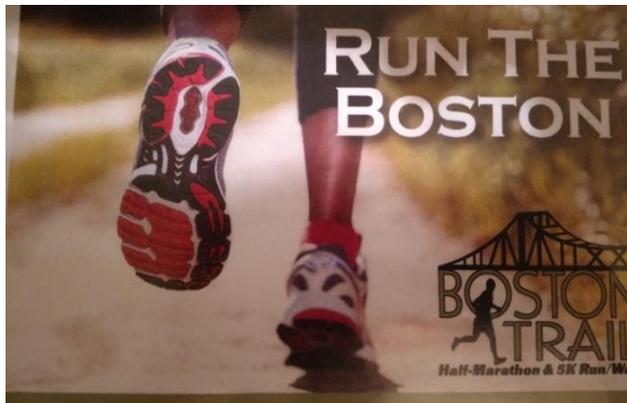
WebPage-www.thebostontrail.com

MYTC has also established a **PayPal Account** that can be used via our website for membership renewals.

Marathon/5K

By Kathie Fawcett

Boston Trail Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk



After COVID-19 and the Elizabeth Township sewage project in 2020. We were back on track with our race for this year. On Saturday, June 5th, 2021 on a beautiful, hot and humid day our

race went forward. With much excitement and eagerness from the racers to ALL the volunteers in getting back outside and enjoying the great outdoors!

We had a wonderful turn out with 480 racers ready to run or walk down our wonderful trail. Thanks to Pennsylvania American Water for the “water buffalo” which helped in keeping everyone hydrated; along with Olympus Energy who gave out mini Gatorades. At our big tent, Jefferson Hospital staff helped with registration and getting the snacks ready, along with Jefferson Hospital Physical Therapy department in helping to stretch individuals before and after the race.

To ALL of the volunteers and sponsors who helped with our event this year – THANK YOU!!

Everyone had a great time and on the behalf of the Mon/Yough Trail Council, we look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Save the Date – Saturday April 23, 2022

WWW.RUNSIGNUP.COM WWW.THEBOSTONTRAIL.COM

Yough-n-Roll

By Kathy Banfield

On Saturday, September 18, the Mon/Yough Trail Council held their 27th Yough-n-Roll Bike Ride and 30th Anniversary of our trail group. It was a beautiful day and we had a nice turnout. There were a lot of riders and guests that stopped by for the ride and our 30th Anniversary celebration. Our master griller, George Sievern, grilled a record 264 hot dogs!

There were 20 or 40 mile trail rides. The 20 mile ride turned at Sutersville, and the 40 mile ride turned at Cedar Creek. There were rest stops with drinks and snacks at Dravo Cemetery and Cedar Creek. Hot dogs and snacks were provided at the end of the ride.



We would like to thank all the participants and volunteers that helped support the ride. 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
Warhold Plumbing, Heating & A/C
R. C. Walter & Sons Hardware
Howell Craft, Inc.
Paul E. Bekavac Funeral Home
Gilbert Funeral Home & Crematory
Yough Twister
Klingensmith Insurance Agency
Trailside Treasures
Zak's Bicycle Shop
The Embroidery People

Boston Visitor Center

By Marei Burnfield – Visitor Center Chairperson

2021 - Season of Gratitude

Without mentioning an all too familiar word, we were pleased that we were able to reopen with precautions in place, for the 2021 trail season.



Trail visitors were once again signing our journal, pinning our map, posing for pictures and purchasing merchandise to support ongoing trail maintenance. Since reopening June 11,

and as of October 2, 2021, volunteers have welcomed guests from 42 states, DC, and International guests from Switzerland, Israel, England and Austria.

We are delighted to report that our used bike collection drive was a success! 30 bikes were generously donated, refurbished and rehomed.



Thanks to all who contacted

us to arrange for pickup or delivery of their donation.

A special thanks to Gary Sedlacek for transporting the donations to the Red Lantern Bike Shop.

On a personal note, I'd like to extend sincere thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers. Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting them. Please thank Jeff and Dianne Pavetti, Terry and Linda Vota, Tony Indovina and Bill Hall when you see them staffing the visitor center.

Until May 2022, wishing everyone happy and safe trails.

Trail Maintenance Update

By Tim Banfield-President
& Mark Place-Chair



MYTC Partners with Olympus Energy

A dozen Olympus Energy employees came out to the Boston Trail Access for a day of

service on Thursday, July 15, and completed some important tasks that needed attention at the largest trail access for the Great Allegheny Passage in Elizabeth Township. Multiple projects were undertaken including

staining the fence by the visitor center, painting the toilet building, and painting parking lot lines, and some weed whacking. MYTC supplied the paint, tools and refreshments, while the dedicated crew spent a few hours out of their work day to get the tasks done. MYTC volunteers Rich Kundman, Jeff Pavetti and Tim Banfield helped coordinate the efforts. MYTC volunteer Greg Farrar also helped out by power washing the toilet building to prepare it for painting. 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.

Your volunteer maintenance team members have again been busy this year. In the Spring while we were waiting for the sewer project to be finished, we focused on trail grooming South of Industry for several weeks. Grooming takes the trail back to at least 10' wide by removing grass on the edges and also levels and compacts the surface. This work takes a crew of 8-10 volunteers about 4 hours to complete only 500 feet.



We were able to complete work at the slide area on the Dura-Bond Bypass. Paving and drainage work was completed in April followed by guideposts and then wooden posts and wire fence. Thanks to The Gap Conservancy for their financial support on this project.

Weekly trail mowing commenced in late April and continues to be a weekly item. We have a great team of volunteers that use a combination of 5 tractors and riding mowers as well as push mowers and multiple string trimmers to keep the trail, Visitors Center, campground, and parking areas looking great.

Other work like sign painting/repairs, equipment service, and more continues year round. If you would like to join a great group of about 20 volunteers, we have both weekday and Saturday teams.



Lastly, when you see trail maintenance vehicles and crews on the trail please be alert to signs, flaggers, and power equipment. If the ground is soft, we cannot always move over safely so please yield if at all possible.

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

Candace and Rich 

Welcome to all our new members!!!

Harry Bauman	Mary Jo Houston
Brian Graper	Paul Cindric
Roy and Connie Bires	Ray Burns
Sharon Burns	Janet Amato
Valerie Nance	Vincent Grabe
Todd Reidbord	Mary Thorn
Copacetic Comics Company	John Genna
Dean Johnson	Lila Sedlak
Francesann Trimble	Douglas Baker
Carl DiGuseppe	Susan English
Joan Maser	Eleanor Mayfield
Rachel Sager Mosaics	John Dombrowski
Beverly Rudeen	Levin furniture
Thomas Aaron	Leonard Evans
Bob Forman	Susan Lieber
Mike and Deb MacAllister	Dawn McLaughlin
Elizabeth Russell	Daniel Simone
Robert Payne	James Roberson
Bryan Routledge	Ken Ball
Marjorie Cronin	Mark Fallon
James & Lisa Fleckenstein	Brien A. Hranics
Dan and Jean Jackson	Renee Stephens
Daniel and Trisha Tolman	Mike Tomkowski
Seth Tuthill, Claire Huebner	Laura Wholey
Barb and Tom Manning	Joyce Wasserman
George Gray	

We have been busy keeping up with all of the new members and more than two thirds of members who have renewed and we are thrilled! Thanks so much. Looking back over thirty years of the "Boston Trail", it is the members who have brought us this far and we look forward to a long future with you. Thank you.

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



Rich and I have also been busy with a new granddaughter. We apologize if the thank you cards have been delayed. Here she is: a future GAP Cyclist! (Thanks to Terry and Linda for the shirt)

Hydration Station Dedication

As this Milepost issue goes to press, MYTC and several local elected officials helped dedicate the Hydration Station at the Boston Trail Access on Friday, October 8.



The station was provided by American Water Charitable Foundation's 2020 Keep Communities Flowing grant and Pennsylvania-American Water. Special thanks to Hufnagel Excavating for donating installation services and Elizabeth Township for paying the water bill.

Invasive Plants

By Kathie Fawcett

One of the most dangerous would be the "Giant Hogweed." This massive plant can cause severe reaction when brush up against it, and any exposed skin can be sensitive to UV rays. Contact with the eyes causes temporary to permanent blindness.



STEMS

Thick, hollow, green with purple spots, coarse hairs and up to 4 in. in diameter

IF SAP CONTACTS SKIN – wash immediately with soap/water and keep skin out of sunlight for several days.

IF YOU GET SAP IN YOUR EYE, rinse with water, wear sunglasses and seek immediate medical attention.

TO REMOVE PLANT – Before flowers go to seed, carefully cut plants back and dispose. Don't use string trimmers. Cut taproot at least 6 inches below the soil to kill the plant. If hogweed returns, herbicides can be used. Spray in Spring and in Fall before flowers begin. Herbicide options:

- Glyphosate will kill any plant that comes in contact
- Triclopyr is selective and won't harm grasses



Giant hogweed
Heracleum mantegazzianum
6 to 18 ft. tall

Annual Membership Meeting / Banquet

Your attendance is requested!

Maintaining Mon/Yough Trail Council's section of the Great Allegheny Passage along the Yough River requires membership support!

Come out to learn about accomplishments from this past year!

Show your support and enjoy the evening on Saturday November 13, 2021 – Butlers Golf Course Banquet Hall

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Reservation Deadline – November 5, 2021

Banquet Reservations:

Please make checks payable and mail to: *Mon/Yough Trail Council
P. O. Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135*

Dinner Cost:
\$20.00 per Person

Number Attending: _____ x \$20/Person
Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please complete the section below:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Guests _____

Address _____

City, State _____



Board of Directors Election

Saturday November 13 at Annual Membership Meeting/Banquet

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

- Rose Lavelle**
Resides in Sutersville and employed as a secretary for the Private Industry Council in Greensburg, PA. Rose is currently a member of MYTC and a very active participant on the Maintenance Committee.
- Sarah Helzlsouer**
Resides in Elizabeth Township, current Secretary of MYTC and a key member of the Communications Committee. Sarah is completing her first term on the MYTC Board and is eligible and willing to run for a second term.
- Ken Medved**
Retired from Levin Furniture and resides in White Oak. Ken has been chairman of numerous fundraisers during the early years of MYTC and was event coordinator of our 30th Anniversary Celebration.
- Linda Vota**
Retired school teacher and resident of Elizabeth Township. Linda has generously donated her time and talents at the Boston Visitor Center, has been on the MYTC Board since 2019, and is eligible and willing to run for a second term.
- _____
- _____

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.

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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Organization
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Mon/Yough Trail Council
PO Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135
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
Allegheny Health Network/Jefferson Hospital
Allegheny Land Trust
Allegheny Regional Asset District
American Water Charitable Foundation
Basic Carbide
Bekavac Funeral Home
Bour Associates
Crawford Foundation
Driscoll and Sons Café
Eagle Home Inspections
Gary and Mary Anne Sedlacek Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation
Giant Eagle – White Oak
Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory
Howell Craft Inc.
Hufnagel Excavating
Olympus Energy
Klingensmith Insurance Agency
Levin Furniture
Mary E. Cole Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation
8Foundation
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
River City Junction
Road ID
Robert C. Lucas, Attorney
Sager Mosaics
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
Warhold Plumbing, Heating & AC
Yough Twister
Zak's Bicycle Shop

