

The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

October 2022

Volume 31, Issue 2

From the President

By Tim Banfield

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As I conclude my 2nd year as President for the organization in 2022, I would like to spend a few moments on Mon/Yough Trail Council's 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 key to implementing this mission of course is our dedicated group of volunteers. Through the end of August, MYTC volunteers have logged at least 2,000 hours this year on various tasks in support of this mission.

One area that MYTC's board has tried to help our volunteers is to provide them with resources such as equipment to make their volunteer tasks easier to complete. In 2022, one accomplishment in this area was the purchase of a new 60-inch zero turn mower.



This purchase was made possible by a \$12,000 grant from the Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation. MYTC received the new mower in time for the start of mowing season in Spring 2022, and it was put into service mowing the Greenock-Boston-Deadman's Hollow section of trail.

One feature incorporated in the new mower was a steering wheel instead of guide levers which will hopefully allow more volunteers to make use of this mower.

MYTC's board and officers appreciate all the different volunteers that step up and are willing to help in whatever manner they are able. It takes people of all talents and abilities to get things done. In 2022, MYTC gained numerous new volunteers. Also, at this time I would like to recognize and acknowledge volunteers that have passed away in 2022. In the Spring 2022 edition of the Milepost, we noted the passing of former MYTC director and maintenance volunteer Bob Hoffman. In May we lost another of our longtime maintenance volunteers, Don Baker. In June we celebrated Don's life and contributions with a memorial service along the trail at the Twele Field Pavilion. Family, friends, neighbors, and fellow volunteers gathered for a celebration of Don's life. Don was lead mechanic for MYTC's maintenance team and his contributions are greatly missed.

Over the past thirty plus years that I have been involved in the organization, I have had the pleasure and honor of working with many fine volunteers such as Bob and Don. MYTC's volunteers that support the trail continue to amaze me!

Trail Regulations

Please respect the following trail regulations

- Wheelchairs built specifically for mobility disabilities permitted
- Maximum bicycle speed is 15 MPH
- E-Bikes are limited to 750 Watt (1 HP) and must have fully operating pedals
- No internal combustion powered vehicles
- Bicycle unloaded weight limit is 100 lbs.
- Bicycles limited to 36" wide

If you notice people on Quads, motorcycles or dirt bikes, please notify local Police or Game Officers, who regularly patrol.

MYTC Appreciation Day

Yough-n-Roll

"Party-on-the-Trail"

By Ken Medved, Candace Cook and Kathy Banfield

The Yough-n-Roll, ride-at-your own pace event, started off the day with riders pedaling along the Youghiogheny River Trail portion of the Great Allegheny Passage from Boston to Smithton.



The event consisted of a choice of a 40-mile ride to Smithton and return or a 20-mile ride to Sutersville and return. Rest stops were manned by MYTC

volunteers at Dravo, Twele and Cedar Creek.

Then the Appreciation Day "party" began!

It sure looked like a good time, blessed by a beautiful day, it certainly was! Below is a list of sponsors, donors and participants. Please consider supporting these folks. We THANK all of them for helping to make our event a success each year. They really were great and provided a "Diverse- Traverse" down the sunny trail in Boston PA. From the public safety equipment being displayed to having a "bubble tea" to wash down your FREE hot-dog lunch! Our local First Responders, Elizabeth Township Police &



K-9 Officer, River Rescue #145, Bicycle Medics, the Girl & Boy Scouts, Historical Society, Garden Club of McKeesport and Metal Artist Dan were on hand representing the community. They blended nicely with all of our other special guests, who

steward our rivers, land, preserve their history and protect our natural resources. Especially satisfying were all the smiles and generosity

our friends, relatives and acquaintances showed throughout the festival!

Our nonprofit partner, Red Lantern Bikes, in conjunction with the MYTC, collected close to 20 bicycles that day (some like new) that they will adjust, repair and will



then re-distribute them, FREE of charge, to under-resourced children and adults.

There was food, giveaways, goodies & games, freebee's and Live DJ JIM that

"Rocked-the-Yough", all this and even some happy dancers in the parking lot!!!

A good time was had by ALL. But, to pull it off...It takes ALL of Us. Let's give credit to ALL of our dedicated volunteers. ALL the gals & guys behind the scenes!!! They help prepare, groom, set-up, tear-down, park the cars, grill the "dogs", decorate, delegate and everything in between.

Special recognition to the committee members; Candace Cook, Rich Kundman, Tim & Kathy Banfield, Mark Place, Rose Lavelle, Joanna Stewart, and Ken Medved.

If a successful party is one that has plenty of smiles and bubbles, then our Party-on-the-Trail was a great success! It was not just the children who were playing



with the bubbles but adults and even teenagers!! There was "dancing in the street"; well, it was a parking lot. The DJ played dance music and what else could folks do? Spontaneous fun is the best. Local high school students started us off by decorating the trail with lots of balloons. There were almost 20

raffle baskets donated from the Steelers, Pirates and the Washington Wild Things and many more. Local businesses were so generous. New this year was an emphasis on bike safety, and we gave away bells, lights donated by BikePgh and helmets for children. Neil Walker, a certified bike safety instructor showed the children how to stay safe on their bikes. Our "Bike Wheel of Fortune" returned this year with new prizes. Trail members Chris and Adrienne Irwin ran the show.



Thanks to these Appreciation Day/Party-on-the-Trail Supporters!



Participants

Red Lantern Bike Shop	Rivers of Steel
Boy Scout Troup 99	Girl Scout Troup- cookies!
Dan Piesak, Metal art	Antonio's Pizza, Brookline
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper	Garden Club of McKeesport
Neil Walker, League of American Bicyclists	
Allegheny Land Trust, Steward: Dead Man's Hollow	
Mike Mance, Beehive Coke Oven Historian	
Ricardo Solis, Recycled artwork	
Elizabeth Township Historical Society	
Elizabeth Township Police, Canine Officers, Fire, EMS	

Sponsors

Vegely Welding Inc	Carriage Inn
TBI Contracting	Oak Hill Dental
Robert J. Duchin & Associates	Jeff & Marci Suggars
BIG's Sanitation	Rich's Parkside Den
McKeesport Hospital Foundation	Howell Craft Inc.
Paul E. Bekavac Funeral Home	Zak's Bike Shop
Gilbert Funeral Home / Crematory	The Betsy Shoppe
Klingensmith Insurance Agency	Levin Furniture
R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware	Driscoll & Sons Café
Warhold Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning	

Gift Basket Donors

Country Custard and Gift Shop	Pittsburgh Steelers
Washington Wild Things	Pittsburgh Pirates
Sager Mosaics	Little Boston Inn
Zak's Bike Shop	Studio D's
MYTC Board Members / Friends	BikePgh

Keeping the Trail Tidy

By Jeff Pavetti

Our Trail "Team Clean" enjoyed another successful year in keeping the Trail tidy. Volunteers in 2022 included Joanna Stewart, Kathy Banfield, Jeff Kruzic, Marei Burnfield, Zack Burnfield, Lois Verminski and Jeff Pavetti.

We were inspired by a Labor Day weekend High School Track and Field Meet held at the Boston Trail. There were over 200 participants/spectators on the grounds. When the event ended, the participants put the Trail back into spotless condition. "Hats Off" to those students, coaches and family members for their efforts. Please consider joining us next season as a volunteer trash and litter picker on the Trail. Please contact Jeff Pavetti at jeffpavetti@gmail.com for details.

R.C. Walter and Sons

By Terry Vota

As we noted in the trivia section of our last newsletter,



R.C. Walter & Sons have supported MYTC since our very beginning back in 1991. **And we thank them!** But when did they begin?

In 1944, Ralph Charles Walter (RC) and Bill Copeland began a side venetian blind business. It was formalized in 1946 to C&W Home Modernizing. In 1951, RC Walter bought out Bill Copeland and the company became R.C. Walter Roofing and Siding. In 1952, a lot and house in Boston was purchased (present site of store).

In 1958, a warehouse in Greenock (corner of Boston-Greenock Road and Twele Road) was purchased and used for the roofing business. The main hardware store continued to grow and land surrounding it was added as it became available. Several building additions were made, the lot was finally paved, and in 1966, they joined American Hardware with a new name – R.C. Walter & Sons, Inc.

The sons were Bob and Charlie. Bob was the Roofing and Siding Contracting Manager and Charlie was the Hardware Retail Sales Manager. Bob's son Paul continued working in the roofing business. When Paul left the roofing business, it was sold to Brian Merten in 1993. Bob's other son, Tom, started full time at the store in 1975 as a Vice President in charge of Inventory (commonly known as "stock-boy"). Tom purchased the business in 2007 and is now the current owner!

The biggest building addition (including a 2nd story) was added in 1972, air conditioning was added and in 1978, American Hardware became ServiStar. The business prides itself on customer service. As their website



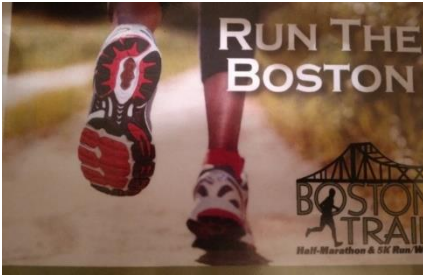
states, they "dare you to find any hardware store that has a higher floor staff to customer ratio" and have been voted "Best Hardware Store" time and time again.

Thank you again for your continued support to MYTC!

Save the Date

Saturday April 15, 2023

Boston Trail ½ Marathon & 5K Run/Walk



As noted above, the ½ Marathon & 5K Run/Walk date for 2023 has been established. If you want to volunteer, we are always looking for people

to help with setting up, parking cars, handling refreshments and cleaning up after the race. Contact Rose Lavelle at roselavelle312@gmail.com.

100% of the proceeds help in maintaining and improving the trail. Please come and help support this important fundraiser so that we can continue in making this trail the best that it can be.



After many years of coordinating this event, Kathie Fawcett has stepped down and Rose Lavelle is taking over. Many thanks to Kathie for all her effort over the years; particularly in obtaining corporate support. Kathie is helping Rose in the transition and Rose welcomes any additional help.

To register, go to www.runsignup.com or for more information go to www.thebostontrail.com.

Boston Visitor Center

By Marei Burnfield – Visitor Center Chairman

As the doors of the visitor center close for the year, we routinely pack merchandise for storage, review photos along with the guest journal and also reflect on the memorable moments of the season.

From May 20 through September 30, our small group of dedicated volunteers logged 471 hours. During those

hours, we had the pleasure of welcoming and engaging with guests from 45 states, the District of Columbia, Germany, Mexico, Switzerland, Argentina, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. That is quite impressive. In this photo, John & Raine Frame sent a postcard thanking Jeff Pavetti at our Visitor Center.



We are pleased and very much appreciate that our used bicycle collection drive generated 39 donations this season. Our thanks to all of the donors that dropped the bicycles or arranged for pick up.

We agree that every picture tells a story. Please enjoy the photos snapped during the 2022 season submitted for your enjoyment. One of our MYTC volunteers at the Visitor Center (Terri Parker) helped a couple from Alaska with bicycle problems this summer and they were so happy with her help that they sent her an Alaska sweatshirt & candy after they returned home! Until next time, we wish everyone a happy and safe trail experience!



Trail Maintenance Update

By Mark Place-Chair

Your “all volunteer trail maintenance team” has been busy and I am pleased to report that your trail is in good



to very good condition. Riders praise the condition of the trail and that is 110% because of our outstanding volunteers on the trail maintenance team. We were again blessed to receive hands-on-help from two of our corporate partners, PA American Water and Olympus Energy. These employee volunteers allowed us to recover picnic tables with seats and umbrellas donated

by Sheetz, and to start a major rehab at the Queen Aliquippa Campground including painting, pruning, mulching and tree removal. We also did a service project at the campground with an Eastern PA Scout troop completing a 50-Mile bike ride.

This year we officially took over the former Milestone facility on the trail in Buena Vista including the only flush toilet and city water facility in our service area. The picnic pavilion is no longer rented out and is available to all trail users. Camping is not permitted. This facility will close this year around November 1. We were able to complete the work on the new fountain and the frost proof hydrant next to the Visitor's Center in Boston. The two fountains will also remain open until sometime in November.

Help wanted. While you may associate the work that our all-volunteer maintenance team does with the crews that you meet on the trail between April and November when we are mowing, dealing with trees down, patching trail damage, and clearing drains, there is a lot of work required to service that equipment.

Many trail users are unaware of how much equipment it takes to maintain 15 miles of trails;

1 backhoe	1 loader tractor
1 auger	1 box truck
1 brush hog	2 leaf blowers
2 utility tractors	1 side arm mower
2 dump trucks	2 pickup trucks
3 zero turn mowers	2 riding mowers
4 push mowers	2 finish mowers

Multiple gas-powered trimmers and chain saws.

Each Fall and Winter we service all this equipment so that it is ready to go in the Spring. If you like working on



older, simpler farm and construction equipment and/or small engines we are looking for some help in the shop. Whether you are available every Saturday or just a Saturday here and there please consider joining our mechanical maintenance team. Stop down any Saturday morning between 7 and 8, or give me a call at

412-877-0050, or email at mplace@johnplaceinc.com.

During the biking season, our regular trail maintenance teams meet Saturday mornings from 8:00 until noon or a bit later at the trail volunteer center in Greenock (at the end of Locust Grove Road).

If you would like to join a great group of about 20 volunteers, we have both weekday and Saturday teams.

Trail quiz #1: How old is the MYTC Case 580 backhoe?

Trail quiz #2: Ten American War veterans are interred at Dravo Cemetery. What wars did they fight in?

Answers on page 6.

Membership News

Candace and Rich  *CoChairpersons*

A very **big thanks** to our members who helped with the Yough-n-Roll and the Party-on-the-Trail.

Welcome to our new members since the last newsletter in April. We are so glad you have decided to join us as we continue to work at making the Boston Trail a special part of the GAP. As members, we count on you to vote for the MYTC officers each fall and hope you will join us for our annual banquet in November.

We are in our **31st year** and look forward to many more years with your help. **Please consider becoming even more involved.** We always need folks to help maintain the trail and there is plenty to do with the Visitor's Center, the Newsletter, membership record keeping, the Half Marathon and 5K run in April, the Yough-n-Roll bike ride and the Party-on-the-Trail in September. We are always looking for pictures of the trail, too. You can find more information at www.thebostontrail.com.

If you want to receive the newsletter by email, please contact us at: mytcmembership@gmail.com. We are up to 223 folks getting it by email!

Welcome again to

Christopher Hughes	Fred Jacobs	Lauren Mazzei
Tom Reynolds	Pamela Rose	Amber Lawson
Thomas Donouhue	Erin McAndrew	Roger Loughney
Zachary Herring	Joseph Rudolph	Gregory Lee
Arlan Van Eeckhout	Betsy Shoppes	Charles Page
Nicholas Redmond	Kathy Marflak	Chris Kitlowski
Judy Shriane	Terri Parker	William Byron
John McCoy	Chris Kitlowski	Kathy Marflak
Erin O'Brien	Evan Lloyd	Carol Lloyd
Thomas Richey	Sandra Ciotti	Chris Moran
Anna Wolfe	Don Marco	
Dan & Carolyn Mullan		

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 this year's accomplishments.

Show your support and enjoy the evening on Saturday **November 12, 2022** - Butlers Golf Course Banquet Hall

5:00PM – 9:00PM

Reservation Deadline – November 4, 2022

Banquet Reservations:

Please make check payable and mail to: Mon/Yough Trail Council
PO Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135

Dinner Cost
\$20.00 per Person

Number Attending: _____ x \$20 / Person

Please complete the section below:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Guests _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Quiz answers:

#1 - Our backhoe is a 1970, 52 years old!

#2 – Nine are Civil War veterans and one is War of 1812.

Board of Directors Election MYTC Bylaws Amendment

Saturday November 12 at Annual Meeting/Banquet
Ballots may be mailed if unable to attend – Mon/Yough Trail Council PO Box 14 McKeesport, PA 15135

Board of Directors – Nominations

Class of 2023 – Vote for maximum of 1

- ☐ **Kathy Banfield**
MTYC member for 20+ years
Previous MYTC Board Member/Treasurer
Chaired Yough-n-Roll for many years

Class of 2025 – Vote for maximum of 5

- ☐ **Richard Kundman**
Past Board Member and President of MYTC
Co-Chair of MYTC Membership Committee
- ☐ **Adrian Marini**
Retired Physical Therapy Assistant and CPA
Likes to work on Motorcycles and Cars
Current MYTC Treasurer
- ☐ **Mark Place**
Past President of MYTC, 2017-2020
Chair of MYTC Maintenance Committee
Chair of MYTC Communications Committee
Regional Trail Corporation Board Member
- ☐ **Mary Reid**
Resides in Rostraver with husband, Rowan
Retired Westinghouse Supply Chain Mgmt
Past MYTC Board Member and Secretary
Consistently volunteers at MYTC fundraisers
- ☐ **David Ringler**
Summer home in White Oak
MYTC member for nearly 30 years
Long time MYTC Trail Monitor
Previous MYTC Board member

MYTC Bylaws Amendment

<https://thebostontrail.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MYTC-BYLAWS-2022-1013-REV-proposed.pdf> (See Newsletter insert)

- ☐ **Approve** ☐ **Disapprove**

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.

2022 Officers

President

Tim Banfield

Vice President

Kathie Fawcett

Treasurer

Adrian Marini

Secretary

Sarah Helzlsouer

Directors

2020 - 2022

Tim Banfield

John Eisenbarth

Kathie Fawcett

Rich Kundman

Adrian Marini

2021-2023

Cathy Bartley

Candace Cook

Eileen Lenart

John Warhold

2022 - 2024

Sarah Helzlsouer

Rose Lavelle

Ken Medved

Linda Vota

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.

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.

____ I would prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

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'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	NuGo Nutrition
Allegheny Health Network/Jefferson Hospital	PA American Water Company
Allegheny Land Trust	Oak Hill Dental
Allegheny Regional Asset District	Petkanics Charitable Fund
American Water Charitable Foundation	Pozzuto Auto—White Oak
Basic Carbide	R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware
Bekavac Funeral Home	Rich's Parkside Den
BIG's Sanitation	River City Junction
Bour Associates	Road ID
Carriage Inn	Robert C. Lucas, Attorney
Crawford Foundation	Robert J. Duchin & Associates, Ltd.
Driscoll and Sons Café	Sager Mosaics
Eagle Home Inspections	Shaw Weil Associates
Gary and Mary Anne Sedlacek Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation	Steffan Industries
Giant Eagle – White Oak	TBI Contracting
Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory	The Betsy Shoppe
Howell Craft Inc.	The Elizabeth Companies
Hufnagel Excavating	The Embroidery People
Olympus Energy	The UPS Store—White Oak
8 Klingensmith Insurance Agency	Trailside Treasures
Levin Furniture	Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation
Mary E. Cole Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation	Travelers Insurance
	Vegely Welding
	Warhold Plumbing, Heating & AC
	Yough Twister
	Zak's Bicycle Shop

