

The MILEPOST

Mon/Yough Trail Council's Yough River Trail Newsletter

Editor: Terry Vota

April 2024

Volume 33, Issue 1

From the President

By Rich Kundman

Greetings fellow Boston Trail users (part of the GAP).

In the last newsletter, I wrote about us wanting to purchase a crew cab pickup truck. I am happy to report that we have the funding and order in place for a new Ford 350, 8ft.bed pickup. Hopefully by late spring or early summer you will see us riding up or down the trail in our new white pickup. Make sure you check out the decals on the doors showing who made this purchase possible.

Someone asked me why am I so insistent on purchasing new equipment for our organization. Two reasons come to mind: first, with old equipment, we end up wasting valuable time fixing these vehicles instead of maintaining the trail. Secondly, when I first started helping to maintain the trail in 2015, there were many times the vehicles I was riding in, broke down. This happened more than once on the way to a work site (tree down, slide, washout, etc.), or on the way back to the maintenance building. A few times I even considered not coming back to volunteer because I wondered why I was wasting my time sitting in an old broken-down vehicle. So instead of quitting, I decided to do something about this problem; find the grant money to purchase new equipment.

As president, I feel our organization is obligated to ensure that our volunteers should be confident knowing that they will get to the work site and return in a safe vehicle. This is important to all our volunteers who are giving their valuable time to help maintain this part of the GAP. We also need to provide them with well-maintained working tools.

The other item I talked about last newsletter was the painting of the shipping containers, which we will use for storage. We are still working on them; hopefully by

the next newsletter, I can say we finished them!

Finally, I know I am always asking for more volunteers.

But today I am only going to ask for one volunteer to take on a specific task.

We been kicking around the idea of a phone charging station at the Dravo campground. I'm asking if someone would be willing to take this on. This would entail; finding grant money to purchase the needed equipment, researching what specific equipment we would need and locating a company to install it. If you are interested, please give me a call at 724-747-5894.

May the wind always be at your back, traveling a smooth rail trail, with bright sunshine overhead!!!

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 the trail.

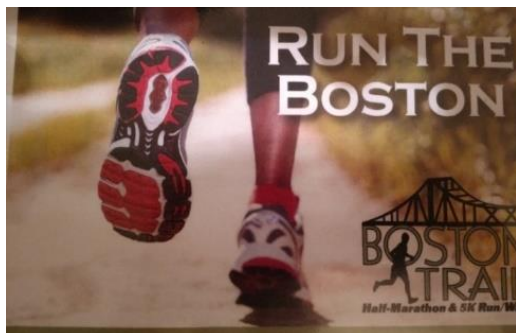
Save the Date

Saturday April 13, 2024

Boston Trail ½ Marathon & 5K Run/Walk

By Rose Lavelle

As noted above, the ½ Marathon & 5K Run/Walk date



for 2024 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.



You can still register for either race, however time is short. There are no signups on race day. To register, go to www.runsignup.com or for more information go to www.thebostontrail.com.

Trail Trivia

Answers – page 6

- MYTC has installed “memorial benches” from Deadman’s Hollow to Smithdale. How many?
- The MYTC trail section follows the Youghiogheny River. What is the Native American meaning of “Youghiogheny”.
- Although not along the MYTC section, the state record Walleye was caught on the Youghiogheny River. Where?

Save the Date

Saturday September 14, 2024

Yough-n-Roll / Party-on-the-Trail

By Ken Medved, Candace Cook and Kathy Banfield

Yough-n-Roll

The Yough-n-Roll, ride-at-your own pace event, starts with riders pedaling along the Youghiogheny River Trail portion of the Great Allegheny Passage from Boston to Smithton. The event is a choice of a 40- mile ride to Smithton and return or a 20-mile ride to Sutersville and return. There will also be a 10-mile Family Fun Ride. Rest stops are manned by MYTC volunteers at Dravo, Twele and Cedar Creek. As we get closer to the date, more information will be on our website and flyers will be mailed to previous participants.

Party-on-the-Trail (Appreciation Day) comes next!



MYTC is inviting you to join us and the community to celebrate all things that help make our

trail outstanding. Music, food, and interesting things to see and do right under the Boston Bridge. The Boston Access of the GAP is where it all happens.

In conjunction with and following the Yough-n-Roll bike ride the fun continues from 10 AM until 2PM.

Artists, artisans, exhibitors, bike safety and mechanical experts, local first responders, trail-related organizations, children’s fun & games, basket raffles and more!!!

Look for details at www.thebostontrail.com



Boston Visitor Center

By Donna Warhold, Visitor Center Chairman

The Visitor Center will reopen for the 5K / ½ Marathon on April 13. We look forward to seeing you. Stop in to



see our new designs, a cold beverage or some friendly conversation. If you cannot wait for the unveiling, you can shop the prior Saturday at West Newton. We will be selling our wares there starting at 11:00AM. Please stop in to say hi.

Riders report that we have the best selection of shirts on the trail.

We continue the used bike collection for Red Lantern; they can be dropped at the Visitor Center. The bikes are refurbished and given to less fortunate individuals. Please consider volunteering in the Visitor Center. You can pick a particular day each week or a day here and there to work. Any help is appreciated. Call Donna at 724-433-1118 or Lehigh231@comcast.net.



We have a **Square Account** that can be used at the Visitor Center for transactions.



We have a **PayPal Account** that can be used for on-line transactions.

Spotted Lanternfly



The Spotted LanternFly is an invasive insect that has spread throughout PA since its discovery in 2014. They have been known to cause

extensive damage to crops, trees, grape vines and ornamental plants. If you spot one on the trail, please report the sighting on the hotline 1-888-422-3359.

Membership News

Candace and Rich-CoChairpersons



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Zachery Franklin
David Berry
Lauren Hardwig
Beverley Harrar
Fred Snizek
Ed Faircloth
Douglas Davidson
Alexander Denmarsh
Mary Williams
Merriman Thad
Michael Himich



WE REMEMBER TRAIL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FROM THIS PAST YEAR: Owen Kelly, James Quantz, Gerry Burkett, Michael Roche, Maynard Hansen and Tanner Edward Faircloth

NOTES FROM MEMBERS:

From Frank and Gail: *Dear Mon Yough Trail Council Friends, You have spread joy through your dedication, labor, inspiration, and creativity keeping this trail a top destination for adventure and nature lovers. With gratitude to all of your maintaining this beautiful trail- a special path of our life's journey.*

From Linda: *Thank you for your hard work!*

THANK YOU for your kind notes.

I appreciate the idea that the trail spreads joy through inspiration and dedication. I'm pretty new to the trail and I still feel inspired by the beauty of it. It is delightful to ride the trail, knowing that the Youghiogheny River is always there peeking in and out of sight.

We have sent out renewal notices and members again have responded very generously. **Thank you.**

REMEMBER, if you would like to receive the newsletter and other correspondence from us **BY EMAIL**, please let us know: mytcmembership@gmail.com

Trail Maintenance Update

By Mark Place-Chair mplace@johnplaceinc.com

Your all volunteer trail maintenance team has been very busy since the season wound down in late October. As Fall turns to Winter there are many things that need done that trail users might never have thought of. These include winterizing all the water systems at the Boston trail head, the trail shop in Greenock and at the flush toilet SST and water fountain in Buena Vista. We will have the water back on as soon as we are confident that a hard freeze is not likely.

Our Winter team has been hard at work doing preventative maintenance on all our equipment and attachments. If you are a regular trail user, I am sure you have seen our mowing and trimming team members up and down our 15 miles of trail. That effort takes two tractors, two zero turns, two riders, four push mowers and a half dozen string trimmers plus spares. Add to that 1 backhoe, 2 dump trucks, 2 pickup trucks, 1 box truck, two specialty tractors and all the attachments and you have a picture of why we try and have everything ready for mowing with the season to begin shortly.

With Spring rains and frost leaving the ground, some sections of the trail have been very wet and are getting rutted. We work on drainage issues year-round and as soon as things dry out, we will begin to groom the trail

leading up to our ½ Marathon and 5K on April 13th This will smooth the ruts and restore the ride. If you see a huge dust cloud on a sunny day, grooming is probably in progress!

We have also serviced our four repair stations with air pumps. These are located at the Boston Visitors Center by the green box car, at the picnic shelter below the Twele Road parking lot, near the water pump at the Dravo Cemetery/Queen Alliquippa Campground and at the entrance to the Sutersville trail head parking lot on the right. In addition to a pump, these stations include all the tools common to basic repairs and tire changing. We are happy to report that we will be partnering with an Eagle Scout candidate from a local Scout troop in constructing a third Adirondak style shelter at the



campground this year. Our two existing shelters, available on a first arrival basis, are extremely popular and we are pleased to be building a third one. If you are not familiar with the campground it is available to trail users at no charge and features restroom facilities, potable water from the pump and firewood. There is a two-night maximum stay.

If you ride the trail over the Dura Bond Bypass, our only paved section in Liberty Borough, you may have noticed a much-improved riding experience. Last Fall we partnered with the Regional Trail Corporation who actually owns the trail to do some significant repairs



and resurfacing to about 500 feet of badly rutted and cracked trail at a cost of ~\$20,000. As this was the steeper McKeesport side of the hill it was a serious safety concern. Three

bright yellow bollards were also installed toward the bottom with the standard spacing replacing the two retaining wall blocks.

Please help. Trail users are our eyes and ears for any trail problems. If you see a problem like a tree down, a drain backing up etc. please let us know! If you go to the website at <https://thebostontrail.com/contact-us> you can quickly alert us. Indicate mile marker numbers from the granite markers or on the new yellow gates, as well as uploaded pictures are a huge help in sending the right, all volunteer crew out to address the issue.

We are always looking for additional members to assist with trail operations. We meet Saturday mornings from 8:00 until noon or a bit later at the trail volunteer center at 7 Locust Grove Road in Greenock from now until November and generally at least one weekday during the season. If you are interested in helping occasionally or on a regular basis, please stop down and say hello.

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 possible.



Vista Metals Inc.

By Jim Harchelroad

Located close to the bike trail in Lower Greenock, (between mile markers 126 and 127) is Vista Metals, Inc., a local manufacturer of specialty cemented carbide preforms.



They are one of several local cemented carbide manufacturing companies that can trace their history back to the Firth Sterling Steel and Carbide Corporation (in business 1874 – 1981), the first company in this area to manufacture cemented carbide with manufacturing plants located in West Elizabeth and McKeesport (the latter was located downstream from the current McKeesport-Duquesne bridge). Other cemented carbide companies in the local area that can trace their history to Firth Sterling are: Basic Carbide (Elizabeth Township), Innovative Carbide (Irwin), General Carbide (Greensburg) and Kennametal (Latrobe).

Cemented carbides (a mixture of tungsten carbide powders with various binders) were first developed in Germany in the 1920's and are some of the hardest and most wear resistant materials known. They are used primarily in any industries that require extreme wear properties and/or processes or manufactures metal parts. Some of the industries Vista Metals serve include the Canning, Automotive, Fastener, Compacting, Roll Forming, and Oil and Gas industries.

Vista Metals supplies their cemented carbide preforms to companies around the world to be further machined and prepared so they can be used in the manufacturing processes for these various industries.

Vista Metals, Inc. was founded in 1969 when several employees of Carbidie (a now closed cemented carbide manufacturer that at the time was located in the building that Vista now occupies) left to start the new business. The business originally was located in Buena Vista, PA in the building that has since housed the offices of Daugherty Tool & Die (mile marker 120) in Buena Vista, PA (now closed).

Of the former Carbidie employees who started Vista (Bill Riley, John Moyle, Nelson Sneddon, and Matt George), only Bill Riley remains as the sole owner, president, and CEO. His sons Gregg (Executive Vice

President) and Brian (Corporate Vice President) are currently in charge of all aspects of the business. Gregg and Brian's sons are also working at the company and learning the business so it can continue into future generations.

The Company moved from Buena Vista into their present location in Lower Greenock in 1979, building the Kittanning plant in 1988, and expanding into the former Advanced Metallurgy building (next door) in



1994. Vista has grown over the last 54 years so it now employs around 120 employees working in all aspects of the manufacturing and sale of cemented carbides (Sales, Engineering, Quality Control, Powder Processing, Production, Machining, and Management). Many of Vista's employees have been with the Company for a long time, and they are always on the lookout for new, hard-working people to join their ranks. Today, they manufacture and ship cemented carbides using over 40 different recipes (for different material properties) to customers around the world.

Keeping the Trail Tidy

By Jeff Pavetti

We are always looking for MYTC members who are willing to remove litter from the Trail and surrounding area.

This is a "at your own time and pace" volunteer opportunity. All we ask is that you visit the Trail at least once a month in your designated area. Please contact Jeff Pavetti at jeffpavetti@gmail.com or 724-527-1866 for details.

A special Shout Out of thanks to last season's volunteers who included Kathy Banfield, Nancy Harhai, Joanna Stewart, Lois Verminski, Jeff Kruzic and Jeff Pavetti. Please consider joining us in 2024--this will be our 5th Season on this project.

Trail View Market

(Red & White / Rice's / Valley Market / Peddler's Market)

By Terry Vota

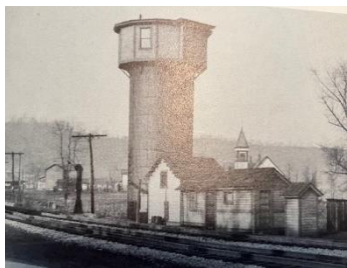
If you have been riding the Yough River Trail thru Buena Vista for years, then you have seen the store at 209 Industry Road (MP 120) change owners and names many times; Red & White, Rice's, Valley Market, Peddler's Market, and most recently Trail View Market.



Many trail riders and local residents supported the store buying food supplies, delicatessen items, lottery tickets etc. Since it was adjacent to the trail, there were bike racks for trail riders. We say "was" because a fire in 2021 caused major damage and the store has not yet reopened.

A search of Allegheny County historical records indicate that the property was privately owned in the late 1880's, sold to Youghiogheny Coal Company in 1883 and later sold to the Blythedale Miners Mercantile/Cooperative Associations in the 1930's. Company and Cooperative stores were common in the mining towns along the Youghiogheny River. Buena Vista was a typical "patch" or coal mining town with coal mines located both up and down river. Many of the mines were owned by Pittsburgh Coal Company, employing 1000's of people. The store was sold to private individuals Risveglio (Rice) and Eleanor Ruozzi in 1950. After the "cooperative store", private store names were Red & White Market, Valley Market and often called by Risveglio's nickname (Rice's) Market.

After Risveglio, owners were Maurer, Haywood, Kline, Shah and Provins with store names Peddler's Market and Trail View Market. Margaret Simon, a long-time resident in the area, remembers the building being a "company store" and a large water tank outside to service trains. The water tank was



located across the trail toward the river.

A concrete structure remains. Although once railroad property the remains are now on private property.



A Standpipe water tank for filling steam engines was located at the front of the building.

The P&LE railroad (starting in 1893) hauled coal and coke from the many coal mines and coke ovens along the

Youghiogheny River to the steel mills along the Monongahela River from McKeesport to Pittsburgh. In addition to the Standpipe, a Mail Hook alongside the track, in the Buena Vista area, was there so that passing trains could snatch up a mail bag without stopping or slowing down! Some reports show that the home across the trail from the store was originally the main train station for Buena Vista. We cannot confirm since Allegheny County historical records do not show that the railroad ever owned that property.



Across the road and up the hill are remnants of another water reservoir with piping running down toward the tracks. According to the current owner, Ricky Gantt, that reservoir reportedly also serviced the trains. Again, those reservoir remains are on private property.

The fire in 2021 caused major damage and the owners, Pranav & Malti Shah, sold the property to Kevin Provins. According to Kevin, he is in process of restoring the building and plans to open a convenience store and coffee shop.

Photos credits to Jim & Sue Harchelroad, Elizabeth Township Historical Society and Rivers of Steel.

Trivia Answers:

- MYTC has installed 32 memorial benches with names.
- Youghiogheny is a Native American word meaning "a stream flowing in the contrary direction". The Youghiogheny River flows North!
- Connellsville – 18 pounds, 1 ounce; 34 inches long!

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.

2023 Officers

President

Rich Kundman

Vice President

Ken Medved

Treasurer

Tim Banfield

Secretary

Mary Reid

Directors

2022 - 2024

Sarah Helzlsouer

Rose Lavelle

Ken Medved

Linda Vota

2023-2025

Richard Kundman

Adrian Marini

Mark Place

Mary Reid

David Ringler

2024-2026

Tim Banfield

Candace Cook

Kathie Fawcett

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.

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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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

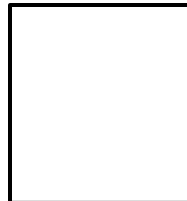
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Mon/Yough Trail Council
PO Box 14
McKeesport, PA 15135
www.TheBostonTrail.com



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.

91.3 WYEP
90.5 WESA
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
BIG's Sanitation
Bour Associates
Carriage Inn
Crawford Foundation
Gary and Mary Anne Sedlacek Fund of the Pittsburgh
Foundation
Generation Stoneworks
Giant Eagle – White Oak
Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory
Grand Central Pizza
Howell Craft Inc.
8 Olympus Energy
Levin Furniture

Mary E. Cole Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation
McKeesport Hospital Foundation
NuGo Nutrition
PA American Water Company
OSPTA
Pozzuto Auto—White Oak
R.C. Walter & Sons Hardware
Rich's Parkside Den
Road ID
Robert J. Duchin & Associates, Ltd.
Sager Mosaics
Shaw Weil Associates
Steel Strong Community Credit Union
Steffan Industries
The Betsy Shoppe
The Elizabeth Companies
The Embroidery People
The UPS Store—White Oak
Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation
Travelers Insurance
UPMC Children's Hospital Pittsburgh
Vegely Welding
Warhold Plumbing, Heating & AC
Zak's Bicycle Shop

