



SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE TO THANK:

by Ed Donahoe

This is such a nice problem to have. We are so very fortunate that so many great people support our trail in so many different ways. It's been a great year for The Lower Trail and I would like to sincerely thank the following folks for their contributions. In no particular order:

- **The Horton Family:** Norma and Nelson have provided many years of leadership managing the maintenance team and making our trail such a beautiful place to visit. They have gathered a dedicated team of volunteers over the years who spend many hours caring for our trail. The Hortons will remain involved in the organization but have transitioned trail maintenance leadership over to Mike Penak and Harry Chirdon, two very competent gentlemen who will manage trail maintenance.
- **The Allegheny Trail Runners:** The ATR donated \$5,000 dollars from their April Canoe Creek Dirty Kiln race to Rails to Trails for trail development associated with the new Canoe Creek connector. Our past president, Ethan Imhoff is very active in ATR.



- **REI:** This nationwide sports retailer awarded The Lower Trail a \$10,000 dollar grant for trail development associated with the Canoe Creek connector. We will be collaborating with REI on various events on the trail. Ethan Imhoff applied for this grant.
- **Pat Baechle, Architect:** Pat prepared a detailed design for a rear deck on the Grannas Station. Pat's design will be great addition to the building and will ensure that we have a deck that looks great, is very safe and keeps us in compliance with all building codes. Pat also designed the accessible ramp in the

front of the building a few years ago. Both designs were completed at no charge to RTT.

- **Hollidaysburg Area School District:** 45 high school seniors worked three days on the trail handling many projects such as rehabilitation of the canal lock entrance and steps, fence repair, a massive clean out of the Grannas Station basements, hauling and spreading stone on the Flowing Spring driveway and water access path. Sarah Garmen and Mike Rawlings are the high school teachers who always do a great job managing their seniors. They managed several work crews over the length of the trail. Adam Grow and Dave Caporuscio were also instrumental in making these three days a great success.
- **Attorney Sean Burke:** Sean continues to provide pro bono legal work and counsel for our organization.
- **Earnest Ebersole, Lofty Heights Tree Care:** Earnest recently responded to a dangerous tree situation that required professional tree removal. Earnest responded quickly and at no charge to RTT and saved us from having to shut down a section of the trail. Please keep him in mind should you have any tree removal work.
- **Fred Ciocca:** Fred is a highly experienced CPA and serves as our Finance Chair. Fred will be saving RTT several thousand dollars by handling all of our tax filings.
- **Peggy Goodman:** Peggy is our program director and serves on the board. In 2015 she organized eight educational programs along with guest speakers on various trail subjects. These programs were very well received. This year she has scheduled eight new programs on trail history, nature and recreation. They will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday June thru September.
- **The Grannas Family:** The Grannas Family has always been there for the trail, totally repairing it when it has flooded in the past, providing loads of shale for our parking areas when the potholes start to overtake the lots.

What makes the Lower Trail and Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc. great is the fact that we have many individuals and businesses who donate their time, knowledge, expertise and give financially to this organization. The fact is, without these individuals and companies, there would be no Lower Trail.

To all of the volunteers who maintain the trail, serve on the board, provide financial support and others I know I have

overlooked, **we appreciate all that you do.** Thank you for all of your time, energy and dedication to The Lower Trail.

HUNTINGDON CHAIN OF DESTINATIONS:

By Dave Hurst, (2016 Hurst Media Works)

Once there was a hiking trail that was named for what it was supposed to be. The Link Trail, as it was then known, connected two major trail systems: the 252-mile Tuscarora Trail, which partially runs in southern Pennsylvania, and the 325-mile long Mid State Trail which runs through the middle of the state.

Although the Link Trail had a rather diminutive name, it was hardly insignificant. Initially running 68 miles due north from Cowan's Gap State Park to Greenwood Furnace State Park and now 80 miles in length, the trail meanders through parts of four state game lands, three counties, two state forests and two natural areas.

Along the way it passes an abandoned railroad grade known as "Vanderbilt's Folly" (industrialist William Vanderbilt's effort to challenge the Pennsylvania Railroad), ancient American Indian trails, old logging traces, Juniata iron country, a mountain and water gap (named for an 18th century trader killed by Indians), the Thousand Steps (literally 1,000 stone steps, leading up Jack's Mountain to an old ganister quarry), Greenwood's iron furnaces and the Greenwood fire tower.

Natural attractions along this trail include Monument Rock, a craggy stone pillar; Jack's Narrows, which is one of the deepest water gaps in the state; beautiful vistas; outstanding wildflower displays; Hunter's Rocks, a climbing area; Stone Mountain Hawk Watch; and virgin stands of massive hemlocks.

Clearly, the only thing diminutive about the Link Trail was the name. So in recent years, along with a 12-mile extension, the trail gained a new name: The Standing Stone Trail.

Now in 2016, The Standing Stone Trail also has gained stature: It is Pennsylvania's Trail of the Year. Once only considered a link, this trail is becoming a destination.

This year also is becoming a year of distinction for Greenwood Furnace State Park. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is honoring the park with its President's Award, given annually to an organization for its "impact in protecting open space, conservation, outdoor recreation or volunteerism."

Tucked into one of the many niches of a ruggedly verdant area generally known as the Seven Mountains, Greenwood Furnace offers an active schedule of both natural and cultural activities. Along with the events that you'd expect at a state park – such as hikes and wildlife programs – Greenwood Furnace hosts annual festivals and music-camp weekends.

Then there are the Allegrippis Trails, which achieved national recognition last year from a mountain biking website, SingleTracks.com, which ranked this 33-mile system as the best mountain-bike trails in Pennsylvania and the 15th-best in the country. The Allegrippis Trails draw cyclists from an eight- to 10-hour driving radius and host an annual mountain-biking festival each May that draws thousands of riders.

What connects all of these recreational resources are that they are at least partially in Huntington County – an area best-known for its water: the massive Raystown Lake and the beautiful Juniata River system. Raystown is especially popular for power boating, camping and fishing; while the Juniata offers outstanding fisheries and paddling opportunities.

As we enter what appears to be an early spring and you consider how to experience it, give some of these Huntingdon area resources some serious thought – especially if your interests include camping, boating, fishing, mountain biking, hiking or history.

Time it right and you also will witness one of the best displays of redbud that I'm aware of anywhere. (Usually the redbud bloom arrives in mid- to late-April, but this year it could be earlier.)

Of course Raystown Lake has been drawing recreational crowds for years. But now the Allegrippis Trails, Greenwood Furnace State Park, and the Standing Stone Trail are gaining their own recognition – as other links in Huntington's chain of attractions that are becoming destinations.

For more information, visit StandingStoneTrail.org, dcmr.state.pa.us and AllegrippisTrails.com.

RAFFLE AND SPRING GATHERING:



Well not all years can have wonderful weather for our Spring Gathering. Even though the weather was not great the food was.



About 60 plus people attended and enjoyed the picnic. Adam Grow and his assistant Rodney Lane grilled the hamburgers, keilbosa and hotdogs to perfection.



Following picnic and before the drawing for the raffle winners, Rails to Trails took time to honor two very special individuals. This year, Norma and Nelson Horton have decided to step back a little.

For well over the past 10 years, they have volunteered their time to organize and oversee the trail maintenance.

President Ed Donahoe

presented Nelson with a clock representing all the many hours the Hortons have spent volunteering for the trail. As was stated earlier, the Hortons are not totally retiring, just stepping back a little. (photos by Vicki Brua)



After totally surprising Nelson, (he was almost speechless) the drawings for this year's raffle took place. The winners this year where:

- 1st. Prize: **Dawn Bender** of Three Springs won the \$200.00 Gift Certificate from **Spokes-N-Skis**
 2nd Prize: **Penn England Farm** of Williamsburg won the \$100.00 Gift Certificate from **Hoss's**
 3rd Prize: **Ed Perry** of Hollidaysburg won the \$100.00 **Dicks Sporting Goods** Gift Certificate
 4th Prize: **Colleen Kosko** of Tyrone won the \$100.00 **Sheetz Convenience Store** Gift Certificate
 5th Prize: by **Scott Houseman** of Hollidaysburg won was the \$60.00 **Field and Stream** Gift Certificate
 6th Prize: **Barb Bennett** of Pensacola, Fla. won the \$50.00 value outdoor goods from **Rothrock Outfitters**
 7th Prize: **George Klotz** of Alexandria won the \$25 gift certificate from the **Black Dog Café**.
 8th Prize: **Ed Perry** of Hollidaysburg won the second \$25 Gift Certificate from the **Black Dog Café**.

The prizes were provided this year by: **Spokes-N-Skis, Hoss's, Blair Bicycle Club, Rothrock Outfitters and the Black Dog Café**. The burgers, kielbasa and hot dogs were provided by **Holland Brothers Meats and Hoss's**. We greatly appreciate the support of these businesses and we hope, as you shop throughout the year, that you remember to support those businesses that support Rails to Trails.

WILD FLOWER WATCH: MAY APPLE

By Bob Richers



A sure sign that the new spring has arrived is the sight of the May Apple throughout the woodlands. This herbaceous perennial plant is 12 inches to 18 inches tall. Infertile plants produce a single leaf on a long, green stem. The lobed leaf is green and somewhat umbrella shaped with 3 to 9 petals. The fruit bearing plants have 2 leaves on a stem and produce a single nodding flower in May. This flower that resembles a small version of a Water Lilly, grows pointed toward the ground. It is about 1½ inches across, consisting of 6-9 white petals, 6 light green sepals, 12-18 stamens and a dome shaped cluster of yellow stigmata. The flower, which last about 3 weeks, has a slightly musty fragrance. May Apple grow in colonies usually from a single root-stock. They can be found growing in moist, open woodlands and the edges of boggy meadows.

All parts of the plant are poisonous. Livestock can become ill when grazing on the plant. May Apple contains podophyllotoxin, which is highly toxic if consumed, but it is also an ingredient used in treating plantar warts. The fruit is shaped like a pear and is considered slightly toxic but edible in "small amounts". It turns yellow and softer when ripe in early August. Ingesting too much can cause unpleasant indigestion or worse. Box Turtles, opossums, raccoons and skunks will feed on the fruit and further distribute the plant thru their droppings.

There are far too many sites on the internet that prescribe eating "small amounts" of all sorts of questionable plants found in the field. Be safe and check several sites before trying any new eating experiences. Better yet just leave them alone!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

We have included in this newsletter the complete **Summer Series Program Schedule**. Please post it on your refrigerator, share it with your friends or post it on your office bulletin board. Plan to attend one, some, or all of the series. Last year, the programs were well attended and enjoyed by all. Hope to see you there. If you lose your schedule, you can always find it posted on our website, www.rttcpa.org

Wednesday June 15th, the 19th Annual John Healy Memorial 5k Race. It is hard to believe this will be the 19th running of this race. It is run in memory of one of our outstanding volunteers. Proceeds benefit Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc. Plan to come out and have a nice evening run or fun walk on the trail. Registration begins at 4:45 PM. The race begins at 6 PM at the Williamsburg Trailhead.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____)-_____

E-mail _____

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal

_____ Individual	\$15.00
_____ Family	\$20.00
_____ Supporting	\$50.00
_____ Group	\$75.00

I am interested in:

_____ Horses	_____ Hiking
_____ Heritage	_____ Bicycling
_____ Nature Study	_____ Jogging
_____ Other	

I would like to help by volunteering for:

Make checks payable to:

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 PO Box 592, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
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www.rttcpa.org



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday June 12 th	Summer Program Series: The Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, 2PM Grannas Station
Tuesday June 14 th	Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Grannas Station
Sunday June 26 th	Wildflower Game, 2 nd Summer Series Program, 2 PM Grannas Station
Sunday July 10 th	“What’s Ahead for Central Pennsylvania’s Trails, Summer Series Program, 2 PM at the Grannas Station.
Sunday July 24 th	2 nd “Laces for Alli” 5K Run in Williamsburg, Remembering Alli Edwards
Sunday July 24 th	The Lime Stone Kilns at Canoe Creek State Park, Summer Series Program, 2 PM at the Grannas Station.

No Monthly Board Meetin in July

More details on all events on page 3 of the *Trekker* and on our Web site at www.RTTCPA.org
All are invited to the monthly meetings.

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT

This newsletter is mailed 3rd Class Bulk Mail. The Post Office will not forward 3rd Class Bulk Mail. If anything about your address changes, Route Number, Street Numbers, or Zip code, the Trail Trekker will not be forwarded to you. Please keep Rails-to-Trails informed of any address changes by using a post office change of address card or dropping us a note at the following address. Remember, if your mailing address is Highlighted, your membership is about to expire. Please renew quickly and continue to support Rails-to-Trails. Thank You!

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