



2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As time passes, it seems each year flies by faster than the last and we wonder what we've accomplished. Well, Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc. had some pretty substantial accomplishments this past year. We completed the Gap Feasibility Study, allowing us to proceed with the next steps in extending the trail to the Six thru Ten Trail in Juniata Township. We re-decked one of our very large bridges, repaired two of our drainage culverts, re-surfaced about four miles of trail, secured two more grants to re-deck another of the bridges and repair the flood damage washout at Water Street.

This past month, anyone using the trail noticed the new surface that was put down from Mt. Etna heading west to about Covedale. Once again we owe a great **THANK YOU** to **GRANNAS BROTHERS**. This area of the trail has been getting narrower and narrower and very soft and muddy. We had some funds for this project but not enough. In talking with Sam and Scott Grannas, they offered to donate their time and materials again to the re-surface the trail. So with our limited funds and their donation this section of trail is once again looking new.

Here are some photos of the projects done by Grannas Brothers, Cottle's Asphalt and Maintenance Inc. and Pepple's Excavating.



Grannas Brothers truck parked with workers ready to start resurfacing a four mile stretch of the trail.

Milling the old, overgrown surface; preparing for the new surface.



New trail surface being put down.



Workers roll the new surface to compact it.

Re-decking of the bridge at Mt. Etna:

Cottles Asphalt Maintenance of Everett replaced the bridge deck at a cost of just under \$75,000, paid for through a state DCNR grant.





Photo of the completed bridge

(Just a quick note: Creative Pultrusions of Alum Bank, who manufactures the material used to re-deck this bridge, is now featuring this project as an advertisement for their product.)

Drainage Culvert Repairs:



These culverts were totally clogged, collapsing and causing potential severe damage to the trail during heavy rains. Pepple's Excavating of New Enterprise repaired the culverts at a cost of just under \$24,000, funded through the same DCNR grant.



(Thank you to Rick Hess for providing the photo's of all of the work done.)

HOLIDAY GATHERING



We have worked hard throughout the year, mowing, cutting trees, attending meetings, problem solving, the list

could go on and on, but it is time to take a break. We invite you to our annual Holiday Gathering, to be held at 7 PM on Monday, December 10th with holiday treats to eat. Dave Thomas of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Rail Trail will fill us in on progress on that Bedford County trail. We hope you can come join us for a relaxing evening. The gathering will be held at the Hoss's Corporate Offices in Duncansville behind Marzoni's. Please use the REAR ENTRANCE at the back of the building.

Guided hikes from the past two months:

Lower Fall Foliage Trail Hike:

On Saturday, October 20th, 17 people enjoyed the glorious autumn weather for the Fall Foliage Hike on the Lower Trail. During the hike from Williamsburg to Mt. Etna, they spotted a Great Blue Heron, a Kingfisher, a Red-tailed Hawk and numerous Chickadees and Kinglets.



Bells Gap Francis Campion Memorial Trail Hike:

On Sunday, October 28th, 18 people braved the early elements of Hurricane Sandy to honor past Juniata Valley Audubon member Staff Sgt. Francis Campion, who died in a military training accident in 2011, and who had hiked with us on this trail many times. The hike began at Lloydville at the top of the Allegheny Front and descended for six miles to the Bell's Gap Roots Trailhead.



WILDFLOWER WATCH: PERIWINKLE

By Bob Richers



We truly live in a global environment. Numerous plants and animals that were separated by the planet's oceans have spread through the world by

mankind, mostly during the last four centuries. Unlike the FDA, which requires testing of new drugs and guards against possible food-generated health problems, there are few controls in place to test the effects of introduced plants and animals. In far too many cases, certain species have become invasive.

Periwinkle is, to a lesser extent, classified as invasive. This low growing plant, which is widely used as a ground cover by many gardeners, will grow in thick blankets and tends to crowd out weeds. Forest lands bordering residential neighborhoods may contain vast growths of the escaped Periwinkle. If gardeners fail to trim the edges of periwinkle beds or even toss trimmed pieces of the plant over the bank, an unwelcome invasion may begin. Coastal California has a major problem, but on the other hand, Periwinkle as a ground cover helps control the spread of wild fires.

The Vinca Major and Vinca Minor Periwinkle are generally used as ornamental cover. They remain green throughout the year which adds to their popularity. The leaves, which are ovate, are about one inch in length and grow in opposite patterns. The flowers, which seem to be ever present, are one to three inches long with five petals forming a single tube. The pastel blue "Periwinkle" blossoms have officially been listed as a color since 1922. The three to six foot stems of the plant will readily root when contacting the soil.

On the positive side of the scale, the Vinca genus has made major contributions to medical science. At least 86 alkaloids have been extracted from plants belonging to this family. Treatments for some leukemia, lymphomas, childhood cancers as well as other kinds of cancers and non-cancerous conditions have resulted from this family of plants.

There seems to be some natural control of the plant. The other day at work, I noticed a rabbit come out of the bushes and hop over a lawn full of clover to dine in a bed of Periwinkle. I saw him all week so he didn't suffer any apparent ill effects. To the life of me I wonder where they came up with the name. Thank goodness they saved the name Bullwinkle for future cartoons!

JANUARY ELECTIONS:



Each year in January we must elect five members to the Board of Directors. Rails-to-Trails of Central Pa Inc. is managed by 15 elected members in good standing in the corporation. Board members serve a three year commitment with five being elected each year. The Board members whose terms are up this year are: Jennifer Barefoot, Hazel Bilka, Mary Emeigh, Gary Patterson and Bill Taafe. You may ask, "What does being a Board member entail? Article III. A. of our by-laws states: "The ability of the Organization to successfully accomplish its purpose as defined in Article II is contingent on the active interest and participation of its Board Members. 1. This entails involvement in the planning, organization and carrying out of scheduled activities throughout the year. 2. Board members are encouraged and expected to attend scheduled meetings on a regular basis." To keep this organization strong and moving forward it is vital that board members are able to

fulfill the two objectives listed above.

If you feel you meet these criteria and are interested or know someone who is, please consider running for a position on the Board. Do not always assume someone else will do it. The Lower Trail is a GREAT trail but we need committed people to keep the organization strong. To nominate someone for the Board, contact Norma Horton at 814-669-4612, or email her at nhorton1446@yahoo.com; Karl King at 940-1922, email at kking@allegHENYridge.org, or email Ed Donahoe at ejdonahoe@msn.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Saturday November 24th: Post Thanksgiving Hike on the Lower Trail. Meet at 1 PM at the Alfarata Trailhead. We will hike about 6 miles along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River. Trip leader is Alice Kotala, for more information call 946-8840.

Monday December 10th. Holiday Gathering 7 PM at the Hoss's Corporate Offices, Dave Thomas will discuss the Huntingdon and Broad Top Rail Trail.

If you'd like to schedule an event, or if you have questions about an event, please call Stan Kotala, Rails to Trails Event Coordinator at 814-946-8840 or email ccwiba@keyconn.net

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:

Rails-to-Trails of Central PA Inc.
 PO Box 592, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
 (814)-832-2400
www.rttcpa.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, November 13th
Saturday November 24
Monday December 10th
Tuesday January 8th

Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Hollidaysburg Methodist Church on Allegheny St.
Post Thanksgiving Hike, 1 PM at the Alfarata Trailhead
Holiday Gathering, 7 PM at Hoss's Corporate Office. Program: H&BT Rail Trail.
Monthly Board Meeting and Election of Board Members and Officers, 7 PM at the Hollidaysburg Methodist Church on Allegheny St.

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. **NOTE: There is NO December Board Meeting.**

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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