



Volume 19 Issue 3

Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc.

May/June 2014

THEY ARE BACK FOR 2014



Just a quick update: our pair of Bald Eagles returned again this year to nest in their same "home" as last year. If you look closely both mom and dad can be seen; mom near the nest and dad in the upper right corner. Again

this year many people have been watching and photographing the pair. We would like to thank member Gerry Hymes for sending us this photograph.

RAFFLE/FUNDRAISER/SPRING Results



GATHERING:

The weather did not look very promising for this year's Spring Gathering but the rain stopped and the clouds parted and we had a wonderful gathering of very friendly

faces. The food was great; everyone brought one of their favorite covered dishes, salads or deserts and Todd and Michelle Emeigh grilled the hamburgers, kielbasa and hotdogs to perfection. We would like to thank **Hoss's** and **Holland Brothers Meats** for donating all of the meat products. Sarah Gonsman and Mary Emeigh deserve a great thank you for coordinating the event.

As in the years past, there is one individual that outshines all others in raffle ticket sales. That person is Tom Fisher. This year he outdid even himself, selling 640 tickets. This is outstanding especially because he wasn't even sure he was going to sell any this year. The past year was a difficult one for the Fisher family. Hazel Fisher, Tom's mother and longtime member of Rails to Trails as well as a neighbor of the trail passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Her passing left a great sadness in many people and especially Tom. But then Tom thought, "Mom loved the trail and always enjoyed the gathering, bringing her blueberry cobbler, so why not sell the tickets in her memory". Well, Tom outdid himself and one of the tickets he sold was a winner and everyone enjoyed the blueberry cobbler. What makes this story really amazing is the

first place winner and member of Rails to Trails was one of Hazel's homecare nurses. Yep, we think Hazel was at the picnic after all.

Again this year our raffle was a wonderful success. The winners this year were:

The \$200 gift certificate from Spokes n Skis: Diane Johannide from Altoona.

The \$150 value gift certificate from Fox Trot Runners: Laura Burke from Hollidaysburg.

The \$100 gift certificate from Hoss's: Katrina Weyant from Williamsburg.

The Custom Walking Stick from Moosewood Laser Creations: Kimberly Brought from Winfield PA.

The \$50 value Bakery Basket from Spruce Creek Bakery: Pat Sellers from Tyrone

The \$50 value outdoor goods from Rothrock Outfitters: Dave Baker from Hollidaysburg.

The Bonus drawing for the Custom Waterbottle from Moosewood Laser Creations: Jenny Lewis from Spruce Creek.

We would again thank the following businesses who have supported Rails to Trails through this raffle: **Spokes N Skis, Fox Trot Runners, Hoss's, Moosewood Laser Creations, Spruce Creek Bakery and Rothrock Outfitters.** Please remember these businesses when you are out shopping.

TRANS ALLEGHENY TRAILS ROLL-OUT:



COME ONE COME ALL, Friday June 20th to the Williamsburg Trailhead to learn more about the Trans Allegheny Trails network. The Lower Trail is the eastern terminus of this group of 13 trails that have joined together to promote the great trails this region

has to offer. The 3:30 PM news conference will mark the official unveiling of the TAT web site (www.transalleghenytrails.com) and the newly published Trans Allegheny Trails map and guide. This is your chance to find out more about the Trans Allegheny Trails.

911 TRAIL

Just days after the devastating terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, at a conference on "Greenways, Blueways and Green Infrastructure" held a few blocks from the Pentagon, the vision of establishing a multi-use trail as a perpetual remembrance of those lost on that dreadful day was born. The 1,100 mile trail

would start from the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, proceeding to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, then across to New York City and back to the Pentagon. It would be called the September 11th National Memorial Trail. The conference participants' response was enthusiastic and the concept moved forward.

In 2004, The September 11th Trail Alliance was formed as a not-for-profit, 501 (C) 3 organization dedicated to making the trail a reality.



The September 11th National Memorial Trail will be a tribute to all those who perished, and to the heroic first responders who answered the call on that horrendous day. However, it will also be a tribute to the resiliency and character of

the American people who, time after time throughout our history, have rebounded from threats and devastating adversity.

Much of the 9/11 Trail will follow the East Coast Greenway from New York to the Pentagon and the C and O Canal and Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) to a point near Shanksville. A feasibility study is currently underway to determine a route from the GAP to the Flight 93 National Memorial and from there, across Pennsylvania to the Delaware Water Gap where it will then return to New York City.

Much of the Pennsylvania route will, of necessity, incorporate on-road portions linking existing trails across the Commonwealth. Eventually, the concept of the September 11th National Memorial Trail will develop as an all off-road route with a parallel on-road route for motorcycle and auto touring. The trail will also link, where possible, historic sites along the way that demonstrate the American spirit of overcoming adversity. The multipurpose trail system will provide cyclists, hikers and walkers a valued public resource and an opportunity to view breathtaking landscapes, experience new towns and engage in this unique historic trail. It is hoped that the result of the feasibility study will include the Lower Trail as a segment of the 9/11 Trail.

More information on the September 11th National Memorial Trail can be found at www.911memorialtrail.org. To join the September 11th Trail Alliance, or to volunteer and help take action in your local community please consider [becoming a member](#).

THANKS TO THE HOLLIDAYSBURG SENIORS:

On May 13th 14th and 15th, about 40 Hollidaysburg Area High School seniors volunteered their time and muscles sprucing up the Lower Trail. Over the past 13 years, Rails to Trails has benefited from this community outreach effort. This year the students completed a variety of jobs, including:

- Painting entire Grannas Station tractor shed.
- Cleaning up all trail heads and river launches.
- Replacing 14 split rail fences and straightening many posts.
- Fixing all 2x6 fences in Williamsburg area.

- Establishing new gate opening for kayakers at Williamsburg launch.

- Cleaning the entire trail and canal areas of litter and sticks.

- Installing horse entrance sign along Rt 866.

- Trimming weeds at the Grannas Station trail area and parking lot.

- Cleaning up stone run-off at Water street

- Adding new donation sign at Williamsburg.

- Cleaning and preserving benches and tables between Mt. Etna and Alfarata and Grannas Station to Flowing Springs and at all pavilions on the trail.

As you can see, they accomplished a great deal of things and the trail looks much better for all their hard work. Again we thank the seniors from Hollidaysburg and look forward to the new group of seniors that will return next year. Thank you to members, Ed Donahoe, Adam Grow and Gary Patterson for overseeing the students and the projects.

WILD FLOWER OF THE MONTH:

Water Lily

By Bob Richers



One of my very favorite aquatic plants is the Water Lily. This flowering plant thrives in temperate and tropical areas worldwide. The French artist Claude Monet depicted Water Lilies in over 1500 of his paintings from the late 1800's thru 1926. We have several Lilies in our backyard pond and they are also found along the shallow sections, up to 6 feet deep, in most of the area state parks.

The Water Lily family (Nymphaeaceae) contains 8 genera with 70 species. These floating plants have been hybridized for water gardens and the resulting hybrids are hardy, night blooming tropical and day blooming tropical.

The Lily that we find around here is the Fragrant Water Lily. As the name suggests the flowers are quite aromatic. The bisexual flowers are day blooming and mostly white with an occasional pink, but colors from escaped hybrids may be spotted. The center of the blossom contains numerous intergrading yellow stamens. The floating green round leaves are 4" to 12" in diameter. The undersides of the leaves are purplish red. The leaf stalk, which is soft and spongy, has 4 air channels for exchange of gases from the tubular roots buried in the mud. The lily can spread by floating seeds or thru expansion of root systems. Deer, muskrats and beavers will dine on lilies but that hardly contains the plant. California lists the Mexican Water Lily as invasive.

When Canoe Creek Lake was newly opened, I knew a couple of fishermen who transplanted Water Lily root stalks from Black Moshannon Lake, tied them to bricks and dropped them in the shallows near the stumps. The late waterways patrolman Walt Rosser, when he noticed the lilies later in the summer, mentioned that the Fish Commission didn't like that practice but as a Bass fisherman he was glad to see them! Water Lily can create a unique ecosystem in itself and adds excellent cover for fish and amphibians alike.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

The following messages were posted on the bulletin board at Mt. Etna:

4/13/2014 "Cathy & Ray - Copperhead on the trail at 8.5 miles. River pretty high."

4/20/2014 "Don & Betty - Roaring Spring. Easter Sunday - He is Risen! Beautiful afternoon - Thanks RTT Board for the bridge replacement & volunteers doing hard work. We are BLESSED!"

4/21/2014 "Saw my first Black Bear on the trail after over 20 years of riding."

5/11/2014 "Moses & Lucee - What a piece of paradise you have here!"

5/11/2014 - "Thanks to mowing crew and trash pickup on trail. Much appreciated! Looks great."

5/11/2014 Love this trail, it is awesome!!! I ride all the time.

5/13/2014 "Rob G. 10 + miles brisk walking and slow running. Lovely place!"

5/18/2014 "A place worth coming back to. From Bangor, Maine."

5/15/2014 "Saw blue heron at 1st bridge here at Mt. Etna. I also (saw) that the surveyors marked a rock on the hillside on the left just past Goodman's Quarry with several orange ribbons. That rock is actually a marker stone for the Pennsylvania Canal and has PC carved into the face of it. The same type of stones are at the Canal house in Hollidaysburg.

5/31/2014 "Mom and Son Saturday Bike Ride! 12 mile total - not bad for a 9 yr. old boy! Beautiful day to enjoy God's Creation! We are thankful for health and life and being able to enjoy the outdoors!"

Undated "I wish to thank Mike (Vargo) with the long bike for stopping with first aid for my little girl. She fell off her bike. Thanks again. Pat and Brenda"

Undated "Small mouth bass, ... trout, rock bass, blue herons, doves, ducks, geese, and cedar waxwings. My first fishing trip of 2014. I love this part of the trail/river."

Undated "Melancholy and bicycling are incompatible - ride to the light. Danny (from) Clarion, PA."

Undated "Mister & his missy first walk of 2014. Love it here!"

TRAIL ETIQUETTE:

Just a quick reminder that EVERYONE loves to enjoy the trail. With a little common sense everyone can enjoy it without having a less than enjoyable time. To make this happen we would like to remind you that if you take your dogs for a walk, keep them

on a leash. This is not only for the safety of others but the safety of your dog as well. Also if you are riding your bike please ride at a safe speed and when you come along slower riders or walkers please call out "passing on your left/or/right" (depending on the side), this is so you do not startle the person. If you see sticks on the trail, please toss them off the trail and off the mowed grass areas. This will help our volunteers who mow the trail. We thank you for cooperation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Wednesday June 18th, 6 PM: 5K Annual John Healy Memorial 5K Race. The race benefits the Lower Trail while remembering one of the trail's very dedicated volunteers who lost the battle with cancer. If you would like to race, the race registration form is available online at www.rttcpa.org or you may register the day of the race. Registration begins at 4:45 PM at the Williamsburg Trailhead. For more information contact Phil Sukenik at psukenik@hosscorp.com

Saturday July 12th: Possum Ride 7PM at the Williamsburg Trailhead. There is to be a full moon on this date. Plan to come out and enjoy the trail from a different perspective. This was always the late Bill Taffe's ride. Mike Murtaugh, good friend of Bill's and longtime Rail Trail member, will be leading the ride. Rain date is July 19th. For more information or questions, contact Mike at mrtgh_mchl@yahoo.com

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



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday June 10th
Wednesday June 18th
Saturday July 12th

Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM Grannas Station
John Healy Memorial 5K Race, 6 PM Williamsburg Trailhead.
Possum Ride on the Trail, 7 PM Williamsburg Trailhead. Raindate Saturday July 19th
Same time same place. Bring a flashlight or lights for you bike and enjoy the trail via moonlight.

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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