



Volume 24 Issue 2

Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc.

March / April 2019

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND TREES ARE FALLING:



In early April, a large tree fell along the river onto our bridge at Mt. Etna, severely damaging the bridge's side railing. We are extremely grateful to Ben Varner who repaired the railing in record time. Ben volunteered his time and labor, once again showing what great volunteers do for our trail.

## SOME TRAIL HISTORY: DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Lower Trail was the **FIRST** Rail Trail in the United States to be:
  - a. **Privately owned**
  - b. Open **FREE** of charge to the public
  - c. Maintained and operated **TOTALLY** by **VOLUNTEERS**
2. The Lower Trail was one of the first 500 Rail Trails in the United States
3. We are still privately owned, operated and maintained **TOTALLY BY VOLUNTEERS.**
4. The average age of our maintenance volunteers is **70!**
5. The Lower Trail was majorly damaged three different times due to **SEVERE** flooding, each and every time **Grannas Brothers** came to the rescue donating much of the cost of repairs.
6. **Without our VOLUNTEERS and MEMBERS, Rails to Trails of Central PA would NOT EXSIST!** Please consider volunteering your time...helping along the trail or helping with newsletters, membership, the Spring Gathering,

## fundraising events or projects, speaking engagements; the list goes on.

If you stop and talk to anyone using the trail just ask if they are members. You will be surprised at how who use the trail do not know it is membership owned.

## SPRING GATHERING AND RAFFLE DRAWING:



On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to the Spring Gathering at the Mt. Etna trail head. We will once again be grilling hamburgers, hotdogs and kielbasa at **1 PM**. We will have the drawing for our annual raffle at about 2 pm. All we ask is that you bring your favorite salad or side dish to share with others and a drink for yourself. We supply the paper products, silverware and condiments.

This is always a wonderful afternoon event. It is a time for you to meet other trail users as well as trail volunteers and board members. Plan to come out and have a nice, relaxing afternoon on the trail. If you hadn't yet sent your tickets in, you may bring them to the gathering. If you cannot come to the gathering, please mail your tickets to Rails to Trails, PO Box 592, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 with enough time for them to be received at the Post Office by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Vickie Brua at [vicbrua@atlanticbb.net](mailto:vicbrua@atlanticbb.net) or Jennifer Barefoot at 814-695-8521, or e-mail [rjsunbrook@verizon.net](mailto:rjsunbrook@verizon.net). Thank you!

A very special Thank You is extended to the businesses and organizations that make this raffle and gathering a success.

**Spokes-n-Skis:** Located at 315 S. Logan Blvd. Altoona. This shop, along with Hoss's, has been the longest sponsor and supporter of the Lower Trail. Bryan and Troy work with each and every customer, no matter how young or old, beginner or expert, to make the outdoor experience the best it can be. They have all the gear you will need for cycling (on or off road), skiing and snowboarding. For more

information please visit their website at: [www.spokesnskis.com](http://www.spokesnskis.com) or phone at 814-941-3888

**REI:** (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) : Since 1938, REI has been your local outdoor co-op, working to help you experience the transformational power of nature. REI brings you top-quality gear and apparel, expert advice, rental equipment, inspiring stories of life outside and outdoor experiences to enjoy alone or share with your friends and family. And because REI has no shareholders, with every purchase you make with REI, you are choosing to steward the outdoors, support sustainable business and help the fight for life outside. Annually, more than 70 percent of REI's annual profits are invested back into the outdoor community through dividends to REI members, employee profit-sharing and retirement, and investments in nonprofits dedicated to the outdoors. Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania has benefited from REI's grants.

**Hoss's:** Hoss's Steak and Sea House has 36 locations throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It was founded in 1983 by Willard Campbell with his first location in Altoona. Hoss', along with Spokes-n-Skis have supported Rails to Trails for well over 20 years. Hoss's is well known for supporting the communities in which it is located. For more information please visit their website at: [www.hosss.com](http://www.hosss.com)

**Fairfield Farm Guest Cabin:** Located on 4646 Turnpike Road in Spruce Creek is a beautiful restored 1800's log cabin owned and operated by Mary Rogowski. Unlike a one room bed and breakfast, the cabin is your personal home away from home. It is fully furnished, heated, and air conditioned with complete kitchen facilities. Fairfield Farm Guest Cabin is located on a secluded 50 acre farm. The famous Pennsylvania fly fishing waters of Spruce Creek and the Little Juniata are within a mile of the cabin located 25 miles from Penn State University and 15 miles from popular Raystown Lake and only about 10 minutes from the Lower Trail. For more information visit the website; [www.fairfieldfarmguestcabin.com](http://www.fairfieldfarmguestcabin.com) or call 814-632-9445.

**Black Dog Café:** Located at 519 Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg, just next to the post office, is a wonderful coffee shop known for their great baked goods and lunch menu. It is open mornings to midafternoon Monday thru Saturday. They also do catering. For more information and hours, visit their website at: [www.blackdoghollidaysburg.com](http://www.blackdoghollidaysburg.com) or phone, 814-695-5700

**Allegheny Creamery and Crepes:** Located at 505 Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg, Kirk and Heather Seleme converted an old shoe repair shop in the historic district into a wonderful restaurant in 2009. It is open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more

information and hours, visit their website at: [www.alleghenycreperie.com](http://www.alleghenycreperie.com) or phone at 814-696-5055

**Field & Stream:** A nationally known outfitter with a local store located at 141 Sierra Drive, Altoona, Field and Stream has everything you could possibly need for your outdoor experience. For more information, visit their website at: [www.fieldandstreamshop.com](http://www.fieldandstreamshop.com) or phone 814-693-5000. (gift certificates are to be given away at the Spring Gathering.)

**Holland Bros. Meats:** Located at 16627 Dunnings Highway, Duncansville, Holland Brothes Meats is a 4 generation owned and operated meat market. They offer exceptional meats, custom butchering, catering and online sales. For more information, visit their website at [www.hollandbros.net](http://www.hollandbros.net) or phone 814-695-5450.

Please remember these businesses and groups when you are purchasing things throughout the year. Without the support of these businesses, there would be no fundraiser or spring gathering.

Our Prizes this year are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Prize: \$200 Gift Certificate from Spokes-N-Skis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 1 night stay in Fairfield Farm B&B Guest Cabin, Spruce Creek.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Gift Bag from REI
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate from Hoss's
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize: \$100 Sheetz Convenience Store Gift Certificate
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize: \$100 Brush Mountain Running & Outdoors, Inc. Gift Certificate
- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Gift Certificates from Allegheny Creamery and Crepes, \$25 each
- 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> Prize: Gift Certificates from Black Dog Café, \$25 each.

**WILDFLOWER WATCH: Forget-Me-Not**  
*By Bob Richers*



One of my favorite summer wild flowers is the Forget-Me-Not. These tiny, sky blue flowers with golden centers truly highlight a canopy of green foliage. The slightly larger True Forget-Me-Not is a European import. The Smaller Forget-Me-Not (real name) is our native plant. Both prefer damp waterside habitat. They seem to thrive along spring-fed streams and cooler drainage areas. Forget-me-nots can be either an annual or perennial plant. Their seeds are found in small, tulip-shaped pods along the stem of the flower. The Clarion/Little Toby Creek Rail Trail has these plants growing along the Ridgeway end of the trail. The Houtzdale Rail Trail has a major display of Forget-Me-Nots right out of town along Smoke

Run Creek. We might have Forget Me Not growing along the spring fed run behind the Waterstreet Flea Market....But I can't remember!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

We are always in need of volunteers. We have a GREAT group of volunteers who keep the trail well-maintained. Each year, due to individuals moving, illness, other obligations etc., we have a need to fill openings in our volunteer crew. We are currently in need of individuals who would be willing to weed-eat around benches. We have the equipment. If you might be interested, please contact Mike Panek at [mbp138@gmail.com](mailto:mbp138@gmail.com) or phone him at 814-569 7346. We are also looking for individuals who would like to work along with Hollidaysburg High School Seniors on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. You do not need to be available all days. Whatever time you have to volunteer would be appreciated. Contact Ed Donahoe at [ejdonahoe@msn.com](mailto:ejdonahoe@msn.com)

### **SPRING CLEANING:**

Help by picking up any trash you see along the trail. Always practice "what you bring in, you take home as well."

If you are walking along the trail and see sticks or branches down and across the trail, please stop and pick them up and toss them off the trail as well as the mowed grassy area. This will help our volunteers greatly when they are mowing.

The Hollidaysburg Senior High School Students will once again be volunteering on the trail May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. They have been volunteering their time on the trail for the past 17 years. We are in need of volunteers to work on the trail these dates.

Always remember you can volunteer your time with Greg Williams. He has been working along the trail for the past 4 years, working to rid the trail of invasive plants and introducing native plants. To find out, or volunteer your time with Greg, you can call 215-242-0854 or email [wacmbook@aol.com](mailto:wacmbook@aol.com).

### **UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTION:**

As you are aware, Pennsylvania's primary election is fast approaching on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Please try and find out what your candidates' views and positions are concerning support for recreational sites funding, etc. Areas surrounding Blair and Huntingdon Counties are seeing the importance of growing and enhancing their recreational trails and parks to make

their counties more attractive and to improve the quality of life for residents, attract tourism, and industry. It is time that our local elected officials also see that benefit.

### **SUPPORTING RAILS TO TRAILS IS AS EASY AS SHOPPING AMAZON.COM.**

Please consider using **Amazon Smiles** and **designating Rails To Trails of Central Pennsylvania Inc.** when you make a purchase through Amazon. This will provide our trail organization with a percentage of the purchase at no cost to you. Thanks to all those who have already used this feature.

You can use this quick link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1605920> to access Amazon Smiles using RTTCPA as donor recipient.

### **FRIENDLY REMINDER:**

Dogs are to be leashed and under control on the trail. This is not only for the safety of trail users, but your pet as well.

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### **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:

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Make checks payable to:

Rails-to-Trails of Central PA Inc.  
PO Box 592,  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
[www.rttcpa.org](http://www.rttcpa.org)



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RAILS-TO-TRAILS, INC.  
OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA  
P.O. Box 592  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Altoona, PA 16601

PERMIT NO. 66

*Or Current Resident.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Gathering and Raffle Drawing, 1 PM, Mt. Etna Trailhead
Tuesday May 14	Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM at Grannas Station
May 14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hollidaysburg Sr. High Students Volunteering on the Trail.
Tuesday June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM at Grannas Station

## 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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