



Steel Valley Trail Council
Members and Friends eNewsletter
April 10, 2012

Hello from the Steel Valley Trail Council! Here are some updates and upcoming events.

Action Item: Petition to save the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund

The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, a popular Pennsylvania program that has led to more open rail-trails than in any other state, including hundreds of miles in every county of the state, including the Great Allegheny Passage and other popular and well-known trails, is under threat of being eliminated permanently.

Please take a few seconds to sign the following petition at the link below (by the Renew Growing Greener Coalition). More information is available there as well.

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/2012budget>

They are trying to get as many signatures as possible by April 10th. If you are reading this after April 10th, still take a few seconds to fill it out the petition (if it is still available) and/or contact your state representatives to tell them you support the preservation of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.

Parking Lot at Pump House Trail Head Closed to Trail Parking on Friday, April 27th

On Saturday, April 28th, the pump house at the Waterfront will play host to **Pyrotopia – first annual festival of Fire Arts**. For more information, please visit <http://www.pyrotopia.net/>. The event is free and open to the public.

Due to the nature of this event, which will be using the normal parking area for the performances, **parking will be closed to trail users on Friday, April 27th**. Parking is still available at the park and ride in Duquesne and the marina in McKeesport.

Upcoming Event: H2O Walk for Water Walk for Life (April 28, 2012 at 10:00 AM)

****Note: This is not sponsored by the SVTC and provided for informational purposes only.***

The Life's Journey Mentoring Program will host their 2nd annual H2O Walk for Water Walk for Life along our trail on April 28, 2012. Below is information provided by that organization.

A copy of the pledge form is available here:

http://www.steelvalleytrail.org/enewsletters/h2o_120428.pdf

School children need clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education to be able to learn. Yet half of the world's schools lack safe water and more than half lack an adequate latrine.

On ***April 28, 2012, starting at 10:00 am, Life's Journey Mentoring Program and participants*** will walk three miles, symbolizing the burden that students in developing nations must bear on a daily basis. The amount of money that is raised will be donated to H2O for Life and 100% of the money will be used to bring water, sanitation, and hygiene education to a school in need.

We are asking everyone to pledge at least **\$20.00** per person.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Denise Caldwell at 412-927-2562 or LJMP412@yahoo.com

Related Web Sites:

Life's Journey Mentoring Program: www.snoringtiger.com/lifesjourney

H2O for Life: www.h2oforlifeschools.org

Upcoming Trail Detour in McKeesport

Construction in the RIDC Park in McKeesport will require a section of the trail to be closed in the near future for about 4 to 6 weeks. A detour will be in place along Industrial Drive and onto a temporary stone trail (that was used during the last time a detour was required in this area). Cyclist with road bicycles may want to walk their bikes along the stone trail portion.

Upcoming Event: Pedal 2 DC 4 DS (Local Kick-Off Ride: July 14, 2012 at 9:00 AM)

****Note: This is not sponsored by the SVTC and provided for informational purposes only.***

PEDAL 2 DC 4 DS is a 6 day ride the week of the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Washington DC. It is July 15th to July 20th, from Meyersdale, PA to Washington, DC. It is in support of the Down Syndrome Center of Pittsburgh at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. For more information about this 6 day tour, visit <http://www.mountainsidebiketours.net/downsyndromeawareness/pedal2dc4ds.html>

Prior to this on July 14th, there will be a local, kick-off fun ride along a section of the Steel Valley section of the Great Allegheny Passage. Below is information provided to us about the local ride:

Kick-off event July 14th at the Waterfront Pump House

- Registration is at 9:00 AM.
- Cost is \$35.00.
- There will be a 10 mile ride which will start approximately 9:45 AM.
- Following the ride, lunch will be provided as well as entertainment and a basket auction.

For more information contact Pam DeGeorge at Pamela.degeorge@chp.edu or 412-692-6694.

This day will be an awareness event and kick-off for the PEDAL 2 DC 4 DS, a 6 day ride to benefit the Down Syndrome Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Upcoming Group Rides on the Steel Valley Trail:

****Note: These are planned by other organizations and are not hosted by the SVTC.***

May 20th, 2012, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Venture Outdoors

Description from their web site:

Join us for a 20 mile round-trip ride from Homestead to McKeesport and back as we travel along the Great Allegheny Passage. We will encounter some short grades to climb along the way. Bring your own lunch to enjoy as we stop in McKeesport or choose from a list of bike friendly restaurants. Bike rentals are not available for this program.

Location: Homestead, PA

Difficulty: Moderate

Cost: \$15.00 non-member / \$10.00 member

More Information & Registration:

Venture Outdoors web site (under activities calendar): <http://ventureoutdoors.org/>

While not a sponsored ride by the SVTC, a member of our board will be leading this ride.

Other Upcoming Area Events:

**Note: These are not sponsored by the SVTC and provided for informational purposes only.*

“Labor Organizing: A Human and Civil Right 65 Years after Taft-Hartley” Symposium & PA Historical Marker Dedication (April 21, 2012)

Palisades Hall, 100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA

8:30 AM - Registration

9:00 AM - Keynote: Leo Gerard, President of the United Steel Workers

9:45 AM - Taft-Hartley and Its Consequences

10:45 AM - Taft-Hartley and Labor's Right to Organize

At the site of the Penn-McKee Hotel, 122 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA

12:00 PM - Commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Kennedy-Nixon
Taft-Hartley Debate of 1947, a Pennsylvania Historical Marker Dedication
(with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission) will be held.

Co-Sponsors: The Battle of Homestead Foundation, Pennsylvania Labor History Society, United Steel Workers District 10, Allegheny County Labor Council, with other organizations and individuals.

Rivers of Steel: Heritage Farm and Artist Market (Sundays 10 AM – 2 PM beginning May 6th at the Pump House):

This weekly market that was popular last year will be returning this spring. It is open to the public and gives visitors a chance to explore the building and site while supporting local artisans and businesses.

The Steel Valley Trail Council will have a table at the market on selected weekends (to be determined). If you are interested in volunteering or want to stop by and say hello, we will be happy to see you at the market.

River Sweep 2012 (June 16th):

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission will be having their annual river clean-up event along the shores of Ohio River and its tributaries. One clean-up site is the Nine Mile Run / Duck Hollow area (across the river from the Waterfront shopping complex). For more information please visit www.orsanco.org/river-sweep. You can also contact us (svtc.membership@gmail.com) and we can have a member of our North Bank committee follow up with you.

Beta Mobile Version of Steel Valley Trail Web Site

Members and friends with smartphones that want to help test the mobile version of the Steel Valley Trail web site are asked to please contact Jim Taggart at svtc.membership@gmail.com.

Maintenance Survey Now Available

Our maintenance survey is still available online. We are asking our members and friends who are interested in volunteering for the maintenance task force to take a few minutes to fill out a trail maintenance work party survey at the following link:

<http://www.steeltownmedia.com/steelvalleytrail/maintenanceSurvey120312.aspx>

Your interest and assistance in helping to maintain the Steel Valley Trail is appreciated.

April's Monthly Board Meeting

We will have our next board meeting on April 16th at 5:00 PM. We will be meeting at the City of Duquesne municipal building at 12 South Second Street. To get there, go up Grant Avenue from SR 837 (away from the river). Make a left onto 2nd Street and the building will be on your right. A link to a map of the location is below. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

<http://tinyurl.com/7fwubzb>

See you along the trail!
- Steel Valley Trail Council

*The Steel Valley Trail Council is proud to be sponsored by **KU Resources***

Interested in writing an article for the next edition?
Please contact us at svtc.membership@gmail.com.