



Steel Valley Trail Council eNewsletter

Providing the latest news on the Steel Valley Section of the Great Allegheny Passage

Donors and Volunteers Help Maintain Our Trail (by Bob MacGregor & Jim Taggart)

The Steel Valley Trail Council would like to thank the Donald H. Jones Trust for donating \$10,000 to the Allegheny Trail Alliance towards the clean-up of last summer's landslide along our portion of the trail.

Before



Photo by Paul Heckbert (SVTC)

After



Photo by Bob MacGregor (SVTC)

In addition to the Donald H. Jones Trust's contribution to repair the landslide, Linda Boxx of the Allegheny Trail Alliance expedited this donation and the Regional Trail Corporation financed the reconstruction of the washed out swale and new chain link fencing between the new swale and trail. Jack Paulik, RTC Project Manager, provided project coordination services at no charge. Caruso Paving performed the work.

Volunteers manned flagging stations to manage trail traffic during the slide removal. They included Bob MacGregor, Bill Suhy, Tom Beattie, Rich Cohen, Joyce MacGregor, Lynn Dougherty, Darlene Allen and David Ringler. The work was completed without any problems.

(Continues on the next page)

The Steel Valley Trail Council is proud to be sponsored by the following community partners.



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Many volunteers responded immediately after the slide was reported to make the trail passable until it was completely removed by Caruso Paving. Those who could be identified included Paul Heckbert, Bob MacGregor, Jim Taggart, Rich Petyk and Adam MacGregor. Passing cyclists stopped and helped to give the volunteers breaks.

A short while after this slide, Jim Taggart, his father Charles Taggart, Mike Sabo and George Schmidt cleared the trail of five fallen trees after a storm. Bob Holder cut the weeds along the contraflow bike lane in the Waterfront. Paul Heckbert has also been clearing knotweeds from the Sandcastle segment of the trail.

Mike Sabo worked four hours to perform the annual servicing of the gasoline powered equipment this past week to save the cost of having it done outside of the Council. Mike is pictured below with the two new pieces of power equipment purchased with a Wish Book grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Bessie F. Anathan Charitable Trust.

Bob Holder and Mike Sabo assisted Bob MacGregor with cutting the grass along the trail berms during the year.



The top two photos are of one of the volunteer flagging stations during the landslide clean-up. The bottom left photo is from the clean-up itself. The bottom right photo is of Mike Sabo after servicing two new pieces of maintenance equipment. All four photos taken by Bob MacGregor (SVTC).

SVTC Annual Meeting Notice

Our annual meeting will be on November 18, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Bulgarian Macedonian National Education and Cultural Center (449 W 8th Ave, Homestead, PA 15120). Directions can be found here: <http://goo.gl/maps/VF66K>. All members are welcomed to attend.

Nominees for the directors of the board, who will serve terms from January 2014 to December 2016, are pending and will be announced shortly.

Duck Hollow & Swisshelm Park Hike (by Nine Mile Run Watershed Association) Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meet at the Duck Hollow parking lot along the Mon at the bottom of Old Browns Hill Road. Join NMRWA, Edgewood resident and **SVTC Board Member Paul Heckbert** for a hike through the woods in Duck Hollow & Swisshelm Park, around where Nine Mile Run flows into the Monongahela River. Paul will take us on some little known trails, but be aware that some parts of this hike are rigorous & boots are recommended.

The plan is to first hike along the Mon upstream following the Flotsam Trail as much as possible until we're fairly close to Carrie Furnace, then return to the Duck Hollow parking lot, after which we'll hike up the ridge of Swisshelm Park for nice views of the Mon and Homestead, before descending back to the starting point.

Please register for the hike with Sara Powell sarap@ninemilerun.org in advance. Hike is free.

October 5, 2013: A Busy Day along the Great Allegheny Passage (by Jim Taggart)

On any beautiful Saturday afternoon in early fall, it would be consider a busy day on the GAP. However, add to that a headline event, a food drive on wheels and a tour of riders passing through to finish a weeklong trip from Washington, DC to Station Square, all coming together within the Steel Valley area.

The headline event was the Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce's third annual Tour de Mon. With the assistance of the Rivers of Steel Heritage Corp. and the Steel Valley Trail Council, this annual ride was a success and gave riders four options for riding. Starting from the Pump House, you could choose to ride back and forth to either the Hot Metal Bridge in the South Side, Grant Street in Duquesne, the McKees Point Marina in McKeesport, or the Boston trail head along the Youghioghenny River.

At the same time this was going on, Bike to Feed Families was having another food drive that was more than just collecting food to give to the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. After having food collected at the Carnegie Science Center (with its Bike: Science on Two Wheels exhibit) for several weeks, volunteers packed the food onto their bikes and into their panniers to transport the donated food via bike to the food bank located just off the trail in Duquesne's RIDC industrial park.

Finally, proving how world-renowned the trail has become, cyclists from across the United States rode through the area as both events above were occurring as part of Adventure Cycling Association's weeklong bicycle tour from the Lincoln Memorial to Station Square. Of course,

people going out to enjoy the trail (whether in small sections locally or as a weeklong trip) is anything but a rare occurrence. And it only promises to increase in the future as more trail connections are made within our area on both sides of the river.



Photo by Gary Dotterweich for Bike to Feed Families



L-R: Jim Taggart (SVTC), Maury Burgwin (Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce), and Amy Camp (Bike to Feed Families); Photo by Gary Dotterweich for Bike to Feed



Photo by George Schmidt (SVTC)



Photo by George Schmidt (SVTC) at Tour de Mon showing some of the riders and volunteers



Photo by George Schmidt (SVTC)

Steel Valley Trail Council Board of Directors:

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Bob Holder (2013-2015, 2nd term), 2nd Vice President
Paul Heckbert (2011-2013), Secretary
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