

Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter



Trail Tales

The Yearly Newsletter of the WYTC 2021 Year in Review

**CHECK OUT THE ENCLOSED CARD: TRAIL INFO
AND DONATION INFORMATION**

WYTC President's 2021 Message

Covid again played a part in last year's trail activity. For whatever reason, people saw no end to all the different notices and acted in different ways. Many decided on the trail as a safe alternative, resulting in heavy usage and 44 new WYTC members. Our regular annual three projects took place on the trail with the same volunteers but fewer participants. At least they were not virtual. One of our communities is starting to see the value of the trail. Rostraver Township sent a crew to pave the entrance to the Smithton Beach parking lot and I thank them for their interest and in performing a task our maintenance crew does not have the equipment to do. Our trail maintenance did continue to keep one of the area's oldest trails one of the best. The costs to do this with new equipment, major repairs and fuel continues to increase with grants, new memberships and the same fundraisers struggling to keep up. Money, however, cannot replace the workers who passed or have diminished capacity due to their health. For two years my final board agenda item was "I would like". What would you like to see happen in our trail's future?

WYTC 2021 Board of Directors

Officers

President – Keith Frid
Vice President – Rowan Reid
Treasurer – Leslie Pierce
Secretary – Mary Reid

At Large Directors

Robert Hand
Bill Hurrianko
Jim Logan

2022 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events.

June 5 - Trail Appreciation Day and Sale on The Trail

Sept 6- Annual Labor Day Poker Run

October 1- 5K/10K Run Walk

Please renew your membership using the form on the inside of the back page of the newsletter or renew online at bikewytc.org. Your membership dues help to purchase supplies and equipment to support the work of our volunteers who maintain the trail. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and critical to the success of the WYTC.

Memberships expire on April 30 of each year.

Please check your expiration date on your address label of this newsletter. THANK YOU

2021 Over the Hill Gang Maintenance Report

Submitted by Bob Hand

The 2021 season was a good one for the Over the Hill Gang. There were no severe weather-related issues like landslides, flooding of blocked drainage pipes. Routine work from grooming the trail in the spring to blowing off leaves in the late fall was carried out efficiently by the Gang. Drainage ditch cleaning, downed tree removal, mowing and all the other routine jobs were always completed in a timely manner.

Through the generosity of the R. K. Mellon Foundation and the Trail Volunteer Fund, matched by WYTC dollars, a new John Deere 3049R model tractor was purchased. It will provide additional capability for mowing and other maintenance tasks. The 22-year-old John Deere tractor has incurred extensive repairs over the past several years but is still in useable condition. In 2022 it will be repositioned to a storage container in Van Meter in order to provide maintenance services more quickly and easily to the southern end of the WYTC section of the GAP.

Major repairs to two other pieces of equipment totaled over \$6500 for the year. The excavator needed new treads and the Ventrac tractor required repairs to the exhaust and ignition systems. Other plans for 2022 include construction of a memorial site near the West Newton Station, installation of drains below the West Newton Cemetery, and replacement of the doors on the kiosks in West Newton, Cedar Creek Park and the Smithton Trailhead.

Many, many thanks to the members of the Over the Hill Gang who show up every Wednesday morning to perform routine maintenance work and who show up to help in emergency removal of trees.

WYTC Sponsors

The following businesses and organizations have generously supported the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter. Please show your appreciation by patronizing them in return.

Adele's Bed and Breakfast	Back Porch Restaurant
Belle Vernon Rotary Club	Bloom Brew
Borough of Smithton	C. Harper Chevrolet
Commercial Bank & Trust of PA	Davidson Tucker Oral Surgery
Flowers Auto Wreckers, Inc.	Fox's Pizza Den of West Newton
Giant Eagle West Newton	Highway Appliance
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services	JPK Construction LLC
Kenny Ross Subaru	L. L. Barthels Funeral Home
Letterio Distributing	Mikey Sitzman Coldwell Banker N. Huntingdon
O2 Digital Creative Agency	PNC Bank Willowbrook Plaza
The Embroidery People	The Trailside
Warhold Mechanical	West Newton Animal Clinic
West Newton Bicycle Shop	

WYTC Fund Raising Events for 2022

We missed all our fund-raising events in 2020. In 2021 WYTC held the Trail Appreciation Day, Poker Run, and 5/10K walk run. This year we are up to speed and are hoping for a great turnout to all of our events. The plan is to add a "Sale on the Trail" on Trail Appreciation Day. More news to follow. More details on our web site at www.bikewytc.org. Come on out and enjoy the trail this year and our special event days Connie Petras WYTC President 2022

It's time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so for the upcoming year. Memberships will expire on April 30 of each year. The WYTC counts on membership dues to be able to continue supporting and maintaining the 10 miles of the GAP trail that runs through Westmoreland County. You can also get a full-page copy of the membership form off the webpage at www.bikewytc.org.

Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter Membership Form

Your privacy is important to us. The WYTC does not share names, addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses with other individuals, organizations or companies.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Note: Email addresses are used to send out information about events and other activities. Please include your email address

Membership Type (circle one): **New** **Renewal**

Membership Category (Put an "X" in the appropriate space.):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$20	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$30	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting	\$50	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefactor	\$125	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Voluntary Contribution		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Enclosed		\$

_____ I'd like to receive a membership card.

_____ I'm interested in doing volunteer work. Please contact me.

Please make checks payable to "RTC-WYTC" and mail completed form with your check to:

RTC-WYTC
P. O. Box 242
West Newton, PA 15089

Thank you for your support.

Yough River Trail Riders

Bill Hurrianko is the WYTC's coordinator of organized rides having completed its 13th year of togetherness. If you are interested in having others to ride with, this is the way to be active, feel safe along the trail and make new friends.

Rides are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at a pace of 10-12 mph for a round trip distance of 20-30 miles. The Thursday ride can be shorter and at a slower pace depending on the group. ebikes that follow trail guidelines are welcome. The Monday and Thursday rides begin at the West Newton Station at 9:00AM While Tuesday rides begin at other locations such as Whitsett, Connellsville, Ohio Pyle, McKeesport, Ghost Town or Confluence.

We have off season lunches in January, February, and March but due to the coronavirus pandemic, they were not held in 2021. The summer picnic was held last year. In spite of the pandemic, we were able to have a full riding season by following the virus safety guidelines and will continue to do so in 2022

If interested, you can email Bill at youghbikers@comcast.net. If you aren't already a member of the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter, we ask that you join to be included on the email list. The WYTC is an all-volunteer group that maintains 10.5 miles of the trail with funds raised from grants, events, contributions and memberships

Follow the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter on Facebook. Check out www.bikewytc.org, the WYTC website, for photos of events and of the trail. Follow instructions on the website to have your photos included.

Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter

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