

# Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter



## Trail Tales

### The Yearly Newsletter of the WYTC 2022 Year in Review

#### WYTC President's Message 2022

A very productive year in 2022. We had two pavilions built across the trail from the West Newton station. We wanted an area for folks to stop while biking or walking to take a rest or get out of the rain with 4 benches there under cover. One of our members made two great kiosks under the pavilions with lots of great information including the maps of the GAP and C&O canal.

As we are now transitioning to one fund-raising event a year, the Poker Run on Labor Day, we now have a Memorial Brick project to obtain funds to take care of the trail. The bricks are engraved with nice sayings, family names or memorials to loved ones. It is an ongoing project with plenty of spaces for more bricks to be sold.

I hope you enjoyed the trail during 2022. We were finally getting out of all the restrictions of Covid. More folks were traveling along the trail and enjoying the scenery, getting exercise and companionship. West Newton is a favorite stop for those who travel from Pittsburgh to either Cumberland (GAP trail) or all the way to DC. WYTC appreciates all the members and sponsors of our section of the trail for their continual support. Stop in the station and say hello and check out our merchandise.

*Connie*

#### WYTC 2022 Board of Directors

##### Officers

**President** – Connie Petras

**Vice President** – John Warhold

**Treasurer** – Leslie Pierce

**Secretary** – Mary Reid

##### At Large Directors

Robert Hand

Bill Hurrianko

Jim Logan

#### 2023 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events. Check the website for any changes.

**June 4** - Trail Appreciation Day and Sale on The Trail

**Sept 4**- Annual Labor Day Poker Run includes a 12-mile, 20-mile bike ride & 2-mile walk

**Please renew your membership using the form on the inside of the back page of the newsletter or renew online at [www.bikewytc.org](http://www.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**

## 2022 Over the Hill Gang Maintenance Report by Bob Hand

Maintenance on the Westmoreland County Section of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) is a yearlong job. Winter projects by the OTHG included snow removal at the West Newton Station, assisted a private contractor to remove several dead trees at the King Trailhead, Smithton Trailhead, and built memorial benches in the maintenance building. In the spring, installation of the memorial benches, blowing leaves, removing debris from the trail, grooming, cleaning and grading the trailhead parking lots, landscaping at the West Newton Station, and moving all of the WYTC administrative files and office equipment from the Station to the WYTC maintenance building.

The summer months included grass cutting, weed whacking, tree trimming and drainage ditch cleaning. A major project for 2022 was the installation of a shipping container along the trail in the village of Van Meter. With funding through membership dues and donations a 20-foot storage container was purchased and installed along with a portable generator, lighting, a diesel pump, and miscellaneous tools. One of our tractors will be in the container, making maintenance of the southern end of our trail section more efficient. The OTHG members will be able to more quickly get to work on that section of the trail by eliminating the long tractor drives to and from West Newton.

A private contractor installed two pavilions at the station The OTHG assembled and installed 4 memorial benches and replaced many of the bricks installed as a floor of the memorial with memorial bricks purchased by members of the WYTC and the public. This memorial brick pavilion replaces the installation of memorial benches along the trail. One WYTC member built new doors and installed new cork surfaces for the info kiosks along the trail. The 1940's forklift was replaced by another used forklift for safety concerns.

2 other important purchases were made near year's end. One is a woodchipper which will allow for quick disposal of tree limbs and small trees and the second was a flail mower which will replace a quite old side arm cutter. Both purchases were made through the funds raised through membership dues, donations, and the Labor Day Poker Run. The OTHG greatly appreciates the support of our members, donors, and the local charitable foundations such as the Mabis McKenna Foundation, the Tucker Foundation, and the Trail Volunteer Fund that allow us to keep the Westmoreland County Section of the GAP the best of all!

### WYTC Sponsors

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

Belle Vernon Rotary	Bloom Brew
Borough of Smithton	Bright Morning B&B
Driscoll & Sons Cafe	Flowers Auto Wreckers
<b>*Fox's Pizza Den of West Newton</b>	Giant Eagle, West Newton
Highway Appliance.	<b>*Kenny Ross Subaru</b>
JPK Construction LLC	L.L. Barthels Funeral Home
Letterio Distributing	Maureen Kroll Attorney
Mickey Sitzman Coldwell Banker Realty	<b>* PNC Bank Willowbrook Plaza</b>
<b>*The Embroidery People</b>	The Korner Tavern
<b>*The Trailside</b>	<b>*Warhold Mechanicals</b>
West Newton Animal Clinic	West Newton Bicycle Shop
West Newton Rotary Club	Williams Ace Hardware

#### **\*Gold Sponsors**

**Special mention to: Kenny Ross Subaru, Warhold Mechanical, and Attorney Sheryl Heid for donating the Memorial Benches and the Tucker Foundation for the Pavilions.**

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 10.5 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](http://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 "WYTC" and mail completed form with your check to:

**WYTC**  
**P. O. Box 242**  
**West Newton, PA 15089**

**Thank you for your support**  
**WYTC is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization**

## Yough River Trail Riders

Bill Hurrianko is the WYTC's coordinator of organized rides having completed its 14<sup>th</sup> 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, Ohiopyle, McKeesport, or Confluence.

We have off season lunches in January, February, and March as well as a summer picnic and Christmas dinner yearly.

If interested, you can email Bill at [youghbikers@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://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

PO Box 242  
West Newton, PA 15089

Mailing label here



WWW.BIKEWYTC.ORG