

Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter



Trail Tales

The Yearly Newsletter of the WYTC 2019 Year in Review

Message from the President

2019 was another successful season thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. It takes a village of such kind hearted people to keep our trail segment in beautiful condition for all trail users.

What an impression it makes to those who pass through Westmoreland County on the 10.5-mile GAP trail section. It is open even when weather, landslides, fallen trees, etc try to spoil the passage. The hard-working volunteers meticulously care for and find solutions to keep the trail safe.

Corporate sponsors and individual donors are a breed set apart. We appreciate their generous contributions beyond words. We are proud that they recognize the value of the GAP trail what it means to our county and locale.

Our trail events raise money for maintenance and are fun for participants and volunteers alike. Rain or shine, we have a good time. Please check out our schedule of events for 2020 and bring family and friends.

Consider joining our trail family, organized riding group, become a volunteer, sponsor, or donor. Be a part of something bigger. We would love to have you with us.

All enjoy a safe and healthy 2020 season.
Hope to see you on the trail!

Karen A. Craig

WYTC 2019 Board of Directors

Officers

President – Karen Craig

Vice President – Maria Hixson

Treasurer – Leslie Pierce

Secretary – Mary Reid

At Large Directors

Robert Hand

John Hixson

Caz Liszewski

2020 Calendar of Events

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

May 16 - 5K/10K Run Walk

June 6 - Trail Appreciation Day

Sept 7 - Annual Labor Day Poker Run

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.

2019 Over the Hill Gang Maintenance Report Submitted by Bob Hand

During the first half of 2019 trail repairs due to heavy rains required intensive work and substantial money. Two locations in particular were addressed; the landslide below the West Newton Cemetery and a failed drain near GAP Milepost 111 (between Cedar Creek Park and Smithton). The landslide at the cemetery location had been cleared in late 2018 at a cost of \$12,000, but cleaning the drain and rerouting of the water flow required extensive handwork. Eventually the water flow from the cemetery was successfully routed through the existing drainpipe. On the evening of June 19/20 a heavy rainstorm caused a drain blockage near MP 111 that resulted in severe erosion of the trail surface for approximately 75 feet. The crushed limestone surface was about 90% removed down to the railroad ballast in the area. The very next evening another rainstorm, not quite as severe, again eroded the site to a lesser extent. The WYTC Maintenance crew performed emergency repairs to keep the trail passable in that area. An excavating contractor was hired to clear the drainage ditch and they found the old railroad stone arch drain had collapsed. A new 48-inch plastic drainpipe was installed to replace the old stone arch drain. The cost of that installation was over \$10,000.

Throughout the summer and fall the Over the Hill Gang maintenance crew used our mini excavator to clean drainage ditches and to brush cut vegetation in the drainage ditches. Routine chores like mowing, weed whacking, minor trail surface repairs, and building/installing memorial benches kept the crew well occupied. Several pieces of equipment required both routine and emergency repairs. The Takeuchi excavator, John Deere tractor and Ventrac tractor all required repairs that total over \$5000.

Through October the Over the Hill Gang has expended over 1000 hours performing the work described above. A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped with this work.

2019 Corporate Sponsors

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

Adele's Bed and Breakfast	American Legion Post 0790
Back Porch Restaurant	Belle Vernon Rotary Club
Bloom Brew	Bright Morning Bed and Breakfast
Commercial Bank & Trust of PA	Davidson Tucker Oral Surgery
Flowers Auto Wreckers, Inc.	Fox's Pizza Den of West Newton
Gary's Chuck Wagon	Highway Appliance
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services	JPK Constructions LLC
L. L. Barthels Funeral Home	Letterio Distributing
Pennsylvania Financial Consultants	PNC Bank
Riverside Storage PA	Smithton Borough
Speer Street Grill	The Embroidery People
The Trailside	Warhold Mechanical
West Newton Animal Clinic	West Newton Bicycle Shop
West Newton Giant Eagle	Williams Ace Hardware

WYTC Fund Raising Events for 2019

Again, this year the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter held their annual fundraising events. Many volunteers helped with these events which everyone enjoyed. In addition, the chapter held the annual bike raffle with the winner being announced on October 30. All fund-raising events have photos and more details on our web site at www.bikewytc.org.

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 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 95
West Newton, PA 15089

Thank you for your support.

Yough River Trail Riders

Bill Hurrianko is WYTC's leader of organized rides which began in 2009. 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 with anywhere from 6 - 25 riders. Monday and Tuesday are usually longer and can go for a 30-mile round trip at a pace of 10 to 12 miles per hour. The Thursday rides are for those that want a shorter, slower ride. These rides have a pace of 8 to 10 miles per hour and a distance of 15 to 20 miles. All rides begin at 9:00 and leave from the West Newton Station with the exception of Tuesday's ride which may begin at other pre-arranged locations. Some of Tuesday rides in the past have included the Panhandle Trail, the Sunday Ride, the Franklin Bike Tour and Drake's Oil Museum, and the Pine Creek Trail.

The 2019 season included many training rides such as "Tour de Donut", the Covered Bridge Ride, Mercer Lakes Ride, Mingo Park and North Park. Grand Finale of the season was a 3-day ride to Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington KY for the Bourbon Country Burn rides in September. Turn out of the group was excellent. A wonderful trip!

The riders enjoy staying in touch during the off season by meeting for lunch on the second Thursday of January, February and March. The riding season usually wraps up with a holiday lunch at a local restaurant which is enjoyed by all.

If interested, leave your name, phone number and email at the West Newton Station or contact Bill at youghbikers@comcast.net. If you aren't already a member, we ask that you join the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter to be included in the email list.

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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