

TRAIL TRACKINGS

A Newsletter for Members of the Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association
Trailblazing Through Somerset County

Vol. 3, No. 3

Autumn/Winter 2006



A Beautiful Ending to a Grand Year on the Great Allegheny Passage in Somerset County!

2006 on the Somerset County Section of the Great Allegheny Passage has been a very eventful year. It started with a wild e-bay auction in early April with the winner awarded the honor of being the first official rider through the Big Savage Tunnel. Then the official opening of the tunnel and the grand opening ride celebration of the Passage in late



Jim Clay

May that opened the trail from McKeesport to Frostburg and beyond. There were many individual celebrations throughout the year by bikers and hikers who trekked the whole way from Pittsburgh to DC

finding their way around the unfinished sections. Now as the year comes to a close, there will be a quiet celebration on the MD section of the Passage with the Maryland's group soft opening of their last section from the Brush Tunnel below Frostburg to the C&O Canal terminus in Cumberland. The



Jim Clay

official opening will probably be in the Spring of 2007 and we will all be celebrating with them as we will finally be able to ride nonstop from McKeesport to Cumberland on the Great Allegheny Passage.

In the spring of 2007 we will host

a trail opening ride event similar to the grand opening ride last May. The ride went so well last year we are planning to have one every year to kick off the biking/hiking season. Look for a mailing early next year for details.

The Passage has gained much popularity nationwide and worldwide with trail users from all walks of life, from neighboring

counties, other states and foreign countries. People from Germany, Switzerland, England and other countries were noted on the trail. Adventure Cycling Association, who publishes a magazine catering

to touring bicyclist worldwide, produces cross country maps and sponsors tours nationwide among other bicycle related ventures, hosted a ride this past spring on the Passage and it sold out immediately. They announced a second ride and it sold out. The people who rode in the rides

loved it. For some, it was not having to deal with auto traffic and still be able to travel a long distance between major cities. For others, it was the beautiful views our trail has to offer.

See you in the Spring!



WINTER

on the Great Allegheny Passage

The last of the autumn leaves are on the ground and brown, all the wildflowers are gone and the forest floor vacant, and you've cleaned the bike after your last ride and put it away for the winter. I guess it's time to sit back and dream about riding the Great Allegheny Passage next year, right? Wrong!

Although winter is here that is no reason to put aside trips on the trail until next spring. Over the winter there is plenty to see and do on the Great Allegheny Passage.

When there is sufficient snow, the trail is open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Both of these activities are especially good in the Somerset County region from Confluence



Dixon Line with the additional snow accumulations of higher elevations. Where the trail is wide, it's a good idea to confine your skiing to the main surface, and snowshoe on the sides so you don't damage the ski tracks.

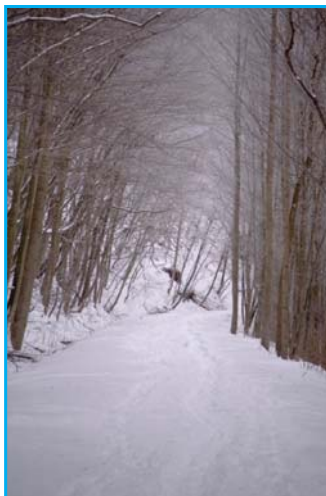
One of the beauties in the winter is that the landscape is so very different with the shroud of leaves gone. Instead of being in a green tunnel, you can see well beyond your immediate location and get a better sense of the landscape beyond the trail. Farms, homes, stream valleys and other features that you'll never notice in the summer are easily seen during the winter

We are not the only users of the trail and a fresh blanket of snow will reveal tracks of other, wilder visitors. Aside from the abundant deer tracks, look for turkey, bobcat, coyote and other winter resident birds and mammals. A good field guide to animal tracks is a handy item when you use the Passage in winter.

When there is no snow, the Great Allegheny Passage is, of course, a great place for just a simple winter walk. Walking a section you usually cycle will provide a whole new viewpoint and I imagine you will see a lot of things that you missed on rides during the summer.

Remember, if you are thinking about visiting the Passage in the vicinity of Big Savage Mountain, the tunnel closes in December and reopens in April, so plan accordingly.

Paul g. Wiegman



Trailhead News

News From Confluence

The 2006 cycling season is winding down and the folks from Confluence couldn't be happier about the number of visitors who've come to town because of the trail. The numbers are noticeably increasing every year and this year was a busy one. There were several weekends when there wasn't a room to be had anywhere in town and the restaurants were bustling, even during the week! In June, July and September, Confluence Tourism Association sponsored a series of three concerts in the park. These Saturday evening events were a treat for visitors and residents alike and there is unanimous agreement that the concert series is something that must be repeated and even expanded. CTA is committed to making it happen again in 2007 and invite all SCRTA members and friends to keep their eyes on the visitconfluence.org webpage for information on when the concerts will happen next summer.

NOTICE - Tunnel Closing Date

After revisiting the dates for the closing and reopening of the tunnel, the new schedule will be as follows:

The Big Savage Tunnel will be closed the Friday before the third Saturday in December - this year that date is December 15.

We will reopen the tunnel the first Friday in April - that date will be April 6, 2007.

We have done this to accommodate requests for using the tunnel past our original closure date before Thanksgiving. The reopening date in April is set to ensure that snow on Big Savage Mountain has melted enough to allow access to the tunnel for crews to reopen the doors.

Closing the tunnel through the winter months helps to protect the large financial investment that was made to rehabilitate the tunnel. Although this may seem as an inconvenience to some, it ensures the tunnel will be in great shape for our heaviest use periods from April through November.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.
Brett Hollern, *Trail Coordinator Somerset County*

2006 Pacesetter Bicycle Travel Award

Adventure Cycling Association is honoring the Allegheny Trail Alliance, headed by Linda McKenna Boxx, for vision, leadership and sustained commitment to unite seven independent trail organizations in the common goal of developing the Great Allegheny Passage, with this award. The award ceremony held at REI, 412 S. 27th Street in Pittsburgh at 7pm on December 14, is named in honor of Charlie Pace from Ohio who has devoted 40 years to creating and supporting bicycle travel.

Thank You One and All!

The success of the Great Allegheny Passage can be attributed to thousands of dedicated people like you who have joined an ATA trail group, volunteered their time working on the trail, donated money for the completion and maintenance of the trail, and promoted the trail to friends, family & neighbors. We have had folks from all over the USA and many foreign countries who have visited our region to enjoy the Great Allegheny Passage. They have gone back home and spread the word about the wonderful experience they had on the most beautiful trail in the nation.

The board of directors of the Somerset County Rails to Trails Association (SCRITA) is very appreciative of the incredible support we've received over the last 20 years since we began the planning and construction of the Somerset County portion of The Great Allegheny Passage. We couldn't have built the trail without you. We're again asking for your help. With 42 miles of trail completed in Somerset County, we are, at times, overwhelmed with some of the tasks we are faced with. Here are some of the ways you can lend a hand. Let us know which one fits you best.

1) Help maintain the trail. Could you help once or twice

a year when we set up a work day?

Would you and the friends you bike with like to adopt a section of trail?

2) Write an article for the SCRITA newsletter. We are always looking for interesting articles.

3) Purchase a bench. Help make the trail experience a little more comfortable and relaxing.

4) Become a trail Ambassador. Help with questions & problems that trail users might have.

5) Help with special events. We always need more volunteers for a variety of events.

6) Make a donation. Whether you donate tools or money, we are very appreciative.

7) Promote SCRITA membership to your friends.

Membership income is used to help maintain the trail.

Please contact Brett Hollern by email at hollernb@county.somerset.pa.us or write to SCRITA at PO Box 413 Somerset, PA 15501 to find a volunteer position that works for you.

Thanks again for your support. This dream that we've shared has truly become reality.



Hank Parke, *President SCRITA*

CURRENT MEMBER LIST: Name, Year Joined, Membership Term

If your name is not listed below we have not received your membership at the time of printing this newsletter or your membership has expired. If it has expired please use the membership form for renewal. If you do not need to use the form, please pass it on to fellow trail users or buy a Christmas Gift Membership for someone on your list. Current members will receive their 2007 membership renewal information in the mail.

Somerset Trust Co., 1990, Corp. 1 yr.
Bentz Bicycle Sales & Service, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
PGW Photography, 2006, Corp. 1 yr.
Luther P. Miller, Inc., 2006, Corp., 1 yr.
Adams, Larry And Nancy, 1999, Fam. 1 yr.
Anderson, Donald K. And Mary, 1994, Fam. 1 yr.
Anderson, Robert And Bev, 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.
Arnn, Deborah C., 1998, LIFETIME
Baker, David, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Balsley, Scott & Jo, 2001, Fam. 3 yr.
Barclay, Kirby & Sue, 1994, Fam. 1 yr.
Bastian, Bob & Sue, 2004, Fam. 3 yr.
Beas, Jim & Denise, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
Beggs, Tom, 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.
Bell, Doug & Kathy, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Belzinskaskas, Remigijus And Danute, 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
Berkebile, Guy And Jodi, 2003, Fam. 1 yr.
Berkebile, Sandra, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
Berkey, Earl & Jeanne, 2004, Fam. 3 yr.
Berman, Herb, 2004, Fam. 1 yr.
Biancke, Joe, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Bockoven, Jr., Stanton W., 1995, Fam., 1 yr.
Bolha, Jan & Emil, 2005, Fam., 1 yr.
Bonawitz, James, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Boston, J. R., 1998, Indiv. 1 yr.
Bower, Tom, 1990, LIFETIME
Bower, James & Judy, 2001, Fam. 1 yr.
Bowman, Donald M. & Jone, 1999, LIFETIME

Boyko, Janice, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
Bradley, Richard, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
Brantner, Dennis L., 1996, Indiv. 1 yr.
Brau, Dennis G., 1999, LIFETIME
Brenner, Ronald & Susan, 2005, Fam. 1 yr.
Brew, Jay P. & Susan, 1993, Fam. 1 yr.
Brock, Larry J., 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
Casteel, Gary F., 1995, Fam. 1 yr.
Chapman, James L., 1997, Indiv. 1 yr.
Christner, Jay And Eleanor, 1992, Fam. 1 yr.
Chubb, Nancy, 1999, Indiv. 1 yr.
Clapper, Jon, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Clarvitt, Richard A., 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
Clay, James D. And Janine T., 1990, LIFETIME
Cline, Bill And Sandy, 1994, LIFETIME
Conn, Michael, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Cook, George S., 2/90, LIFETIME
Cowan, Marion D., 1993, LIFETIME
Cowan, Marion D., 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
Cupp, Robert L., 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
Daams, David H., 1994, LIFETIME
Deakins, Colin And June, 1994, Fam. 1 yr.
Western Maryland Wheelmen, Kurt Detwiler, 2006, Corp., 1 yr.
Di Francesco, Ed, , Indiv. 1 yr.
Dougherty, Sara, 1999, Fam. 1 yr.
Allegheny Recumbent Tours, Wendy Duchene, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Dull, Kirk E., 1994, COMP.
Duritsa, Norbert, 2000, Indiv. 1 yr.
Eary, Matt & Lindy, 2004, Fam. 1 yr.

Edwards, Madolin S., 1994, Indiv., 3 yr.
Eicher, Gerald G., 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.
Famariss, Carol, 1994, Indiv., 3 yr.
Feathers, Harry J., 1994, Indiv. 3 yr.
Flanery, Ken, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
Frazer, David And Clysta, 1990, Fam. 1 yr.
French, Marsha & John, 2006, Fam., 1 yr.
Gary, Jody And Elena, 2004, Fam. 1 yr.
Geraud, Anne, 1996, Indiv. 3 yr.
Glaid, Andrew J. & Marjorie, 1996, Indiv. 1 yr.
Gold, Gordon R., 1995, LIFETIME
Goodwin, Jr., John K., 1996, Indiv., 1 yr.
Gordon, Katherine, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Structural Fiberglass, Inc., Garry L. Goss, 2006, Corp., 1 yr.
Greene, David L., 1990, LIFETIME
Gurzenda, William, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
Halverson Family, , 2001, Fam., 1 yr.
Hellerman, Alfred, 1996, Indiv. 3 yr.
Hernandez, Robert And Georgia, 1993, Fam., 3 yr.
Hileman, Ronald, 2000, Indiv. 1 yr.
Somerset Co. Planning & Dev. Comm., Brett Hollern, COMP.
Holliday, William E., 2004, Indiv. 1 yr.
Hook, Robert F. & Sue, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
Howard, Duane, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
Humphries, Harry W., 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
Hunsiker, Markie, 1999, Indiv. 1 yr.
Jones, Bill, 1991, Indiv. 1 yr.
Jones, Daryl V., 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
Kahl, Carl W., 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.

Keiser, Christopher, 2005, Fam., 1 yr.
 Kemp, David & Carol, 2006, Fam., 3 yr.
 Kemp, Bruce, 1998, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Kerrick, William E., 2006, Indiv. 3 yr.
 Women's Civic Club/Confluence, Pat
 Keslar, 1991, Corp. 1 yr.
 Kinsey, Ray, 2001, LIFETIME
 Koeberle, Brian, 2006, Corp., 1 yr.
 Greger, Kerry & Judy, 2004, Fam. 3 yr.
 Kress, Dorothy And Aaron, 2003, Fam. 3 yr.
 Kroh, Pam, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Kuehl, Tom And Janet, 1998, Fam. 1 yr.
 Kurtz, Albert & Fae, 1994, Fam. 1 yr.
 Laude, Larry, 1991, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Lehman, Robert A., 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Lieb, Clarence W., 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Linaberger, Jim & Sandi, 1995, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Lloyd, William P., 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Lukac, Fr. Thomas M., 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Lynch, Calvin, 2000, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Mackay, Neil, 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Mahrer, Douglas And Joy, 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Mankamyer, David, 1990, Fam. 1 yr.
 Somerset Co. Commissioners, Jim Marker,
 COMP.
 Marquard, Curt And Helen, 1996,
 Fam. 1 yr.
 Martel, Warren & Mireille, 2006, Fam. 1 yr.
 Martz, Mark A., 2004, Indiv. 3 yr.
 Massa, Ted & Paula, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Mc Conville, C. B., 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 McAneny Wicks, Rebecca, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Mcclelland, Charles C., 2001, Fam. 3 yr.
 Mcconkey, Joe & Janet, 1994, Fam. 3 yr.
 Mckenna Boxx, Linda, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Metzger, Bill & Pam, 1990, Fam. 3 yr.
 Meyers, Rev. H. James, 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Miller, Marie & Bill, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Millin, Dennis, Sandra & Mark, 2004,
 Fam. 1 yr.
 Millward, Jim & Cheryl, 2006, Fam. 1 yr.
 Minster, Scott, 2000, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Mo-Neb Realty, Susan Mo, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Montana, James, 2006, Fam. 3 yr.

Moore, David, 1990, LIFETIME
 Morin, Patrick, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Moses, Jim And Peg, 1993, LIFETIME
 Mostoller, Austin, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Motto, John And Dorothea, 1994,
 Indiv. 1 yr.
 Murphey, Betty Ann, 1996, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Musser, Judith H., 2004, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Neimiller, Mary, 1990, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Nosworthy, Kim, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 O'Brien, Jeff, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
 Ohler, Leon & Karen, 2004, Fam., 1 yr.
 O'Neil, W. Dean, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Orman, Jeffrey E., 2000, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Parke, Hank, 1994, LIFETIME
 Payne, Jeff And Retta, 2003, Fam. 1 yr.
 Persun, Mark, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Peth, Jack, 1995, Indiv. 3 yr.
 Philip, Denver W., 2004, Fam. 3 yr.
 Rockwood Mill Shoppes & Opera House,
 Judy Pletcher, 2000, Corp. 1 yr.
 Pletcher, Charlotte, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Poorbaugh, Karl And Mary Ann, 1996,
 LIFETIME
 Porter, John R. And Margaret L., 1994,
 LIFETIME
 Price Funeral Home, Bill & Marilyn Price,
 2006, Corp. 1 yr.
 Puskarich, Dave, 2001, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Rathi, Michael, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Reed, Robert D., 1991, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Reisinger, Keith, 1993, LIFETIME
 Rempel, Vicki, 2004, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Richards, Diane & Jack, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Rissell, Ted, 1993, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Roberts, Charles, 1993, Indiv., 1 yr.
 Roberts, Susan T., 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
 Roland, Joanne, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
 Rubenstein, Jerry, 1993, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Ryan, Dr. William, 1999, Indiv. 3 yr.
 Schrader & Children, Steve & Diane, 2004,
 Fam. 1 yr.
 Schrock, Dr. Stanley L. & Sally, 1995,
 Indiv., 1 yr.

Schrock, Lon & Shirley, 1999, Fam. 1 yr.
 Seitz, Jean And Art, 2004, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Shafer, Carolyn & Skip, 1993, Fam., 1 yr.
 Shaffer, Fred And Nancy, 1990, LIFETIME
 Shank, Jenny, 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
 Shockey, Paul, 2006, Indiv. 3 yr.
 Showman, Raymond & Carol, 2005,
 Fam., 1 yr.
 Shubert & Son, Jan & Kim, 2005, Fam. 1 yr.
 Skledar & Family, Joe, 2006, Fam., 1 yr.
 Socher, George, 1999, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Somers, Bill, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Spiers, Sue, 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Stahl, Dennis And Penny, 2005, Fam. 3 yr.
 Stahl, Linda, 1994, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Steede, Kevin R., 2006, Indiv., 1 yr.
 Territ, Ronald, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Thomas, Mary A., 1995, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Thompson, Harry, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Tison, Dan, 1997, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Tosh, D. Lee, 1995, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Turner, Chuck, 2006, Fam. 3 yr.
 Urbas, Dennis A., 1997, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Van Sickel, Linc And Barbara, 1993,
 Fam. 1 yr.
 Vanyo, Robert And Barbara, 1990,
 LIFETIME
 That Dam Yough House, LLC, Jeffrey D.
 Virgin, 2004, Corp. 1 yr.
 Walukas, Donald & Barbara, 1994,
 Indiv. 1 yr.
 Weaver, Richard L., 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Freewheelin' Easy In Pennsylvania, Roy
 Weil, , LIFETIME
 Wettenberg, Gary And Page, 1996,
 Fam. 1 yr.
 Wetterberg, Gary & Page, 2005, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Yeager, Richard And Carol, 1997,
 Fam. 3 yr.
 Zamorski, Robert, 2001, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Somerset Co. Planning & Dev. Comm.,
 Brad Zearfoss, COMP.
 Zeigler, Jane, 2003, Indiv. 1 yr.
 Ziegler, Jane L., 2006, Indiv. 1 yr.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - Give a Gift Membership for Christmas - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association

Trailblazing Through Somerset County

Yes! I want to continue to support the development and upkeep of the Great Allegheny Passage in Somerset County.

This is my extra tax-deductible gift donation to help support the trail.
 \$ _____

Make check payable to:

Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 Daytime Phone (_____) _____
 E-mail _____

Please allow 3 weeks for your membership material to arrive. Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association is a non-profit organization. Donations are fully tax-deductible. The tax-deductible portion of your membership is any amount over \$12 per year.

C&O Canal Towpath
 184.5 miles to Washington, DC

- MEMBERSHIPS -

Please Indicate Your Renewal Choice

- \$25 Individual One-Year
- \$30 Family One-Year
- \$60 Individual Three-Year
- \$75 Family Three-Year
- \$500 Individual Lifetime
- \$100 Business/Organization One-Year
- Additional Donation

Donations are Tax Deductible

Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Assoc.

P.O. Box 413, Somerset, PA 15501

Phone 814-445-1573

Web Site www.atatrail.org

Cafe Along the Trail

218 Java Cafe

Meyersdale's 218 Java Cafe, located next to the public library on Center Street, opened in May this year. TRAIL TRACKINGS asked owner Kay Crissinger about business in this trail town.



The New Republic

TT: What makes the Cafe different from traditional restaurants in our area? Kay: Our atmosphere and our menu. We offer gourmet coffees, lattes, pastries, sandwiches on croissants and homemade bread, and specialty deserts, often in seasonal flavors. Today's coffee specials are "autumn harvest" and "rainforest nut."

Patrons have told us that the cafe reminds them of similar shops in large cities. We've tried to create a cozy, intimate atmosphere by painting the walls in warm "coffee" shades, using soft lighting and music, and providing a couch and books for complete relaxation.

TT: How has the public responded to the shop and how is business?

Kay: We've been very impressed with local support. The shop quickly developed regular customers and a strong early crowd, mostly men who read the paper and socialize. Almost every morning the post office employees arrive for their regular take-outs.

TT: Have cyclists from the trail patronized 218 Java Cafe in significant numbers? Yes. One day a busload of forty bikers found their way here, and recently three or four waves of six to eight cyclists from Seattle, WA, came through. Bikers like to linger and talk with the locals. Just for fun this summer I served homemade applesauce, which some city folk had never eaten. They loved it.

TT: Any changes in the works for the future?

Kay: With the approach of winter, we now feature a variety of hot chocolates and soups. Last Friday we offered cream of crab. In addition, we may close earlier, say at 1 p.m. We're also thinking of opening an evening or two weekly as a venue for local entertainment-small musical groups or poetry

readings-or for book discussion groups. We'd like to display art created by students and local artists.

TT: You have many years' experience as an accountant and in business in general. Do you have advice for those thinking of starting a small-town business or service in this area?

Kay: Well ... I'd suggest identifying a need and then researching all aspects of that business or service. In the planning stage we visited many similar shops in the tri-state area, viewed products and procedures, and collected menus. The Coffee Fest in Washington, DC, had a profound effect on our approach.

I'd also suggest having patience in the first months of business-sometimes a new service takes a while to catch on.

Constantly seek feedback from customers. Before adding a new flavor or desert, we have our customers sample and respond-for example, the caramelized banana dessert was an immediate success while other experimental items have been quickly rejected.

Be prepared to work harder than you initially expected, and remember it's a learning process. It never stops!

Adopt-a-Trail Program Announced

With the Great Allegheny Passage now being fully opened through Somerset County, the focus of the Somerset County Rails to Trails Association and the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board has now turned towards maintenance of this great resource. Both boards' goal is to maintain the trail to the highest level, as we experience continued user growth. While all of you have been a key part in supporting the creation of the trail system, with the trail now having been completed, we would ask that you also focus on the future and the efforts to maintain this great community resource.

At a recent joint meeting between the S.C.R.T.T.A. Board and the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board, it was agreed that a community involvement program be initiated and we are pleased to announce the creation of an "Adopt-a-Trail" program for the Great Allegheny Passage. The aim of this program is to encourage individuals, groups of individuals or families, civic groups, or other entities to sign up to agree to adopt a specific section of the trail in a similar fashion to that presently run by PennDot for highways. In this way, the community can be involved in the ongoing maintenance of the trail, which in the long run will reduce the expense of maintaining this trail system.

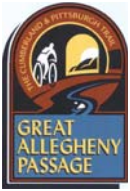
At the present time, an application form is being drafted which should be available in the next several months. If you or your group would like more information on this program, you are encouraged to contact the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board. Inquires should be directed to Brett Hollern, Trail Coordinator at 814-445-1544, e-mail to hollernb@co.somerset.pa.us or Somerset County Office Building, 300 North Center Ave., Suite 540, Somerset, PA 15501.

Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association

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Somerset, PA 15501

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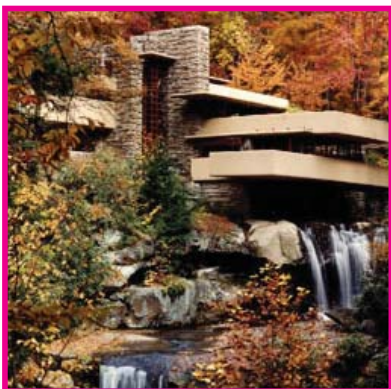


JUST OFF THE TRAIL

TWO FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOMES

Looking to spend a day or two on the Great Allegheny Passage in Somerset County? In addition to the natural attractions of the trail, two world-class architectural attractions are readily accessible from Confluence and Ohiopyle State Park on PA Route 381.

Fallingwater, the home of the Edgar J. Kaufmann family of Pittsburgh, designed in 1935 by Frank Lloyd Wright, was acclaimed in 1991 “the best all-time work by an American architect” by the American Institute of Architects.



Positioned more than thirty feet above a waterfall on Bear Run, the cantilevered home of Pottsville sandstone and masonry draws visitors from around the world, who approach on paths through a forest of hemlock and rhododendron. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which owns and operates the property, provides a Visitors Pavilion and cafe, also in a woodsy setting. Find more detail online at www.paconserve.org. Reservations are necessary.

Kentuck Knob, seven miles southwest of Fallingwater on Route 381, is, according to its homepage, “an excellent example of a high-end Usonian home.”* Designed by Wright for Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Hagens in 1953, the house is now owned by Lord Peter Palumbo of London. A sculpture

garden and a visitor’s center in a former greenhouse refresh guests. For more about Kentuck Knob, click on www.kentuckknob.com.

*The Usonian architectural concept is, according to Jackie Craven in “Your Guide to Architecture” (<http://architecture.about.com>), “Frank Lloyd Wright’s democratic, distinctly American style affordable for the ‘common people’ . Usonian homes were typically one-story, with little ornamentation.”

