

TRAIL TRACKINGS

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

Vol. 5, No. 1

"The High Point of the Great Allegheny Passage"

Spring 2008



Spring Flowers Ushered in Summer on the Trail



GIVING BACK

Daffodils

That come before the swallow
dares, and take
The winds of March with
beauty...

William Shakespeare

and irises to this section, which they have "adopted."

In October 2005 both men completed SCRTA's Trail Ambassador Program conducted annually by Brett Hollern, Trail Coordinator, and for three years they have participated in

Well, actually, Mr. Shakespeare, in Somerset County daffodils bloom in April – usually by mid-month. This past spring golden daffodils by the dozen graced the landscaping at the GAP's Deal Trailhead.

Trail volunteers Don Watson, Meyersdale, and Bill Kerrick, Pittsburgh, planted 250 bulbs last autumn at Deal and near Big Savage Tunnel. Although deer ate some bulbs and others worked themselves above ground, most bloomed.

Don says that they will be better next year, fuller and stronger. Recently Don and Bill added daylilies



Early Spring at the Deal Trailhead with Daffodils in Full Bloom



Late Spring and on to the Eastern Continental Divide from the Deal Trailhead

the April Trail Clean-Up Day, clearing litter and debris from the trail and preparing it for the biking season.

So, why put such effort into this three-mile portion of the trail?

"This is a feel-good effort," Don responds. "We enjoy directing our spare time to something worthwhile. We are nature lovers. This is hometown nature. The trail deserves to be beautified."



Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association

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Trail Calendar

American Eagle Outfitters Tour of PA

June 24 – 29 www.tourofpa.com

Old Home Days

June 28 – 29 Confluence

Fourth of July Community Celebration

Meyersdale, PA Paul Fuller Park

June 29, 5 p.m. – dark

BikeFest Ride: Rockwood to Meyersdale

July 5 www.ventureoutdoors.com

Rockwood Rotary 5K & Marathon

July 5 & August 30 8:30 a.m. 814.926.2469

Youghiogheny River Sojourn

July 17 – 21 www.pecpa.org

America's County BBQ

Meyersdale, PA Paul Fuller Park July 24, 5:30 p.m.

The BBQ is an event created to thank people who have helped make Somerset County a better place to live, work and play. This year it will be honoring the dedicated pioneers who envisioned the recreational trail now known as the Great Allegheny Passage. These pioneers have worked very hard as volunteers progressing the trail along and getting it done.

Come and meet the people who brought you your trail and to enjoy the food, fun and fireworks. The best way to get there of course is to bike or hike the trail to the Meyersdale Train Station where the presentation will be at 7 p.m. The BBQ is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., entertainment from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the fireworks display starts at 9:45 p.m. For tickets, information or sponsorship, contact the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce at

814-445-6431 or online at www.somersetpa.net.
Deadline to purchase tickets is July 18. Tickets are \$15/adult, \$25/2 adults, \$5 for children 5–12, children under 4 are free.

Habitat for Humanity Ride-Walk

Sept. 13 (Details to be announced)

Membership Drive

By now everyone has received their 2008 membership fund drive letter, membership invoice and the new member/help needed card. In fact many of you have already responded and have received your new membership cards. Last year at this time we had over 300 members and 50 inactive (members who haven't responded for a year or more.) This year with only 270 active and 70 inactive we are down on membership.

Less members equal less funds to keep the trail in shape for you and your family to enjoy. There is continual mowing and trail sections which need resurfacing from normal wear. Mother nature causes problems also with storms that down trees and wash out areas of the trail. These are unplanned repairs which must be taken care of. There are volunteers who come to help but there is still the expense for equipment, materials and let's not forget the gas for those chain saws and tractors.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so to help keep the Somerset section in shape from end to end! If you know of someone who may be interested in helping, please pass along the new member form or buy someone a membership gift. Also, a big help is to fill out the help needed side with a name or two for us to send membership information.