



## Ready to Ride!

Summer 2011 Update from the  
Armstrong Rails To Trails Association (ARTA)

### ARTA Contact Information

Website:  
[armstrongtrail.org](http://armstrongtrail.org)

E-mail:  
[armtrail@windstream.net](mailto:armtrail@windstream.net)

Phone: (724) 543-4478

### Thank-you to our **2011 Business Members**

Armstrong County YMCA  
Bally Design of Pittsburgh  
ESS Insurance

Farmers National Bank  
Sprinkle's Neighborhood Market



### Ford City Poker Run September 17

Starting on the Armstrong Trail  
behind the Ford City clock  
at Ford Street & Third Avenue

The 2.1 mile walk includes the beautiful Ford City River Trail and the 5 mile bicycle route will take riders to the southern end of the Trail across the wooden Crooked Creek Bridge. Proceeds benefit the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association and the Ford City Library, equally.

Registration at 8:00 am at the Ford City Clock  
Event begins at 9:00 am  
Prizes to be awarded at 11:00 am

Registration forms will be available at the Ford City & Kittanning Libraries, Paul's Auto Parts, or at [armstrongtrail.org](http://armstrongtrail.org) in early August.

\$10 per hand if pre-registered  
\$12 per hand on event day

## Armstrong GeoTrail

Locate 25 of 30 geocaches throughout Armstrong County, including two along the Armstrong Trail, to receive the Armstrong GeoTrail collectors coin.

Details at the  
Armstrong County Tourist Bureau

### READY TO RIDE Goes Green!

Besides the high costs of printing and mailing, there are good environmental reasons for sending the ARTA Updates by e-mail to those who are able to receive their communications in that form. Please send us an e-mail if you would like to begin receiving your Updates electronically. We will then send a test Update to determine if your server can handle the file. [armtrail@windstream.net](mailto:armtrail@windstream.net)

### Building trail...

takes more than limestone chip and a tractor. Now that we are moving forward, we need more help with trail events, publicity, fundraising, maintenance, etc. WE NEED YOU to volunteer for one of the following **SHORT-TERM COMMITTEES**. Each committee will meet only 3-4 times beginning in August or September to handle some simple and specific tasks.

Memorial Fund  
Trail Guide  
Events  
Newsletter  
Trail Mix Sales & Fundraising

### If you can help...

Please e-mail ([armtrail@windstream.net](mailto:armtrail@windstream.net)) or leave a name and number at (724) 543-4478 and we will be in touch in late July.

## Recent Trail Events

### Walk & Wow

On our very beautiful wildflower tours (Mile 52.5) we saw all of the flowers from the Spring Newsletter, plus trout lilies, spring beauties, columbines, yellow violets, and harbingers of spring. Thanks again to Chuck Rupp of the Nautical Mile Campground and Marina for his hospitality.



### Kittanning Library Poker Run

The weather was perfect; the runners/walkers/riders enthusiastic; and the sponsors generous for the Second Annual Kittanning Library Poker Run. This event, which took place on the Armstrong Trail, was a celebration of community unity, healthy habits, and good fun. Special thanks to Rosebud Mining, the corporate sponsor, and other sponsors including Paul's Auto Parts, Kittanning Foodland, St. John's Lutheran Church of Kittanning, Rayburn Township Volunteer Fire Department, Kittanning Hose Company #6, Ambulance Service, Kittanning Boro, Armstrong Trail, Tim Lehner, the Kittanning Library Board of Directors, and all of the volunteers.

### Bigfoot Half-Marathon & 5K

The race had a new route this year, starting on North Water Street in front of the future home of the Richard G. Snyder YMCA Campus; and finishing on the Armstrong Trail behind the future home of the Armstrong County YMCA. It was nice for members to see where their new Y would be. Watch for future YMCA programs using the Trail for bike rides, family walks, nature walks, etc. The official registration was 293 participants, but the rainy weather brought a turnout of the 173 hardy 5K runners and 40 determined half marathon runners. In spite of the weather, everyone brought a sunny outlook and the event was a big success!



### Local Rides and Events

More and more people are using the Armstrong Trail regularly: families, churches, civic groups, clubs, groups of friends, exercise teams, fellowships of retired persons, etc. If your regular rides / walks are open to the public, let us know and we will publish times and places so more of us may join in.

### Trail Improvements Continue!



The Cowanshannock Connector has been surfaced with Chip N Trail funds. Donations to ARTA may be designated for the Chip N Trail Fund.

# THANK-YOU TO OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS



List continued from the Winter and Spring 2011 Update issues.  
\*Welcome to our New Lifetime Members!

Ralph Kozlowski\*  
Carol Atwell & Phil Lenko  
Joeline McClister  
Pam Meade\*  
Gerald Micsky\*  
Beth Milanak\*  
Jim & Margy Pracek\*  
Jack & Peg Roll\*  
Senate Engineering Company\*

Kenneth & Pauline Skomo  
Phillip & Catherine Smith  
Pamela Snyder  
Elmer Snyder  
Dick Starr  
Ron & Lynn Steffey\*  
Mike Steimer  
Jack & Kristin Steiner\*  
Gary & Linda Stivason  
Susan Torrance  
Raymond Towne  
Robert Trauterman  
Louis Vergari



Raymond Voller  
Joel Warren  
Roy Weil  
Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen  
Western Pennsylvania Dental Alliance\*  
Mary Jo Wojton

Top photo is of improvements to the Mahoning Bridge deck.  
Middle photo is new limestone chip north of Grays Eddy, funded by Chip N Trail.

**We are building trail thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our membership!**

## Adopt A Trail Update

Welcome to our many **new volunteers!**

One-mile section beginning at mile	Name of Person(s) Adopting This Section
39	Mike Steimer
40	
41	
42	Dick Starr
43	
44	
45	Kittanning Leo Club
46	Gretchen Snyder
46.5	Milanak Family
47	
48	
49	
50	Russ & Mary Moore
51	
52	Ron & Lynn Steffey
53	
54	
55 & 56	Tal & Sarah Heppenstall
57	Hook Station Residents
58	Jack & Sue Bauer
59	
59.5	Ivan Baughman
60	
61	Jim & Polly Mayuric
62	
63	
64	Jimmy Arner
65	Darwin & Angela Burtner
66	Farmer's National Bank
67 & 68	Marty & Toni Henry

Is there a section of Trail near your property, or a section that you ride / walk frequently that you could adopt? Adoption includes picking up litter, removing branches, and contacting ARTA to report problems. Contact the ARTA office for more information. This quarter, adopting volunteers reported 32 hours of work.

**Remember: Third Saturday Work Parties**  
Check the website or call the office for details about where & when we are working each month.

## Day of Giving Success

The Armstrong County Community Foundation hit it out of the park with their first annual Day of Giving! The following generous community members donated a match pool of \$25,000:

Armstrong County Community Foundation  
Frank & Mary Baker  
BLX, Inc  
Central Electric Cooperatives, Inc.  
Edward Jones: Joe McGuigan Office  
F & M Bank  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Infinity: A Women's Giving Circle  
Northwest Savings Bank  
Rosebud Mining Company  
Steiner and Steiner: Attorney at Law  
Sugar Creek Rest

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 964 donors sent pledges in to the Community Foundation on the internet, by mail, or in person for a total of \$131,910! Every donation was then increased by 18.5% --- from the \$25,000 match pool -- before being sent to one of the 36 organizations registered to receive donations, including Armstrong Rails to Trails Association. Twenty-three trail supporters donated a total of \$2,415 to ARTA, to which the Community Foundation added \$446.78 for a total of \$2,861.78. In June, the ARTA Board of Directors voted to use \$250 for a joint Kittanning Rotary Club and F & M Bank planting project, with the balance going to the Chip N Trail Fund which will be used to improve the trail surface from Grays Eddy to Hook Station (miles 56-58). Thank-you to our ARTA members and to the community match pool sponsors!

## Volunteers in the Spotlight



We welcome the Milanak Family to Adopt A Trail, Mile 47.

“We live in the Ford City area. We use the trail several times a week in the summer. Our son rides his bike on it practically every day. We also like to find geocaches hidden along the trails.

“We adopted a section of the trail in an effort to help keep the trail maintained for all to use. It is also a community service and learning experience for our family. Any way that we can help others, however small, is important. The combined efforts of all the volunteers who help maintain the trail should be commended. It is a great asset to this county.

“In my opinion, even when the economy goes south people will cut back on vacation, travel , food , etc., but they refuse to let go of their recreation. There is just something about spending their personal time relaxing and enjoying the things that matter the most to them.....family.”



Thank-you, Milanak Family -- Steve & Beth, Josh, Tanner, and Laura – for your energy, your generosity, and your support!

## **Trail Development Update**

Eighteen miles of the Trail are “Ready to Ride;” ARTA hopes to improve an additional twelve miles over the next 2-3 years; and the last 20 miles of Trail (south of Rosston and north of the East Brady Tunnel) will need more time. Trail building efforts this year are focused between Grays Eddy and Hook Station. The Trail Volunteer Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation recently donated \$7,500 for limestone trail surfacing through Hook Station! A DCNR Grant application was submitted by the Allegheny Valley Land Trust (owners of the trail corridor) earlier this month requesting monies to purchase materials to build a 5 mile section between Lock & Dam 9 and Phillipston. A second grant was submitted for a feasibility study for a possible campground in the Phillipston area and to evaluate the Brady tunnel for renovation as a future connection to the Allegheny River Trail. These projects will reduce the unfinished section of the trail to approximately 6 miles. **As monies and volunteers are available** the gap will be closed so that bicyclists, walkers, horseback riders, and cross country skiers will be able to enjoy 30 miles of continuous trail!

### Upcoming Weekday Workdays (9:00 am to noon)

July 5 Tuesday	Meet at the King Lanes parking lot and prune the trail up to 6-10ft on either side all the way to Market Street.
July 6 Wednesday	
July 7 Thursday	Meet at the pavilion by MP 45 by the intersection of North Grant Street and McCanna Street. Prune the trail up to 6-10ft on either side.
July 12 Tuesday	
July 13 Wednesday	Meet at the intersection of North Grant Street and Victory Street, behind the High School Football Field. Weed the bed behind the football field.
July 14 Thursday	
July 26 Tuesday	Meet at the pavilion by the intersection of Colwell and Grant Street. Clear the trail up to 6-10ft on either side from mile 46 to mile 47.
July 27 Wednesday	
July 28 Thursday	Meet at the pavilion by the intersection of Colwell and Grant Street. Clear the trail up to 6-10ft on either side from mile 46 to mile 47.
August 2 Tuesday	

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