

Winter 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

# IN THE LOOP

The McKeesport Trail Commission Newsletter



## ALONG THE TRAILS: SIGNS OF LIFE SPRING UP

As the winter thaw begins, don't miss these points of interest while you ride or walk along the local trails.

A new attraction is the historic box car at the Boston Trailhead on the Youghiogheny River Trail. This piece of local history was recently procured and restored through the efforts of Dan Piesik of Mon-Yough Trail Council.

If you are in need of overnight or longer trail accommodations while in "Little Boston," contact Ralph or Barb Stahley at the Boston Shoppes, 1903 Donner Street, or call (412) 751-6695.

Further down the trail traveling toward McKeesport you can explore Dead Man's Hollow, a 440-acre wildlife area and site for many urban legends. Stephen A. Bosnyak of Dead Man's Hollow Fellowship and Emilie Cooper of the Allegheny Land Trust co-ordinated a cleanup day in October. A new sign was installed, benches were repaired and the location was cleaned up and improved in time to welcome visitors in the spring. Both of these sites are located on the Youghiogheny River Trail side of the IOK Loop between the Boston Bridge and the 15th Street Bridge. (Dead Man's Hollow destination bumper stickers are available at The McKeesport Heritage Center in Renziehausen Park.)

Watch for signs of spring in the

planted areas along The Great Allegheny Passage near the 15th Street Bridge and the garden area near the McKeesport Trailhead. Blooming daffodils, tulips, rugosa roses and California poppies should be back to welcome springtime in the 'Port.

The Steel Valley Trail portion of The Great Allegheny Passage is expected to be open all the way to the Homestead Waterfront by May 2011. This section of trail features the Riverton Bridge that offers an excellent view of the Monongahela River, two new bridges over the railroad tracks at Port Perry and Whitaker, close passage to Kenywood Park's Phantom's Revenge roller coaster and a trail-side view of the Braddock Locks and Dam on the Monongahela River.

Photo courtesy of Michael Darnay



## WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

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Trail Monitor Bob MacGregor met Andrew Stroud in McKeesport on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 while both were riding the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) and Loop trails.

Andrew was raised in Lower Burrell, Pa., and was employed at a steel fabricating plant, formerly located on the site of the South Side Works, where he helped to design concrete reinforcing steel for many Pittsburgh buildings and

the "T" light rail system. He now lives in Nevada and returned to the area to ride the GAP and the C&O Canal Towpath from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC, to see the many changes that have occurred since he left.

Bob and Andrew rode and chatted through McKeesport to Will Street where Andrew went on to the Boston Bridge and the GAP. On Friday, November 5, 2010 Bob and his wife, Joyce, were in Washington to attend a niece's wedding. While sightseeing, as they approached the Massachusetts Avenue crosswalk leading to Union Station, a cyclist walked his bicycle up to the same crosswalk. It was Andrew Stroud! Following a double-take greeting by both Bob and Andrew they enjoyed a review of Andrew's trip before he loaded his bicycle on the AmTrak train.

Andrew made the 335 mile trip in 11 days, camping at Cedar Creek Park and other locations and lodging at Rockwood and in a restored lock-house on the C&O Canal Towpath.

An amazing coincidence and a chance encounter of the best kind!

## "SCENIC TRAILS" T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

McKeesport Trail Commission's newest fundraiser is a T-shirt depicting as many tourists have said, "our scenic trails." The design, by Dan Rugh of Commonwealth Press on the South Side, includes some of McKeesport's "gems" — the Joseph J. Bendel memorial light-house, a pleasure boat at McKees Point Marina, the bridges, the railroad and trail users on the Great Allegheny Passage between Water Street and the Youghiogheny River.

McKeesport can boast that four trails meet in our city - The Great Allegheny Passage, the "Loop" Trail, McKees Point Trail and the Steel Valley Trail.

T-shirt sizes range from small to double X-large in either a short-sleeved or long-sleeved T-shirt or unisex tank top. Price of the short-sleeved shirt and unisex tank is \$10 and the long-sleeved shirt, \$15



Shirts can be purchased at McKees Cafe, 501 Water Street, McKeesport, during business hours, or from Lynn Dougherty, (412) 664-0935 or Joyce MacGregor, (412) 673-9993.

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# TRAILSCENES



## ENJOYING AN AUTUMN RIDE

Cyclists Marcia and Mel Solomon of Squirrel Hill enjoy an outing with her new folding recumbent trike. Marcia found that even cycling up the Riverton Bridge ramp was easier than she had expected.

## WINTER AT MCKEES POINT MARINA



### McKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 22, 2011

April 26, 2011

May 24, 2011

June 28, 2011

July 26, 2011

August 23, 2011

September 27, 2011

October 25, 2011

Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. at McKees Cafe, 501 Water Street, McKeesport, PA. MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. If you would like to order food, please arrive between 5:00 and 5:30 P.M. Please note that there are no meetings scheduled during November and December of 2011 and during January and February of 2012. Meetings resume in March of 2012.

## SPECIAL GIFTS



Pictured in foreground left to right: Trail Town Program Manager Amy Camp; McKeesport Trail Commission Secretary Joyce MacGregor; in background left to right: former McKeesport Mayor and now Pennsylvania State Senator James R. Brewster; Commission President Linda Brewster; and Marina Manager Ray Dougherty.

The McKeesport Trail Commission received some special gifts this holiday season. The new McKeesport Trailhead Informational Kiosk installed at McKees Point was made possible by a grant from Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania and the Trail Town Program. Also, a portable bicycle rack for McKees Café was received through a grant from the Wivagg Foundation. Ray Dougherty, McKees Point Marina Manager, observed that while cyclists were eating in the café they were anxious that they couldn't see their bicycles. The new portable loop-style rack can hold up to five bicycles and patrons can watch them right outside the café windows.

The McKeesport Trailhead Informational Kiosk features a three-sided design. One panel depicts a town map and directory; another a trail map and points of interest; and the historical panel reviews "Big Steel in the Mon Valley."

The Trail Town Program is a project of the Progress Fund developed in conjunction with the Allegheny Trail Alliance to realize the economic potential of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP).

Special thanks to those involved in the kiosk project: Linda McKenna Boxx, President of the Allegheny Trail Alliance; Amy Camp, Trail Town Program Manager; Chris Suchko of Contemporary Design of West Newton; John Barna, Bob Baum, Linda Brewster, Ray Dougherty, Bob and Joyce MacGregor and Dan Piesik.

## STATE SENATOR JAMES R. BREWSTER

Former Mayor James R. Brewster was elected as state senator in the 45th District to finish Sean Logan's term.

As mayor, the senator has been a driving force in support of McKeesport's progress and in the completion of the bicycle/walking trail system through the city.

We thank Senator Brewster for including The McKeesport Trail Commission in the list of organizations to receive a portion of his deferred compensation.

May the trail to Harrisburg be a successful one!

## CONGRATULATIONS, MAYOR McLAUGHLIN

In December, McKeesport City Council appointed Regis McLaughlin as the new mayor to finish the remaining year of former mayor James R. Brewster's term. Mayor McLaughlin was president of City Council since 2003 and has been serving as its representative on the McKeesport Trail Commission.

A life-long McKeesport resident, he served in the U.S. Army upon graduation from McKeesport High School. He was employed at the National Works, U. S. Steel Corporation in McKeesport for 30 years until the company closed. He is chairman of the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport.

## McKEES CAFE SEASONAL HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday through Sunday : 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

For private meeting room and catering, call: (412) 678-6979.



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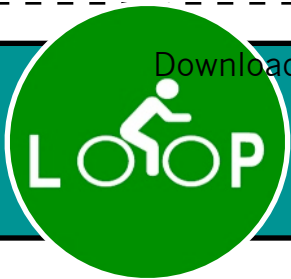
- Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania for the McKeesport Trailhead Kiosk
- The Wivagg Foundation and De-Wayne A. and Evette Wivagg for the Portable Bicycle Rack for McKees Cafe
- Pennsylvania State Senator James R. Brewster, 45th District
- State Representative Marc J. Gergely, 35th Legislative District, House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**New "Friend of the Trail"**

- Adam Spate of McKeesport, Pa.

**McKeesport Trail Commission**

Linda Brewster, President  
Kimberly M. Myers, Vice President  
Robert Baum, Treasurer  
Joyce MacGregor, Secretary & Newsletter Contributing Writer  
Regis McLaughlin, Mayor  
Darlene Allen  
Lynn Dougherty  
Brian A. Evans, Newsletter Editor  
Laura Jenkins



# McKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION

## FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TYPES

- INDIVIDUAL - \$15
- FAMILY - \$25

### TRAIL SUPPORTERS

- SUPPORTING - \$50
- SUSTAINING - \$100
- BENEFACTOR - \$250
- LEADER'S CIRCLE - \$500+
- OTHER DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**McKeesport Trail Commission**  
% Lynn Dougherty, Membership Co-Chair  
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McKeesport Trail Commission  
% Linda Brewster  
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