



Volume 31 Issue 2

Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc.

Spring 2026

TRAIL UPDATE

Fingers crossed and positive thoughts, all things are going in a positive direction for the bridge pier repair. As was explained in the past newsletter Mother Nature and the river had other ideas for the “dry” repair to be done last fall. We are on track to get the “wet” repair done late spring/early summer. We are waiting for some additional permits, the weather to break, and the contractors and subcontractors schedule to be coordinated.

With that said, we will keep you updated as we progress forward.



Now to our next issue/problem. Many of you have become aware that the trail has been posted, closed with orange netting fence sealing the Alfarata trailhead entrance. This was done By First Energy as part of the Warrior Ridge Power Grid Upgrade. Due to weather there were some setbacks but they are anticipating completing all work and removing all equipment/materials from the site by 4/7/2026. The trail will be then fully open again.

Photo courtesy of Walt Frank

And now for our reoccurring issue, downed trees and branches. This spring we have already had trees come down and damage the Mt. Etna pavilion and trees down across the trail. Our fantastic volunteers have been out clearing downed trees and cleaning up the trail in prep for the upcoming mowing season. If you are out on the trail, you can help by throwing downed branches and twigs off the trail and mowing areas. This will go a long way in helping our volunteers and saving wear and tear on the equipment.

Now, if the weather cooperates, First Energy will complete their necessary upgrades, we will get the bridge pier fixed, and the volunteers will have the trail ready for another wonderful season on the Lower Trail.

WILD GERANIUM

By Bob Richers

Wild Geranium is a member of the Geranium Family, which is quite large with almost 800 species and 11 genera worldwide. The common garden Geranium is a topical relative from South Africa.

Wild Geranium is a common native of eastern North America. It flowers in May and June. Geranium delivers and abundance of lavender flowers, which attract numerous pollinators to its nectar and pollen. The five headed flowers are 1 ½ inches in size,

separately rounded on a single stem. There are 5 sepals and 10 stamens per flower.

Geranium do better in shade or partial shade. The 4 to 5 inch lobed palmate leaves thrive during the growing season and will form an excellent ground cover. The fruit is in beaked capsules spitting up from a common base in five curling strips.

Wild Geranium makes a great shade covering addition to any garden but it is **poisonous to dogs!** The Purina editorial team has list of 26 plants that are poisonous to dogs so if you have a K9 go online and print out a copy. Even Mistletoe is bad for you dog but, if you are into that kind of thing, kissing under a Mistletoe is fine.

ANNUAL RAFFLE



You should have received your fifteen raffle tickets with this newsletter. If you did not, please let us know.

The raffle is our major fundraiser, providing a large percentage of our annual operating budget. It is also a way for you to renew your membership. By returning your ticket stubs and money, you extend your membership by one year. This applies to all memberships. For example, even if yours does not expire until November 2027, by selling the tickets, your expiration date would move to November 2028. If you do not wish to extend your membership, you may use the ticket sales to give a membership to someone else as a gift.

We understand that not all individuals feel comfortable participating in raffles, let alone fundraisers. If you do not wish to receive tickets, please let us know. If you did receive tickets and do not wish to participate, please accept our apologies. You may either return the tickets or destroy them.

We are certainly grateful for every individual's support, either by renewing your membership as it expires, or by participating in this fundraiser. Tickets again this year are \$2.00 apiece. Ticket stubs and checks may be mailed to Rails-to-Trails, PO Box 592, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Vickie Brua at vicbrua@atlanticbb.net or Jennifer Barefoot at 814-695-8521 or by e-mail at jbsunbrook@gmail.com. Thank you!

The drawing will take place Tuesday, **August 11th**, prior to the August monthly Board Meeting. We are blessed to have such wonderful businesses that support Rails to Trails through their

donation of prizes and/ or gift certificates. It is our hope that you patronize these businesses throughout the year for they are graciously supporting Rails to Trails.

SPOKES-n-SKIS Located at 315 S. Logan Blvd., Altoona, this shop and Hoss's have been the longest sponsor and supporter of the Lower Trail. Bryan and Troy work with each and every customer no matter how young or old, beginner or expert, to make the outdoor experience the best it can be. They have all the gear you will need for cycling (on or off road), skiing and snowboarding. For more information, please visit their website ; www.spokesnskis.com or phone at 814-941-3888

MARTINS GENERAL STORE In the 1980s, Martin Oil Company ventured into convenience stores. First locations were called Minit Marts. The name "Martin General Stores" was adopted in 1991. We now supply locations that we own, plus many independent stores and stations. Many retail locations are branded with the blue and gold Martin Gold Star sign. You can visit Martins General Store right by the Williamsburg Trailhead or in Alexandria. To find out more you can visit their website www.martinoilco.com .

HOSS'S Hoss's has many locations throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It was founded in 1983 by Willard Campbell with his first location in Altoona. Hoss's along with Spokes-n-Skis have supported Rails to Trails for well over 30 years. Hoss's is well known for supporting the communities in which it is located. For more information please visit their website at www.hosss.com

NEW DINER 22 Originally built in 1919 to serve the rails as a mail car in Pennsylvania at the East Broad Top Railroad. Now with its current and longest standing location in Alexandria, Pennsylvania it serves the friends and family of Diner 22. Their website, www.diner22.com , states, "Diner 22 is a special place, unlike most restaurants it is a place where everyone knows your name, you can sit with friends and family to make memories while enjoying a home-cooked meal." It is located just east of Waterstreet at the eastern end of the Lower Trail. (5094 William Penn Hwy, Alexandria, PA 16611)

THE DREAM RESTURANT is located on 1500 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, It has been bringing families together through mouthwatering meals for over 70 years. Located just off Route 22 as you enter the eastern side of Hollidaysburg you can enjoy great breakfast, lunch or dinners. And remember that always have delicious homemade baked goods. (pies, pastries and cookies).

BEECH TREE CAFÉ is located on 1411 Blair St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, just behind The Dream. At the café, they offer specialty coffees, homemade waffles, pastries, sandwiches, and more is open every day except Wednesdays they are open from 6 AM until midafternoon.

BEST WAY PIZZA If you visit their website, you can read a story that begins like this: "The story of our famous square cut pizza begins in the early 1950s in an unlikely place, The Pennsylvania Railroad. Railroad worker, Gene Caparella, dusted off his grandmother's pizza recipe one day and started bringing it to work. His fellow railroad workers tried it and loved it, and so

the foundations of a pizza business started to form. In 1955, Gene was laid off from the railway and seized the opportunity to open his very first shop, which he named Best Way Pizza. Gene continued to operate his pizza shop in various locations around Altoona for 25 years, until his retirement in 1980." You can read more of the history at <https://bestwaypizza.com>

US HOTEL Located at 401 S. Juniata St. Hollidaysburg, 814-695-2624. This historic US Hotel shares much of the history of the Lower Trail. The Lower Trail is part of the Pennsylvania Canal. John Dougherty built the US Hotel; the building was initially used to accommodate westward travelers with lodging, food, and spirits. The hotel was strategically positioned along the western end of the Pennsylvania Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad. When going to the US Hotel you can enjoy great food while stepping back in time. You can learn much more about this historic building by visiting their website, www.ushotel tavern.com

FREEDOM EXCURSIONS by Scully LLC is a privately owned transportation company located in Blair County, Altoona, PA. We began operating as a transportation provider in May of 2005, receiving PUC Authority from the State of Pennsylvania, with one 16- passenger bus. We currently operate (2) Limousine buses, (4) Mini-coaches, and (4) Motor Coaches. Bus seating capacities are 16-55 passengers. We have both PA PUC and Federal DOT Authority. From a single day Corporate Event to a multiple day trip, Freedom Excursions can handle your needs from 1-200 guests. For more info, visit their website <https://www.freedomexcursionsbyscully.com> or call 814-941-8687.

PRIME SIRLOIN Located at 501 Municipal Drive Duncansville, PA. 814-693-8504 <https://primesirloinbuffet.com> Prime Sirloin Buffet has been serving the Altoona Pennsylvania area for years. As one of the area's largest buffets, Prime Sirloin has a variety of options for you to choose from. Prime Sirloin offers Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner!

BIDDLES BREWING: 321 E. 2nd St. Williamsburg PA. Biddle's Brewing was founded in 2021 with a love for coffee and a passion for community. The business started in a 6x12 foot coffee truck with nothing but big dreams and coffee beans. As owners, Mike and Britt Biddle, we work to incorporate our adventurous spirit and competitive nature to build individual customer relationships and always serve the perfect cup. Headquartered in Williamsburg, PA 16693. coffee@biddlesbrewing.com

BORO COFFEE CO.: Located at 411 S Juniata St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, 814-317-5166. "Coffee shop, bakery, and event space located in Historic Hollidaysburg in two renovated Canal Workers Houses from the 19th century."

JIMMY JOHN'S: GOURMET SANDWICH AND SUB SHOP
3420 Pleasant Valley Blvd, Suite 1A; Altoona, PA 16602, Phone: (814) 201-2261

RACHEL BITES 400 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, 814-931-4050 Rachelbites53@yahoo.com Rachel Bites specializes in custom designed sugar cookies, a unique variety of cookies in bite-sized format, bite sized pies, scones, and other sweet treats. We have a regular menu of items

available all year round as well as fun holiday and seasonal options. We also specializes in Dog Treats as well. You can also take Cookie Decorating Classes, Paint your own cookies, and get Decorating Kits and Cocoa Bombs.

FRONT STREET SUBS Meadows Plaza, 1381 Plank Rd. ,Duncansville, PA Suite 98 Open Monday thru Sat. (814) 695-2435 Family-run sandwich shop serving wraps, salads, and desserts, plus a drive-thru window.

MORRISONS COVE MEMORIAL PARK: 201 S Walnut St, Martinsburg, PA 16662 Phone: (814) 793-2176 Morrison's Cove Memorial Park was established to serve Martinsburg and the surrounding communities. Activities at our park include bowling, skating, playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, a disc golf course, a little league baseball field, banquet hall, swimming pool and so much more.

ALLEGHENY BREAMERY AND CREPES 505 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 Phone: (814)-696-5055 Menu: alleghenycreperie.com Fresh, made-to-order crêpes, all-day breakfast plates, acai bowls & seafood dinners—just 5 minutes from Altoona. Order online or visit our cozy downtown café today.

MAYFIELDS 300 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 Phone: (814)-317-5104 mayfieldhollidaysburg.com Mayfield's was opened in November 2020 at 205 Allegheny Street. For nearly two years, owner Madalyn Martinsen and her team cooked and served the Hollidaysburg community at the 26-seat restaurant. In September 2022, the business closed the doors of their original restaurant space and made the move to The Capitol Hotel at 300 Allegheny Street. A cornerstone of Hollidaysburg, the Mayfield team is excited to be expanding their menus and seating capacity in this new location. Mayfield at The Capitol Hotel offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

COUNTRY VIEW NOTARY 125 Country View Ln, Williamsburg, PA 16693 Phone: (814) 937-0107 Country View Notary is a professional notary service provider based in Williamsburg, PA. Specializing in notarizing legal documents, they offer a reliable and efficient service to individuals and businesses in the area. With a focus on accuracy and attention to detail, Country View Notary ensures that all documents are properly authenticated and certified. Their experienced team is dedicated to providing a seamless notary experience for all clients.

G3 THERAPY: 225 Allegheny St Suite 103, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 Phone: (814)-317-5270 G3 Physical Therapy provides you with the knowledge and training to make a change towards reaching your goals. Physical therapy can be for a wide range of reasons – from injury prevention, to neurological issues, to post-surgical rehabilitation and more. G3 Physical Therapy can evaluate and diagnose dysfunction by assessing strength, stability and range of motion to help determine the course of action needed to get you back towards reaching your goals.

BLUEGILLS 214 Main St, Alexandria, PA 16611 Phone: (814)-667-7349 toasttab.com

"We are a casual dining restaurant with a full bar available. From traditional Pennsylvania fare to seafood and steak dinners, we have it all. Our chef is top notch and our service can't be beat. Come, relax with us and have a wonderful meal to fill your bellies".

BLACK DOG CAFÉ' 519 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 Phone: (814)-695-5700 Quaint spot for breakfast and lunch staples such as omelets, crepes and BLTs, plus baked goods.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email _____

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal

_____ Individual	\$15.00
_____ Family	\$20.00
_____ Supporting	\$50.00
_____ Group	\$75.00

I am interested in:

_____ Horses	_____ Hiking
_____ Heritage	_____ Bicycling
_____ Nature Study	_____ Jogging
_____ Other	

I would like to help by volunteering for:

Make checks payable

Rails-to-Trails of Central PA Inc.
PO Box 592,
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648





RAILS-TO-TRAILS, INC.
OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
P.O. Box 592
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Altoona, PA 16601

PERMIT NO. 66

Or Current Resident.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14, 2026	Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Grannas Station
May 12, 2026	Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Grannas Station
May 13, 14, & 15, 2026	Hollidaysburg High School Community Days

Please check our **Calendar of Events** page on our website (www.rttcpa.org) to keep up to date, for other events that may be taking place on the trail hosted by other organizations

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT

This newsletter is mailed 3rd Class Bulk Mail. The Post Office will not forward 3rd Class Bulk Mail. If anything about your address changes, Route Number, Street Numbers, or Zip code, the Trail Trekker will not be forwarded to you. Please keep Rails-to-Trails informed of any address changes by using a post office change of address card or dropping us a note at the address below.

Remember, if your mailing address is highlighted, your membership is about to expire. Please renew quickly and continue to support Rails-to-Trails. Thank you!

Rails-to-Trails of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.
Post Office Box 592
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-0592
814-317-9728
www.rttcpa.org