

Highlands Trail Foundation - Fall 2021

Canyon Race A Winner

The 2021 Blackwater Canyon Half Marathon was a winner for runners, trail communities, and the Highlands Trail Foundation.

The race brought 114 runners from West Virginia and 11 other states, including Hawaii, Wisconsin, and Mississippi, to experience this unique event on Sept. 11. Other racers chased but could not catch local athlete Lucas Warner of Hendricks, who held his winning title with a time of one hr., 13 min., 39 sec. In fifth place overall, our female champion Sarah Thompson of Capon Bridge came in with an impressive time of one hr., 33 min., 4.7 sec.

In addition to showcasing the beautiful Blackwater Canyon and celebrating the joy of running, the BCHM has brought long-lasting benefits to the HTF and trail communities. Proceeds from the 2019 race allowed us to initiate an endowment to support area trails (see Highlands Trail Foundation Fund, p. 2). And for the first time in our more than 25-year history, we have secured insurance to cover events year-round. This will give us the freedom to do more activities such as impromptu bike rides, cross country ski outings, and volunteer work parties. Visit our Facebook page for information and updates.

All of this is possible thanks to the cooperation and support of property owners, generous support of sponsors, and volunteer participation. We are so grateful for all of you!

The Highlands Trail Foundation strives to engage the community by hosting quality outdoor recreational trail events and activities. The energy of those who participate motivates us to continue working toward trail maintenance and development goals. We are proud to create events which set the stage for athletes to work towards being their best selves. We hope the 2022 BCHM will be the best yet. Registration will open in February for the Sept. 10 event.

"The 2021 Blackwater Canyon Half will always stand out in my memory. With our cancellation in 2020, the race was a long time coming. We had extra prizes to give and the whole day felt like a celebration of the canyon and running. It was personally extraordinary because my dad traveled here from Wisconsin to run and finished strong. Plus our finisher from Mississippi was my college cross country teammate!" ~Sarah Forbes, Race Director

Upcoming Events

Jan 12- HTF Annual Meeting, Canaan Valley Resort

April 16- Spring Rail Trail Cleanup, AHT

April 23- Ramps & Rail Ride and Festival, Elkins



Tina Fritz, left, and Sarah Forbes

Welcome AmeriCorps Member

The Highlands Trail Foundation is pleased to welcome AmeriCorps member, Daniel Flood. Daniel began his service this fall working half-time for the HTF and half for the Heart of the Highlands, another organization dedicated to trails in the Potomac Highlands region. Daniel

will help with planning HTF events and managing volunteers. He will also work to assess maintenance needs on the Allegheny Highlands

Trail and create a report with detailed info, photos and GPS coordinates. Additionally, he will organize volunteer work crews and host recreational outings. "Having someone specifically dedicated to these areas will increase our effectiveness in serving trail communities," said supervisor Karen Carper. "Our involvement with the AmeriCorps also provides opportunities for collaborative efforts with other members serving at various different sites."

Thanks to support from the Town of Hendricks, the HTF has a new office near the AHT at Hendricks Town Hall where Daniel is available 10-2 most Mondays and Wednesdays. Please stop by and say hello.



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The AmeriCorps has opened a door for me where I can spend my time advancing meaningful ends outside of the usual grind.

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Year Round Recreation

Did you know that you could ski, snow shoe and even ride horses on the Allegheny Highlands Trail? The AHT remains accessible year round! Stay active through the winter and see some amazing views along the trail.

New Address: PO Box 196, Parsons WV 26287

Highlandstrailwv.org

**The new HTF website has launched!
Find event information,
join or renew your membership,
donate or message us today.**

Run For It

At 16 participants, the Highlands Trail Foundation's 2021 Run For It team was the largest to date. This year was once again a virtual run or walk. Team Captain Mary Boyd said participants raised \$327 in registration fees and donations. The Tucker Community Foundation has many sponsors who also support the event. The HTF received \$350 from the Randolph County Commission and \$200 from "The Luck of the Draw." The total raised for the Highlands Trail Foundation Fund was more than \$900. The TCF invests the money to help grow our fund and support future trail maintenance and development.

Highlands Trail Foundation Fund

Thanks to proceeds of the Blackwater Canyon Half Marathon and member contributions, the Highlands Trail Foundation Fund is nearing endowment.

Initiated after the 2019 BCHM, the HTF Fund was established to support trail maintenance and development in the Potomac Highlands region of West Virginia. The fund balance currently stands at \$7,955 and will be fully endowed at \$10,000.

Those who wish to help the HTF reach this endowment goal are invited to contribute directly to the Tucker Community Foundation, PO Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287. We hope to get there in 2022!

Please designate your gift to the Highlands Trail Foundation Fund.
Thank you in advance for your support.

Enjoy the Holidays 