

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Celebrations & Dedications



Celebrating 25 years of community support with (from left) Robbie Morris, RCDA; Jamie Rossi, WVDOH; and Elkins Mayor Van Broughton.

Highlands Trail Foundation (HTF) celebrated 25 years of service to the

trail community with a ceremony at the Elkins Depot trailhead Aug. 29. Many members and friends joined us via live Facebook feed as we recognized a 25-year partnership with, and support of, the Randolph County Development Authority (RCDA) as well as the cooperation of the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) in completing the Allegheny Highlands Trail in Randolph County. An interpretive sign telling the story of

the railroad in Elkins was installed by volunteers and dedicated to all who contributed to the rail-trail project.



Dr. Mary Boyd, Karen Carper, Diane Hinkle



Project partners for the Davis Trailhead Kiosk include Heart of the Highlands, Tucker Community Foundation, Western Pocahontas Properties, and Town of Davis

A dedication marking completion of the Davis Trailhead was held Oct. 13 at the Davis Ball Field / Tucker Boulder Park site. HTF hosted the event in partnership with Heart of the Highlands and the Town of Davis Parks & Recreation Commission. The trail connector will tie into the Allegheny Highlands Trail project once the Davis exit of Corridor H is complete.

HTF Endows Fund

Donations are the life line of nonprofit organizations. We appreciate every hard earned dollar you send our way and we are working hard to maximize your good intentions. In October of 2019 HTF members started the process of building an endowment to be managed by the Tucker Community Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to support our mission and related programs. To date, the board has dedicated \$4,000 of operating funds to initiate the **Highlands Trail Foundation Fund** with the goal of adding at least \$2,000 each year until the minimum fund requirement of \$10,000 is met and the fund can begin to make annual distributions. *(con't next page . . .)*

Fund can't

Once the fund is established it will provide perpetual organizational and program support. Endowed funds are co-mingled for investment purposes to maximize their return. Part of the income generated by investments is dedicated to growing the fund, and a portion of the income is distributed according to the distribution guidelines established at the time the fund is started. The principal remains intact.

In an effort to meet our goal we are offering donors a 2:1 deal. For a limited time, we will match donations in any amount, up to \$1,000, to the Highlands Trail Foundation Fund. For example, if you donate \$25, we will match it dollar for dollar and the endowment grows by \$50. This offer is good through Dec. 31, 2021 or until we reach our goal of \$1,000 - whichever comes first. **Donations of any size are appreciated and all are tax deductible.**

To donate please make your check payable to **TCF - HTF Fund** and mail to:

Tucker Community
Foundation
PO Box 491,
Parsons, WV 26287



Events on Hold

Like thousands of groups across the globe, HTF was impacted by COVID. In mid-July, the board made the difficult decision to cancel or postpone events to keep participants and volunteers safe.

Preparations for the Blackwater Canyon Half Marathon (BCHM) were well underway at that time with 52 runners registered and many sponsors on board. The race, nominated by readers of Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine for "Best Running Event" and "Toughest Race" of the region, has become a very successful event. In 2018, 100 runners competed; in 2019 more than 170 finished the race. Up to 200 were expected in 2020.

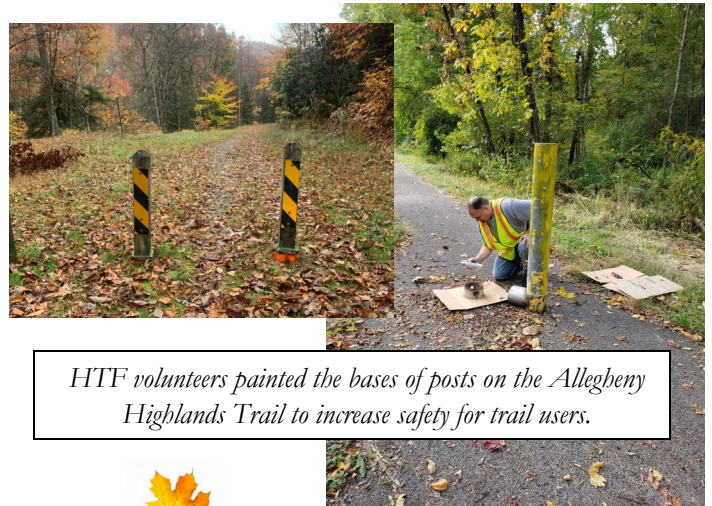
The BCHM is also an important fundraiser for our organization. Revenue

supports operations and other events, such as the popular Blackwater Canyon Bike Ride, which are provided at no cost to participants, as well as trail maintenance work.

HTF is deeply grateful to the sponsors who allowed us to retain 2020 contributions to support the 2021 BCHM, scheduled for Sept. 11. We are also grateful to racers who deferred their registrations, and especially to those who donated 2020 fees to the HTF.

We are looking forward to welcoming runners and bike riders to events in 2021. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the beauty of the wonderful West Virginia outdoors.

BLACKWATER CANYON HALF MARATHON SEPTEMBER 11, 2021



HTF volunteers painted the bases of posts on the Allegheny Highlands Trail to increase safety for trail users.

Meet the HTF Board

The Highlands Trail Foundation is pleased to welcome Diane Hinkle as president. A dedicated Tucker County community volunteer and outdoor enthusiast, Diane joined the HTF board in 2019. Other officers are Jason Myers, Vice President; Bonnie Swyter, Secretary, both of Parsons; and Karen Carper, Treasurer, of Montrose.

Current board members are Mary Boyd, Elkins; Fred Sikarskie, Teresa Lycliter, and Pete Roy, Parsons; Don Black, Davis; and Sarah Forbes, Montrose. W.J. Cober serves as US Forest Service liaison.

HTF invites you to get involved as a board member or volunteer. Contact us by email at highlandstrailwv@gmail.com or message us on Facebook. We hope to hear from you!

Highlands Trail Foundation

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www.highlandstrail.org

HTF is dedicated to creating recreational and alternate transportation opportunity through development of a regional trail system in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia. The Allegheny Highlands Trail is the backbone of that system.