

THREE RIVERS HERITAGE TRAIL • MONTOUR TRAIL • STEEL VALLEY TRAIL  
 YOUGHIOGHENY TRAIL NORTH • YOUGHIOGHENY TRAIL SOUTH  
 ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS TRAIL (PA) • ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS TRAIL (MD)

Volume 1, Number 1

Summer, 1999

## LETTER FROM THE PREZ

### This Trail Stuff Is Here To Stay

One of the joys of building trails is that we get to use them. A few weekends ago, I went for a ride with some friends on the Yough Trail. When I got home, I told my husband, "this trail stuff is here to stay!"

There were families biking together on the trail, walkers, long distance runners, girlfriends helping each other burn calories, even a great group of little girls with a few adults - was it a girl scout troop or an alternative to a Chuck E. Cheese birthday party? Whatever the reason that brought them to the trail, they were out there, enjoying. And people are what these trails are all about.

Welcome to the first issue of the ATA Trail News. It's our hope that this newsletter will bring together our people: volunteers, users, and supporters. Together we will create a network of trails that will make our region the envy of the nation.

The ATA has joined seven organizations with the common vision of building the "spine" that connects Pittsburgh, PA to Cumberland, MD -- an interstate highway of trails that's literally changing our region.

We expect to have the spine completed within a few short years. But there's still much work to be done and our good volunteers are needed more than ever. The reason our volunteers like to work on the trails is that they want to use them. And that's why this trail stuff is here to stay. It's fun.

*Linda McKenna Boxx*

### Construction '99 - Filling in the Gaps

A lot of new trail will be built this summer because of the infusion of funds. The particulars are shown on the map in the centerspread, but here's a summary.

The **Montour** is building two sections this summer: Boggs to Quicksilver including the Quicksilver Bridge, and Cecil to Venice. This will create a completed trail of 17 miles from Groveton to McDonald.

The City of Pittsburgh is working to complete its trail from Station Square to the Glenwood Bridge by next year, with two sections being built this year.

**Yough North** is completing the 2-mile section from Dead Man's Hollow to the 15th St. Bridge. This will complete this section of the trail.

In addition to finishing the Salisbury Viaduct, **Allegheny Highlands (PA)** is now finished from Fort Hill to Pinkerton (3 1/2 miles).

## ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS (PA)

### Spandex Crowd Loves New Span Deck

It's 1908 feet long. It's 101 feet high. It soars over two highways, a double track railroad, the Casselman River and a farm. Six men died building it by the time it was completed in 1912.

It's the Salisbury Viaduct, it's now it's open for trail use and it's spectacular. (Viaduct is just a fancy word for a long bridge. Now you know.)

With a new concrete deck and steel railing the viaduct has become one of the centerpieces of our trail. Don't miss it!

A mile or so east of the Viaduct, the Western Maryland Railway Station in Meyersdale has been rehabilitated and will be open for limited use on weekends this summer. The Meyersdale Historical Society will have a gift shop open with rest rooms and vending machines.

Future uses include an interpretive museum and possibly a bike rental.

### Variety of Funding Sources Keeps Trails A-building

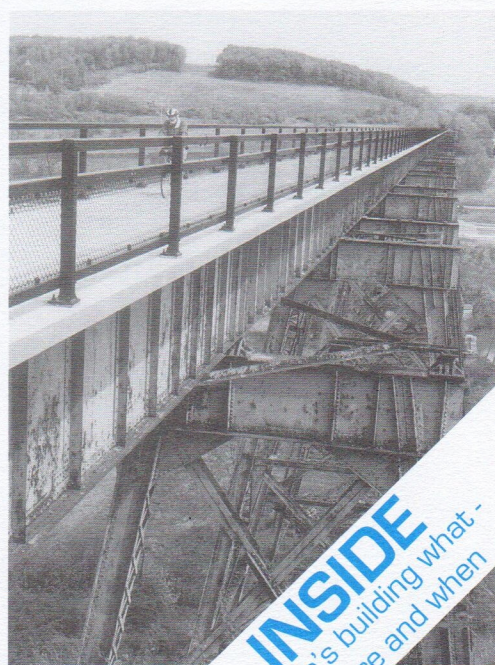
We're building a great trail and many different sources are helping to fund construction.

The commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government have granted the ATA trails nearly \$12 million to fund construction projects. Private funding has added over \$2 million more.

Where the money is coming from:

- TEA-21, the Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21st Century, a federal program, allocated \$6 million to our trail as a high priority project. The money will be parceled out over five years, until 2003. Of this, \$5 million will go to Pennsylvania and \$1 million will go to Maryland.
- \$4.2 million was approved in the first round of the TEA-21 Enhancement

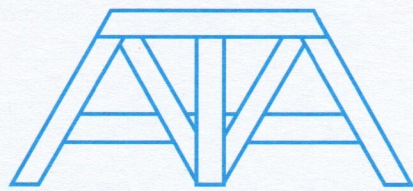
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**INSIDE**  
Who's building what -  
where and when

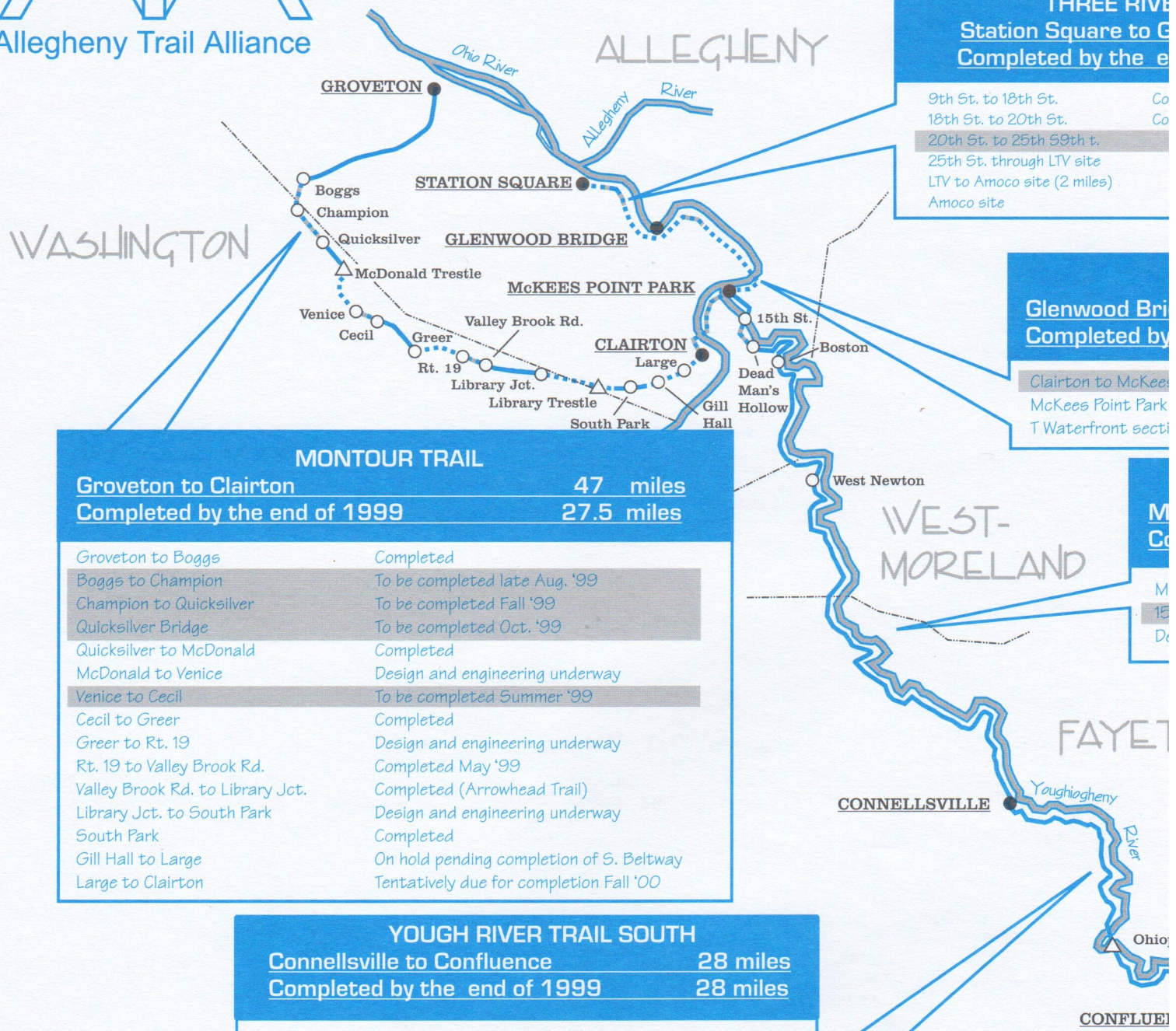
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ATATRAIL.ORG](http://WWW.ATATRAIL.ORG)





Allegheny Trail Alliance

# Mile by mile, we're making



In the next issue of ATA Trail News  
Panhandle Trail - On to Weirton!  
Canal Place in Cumberland:  
The East End Spiffs Up  
And lots of other useful news from along the trail.

## KEY



Completed Trail Section  
Uncompleted Trail Section  
Section to be completed in 1999  
Trail end point  
Construction section end point  
Major structure

## ALLEGHENY State Line to Cum

State Line to Frostburg  
Frostburg to Woodcock Hollow  
Woodcock Hollow to Cumberland



# making the dream a reality

## S HERITAGE TRAIL

Wood Bridge	5 miles
of 1999	2 miles

struction to begin Fall, '99  
leted (Southside Riverfront Park)  
Open June '99  
In design and engineering  
Construction to begin Spring '00  
In negotiation

## STEEL VALLEY TRAIL

e to Clairton	18 miles
ne end of 1999	6 miles

oint Park Open June '99  
Kennywood Construction to begin June '00  
Completed Dec. '99

## YOUGH RIVER TRAIL NORTH

Keesport to Connellsville	43 miles
ompleted by the end of 1999	43 miles

ees Point Park to 15th St. Bridge Completed  
St. Bridge to Dead Man's Hollow To be completed Summer '99  
l Man's Hollow to Connellsville Completed

## THE FINE PRINT

The ATA Trail News is produced and distributed by the Allegheny Trail Alliance for the members and friends of its supporting organizations.

The Allegheny Trail Alliance is a coalition of seven trail-building organizations whose purpose is to assure the construction, maintenance and use of the multi-purpose trail from Pittsburgh, PA to Cumberland, MD where the trail joins the C&O Canal Towpath to Washington, DC.

### Officers of the Allegheny Trail Alliance:

President	Linda McKenna Boxx
Vice President	Linc Van Sickle
Secretary	P. Courtland Gould
Treasurer	Marshall Fausold

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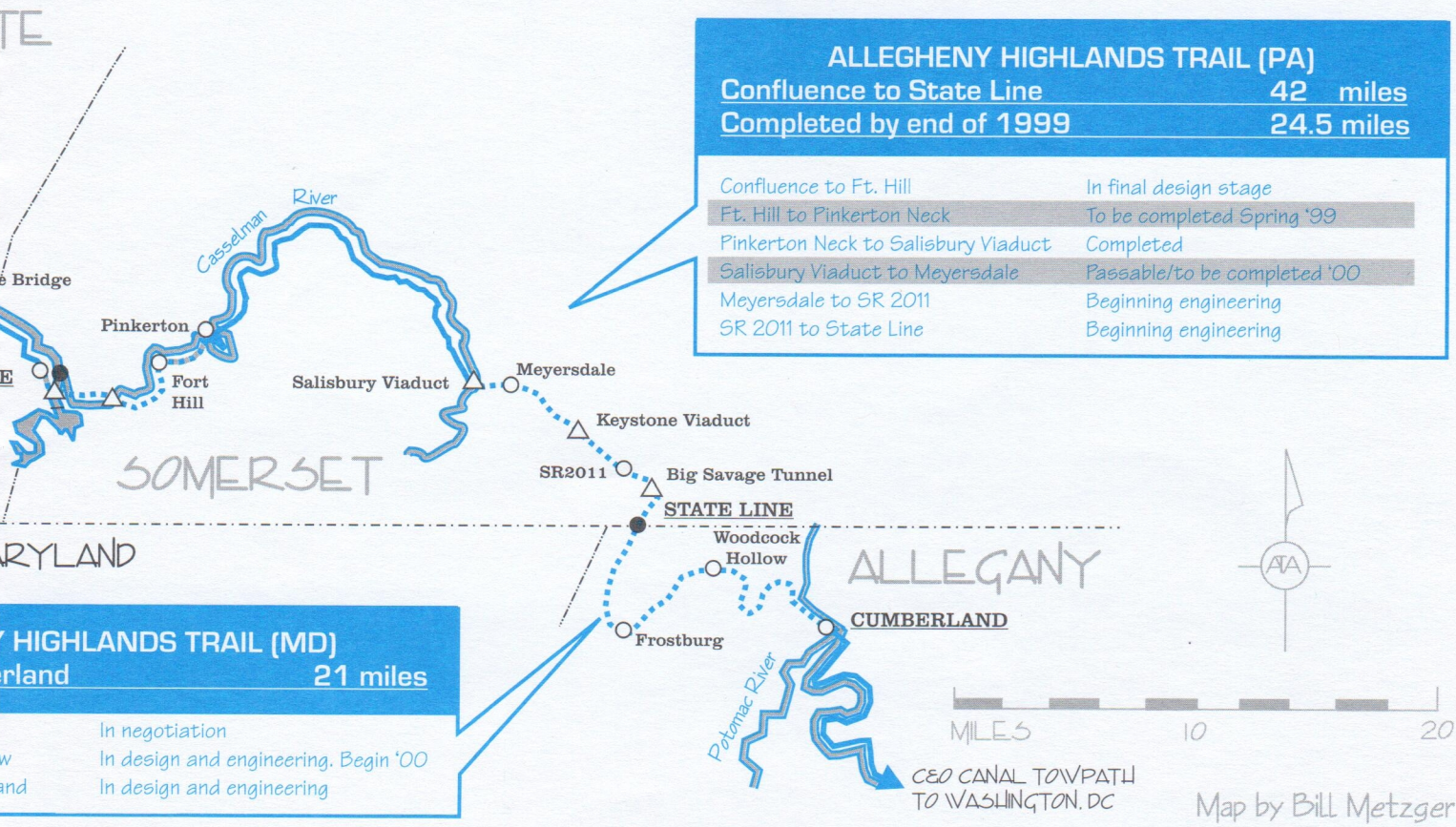
# Mile by mile...

Total when completed	204
Total at the end of 1999	129.5
Still to go	Only 74.5!

## ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS TRAIL (PA)

Confluence to State Line	42 miles
Completed by end of 1999	24.5 miles

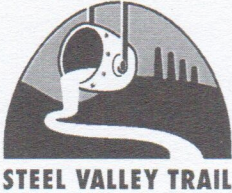
Confluence to Ft. Hill	In final design stage
Ft. Hill to Pinkerton Neck	To be completed Spring '99
Pinkerton Neck to Salisbury Viaduct	Completed
Salisbury Viaduct to Meyersdale	Passable/to be completed '00
Meyersdale to SR 2011	Beginning engineering
SR 2011 to State Line	Beginning engineering





## STEEL VALLEY

## New Name, New Logo



STEEL VALLEY TRAIL

The Steel Valley Trail, formerly known as the Steel Heritage Trail, has adopted a new logo. The design is based on a steel ladle pouring out a trail with the stacks of the former US Steel Homestead Works in the background.

The SVT opened its first section - 4.5 miles of new trail from Clairton to McKees Point Park on June 20. It will connect the Montour Trail and the Yough Trail North.

## The Money Rolls In (Con't.)

program.

- The Pennsylvania state capital budget allocated \$1.5 million to ATA projects.
- 1999 Keystone Rail-Trail Grants totaled \$175,000.
- Private foundations contributed \$2.2 million to the trails over the past two years.

This is in addition to thousands of hours of volunteer labor and thousands of dollars in in-kind contributions.

Additional funds will still be needed. There are many bridges and crossings that require substantial funding--the cost of going through the mountains, not over them.

## YOUGH SOUTH

## Last Missing Links Open By Fall '99

Come November of this year, motorists and Yough Trail South users will no longer have to fight with each other at Ohiopyle and Confluence - the last two missing links on this section of the trail will finally be complete.

Construction is currently underway on both the upstream Ohiopyle bridge and the section from the current east end of the trail into Confluence.

Only the old piers will be reused in the bridge construction - all of the original railroad superstructure has been removed. It will be replaced with a new pedestrian bridge which will run from Fern Cliff Peninsula, cross the river and Rt. 711 and rejoin the existing trail at the visitors center.

## Introducing...



Brett Hollern, 26, is now the "circuit rider" for the ATA. A PSU graduate, Brett's from Somerset County and formerly worked for the Somerset County Planning Commission.

He will assist with construction on the Allegheny Highlands Trail, and will help strengthen ATA trail groups.

And for the record, his name is pronounced Holler-en.

## THREE RIVERS HERITAGE

## Trail signs are works of art and informative, too

Pittsburgh's trail users will benefit from a whole series of new signs that are being placed around the city's growing network of trails.

Twenty two signs will eventually be displayed about the system and will inform and entertain visitors with information on historic events and the sites where they happened, geology and the rivers.

According to Christine Davis, who researched and wrote most of the material for the signs, "we have some beautiful paintings and photographs of things that used to be on the trail but you can't see anymore."

A collection of the extra copies will be shown in public buildings as part of a traveling art exhibit.

## ATA INTERPRETIVE STUDY

Lessons learned from the Three Rivers Heritage interpretive work will be put to good use in the ATA Draft Interpretive Plan which being funded partly by the National Park Service and partly by the ATA.

The project, which will be completed in September, has brought together historians, tourism experts, writers, geologists and educators to form the most complete picture of the trail possible and to present it to the public in the most exciting way.

"Rail trails are the safest and quietest places in the state to study geology," says DCNR's Jim Shaulis, a member of the team. Our trail will also be a great place to study history, the river and our environment - and get some exercise, too.

Allegheny Trail Alliance  
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