

Heart of the Highlands Trail System

Stakeholder News



Heart of the Highlands: Partnerships & Progress

Volume 4
December 2013

2013 Accomplishments



Trail Crew Leader and Volunteers built water diversions, tumpikes and removed stumps



AmeriCorps members received training in sustainable trail techniques in the classroom and in the field



- ◆ Trail Crew Leader selected for 2013 field season
- ◆ Two volunteers completed USFS S212 chainsaw training
- ◆ Three trail work weekends held
- ◆ Hardworking volunteers contributed over 200 hours
- ◆ Trail Work Log created and approved for maintenance and upgrades on HoH Core Loop in Canaan Valley State Park
- ◆ Student Conservation Association crews completed 100' of puncheon bridges, 50' of turnpike and 25' of boulder causeway on Allegheny Trail in Canaan Valley State Park
- ◆ HoH Crew Leader & volunteers completed 60' of puncheon in Canaan Valley State Park
- ◆ Trails on Little Canaan WMA (formerly Canaan Valley Institute) officially designated for mountain bike use in addition to hiking and skiing
- ◆ AmeriCorps volunteers provided over 500 hours of trail maintenance
- ◆ Trail tools and materials purchased with USFS Title II Funds
- ◆ Trail markers in place to identify 11 miles of Heart of the Highlands Trail
- ◆ Fourteen member team supported HoH in Run For It event raising \$1170
- ◆ Twenty-five stakeholders attended sixth Annual Meeting
- ◆ Board of Directors expanded to seven plus Advisory Council
- ◆ Tucker Community Foundation continues as Fiscal Agent

Mission

The Heart of the Highlands Trail System will connect the non-motorized trail systems of five land management agencies in Tucker County, West Virginia (Blackwater Falls State Park, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Canaan Valley State Park, Little Canaan Wildlife Management Area, Monongahela National Forest) into a comprehensive, landscape oriented, environmentally sustainable, multi-use trail system that is accessible to the public. Ultimately, the Heart of the Highlands Trail System will provide access to and from significant regional and national trail systems.

Goals

- ◆ Trails will connect property to property and trail to trail.
- ◆ Trails will be marked consistently and presented on one map for ease of use.
- ◆ Trails will allow visitors to safely travel between towns, properties and visitor services by bike or foot without traveling on roadways.

For more information and project pictures, please visit
www.heartofthehighlandstrail.org
www.facebook.com/HeartOfTheHighlands

2014

Board of Directors

Roger Lilly
Tucker County Trails

Dan Lehmann
Community Representative

Andy Dalton
Friends of the 500th

Josh Stevens
National Youth Science
Foundation

Annie Snyder
Community Representative

Ben Herrick
Community Representative

Ben Neustadt
Community Representative

Advisory Council

Diane Hinkle
Tucker County
Commission

Richard Zane
Canaan Valley National
Wildlife Refuge

Rob Gilligan or
Stan Beafore
Blackwater Falls & Canaan Valley State Parks

Julie Fosbender
Monongahela National
Forest

Project Administrator

Julie Dzaack



Trail Maintenance Crew Leader

June 2013: Heart of the Highlands contracted with Zachary Adams in 2013 to provide leadership on trail maintenance projects approved by HoH partners. Zachary and AmeriCorps members, plus volunteers from the community, accomplished significant trail upgrades along the Heart of the Highlands Core Loop. Hikers, bikers and skiers will find improved trail conditions to enhance their outdoor experience—especially on the 4.5 miles south of Canaan Loop Road into the Balsam Swamp Overlook in Canaan Valley State Park.

New Board Members & Trail Planning Committee

October 2013: Three new community stakeholders joined the Board of Directors. Welcome goes to Dan Lehmann, Ben Neustadt and Ben Herrick. Thanks go to Jim Good as he leaves the board.

Heart of the Highlands Trail System restructured and expanded its Board of Directors and Advisory Council to provide clearer roles and guidance. Roger Lilly, Dan Lehmann and Andy Dalton will serve as officers during 2014. Board members formed a committee to hike the existing trail segments to review completed trail work, evaluate project status and set goals for 2014.

Student Conservation Association Trail Crew Works on HoH Core Loop

September—October 2013: HoH hosted a ten-person Student Conservation Association leader crew. The crew worked on the Allegheny Trail south of the Canaan Loop Road in Canaan Valley State Park constructing 100' of puncheon, 50' of trail tumpike, and 25' of boulder causeway—all sustainable trail construction techniques to raise the trail tread over generally flat, seasonally wet areas. HoH coordinated with Windwood Resort to provide housing; CVSP maintenance staff to provide assistance with trail materials; Tucker County Trails and Canaan Valley NWR to provide hand tools in addition to our new tool cache; and the HoH Project Administrator coordinated the project. These collaborative partnerships are vital in achieving the collective vision of the Heart of the Highlands Trail System.



Puncheon, or wooden walkway, constructed on Allegheny Trail in Canaan Valley State Park



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Connecting trails ♦
Connecting people