DCNR Grant Study Completed
MCLANE & ASSOC, a regional Landscape Architectural Firm, completed a study for Anthracite that was funded through the District of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Study defines extensions of the old Lehigh RR past the current usable Back Mountain Trail (in Dallas Township) and on through Dallas Borough and beyond to Harvey’s Lake and Noxen.

The information gathered is excellent and well defended. Copies of the materials are available at the offices of Luzerne Borough and Kingston Township. Tom McLane and Paul Bechtel intensely studied the possibilities of extending the Back Mountain Trail from the Dallas Shopping Center through Dallas Borough, parts of Dallas Township and on to Harvey’s Lake and out to Noxen on the old Lehigh Valley RR track. There are currently unusable sections along the route and, traveling around Harvey’s Lake on the road would require careful attention. Beyond the Lake, State Route 29 shares the old track through the countryside and it will be a safe and beautiful opportunity for biking and walking which opened. The actual planning and construction will be an extensive production over many years.

Grants & Gifts
PennDOT Grant: ASTA funding is gone. Anthracite was to receive $300,000 for new construction of the Back Mountain Trail. The Grant that Penn Dot approved was to be used to resurface the first 2 miles between Luzerne and Carverton Road. This particular source has been permanently closed! The Back Mountain Trail is 20 years old and some of the upper second mile has never been professionally built. This Grant would have fixed many problems. As the Rail Road was built on the side of the mountain...it is constantly having water problems and tree ‘invasions.’ Anthracite is maintained by volunteers who continually find ways to keep the trail open and safe. The trail surface needs attention! A new Grant session is underway but the Federal and State programs have very limited funds. Thanks to all the users who help. Dick Cochrane, a member of our Board, is headlining our latest proposal. More news later.

**** THANKS ...****

Luzerne Foundation and its Grants Program:
Two grants have been awarded to Anthracite through the Luzerne Foundation for equipment that the Back Mountain and Black Diamond Trails will share in maintaining a safe and open trail for all users. Maintenance is ongoing and volunteers constantly survey and fix problems. The generosity of the donors and friends of the Luzerne Foundation will help this concern immensely! The two Councils will be using the funds for acquiring machines to maintain and ensure safety for all users. Thanks, Charles Barber

Two nonprofit organizations making a difference
Anthracite Scenic Trails Association and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor are partners proudly working together to create new adventures in recreation within Luzerne County. The Trails are very different… one is in the quiet woods and the other travels through urban space! The Black Diamond Trail has lakes, marshes, river edges and beautiful places to walk, ride, sit on a bench and enjoy the Pennsylvania experience. The Back Mountain Trail has Wildcat Falls and urban noise but can take you to restaurants, schools, and friends’ houses without going on the highway! Of course, you can also sit on a bench too!

GOALS FOR 2014:
INCREASE VOLUNTEERS FOR MOUNTAIN TOP TRAIL
STABILIZE MT. TOP COUNCIL
BUILD A NEW LINK OF TRAIL IN BACK MOUNTAIN
FILL IN THE GAPS ALONG THE BACK MOUNTAIN TRAIL
BEGIN SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT OF ASTA

National Trails Day Bicycle Ride
Saturday, June 21, 2014
9:30 am (leave @ 10:00 am)
About 10 miles... Please wear a helmet!
Location: DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL
Travel residential streets, progress onto BMT then ride residential streets of Kingston/Luzerne and Bike onto the Levee Trail ...end at Nesbitt Park for RIVERFEST. (arrange for your ride back)
For Information, Contact: dentist@handleys.net or 570 430 0912.
TRAIL BUILDING includes: Land Acquisitions, Engineering Plans, Construction, Maintenance

Back Mountain Bloomers Garden Tour 2013 …
a colorful and beautiful success!

Thanks go to the Bloomers and Back Mountain Businesses that supported the Garden Tour in 2013. The Ladies of the Back Mountain Garden Club put on a fantastic parade of gardens that homeowners had created so beautifully. Through the leadership of Jean Kolojejchick many Back Mountain Businesses donated gift certificates and funds. The Back Mountain Trail Council and Anthracite Scenic Trails Association carefully distribute the funds to help develop more trail links.

Thanks for a lovely Day! Look for the next tour in JUNE 2015!

Financial Costs for 2014

- Purchase properties
- Promotional items
- Printing
- Construction on Circle Trail
- Trail Maintenance

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE 2013 BACK MOUNTAIN BLOOMERS GARDEN TOUR!!

Dr. Richard and Jan Abramowitz; American Asphalt Paving; Senator Lisa Baker (Paid for by the Baker for Senate Committee); Bonsai Society; Brooks and Co. Innovative Hair Design; Brown Barn Café; Brown Hill Tree Co.; Nancy and Chuck Brown; Buka ; Cindy Trudgen's Lawncare & Landscaping; Dr. Francis J. and Susan Collini/Age of Innocence; Connor's Grill Room; Cook's Pharmacy – Shavertown;; Country Scissors Salon and The Nail Shop; Creekside Gardens; Curves for Women; Dallas Centre Hardware, Inc.; Darling & Sons Farms & Greenhouses; Jim and Flo DePolo; Earth and Wears; Edward's Landscaping and Garden Center; Embellish Home Accents; Fino's Pharmacy; Fire and Ice on Toby Creek; Floral Designs; Friend of Shakespeare's Garden; Full Phase Construction, Inc.; Gerrity's Supermarkets; Green Valley Landscaping, Inc.; Greystone Gardens; Grotto Pizza; Sharon Hinche; Jack Williams Tire & Auto; Johnston & Johnston Law Office; Kasarda's Greenhouse; Kevin's Bar and Restaurant; Kimberly's Floral; Brian Konopinski, Inc.; Dr. William and Nancie Krywicki; Bob Kopiec, Humford Realty; Lakeside Skillet; Leggio's Italian Restaurant; Lehman Nursery; Luzerne Lumber Company; Midge Kolojejchick/Peter Kizis (PFG); Masonic Village at Dallas/Irem Country Club; Matheson Transfer Co.; McLaughlin's Landscaping Unlimited; Misericordia University; Nardone Consulting; Ochman's Coins and Jewelry; Odyssey Fitness; J. M. Olejnick Concrete and Masonry Const.; Oscar Roth Jewelers; Peking Chef; Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Perennial Point; Pizza Perfect; Plymouth Graphics, Inc.; Rave Discount Plant Center; Rock Rec Sports Complex/former Valley Tennis & Swim Club; Rogers' Nursery; SERVPRO; Shades, Unltd.: Kay & John Simons; The Beaumont Inn; Thomas's Family Market; Thrifty Beverage; Touch of Eyelet; UPS Store, Dallas PA; Valentine's Jewelry; Varsity Garden Center; Watkins and Medura Family and Cosmetic Dental Center; Wild Birds Unlimited; Inez Stefanko; Marianne Pietracini; Joanne Olejnick; Elizabeth Dutko; Marilyn Feldman; Jean & Midge Kolojejchick

ANNUAL CLEANUPS ON BACK MOUNTAIN TRAIL 2014 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

Mark Albrecht’s comments….

(Another) Volunteer Success Sat. Apr.26, 2014

“What a great day! And real measurable success. First time ever the entire length of the BMT was walked for trash cleanup. Volume of trash was down, and that’s good considering the distance covered. Next year we’ll probably attach some hot spots rather than the whole trail. Here are some statistics. Today, 49 volunteers came and provided 143 volunteer hours of work. Combine that with the 2 Fall days, we’ve had 110 volunteers providing us with 295 hours in the last 5 months. That’s impressive. Thanks for all you do.

And there were so many today thanking US!”

Mark,

LOTS OF HELP ALONG THE TRAIL...THANKS TO ALL
THOUGHTS ABOUT TRAILS…..

In Luzerne County…Cities, Boroughs, and Townships are planning and constructing new miles of trails. There are over 50 miles open for safe opportunities to ride, walk, sit and enjoy! The Map above shows today, tomorrow, and the future! It is not a completed Project! But when we look back to 1990 there were NO RECREATIONAL TRAILS! In 24 years, local funding secured from our State and Federal programs and local people have helped to built over 50 miles! But it is the local money that is the most important because it is well intended and gets results! Using Federal, State, and Local Funds as well as private donations has led our County to success! ...but we are not stopping yet!

The map above shows the Susquehanna River flowing through the middle of our County. On both sides of the river and up into the mountains are walking and biking trails! BUT...it cannot be done without Direction, Leadership, Political Support, and Funding. Please show your support by using the trails and helping keep this important recreational component ….ASTA and the D&L Anthracite Scenic Trails Association thanks donors and volunteers for helping change the landscape and creating trails……2013…………...

Up to $50:
Jorge & Sylvia Abrantes; Larry Andur; Kevin & Stacia Arnaud; Anne Aston; Alice Baer; Mike & Rita Balberchak; Raymond & Patricia Balcomb; David & Louise Banik; Samuel Barbose; Rose Ann Bauer; David Beccaris; Marie Belasco; Irene Blum; Jeff Box; Charles & Andrea Brandt; Shirley Butler; Kate Churnetski – In Memory of Art Redmond; Mr. & Mrs. John Conyngham; John Conyngham III; Roger Cotterill; Carole Ertley; Karen Giles; Howard & Jean Gonchar; Rosalie J. Guido; Richard Harrison; Louise Hazeltine; Sandra Helverson; A. Jennie Hill; Deborah Hocko; Mary Jane Hopkins; Beverly Johnston; Linda Keck; Anne & Bernard King; Richard Levy; Ruth Ann Logue; Sheila & Don McFadden; Denise Murphy; John & Shawn Murphy; James O’Neil; Shep Pawling; Judy Reap; Lawrence Richards ; Paula Roos; Steve and Adina Rosenthal; Bruce & Elizebeth Rosenthal; James Rocco; Florence Sherwood; Rosemary Sigmond; Catherine Simons; Jennifer Smith; Christy Straitiff; Henry & Beverly Todd; Tom Walski; Gary Williams.

$100 +
Mark & Maureen Albrecht; Dr. Lyn Aldrich; Stephen & Kathleen Andrussian; Senator Lisa Baker; Ann Coughlin; Stan & Pattie Davies; Philip Decker; Kathi Flack; Leonard & Lynn Gonchar; Sid and Cyndey Halsor; Ira & Deborah Hufford; Glenn Johnson; Jean Kolojejchick; Bill & Christine Leandri; Paul Lumia; John & Mary Moga; Frances Ochman; Arthur & Sandy Piccone; Robert Smith; Barbara Smith; Mark & Molly Sowcik; Clifford Troup.

$250 +
Virgina H. & Joseph Banks; Janet Flack; Brock C. Phillips DVM PC; Virginia Rose; Judd & Susan Shoval.

$500 +
The Berkshire Asset Management Fund of the Luzerne Foundation.
TRAIL REGULATIONS
There is a no dumping ordinance
Respect rights and privacy of adjacent landowners
Stay on trail
Motorized vehicles are prohibited
Bikes yield to pedestrians
Keep to right except for passing
Pass on left by signal of bell or vocal call
Heed traffic at all crossings
Trail hours are dawn to dark
Camping and campfires are not permitted
Alcoholic beverages are prohibited
Pets must be under control of owner at all times
Leash on pets required
Pet owners are responsible for picking up after pet

ANTHRACITE SCENIC TRAILS— VOLUNTEERS
AS A FRIEND TO THE TRAILS - I would like to volunteer….
  Back Mountain and/or Black Diamond
  Fill out and send to P.O. Box 212  Dallas PA 18612
NAME__________________________________________
ADDRESS_______________________________________
CITY___________________ZIP_____________________
EMAIL______________________________
INFORMATION______
To volunteer on work days or sponsor a group recreational activity
  Go online for Trails:— www.anthracitetrails.org
  Anthracite is on FACEBOOK
  Call Angela @ PEC: 570-718-6507 weekdays

The Anthracite Scenic Trails Association Board make decisions on acquisitions, oversees construction projects, approves Grant applications, manages fiscal responsibilities as well as volunteer their expertise to trail building.
Contact ASTA at the PEC Office @ 570.718.6507 if you would like to help ‘build trails.”

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