



***Highlands Trail Foundation***  
**P.O. Box 2862**  
**Elkins, WV 26241**

July 2017

Summer greetings from the Highlands Trail Foundation! The 2017 events season is in progress and the HTF is busy making preparations to bring you the very best yet on the Allegheny Highlands Trail.

The 7th annual Allegheny Highlands Trail Bluegrass Festival will be held in Montrose July 22. Featured will be internationally known Johnny Staats & the Delivery Boys. Bobby Maynard & Breakdown will be back by popular demand and local fiddle favorite Johnny Cochran will return for yet another encore performance. This all-West Virginia line-up of award-winning performers is sure to please. Tickets include a pulled pork BBQ meal served by HTF volunteers. Get yours online at Eventbrite.com (it's the only event in Montrose, WV!) or at Joey's Bike Shop in Elkins. Tickets will also be available on site.

The first Kingsford Allegheny Highlands Trail 20 Miler was so much fun in 2016 we've decided to do it again! In 2017, the competitive event will begin in Gilman and end at the Mill Race Park in Parsons. Ticket and course information are posted at [www.tristateracer.com](http://www.tristateracer.com). The final event of the season will be the ever-popular Blackwater Canyon Bike Ride held in conjunction with Tucker County's Leaf Peepers Festival Sept. 23. Please join us for this great season finish.

For details regarding these events, please visit [www.hIGHLANDSTRAIL.org](http://www.hIGHLANDSTRAIL.org). You can also keep in touch via our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/HighlandsTrailFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/HighlandsTrailFoundation).

The HTF will also participate in the Tucker Community Foundation's Run or It event Sept. 23. Please consider joining our team to help win support for the HTF. To register, click on Entry Form at [www.tuckerfoundation.net](http://www.tuckerfoundation.net). Questions? Message us on Facebook or email [info@highlandstrail.org](mailto:info@highlandstrail.org).

In other news—the Elkins Rail Trail Connector project completing the AHT from Highland Park to the Elkins Depot continues to progress toward construction. The Division of Highways has approved the bridge route crossing US 219 north of the Railroad Avenue Intersection. The route will then cross Harrison Avenue and proceed to the depot via Martin Street. Once the trail is completed to downtown Elkins, we will turn our attention toward extending the AHT through the Blackwater Canyon to Thomas.

HTF Hellos and Good-byes—The HTF board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Emily Whitaker, who left the green hills of West Virginia for the bluegrass of Kentucky. Thank you for your contribution, Emily. The HTF welcomes new board members Fred Sikarskie of Parsons and Sarah Forbes of Montrose. We appreciate your service.

Your membership and participation in events support the HTF's ongoing work to provide quality recreational trail opportunities in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia. Please use the enclosed application to renew or join the HTF today. Thank you for your support.

*Karen*

President

