



Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy

P.O. Box 472, Wexford, PA 15090-0472

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Win the Challenge Quilt

By Steve Mentzer

It took a long time, but after numerous requests and appeals Donna Stolz secured permission to enter the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge shirt vault. Wearing white gloves, she painstakingly searched for the finest, most pristine Challenge shirts stored therein. In the end she found shirts for most years, the rest being lost to history.

Those select shirts were the material she needed to realize her vision: A quilt! Made of t-shirts! To be raffled off on Challenge Day 2014!

The twin-size quilt measures 64" x 85". The top was designed and pieced by Donna using shirts from Challenge years 1996, 1999, 2000, and 2003-2013. (In)famous trail landmarks such as the parks and hills are highlighted around the border. It was professionally quilted by Rebecca Weaver of Bellevue, PA.

Should you ever, in a fit of delirium caused by illness, choose to actually enrobe your body in this masterpiece - instead of displaying it in a place of solemn reverence - you can know that its high-tech fabric will efficiently wick away your sudor.

Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 14 for \$10, 30 for \$20. They'll be sold at most training hikes, the Annual Meeting, and online at store.rachelcarsontrails.org/etc.html (more photos here).

The raffle will be held at 7 PM on Saturday June 21, 2014 at the Harmar Shelter in North Park. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Individual Challenge Sponsorship Available

By Bob Mulshine

The Rachel Carson Trail Challenge means a lot of things to the people who participate or support it. One of the many things that the organizers got right is the quality and creativity of the shirts that are awarded to the participants and volunteers each year. A change last year to the sponsorship rules opened an opportunity for individuals to support the Challenge and to get on the back of that coveted shirt.

Eight people took advantage of this affordable sponsorship level to show their support or appreciation for the event in 2013. I chose to list just my first name and the years I had completed the Challenge. Others listed family names, company

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Challenge Quilt

names, names of couples or professional names. It was a great start for this new level of support. We hope to see increased levels of participation and creativity this year.

The new level is simply called Supporter. The shirt can accommodate fourteen Supporters. The \$150.00 donation entitles the Supporter to list a Company Name or other text and it may be tax deductible. You can find information about being a sponsor and sign up for one of the Supporter slots by clicking the "Sponsor This" button on the Events page at my.rachelcarsontrails.org/events.

Baker Trail Construction

By Dewaine Beard

This year is scheduled to be one of the busiest building seasons on the Baker Trail in recent memory. We have secured an easement in Gilpin Township, Armstrong County and will be building a bridge over a deep but narrow creek there this April and May.

We have secured permission to construct a new shelter on the Strohm property near Corsica (described below). This shelter/campsite will provide through-hikers with a welcome resting spot well spaced along the trail. Detailed design has not been completed yet, so if you are interested in putting your ideas into the hat, please consider camping at the site with us over the 4th of July weekend.

Baker Trail Update

By Dewaine Beard

The spring trail road survey has been completed for 2014 and a focused walk-through of the northern section will take place over Easter weekend. The wicked winter has been fairly gentle to the trail; we missed the heavy ice damage seen out East.

While construction projects will occur on all three sections of the Baker this year, weekend trail maintenance events will focus on the northern section. Currently overnight camping and maintenance is scheduled for the weekends of June 14th, July 4th, and August 16th. One more weekend maintenance camp-out will be announced later. Look for it on the website!

Volunteer Opportunities

By Bob Mulshine

Many people aren't aware of the wide range of opportunities to volunteer for the Conservancy. Helping on a trail cleanup or maintenance work crew is one way, but there are plenty of other ways to contribute. Here are some:

- Update the website events calendar, post reports and pictures from events, and so on. No special web skills needed.
- Organize and carry out a social media plan for the Conservancy.
- Increase publicity for the Conservancy events. Write and place articles in newsletters, newspapers, periodicals, TV, the web, and so on.
- Help maintain relationships with the municipalities our trails pass through.
- Represent the Conservancy to organizations which have related interests, such as scout troops, school groups, church groups, outdoor clubs and others.
- Plan and lead hikes.
- Become a steward on a section of the Baker Trail.
- Record volunteer activity information in our database.
- Help edit and/or produce our newsletter.
- Solicit your company, club or organization to sponsor the Challenge and/or the UltraChallenge.
- Help maintain good relations with landowners along the trails.
- Assist in developing plans for acquiring land or easements along our trails.

Plans continue to develop for moving more of the trail off of the road near the Mahoning Reservoir. Look for announcements as we scout out possible paths along the steep banks of the lake from German Road to the dam.

Finally, we have permission from the Weaver family to repair and possibly move the Milo Weaver shelter. This shelter used to be located at the edge of a patch of woods in a horse pasture. Now the trees have been cut and the horses sold. The shelter has an excellent view of the farmstead and the pond. Currently there is a large hole in the roof and it needs a good cleaning!

In order to avoid the crowds in Cook Forest over the 4th of July and to try out our new Strohmstead shelter location near Corsica, we will be camping out on Jason and Jannie's property. Our thanks to the Strohm family for not only providing us with a new shelter location, but for adopting the section of the trail from Mill Creek to their property.

Please join us in the beautiful north woods. Contact Dewaine Beard for details (412) 719-9904.

If you're willing to help with any of these activities, please email info@rachelcarsontrails.org.

And remember, this list is not complete. If you have knowledge or skills which don't exactly match any of these but may benefit the Conservancy, please feel free to suggest an opportunity for you to contribute.

Rachel Carson Trail News

By Dewaine Beard

Due to extensive logging activities on the hill above Emmerling Park, the trail has been relocated. Once across the Deer Creek bridge in Emmerling Park, rather than take the traditional trail to the immediate left up the hill, proceed straight ahead past the picnic pavilion. The reroute takes you up onto the ridge a bit further on. Don't worry! You still have to face Rich Hill.

Additionally, the Conservancy has been notified by the Turnpike Authority that the Saxonburg bridge over the roadway will be replaced starting in 2015, severing the trail. Currently trail stewards and Conservancy members are scouting out possible alternatives. Stay tuned.

Come Celebrate Rachel Carson's Birthday!

By John Stephen

The Rachel Carson Homestead is inviting the members and hikers of the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy to celebrate Rachel's birthday, receive an update on the organization, and take a brief tour of the Homestead.

The special guest will be author Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., President and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council, Inc. and a Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, School of Public Affairs

at American University. He will be talking about and signing his new book *Rachel Carson and Her Sisters*.

Picnic lunches, while they last, will be provided courtesy of Parkhurst Dining. Hiking from the Homestead along the Rachel Carson Trail will be on your own!

The date is May 24th 2014, 11 AM-3 PM at the Homestead, 613 Marion Avenue, Springdale, rain or shine.

Volunteer Appreciation

By Steve Mentzer

Volunteers are the Conservancy. Everything we do happens because of a volunteer. Blazing trails, leading hikes, building bridges, creating a newsletter, and updating the website -- among many other jobs -- are all done by volunteers.

Every year we take a moment to recognize and appreciate our volunteers with a picnic. This year, it'll take place on May 3 at the Ranch House in North Park, on Kummer Road across from the entrance to the golf course, starting at 1PM.

All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to join us and celebrate their accomplishments!

Newsletter Mailing Change

This is the final newsletter to be mailed to all members. Future newsletters will be mailed only to those who request delivery via US Mail when joining or renewing, and sent via Email to those who request electronic delivery.

Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy Membership Application/Renewal

Join RCTC leaders by volunteering for a role that suits your time and inclinations. Make check payable to the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy, P.O. Box 472, Wexford, PA 15090-0472, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. NEW! Renew online at store.rachelcarsontrails.org.

I Am A	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member	Date	Your mailing label notes last RCTC contribution. Please plan your renewal!	
Annual Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$250
Name			Age		
Street Address					
City, State, Zip					
Telephone		Email Address		Municipality	
Contact Me For					
<input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Carson Trail maintenance		<input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Trail maintenance		<input type="checkbox"/> Membership development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baker Trail maintenance		<input type="checkbox"/> Vestal Trail maintenance		<input type="checkbox"/> PR/Publicity	

Event Calendar

Details and many more events on www.rachelcarsontrails.org/events

Saturday, April 19: Spring Season Hike 9:30AM–Noon

Join us for a 7-mile hike on the Rachel Carson Trail, from North Park to Hartwood Acres Park. Beverages and treats afterwards.

FREE and open to all!

Every Sunday, April 20–June 8: Rachel Carson Trail Training Hikes 8AM–

Eight hikes on the Rachel Carson Trail to help prepare for the Challenge, 8–21 miles each.

Wednesday, April 23: Talk: Preparing for the Challenge 7PM–8PM

Presented by veteran Challengers, this "prep talk" covers various techniques employed by hikers to successfully complete the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge. Takes place at the Settlers Ridge REI in Robinson Township. **FREE and open to all!**

Saturday, April 26: Talk: Preparing for the Challenge 11AM–Noon

Presented by veteran Challengers, this "prep talk" covers various techniques employed by hikers to successfully complete the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge. Takes place at the South Side REI in Pittsburgh. **FREE and open to all!**

Saturday, May 3: Volunteer Appreciation Picnic 1PM–2PM

Calling all volunteers! If you participated in a trail work crew, or helped out on the Challenge or UltraChallenge, or any other activity related to our trails or would like to, then please attend our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic! There'll be food and drink and lots of discussion about trail-related topics. Takes place at the

Ranch House on Kummer Road in North Park across from the entrance to the golf course prior to our Annual Public Meeting. Contact Marian at (412) 366–3339. **FREE and open to all!**

Saturday, May 3: Annual Public Meeting 2PM–3PM

Come hear us discuss a year of progress and teamwork on the Baker, Harmony and Rachel Carson Trails in addition to information on the upcoming Rachel Carson Trail Challenge and the Baker Trail UltraChallenge. Takes place right after the Picnic above. Contact Marian at (412) 366–3339. **FREE and open to all!**

Saturday/Sunday, May 31/June 1, June 7/8: Barb Peterson Memorial Trail Orientation Hikes 8AM–Noon

Four hikes on the Rachel Carson Trail to help prepare for the Challenge, 6–8 miles each.

Saturday, June 21: Rachel Carson Trail Challenge

The eighteenth annual grueling 34-mile endurance hike on the Rachel Carson Trail, plus the 17-mile Rachel Carson Trail Homestead Challenge and the 7-mile Rachel Carson Trail Friends & Family Challenge.

Friday, August 8: Summer Season Hike 9PM–11:30PM

Join us for a 5–6 mile summer **night** hike in North Park on various trails in the light of the full moon. Check the website for location. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Moderate difficulty (some hills). Beverages and treats afterwards. **FREE and open to all!**

Saturday, August 23: Baker Trail UltraChallenge

The tenth running of the 50-mile Baker Trail ultramarathon & relay from the northern terminus to Brookville.

Please check mailing label date and plan your annual renewal now.

Preserving and Promoting
Community Trails in
Western Pennsylvania

Return Service Requested

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