

Pedal the Lakes By Mike Kotyk and Peggy Mazyck (2014-07-01)

Mercer County Trails Association, a 501c3 nonprofit, will host the 17th Annual PEDAL THE LAKES bicycle rides on September 14, 2013. This event has a ride length for all skill levels. PEDAL THE LAKES routes will feature rides of 10, 32, 50, 65, 100 miles and a 125 mile route for accomplished riders. Snacks, drinks and a hot lunch will be provided at all six of the rides.

The event in past years has attracted over 300 riders from as far as Colorado and Florida. The "PEDAL" takes the riders through some of the most beautiful countryside's that the county has to offer. The rides are full-service with support vehicles patrolling the routes, however all bikes should be in good working order. Riders are encouraged to bring tubes, patches, tools, pump, etc.

Riders, depending on route taken will view beautiful Amish farms, several lakes, and for most, a trip to the Linesville Spillway "WHERE THE DUCKS WALK ON THE BACKS OF FISH". As summer comes to an end and fall gets off to its start, the "PEDAL" has become a family event for numerous households. There is nothing more relaxing than pedaling through the northern reaches of the county on backcountry roads. The route through Maurice Goddard State Park is breath taking any time of the year but most enjoyable in the fall as the leaves begin to change.

New this year, all rides will begin and end at the Greenville Recreation Center at 45 Alan Ave, Greenville, PA 16125. MC Trails in conjunction with the Greenville Recreation Center will also offer free unlimited outside camping on Friday night and limited indoor gym space camping. This year the event will also feature free live music and refreshments all day at the Rec Center.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and closes at 10:00 a.m. at the Greenville Recreation Center (45 Alan Ave. Greenville, Pa 16125 on Google maps). All riders must sign a waiver and helmets are required. For more information you can contact Gary Semroc 724-588-1472 or email him at gsemroc@neo.rr.com.

PEDAL THE LAKES is one of the main fundraising events hosted by the Trails Association each year. The fundraising efforts are used to establish and develop multi-use recreational trails in Mercer and neighboring counties in Western Pennsylvania.

Mercer County Trails Association has several trail projects in various stages of development throughout Mercer County. The organization (www.mctrails.org) has recently been awarded a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation grant to pave with asphalt a limestone section of the Trout Island Trail in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. Once completed later this year the entire 2.5 miles of the trail will be asphalt. The group is currently working on Phase II of the Trout Island Trail that will run from the north shore of Shenango Lake (Transfer) to Orangeville. This section is another 5 miles in distance and once completed the remaining gap of approximately ½ mile will be securing permission to utilize the old rail bridge across Shenango Lake. The Trout Island Trail is the only Rails to Trails in Mercer County and the group hopes one day it will stretch from Orangeville to Sharon and on to New Castle.

Other Trail projects include: The Shenango River Trail, a seven mile trail that runs along the west bank of the Shenango River from Greenville, Pennsylvania to Jamestown, Pennsylvania. Also under development is the Jamestown Trail which will run east from Jamestown to Venango County. This trail would encompass the towns of Hadley, Clarks Mills, Stoneboro, Sandy Lake, Raymilton and Polk.



There are several other old rail lines in the county just waiting to be developed from Stoneboro to Volant, Mercer to New Castle, New Wilmington to Mercer, Sharon to West Middlesex, Sharon to Youngstown – the list goes on but volunteers and dollars are need to make it happen. To learn more about how you can help in this effort visit www.info@mctrails.org or call 724-704-0432.

For more information about events in Mercer County, log onto www.VisitMercerCountyPa.com or call 1-800-637-2370.