**2013 Forks of the Ohio Regional Trails Symposium:**

**Crossing Boundaries and Making Connections**

**PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**WORKSHOP INFORMATION**

Title: **2013 Forks of the Ohio Regional Trails Symposium**

Please join us for the 2013 Forks of the Ohio Regional Trails Symposium in Cranberry Township, PA. This interactive, working session will provide information to people who are making important connections in Western PA, Eastern OH, Northern WV and Northern MD and bring stakeholders together to continue the dialogue of completing important trail connections.

Date: March 8, 2013

Location: Pittsburgh Marriott North

Pittsburgh Marriott North | 100 Cranberry Woods Drive | Cranberry Township | Pennsylvania | 16066 I [www.pittsburghmarriottnorth.com](http://www.pittsburghmarriottnorth.com)

Partners/Committee/Funders (in alphabetical order):

 Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

 Laurel Foundation

 National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

 PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

 PA Environmental Council

 PA Recreation & Parks Society

 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

 The Progress Fund

Speakers from The Following Organizations:

 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania <http://10000friends.org/>

 Allegheny County, PA <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/>

 Allegheny County Health Department <http://www.achd.net/mainstart.html>

 Allegheny Trail Alliance [www.greatalleghenypassage.org](http://www.greatalleghenypassage.org)

 Appalachian Regional Commission [www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov)

 Bike Cleveland [www.bikecleveland.org](http://www.bikecleveland.org)

 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission <http://www.dvrpc.org/>

 Environmental Planning & Design [www.epd-pgh.com](http://www.epd-pgh.com)

 Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance [www.erietopittsburghtrail.org](http://www.erietopittsburghtrail.org)

 Mackin Engineering <http://www.mackinengineering.com/>

 Mid Ohio Valley Health Department <http://www.movhd.com/?page_id=65>

 National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/index.htm>

 Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition [www.ohioeriecanal.org](http://www.ohioeriecanal.org)

 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

 Pennsylvania Environmental Council [www.pecpa.org](http://www.pecpa.org)

 Power of 32 Regional Visioning Project [www.powerof32.org](http://www.powerof32.org)

 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy [www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)

 The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund <http://www.ohiotoerietrail.org/Home.aspx>

 The Progress Fund [www.progressfund.org](http://www.progressfund.org)

 West Virginia Department of Transportation [www.transportation.wv.gov/](http://www.transportation.wv.gov/)

Workshop Description: The 2013 Forks of the Ohio Regional Trails Symposium will build on the Western PA Trail Symposiums held in 2006 and 2010 and the Power of 32 Regional Trails meeting in 2011. At this event we will focus on the dialog to make our trail system the strongest, most connected and best managed system in the region. For this event we are targeting stakeholders from Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia and Western Maryland.

The 2013 event will bring together trail stakeholders from a wide geographic area for educational sessions and networking opportunities. Symposium topics will include: asset-based community development, building healthy communities, regional trail planning, and on-road bike-ped improvements, and updates from major trail systems. As in previous years, we will provide space for organizations to display and share information with attendees. Display tables are offered at no cost to non-profit organizations.

Background: The 2013 event will build on recent accomplishments to develop and advocate the completion of a regional trail system. We started this discussion in 2006 with the very first “map room” that was then replicated at regional and statewide trail summits throughout Pennsylvania. With several mega greenways complete or well underway in Western Pennsylvania we are now looking beyond state boundaries at the important connections to Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland. The Tri State Trails Initiative is a group that has met previously to discuss the cross state connections. In addition, the Power of 32 Project, a regional visioning project, included completion of the regional trail system as one of the lasting goals of the project.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and The Progress Fund have developed a trail mapping tool for a 46-county region that includes Cleveland, Erie, Pittsburgh and the state boundaries with Maryland and West Virginia. We will use this opportunity to present the mapping to the large group and facilitate a discussion about bringing our collective work together into a comprehensive system. The identification of key trail gaps and development of an advocacy campaign to complete them are high on the agenda for discussion.

Target Audience: Our goal is to attract a diverse group of stakeholders by providing content that will appeal to a variety of people and organizations. By developing tracks of information that deal with issues like regional planning and completing major trail systems we hope to attract: non-profit trail organizations, parks & recreation departments, local municipalities, regional planning organizations, volunteers, funders, state and federal agency partners, visitor and convention bureaus, etc.

Symposium Learning Objectives:

 To engage stakeholders in developing a multi-state trail system with focus on completing cross-state connections.

 To provide educational opportunities for regional trail stakeholders including educational sessions, keynote presentations and informational tables.

 To provide a valuable networking opportunity for a diverse group of trail stakeholders in our region.

 To attract people from a wide geographic area to engage in a discussion about trail development priorities.

Symposium Deliverables:

 To further define the coalition and strategy for completing the P32+ Regional Trail Network.

 Present the Regional Trails Mapping Tool and solicit feedback.

 Develop the key components of a strategy for regional trail development including goals, criteria, benefits and need.

 Identify next steps in accelerating the completion of a regional trail system.

 Provide an important educational and networking opportunity for trail stakeholders in the P32+ region.

Agenda

8:00 am-8:30 am Set Up Registration & Displays

8:30 am-9:15 am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:15-9:30 am Welcome & Introductions

~Pat Getty, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation (pending)

~David Kahley, The Progress Fund

~Davitt Woodwell, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

9:30 am-10:30 am Building Our Regional Trail System, Presentation of the Regional Trail Mapping Tool ~ General Presentation

~Andrew JG Schwartz, Environmental Planning & Design

Description: Environmental Planning & Design will present the regional trails mapping tool that was developed as part of this project, providing examples and also answering questions about use of the tool. Participants will be able to discuss next steps in the use of this mapping tool and future training opportunities.

10:30 am-11:30 am Why We Need a Regional Trail Network ~ General Panel

~Diane Kripas, Division Chief, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

~Daniel M. Rice, Executive Director, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

~Perry Keller, Bike Pedestrian Coordinator & Head of Statewide Planning, West Virginia Department of Transportation

Description: This panel of presenters will present the big picture case for why it is important to think regionally about trail development and also to provide perspectives from different states as part of the discussion. There will be time for discussion with attendees.

11:30-12:45 pm Lunch w/ Keynote Speaker

Earl. F. Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission (bio provided at the end of the agenda)

Updates from Major Trail Systems:

~Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (Jim Holden)

~Great Allegheny Passage (Linda McKenna Boxx)

12:45-1:00 pm Break

1:00-2:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

~ Asset-Based Community Development and Economic Impacts

~ Building Healthy Communities

~ Regional Trail Planning

~ Development of On-Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Please see below for descriptions and panelists.

2:15-2:30 pm Break

2:30-4:30 pm Setting the Regional Trail Agenda ~ General Session

2:30-2:50 pm Keys to Success from The Circuit ~ Spencer Finch, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Chris Linn, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

2:50-3:05 pm Transition to Tables for Facilitation #1

3:05-3:35 pm Facilitation #1

3:35-3:45 Transition to Facilitation #2

3:45-4:15 pm Facilitation #2

4:15-4:45 pm Closing and Next Steps

Concurrent Sessions:

Concurrent Session I: Asset-Based Community Development & Economic Impacts

Moderator: Rory Robinson, National Park Service- Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

Panel: Daniel M. Rice, Executive Director, Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition Pat Tomes, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Will Prince, The Progress Fund’s Trail Town Program®

Fill Description

Concurrent Session II: Building Healthy Communities

Moderator: Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County

Panel: Grant Ervin, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

Carrie Brainard, Change the Future WV, Mid-Ohio

Darija Wiswell, Allegheny County Health Department

Kelly Pack, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Fill Description

Concurrent Session III: Regional Trail Planning

Moderator: Diane Kripas, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Panel: Spencer Finch, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Chris Linn, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Jerry Rampelt, The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund

Description: Presenters will address trail planning and development efforts that are taking place in multi-county and multi-state areas. We have examples from the Philadelphia region, Cleveland and northeastern Ohio.

Concurrent Session IV: Development of On Road Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

Moderator: Perry Keller, West Virginia Department of Transportation

Panel: Robert W. Genter, RLA, ASLA, Mackin Engineering Company

Jacob Vansickle, Bike Cleveland

Description: Trail building is a changing landscape. More and more trail builders are forced to look at shared use corridors and also the development of on-road connections to complete important connections and to better connect to communities along our trails. This session will provide some project examples taking place in the region.

Lunchtime Keynote Address Bio:

Earl F. Gohl, Appalachian Regional Commission, Federal Co-Chair

ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl was unanimously confirmed as federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2010. He is the eleventh federal co-chair to be appointed since the Commission was established by an act of Congress in 1965.

Gohl came to ARC with 20 years of experience in Pennsylvania state and local government. From 1975 to 1995, he held positions including executive assistant to the mayor of Harrisburg; elected member of the Harrisburg City Council; deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs; and director of the Pennsylvania governor's Washington office. As deputy secretary, Gohl awarded and administered $100 million annually in housing and community development programs benefiting communities within the Appalachian Region. He also managed several initiatives to strengthen the capacity of rural local governments to meet economic challenges.

From 1996 to 2001, Gohl served as a special assistant, and then as an associate assistant secretary, at the U.S. Department of Labor. There he was responsible for the development and implementation of legislative strategy in the areas of immigration policy, employment standards, affirmative action and federal workers' compensation programs, and international affairs, including child labor and core labor standards.

From 2001 to 2009, Gohl was the director of government relations/deputy director for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, where he formulated legislative and executive branch initiatives related to taxes, economic security, health care, education, nutrition, environment, homeland security, labor, housing, and transportation.

In his Senate confirmation hearing, Gohl stated that his objective as ARC federal co-chair would be to ensure that each federal dollar expended by the Commission was "an investment in the economic future of Appalachian families that will generate a return for American taxpayers."

Gohl holds a bachelor of arts degree from Rider College (now Rider University) in New Jersey and a master of public administration degree from Pennsylvania State University.

