



Mendota Trail Newsletter



OUR FIRST NAMED TRESTLE!

The Mendota Trail now has its first refurbished trestle! It was completed this spring. Isn't it beautiful?

This trestle is named the **Tindall Trestle**, in recognition of **Bill and Judy Tindall** who made its repair possible through their generosity of a substantial monetary gift. The effort was also facilitated by Berry Home Centers, Inc. who helped defray the cost of materials.

Mr. Kilgore recognized the Tindalls at our Spring Gathering on March 22nd for this significant contribution. The trestle is located on the Bristol end of the trail. We hope to open this section to the public later this season.

WASHINGTON COUNTY RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT



On Tuesday, May 12, 2018 the Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a Resolution of Support for Mountain Heritage's Mendota Trail Project.

This important step facilitates the pursuit of private and public grants needed for future trail development.

Thank you to those who wrote letters and spoke on behalf of the Mendota Trail and to the forward-thinking Washington County Board of Supervisors for this resolution of support.

We are grateful for your confidence.

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MENDOTA TRAIL SPRING GATHERING



Above photo: Like-minded supporters of the Mendota Trail gathered on March 22 for an update and progress report.

Below photo: Frank Kilgore, General Counsel for Mountain Heritage and Project Manager of the Mendota Trail, provided an update.



Above photo: Long-time Mendota Trail supporter Oscar Harris provided music.

Below photo: Mendota Trail supporter Vickie Mitoraj provided the food and décor. Stunning and delicious!



BEING GOOD STEWARDS—TRAIL WORK DAYS

On April 14, Mendota Trail supporters worked trimming trees and removing debris and trash from our trail. Once this section is opened, it will be a beautiful asset to our region for future generations. Our dedicated work crew recorded 133 hours volunteer time.



THANK YOU VENTURE CREW 3

A group of Venture Scouts participated in a conservation project on May 20th along Cowan Dr. under the guidance of Anna Booher. There were 10 participants who collectively contributed 32 hours of volunteer time doing trail improvements and clean-up. Thank you Crew 3 for your support of the Mendota Trail!



If you wish to learn more about the Mendota Trail and how you can be involved or if you wish to contribute to **this** newsletter, please email:

info@mendotatrail.org



Meet a Mendota Trail Supporter



Dr. Jim Lapis and his wife Susan enjoy the outdoors. They believe in opening areas of natural beauty for public access, which is the main reason they enthusiastically support the development of the Mendota Trail.

Jim became Bristol's first gastroenterologist when they moved here in 1978 and he recalls riding the excursion train from Bristol to Benhams many years ago. In the 1990s, Jim participated on a trail committee that explored development of the Mendota Trail prior to Bristol, Virginia acquiring the land that previously belonged to the railroad.

Although he did not see the trail materialize then, he and Susan are excited to witness a revitalization of interest in the trail and are avid supporters of the current efforts. Jim states that after a trail meeting in 2017, he recognized the right person, Frank Kilgore, is now involved.

He notes 'more progress has been made in the past 18 months than in the past two decades.'

Jim and Susan believe the Mendota Trail will make Bristol more attractive for tourism and businesses considering locating in the area. The 12.5 mile trail will offer people a scenic outdoor place to exercise that is readily accessible. They find the abundance of water features on the trail to be especially unique.

He and Susan encourage people to walk the mile currently open in Mendota, join our growing volunteer team and donate financial support for the continued development of the trail.

Submitted by Bob and Ellen Mueller

Authors' Note: Jim and Susan have been active volunteers in the trail effort and have generously contributed to the realization of the dream of the Mendota Trail.

MENDOTA TRAIL T-SHIRTS

Mendota Trail T-Shirts are available at Mountain Sports, Bristol, Virginia for \$20. All proceeds benefit the Mendota Trail.





HELP US OPEN UP THE BRISTOL END OF THE MENDOTA TRAIL!

Funds are urgently needed to carry our momentum forward in opening the Bristol end of the trail this season. Expenditures include appropriate safety signage at road crossings, trail improvements along Campground Rd. and further work on the high trestle leading into Benhams.

Tax-exempt donations may be mailed to:

Mountain Heritage, Inc.
PO Box 1259
St. Paul, VA 24283

Or delivered to:

Mountain Sports, Ltd.
1021 Commonwealth Ave.
Bristol, VA 24201

Make checks payable to Mountain Heritage, Inc. with a memo notation that the gift is for "The Mendota Trail Project."

Thank you for your support!

**Wouldn't it be great to hike or
bike all the way (5.2 miles) from
Bristol to Benhams!?!**

A SHOUT OUT

If you have not visited the Mendota Trail website, please do!

WWW.MENDOTATRIL.ORG

The Mendota Trail website was designed and donated by Ms. Mikki Barker of Web Concepts. Mikki also provided her graphic design expertise and designed our logo and trail brochure.

When visiting the Mendota Trail website, be sure and look for the Mendota Trail video. Our video was created by Jack Dunham, director, and Rick Heppert, Frank Kilgore, and Bob Mueller as contributing photographers.

RULES FOR TRAIL USE

Only officially announced portions of the trail are open to the public. The rest of the corridor is closed due to dangerous conditions; non-permitted usage is solely at the user's own risk.

Additional rules are:

- The trail is open dawn to dusk
- No trespassing on adjacent private property
- No motorized vehicles
- No hunting or discharge of firearms
- No animals other than leashed, non-vicious dogs; dog waste must be disposed of properly
- Minors must be accompanied by adults
- TRAIL USERS DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND BY USING THE TRAIL WAIVE ALL CLAIMS OF INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE AGAINST MOUNTAIN HERITAGE, INC., ITS AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, BOARD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES.