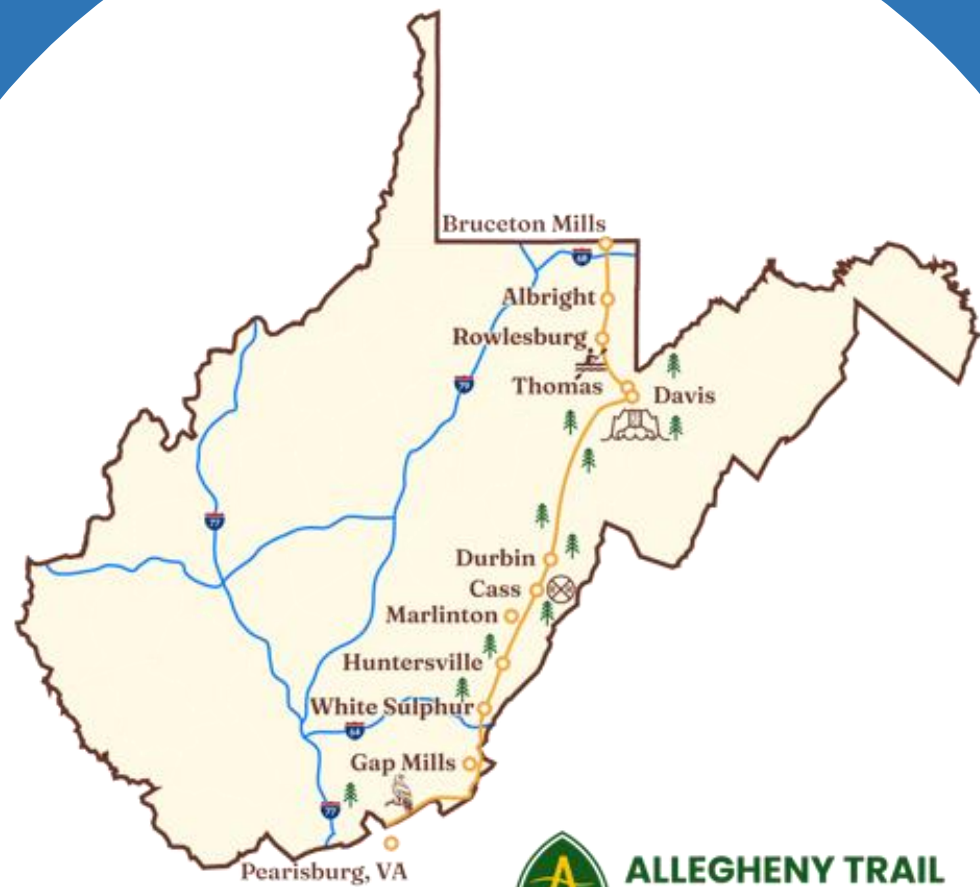


1972-2023 Accomplishments of the...

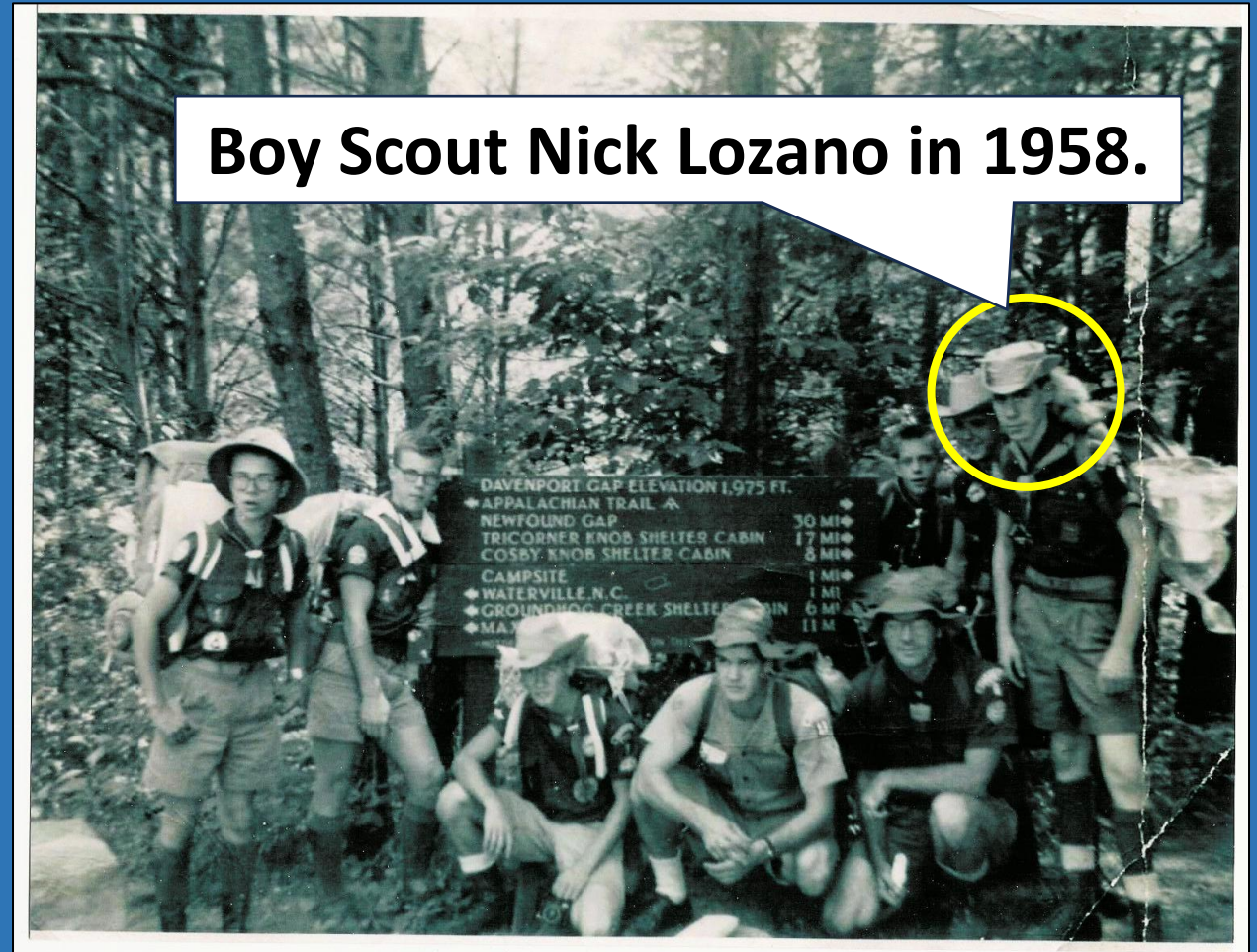


A selection of accomplishments from the first year of the founders' work through 2023 along the...



ALLEGHENY TRAIL
WEST VIRGINIA'S LONGEST TRAIL
HikeTheAlleghenyTrail.org

The Allegheny Trail project started with the 1958 vision of a boy scout combining with the trail developing expertise of a seasoned Appalachian Trail volunteer. In 1972, the visionary and the volunteer met at an Izaak Walton League meeting where they began to grow the organization now known as the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association (WVSTA).





In 1973 atop Peters Mountain between West Virginia and Virginia, founders Bob Tabor (the seasoned AT volunteer on the R) and Nick Lozano (the boy scout visionary on the L), were joined by early recruit Bruce Bond (an Appalachian Mountain Club transplant to West Virginia, M) to flag a proposed route for the Allegheny Trail.

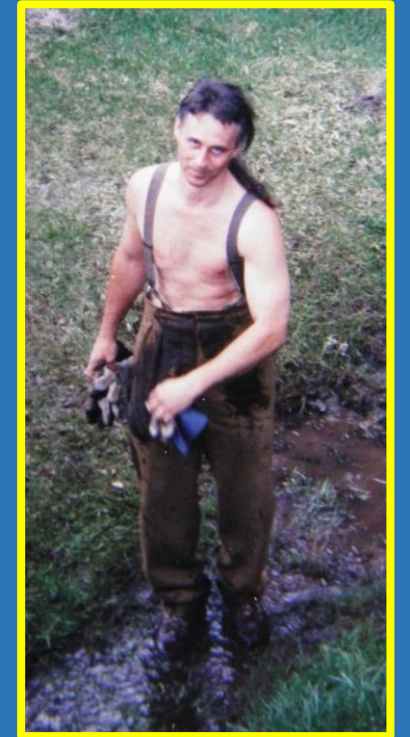
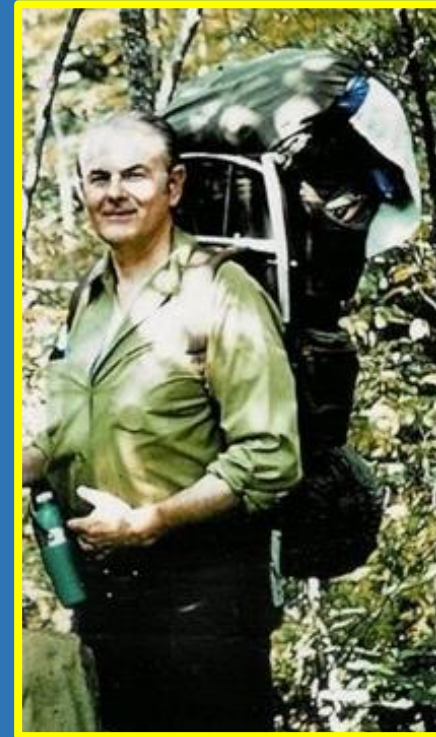
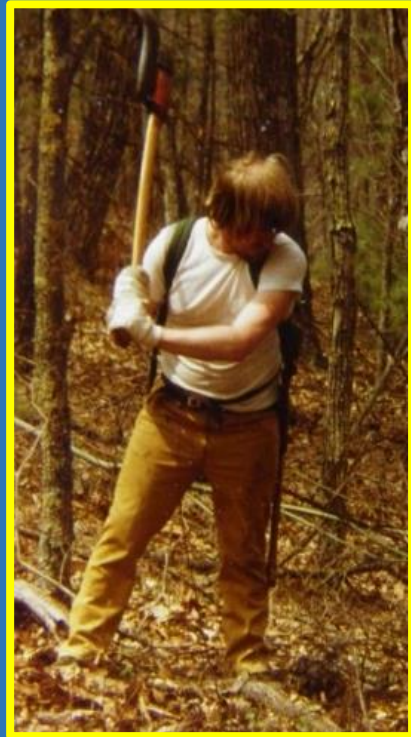
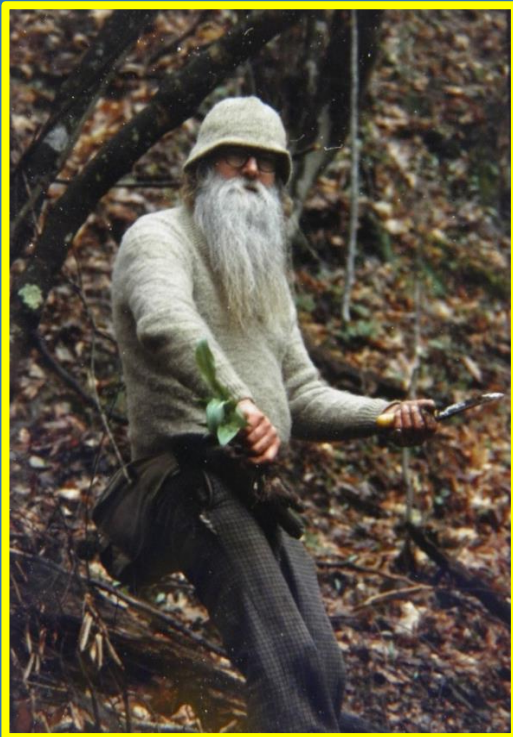
After incorporation in 1974, the WVSTA's first three decades of accomplishments included entering into agreements with the WV Department of Natural Resources (1975), and with Jefferson, Monongahela & George Washington National Forests. A Charleston Gazette-Mail newspaper clipping shows the agreement-signing between WVSTA leaders & U.S. Forest Service officials on April 3, 1976.

(Photo courtesy of Rob Whetsell)



Signing Agreement for the 200-mile Allegheny Hiking Trail
From Left: Jim Crouch, George Washington National Forest; Ralph Mumme, Monongahela National Forest; Mike Penfold, Jefferson National Forest; and Bob Tabor and Nick Lonzano, West Virginia Scenic Trails Assn.

After the agreement-signing, the WVSTA volunteers spent the remainder of the first three decades establishing most of the Allegheny Trail (ALT), compartmentalizing it into four administrative sections, & assigning coordinators for each section. The original section coordinators shown below were (L-R) S1 George Rosier, S2 Fred Bird, S3 Nick Lozano, & S4 Co-coordinators Bob Tabor & Doug Wood.



Training opportunities have been sought out by WVSTA volunteers from the earliest days. Photos below (L-R) 1985 treadwork training with the USFS Konnarock Crew, wilderness medicine training with Dr. Mark Waddell of the WV Osteopathic School, and chainsaw training with Monongahela NF staff.



Since the first professional treadwork training, WVSTA volunteers have established and/or refurbished significant segments of trail tread along the Allegheny Trail, including (S-N):

- **Section 4:**

- Groundhog Trail, AT & ALT access
- Peters Mtn near Hanging Rock
- Brushy Mtn S end
- Allegheny Mtn near Fogus tract
- Allegheny Mtn near Graham Family Shelter
- Allegheny Mtn Perry tract
- Laurel Run of Meadow Creek

- **Section 3:**

- Meadow Ck Mtn S & N ends
- Bear Branch & Middle Mtn
- Beaver Lick Mtn
- Watoga State Park

- Beaver Creek Gorge
- Marlin Mtn S & N ends

- **Section 2:**

- Little Mtn several locations
- Sandy Ridge, Spillman Run, Durbin
- Shavers Mtn S & N
- Glady Fork many locations
- Glady Fork washout/slide

- **Section 1:**

- Canyon Rim Trail (ALT segment)
- McKinley Run Trail (ALT segment)
- Cheat Canyon



Graham Family Shelter

Constructed
1996 (2011
photo) &
continuously
maintained
since

Partners:
Graham family
& WVSTA



**2009 View
north from
the Graham
Family
Shelter
towards Lake
Sherwood**



Mayle Shelter

Constructed
1998 (2011 re-
roofed and
painted)

Partners:
Mayle & Turner
descendants &
WVSTA

Mason- Dixon Line Kiosk

2000 constructed,
2023 repainted

Partners:
Allegheny Energy
(funder), Chris
Kolar (Eagle
Scout), Columbia
Gas Transmission
(landowner), &
WVSTA





Canaan creosote boardwalk removal

2001

Partners:
Canaan Valley
State Park &
WVSTA



Wills Field clearing

**2002 Wildlife
habitat
enhancement**

**Partners:
Jefferson
National Forest
& WVSTA**



Seneca Springs Shelter

2003 conversion of CCC picnic shelter to ALT backpacker shelter

Partners: WVDOH (grantor), WVSTA (grantee & volunteers), Lee Reger Builds Inc. (volunteers), & Seneca State Forest (landowner)



Seneca Springs Shelter

2003 new structure utilizing the CCC stone chimney and stone floor slab



Seneca Springs Shelter

2003 Almost done with the largest shelter on the Allegheny Trail



Laurel Run Bridge

2004

Partners: WV Div. of Highways (grantor), WVSTA (grantee), Tri-State Company (contractor), & Monongahela NF (landowner)



Reger Family Shelter construction

2006

**Partners:
Lee Reger
Builds Inc.,
Town of
Rowlesburg, &
WVSTA**



Sugar Camp Farm

2006 Signage project for AT and ALT trailhead

Partners:
Jefferson NF &
WVSTA



Sugar Camp Farm

2007 More signage and treadwork for Groundhog Trail access to AT and ALT

Partners:
Jefferson NF &
WVSTA



Bat Boxes project

2009 Wildlife
habitat
enhancement

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Glady Fork blowdown removal

2014

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA

In 2014, after abandonment by the US Forest Service for several years, and major trail blockages by downed trees during El Derecho and Hurricane Sandy, the lower Glady Fork segment of the Allegheny Trail was impassable. During the 2014 *Spring-the-Road* and *Wood's Wacky Week of Work and Welaxation* events, WVSTA volunteers walked over 130 miles and removed ~515 blowdowns, representing a savings of over \$8,500 for the US Forest Service.



ALT reroute through Cheat Canyon

2016

Partners: WV
Dept. of Natural
Resources &
WVSTA



ALT restoration at Jerrys Run

2017 following
2016 freak rainfall
disaster

Partners: George
Washington NF &
WVSTA

ALT 2-mile reroute with new bridge and trailhead

2019

Partners: Seneca State
Forest (landowner),
Atlantic Coast Pipeline,
(funder) Tri-State
Company (contractor),
brokered by The
Conservation Fund &
WVSTA





Anthony Creek Bridge deck preservation

2020

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Hanging Rock Migration Observatory handrail replacement

2020

Partners: Friends of
Hanging Rock,
Jefferson NF, &
WVSTA

In June of 1983, the U.S. Forest Service purchased the Hanging Rock Fire Observatory and surrounding property from the Bert family. In May of 1985, after the Forest Service constructed a parking area along the Zenith-Waiteville Road, WVSTA volunteers developed the Allegheny Trail along the spine of Peters Mtn from the new trailhead to the old observatory trail. The structure now serves as a bird migration observatory. Since 1985, the WVSTA has volunteered in three observatory refurbishment projects, one complete replacement after destruction by fire, and continued maintenance of the ALT and the side trail to the observatory.



This 1980 image of the old fire observatory shows broken window panes, weathered wood, no door, and no stairs.
(Doug Wood photo).



Jerrys Run Kiosk restoration

2020

Partners: George
Washington NF &
WVSTA



Dry Fork Primitive Campground development

2020

Partners: Laurel
River Club &
WVSTA



Robert C. Byrd Glady Fork Bridge redecking

2020

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Wildell Shelter & spring restoration

2020

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Bear Branch Trailhead restoration

2021

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Beaver Creek Bridge redecking & Laurel Run Kiosk replacement

2021

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Brushy Mountain ALT restoration after old fire

2021

Partners:
Jefferson NF, a
private
landowner, &
WVSTA



Canaan Mountain Shelter restoration

2021

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Pointy Knob Shelter restoration

2021

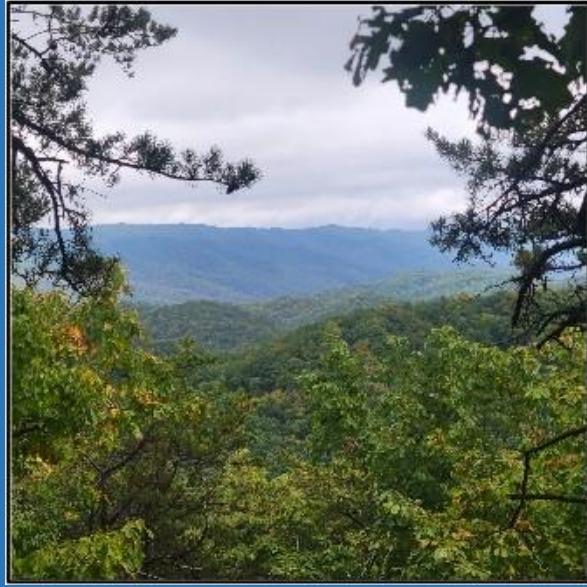
Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Johns Camp Shelter & spring restoration

2021

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Vistas reopened along the ALT

2021

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Marlin Mountain Shelter restoration

2021

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Small bridges, turnpiking, & tread restoration

2021

Partners: Watoga
State Park &
WVSTA



Anthony Creek Bridge deck and handrail replacement

2022

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



Reger Family Shelter restoration

**2006 constructed,
2022 re-roofed,
2023 repainted**

**Partners: Town of
Rowlesburg &
WVSTA**



Glady Fork Shelter construction

2022

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



ALT relocation south of Durbin, WV & Brush Run

2022

Partners:
Monongahela NF,
Pianfetti
Foundation (trail
tool funding), &
WVSTA



Daniels Creek Bridge construction

2023

Partners:
Monongahela NF,
Pianfetti
Foundation (tool
funding), &
WVSTA



Glady Road and US-33 Kiosks replaced

2023

Partners:
Monongahela NF
& WVSTA



**Seneca Springs
Shelter
restained,
benches &
bunks built**

2023

**Partners: Seneca
State Forest &
WVSTA**



Glady Fork washout and slide ALT restoration

2023 (begun in
2021)

Partners:
Monongahela NF,
Pianfetti Foundation
(tool funding), &
WVSTA

Current Allegheny Trail infrastructure summary

- 311 miles between northern & southern termini
- 186 miles of trail without public vehicle access
- 125 miles of trail on public roads
- ~29 Trailheads, signed & adequately developed
- ~21 Trailheads, unsigned & inadequately developed
- 6 footbridges spanning 20 feet or more over streams
- ~12 shorter bridges
- 10 backpacker overnight shelters

**Recent yearly records of WVSTA
volunteer hours show an upward
trend:**

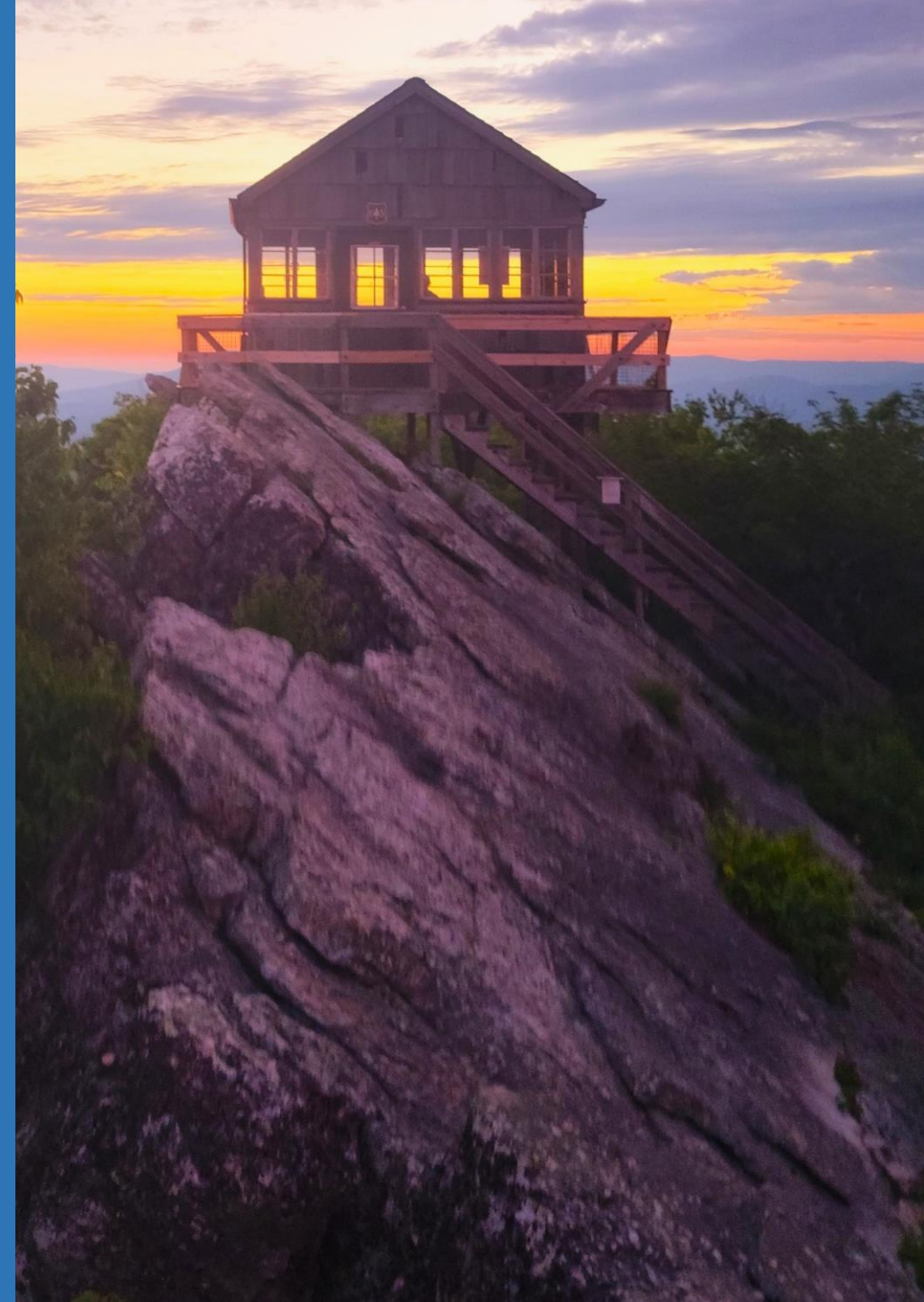
mid 2020 - mid 2021 1,749 hours

mid 2021 - mid 2022 2,115 hours

mid 2022 – mid 2023 ~4,000 hours

In 2022, the WVSTA partnered with the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation (GVEDC) to apply for a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant administered by the Federal Highway Administration. The WVSTA compiled the application for several ALT enhancement projects that met the FLAP goals. The GVEDC was awarded \$125,000, more than double what was requested, and the trail work will begin, pending administrative processes by all the agencies involved.

Since its 1972 beginning, the Allegheny Trail has seen increased use by trail recreationists. The heaviest used ALT segments are those with nearby high-profile destinations like the High Falls of Cheat, Gaudineer Scenic Area, Durbin-Cass (Scenic RR towns), and Greenbrier River Trail. The Hanging Rock Migration Observatory segment, likely receives the most use. In 2022, a trail use counter was set up along the ALT near the trailhead. The estimate of visitation on that segment of the ALT in 2022 was over 10,000 people. In 2023, visitation was over 11,000 people.



A National Park Service employee placed trail use counters at locations along the Allegheny Trail in Seneca State Forest in 2022. The analysis resulted in these use figures for the year:

Allegheny Trailhead at Laurel Run:	198 users
Allegheny Trailhead at southern border:	150 users

The southern border figure better reflects use by overnight backpackers of the ALT, because that trailhead was not signed in 2022, so it likely was used primarily by folks who had the trail guidebook or the FarOut app.

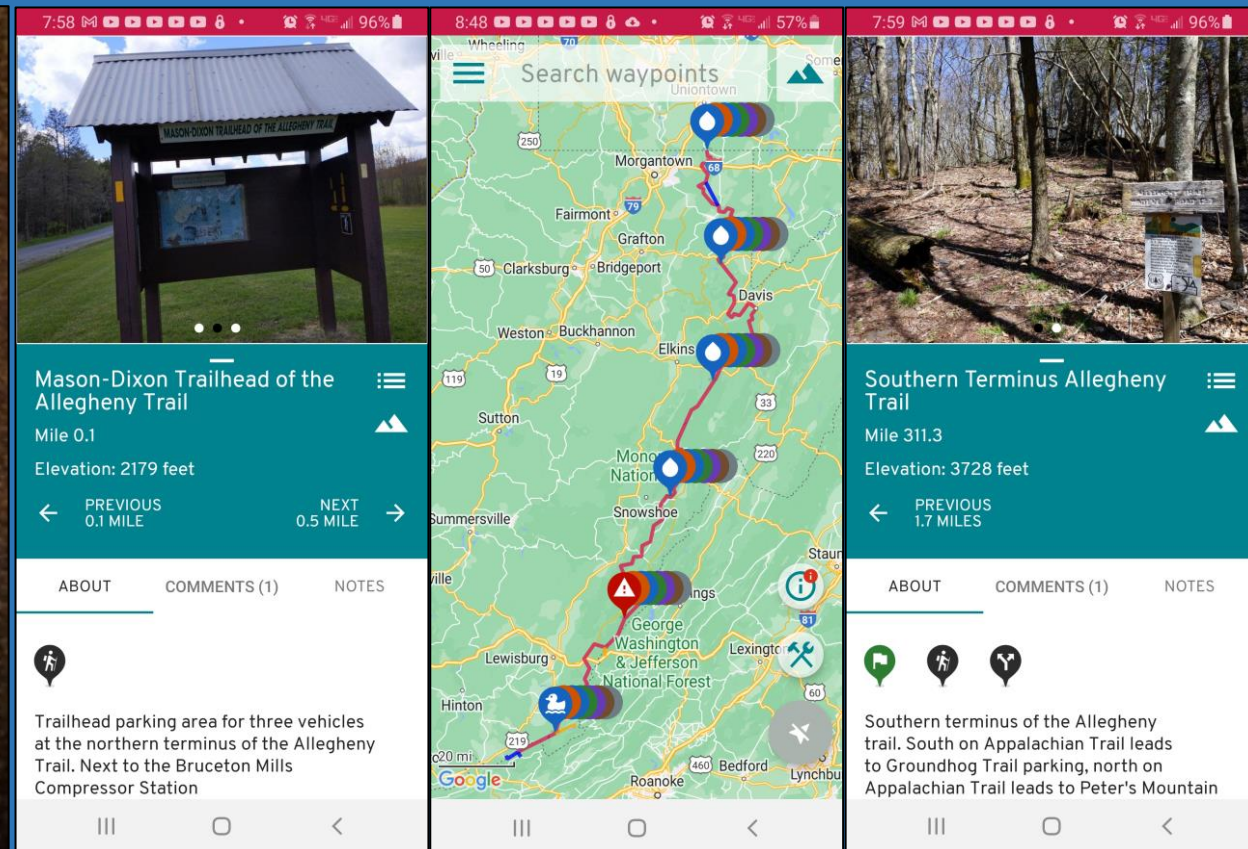
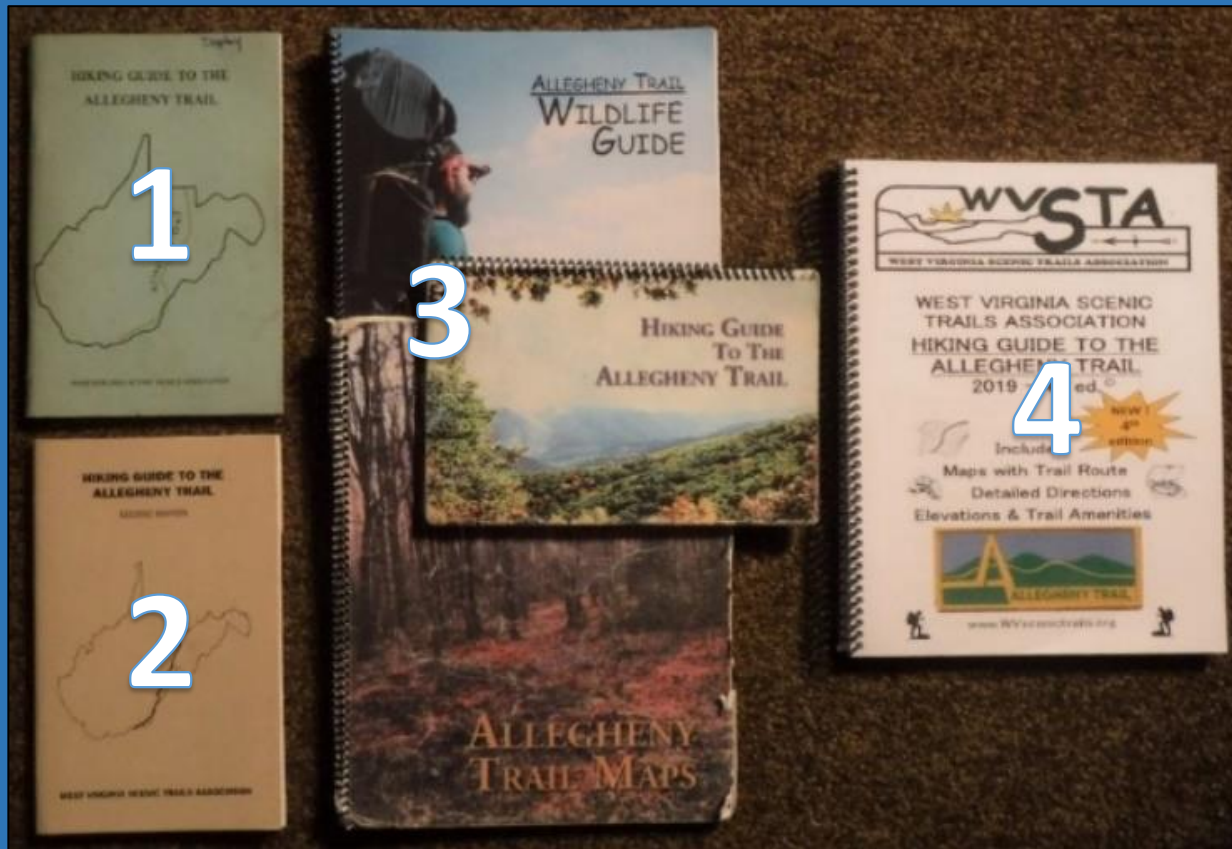


In 2014, the WVSTA won an award from the Professional Trail Builders Association.

In 2022, the USFS Region 9's Enduring Service Award was bestowed upon the WVSTA. MNF's Matt Edwards hands the award to WVSTA President Jeff Byard in this 2023 photo.

A hiking guide is essential for most overnight visitors to find their ways when Nature constantly alters the trail and blazes. Four guidebook editions have been published: 1983, 1990, 2003, & 2019.

In 2022, the Allegheny Trail App was developed by FarOut for use with digital devices. Below, are examples of digital device images generated from the App.



In partnership with our cooperators (U.S. Forest Service, WV Dept. of Natural Resources, WV Dept. of Highways, other state and federal agencies, municipalities, county governments, beneficent organizations, private family landowners, and private corporate landowners) the WVSTA looks forward to another 50 years of developing and enhancing the Allegheny Trail.

Future activities:

- Continue maintenance**
- Close the gap in the ALT**
- Move the ALT from most road miles**
- Enhance the ALT with more infrastructure**
- Cooperate with more partners**
- Improve local economies via increased trail use**