



33 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 488-0212
Fax (412) 488-7716

Press Release

Contact: Sarah Carr, Program Manager
Phone: (412) 443-1720

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A NIGHT OF RIVERFRONT MUSIC, FOOD, AND FUN TO CELEBRATE FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

PITTSBURGH, PA – (June 1, 2011) Celebrating Friends of the Riverfront's (FOR) 20th anniversary, will be this year's Trail Mix(er) on Saturday, June 4 from 5 - 11 p.m., at Steel City Rowing Club in Verona. During the last 20 years, FOR has made remarkable progress building miles of trail and restoring the riverfronts for public use. Come out and celebrate all of Friends of the Riverfront's accomplishments, and learn about what's next for the organization and Pittsburgh's land trails, water trail access, and riverfronts.

This year's Trail Mix(er) will be held at the all new, Steel City Rowing Club (SCRC) in Verona. SCRC, with its many balconies and windows, looks out over the Allegheny River and Allegheny Land Trust's Sycamore Island. Join FOR from 3-6:30 p.m. as guests take to the water on kayaks and a pontoon to explore the beautiful, undeveloped Sycamore Island – with its rare and unique floodplain hardwood forest. Boat trips are free with admission, but do require reservations, which can be done when purchasing event tickets.

Dinner will include jerk and BBQ chicken, corn on the cob, an array of salads, and a delicious veggie burger bar provided by chef Don Biesinger and Futules Catering. Topping off the meal will be 20th Anniversary Cake provided by Giant Eagle and Eat-n-Park smiley cookies. Four themed bars will be serving locally brewed Penn Brewery beer, Boyd & Blair vodka, mixed drinks, wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

The celebration features music by local indie favorite, Boca Chica and up-and-coming artist, Caleb Lovely, from 5-7 p.m. Enjoy a featured performance and a lot of surfside fun from The Turbosonics at 7 p.m. and again at 8:30 p.m. Stick around for the late night dance party with DJ Mary Mack from 9-11 p.m.

An environmentally-focused art exhibit will take place on the second floor of the SCRC's boat house. The art exhibits include work by Jackie McDowell and Iron City Upcyclery, Taylor Shields, and David Bear. David will display his "Pittsburgh Gigapanorama." In celebration of Friends of the Riverfront's 20th Anniversary, there will be pieces from the organization's rich history.

The Trail Mix(er) will include a variety of silent auction items to raise money for trail development. Bidding begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Score a sweet deal on items including a kayak, a bike, local sports tickets, theme park passes, cultural event tickets, and a whole lot of local and delicious restaurant gift cards.

The Martin J. O'Malley Award is given annually to honor one citizen for excellence in advocacy on behalf of riverfront trails and public access to our rivers. O'Malley was the founding Chair of Friends of the Riverfront, and he initiated the trail and riverfront work FOR continues to do today. This year's award will go to the Honorable Dan Onorato for his outstanding support of FOR's mission and his advocacy of parks, trails and greenways. Dan will be presented an award of original art created by Zach Ennis of Red Star Ironworks. Its design and fabrication implements aspects of our Three Rivers as well as our industrial history.

Advance tickets are \$50 per adult, \$35 with a valid student ID, \$5 for children under 12; and are also available at the door for \$65. A Late Night Dance party only ticket is available for \$15. This will feature DJ Mary Mack, drinks and snacks and will follow the main program starting at 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through the secure website www.friendstrailmixer.com. The first 400 guests will receive a swag bag of outdoor-themed goodies.

All proceeds will support Friends of the Riverfront trail development, advocacy and stewardship efforts.

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Friends of the Riverfront increases awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region's rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails. For more information, go to www.friendsoftheriverfront.org or call 412.488.0212.

Steel City Rowing Club in Verona is a non-profit organization devoted to developing the strength and character of individuals of all backgrounds through the discipline and teamwork of rowing and through opportunities to serve others. For more information, go to www.steelcityrowing.org or call 412.828.5565.

Since 1993, Allegheny Land Trust has protected 1,500 acres in 22 municipalities in Allegheny and Washington counties. ALT was awarded national accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. ALT is one of only 130 nationally accredited among the 1,700 land trusts in the United States. To learn more about Allegheny Land Trust visit www.alleghenylandtrust.org or call 412-741-2750.