



Chessie Trail Tracks

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Lots of things have been happening on the Chessie Trail this autumn. Here are some details in case you missed out!

Our biggest event this fall was 2022 Run the Chessie Race. Held on October 29, folks started arriving in the dark, and all the parking lots were full.

About 450 runners participated in the marathon, half, 10k, 5k, and marathon relay. The weather was great, and despite the hard work, there were plenty of smiling faces, sweaty grins, and imaginative costumes. Next year we may have to add a "best costume" award!



Cliff Kiracofe photo



Cliff Kiracofe photo



Race Volunteers at Work



It takes a lot of work to pull off a marathon. Volunteers worked before the event, clearing the trail, preparing food and snacks, and packing and distributing runners' packets. It takes a lot of work the day of the race, too, as volunteers park cars, feed hungry runners, staff aid stations, track times, give out awards—and lots more.

Thank you, volunteers!

Photos by Cliff Kiracofe and Susan Rivers



Dance Hall!



Another fun event was the Dance Hall on September 24 at Jordan's Point Pavilion. Legend tells of a dance hall along the banks of the Maury, where folks danced all night until the train had to back down the tracks to take them home. Our re-creation featured the music of the McKenzies and a potluck feast. People danced the night away under the stars and had a grand old time. We hope to do the event again next year.

Photos by Emma Patrick

Upcoming Events and Getting Involved



As for upcoming events, W&L Professor Chris Connors will lead a 1.5-mile walk along the Lexington end of the trail to discuss the geology of the trail on December 3 at 11 am. The event is co-sponsored by the Rockbridge Conservation Council and will start at the Lexington kiosk.



We always have more maintenance projects coming up. If you enjoy using the trail, consider helping out. Contact us at chessietrail@gmail.com for more information about all our volunteer opportunities. While you don't need to be a member of FOCT to be involved with our committee work, your support as a member is also greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your support of Friends of the Chessie Trail. To renew your annual membership, visit our website and see the Memberships tab.