



THE TRAIL-LETTER

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
VOLUME #1 *** FALL *****ISSUE #5**

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL HOSTS PA RTC CONFERENCE

by Tom Dougherty

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Rails-to-Trail Conservancy held its annual conference at Linden Hall Resort in Dawson, PA on October 12th, 13th, and 14th. The conference, arranged by State Chapter Coordinator Eric Bugaile with the assistance of The Montour Trail Council, attracted rail-trail enthusiasts from across the state. Also in attendance were representatives from state government, the National Park Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C.

Montour Trail Council members were actively involved making conference arrangements and in participating in a variety of panel discussions, policy-making sessions and trail tours.

The three-day conference offered participants the opportunity to exchange information on many aspects of rail-trail development. Panel discussions addressed vital topics such as cooperative efforts with governmental agencies, problems that bridges present, negotiating with railroads and dealing with liability.

State Representative Tom Murphy from Pittsburgh, a strong supporter of the Montour Trail Project delivered a rousing address to the conference Friday evening. Murphy applauded the efforts of people around the state who are struggling to turn rail-trail dreams into reality, calling them "heroes." However, Murphy said that rail-trail supporters need to become more active in the political process. He urged attendees to follow legislative happenings in Harrisburg and Washington and to be prepared to support legislation that favors rail-trail development. Murphy said that phone calls to legislators are extremely crucial in swaying critical votes and that there is absolutely no excuse for not sending a clear message of trail support to the legislators.

The conference took to the road on Saturday with a bus

tour of the Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township and made stops at three prominent sites on the proposed Montour Trail. attendees were excited by the overwhelming potential that they saw for Montour.

David Burwell, President of the National Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, was the keynote speaker on Saturday night. Burwell shared his vision of rail-trails in Pennsylvania and of what the national rail-trail network could become. He also provided an update and status report of the national organization.

A tour of completed portions of the Youghiogheny Trail in Ohiopyle State Park and proposed sections of the same trail in Connellsville provided a stimulating conclusion to the conference on Sunday.

Conference participants parted ways armed with newfound knowledge, a sense of state-wide cooperation and renewed enthusiasm to turn their rail trail projects into reality.

ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL MEETING URGED

The annual meeting of the Montour Trail Council will be held on Sunday, November 18, 1990 at the Pittsburgh Airport- Howard Johnson. This meeting will be a social gathering that will mark the accomplishments of the past year and the election of directors. **The guest speaker will be Brian Hill, Director of the Western Pennsylvania Office of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, on the environmental impact of rail-trails.** You are urged to attend this meeting, and directions and details are included in the inserts.

NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS

The following are brief biographies of the nominees for the board named by the nominating committee:

NAME: Gerald J. Agin
AGE: 48
RESIDENCE: Mt. Lebanon - Allegheny County
OCCUPATION: Engineer - Carnegie Group, Inc.
PROFILE: Montour Trail Council Board member and chairperson of the membership committee. Directed volunteer recruiting for the Council and is a Speakers Bureau member. Long-Distance runner.

NAME: Thomas J. Dougherty
AGE: 28
RESIDENCE: Mt. Lebanon - Allegheny County
OCCUPATION: Client manager; Skutski and Associates - Public Relations/Marketing and Consulting
PROFILE: Montour Trail Council Board Member plays key role in fund raising for the Council. Committee chairperson-Sierra Club. Coach in the Mt. Lebanon Softball Association and is an avid outdoorsman.

NAME: Peter Kohnke
AGE: 49
RESIDENCE: Bethel Park - Allegheny County
OCCUPATION: Director of Computer Software: Swanson Analysis Systems
PROFILE: Secretary of the Montour Trail Council. Key role in real estate acquisition for the Council. Contributed to the Concept Plan for the Council.

NAME: William Metzger
AGE: 44
RESIDENCE: Mt. Lebanon - Allegheny County
OCCUPATION: Commercial Freelance Photographer
PROFILE: Montour Trail Council Board Member. Key role in all photographic and video media produced by the Council. Contributor to the Montour Trail Concept Plan. He is a railroad historian and the music director at the Three Rivers Church and has extensive bicycling experience.

NAME: Marliou Ritchie
AGE: 46
RESIDENCE: McDonald Borough - Washington County
OCCUPATION: Teller-Pittsburgh National Bank - McDonald Branch
PROFILE: President of McDonald Borough Council and is the first woman to hold that position. She is a delegate to the Airport West Council of Governments and the Treasurer of the Women Club. She strongly endorsed the Trail Project in a recent article featured in the Pittsburgh Press.

NAME: David L. Wright
AGE: 43
RESIDENCE: South Fayette Township - Allegheny County
OCCUPATION: Consulting Civil Engineer - Allegheny County Engineering and Construction Department.
PROFILE: Montour Trail Board member and chair-

person of the Right-of-Way committee. Coordinated a team of volunteer Bridge and Tunnel Inspectors and completed a painstaking title search of properties on and adjacent to the Right-of-Way. Contributed relevant information needed during the PUC hearings on the abolition of certain crossings. Provides a valuable liaison with Allegheny County. He is a member of the Speakers Bureau for the Council, as well as a member of the Pennsylvania Railway Museum Association and the Pennsylvania Canal Society.

THE BIOGRAPHIES WERE COMPILED AND FURNISHED BY DINO ANGELICI, CHAIRMAN OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

MTC MEMBERS NAMED TO RTC-PA BOARD

Pennsylvania Chapter Chair Susan Wood has named Richard R. Wilson of the law firm Vuono, Lavelle & Gray and Larry L. Ridenour, a planning project manager for Allegheny County, to fill vacancies on the state Chapter's Board of Trustees.

Wilson is legal council to the Montour Trail Council and is a former member of the legal staff at both Conrail and the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroads. Ridenour is the government liaison for the MTC and is chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Landscape Architects.

MTC VIDEO PREMIERES

A six and one-half minute video has been produced for the MTC to give another dimension to the Speakers Bureau's presentation. The video can exhibit the sounds and motions of the trail and surrounding area which a slide presentation cannot do. In the video, people are seen and heard while using the Arrowhead Trail. Included in the video are interviews with MTC board members, users of the Arrowhead Trail, and Joanne Nelson and Mike Silvestri of Peters Township.

This video premiered at the PA-RTC workshop in October, and was taped by Bill Beagle, the husband of WTAE-TV 4's Susan Davies. Bill worked from sunrise to sunset to gather the scenes which not only feature Arrowhead Trail, but portions of the Trail along Montour Run, and at the McDonald Trestle.

The Montour Trail Council wishes to thank Bill, as well as board members Bill Metzger, Dennis Sims, Dino Angelici, and Dave Wright who worked on the pre-planning effort. You will see this video at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 18, 1990.

COALITION OF ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

The following groups have issued letters of support for this worthwhile project:

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC
AIRPORT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BLIND OUTDOOR LEISURE DEVELOPMENT (BOLD)
BLUE CROSS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
CANONSBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL
CENTRAL CHARTIERS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CITIZEN CARE, INC
D.T. WATSON REHABILITATION HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
EXPLORERS CLUB OF PITTSBURGH
GREATER WASHINGTON AREA JAYCEES
H. J. HEINZ COMPANY
HARMARVILLE REHABILITATION CENTER
HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER GUILD
HOLY TRINITY YOUNG AT HEART
INTERSTATE HOTEL CORPORATION
MCKENZIE PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
MOBAY CORPORATION
OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL
OPEN DOORS FOR THE HANICAPPED (MON-YOUGH CHAPTER)
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
PENNSYLVANIA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC
PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
PITTSBURGH HISTORY AND LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIES INTERNATIONAL
ROBINSON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ROTARY CLUB OF MOON TOWNSHIP
SIERRA CLUB, PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
STO-ROX NEIGHBORHOOD CORPORATION
THREE RIVERS ADAPTIVE SPORTS CHAPTER OF NATIONAL HANDICAPPED SPORTS
THE MON-VALLEY PROGRESS COUNCIL
WASHINGTON AREA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER, INC
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY AND LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA WHEELMAN, LTD

HELP WANTED

PRINTING: A member that is a printer or one that has connections with a printer. We may realize cost savings by dealing with a printer who is willing to work on a minimal profit margin. The printer could print his name on our brochure as a possible advertising write-off. We are also looking for a member to control the supply and distribution of brochures, envelopes, and other printed material. This would be a good job for anyone with limited time available to help the effort.

CORPORATE AREA: We are attempting to develop a network of trail supporters in medium to large companies in the area. Anyone who knows personal friends or relatives that might be of help to us, please contact Paul Mitsdarfer at 922-8300 (daytime) or 941 -8178 (evenings).

THANK YOU

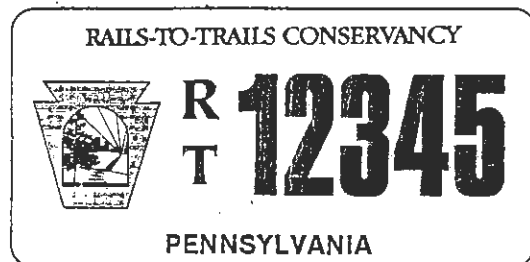
The Montour Trail Council would like to thank the following individuals for manning our display at the Covered Bridge Festival at Mingo Creek County Park:

Dino Angelici	Stan Sattinger
Tim Killmeyer	Bill Schallus
Dave Lutes	Claudia Slevin
Christian Moore	Jack Swisher

Our current signature count on our petition is 4045. Thanks for the great job to those of you that have worked the booth and special thanks to Tim Killmeyer for his efforts in constructing a display at Station Square.

RTC LICENSE PLATES MAY BE AVAILABLE

The PA Chapter of RTC has looked into the possibility of custom license plates in Pennsylvania. The minimum commitment is 500 plates. PA RTC has commitments for 150 already leaving 350 to go. There is a one time cost of \$20.00. If any MTC members are interested please contact Paul Mitsdarfer at 922 - 8300 (daytime) or 941 - 8178 (evenings).



EARTHDAY 2000 CONFERENCE

A very important environmental conference will be presented on November 9 and 10 at Chatham College in Pittsburgh. The Earthday 2000 Conference is co-sponsored by the Earthday Coalition, a coalition of over 50 organizations, of which the MTC is a member, and by the Rachel Carson Institute.

The core reason for this conference is the creation of a community environmental "greenprint". Over 250 community leaders, scientists, business people, theologians, educators, environmental specialist, and others will meet during the next six months to prepare an **Environmental Greenprint**, a blueprint of local environmental action for the 1990's. Community participation will begin at the conference and is the beginning of a highly participatory planning process. It is the key starting point for ten years of local environmental action effort within the Allegheny-Monogahela-upper Ohio bioregion around Pittsburgh.

Eight key environmental issues will be discussed. They include: Water quality, Air quality, Land use, Pesticides and agriculture, Energy and Transportation, Species protection, and Local-global problem areas. Conclusions drawn from each issue's working group will be refined in further meetings and included in a final report to be available after April 1991.

Greg Bish will be representing the MTC at this conference. However, volunteers are needed to work on various conference activities, both before and during the conference. If you would like more information about the conference, you may contact Roland Mick, Conference Coordinator at 365 - 1620 (W) or 829 - 1315

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OFFICERS

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FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

The Montour Trail Council has submitted proposals to the following six foundations:

R. K Mellon	Laurel
Vira Heinz	PNB Charitable Trust
Buhl	Westinghouse

Most of these foundations will make their decisions by December. It is hoped that the total amount of grant money from this proposal effort will put us in position to acquire the property for the right-of-way.

ADDITIONAL SEED MONEY GRANTED

State representative David K. Levdanksy of Elizabeth has granted \$3500 of his legislative initiative funds to the Montour Trail Project. This makes a total of \$26,500 from legislative initiative grant money. State Senator Mike Fisher and state Representatives Tom Murphy, Alice Langtry, and Ron Gamble have also granted portions of their initiative grant money. Bell of Pennsylvania has granted \$1000, as well. During the summer we also recieved grants from the Robert M. Thompson, Jr., Foundation of \$1000 and the Donald and Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation of \$300.

MTC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The following have taken corporate or organizational classes of membership in the MTC:

CORPORATE CLASS

Robert M. Thompson, Jr., Foundation
Donald and Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
Drs. Robert Rankin and Daniel Lattanzi

ORGANIZATIONAL CLASS

Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels
Moon Adventure Club
Pro-Photo, Inc.
Rotary Club of Moon Township
Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen

BICYCLE SHOPS

Coraopolis Bike and Hobby Shop
Hike N Bike
TRM Cycles