

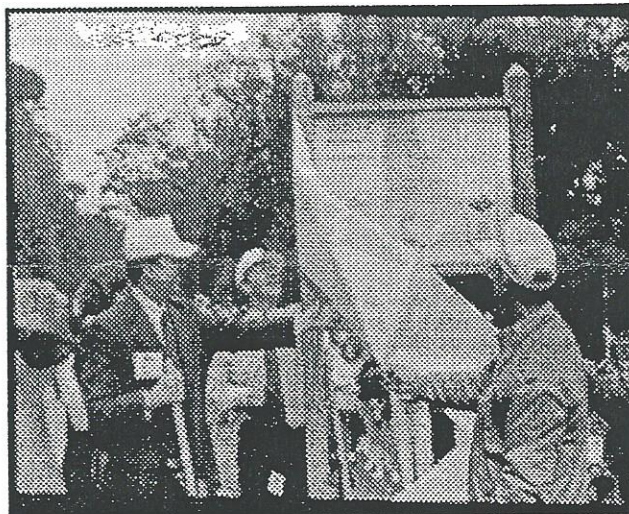


THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

VOLUME #3 ISSUE #5

A Bi-monthly publication of the Montour Trail Council

FALL 1992



President Stan Sattinger unwraps sign as Allegheny County Commissioner Larry Dunn and state senator Mike Fisher look on.

THE UNVEILING OF THE CECIL PARK TRAILHEAD SIGN OFFICIALLY OPENS THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL

Once again, the luck of the Montour Trail Council came through as the opening ceremony for the Cecil Township section was held under a beautiful blue sky with only wispy cirrus clouds occasionally dimming the sun. You could not have asked for a better day in middle October as the weatherman timed the cold fronts to pass through western Pennsylvania, before and after the ceremony.

The audience, estimated at nearly 500 in number, took advantage of the beautiful autumn day at Cecil Park by attending the hour and thirty minute ceremony which featured Bob Hall from the Federal Highway Administration Pennsylvania Division who talked about ISTEA funding. Other speakers included: U. S. Representative J. Austin Murphy, Bruce Barron, representing U.S. Congressman Rick Santorum, who presented to the Montour Trail Council the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation nationwide for conserving our natural resources. State Senators Tom Murphy and Mike Fisher, State Representatives Vic Lescovitz, Ron "Huck" Gamble. Rep. Alice Langtry's office presented the Montour Trail Council a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives marking the accomplishment and Tom Casciola, chairman of the Cecil Township Supervisors also recognized the achievements accomplished by the Montour Trail Council.

The Cecil Township Middle School Band entertained the crowd with patriotic selections before the ceremony and played the National Anthem. They also entertained the crowd as they walked up the hill to the sign presentation. (See *Cermonies* page 2.)

ISTEA HOPING TO BE POURED INTO MTC'S GLASS

The Montour Trail has applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for funds from ISTEA. ISTEA, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 will provide \$151 billion to improve the nation's transportation network. Of that \$151 billion, \$3.3 billion will go to "transportation enhancements" for the six year life of the bill (1992 - 1997) for 10 specific non-highway activities, including the preservation of abandoned railway corridors and their conversion to pedestrian and bicycle trails. (Data taken from Vol. 7, No 2 of the *Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Trailblazer*.)

Enhancements funds have been apportioned to states according to their size and population and must be matched at a ratio of 80 percent federal to 20 percent state. Pennsylvania has been allotted \$83.5 million for the six years. It will take everyone's help to make sure the state spends the money for transportation enhancements, and that it is not diverted to funding environmental aspects of highway projects

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL VIPS

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VICE PRESIDENT	DINO ANGELICI
SECRETARY	PETER KOHNKE
TREASURER	JACK SWISHER

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ARNIE SCHULBERG	DAVE WRIGHT
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR	DENNIS SIMS

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS

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For Administration and Business	412 - 257 - 2328

The Montour Trail-Letter is published bi-monthly by the Montour Trail Council. Deadline to submit copy is the 25th of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

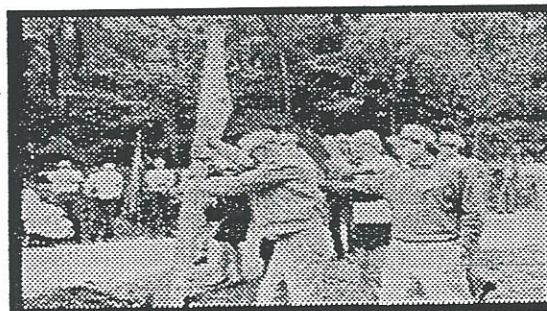
The Trail-Letter is printed through the courtesy of Mail and More in Carnegie with the help of Mark Addesturger.

MTC RECEIVES ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION AWARD

The Montour Trail Council recently received the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award. The group was nominated for the award by Congressman Rick Santorum (R-18th district). Bruce Barron of the Congressman's office presented the Council with the award. The award, signed by President George Bush, is one of 58 that was presented nationwide to recognize achievements in protecting natural resources.

This was the second bi-annual Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award program, which was created in 1990 by the Republican Research Committee's environmental round-table. Members of the 102nd Republican Conference were invited to nominate an individual or local group to receive this award, named after one of the nation's first and greatest conservationists. The only criteria set for award winners were that they be involved in conservation efforts of a volunteer and local nature. Final approval of winners came after screening by the White House.

ceremonies continued from page(1)



The Trailhead Sign is erected at the audience looks on.

Following the introductions and speeches, those in attendance crossed the creek and walked up the hill to the trailhead where the trail sign was waiting to be erected. Cecil Township area scouts lined both sides of the trail holding the flags of the 50 states, as well as 39 other historical flags to provide a very colorful backdrop to the scene. Members of the Montour Trail Council Board of Directors and dignitaries erected the sign and placed it into the pre-dug holes and, using gilded shovels laced with "mon-troon" colored ribbons, refilled the holes around the posts. President Stan Sattinger then uncovered the sign which shows a map of the completed section and trail rules. Bill Metzger then announced that the trail was officially opened.

Many of those in attendance brought their bicycles to enjoy the 4.5 mile trail, those who did not, were able to enjoy the trail on foot. Following their walk or ride, many enjoyed a chicken dinner, or funnel cakes and sausage. The bluegrass band "Leather Britches" entertained the crowd as they came back from their rides or walks.

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL SAYS MANY THANKS

There are many, many groups that have made the opening of the first segment of the Montour Trail happen. The groups range from governmental agencies to foundations to our own volunteers who have donated equipment, knowledge, financial assistance and their own sweat and blood to make it possible for everyone to enjoy the trail.

The following is a list of agencies, groups and individuals who made this endeavor a success.

Governmental Agencies

The Army Corps of Engineers - Pittsburgh District who helped us design stream bank erosion protection.

The Federal Job Corps for Allegheny and Washington Counties for providing funded labor pools.

The Washington County Planning Department, especially Dennis Martinak for researching property deeds.

The following Allegheny County Departments:

Development - submitted the application for Department of Community of Affairs (DCA) funding.

Engineering and Construction for providing manpower, namely Dave Wright for, design, construction and property acquisition.

Planning who contracted out the appraisal and the environmental assessment for the Trail, and established a capital budget for rail-trails which is funding material purchases for the Findlay Segment. Thanks to Ray Reeves and Trails Coordinator Larry Ridenour for their work.

Special Services and Maintenance Operations for providing equipment and supervision for Job Corps workers.

Cecil Township for providing services in kind for grading.

Findlay Township for providing services in kind for grading of the Findlay Township segment.

Peters Township - namely Parks and Recreation Director Joanne Nelson and Township Manager Mike Silvestri who passed along many tips and lessons learned in the development of Arrowhead Trail.

Financial Assistance

In addition to the \$150,000 Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act (RIRA) Grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, grants from the following foundations, totaling approximately \$400,000 have enabled us to purchase 38 miles of right-of-way and build the Cecil-Hendersonville segment of the Trail:

Viria Heinz Endowment
Richard King Mellon Foundation
Laurel Foundation
USX Foundation

Westinghouse Foundation
PNB Charitable Trust
SmithKline Beecham
Consumer Brands
DeLuxe Check Printers

A major legislative initiative grant was awarded the Montour Trail by the Allegheny County Democratic Delegation to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives led by Rep. Tom Michlovic.

Vitaly important seed money and encouragement were provided by the Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen and the Pittsburgh Council of the American Youth Hostels.

Other monetary support was given by:

Bell of Pennsylvania
Commonwealth Securities and Investments
Integra Foundation
J.C. Penney

Robinson Family
Foundation
John Swanson
St. Clair Hospital
R.M. Thompson Jr.
Foundation

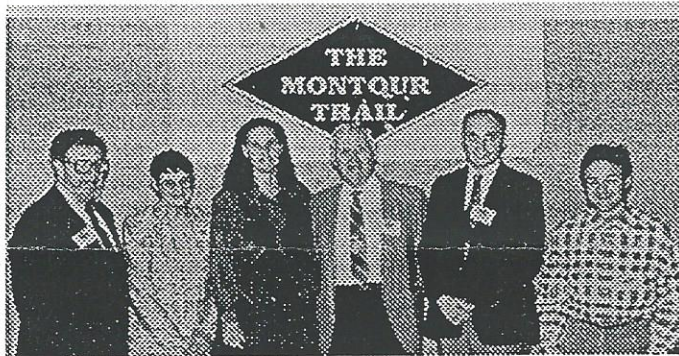
Material and Services in kind:

Adam Fillipo and Associates - prepared corporate canvassing material.
Bill Beagle Video Productions - Trail promotional video
Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) - dumpsters and hauling
Casciola Builders - construction equipment
Deklewa Construction - construction equipment
Duquesne Light - acquisition of real estate parcels for resale to the Trail, redecking bridges, drawings and surveys
JEM Construction - Papp Road Bridge Deck
A Locksmith - locks for gates
Mail and More - printing of Trail newsletter and other mass mailings
Middle States Steel - salvaged and stored a historic highway bridge for eventual trail use.
Miles Inc. - fabrication of gate parts and sign covers
Nicholson Construction - welding materials
O.T. Aviation - providing aircraft for overhead photography
St. Clair Hospital - funds to provide display at Airport
Arnold Schulberg, Attorney at Law - real estate transactions.
Mr. Sign - trail banner
Prof. Ed Sites of the University of Pittsburgh - providing insight into fund raising
Skutski and Associates - (Tom Dougherty) corporate relations
Joe Stewart Construction - construction equipment
Tru-Lyte Systems - banner
USX Kobe Steel - pipes for gates
Urban Design Associates - (Paul Ostergaard) - trail sign design
Vincenti Sanitation - port-o-jons at opening
Vince's Welding Supply - welding equipment
Weavertown Transport - area to work on gates

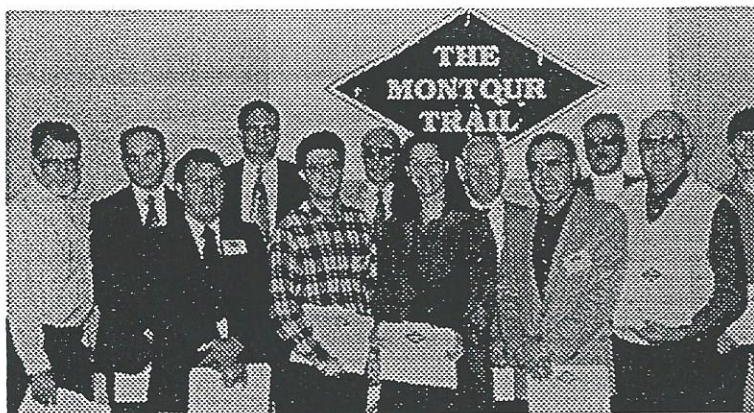
Special thanks to the Montour Trail Council and its members, trail representatives, and board of directors and their families who helped to create and build this organization.

And last but not least, those volunteers who spent many, many hours on weekends and their days off out on the trail cutting weeds, trimming trees, cleaning culverts, sawing wood for fences and decks and other activities that are just to numerous mention.

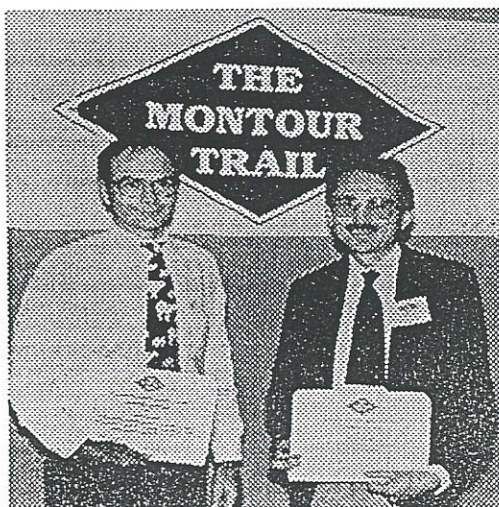
SOME OF THE HONOREES AT THE BANQUET AND ANNUAL MEETING



Here are some of the folks who may have given you a call to ask your assistance in some part of the trail construction. Members of the Phone Chain pictured from left to right: Ober Rooney, Ann Ruth, Nancy Reid (coordinator), Nile "Doug" Douglas, Ted Donelli, and Sam Bertenthal. Not pictured are Lu Ann Argenta, Connie Brown, Gloria Dagnall, Bret D'Souza, Mary Ellen Priest, Claudia Slevin, and Angela Youngblood.



Certificates of Achievement were presented to several individuals who gave a "yeoman's effort" on behalf of the MTC this year. Pictured from left to right they are: Peter Kohnke, Ted Donelli, Don Berty, Tim Killmeyer, Tim Banfield, Marshall Fausold, Nancy Reid, "Doug" Douglas, Don Anthony, Dave Gabrielcik, John Hooten and Eric Williams



Jack Swisher (left) and Dave Wright (right) led the way in helping to construct the first section of Trail. Jack Swisher led the troops every Saturday morning to perform the work to Dave Wright's design and specification,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL BANQUET AND MEETING

The 3rd Annual Banquet and Meeting of the Montour Trail Council was surprisingly well attended, coming so close on the heels of the Trail Opening festivities barely a month ago. Roughly 70 members and guests came to the Airport Ramada despite beautiful weather for outdoor pursuits and an important Steeler - Bills gridiron contest.

After the traditional State of the Trail Address given by President Stan Sattinger, four directors; Marshall Fausold, Tim Killmeyer, Stan Sattinger, and Arnie Schulberg were unanimously confirmed for another three year term. Andy Poole has voluntarily given up his seat on the Board because of employment constraints.

A short highlight video of the Opening Celebration was presented, but the focus of the meeting was recognizing all the folks who helped make 1992 a historic year for MTC. Some of those folks are pictured in this Newsletter.

Jim Zankel and his staff at the Airport Ramada are to be commended for making the event come off so well.

See you next year!

MORE THANK YOUS

Landowner Contacts

Don Berty	Andy Higgins
Christine Bock	Keith O'Neill
Connie Brown	Fred Pollastrini
Gloria Dagnall	Bob and Marianne Purdy

Gate Builders

Bruce Cowden	Dave Gabrieli
Rich Daniels	Frank Groll
George Ebrecht	Stan Olenn

Bridge Fix-up

Tim Banfield	Jim McDade
Dave Cooper	Paul McKeown
Clancy Green	John Tonti
Lois Ludwig	

TRAIL IS OPEN, LET'S USE IT!

There are three sections of the former Montour Railroad right-of-way that have been developed for use as Trail. They include the initially developed section in Cecil Township, Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township, and the section currently being improved in Findlay Township. With these three sections, 11 miles of the 55 mile right-of-way have been converted to trail.

The Findlay section will be constructed from the original ballast for the time being while Duquesne Light strings power lines through the Montour Run Valley. An improved surface will be put down in the spring, but the Findlay Section is available for hiking, mountain bikes and when the big snows come this winter, nordic skiing. Bridges have been re-decked where necessary and new railing and fencing installed. Let us show the folks in Findlay that we appreciate the work they have done and begin using that section along with the Cecil Section..

The Arrowhead Trail is in heavy use and is an asphalt surface. Peters Township is finishing a major construction project in Peterswood Park which saw a second paved trail built from the trail mainline to the Park. The new trail terminates between the soccer and baseball fields. The older trail still terminates in the same location but the road leading to the terminus has been relocated along with the creation of more parking. There are 3.5 miles of the right-of-way paved with additional portions of the right-of-way that are unimproved, but usable.

Do not let winter stop you from using the trails. The trails will be open through the winter. Many users enjoy the snow and cold for running, hiking, and of course cross country skiing. However, remember it will soon be deer season so if you are on the trail, we do advise wearing bright colors to distinguish you from a deer in some hunter's gunsight.

Increased and continued use of the trail sections will increase the likelihood of the Council to get funding to construct additional sections and to maintain the high quality of the sections in place. Tell your friends and neighbors and have their friends tell their friends and so on and so on ... to get out and enjoy the trail.

VIDEOS OF THE TRAIL AVAILABLE

John Tonti, the Montour Trail Council's Real Estate Administrator has been videotaping the construction of the Cecil Township Section of the Trail this past summer. He also videotaped the Opening Ceremony. If you would like to have a copy of what was taped, or only a portion of the many feet of tape he shot that may be of interest to you, give John Tonti a call at 257-0257 for further information.

MONTOUR RUN VALLEY, A HAPPENING MONTOUR TRAIL PLACE

With Findlay Township taking the lead in Allegheny County to get part of the Montour Trail in place in their community, Moon and Robinson Township are now getting ready to do the same. On Friday, October 23, the township manager from Moon, Greg Smith, and his Robinson counterpart Bernie Dudash, along with MTC trail representatives Jerry Agin, Dave Gabrielcik, Tim Killmeyer, Dennis Pfeiffer and Larry Ridenour toured the section in their townships. MTC is asking for similar assistance from Moon and Robinson as was given in Findlay with grading, brush cutting, and trash clearing.

Duquesne Light will be placing a power line through the valley this winter, so any permanent improvements will have to wait until spring when they will have completed their work.

In the meantime, HOLT (Hollow Oak Land Trust) is moving along with its Montour Greenway project. The Montour Greenway is an effort to conserve a natural greenspace corridor along side the Trail in the Montour Run Valley. The response from landowners along the greenway has been positive.

Trout Unlimited has joined HOLT and in the greenway project. Penn's Woods West, the local chapter of TU has adopted Montour Run in an effort to stabilize and recondition the stream for cold water fishing. The Greenway will help to protect the watershed in its ability to maintain the high water quality in the stream. A recent Pennsylvania Fish Commission Survey found 14 different species of fish in the stream.

(Tim Killmeyer and Dennis Pfeiffer contributed to this article.)

TRAIL CALENDAR

Saturday, November 28, 1992, 10:00 A.M.

RIDE THE TRAIL

Meet at the Cecil Township Municipal Building adjacent to the Tennis Courts in Cecil Park to ride the entire length of the Cecil Section and the Arrowhead Trail and return by the same route. Length of the ride is approximately 20 miles. There will be 3 miles of riding on paved roadway to get from one trail to the other since they do not connect. Terrain is mostly flat with the exception of one good hill just east of the town of Lawrence, known to some as Hills Station. This will give everyone the chance to work off their Thanksgiving Dinner and to enjoy off-season riding. Call Dino Angelici, 931-6651, to confirm.

Monday, January 25, 1993, 7:30 P.M.

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

The January membership meeting will be at the Montour High School cafeteria, on Clever Road in Robinson Township. The program will discuss Phase II of trail construction in the Moon/Robinson area. And the Montour Trail Council's own Bill Metzger will take us along as he tours Glacier National Park, Montana, on his bicycle late last summer. Or was that early winter?

Come and see which season it was.



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