



THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

VOLUME #4 ISSUE #2

A Bi-monthly publication of the Montour Trail Council

MAY 1993

WESTLAND MEETING

by Dennis Sims

On Monday, April 5th, several members of the Montour Trail Council met with the Westland Citizen's Development Association (WCDA). Westland is a former coal mining community located on PA Route 519 between Houston and Hickory. It was the site of the last active mine served by the Montour Railroad. The railroad reached Westland via a four mile spur that joined the mainline at Gilmore Junction.

The WCDA is building a 12 acre park on land left vacant by Consolidation Coal Company which operated the mine. This park will be an ideal terminus for the Westland Branch of the Trail. Like the MTC, the WCDA is a grass roots organization that is scraping and clawing its way to success by utilizing many routes to reach their goals at minimum cost. The WCDA looks forward to seeing the Trail reach their park and MTC looks forward to seeing their park at the end of our trail. Both groups agreed to assist each other to see that their goals are met.

Gin Romitl, the Fundraising Director of the WCDA wrote this letter of thanks to the MTC dated April 15, 1993. It speaks for itself:

Members of the Trail Council,

Thank you so much for your wonderful presentation at our April 5th meeting, and thank you for your vote of confidence in our efforts.

Many things in this country are neglected when they no longer represent substantial monetary units, but both of our groups believe that not everything that is important can be turned into a numerical indicator. Both of our groups believe in revitalization and preservation. And, both groups understand that we cannot operate in a vacuum. Through your openness and sincere dedication, Westlanders feel that there is now a mechanism for cooperation and partnership; a vital element in achieving our goals. We opened the meeting as two separate groups. We closed the meeting as a pulse - beat of one another.

On a grand scale the Montour Trail effort is a catalyst that brings together public and private sector actors. On an individual basis this makes neighborhood projects more achievable with infinite positive benefits on people's lives. We fully commend and support your great efforts in making the past a key to the future, and heartily look forward to the Montour Trail-Westland Park symmetry.

Their letterhead has a line that illustrates the scope of these projects: "Let us do together what we cannot do alone." This takes our corporate campaign slogan one step further: "A legacy we all can build... a gift we all can share." We have a real ally in the citizens of Westland.

MOON- ROBINSON PROGRESS REPORT

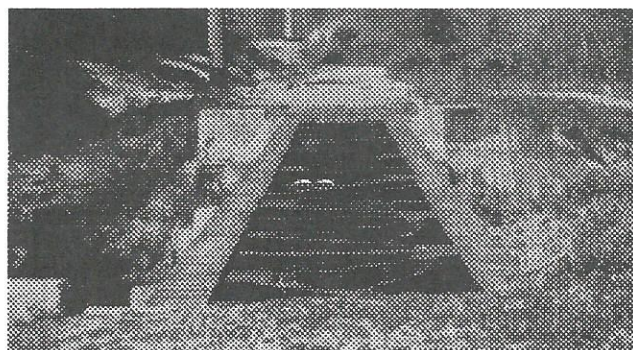
by Tim Killmeyer

The Moon-Robinson Section of the Trail has been progressing nicely since last March as the enthusiastic volunteers have benefited greatly from the cool Saturdays. They are not at all upset that the local weathermen have been wrong about the rain that was predicted for them.

It is difficult to describe with words the work these volunteers have accomplished. When this trail is complete, these people will certainly be justified in the pride they will surely feel. If you would go down to the section right now you would never know that they filled eight full-size dumpsters with trash and loaded over 500 discarded tires on to trucks for hauling to a recycling center.

Bill Unltas of the Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Committee has agreed to take on the "deckless bridge" over Montour Run (between Beaver Grade Road and Robinson Towne Centre) as a project for the carpenter apprentices.

It is a total effort of all the people, groups and businesses that is going to make this trail come together. Remember that not all of those volunteers could make it every weekend and now summer is coming with vacations. So, if you need to get on our volunteer list, call **Nancy Reed at 921-0356**. You do not even to have wait for Nancy to call you, just call our the **TRAIL HOTLINE at 257-2328** to find out what projects are happening on your free weekend. **WE NEED YOU**, and don't forget to ask a friend to join the Trail Council. See ya on the Trail.



One of the three bridges between Robinson Towne Center and Beaver Grade that crosses Montour Run. This is the middle bridge. The other two bridges have been refurbished for trail use by Duquesne Light which is building a power line through the valley. This bridge will be refurbished by carpenter apprentices.

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AIRPORT VICINITY : TIM KILLMEYER 787 - 1472

Moon	Dennis Pfeiffer	262 - 3748
Robinson	Frank Keppel	859 - 3020
	Steve Schotting	787 - 2079
North Fayette:	Fred Pollastrini	695 - 0134

WASHINGTON COUNTY : JACK SWISHER 221-7708

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR DENNIS SIMS 257 - 2553

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Deadline to submit copy is the 25th of February, April, June, August, October,
and December.

The Trail-Letter is printed at Mail and More in Carnegie with the help of Mark Addlespurger.

UNITED WAY DONORS THANKED

MTC is grateful to the following individuals for funds contributed through the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania's Donor Option program in 1992. Their gifts, together with \$479.69 given by anonymous donors, totaled \$1914.94:

Gloria J. Dagnall
Marlon L. Ferrang
Frank Holst
Brian K. Jensen
Dennis F. Pfeiffer
Andy Poole
Stan Sattinger
Dale H. Schwab
David L. Wright

All MTC members are asked to consider making a donor option election at the time of the next United Way campaign this fall. These contributions do make a difference!

HILLMAN FOUNDATION THANKED

The Montour Trail Council takes this time to thank the Hillman Foundation for their \$50,000 gift to the Trail Project. This money is designated for trail construction.

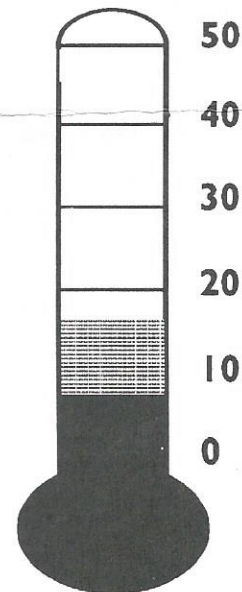
TRAIL PROGRESS



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED



MILES COMPLETED

MARATHON

by Dino Angelici

There are not many sporting events in Pittsburgh as exciting as The Marathon. Maybe its because you have such close contacts with the great athletes involved. Eight MTC volunteers were preparing very early on Sunday, May 2, 1993, to get about as close to these great runners as one can. We were involved in setting up and maintaining the first water station located at Butler and 47th streets, which is the 2.5 mile point at the race. Ken Cowles, the director, kept everyone loose with his hilarious explanation of the proper way to hold the water cups in order to facilitate a proper exchange with the racers.

When the first wave of runners hit, we worked frantically to hand out cups of water as fast as we could. Bill Metzger could be head above all the noise saying things like, "Get your ice-cold City of Pittsburgh Water, made by Pittsburghers, for Pittsburghers."

All of the excitement was over nearly as quickly as it had come upon us. All of the more than 4000 participants, including marathoners, 10-K runners and wheelchairs and their used water cups were out of the area by 10:30 A.M. Not a bad volunteer detail as the remainder of the day was ours and we'll probably be back next year. MTC would like to thank the following volunteers for their help and displaying the "MTC colors" on race day: Fred and Donna Pollastrini, Dave and Nancy Reed, Judy Thompson, Jean Condo, and Bill Metzger.

TRAIL HAPPENINGS

Saturdays this summer: Come out and help build the trail. **Call Nancy Reed at 921-0356** to volunteer your services on a Saturday or Saturdays of your choice.

Saturday, June 5th: Tim Killmeyer is planning a "blow-off" Saturday for the volunteers. Tim wants to have a mountain bike ride in the valley. Riders will meet at Robinson Petroleum. Call Tim for more info **787 - 1472**.

Monday, June 21, Montour Trail Council Board Meeting at 441 Smithfield Street. Allegheny County Planning Department Conference Room Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. Call a board member for details..

Sunday, June 13 and July 18 from 1 to 5 PM, the Trail Council will be manning an information booth at trailside. In June, the booth will be along Arrowhead in Peters and in July in Cecil. Looking for volunteers to assist. Especially interested in "home-town folks". Call 931-6651 if interested.

Sunday, August 15. A festival is being planned by the Trail Council, Trout Unlimited, and HOLT to bring attention to the scenic Montour Run Valley and the host organizations. More details later..

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Chartiers Valley Medical Center
Kurt J. Lesker Co.
British Airways
B. M. Kramer & CO

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy
Rolling Hills Riding Club
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Wilson Civic Association
Montour Robinson AARP
The Bethmas Club
The Scott Conservancy
Mon Valley Imaging Associates
Peters Twp. Kiwanis
West Liberty Schwinn
Woman's Club of McDonald
Women's Club of Upper St. Clair
The Garden Club of Allegheny County
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
Hike N Bike
Treehaven Garden Club

The Trail Council this summer wants to increase the length of this list, especially the former. A campaign will be organizing to increase our membership at all levels. We will be asking our members to help make this campaign a success.

TREE PLANTING











BY DINO ANGELICI

On Saturday, May 1, 1993, seven volunteers planted approximately 400, three-year old Colorado Spruce seedlings along the Cecil Township section of the Trail. The volunteers met at the Hendersonville Shoppes that morning 10:00 A.M. and set out under the guidance of Mr. Niles "Doug" Douglas to plant the seedlings. The seedlings ranged in height from two to six inches with roots that were two to three times as long. They are located 10 feet from the trail edge and spaced about 20 feet apart from the Hendersonville terminus to the I-79 overpass.













A few more were planted near Papp Road, the Kurnick property (the bootleg parking area off Cecil-Henderson Road) and a small section east of Dacor Drive to the "cut". Generally, the seedlings were placed on both sides of the Trail. Currently they may be hidden by tall grass, but should soon rise to a more visible height with a favorable growing season.

There are still 600 seedlings waiting to be planted and there will be another planting session organized. So, if you missed this event, you have another chance to get down and dirty. MTC, Doug, and I would like to thank Don Berty, Greg and Ginny Haid, Beth Syche, and Alan for helping out with the first tree planting session.

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3  Meets	4	5 MS 150 TIM KILLMEYER MTN BIKE RIDE
6 MS 150	7	8	9	10  Meets	11  Meets	12  Hendersonville Shoppes Springfest
13  Trib 1-5 PM Arrowhead Trail	14 Flag Day	15	16	17  Mon/Yough Trail Council Meets	18	19  MRC
20 Father's Day	21  Board Meeting	22	23	24  Meets	25	26  MRC
27 THE GREAT RIDE	28	29	30			

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  Meets	2	3
4 Fourth of July	5	6	7	8  Meets	9  Meets	10  MRC
11	12	13	14	15  Meets	16	17  MRC
18  Trib 1-5 PM Cecil Twp. Trail section	19  Board Meeting	20	21	22  Mon/Yough Trail Council Meets	23	24  MRC
25	26	27	28	29  Meets	30	31  MRC

THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD MEETS BETWEEN 6 AND 10 PM AT
441 SMITHFIELD STREET IN THE ALLEGHNEY COUNTY PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA WHEELMEN MEET AT THE ASCENSION
CHURCH AT NEVILLE AND ELLSWORTH 8PM
AYH MEETS AT 8PM AT THE EQUESTRIAN SHED MELLON PARK 5TH AND SHADY
MON-YOUGH TRAIL COUNCIL MEETS AT THE BOSTON VFD 7-10P.M.

Call Dino Angelici at 931-6651 for more information on any of these events.
Leave message and he will get back to you.

BIKE
RIDEAYH
EVENT

HIKE

MTC
EVENTWHEELMEN
EVENTMYTC
EVENT

MRC = Trail cleanup Montour Run Valley. Meet under
Groveton Bridge (rte 51st @9AM Call 787-1472 for
directions

T SIB = Trail-Side Information Booth - see article
under Trail Happenings in Newsletter

THE TRAIL COUNCIL SAYS THANKS

The list of volunteers, who range in age from 14 to over 65 that are blazing the Moon-Robinson Section include:

Chuck McChesney
Cliff Stevenson
Paul Zeppenfeld
Larry Maas
Maggie Junks
John Neuhaus
Roy Kraynyk
Scott Hoover
Dave Johnson
Barb Arlett
Lee Kautzmann
Dave Olstad
Jim Weaver
Roland Champ
Stewart Young
Steve Schotting
Adam Sullivan
Dave Wright
Dennis Pfeiffer
Stan Sattinger

Joanne Zillinsky
Craig Drinkhoff
Bob Kuznick
Steward Agreeen
Chris Hay
Walt Miller
Hal Hoover
Tim Hine
Bill Swisher
Dean Arlett
Ed Nelson
John Lomack
John Martzall
Laura Beauvais
Frank Keppel
Neal Phillips
Jason Haverman
Bill Morphy
Tim Killmeyer
Jack Swisher

Nancy Reed and **Joyce Waslosky** have been doing a fine job recruiting volunteers through the phone chain.

We also could not have done any of the work without the donations of many businesses:

Rob Allen of Waste Management of Pittsburgh for supplying and emptying the dumpsters.

Al Stubna of Kosmos Cement Co. and **Joe Hammel of Recycling, Conservation and Recovery Alternatives, Inc** for the recycling of the tires, and **Joe Eorl of Kelly Run Sanitation** for the disposal of tires unable to be recycled.

Bell Atlantic has provided a couple of cellular phones for communications.

Moon Township Municipal Authority has allowed us to keep our tractor on their secured property to keep it safe and local.

Robinson Petroleum has also allowed us to use their facility for storage.

Duquense Light Company has agreed to lend us a stake truck with an elevator lift on Saturdays for use in hauling old railroad ties, as well as the reconstruction of two bridges..

Yes, I Want To Help Build The Montour Trail

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Send me additional flyers
- ☐ I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the Trail
- ☐ My organization would like to provide a letter of endorsement
- ☐ I know a group interested in a presentation
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council (membership is tax deductible):

<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> CLUB OR ORGANIZATION	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE	\$250

- ☐ I wish to make a tax deductible contribution of \$_____ to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality.

(make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (day time) _____ (Evening) _____

By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

Signature _____

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply registration.



One of two bridges re-built by Duquense Light between Beaver Grade Road and Robinson Towne Centre over Montour Run.

ISTEA EXPLAINED

Just about everyone is aware that the Montour Trail Council was programed for 80% reimbursement up to \$1,000,000 from the Federal Highway Administration by monies provided by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), but this money will not come in one lump sum, nor without lots of red tape.

Like any other highway project, trail construction plans will have to under go environmental reviews that may take six months to a year before any monies can be approved for construction. Most importantly, however, the money is provided for reimbursement of the construction costs we incur on the project. So we need to spend money before we can get money. A delay will occur before we are reimbursed after we submit our request to PennDot. We will get 80% of our expenditure back to spend again.

So even though we have been approved for this money, our funding problems are not over. We still need money for the daily operations of the Council, in addition to the money for construction.

BULLETIN - PUC BRIDGE DECISION

Briefly, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has given the Trail Council a very favorable decision regarding the crossing. **They stated that any crossing (i.e. bridge) that is not a hazard to traffic should remain in place for trail use and the crossing be removed from PUC jurisdiction.** More details in the next newsletter.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AT HENDERSONVILLE

The Trail Council has finally completed an agreement with PennDot District 12 to assist us in removing the west abutment of the former bridge that crossed Washington Pike in Hendersonville. Cecil Township, along with help from Sluciak Contracting Company is finishing the task of removing 30 feet of the embankment west of the abutment and grading the remaining slope. PennDot will remove the concrete abutment and provide the Trail Council a no-fee permit to construct a bridge over the road.

This task will greatly improve the sight distance at a very bad intersection with Washington Pike, Cecil-Hendersonville Road, Railroad Street and Georgetown Road. PennDot will give the okay to replace the bridge. The bridge is likely to be the "recycled Barner Hill Bridge", which once spanned the Conrail main line near Irwin. This bridge was carefully dismantled by the contractor replacing that bridge, Mid-States Steel Construction of Eighty-Four. They are currently storing the bridge for us. We will be needing volunteers in the near future to help sandblast and paint the steel. Contact George Erbrecht at 356-4613, if interested.

While on the subject of bridges, MTC would like to thank Joe Stewart for letting us use part of his property to store another bridge. As you head west on the Trail from Hendersonville, you may have noticed two green trusses sitting in the yard on the left side of the Trail in the vicinity of our red road grader. This is the bridge we bought last winter which once spanned a stream in southwest Greene County. It too will need to be rehabilitated before it finds a home on the trail.

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