

# THE TRAIL-LETTER

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

VOLUME #3 \*\*\*\*\*SPRING-1992\*\*\*\*\* ISSUE #2

## THE UNITED WAY WORKS

Last summer, the Trail-Letter announced that we had been approved by the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania for donor option contributions. During the annual United Way campaigns, donors could designate the Montour Trail Council to receive all or a portion of their payroll-deduction gifts for the coming year.

The Montour Trail Council is pleased to announce that the 1991 United Way Donor Option Campaign contributed \$1406. The Council would like to thank the following persons who contributed to the campaign:

Mary J. Dowling  
Robert J. Eckert  
Marion L. Ferrang  
Francis S. Hoist  
Brian K. Jensen  
John W. McGinnis

Nanette J. Missig  
Andrew Poole  
Stanley S. Sattinger  
Dale Schwab  
Elton J. Shingleton  
Stuart G. Young

## HANGERS HOOK \$1000 FOR TRAIL COUNCIL

The highlight of the March Membership meeting was the presentation of a check for \$1000 from Jerry Rubenstein of Ruby's Cleaners. To help recycling efforts, Ruby's added a new twist to their metal hanger return program. For each hanger recycled, Ruby's Cleaners would make a donation to the Montour Trail Council.

Over the past year, Ruby's was donating one penny to the Montour Trail Council for each hanger that was returned for re-use. He had 100,000 hangers returned to his cleaning establishments in Monroeville and Mount Lebanon. Ruby's Cleaners is doing their part to help out with our environment.

The Trail Council says thank you, Jerry.

## TRAIL BLAZERS PROGRESS

*by Jack Swisher*

The Montour Trail Council's Trail Blazer Volunteers have been hard at work clearing the Trail so construction can begin this summer. The Trail Blazers have been clearing brush and removing old railroad ties and rubbish from ten feet on each side of the ten foot wide trail, as well as the adjacent stream beds. The ten foot "shoulders" will allow for drainage improvements and easy maintenance on completion of the Trail. The first work session was held on Saturday, March 28 and every Saturday since with the exception of Easter Weekend. Even on that Saturday, a half dozen dedicated workers showed up and held an impromptu clean-up. In fact, several volunteers have been working on Sundays and during the week!

To date, we have cleared roughly one mile of the Trail which was the roughest mile in terms of the ties and brush that had to be removed. While I cannot prove it, I believe that mile of Trail had the world's largest concentration of *multiflora rose*! The work started out slowly with little apparent success. However, now that we have been at it for several weeks and the vegetation is greening, our efforts are really paying off. The sections that have been "grubbed" are shaping up and early trail users are stopping to tell us how nice it looks.

Future plans call for continuing brush and tie clearing from the remainder of the Trail, and when that is complete along with the installation of the security gates, a clean-up day will be scheduled. Volunteers will also modify the Papp Road bridge by cleaning the adjacent culverts and installing the railings and fences on this bridge.

We wish we could list each person who has helped us so far, but space does not permit it. While many of the volunteer Trail Blazers have worked long and hard on trail clean-up, there are a few that deserve special mention. Doug Douglas and Don Anthony have been out on Saturdays, Sundays, and weekdays clearing trail. Joe Stewart who has already done some rough grading between Hendersonville and Papp Road and to

(please see Trailblazers on page 2)



## MEETING SPANS MANY TOPICS

The last meeting of the Montour Trail Council saw 75 people attend on a cool rainy night in Cecil Township and listen to Phil Hodge tell his story about the Volunteer Bridge on the Illinois Prairie Path in Wheaton, Illinois.

For those of you not in attendance, the Volunteer Bridge was built by volunteers over one summer on weekends. The bridge replaced a structure that crossed several streets and the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Without the bridge, an unsafe detour had to be used by cyclists to get around the gap. Phil, a structural engineer by profession, got involved with the Illinois Prairie Path organization and became responsible for building the bridge.

Using volunteers, they refitted the piers from the old bridge which to support the replacement structure. Phil used the local Vo-Tech School to fabricate the bridge and, in turn, the students received welding certification.

The largest single expense in building the bridge was renting a crane to set the bridge. The steel, fencing, wood decking and materials were donated. About \$10,000 was used in replacing the 400 foot span.

Following up with a Montour Trail status report, Jack Swisher announced that on Saturday mornings, he is taking work parties out on the trail to help clear brush and trash. The work party gets together around 9:00 AM behind the Cecil Township Municipal Building next to Cecil Park on Route 50 and then carools to the work site. (See Trail Blazer on page 1)

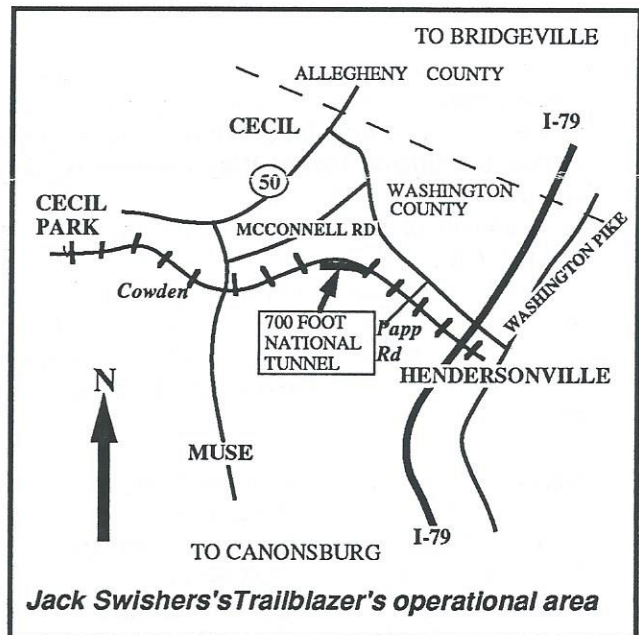
Tim Killmeyer reported that he and others have been posting signs along the Trail alerting persons to our ownership and that they can use the trail at their own risk. In Washington County, the signs indicate MTC's ownership and in Allegheny County, the signs indicate the County's ownership

Multiflora rose is a thick bush with intertwining branches and the nastiest of thorns. They were imported into the United States to plant as medial strips to keep cars from running into the opposite lane and to serve as a virtually impenetrable hedge.

*(Trailblazers continued from page 1)*

Tom Casciola who has done likewise in the Cowden Area. Rich Daniels has been out many days with his tractor clearing ties and Lou and Sandy Caley have been a great help with their brush hog. We cannot forget Don Berty, Cecil Township Trail Rep who is helping to move things along. These folks and the Trail Blazers can be proud of the trail they are building.

The Trail Blazing Committee is always looking for additional volunteers. If you are interested in helping,



work sessions are planned for the following Saturdays: May 16, 30, and June 6. A work session is not scheduled for May 23, Memorial Day weekend, but if you are interested in working that day give Jack Swisher a call. If enough people show interest in working that Saturday, then we will try and work. Also, if you would like to work on another day that is not scheduled, give Jack a call as we often have volunteers working on other days. Jack Swisher can be reached at 221 - 7708.

We meet at 9 AM behind the Cecil Township Municipal Building, rain or shine. We've found that we can work through most of the rainy and drizzly days, but a day-long downpour will drown out our work plans. We work on flex-time with some of the volunteers leaving early in the afternoon with others staying through the day. Everyone works at his or her own pace, schedule and ability, but this is manual work so you should be in reasonably good shape. Wear sturdy shoes, protective work clothes and gloves (beware the multiflora rose !!). Come out and help build the Trail that you will enjoy and be proud of for years to come.



### *Your MTC Officers, Directors and Chairs*

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<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	DINO ANGELICI
<b>SECRETARY</b>	PETER KOHNKE
<b>TREASURER</b>	JACK SWISHER

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TIM KILLMEYER  
ANDY POOLE  
STAN SATTINGER  
ARNIE SCHULBERG

#### **DIRECTORS, 1991 - 1993**

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TOM DOUGHERTY  
PETER KOHNKE  
BILL METZGER  
DAVE WRIGHT

#### **DIRECTORS, 1992-1994**

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<b>CORPORATE CONTACTS</b>	ANDY POOLE
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>	ARNIE SCHULBERG
<b>FUND DEVELOPMENT</b>	TOM DOUGHERTY
<b>GOVERNMENT LIAISON</b>	LARRY RIDENOUR
<b>GROUP CONTACTS</b>	TIM KILLMEYER
<b>LEGAL AFFAIRS</b>	DICK WILSON
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	JERRY AGIN
<b>PROGRAM</b>	DINO ANGELICI
<b>TRAIL DEVELOPMENT</b>	DAVE WRIGHT
<b>SPEAKER'S BUREAU</b>	BILL METZGER

#### **TRAIL AREA COORDINATORS**

**AIRPORT VICINITY**  
TIM KILLMEYER

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
JACK SWISHER

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENY COUNTY**  
MARSHALL FAUSOLD

## **STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Montour Trail Council is still looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- **Equipment operators** - people skilled in operating trucks and heavy equipment.
- **Welders/steel fabricators** - to assist in constructing security gates.
- **Insurance specialist/attorney** - someone knowledgeable in insurance or legal matters to analyze our insurance needs and contracts.
- **CPA's** - to provide audited financial statements for 1992
- **Silk screen sign makers** - people knowledgeable or interested in learning about sign making. Volunteers can work in their home at their convenience.

If you would like to volunteer or know someone with these skill who might be interested, **please call Jerry Agin at 343-1425.**

• **The Corporate Contact Committee** is looking for volunteers to help them with their work. Andy Poole would also like to have names of contacts at corporations which might be willing to donate money to the Trail.

Give Andy a call if you can be of assistance at 777-2636 at work or 563-3095 at home.

## **A PICNIC MEETING UPCOMING**

With advent of good weather, we will move the next bi-monthly meeting of the Montour Trail Council to the great outdoors of Cecil Park on Sunday, May 31, 1992 at 1:00 p.m. With the onset of construction upon us, we will celebrate this long-awaited event by holding a picnic. This will give our members a chance to see the trail before full scale construction commences and to see what Jack's Pack of Trailblazers have been doing. So bring your mountain bike, and if you do not have a mountain bike, bring your mountain hiking boots and explore the Trail so you can remember what it looked like on Saturday, October 3, 1992 when we hold the grand-opening!

Time is short, so call Dino Angelici with your RSVP's by Friday, May 22, 1992 if you plan to attend. Also tell Dino if you would like to bring some munchies along as well. You can reach Dino at 931 - 1403 during the day.

## **MAIL AND MORE CONTRIBUTES SERVICES**

This issue of the Trail-Letter comes to you through the courtesy of Mail and More of Carnegie, PA. Mr. Mark Addlespurger, the proprietor, has agreed to donate duplicating services. We have taken up his offer for producing our bi-monthly membership mailings and other services. The Montour Trail Council thanks Mail and More and Mr. Addlespurger for their support.

# MONTOUR TRAIL PRE-CONSTRUCTION PICNIC

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 31, 1992 from 1:00 p.m. to ???

**WHERE:** Cecil Township Park Pa Route 50 - Cecil, PA

A day of fun and excitement for the family.

Bring you bike or you can hike to see the Trail before it is built.

**RSVP BY FRIDAY MAY 22, 1992**

*MAP IS NOT TO SCALE*

