



# MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 15 Issue 1

January / February 2004

## For your consideration

Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18.

Mark Twain

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## MTC Web Address

Visit the Montour Trail web-site at:  
[www.montourtrail.org](http://www.montourtrail.org)

## Local Trails Featured in Landscape Thesis

We Trail volunteers know we are making progress when our efforts are reviewed (and praised) in a college master's thesis! It doesn't *seem* so long ago we were telling local citizenry what a Trail actually is ("You mean like where Indians used to walk?").

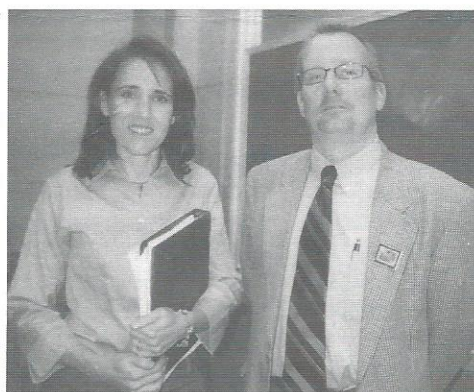
Gwen Wisniewski is a very busy wife and mother of four living in Mt. Lebanon who is currently finishing her studies as a candidate for Masters of Arts Degree in Landscape Studies at Chatham College in Pittsburgh. Her work, entitled (get a pencil!) "Western Pennsylvania Rail Trails: Setting the Standard for Excellence. A Study of the Montour and Regional Trail Councils," is well done and covers every facet of trail development.

Gwen made her well-attended Power Point slide presentation at the college on Friday, December 5, in spite of ominous snow forecasts for the evening that largely turned out to be true. Her study concentrates on the development of the Montour Trail and Youghiogheny River North Trail (YRT), along with discussing their governing bodies and the myriad problems they have overcome since their origins in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

These Trail efforts help spawn what will become the "Great Allegheny Passage" of seven component trails from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland, and from there to DC on the C&O Towpath, a national park. A coordinated effort indeed! Summarizing her written work, Gwen spoke admiringly of the diverse talents and dedication of the

volunteers who make these Trails a vital part of today's recreation opportunities.

Do we all know, for example, that a significant portion of Montour's income comes from volunteer hours (see notice on Page 8) and private contributions? A modest two percent of the federal gas tax dollars raised completes the reality of trail emergence along with other "transportation enhancements." Gwen referred as well to both early landowner objections that were answered and better acceptance by the Public Utility Commission of the public's enthusiasm for our "linear parks."



Gwen Wisniewski, Masters in Landscape Studies at Chatham College, poses with her mentor, Michael Leigh, acting department head, after defending her thesis.

The YRT employs a different approach to the MTC, and a forward-looking one at that. Much of its 70-mile length is "rail banked," which permits current recreational use along former rail corridors but preserves its land use should the need arise for re-employment of public transit.

In both Trail organizations, volunteers hold vital Trail events like

"Burgh's 10K Run," "IKEA Marathon" and "Trestlefest" on the Montour and "Youghtoberfest" on the YRT. Bolstered by their local Friends' groups, such events require considerable effort to organize, are fun, profitable and further trail efforts at "making connections," a consistent theme across the country among Trail advocates.

Our speaker was asked from the audience whether volunteers would be needed after the Trails are built. "Absolutely," she

(Continued on page 5)





## MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
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**MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER**  
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All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

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P.O. BOX 11866  
PITTSBURGH PA. 15228-0866

### MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS:

For information: 412-831-2030  
For administration and  
business: 412-257-3011  
Fax: 412-257-3016

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Newsletter<br>Editor   | Astrid Cook     |
| Circulation<br>Manager | Charlie Forquer |

## Trail Talk

*from the Editor's Desk*

### Where does the time go?

*In between household chores, family obligations, work duties and a myriad of other activities suddenly appears the holiday season. Whatever your religious affiliation, you cannot escape the frenetic pace that envelopes the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. It's no wonder keeping resolutions is so difficult: Who has the energy to devote to discipline after reaching the end of the marathon that the holiday season has become.*

*Yet January arrives just the same and a new year is before us. If you are like most people, you probably have some kind of plan for the coming year. Perhaps it is concrete (lose weight before your June wedding) or more vague (take a summertime vacation); it may be goal-oriented (find a new job) or life-changing (prepare for a new baby).*

*At the MTC our plan remains pretty much what it has been: to build a trail that will eventually stretch 55 miles and to continue to maintain it. It's a full-time job, for sure, and we appreciate your support (both financial and otherwise). We welcome you to join us at a friends' group or at our monthly meeting or at one of our many work parties or our various events we will schedule throughout the year.*

*Why not make the MTC part of your 2004 plans? You'll be working to help build the trail we all love. And if you can shed a few pounds while doing it, at least one resolution won't evaporate before month's end.*

*Happy Trails!*

*Astrid Cook*

### January 2004

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

### February 2004

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## Calendar of Events

Peters Friends Illuminated Trail Walk – Jan. 4

MTC Board Meeting – Jan. 19

MTC Board Meeting – Feb. 14

The Montour Trail Council is an *all volunteer* organization founded in 1989 to convert the abandoned Montour Railroad right of way and the abandoned Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a fifty-five mile recreational trail for non-motorized activity regardless of physical ability or financial wherewithal.



## Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - **6:00 pm** at 304 Hickman St., Suite 3, Bridgeville, PA. Turn right off of the Bridgeville exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go straight at next light and make left turn onto Hickman St. just after the Post Office. Call Peter at 412-854-1835 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **Cecil Events:**  
**Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **fourth Wednesday** of the month at **7:00 pm**. From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil-Henderson Road; other months meet at the MTC Offices, Call 412-257-2553 for more information. **Work & Clean-up party**, every **third Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. (Subject to change; check information boards.) Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more info.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Events:**  
**Friends of the Trail meeting**, the **Wednesday** before the second Saturday of the month at **7:00 pm.**, at the Forest Grove Fire Department. Anyone from the communities of Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 412-859-3020 for more information.  
**Work & Clean-up party**, every **second Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Call 412-262-3748 for more information and location.
- ♦ **Findlay/North Fayette Events:**  
**Friends of the Trail**, call Don at 724-899-3695 or Pete at 412-788-4136 for more information.  
**Work & Clean-up party**, every **fourth Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 412-788-4136 for more information.
- ♦ **Bethel Park Events:**  
**Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **first Tuesday** of the month at **7:30 pm** in the Bethel Park Municipal Building Council Chambers. Anyone interested in the Bethel Park Trail segment is encouraged to come. For Clifton Road Bridge Committee meetings, contact Peter Kohnke at 412-854-1835 for more information.  
**Work & Clean-up party**, every **second and fourth Saturday** of the month - **8:30 am**. Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.
- ♦ **South Hills Trailblazing:**  
**Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party**, last **Saturday** of every month. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, call Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692.
- ♦ **Fort Cherry Events:**  
**Friends of the Trail Meeting**, **first Wednesday** of the month at McDonald Borough Bldg., Council chambers at 7:00 pm. **Work & Clean-up parties**, scheduled as needed. For more information, contact John Wasko at 724-796-3781, or Joe Seibel at 724-693-2523.
- ♦ **Peters Township Events:**  
**Friends of the Trail Meeting**, **first Monday** of the month at Peters Township Parks and Recreation Community Room at 7:45 pm. For more information on **Work & Clean-up parties**, please contact Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at [mcimgrund@adelphia.net](mailto:mcimgrund@adelphia.net).

### *And the Prez sez...*

Well, this is my last letter to you as president of the Montour Trail Council. I have been president for three years, term limits have done their thing, and now it is time for me to pass on the presidency. Indeed, I will be off the board altogether also due to a different term limit on board members. However, my behavior will not change much. I still plan to go to all the meetings I usually go to, just that I will not be voting at or directing the board meetings. I have missed few board meetings since the inception of the MTC in 1989. I am one of those people loosely referred to as a trail geek. My wife refers to herself as a trail widow.

A lot of good things under my presidency. I could recount them (usually counted in terms of number of miles of trail opened), but that would imply that I was the key person to make them all happen. In reality, it has been a team effort, so it would be inappropriate for me to personally claim the credit.

During my "retirement," you'll find me working more closely on trail projects in the area. In addition to focusing on various things along the trail, I plan to put more energy in to the Clifton Road bridge. This project will take special work because it is not eligible for Enhancement funding as it is on a "branch." I will also be working in South Park and Peters Township.

That should keep me busy at least until I run for board membership in 2005.

*Peter Kohnke*

### Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the March / April Trail-Letter will be due no later than February 1, 2004



### IKEA Christmas Tree Sale:

80 volunteers worked at the Tree Sale at IKEA in Robinson Township Allegheny County December 4<sup>th</sup> thru December 7<sup>th</sup>. Our volunteers even worked through the snowstorm on Friday night. Led by Peter Mether, Saturday morning volunteers arrived early to dig out.

Again this year we had strong volunteer support from Montour HS Gate students and West Allegheny KEY Club Students. John Wasco, an MTC Board member, is our school volunteer co-coordinator and did a great job. We had several more volunteers this year because of an ad that was placed in the Western PA Field Institute Newsletter. Many of the volunteers worked several days of the sale (e.g. John Wasco, Jim Robbins, David Oyler and the Atkinson Family). Dave Oyler drove one hour each way and volunteered all four days of the event.

Jerry Bates rounded up a trail generator to facilitate the use of an electric chain saw for trimming which was a popular change to many of our volunteers. Dianne Forquer also volunteered every day and helped open the event several days.

The Cecil Friends, Peters Township Friends Moon Rob Friends, Fort Cherry Friends and South Park Friends groups all had volunteers working the event and did a great job.

Thanks to all of our hardy volunteers who braved the snow and cold!

Cutting and trimming trees raised approx. 2,500 dollars for the trail. Great job everybody in inclement weather conditions!

Congratulations to Jon Revtai of Montour HS, who won a birch Poang chair in the IKEA volunteer raffle.

*Jess Forquer /Tree sale Coordinator*

### Scouts Clean Future Montour Trail

On Saturday, November 23, Boy Scout Troop 284 of Mt. Lebanon entered the woods along a future segment of the Montour Trail to clean it up as much as possible in preparation for construction of the trail. Their work site paralleled Piney Fork Creek east of Triphammer Road.



Three hours later, they emerged, thoroughly coated in mud and wielding 163 tires of various sizes. It was a long but fun day, and everyone came out, if not clean, then at least feeling as though it had been a successful project and a day well spent. Boy Scout Karl Smith noted that in addition to the tires the accumulated trash pile included a bullet-riddled refrigerator, a "Watch Children" sign, two 6-foot long sections of steel culvert piping, and the usual bottles and cans.

Paul McKeown, the Montour Trail Council's volunteer coordinator for South Park, stated, "The Boy Scouts are one of the many groups of volunteers that have made significant contributions to help build our trail. We can always count on the Scouts to hold well-organized self-led work parties that always achieve their objective."

McKeown also thanked South Park Township for disposing of the trash collected and thanked the Carmen Paliotta Contracting Company, who permitted trail volunteers cross their property to access the Montour Trail property and cleared railroad ballast from a nearby concrete bridge in preparation for a structural inspection.

The scouts working on this project included Erik Ostergaard (Senior Patrol Leader), Karl J. Smith (Assistant Senior Patrol Leader), Brendan Higgins (Assistant Senior Patrol Leader), Bruce Conley-Reifer, Case Jones, David Madison, Zachary Bronder, Aaron Kaplan and Mark Topoleski.

### Join the Fun! It's a Twilight Trail Walk

Celebrate winter on Arrowhead Trail and help raise some buck\$ for new and future Montour Trail connections in Peters Township. Come to Scones & Cones on Valleybrook Rd. on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, from 5—7 p.m., pay \$3 admission per person (children under 4 and pets are free) and see and experience the trail in its *Luminaria* lights.

Your \$3 donation gets you a glow necklace to light your way and show you care; hot drinks and treats compliments of Scones & Cones; entry into a raffle for numerous prizes; a chance to enjoy the talents of participating musicians; and, of course, good fellowship and a night "on the town."

So, bring your family and friends and join sponsors Scones & Cones, Subway on Valleybrook Road, and Friends of the Montour Trail in Peters Twp.

*Mark Imgrund*



## Welcome New Members

*The Montour Trail Council would like to welcome these new members and thank them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members who have renewed their membership and remind all that a growing membership is one of the criteria foundations look for when we apply for*

### NEW MEMBERS

Christian Ackermann  
Awim Management Inc.  
Carol Bonnar  
Byron & MaryAnne Crampton  
Deloitte Consulting  
Cheryl Delong  
Mary Kay Doktorski  
Michelle Ehmann  
James & Diane Fischer  
David A. Fisher, Sr.  
Robert Franklin  
Harmony Trails Council  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hemphill  
Elmer & Mary Jane Hoff  
Daniel E. Horn  
M.G. Ireland  
State Rep. Nick Kotik  
Andy Lizanish  
Jeff Lloyd  
Ann P. Madarasz  
Eugene B. Maddex  
Richard Margerum  
Walter & Eva Mastropaolo  
Sarah McConnell  
May Moticko  
Jody Mullens  
Roger & Mary Murvin  
Sylvia O'Donovan

John E. & Ret T. Okeefe Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Pangeris  
Helen & John Patterson  
Jim Popp  
Jim Quasey  
Matt Riel  
Mary Rosick  
Laura Schultz  
Bradley Keith Shoff  
Raymond C. Sisak  
Unlimited PMCompanies  
Charles L. Werme  
Ronald P. Wittig  
Michael Yerkins & Family  
Aniceta & Joseph Zamborsky

### BENEFACTORS

David & Carol Eibling  
Robert Randolph

### LEADER'S CIRCLE

Blaine F. Aikin & Family  
Daniel E. Horn  
Jim Quasey  
Peter Stangert

*Membership Co-Chairs - Stefni and Jerry Agin*

### Local Trails Praised in Graduate Study

*(Continued from page 1)*

replied, "the more Trails are used, the more skilled the volunteers will become. Teachers will use the trails even more for outdoor classroom to study plant life and geologic formations because students can stand on the trail without fear of being hit by cars or trucks. Landscape designers and community planners generally will want to build on the values trails offer." A landscape designer herself, she also sees Trail Board and Friends' groups leadership continuing to be of great value in coordinating these efforts.

Mrs. Wisniewski is pleased as well with the many beautifying efforts she sees along the trail already. For her part, she is looking forward to "getting in her own digs" next year. We welcome volunteers wherever we find them.

*John Hooton*

## Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Please 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.
- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT / SENIORS | \$15       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL        | \$25       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY            | \$35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING        | \$50       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING        | \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR        | \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEADERS CIRCLE    | \$500 + up |
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council. (Membership is tax deductible)
- ☐ I wish to make an additional 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 (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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 tollfree, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:  
**MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL**  
P.O. BOX 11866  
PITTSBURGH PA. 15228-0866

**DON'T FORGET!** The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your **United Way Contributor Choice option #3308, or Combined Federal Campaign Contributor Choice option #9308, where you work.**



## Construction Report: Stewart Road Bridge Demolished; Panhandle Extended

For four days beginning Tuesday, November 11th, our contractor removed the unused railroad span over Stewart Road in South Park Township. PennDOT had determined the overhead clearance was too low for today's roadway standards.



The Montour Railroad had sold-off a mile of corridor west of Stewart Road to what is now Consol, Inc. before we purchased the remaining railroad in 1991. The corridor between Stewart Road and Wood Street was developed as South Park Mini-Storage. This property is not available for us to extend the trail westward.

Unable to use the bridge, we constructed a ramp down to Stewart Road and a small parking area. We agreed to remove the span, and PennDOT agreed to erect signs to close the road and detour traffic. PennDOT's contractor plans to remove the east abutment this spring. PennDOT will allow the west abutment to remain because it is located on private property and does not block traffic sight distance along the road.



the span. These funds were to expire at the end of 2003. Construction experts at Allegheny County predicted we would need more money. However, Ace Demolition, Inc., of North Versailles, submitted the low bid of \$7,000.00, and RAD has agreed to transfer the extra \$3,000 to help pay for paving the Large to Clairton section.



Ace Demolition owner Sol Gross has had many years of experience salvaging bridges, steel mills and railroads. He purchased 25 miles of railroad along the Ohio River from Benwood through

Wheeling to Wellsburg, WV. He sold part for development of the trail from Benwood to Pike Island Dam. Leases just expired on a remaining part of his corridor between a point ½ mile north of Short Creek and extending 1.4 miles north. He is now offering it to the Brooke Pioneer Trail Association.



We offer special thanks to John Fail and Gina D'Alfonso of PennDOT, Verizon for relocating its line, and to Sol Gross for a job well done. We also thank John Pirain of South Park Mini-Storage for allowing our contractor access

through his property.

The Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD), through the Allegheny Land Trust, approved \$10,000 to remove

*Dave Wright*

## Panhandle Trail Extended to Center of McDonald

In late October 2003, an additional 0.6 miles of the Panhandle Trail was constructed between Laurel Hill Road and Route 980 in McDonald Borough. Trail users may now go 7.2 continuous miles from Walkers Mill Road to the main business district in McDonald. The 6.7 miles in Allegheny County traverse Collier, North Fayette and South Fayette Townships, and Oakdale and the eastern edge of McDonald Borough. The 0.4 miles in Washington County are all within McDonald Borough.

Under the leadership of its President, Ned Williams, the Panhandle Trail Association obtained funding through State Senator Tim Murphy, now a U.S. Congressman. PA Department of Community and Economic Development provided \$15,000, which was used to purchase trail surfacing material from Allegheny County and transport it to McDonald, in Washington County.

Tim Thomassy, of the McDonald Area Redevelopment Association (MARA), obtained approvals and coordinated construction. Washington County approved constructing trail on its property. Robinson Township, Cecil Township, McDonald Borough, Mt. Pleasant Township, and the Washington County Parks and Recreation Department all provided workers and equipment to construct the trail. Robinson Supervisor Gerald Runtas ran the crew that spread a layer of coarse base material, followed by a layer of fine surface reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP). After the sun heats the ground this coming spring, the RAP is expected to solidify somewhat into a hard, smooth surface.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## Construction Report: Panhandle Extended, cont.

*(Continued from page 6)*

Allegheny County Public Works Department had stockpiled about 3,500 tons of coarse RAP material in the 1100-foot section between Laurel Hill Road and the Washington County line. Allegheny County's road milling contractor recently delivered an additional fine RAP material from Campbell's Run Road in Robinson Township.

The trail now reaches the front door of the new Trail Station and Meeting House, a community center in McDonald. MARA leaders raised the funds to acquire and rehabilitate the building, formerly Kio's Tavern. With several months of hard work and construction skills from many volunteers, the building opened this June for community functions. A weekly farmers' market drew crowds seeking fresh produce all summer.

On Saturday October 25th, warm and sunny weather drew crowds to a second-hand sale at the Trail Station. A steady stream of walkers and bicyclists came and went on the brand-new trail nearby. A historical display area is open, and an ice cream and sandwich shop is planned.

Further extension another 0.9 miles to the existing half-mile to the Montour Trail's McDonald Viaduct is planned in a year, after the Midway Sewer Authority completes its sanitary line and service connections. Washington County installed the half-mile limestone trail from there to Noblestown Road in 1999.

The trail follows the former Panhandle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad along Robinson Run and Harmon Creek between Walker's Mill and Weirton, WV. Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) donated the 29-mile corridor to Allegheny County and Washington County PA and the West Virginia Railroad Authority in 1999.

In the late 1990s, John McCreight, a Washington PA lawyer and President of the National Pike Trail Council, had persistently reapplied to the federal government for railbanking - every six months, for three years! - after Conrail had filed its abandonment notice. The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted Conrail's donation offer after Scott Fergus was appointed as Commissioner, to replace Joe Ford who had resigned. The transaction took place a few weeks before Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation took over Conrail's portions of the former Pennsylvania Railroad.

Land acquired by railroad companies as rights-of-way may revert back to the original or adjacent owners upon abandonment, depending upon the circumstances. Under railbanking, however, the railroad corridor ownership is preserved. Instead of being abandoned, the corridor is held for interim trail use until the railroad reacquires the property and reinstalls its track.

A class action lawsuit is now proceeding against the United States government for claims by adjacent property owners along the Panhandle Trail. However, except for providing our files for copying, we do not expect to be involved in the suit.

Conrail also donated \$100,000 to Washington County for accepting responsibility for its bridges over roads. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission usually orders the removal of such bridges that are considered by the road owners to be safety hazards. However, Washington County obtained agreements with PennDOT and the municipalities owning the roads to keep all seven bridges in place. The only major expense for Washington County will be designing and constructing road to bypass the stone and concrete arch bridge over Hanlin Station Road in Jefferson Township. After obtaining approval to use federal Transportation Enhancement Funding, Washington County recently engaged EADS Engineering, of Somerset, PA as its trail design consultant. Its sub-consultant, RBA Group of Mechanicsburg, has extensive experience in designing rail-trails along the east coast.

The Panhandle Trail Association was started in West Virginia to develop a trail on the track removed between Burgettstown and Colliers, WV. The Weirton Park Board completed surfacing 4 miles of trail between the Pennsylvania state line and the Harmon Creek interchange of SR 22. A bridge over Harmon Creek will be needed to extend the trail into the center of Weirton. A brochure showing road connections into Ohio for bicyclists is available from the Tri-State Trail Association, [www.tristatetrail.org](http://www.tristatetrail.org).

We offer special thanks to Congressman Tim Murphy, the Washington County Commissioners, Tim Thomassy and Ned Williams, the elected officials and workers from Mt. Pleasant, Cecil and Robinson Townships and McDonald Borough, Lisa Cessna of the Washington County Planning Commission, and Tom Donatelli and Bernie Rossman of Allegheny County Public Works Department.

## ARAD Grants Money for Trail Development

The following projects have been approved for the Allegheny Regional Asset District (ARAD) 2004 Budget year:

- \$35,000 Montour Trail Bridge rehabilitation
- \$35,000 Steel Valley Trail Construction
- \$20,000 Youghiogheny Trail retaining walls
- \$10,000 Harmony Trail construction

Funds are allocated for work through 2005. We thank ARAD for its support of the Rails-to-Trails coalition.



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL  
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## Are You a "They"?

If you are one of the many volunteers who have worked for us this past year (you jumped in when you thought, "Why don't *they* do something about this?"), we need your help.

Judy Thompson is trying to tally all the volunteer hours for our annual audit. This is very important and valuable information. Our volunteer hours are part of our worth. We recommend keeping track of hours all year long, but even if you only have a best "guestimate," please let Judy know (412-922-1702).

Also, if you could write down a brief (or lengthy) description of all the jobs you do with the MTC and e-mail it to Astrid Cook, it would be appreciated ([newsletter@montourtrail.org](mailto:newsletter@montourtrail.org)), as we need to put together a list of all volunteer tasks. We thank you for your help!

