



The Official Publication of the Montour Trail Council

MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 26 Issue 1

January-february 2015

In Memoriam



Mr. Fixit is now watching our progress from above along with several other Montour Trail Council members. See pages 4 and 5 for a tribute to Frank Ludwin.

Bridge Updates



Library Viaduct - Tom Prezel

Thornbury has drilled the holes for the railing supports for the entire deck. Railing installation started during the period, but had to be suspended because of paint adherence problems. All of the overhang decking used during the deck construction has been removed and the final posts installed.

The Library Viaduct is beginning to look like a trail bridge, except for the railings that have been replaced temporarily by wood until the steel railings can be re-painted and returned. The protective fencing over Route 88 and the Light Rail Line are also visible signs of a trail bridge as well as the sign!



VB #2 - Mark Imgrund

At press time, an estimated three days of work remains to be done by contractor Marricco Construction on the Valley Brook Bridge #2 project on abutment one. Since some of this work requires temperatures considerably above the daily high temps we were experiencing, the current plan is to wait until work resumes in early spring to complete it.

Once this bit of work is completed, both bridge abutments will be essentially complete. The four-girder, 170-ft. span bridge is being fabricated over the winter for delivery in warmer weather. Once work recommences in spring, utility relocation, and erecting the superstructure onto the abutments will be among the first tasks.

Inside this issue:

Valley Brook Bridge and Library Viaduct Updates	1
Jefferson Hills Property	
Prez Sez	2
Photo Winner	3
A Frank Ludwin Tribute	4
Montour Memories: Hendersonville	6
New Members /Memorials	7
25th Annual Meeting	8

Property Donation in Jefferson Hills Borough by David Oyler

On December 29, 2014 the Montour Trail Council closed on the donation of the 2.7 acre Dowling property along the trail in Jefferson Hills Borough. The property fronts along 600 feet of existing trail near milepost 40.5, between Snowden and Gill Hall Roads and varies in depth from 150 to 200 feet between Piney Fork Road and Peters Creek. The property is wooded except for a grass covered gas line right of way running north south at the northeastern end of the property.



Photo of the Dowling property. The view is to the southwest along the frontage of the 2.7 acre Dowling property on Piney Fork Road. The sign at the far right is near the southwestern end of the property. The grassy area is a mowed pipeline right of way.

The property, originally a parcel owned by Martin Dowling, was donated by the current owners, Patricia Dowling Shaffer, Michelle Dowling Fitterer (from left to right in the photo on page 3 along with Guy Reschenthaler and Montour Trail Council President Dennis Pfeiffer) and Dennis M. Dowling (not shown in the photo).

The property was originally placed on the market in 2009 and the South Hills Friends were immediately interested in its potential as a camping site. However the asking price was beyond the budget of the MTC at that time and eventually the property went off the market without a buyer.

Then on July 8, 2014 Guy Reschenthaler visited the South Hills Friends with a desire to begin working to improve the Montour Trail and the Peters Creek Valley in Jefferson Hills Borough. **continues on page 3.**

Visit the Montour Trail Web Site at:
www.montourtrail.org

To Converse, join the Yahoo Group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Montour-Trail/info> or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43518292159>



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ned Williams	President
Tom Prezel	Vice President
Deb Esia	Treasurer
Phyllis McChesney	Secretary
<i>Deb Esia</i>	<i>2013-2015</i>
<i>Denis Kane</i>	<i>2013-2015</i>
<i>Tim Killmeyer</i>	<i>2013-2015</i>
<i>Gil McGurl</i>	<i>2013-2015</i>
<i>Don Thobaben</i>	<i>2013-2015</i>
<i>Dino Angelici</i>	<i>2014-2016</i>
<i>Bill Capp</i>	<i>2014-2016</i>
<i>Eric Chipps</i>	<i>2014-2016</i>
<i>Phyllis McChesney</i>	<i>2014-2016</i>
<i>Dave Oylar</i>	<i>2014-2016</i>
<i>Tom Prezel</i>	<i>2014-2016</i>
<i>Jan Carey</i>	<i>2015-2017</i>
<i>Mark Imgrund</i>	<i>2015-2017</i>
<i>Dave Borrebach</i>	<i>2015-2017</i>
<i>Peter Kohnke</i>	<i>2015-2017</i>
<i>Ned Williams</i>	<i>2015-2017</i>

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

is published bi-monthly January through December. All

Trail-letter correspondence should be addressed to:

MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Suite 3 2nd Floor

304 Hickman Street

Bridgeville, PA 15017

Or E-mail to:

newsletter@montourtrail.org

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

Suite #3 2nd Floor

304 Hickman Street

Bridgeville, PA 15017

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

PHONE NUMBER 412-257-3011

Administrative Manager

Phyllis McChesney

MTCoOffice@montourtrail.org

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM

Dennis Sims, managing editor

Troy Bogdan
Mark Imgrund

Tim Killmeyer
Dennis Pfeiffer

Prez says:

I extend greetings to the members, friends and supporters of the Montour Trail. We are very appreciative of your support of the Montour Trail. Please email or call us directly with your questions suggestions on improving the trail at MTCoOffice@montourtrail.org or 412-257-3011.

Sadly one of our most dedicated volunteers, Frank Ludwin passed away on Saturday, December 20, 2014. Frank will be greatly missed by all of us. Please see article on Frank Ludwin on pages 4 and 5.

This Prez says article ends my third stint as head of this great organization as president. It has been a pleasure working with such a talented group of board members and other MTC volunteers. It is just amazing how so many individuals dedicate so many hours into making the Montour Trail Council a very successful organization and the Montour Trail one of the best in the country. We are all very proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continuing activities to constantly improve the experience for the estimated 400,000 yearly users of our beloved Montour Trail.

The MTC had a very successful well attended 25th year anniversary in November at St. Joan of Arc's hall in Library, PA. **For anyone of you interested we can send you the 25 year history document prepared for that event.** Our first president Stan Sattinger had put the first 20 years of history together so adding the last five years was not too difficult. I recently complemented Stan on leading the way in establishing the framework in 1989 for this very successful organization.

There was some discussion at the anniversary dinner about the history and terms of all the previous MTC presidents. I did some research and present the following presidents and their terms.

Montour Trail Council - Founded November 27, 1989 - Presidents History

PRESIDENT	FROM	TO
Stan Sattinger	December, 1989	December, 1993
Jack Swisher	January, 1994	November, 1994
Marshal Fausold	December, 1994	December, 1997
Dick Quasey	January, 1998	December, 1999
Dennis Pfeiffer	January, 2000	December, 2000
Peter Kohnke	January, 2001	December, 2003
Dennis Pfeiffer	January, 2004	December, 2006
Mark Imgrund	January, 2007	December, 2009
Ned Williams	January, 2010	December, 2012
Dennis Pfeiffer	January, 2013	December, 2014

We are looking forward to an exciting 2015 when the MTC will be building a bridge over Valley Brook Road and the re-hab of the Library Viaduct will be completed. Also we just received some exciting news from Penndot. On February 12, Penndot will start their project to realign PA Routes 50 & 980. As part of their project Penndot will be building a new trail bridge over the new intersection. Great news!

Please welcome our new president, Ned Williams who was elected at the January 19 board meeting.

Happy Trails
Dennis Pfeiffer, President

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

MTC Board Meeting:

Every third Monday of the month - 6:00 p.m. 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 Dennis at 412-262-3748 for more information or to get on the agenda.

Airport Area Friends: (MP 0 to MP 12.6 and the 6.3 mile

Airport Connector) The Airport Area Friends of the Trail meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Forest Grove Fire Hall, 2044 Ewings Mill Road, Robinson Township, PA 15108. New volunteers are always welcomed. Contact Phyllis McChesney at 412-264-6303 for more information. Numerous Saturday "work parties" are held during the season. Please call 412-262-3748 to lend a hand at the work parties.

Fort Cherry Friends: (MP 12.6 to MP 20.7)

Friends of the Trail meeting: Second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the McDonald Trail Station, 160 S. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057 (adjacent to the Panhandle Trail). Work and cleanup parties will be scheduled as needed. For more information contact Tim Thomassy, 724-926-4617 or Chuck Hughey, 724-926-9436.

Cecil Friends: (MP 20.7 to MP 28.5)

Friends of the Trail meeting, every fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil Henderson Road; other months (with the exception of November and December) meet at the MTC Offices. Work and cleanup parties are scheduled as needed. Call 412-496-4308 for more information, or email densimwx@comcast.net

Peters Township Friends: (MP 28.5 to 30.4, Library Jct to near MP 35 and part of the Bethel Branch)

Friends of the Trail Meeting, first non-holiday Monday of the month at Peters Township Community Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. For more information on work and cleanup parties, please contact Jim Robbins at 724-941-6132, or for monthly meetings, Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at markimgrund@gmail.com

Bethel Park Friends: (The 2.75 mile Bethel Branch and a short piece of main line trail around MP 35). Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel Park Municipal Building Council Chambers. Anyone interested in the Bethel Park Trail segment is encouraged to come. Work and cleanup party, every second and fourth Saturday of the month - 8:30 a.m. Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.

South Hills Friends: (MP 35.4 to 46.3)

Meeting second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at South Park Township Community Room, located behind the Township Building at 2675 Brownsville Road, South Park, 15129. Work and cleanup parties scheduled and advertised as needed. For more information, contact David Oyler at 412-831-9288, davidoyler@verizon.net, or Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692, mckeownp@comcast.net

The Montour Railroad Historical Society:

For more information send email to mrhs@montourrr.com.

Property Donation continued from page 1

The day after the meeting he emailed Friends President Paul McKeown and Secretary Dave Oyler with a proposal to donate the 2.7 acre property to the South Hills Friends. The MTC Engineering and Construction Committee recommended to the Trail Council Board to pursue the donation and at its July meeting the Board accepted the donation in principle, subject to determination of the actual costs.

In August, MTC volunteers Ned Williams and Dave Oyler met with sisters and co-owners of the property Michelle Fitterer and Patricia Shaffer and with Guy Reschenthaler. The sisters showed themselves to be avid hikers, cyclists and kayakers and fans of the Montour Trail and the Great Allegheny Passage. They were also excited about being able to donate the property to the Montour Trail Council. During the conversation Guy Reschenthaler offered to have the law firm he worked for handle the transaction.

The property will primarily serve to provide green space along Peters Creek. The Montour Trail Council may also develop the property in the future as a primitive campsite for long distance

travelers. The Montour Trail currently has campsites at the Kurnick trailhead (MP25.5) and at the Boggs trailhead (MP11.4).



From left to right Patricia Dowling Shaffer, Michelle Dowling Fitterer, Guy Reschenthaler and Montour Trail Council President Dennis Pfeiffer.

The Montour Trail Council would like to thank Guy Reschenthaler for facilitating the donation and especially the Dowling family,

Michelle, Patricia and Dennis for their generous donation. The MTC believes it will be appreciated and enjoyed by generations of trail users.

Photo Contest Winner - A Berry Nice Trail



Bob O'Connell is this issue's winner with his photograph from the Bethel Branch of the Montour Trail.

Mr. Fixit, Frank Ludwin 1933-2014 by Dennis Sims



The Montour Trail lost a giant on December 20. Frank "Skip" Ludwin was an active volunteer with the Trail who had vast knowledge of construction and its related equipment. He had many connections with community officials. He was willing to share that knowledge with many trail members and those results are visible to the trail community every day.

I remember my first meeting with Frank at a Cecil Friends Meeting at the Cecil American Legion. Don Berty introduced him to the Friends stating that he can do just about anything; he can weld and he can operate construction equipment. Frank said to call him if we needed his tools or equipment to get something done. Shortly after the meeting, Don had him on the trail with his backhoe fixing a private farm crossing.

When Frank wasn't out welding or building trash compactors, he would spend time on the trail. Using the trail and his equipment, I thought Frank was a kid again playing with his Tonka trucks in a sand box. (He would be awarded a Tonka dump truck at the 2011 Annual Meeting). He shared his backhoe and dump truck early in his trail career. He spent nearly two weeks prior to the first Burgh 10K preparing and resurfacing the trail between Cecil Park and the National Tunnel with help from many volunteers. We used his dump truck and his spreader box to spread the crushed limestone. Over the years he would lead the charge on resurfacing the trail where needed. He would go anywhere on the trail, South Park, Bethel Park, Cecil, Mount Pleasant and the Airport area. Eventually the Trail would get its own fleet of dump trucks, tractors and equipment for trail maintenance.



Frank had two primary volunteers that he could count on, Bill Capp and John Kozak seen (left) below sharing a lunch break while place decorative stone barriers at the McConnell Parking area in August of 2014.

Frank used his construction and building skills to lead the construction of the trail garage at the Kurnick Trailhead. The only non-volunteer portion of the job was the concrete floor. He built a scaffold that fit on his fork-lift that volunteers could work from when erecting the pieces (above right). He did the wiring and with volunteer help



installed the garage doors.

The week before his passing he was installing new drains in the vicinity of Enlow. (right). He was looking forward to constructing the connector to Southpointe and possibly completing the Muse Branch.



Frank was a great fabricator. He had a shop at his farm house on Grange Road. If he needed something, he built it. He constructed a box to spread asphalt millings that was mounted on the front of the grader. The millings were used as base before the limestone was placed. He built a drag and roller combination that could be attached to the 3520 John Deere tractor. This item was so popular, he built two for the Youghiogheny River Trail.



As stated, Frank could do just about anything. One thing he enjoyed was cooking. He served as the hot dog chef for the Cecil Friends Trails Fun Dog Walk (left). He also would cook at the Cecil Indian Summer Festival (right). Seen here hooping it up with another of his construction partners, the late Hoyt Hall during a break. His white apron and chefs hat was a trademark.





Frank was the leader on several major projects on the original section of the Montour Trail in Cecil. He saw the National Tunnel receive a paved surface in 2008. He was so excited that he bought a bike so he could be the first to ride on the paved surface (left). A few years later, lights were installed to lead trail users safely through the tunnel. Frank poses with Doug Ettinger and John Kozak installing one of the lamps (right). And after years of rebuilding the ramp each spring to Cecil Park, the Cecil Friends bought the asphalt and he had Cecil Department of Public Works put it down (below left). With Mr. Fixit's input, MTC purchased a third John Deer (3520) Tractor with a drag behind mower to tackle those trailside banks safely. Here is Frank taking the tractor out on its initial run (below right).



Besides his construction volunteerism, he was a trail board member, vice-president of the Cecil Friends and served on the MTC Engineering and Construction committee. You have heard the saying burning a candle on both ends as an analogy for a busy person, Frank's candle was a cube with a wick on each face. Frank was a Cecil Township Supervisor and served as the township roadmaster. He was a member of Cecil American Legion Post 793, where he was the Judge Advocate and member of the Honor Guard. He was also a long-time member of the Venice Grange. As a tribute, the Cecil Township Board of Supervisors voted to name the Southpointe Connector the Frank Ludwin Memorial Trail.

Surviving are his wife Rose Lauff Ludwin, three daughters, Cindy Emrick of Aliquippa, Tina Ludwin of Venice, and Lori (Randy) Atkins of Baden. Five grandchildren Michele Ludwin of Aliquippa, Ann Hopkins of Hopewell, Heather Curtis of Midland, and Rachelle and Trevor Atkins both of Baden. 12 great-grandchildren, Brian and Shawn Reisker, Kaila and Krista Green, Seth Danish, Mariah and Bella Johnston, Kameron Ludwin, and Alex, Connor, Taylor, and Emma Curtis. two sisters Judy Bowser of Montour, Cecil Twp., Janice (Karol) Gibbs of Venice, and a brother Lee (Mary Lou) Ludwin of Castle Shannon.

He was preceded in death by three sons, a baby boy Ludwin, Brian K., and Gary W. Ludwin and three brothers, Chuck, David, and Douglas Ludwin.

Interment was in the Sylvania Hills Memorial Park, Rochester, PA with full military honors.

Frank you will be deeply missed.



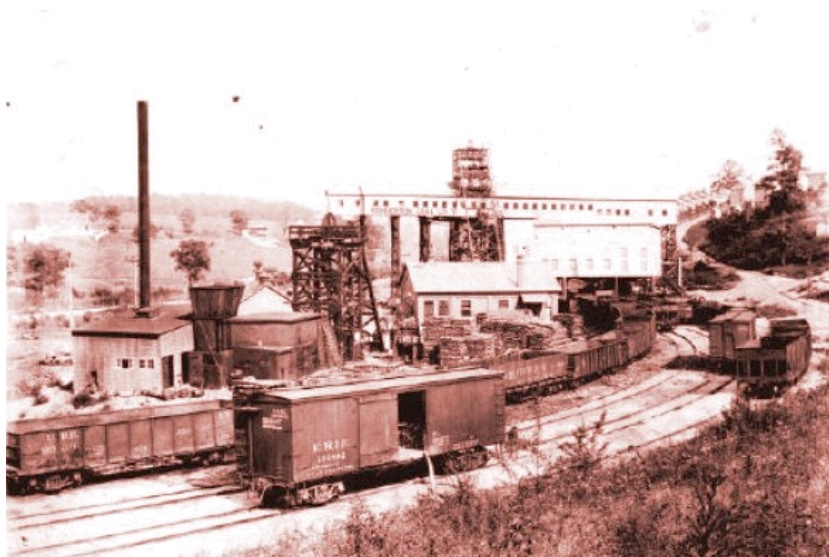
Frank's signature approving the concrete floor of the trail garage.

MONTOUR RAILROAD HISTORY

Montour Memories of Hendersonville**By Pam (Mack) Nixon - Montour Railroad Historical Society**

Local historian and genealogist Pam (Mack) Nixon is a Westland resident and Montour Trail patron. She relates some past memories of the Montour Railroad.

One morning, I stepped outside to get the paper out of the paper box and felt the cold air. As I turned to go back in the house, I caught the smell of burning coal in the air, probably from someone's stove in the neighborhood. That smell is very comforting to me. It reminds me of my grandmother's house in Hendersonville. She had a coal furnace for years and even after she had a new gas furnace installed, the smell of coal still permeated her house when you walked in from outside. As I took a deep breath, I thought to myself that burning coal is a smell that today's generation would probably not recognize.



Henderson Mine ca. 1915. The tippie buildings sit on the current site of the Hendersonville Park ball field and McPherson picnic pavilion. The Montour main line, now trail, runs behind the buildings just above roof level of the powerhouse on the left. Photo courtesy Pam (Mack) Nixon.

My grandmother was Florence Mack, a coal miner's daughter and a coal miner's wife. My grandfather, Matthew Mack was the hoist engineer at the Henderson tippie. They were fortunate to obtain one of the single family patch homes on the top of the hill in Hendersonville when they married in 1919. They raised their family and lived the rest of their lives in that four room house.

By the time I was old enough to have memories, the coal mine at Hendersonville had been long closed and the rusting hulk of the tippie and the gob piles were all that remained. But the coal trains of the Montour still ran through Hendersonville every day and night, carrying hoppers full of coal out of Montour #4 and bringing the empties back through.

We visited my grandmother every Saturday afternoon. It was just a part of the day, chores in the morning and then the trip to Granny's house. Since her house was at the top of the hill, her back porch overlooked the entire valley. As children, my sisters and I would entertain ourselves by sitting out on that back porch with my grandfather's binoculars watching the sheep on McPherson's farm on the opposite side of the valley. It was always exciting though, when we got to see

a coal train coming through on the Montour. It would have as many as three engines on the front and we would make a game of counting out loud the number of coal cars going by. But what we really waited for was to see the caboose. We would jump up and down, waving our hands, and hollering as loud as we could, trying to get the attention of the men on the caboose. Sometimes they would notice us and wave back. It was always a good afternoon when we got a wave back.

When I was twelve, I spent the summer at Granny's house. After chores in the morning, I would look for ways to entertain myself while Granny watched her afternoon soap operas. I would curl up on the glider on the back porch, reading the afternoon away, but I would always stop to watch the coal trains rumble by. There was something almost musical about the sounds of those trains; the crescendo of those diesel engines gearing up or down depending on which way they were traveling and then the rhythmic click-clack of the hopper car wheels as they traveled over the rails and finally the fade as the train whistle would sound at the road crossing off in the distance.

The trains ran through the night, too, sometimes as many as four. Even though they were miles off, the sound of those Montour trains working uphill would wake me and just as I was able to get back to sleep, another one would come rolling through. Eventually, I got used to the sound of the coal trains and I was able to lull myself back to sleep by the hum of those diesels going over the track. When I finally went back home at the end of summer, I had a hard time sleeping again because it was too quiet at night.

To this day, I still like to watch and hear trains. I now walk the Montour Trail quite frequently on the stretch from Venice to Southview and Westland and I've often thought about the tons and tons of coal that the Montour moved along the path I now walk. What a flood of comforting memories from just a whiff of burning coal on a cold crisp morning.

You can contact the Montour Railroad Yahoo group at http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/montour_rr/ There are currently 340 members from across the country. You are encouraged to join. There is a wealth of information about the Montour Railroad at this location and you can pose questions of its membership, from whom you are sure to get an answer. There is also much information at <http://www.montourrr.com>

Welcome New Members

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

Members

Vivekanand Allada
 Alan & Elaine Axelson
 Stephen Bowles
 Kevin Cleary
 Cathy & Jeffrey Finch
 Judy Floy
 Audrey Gallagher
 Stephen Halligan
 Jim & Wendy Homerosky
 Brian Kelly
 Douglas T. Laderer
 Andrew Levine
 Richard Meder
 Gary & Barbara Molinaro
 Jerry Pearl
 Michael Pellow
 John Phillips
 Paul Rey
 Christopher & Candace Seymour
 Chad Thompson
 Terri Thompson
 Witold Walczak

Benefactors

Don & Catherine Augenstein
 Christopher Basar
 Cathy & Jeffrey Finch
 Janet & Gordon Jackson
 Iris & Jerry Liberatore
 Richard J. Munsch
 Siddharth & Andrea Pant
 Christopher & Candace Seymour

Leaders

Kenneth Christman
 Laura & Gary Graf
 Jim & Wendy Homerosky
 Anton Knaus
 Louis & Vida Komer
 Richard Meder
 Dr. Wayne & Cynthia Pfrimmer
 Robert Purdy
 Jay & Judy Shock & Family
 Roy Weil & Mary Shaw

In Memory of Jan Miknevich

By Paul Rey

In Memory of Frank Ludwin by

Bernard Halpin
 Dave Borrebach & Margaret Kinsky
 Rene Saut & T. Mille
 John & Carol Farkas
 Mark & Helen Hall

Marion Nagoda
 Code Consulting, Inc.
 Cecil VFC #3
 Controlled Climate Systems, Inc.
 Karen & Tim Cassidy

Annual Meeting continued from page 8

Board Secretary Phyllis McChesney received a Trailblazer Award for her seemingly tireless and long-term effort dealing with all of the MTC's administrative needs. As a 100% volunteer organization, the MTC couldn't function without Phyllis' calming influence and her highly efficient management of items and issues large and small. .

Befitting the fact that we were meeting just 150 yards from the Library Viaduct and just a couple of miles from the site of the Valley Brook Bridge #2, project managers Tom Prezel and Mark Imgrund gave summaries of work in progress. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, both projects are on target for 2015 completion.

Wine for the happy hour was provided by vintner extraordinaire Mary Williams to accompany the delicious buffet by Sisters Catering. Many thanks go to Father Phillip Pribonic, event organizer Dave Oyler, Phyllis McChesney, Ned Williams, Dennis Pfeiffer, and emcee Dave Borrebach who along with others spent many hours preparing for a great event.

I want to help complete the Montour Trail!

I want to join the Montour Trail Council at this level:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior	\$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"/> Leader's Circle	\$500+

Make checks payable to the "Montour Trail Council"

Send me the newsletter by email ☐ mail ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Day) _____

Phone (Evening) _____

Email _____

Mail to:

Montour Trail Council
 Suite #3 2nd Floor
 304 Hickman Street
 Bridgeville, PA 15017

The Montour Trail Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax-deductible. You may also be eligible for matching funds from your employer. A copy of the Montour Trail Council's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling (toll-free within Pennsylvania) 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Don't Forget

The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your United Way Contributor Choice as option #3308.



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
Suite #3 2nd Floor
304 Hickman Street
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 2524

The 25th Annual MTC Meeting

Over 100 Montour Trail Council supporters and friends celebrated our 25th anniversary at the Annual Dinner on November 16 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Library. In testament to 25 years of tenacious, collaborative effort, MTC co-founder Dino Angelici spoke of the original organizing meeting in August 1989, and how far we've come since then.



Past Presidents in attendance. Left to Right: Mark Imgrund, Peter Kohnke, Ned Williams and Dennis Pfeiffer

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald provided keynote remarks around community and personal benefits of the Montour Trail, and responded to questions from the floor on regional bike and hiking initiatives.

Outgoing MTC President Dennis Pfeiffer received a standing ovation honoring his decades of service to the Montour Trail. Dennis joined the MTC in November 1989, and has been President for a remarkable 24% of its entire existence.

President Pfeiffer presented the Community Enhancement Program Award to Mike Christ, who accepted on behalf of Waste Management, Inc. Waste Management has provided dumpsters, recycling cans and trash removal for over 14 years at no charge to the Council. The Montour Trail stays cleaner for all of us because of their efforts.



Left to Right: Mike Christ, Dennis Pfeiffer and Eric Chipps.

Allen Prevendoski, a member of the Airport Area Friends Group, received a Trailblazer Award. Allen became a trail volunteer five years ago and quickly became the point of contact for Eagle Scout candidates. Under Allen's leadership, guidance, and patience, 11 scouts have completed Eagle Scout projects.

Sam Hvitfelt was awarded a Trailblazer Award for her work as Ride Director of the annual Tour the Montour Trail Ride, a role she's played for the past 8 years. Under Sam's leadership the ride has grown to be one of the premiere family cycling events in Western Pennsylvania, and serves as a great showcase for the Montour Trail. Sam's organizational skills, dedication to details and tremendous energy inspires the Tour the Montour committee as she makes the meetings and planning for the event fun. ***Continues on page 7***