



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 10 Issue 4

July/August 1999

Trail Tip o' the Month

- Need something to do this summer? Give us a call. Volunteers are always needed on the TRAIL!

Mantra of the Month

- Resolve to perform what you ought.
Perform without fail what you resolve.

Benjamin Franklin

Inside this issue:

Allegheny County Rib-Fest	5
Watershed Hearing	8
United Way Campaign	8
Pennies for your trail	9
Montour-IKEA Race/Walk	9
Board Briefs	9
Cecil Trail resurfacing	10

Trail design advances in Peter's Twp.

By Marshall Fausold

The Montour Trail Council has taken a major step in accessing Federal funding under the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (better known as TEA-21). This is the successor legislation to the ISTEA program which expired in 1997, although the funding allocated under ISTEA is still viable. The MTC has entered into a contract with Skelly and Loy, Inc. of Harrisburg in the amount of \$25,804.06 to perform an environmental evaluation of all remaining unconstructed portions of the Trail in Peters Township. This evaluation, technically known as a "Categorical Exclusion Evaluation", is required before Federal monies can be spent on a

project.

As background: Peters Township purchased the Montour Railroad right-of-way within the limits of the township before the MTC had organized. They subsequently constructed the Arrowhead Trail on about half of that property. The remaining portion they do not include in their development plans because of the expense involved and because it is largely remote from the population of the township. When the MTC initiated its Categorical Exclusion study in 1995, we did not include Peters Township in the scope of that work. Now that the opportunity exists to fund closing that critical gap in the Montour Trail,

we must first complete this study.

Many are familiar with the term Environmental Impact Statement. Our Categorical Exclusion Evaluation is a very low level of EIS, conducted when the proposed project is expected to have minimal impact. The study evaluates the effect the trail improvement will have on such diverse areas as wetlands, historic structures, and endangered species. The completed study will be reviewed by the State, and when approved will clear the project for Federal construction funds under TEA-21.

Continued on page 7

Panhandle Trail acquired

Portions reprinted, Allegheny County Public Works Dept., Press Release, May 7, 1999

On May 5, 1999, Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) donated a 29.0 mile-long corridor to Allegheny County, Washington County and the West Virginia Railroad Authority. This Acquisition creates the Panhandle Trail Between Walker's Mill, just west of Carnegie, and Weirton, WV. The 6.85 mile-long portion in Alle-

gheny County follows Robinson Run past Rennerdale and through Collier Township, South Fayette Township, North Fayette Township and Oakdale Borough to the county line in McDonald Borough. The trail was named after the Panhandle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, from which it was created.

The acquisition effort took 5 years and the cooperation of Consolidated Rail Corporation, three rail-trail organizations, the two counties and the State of West Virginia, the Federal Surface Transportation Board and the 15 municipalities through which the trail passes.

Continued on page 6

THE MONTOUR TRAIL

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER
33 STERLING DRIVE
CORAOPOLIS, PA 15108

Or E-mail to: debho@juno.com

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866
PITTSBURGH PA. 15228-0866

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS:

For information: 412-831-2030

For administration and business: 412-257-2328

Newsletter Editor Deborah Hoerster

Circulation Manager Joan Schweiger

Trail Talk

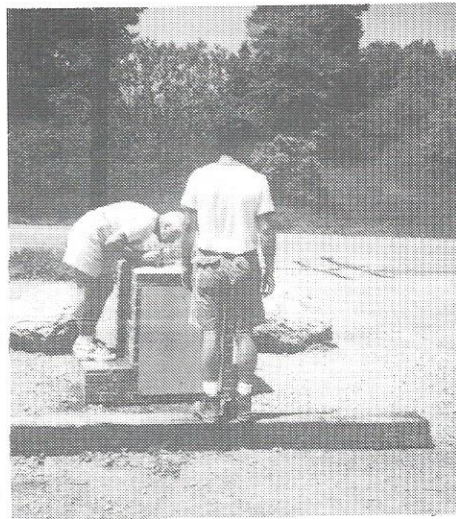
from the Editor's Desk

Through the efforts of Mr. Howard Theis of the Findlay Township Water Authority and the Findlay Township Road Department, there is now a water fountain at the Westridge Ball Field in Enlow (location mile marker 7.75). And with the 90 degree temperatures we've been having, it couldn't be more welcome.

Two unidentified trail-users, who stopped to take advantage of the new facility, are pictured below.

Our thanks to Findlay Township and all responsible for this most refreshing gift!

Happy Trails, Debby



Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the Sept./Oct. Trail-Letter will be due **no later than** August 6, 1999.

Please see Page 2 for submitting correspondence. Thank you.

COMMENTS/NEWS

Your opinion means a lot to us. Send your Comments or news info. to: Montour Trail-Letter 33 Sterling Dr. Coraopolis, PA 15108 Or e-mail to: debho@juno.com

Thanks!

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.

July 1999

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 1999

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Calendar of Events

- * Independence Day – July 4, 1999.



- * Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off – Sept. 3 – 6, 1999.
See page 5 for more information.

- * Montour/IKEA
1/2 Marathon 5K Run/Walk – Sept. 11, 1999.
See page 9 for more information.

- * United Way Campaign – Sept./Oct., 1999.
See page 8 for more information.

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every third Monday of the month - 6:00 pm at Chartiers Valley High School, in the faculty lounge. Turn left off of the- Kirwan Heights exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go under the Interstate, and the school is on your left. Call Dick at 412- 859-6864 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **Cecil Events:**
 Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month - at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, at 7:30 pm. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.
 Work & Clean-up party, every third Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Events:**
 Friends of the Trail meeting, every Thursday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 pm., at the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd. in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near 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. Meet at North Star Petroleum (formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 412-262-3748 for more information.
- ♦ **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 various committee meetings (such as fundraising) 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 Events:**
 Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party, last Saturday of every month. For more information call Dr. Joe Rudolph at 412-653-4900.
- ♦ **MacDonald Events:**
 Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party, tentatively held on the first Saturday of every month. For more information, contact Ray Johnston at 724-356-2621.

...and the *PREZ* sez...

by Dick Quasey

Independence (Day) revisited

Independence regularly entails some dependence. In the case of the Montour Trail Council (MTC), a non-profit (independent) corporation, carrying out the construction of the Montour Trail (MT), it very apparent to the MTC Board members, past and present, how essential the support of local municipal and county governments is. Their interest, support and actual assistance has facilitated the construction of the Montour Trail and will be important to its early comple-

tion.

First it was Cecil Township, then Moon and Robinson (Allegheny County), followed by Findlay and North Fayette, then Robinson (Washington County) and Bethel Park; most recently South Park, Peters, and Mt. Pleasant Townships, and the Boroughs of Clairton and Jefferson. Of course, Allegheny County has been very helpful from the start and Washington County, for the past two years, has assisted the MTC; especially MTC's effort to resolve the

PUC Highway Crossing issues and to advance MTC's work under the TEA-21 Act.

Therefore, MTC members and the general public are urged to thank the township supervisors, council members and commissioners involved and express appreciation for identifying favorably with the MT and contributing to its successful completion in a timely manner.

Happy July 4th!



MTC WEB
ADDRESS



Visit the Montour Trail web-site at: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/orgs/mtc/>

WANT ADS

◆ Facilities needed:

Garage space roughly 25 ft. x 50 ft. is wanted for the housing and maintenance of a GMC stake bed truck, a large John Deere tractor and an equipment trailer.

Our storage facility in Robinson Township, Allegheny County, which has housed the Montour Trail Council's equipment for many years, will unfortunately soon be needed by other occupants of the property. We are scouring the territory near the

trail, preferably in the South Hills region, for another suitable storage location. If you have any possible solutions to this need, please contact Bob Boyce at 724-547-4676, or Dick Quasey at 412-859-6864.

◆ Fund Raisers:

One or two persons are needed to organize and lead fund raising efforts directed at selected foundations, corporations and businesses local to the Montour Trail.

◆ Construction Coordinators:

Several persons are needed to administrate and monitor progress on one or more construction projects on the expanding Montour Trail. Project engineering or construction experience would be helpful, but the main need is to communicate between contractors and land owners on MTC's behalf. Candidates must have some time during working hours each week to make phone calls, visit offices and work sites.

Trail advances

Continued from page 1

The scheduled completion of the study is October 1999. The cost of this contract is considered as part of the required local match for those Federal funds.

On related subjects, the MTC has initiated the process for obtaining a contract for final engineering design of all remaining uncompleted trail in Washington County. Because this is expected to be paid for by Federal funding, the procedure for selecting a design firm is expected to take several months, but we hope to have a

firm under contract by early fall.

Also to be noted is that Peters Township has just completed the last of their Arrowhead Trail construction — a half-mile extension westward under Rt. 19 to a new parking area at the sewage treatment plant.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman

Jerry Agin

Barry A. Coley
Mary Cox
G. Paul DeBor
Kelly Faure Family
William G. Fueg
George Gerben
David E. Gibbs
Gary & Pat Giffin
Ralph R. Gurley
John R. Hallman
Barry Johnston
Pat Joyce
Joann J. Lewis
Lanny & Jan Liggett
Mark & Robin Luttner
Pete & Janet McGuire
Ruth Steele Ramsey

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 grants.

BENEFACTORS

Tom & Sara Dougherty
Mark J. Smith
Charles S. Smithers

Thank You!

Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off coming soon

Volunteers needed

Labor Day weekend usually hosts the annual Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off in South Park. This year is no exception.

Montour Trail volunteers will band together to serve beer to raise money for the Trail. Over the last 6 years the Montour Trail has received at least \$4,000 every year from the Mon-Yough Recreational and Educational Committee (MYREC) for supplying volunteers to pour beer at the Rib Cook-Off. We have come to rely on this money as part of the unrestricted funds for our operating budget. Another organization checks I.D.'s and sells beer tickets. All we do is open the taps, fill the cups and enjoy a shady spot in the festival-like surroundings for 3-4 hour shifts – not to mention



free parking and live entertainment. All volunteer work should be this good!

As before, this year's Rib Cook-Off coordinator is John Hooton. If you can donate a little of your time on Sept. 3, 4, 5 or 6, please call John and he will pass your name onto the proper day captain, who is in charge of the day you want to work. Our day captains for Friday and Monday are yet to be determined, but John will chair Saturday and Dennis Pfeiffer will chair Sunday. Captains will notify you where to park and make sure you receive your passes.

Don't miss out on the fun. Call John today at 412-257-4101 (day) or 724-942-0115 (eve.) and let him know when you can work. You'll be glad you did!

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.
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council.
- | | |
|--|------------|
| <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"/> BENEFACITOR | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEADERS CIRCLE | \$500 + up |

(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.

Annual Report

Listed below is the complete membership roster for the year 1998.

Leader's Circle

Richard J. and Karen E. Bywalski
Alan E. Kesler
Mary Jeanne Krob
John & Sandy Newman

Dennis Pfeiffer
Nancy Reed
Judy & Tom Thompson
Roy Weil & Mary Shaw

Benefactor

Tim Baker
Gregory A. Brzozowski
Bob Gambone

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Thomas C. Harter
Judy & Gordon Kemp
Kurt J. Lesker Co.
Tom & Molly Maxwell
Paul T. McKeown
Paul & Dottie Mitsdarfer

Andrew & Janice Poole
Paul Rankin
Kris & Linda Rouch
Mark J. Smith
Lou Steinmiller
John and Janet Swanson
E. Steven White

Sustaining

Jerry Agin
Anonymous
Joe Barron
Jan Beresford
Sam Bertenthal &
Anne Humphreys
Dan Bloch
John M Brandon
Jerry & Beth Brown
ChemCentral/Pittsburgh
Ram L Dhawan, MD
Tom & Sara Dougherty
David Eibling
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
Mr. & Mrs. Sigo Falk
Marshall Fausold
Michael J. Gates
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Golightly
Joseph E. Goodwill
Kathy Grochmal
Marilyn Ham

Ronald L. Henry
Donald A. Hoecker
Imperial Bike Rental
Kent James &
Marianne Wizda, MD
Michael Karpa
James Komosinski
Michael Krizner
James M. Kuzir
Jerry A. Kyslinger
Lennon, Smith, Souleret
Engineering, Inc
Mackin Engineering Company
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Patricia S. Miller, MD
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Jeff & Joyce Mulkern
James L. Mutton
Bob & Betty Muzik
Hugh & Eliza Nevin

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Susan & David Orenstein
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Thomas J. Parme
C. Pash, MD
Henry Pecher
Jack Peth
Richard L. Quasey
Arnold Schulberg
Janet Smith
Gwen & Jeff Steigerwalt
Frank & Elizabeth Suatoni, Jr.
Vince Szeligo
Robert Taranto
Andrew & Ming Tung
Walden Woods Community
Services Assn
Art & Lois Walters
Ted Weidner
Sue & Dave, Tony, Kika, & Daisey Wright

Supporting

Montour Robinson AARP
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Blaine Aikin
Neal Altman
Kass Ambrose
Larry & Ann Arch
Carl & Sheila Arendt
Eugene Banks
Douglas S. Beck
Drs J. G. Benitez & L. G.
Allison
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Denny Brua
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Annette Ciotti
Robert Cobbett
Jean Condo
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Doug & Jane Damico
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John Falavolito
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J. V. and Alan Fleckstein
Art Fleming
Louise Foster
Connor, Joanne, Tyler, & Eli
Fox
Marjorie & Dan Fritz
Lorie Fuller
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Michael & M. T. Geraci
Giant Oaks Garden Club
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Jim Greenberg
Ralph I. Hauser
Terry & Jini Hawk
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Mr. & Mrs. Alan Hoffman
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Tim Killmeyer
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Robert Mandell
Walter J. McGervey
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Montour Valley Grange #2005
Montour Valley Horsemens
Association
Bill Morphy

Mt. Lebanon Nature
Conservancy
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Nancy Campbell O'Farrell
Lawrence V. O'Keefe
Jack O'Keefe
Martin F. O'Toole, D.P.M.
Richard & Virginia Oaks
Joe Pass
Jerry Rabinowitz
Darci Lynn Reilly
Adeline Rennekamp
Doug Ripper
Ruth E. Rittler
Spencer & Rita Roberts
Rolling Hills Riding Club
John & Donna Rosser
Cliff, Carole, & Gwen
Ruderer
Dennis P. Sattler
Saturn of Robinson
Township
Dennis Sims
H. Snyder Steel Corp
Jim & Pat Stafford
Jack W. Swisher

Gary Taylor
Gerald Taylor
Sally Taylor
Borough of Thornburg
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Norman Tournay
Mr. & Mrs. J. Trask
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Ron Warwick & Rita Ross
Joyce Waslosky
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Ms. Judy Werner
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Club
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Jim & Janet Williams
Jo Wilson
Robert J. Winters
Woman's Club of Upper
St. Clair
Stuart Young
Claude Zajac
Paul Zeppenfeld
Edward M. Zupancic

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Tammy & Scott Graner
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Charles M. Karnack
Steve & Helen Karpinski
Steven R. Kayatin
The Keany family
Dwight M. Keating
C. Thomas Keil, Jr.
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John Kennon
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Eric Killmeyer
Clive & Judy Kimblin
Bill & Maryanne Kinol
Fred Kissell
Sheila Klages
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Judy Knapp
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Colin Maddix
Magnelli Family
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Doug & Joy Maher
Ted & Donna Malesky
Patricia A. Malloy
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J. Ashby Marshall, VMD
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Ms. Amy Maxin
Dave Maxwell
- Jennifer Maxwell
Ray Maxwell
Jon R. McAlister
Tom & Sandy McCaslin
Janet McConkey
Susan McCoy
David C. McCutcheon
Kevin McDermott
Jennifer & Rob McDowell
Martha McEvoy
Marcia McFadyen
Jack McGinnis
Anne & Donald McGowan
Thomas McKinnis
Sue & Andy McLaren
John & Eva McLeister
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Margaret E. McMichael
Robert and Marilyn Means
Daniel Mehafe
Joyce & Bill Mehalic
Mark Mendelsohn
Nathan Mentzer
John Peter Merther
Rachel & Ched Mertz
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Cherie Mezynski
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Testimony supportive at Watershed hearing

By Stan Sattinger

The finished version of the River Conservation and Land Use Plan for the Montour Run Watershed was presented at the fourth and final public meeting of the Montour Run Watershed Planning Project on May 27 at the Sewall Center, Moon Campus, Robert Morris College. Selections from among the 61 recommendations of the Plan were highlighted by consultant team leader Gus Drizos of KCI Technologies, after which the meeting was conducted by Attorney Anita Kulik as a formal hearing with transcription by a court stenographer. The testimony of the fourteen attendees who spoke was overall very supportive of the Plan, as was the content of three letters that were read into the proceedings. The hearing was a requirement of a

supporting grant from the Rivers Conservation Program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The planning project had been launched by the Montour Valley Alliance in January of 1998 with approximately \$100,000 funding from DCNR and The Pittsburgh Foundation, channeled through the Hollow Oak Land Trust. Many months of work have gone into providing Pittsburgh Airport-area communities with sound information and professional guidance in preparing for the economic growth and resource protection needs of the 21st Century.

The Plan is hoped to provide a more secure future for the natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the

Valley. It outlines many recommended actions for the remediation of flooding, erosion, and contamination problems in Montour Run, and it includes a comparison of conventional and greenspace-oriented subdivision plans for residential development.

We will conclude the Planning Project with a formal request to each of the five municipalities comprising the Watershed for a resolution supporting the Plan. We will then petition DCNR to add Montour Run to the Pennsylvania River Conservation Registry. Meanwhile, an incorporated, non-profit watershed association is being formed to implement the Plan and other resource protection work initiated by the Alliance.

Give, the UNITED WAY

The United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign brought in dona-

tions from 79 contributors from 1998 through June 14, 1999. It's a wonderful way for our membership to grow and an important source of operating funds. We urge you to participate in

the programs if you can. Our agency code for United Way of Southwestern PA is 3308. Our code for Combined Federal Campaign is 9308.

Thank you!

Panhandle Trail

Continued from page 1

The continuity of ownership has been protected by rail-banking. Instead of being abandoned, the corridor is held in reserve until it may be reacquired by Conrail for reinstalling a railroad. Until that time, the land may be used for a recreational rail-trail.

At a site viewing on July 30, 1996, John Foley, Senior Property Manager for Conrail, suggested donating the corridor to the two Counties and West Virginia, along with the responsibility for removing any bridges over roads, if ordered by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). West Virginia has no Public Utility Commission. No railroad bridges cross roads within Allegheny County.

In addition to donating the property, Conrail donated \$100,000 to Washington County to offset its costs of removing any bridges over roads, as re-

quired by the PUC. Washington County is now finalizing an agreement with the affected municipalities, PennDOT and DCNR to establish which bridges should be removed. The Agreement will be submitted to the PUC for approval.

The Panhandle Trail crosses the Montour Trail at Primrose in Washington County. The Montour Trail Council obtained an appraisal report, the initial environmental assessment and a title report for the Allegheny County portion. The Allegheny Land Trust provided funds from the Allegheny Regional Asset District for the appraisal.

On May 21, 1997, the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners authorized to enter into an agreement to accept Conrail's donation. The Board also authorized to extend its Management Contract and its Public-Private Partnership Agreement with the Montour Trail Council to the new trail.

The Montour Trail Council is now seeking support from the municipalities and interested individuals for cleaning-up trash dumped on the corridor and for installing gates at road access points to prevent further dumping. If you are interested in volunteering for the work crew, or seek additional information about the project, please call David L. Wright, P.E., Project Manager, at 412-350-6645.



A ribbon cutting ceremony concluded the dedication of the Panhandle Trail, Pennsylvania's 100th rail-trail, on June 5, 1999, in Primrose, Washington County. Pictured (l to r) are: Keith Sparbanie, Linda Armstrong, Victor J. Lescovitz, Bracken Burns, Diana L. Irey, Scott Fergus, Tom Sexton, and Kathy Frankel.

5th Annual "Pennies for your trail" campaign success

With a chill in the morning air, and a smile on every volunteer's face, the 5th annual "Pennies for your trail" day was off to a great start! This event is an all-out effort by the Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail to raise much needed funds for Trail maintenance.

Despite the afternoon storms, the total amount collected for the day was \$3,165. Indeed, a significant sum due to a tremendous amount of time and effort by our chairmen, Barb and Dean Arlett, and the many volunteers, working the penny stations at Groveton (mile 0) and Park Manor Blvd. (mile 4.3).

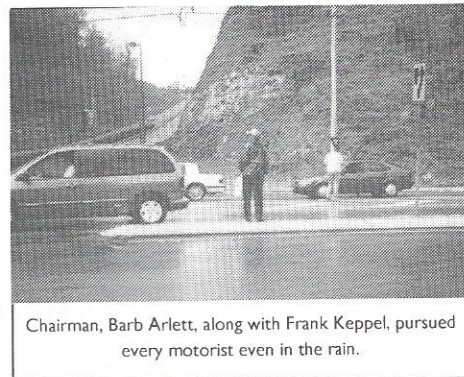
Barb and Dean did a wonderful job securing top notch prizes from our local businesses, without whose generosity and willingness to donate each year, Penny Day success would not be a certainty.

Our top 3 winners of the day were: Alan Litwin of Robinson, who donated \$59 in pennies and was awarded a weekend getaway at Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. Barb Moore of Crafton came in second donating \$54.50 in pennies and received 2 movie passes and Sunday Brunch for 2 at Dingbats. Third prize went to Colleen McDermott of Oakdale, who received 2 movie passes and a \$20 gift certificate to Ya Fei restaurant. Congratulations to these, and the rest of our winners!

We'd like to thank all our generous sponsors: Airport Marriott, Dingbats, Max & Erma's, Red Lobster, National Amusements Cinema, Ya Fei, Butya's Lounge, Quaker Steak & Lube, Sneakers Hot Rod Café, Not Just Toast, ADP, and Camelot. Many thanks to all of them and to all our wonderful volunteers of the day including Boy Scout Troop 301, under the leadership of

Janet Jackson.

Finally, we are most happy to thank our Chairmen, Barb & Dean Arlett, who, as usual, did an exceptional job of organizing the campaign along with their assistants, Tom McIlvain and Debby Hoerster.



Chairman, Barb Arlett, along with Frank Keppel, pursued every motorist even in the rain.

4th Annual Montour-IKEA 1/2 Marathon 5K Run/Walk coming soon

Mark your calendars for the race that everyone is eagerly awaiting. The Montour-Ikea 1/2 Marathon 5K Run/Walk, consisting of a 1/2 Marathon Race, a 5K Race and a 5K Family-Fun Walk will take place on Sept. 11, 1999. It benefits the maintenance and expansion of the Montour Trail.



The 1/2 Marathon and 5K Run courses are certified distances. This event is sanctioned by the Three Rivers Association of USA Track & Field.

Early registration as well as Race Day registration is available for walkers and runners. No refunds given. Shirts will be guaranteed only to pre-registered participants.

Post-race refreshments will be avail-

able at the Awards tent in the IKEA parking lot. This will include fruit, bagels, juice and Swedish coffee.

You can obtain an entry form or more information by calling 412-343-4294. (Entry forms can also be found in brochure boxes along the Trail.)

Start training now and come join the fun in September!

Up to the "minute".....

Board Briefs

During the last two months the MTC board:

- The board received a report from Mary Jeanne Krob, who is working with a group of highly talented professionals (all volunteering their services) to develop a comprehensive MTC public relations plan.
- Approved the installation of new informational signs at trailheads and other main intersections. Also, survey work has been done to improve the accuracy of mile marker locations.
- Reviewed progress of trail design or construction on several uncompleted trail sections, including

South Park, Jefferson Hills, Clairton, Peters Township, and the Quick-silver bridge.

- Began assembling a list of easily identifiable locations along the trail that could be referenced in case of a 911 call or other emergency.





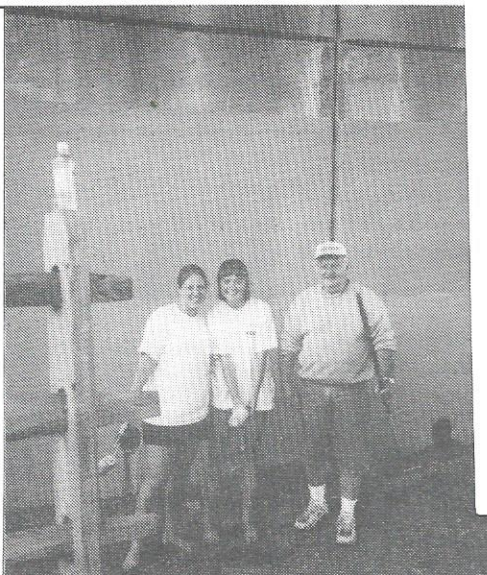
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No more graffiti

Montour High School's G.A.T.E. and Environmental Club with teachers, Robert Fleming and Bill Kutzavich respectively, spent a day on the Montour Trail under the supervision of "Friends of the Trail" volunteers. Pictured (l to r) are painters, Jamie Grove, Selina Todorovich and "Friend of the Trail," Mitch Cholewinski.



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PAGE 10

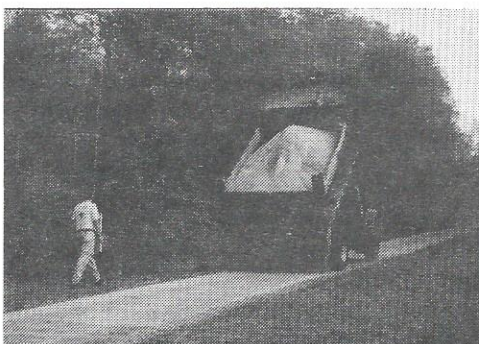
Cecil Public Works Gives Big Assist to Trail

From the beginning, Cecil trail users and monitors alike have known that the "nice" part of the trail has been west of National tunnel—smoother surface with finer grade material and fewer weeds.

The "poor sister" section from Hendersonville to the tunnel needed attention, to be sure. Almost like a bolt of lightening, that

scene changed in mid-May. Dave Wright and John Hooton talked about the problem and enlisted Bracken Burns, Chairman of Washington County Commissioners to ask Tom Casciola, Chairman of Cecil Township. Supervisors for their help in spreading new crushed limestone surfacing material. This happened on a Friday. John then called Don Genuso, Director of Public Works for Cecil, who scheduled the work for the following Wednesday! Of course, we first had to order the crushed limestone. Commercial Limestone of Connellsville helped enormously by delivering 512 tons on Tuesday, so we'd have it ready for spreading on Wednesday.

At 7:30 AM sharp on Wednesday, driver/operators, John Gunther, David Quaresima and Rich Kotar came with a loader, two dump truck/spreaders and a heavy roller to meet volunteers Dan Jones, Dennis Sims, Hoyt Hall and John Hooton.



Cecil Public Works dump truck spreads a new surface of fine crushed limestone on the Trail, while Dennis Sims supervises from behind.

By John Hooton



Giving the new surface a test ride are (l to r): John Hooton, Dennis Sims and Hoyt Hall.

Everyone did a great job! You might call it a civil/military operation with precision timing. And now almost 3 miles of Trail has a beautiful new surface.

Again, thanks for everyone's help!