



# MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 14 Issue 4

July / August 2003

## For your consideration

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

Dolly Parton

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## MTC Web Address

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

## Shoring up the Trail

### Montour Run Stream Bank Plantings Help Stabilize Trail Base

Under the sponsorship of the Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA), tree seedlings were recently installed on a heavily eroded stream bank of Montour Run. A total of approximately 200 dogwood, box elder, and willow seedlings were planted early in May by the Urban Tree Care Company on the west bank of the main trunk of Montour Run, near the Cliff Mine Road bridge crossing. MRWA members and Montour High School student volunteers have since become involved in the project, installing protective stakes and watering and mulching the fledgling trees. Dennis Pfeiffer and Pete Merther of the Moon-Robinson and Findlay-North Fayette Friends of the Montour Trail helped greatly by coordinating Trail access and maintenance operations and by making the mulching material available.



Bank Stabilization Project, which was undertaken by MRWA in 2001 with ReclaimPA funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. As these trees mature, they will complement the earlier installation of rip-rap stone under Phase 1 of the project by further anchoring the soil on this steeply sloped stream bank section. Additional benefits will include the shading of the stream for improved fish habitat and shading of the bank to hold down overgrowths of the ever-present Japanese knotweed. Plantings will be added at other Montour Run stream bank locations in the near future using the remainder of the Stabilization Project funding.

*Stan Sattinger*

Editor's Note: In addition to his MTC involvement, Stan is President and founder of the MRWA.

These plantings are a pilot project of Phase 2 of the Montour Run Stream

## Trail Raising

Every time the spring rains came, the North Fayette/Findlay Friends cringed, not wanting to look at the damage the storms caused in a small section of trail between the Enlow Tunnel and the Ballfield. It was a spring tradition that we would have to get surface material and fix the trail washouts. This could sometimes occur twice in one season.

There were many discussions as to how to correct the situation. One was to add an additional culvert in the area to drain the water to the creek side. However, we did not want to drain the wetland in the area during the dry season. It was then decided that with the abundance of millings from the Allegheny County road resurfacing program that the trail be raised in this area approximately 12" and a layer of surface material be placed on top of the millings. With the persistence of Mr. Dick Quasey, the Findlay Township Road Department, under the direction of John O'Neil, helped place the millings and the surface material. In addition to this location, the parking area at Enlow was also coated with a layer of surface material. This work was completed in May.

*Continued on p. 3*



## MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Kohnke	President
Dennis Pfeiffer	Vice President
Bruce Barron	Secretary
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newsletter@montourtrail.org

All other trail correspondence should be  
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**MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL**  
P.O. BOX 11866  
PITTSBURGH PA. 15228-0866

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## Trail Talk

*from the Editor's Desk*

*Change is a good thing... At least when it comes to the weather. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, we have had exactly four sunny days since April first. Three of those days came in a row in early April (possibly our hottest days yet this "summer"). So, I think I speak for the entire MTC and its supporters when I say a change in the weather would do us some good.*

*However, in general, change is not so heartily embraced. In fact, most of the time, change is viewed with suspicion and dismay. You may have noticed a few changes in the format of this newsletter, but I hope you will find them of the "good change" variety and not the kind that causes distress.*

*For instance, we no longer are stapling our newsletter, which is a change imposed upon us by the U.S. post office. With all the improvements in technology, man handles very little mail in today's post office, and the machines are allergic to tiny pieces of metal. Hence, no more staples.*

*Owing to this, we're hoping to use the middle two pages (4-5) of the Trail letter for special features on a regular basis. This month, you will find a beautiful collage of pictures from April's third-annual Burgh's Pizza and Wing Pub 10K Run and 2-mile Walk. While not every photo is identified, we think this montage (artfully produced by board member John Hooton from a plethora of photographs taken by multiple photographers) is a great way to recognize the many people who contributed to another successful MTC event, from participants to volunteer help to corporate sponsors. Not to mention, this display is suitable for framing.*

*A final change: Please welcome Karen Hamilton as our new Circulation Manager. We thank her for coming on board to do our various mailings.*

*Now, if only the sun would come out to stay...*

*Astrid*

## July 2003

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		

## August 2003

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						

## Calendar of Events

MTC Board Meeting – July 21

MTC Board Meeting – August 18

Allegheny County Rib Cook-off – August 30, 31 and Sept. 1

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.

## 3rd Annual Run/Walk fun for all

We TOLD you our Cecil Park/Montour Trail event was fun! And hopefully the next two pages of pictures will help recreate for you the flavor of the day. It was an absolutely beautiful day and the faces reflect the happy spirit.

Of course, \$600 in prizes, a full ditty bag for entrants, great food and beverages of your choice for both runners and walkers are some of the reasons the race was such a success. This photo presentation appears in your newsletter for the first time. Many thanks to our amateur photographers: Debbie Dillis, John Hooton, John Wasco and Ned Williams. Let us know if you like the idea and we'll try it again on occasion.

Our sponsors over at Burgh's have been busy acquiring and implementing a new restaurant computer system as of press time, so we don't have a final Race fundraising figure to announce just yet. However, Tom Daily, one of the partners, did say to our Trail's Board, "We'll be very close to meeting our \$15,000 target." A sure sign of continuing success compared to \$12,000 last year and \$6,000 two years ago, the first year of Burgh's Run/Walk.

Again, we repeat the increasingly significant role these private events play in the funding of your Trail. Every week we read in the public press about the financial problems the federal and state budgets face. Grants are hard to come by for Trail development and equipment purchases. We owe many thanks to people like the Daily brothers, owners of Burgh's Pizza and Wing Pub in Bridgeville. Thanks to them and other public and individual donors, we are able to progress. You can help by renewing your membership or joining if you are not a current member. Keep it up and help us more if you can.

*John Hooton*

*Continued from p. 1*

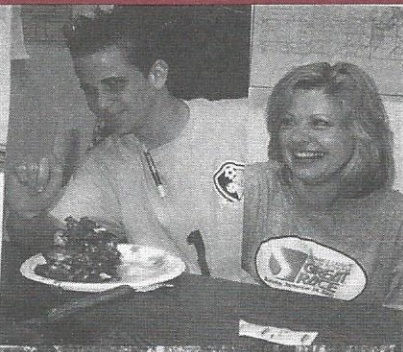
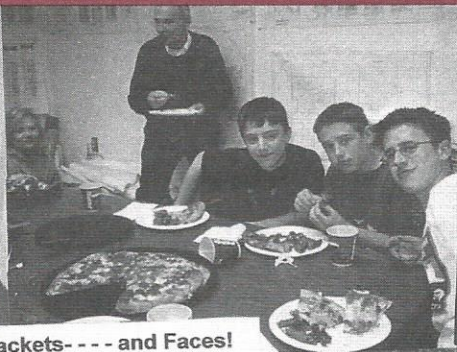
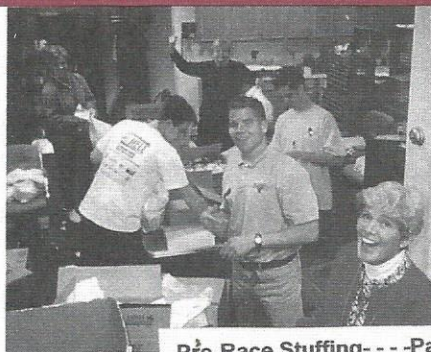
This section has held up so far with the heavy rains we have had in the recent weeks. The North Fayette/Findlay Friends would like to thank Dick Quasey, John O'Neil and the Road Department of Findlay for doing a great job. We would also like to thank Gary Klingman Township Manager and the Findlay Township Supervisors for their continued support.

*Pete Merther*

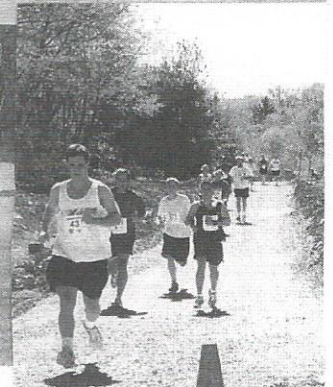
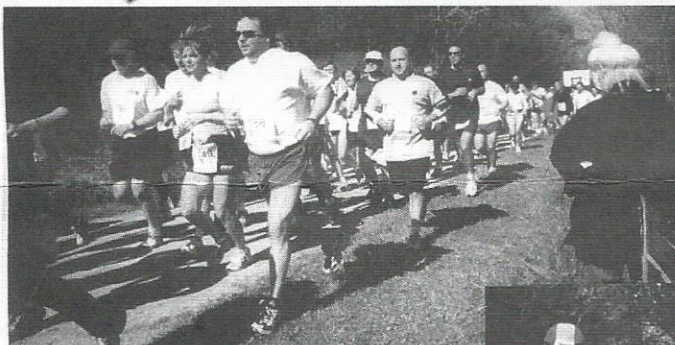
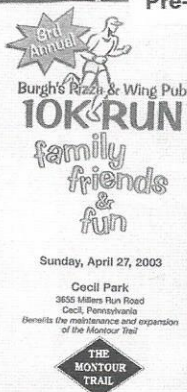
### Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the September / October Trail-Letter will be due **no later than** August 1, 2003

# Burgh's 10K Run and Fun Walk 2003

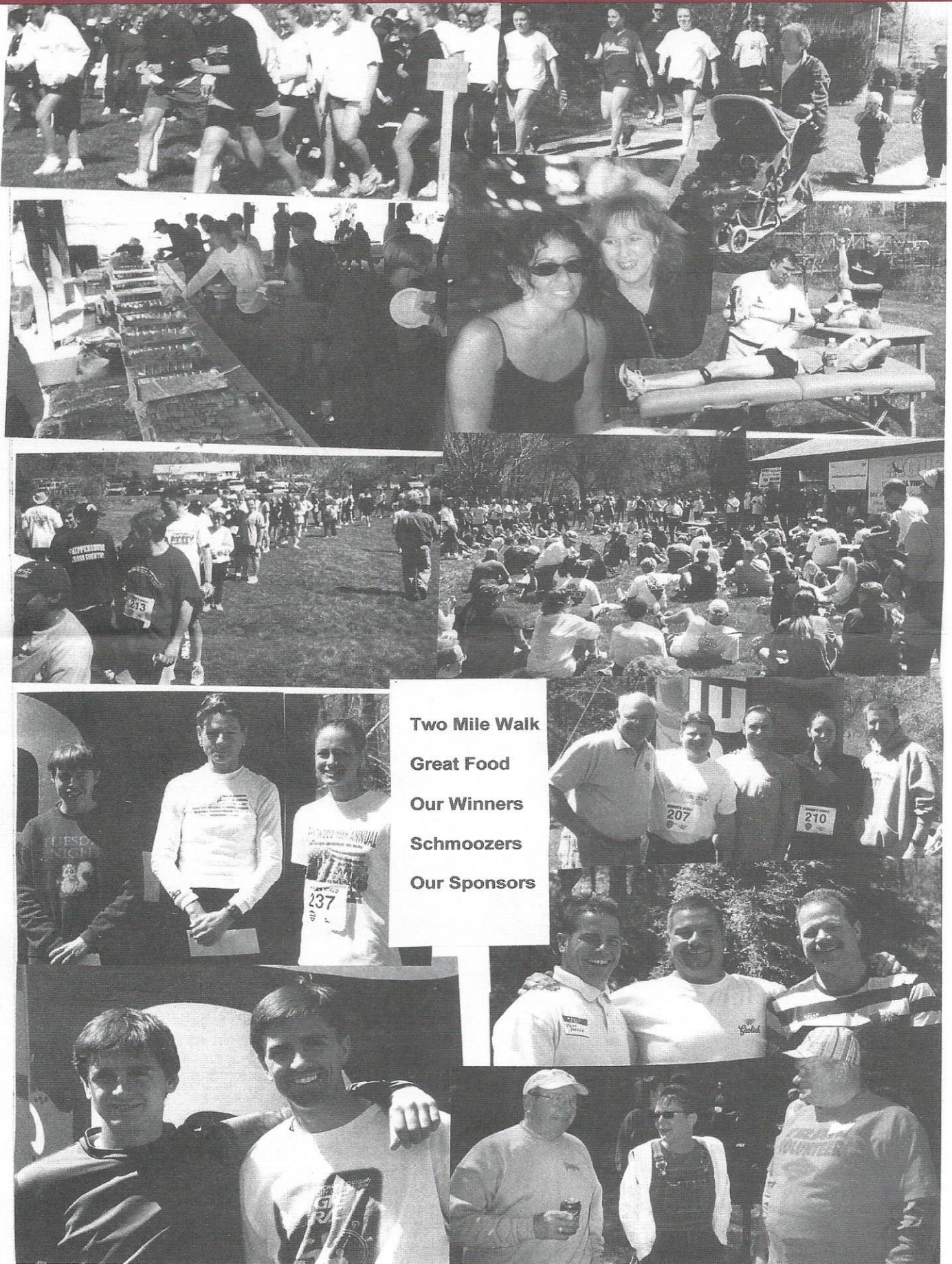


Pre-Race Stuffing --- Packets --- and Faces!



Negotiating  
Cowden's  
Gulch





## Trestle Festival Rescheduled

An article in the March/April Issue of the Trail-Letter informed readers of a McDonald-area festival that was to be held on June 7 in conjunction with National Trails Day. As reported in that article, the festival activities had to mesh with the construction schedule for the new 5-mile Trail segment linking the existing 18-mile Moon Township-to-McDonald section with the 6-mile Cecil-to-Chartiers Creek section.

As it turns out, construction of the new section could not be completed in time for us to carry out the June 7 plans. However, we WILL be commemorating the opening of the new section and have firmed up plans for the actual event. This will mark an important milestone in that the new section will bring the total length of the Trail thus far completed to 22.3 contiguous miles and 39 total miles.

The Montour Trail TrestleFest will mark the opening of the new 5-mile section extending from McDonald to Venice in Washington County and including the rehabilitated 960-foot McDonald Trestle (the namesake of the festival). It will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, September 6. Festivities will begin with opening ceremonies at the north end of the trestle, just west of McDonald on Noblestown Road.

A shuttle is planned, enabling attendees to tour the McDonald Trail Welcoming Center/Meeting House, downtown McDonald, and the nearby Panhandle Trail, in addition to Festival attractions that will be located at the deck level of the trestle. Planned activities include children's attractions, riding and walking tours, live music, and exhibits by community organizations and agencies. We will be trying to include attractions that will offer something of interest for persons of all ages and backgrounds. Please mark your calendars now, and watch for future announcements giving additional details for this major milestone in the completion of our Trail.

*Stan Sattinger*

## Venture Outdoors

The Western Pennsylvania Field Institute held its 3rd annual Venture Outdoors event May 17. This year about 3000 visitors took advantage of the occasion to learn more about regional outdoor activities from the 78 exhibitors, including the Montour Trail Council, the Allegheny Trail Alliance ([www.atatrail.org](http://www.atatrail.org)), the West Penn Trail ([www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org](http://www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org)), the Youghiogheny River Trail ([www.youghrivertrail.com](http://www.youghrivertrail.com)), and Bike Pittsburgh. Bike Pittsburgh is a new organization that was founded by David Hoffman last year in an effort to help Pittsburgh become more bike friendly ([www.bike-pgh.org](http://www.bike-pgh.org)).



Visitors to Venture Outdoors had the opportunity to try kayaking, in-line skating, wall climbing, and fishing. Those who approached the MTC booth for new maps and information were on foot, on bikes, and on skates.

The program at the main stage included the presentation of Venture Outdoor's Recreation and Outdoor Steward Award, which this year was shared by Roy Weil and Mary Shaw for their many years of promoting outdoor recreation in the region. They have long been riding the trails in Western Pennsylvania on their familiar green Cannondale tandem bike in order to update their book, "Free-Wheeling Easy in and around Western Pennsylvania."

The 4th edition of that book will soon be available (proceeds of which are donated to the ATA.) Another of their joint publications is "Linking Up: Planning Your Traffic Free Trip Between Pittsburgh, PA, and Washington D.C." (<http://shaw-weil.com/fwe/>).

*Bill and Roxanne Capp*

## Trail Supporters: Spread the Word about Big Savage Tunnel

Please make it clear to those in the trail community or anyone who might ask that the Big Savage Tunnel is closed to the public and no one will be permitted to enter or pass through the tunnel. Due to several incidents involving people attempting or successfully entering the tunnel, the contractor has expressed this is a problem. The incidents have generally involved thru-trekkers but many have come to the tunnel out of curiosity as well.

The response from the parties has commonly been, "We heard the tunnel was open," or "Someone told us you could sneak through." This is unlike a typical trail rehab project and the public is a great risk if they enter the

tunnel.

The completion date for the tunnel has changed several times so it doesn't make sense to provide tentative completion dates. Please try to help out and make it clear that CLOSED means CLOSED and let people know to keep an eye on the ATA website for a notice that the tunnel is open.

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

*Brett Hollern, Trail Construction Coordinator*

Editor's note: The ATA Web site is [www.atatrail.org](http://www.atatrail.org)

## 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 grants.*

### NEW MEMBERS

Anonymous  
Bradley Bell  
Chris Turner & Charles  
Berthoud  
Ted & Lisa Frick  
Harold & Cheryl Goodman  
Paul Hartigan  
Eric & Cindy Jones  
Stephen Kenyhercz  
Joseph Knapick  
Jim Marmack  
Owen D. McElligott  
Raymond J. Paulos  
Rich Power

Amy Readshaw  
Richard Schmitz  
Mary Staley  
Dennis & Elissa Uram  
Dick & Carolyn Westerhoff  
Chris & Melissa Young

### LEADER'S CIRCLE

Mackin Engineering Company

### BENEFACTORS

Mark J. Smith

*Membership Co-Chairs - Stefni and Jerry Agin*

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

Conducting trail openings is one of the pleasures of my job as president of the Montour Trail Council. These openings represent the culmination of a huge amount of effort by all kinds of people, and, in a way, I get to present the new trail segment to the public.

I am now in my third year as president, and due to term limits, someone else will be president next year. But my term is ending with a surge of three trail openings, whereas there had only been one in the previous two years. The three are:

1. The 2.1 mile segment from Clairton to Large, opened on May 3
2. The 0.7 mile segment connecting the Arrowhead Trail to the Bethel Branch, opened on June 28
3. The 4.7 mile segment extending the trail south from McDonald to Route 50 at Venice, to be opened on September 6.

Trail openings are more than an article in the newspaper, and then a few speeches by supportive politicians followed by a ribbon cutting. I have never been to a ceremony like this that did not open a new line of communication. Before the ceremony, people run around to get organized. But afterwards, people are relaxed and can talk about what is coming next. For example, after the ceremony in Large in May, I met the Clairton recreation director and we were able to exchange ideas about signage and a future connecting trail. I also met a new local enthusiastic volunteer for the first time. Others made other connections. This is because the people who attend the openings care about trails. Both new people and old hands exchange fresh ideas.

So, if you care about trails, attend as many trail openings as you can, and hang around afterwards to network with like-minded individuals. Other networking possibilities include trail booths at community days and trail fundraisers. See you there!

*Peter Kohnke*

## 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.

- ☐ STUDENT / SENIORS \$15
- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$25
- ☐ FAMILY \$35
- ☐ SUPPORTING \$50
- ☐ SUSTAINING \$100
- ☐ BENEFACTOR \$250
- ☐ 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.

