



# MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 15 Issue 4

July / August 2004

## For your consideration

There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits on the human capacity for intelligence, imagination and wonder.

Ronald Reagan

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## MTC Web Address

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

## Montour Trail Designated National Recreation Trail

The U.S. Secretary of Interior Gale A. Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella announced this past month in St. Paul, Minnesota that the Montour Trail has been designated a "National Recreational Trail." The Montour Trail received this honor along with 26 others trails nationwide.

The national recreation trails designation is an honor given to those existing trails that have been nominated and meet the requirements for connecting people to local resources and improving their quality of life. In order to be nominated for designation as part of the National Recreation Trails System, a trail must be open to public use for at least 10 years after designation and must be designed, constructed and maintained according to



best management practices and in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws. NRT designation must also be supported by the landowners whose property the trail crosses.

The Montour Trail Council is proud to be included among other nationally recognized trails. "This designation recognizes the

work of our all-volunteer organization in creating a trail that meets the nation's highest quality standards," said Dennis Pfeiffer, President of the MTC. "We are grateful that the U.S. Department of the Interior has honored us so quickly, barely a year after our trail attained the 10 years of use required before we could apply for national designation."

*Bruce Barron*



# THE MONTOUR TRAIL

## MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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For administration and  
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Fax: 412-257-3016

Newsletter Editor Astrid Cook

Circulation Manager Charlie Forquer

## Trail Talk

*from the Editor's Desk*

Lately it seems the Montour Trail is garnering a lot of attention, and we couldn't be prouder. Nearly every major paper in the region has done a profile on the Trail; we have achieved National Recreational Trail status less than a year after the Trail became formally eligible for such a designation; and this fall's upcoming IKEA / Montour Trail 1/2 Marathon will be featured in Runner's World Magazine's September issue (on sale in August).

All this attention is appreciated, but we still have a long way to go to complete and, then, maintain the Trail. As this is finally our "busy season," multiple trail projects are underway, and large sections remain to be built and funded. We hope you will join us this summer and help with a work party or contribute at a Trail event held by the various Friends groups.

There's plenty to do in the coming months, be it running in the IKEA race, biking with Tour the Montour, or building Trail in Peters and McDonald. Our all-volunteer Montour Trail Council is making headlines. Join in the process and then pat yourself on the back when you hear about us in the national press. Thanks to all who contributed to the above-recognized efforts!

Astrid Cook

## July 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

### Calendar of Events

MTC Board Meeting—  
**July 19**

Peters Friends Twilight  
Trail Walk—**July 30**

MTC Board Meeting—  
**August 16**

**Looking Ahead**  
IKEA 1/2 Marathon—

**September 11**

For updated information,  
check out our new Events  
Calendar at  
**www.montourtrail.org/  
events**

## August 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				

### Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the September / October Trail-Letter  
will be due **no later than** August 1, 2004

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).

## Bethel Friends Ramble, Ride to Rollicking Good Time

If you have been on the Bethel Park branch of the Montour Trail recently, you will notice people proudly wearing yellow t-shirts emblazoned with the Help Bridge the Gap logo. The t-shirt wearers were part of the Party on the Trail on Saturday, May 22. The hot weather helped bring over 330 participants to the first Party on the Trail hosted by the Bethel Park Friends of the Montour Trail.

The party was an open house where trail users could ramble, run, or ride on the trail at their leisure with all proceeds going to the Clifton Road Bridge Fund. Participants returned to a delicious lunch provided by Brian's Hardwood Hogs. Other sponsors included



DeLallo's Restaurant, Dick's Sporting Goods and Smart Health.

Everyone received a passport to be stamped at

*Continued on Page 6*



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

Hello members and friends of the Montour Trail!

The Montour Trail Council was very pleased with the announcement that the Montour Trail has been designated a National Recreation Trail. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton officially declared the designation on June 6<sup>th</sup> to coincide with National Trails Day. Her department's announcement noted that the Montour Trail takes users through a variety of settings—from urban and suburban areas to picturesque undeveloped landscapes—and that its smooth limestone surface makes the trail ideal for non-motorized uses.

We are very proud of this designation and are planning on incorporating the National Recreational Trail logo into our new updated trail map. This new map will feature the spectacular McDonald Trestle\* on the front cover. The map should be available by the end of July.

In other news we moved all of our MTC & Airport Corridor Friends maintenance equipment out of a Moon Township owned garage facility. A company involved with fire engine equipment repair will now occupy the site. We are very thankful to Moon Township for allowing use of the garage at no cost the last few years. Also thanks are in order to our deceased friend Dick Quasey and our garage supervisor Jerry Bates. They spent many hours maintaining the equipment and keeping the garage in good shape over the years. We have found some temporary facilities for our equipment until the new MTC garage in Cecil Township is complete.

*\*Note: Our talented engineer Dave Wright always corrects me by noting that the McDonald structure is actually a viaduct. However, it seems the local residents, trail users and certain newspaper reporters prefer the trestle name. I am sure marketing folks also preferred the September, 2003, Trestle-Fest label versus a structurally correct Viaduct-Fest label. Anyway, enjoy it no matter what you prefer to label it.*

Happy Trails.

*Dennis Pfeiffer, President*

## Rain Doesn't Dampen Spirit of Burgh's

Burgh's Run took advantage of a four-hour "rain break" to complete this year's event on Sunday, April 25, 2004. We estimate that over 400 people attended, of whom 300 ran the 10K or walked the two-mile course.

This highly successful fundraiser has netted The Montour more than \$33,000 in its initial three years. One lagging expense tab had not been received at press time, but where last year's race brought in \$15,000, the 2004 edition is expected to produce \$17,000 or more. Congratulations and a hearty "thanks" to all those who worked so hard to make the race such a big success.

West Virginia runners took first and second place for both men and women. Erik Bennett and Casey Beatty took one and two for the men in 33:59 while Rebecca Samllwood and Heather Bury came in at 37:25 for the women. Cash prizes this year were \$300 first and \$200 second place for both men and women. Congratulations to them and all who competed.

The accompanying collage (see at right) places special emphasis on the behind-the-scenes effort needed to ready the course for Burgh's. Frank Ludwin, Hoyt Hall, Jesse Forquer, and Bill Capp were among those who repaired a 200-foot-long, 18-inch sink hole this spring's heavy rains created and otherwise groomed the Trail. Hanging sponsor banners and lighting the 600-foot-long National Tunnel happen every year as well.

This race is also a party! With a disk jockey and excellent buffet and beverages, it creates a true ambience you just don't normally find. This kind of local support is vital in providing construction and other services in Trail building that state and federal grants do not cover. The Montour Trail is in its 15th year and currently has 30 miles of continuous hike/bike surface open to the public. Ultimately there will be 46 miles of linear Montour Trail and—through its eastern connection with the Allegheny Trail Alliance and the C&O Towpath—a total of 400 miles off-road to Washington DC. Pack a lunch!

*John Hooton*

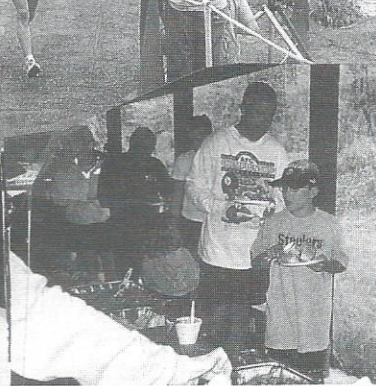
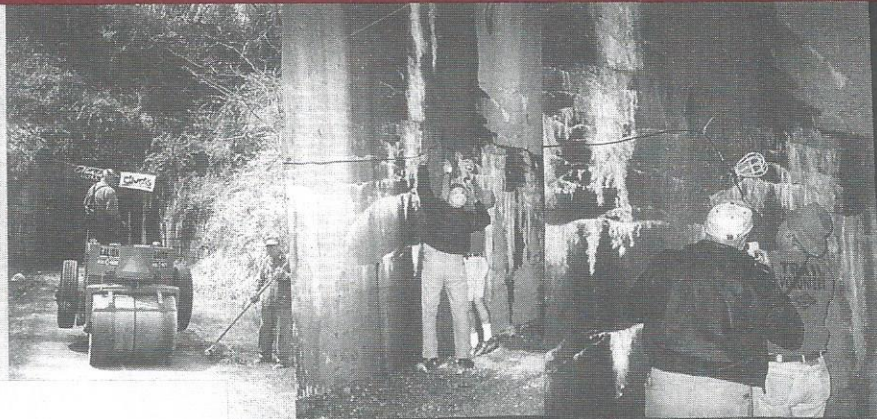


4th Annual  
 Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub  
**10K RUN**  
 family  
 friends  
 &  
 fun

Sunday, April 25, 2004

**Cecil Park**  
 3655 Millers Run Road  
 Cecil, Pennsylvania

Benefits the maintenance and expansion  
 of the Montour Trail



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## Construction Update: New Projects Underway from Library Junction to McDonald

The Montour Trail Council continues to make progress with two major volunteer construction projects. John Wasco, with engineering assistance from Jack Peth, Ned Williams and Mark Imgrund, is heading up our efforts to develop a Montour Trail to Panhandle Trail connection. A grant from the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency will assist with the funding. Using the old Montour Railroad interchange, the connection will proceed from the Montour Trail west under the McDonald Trestle in Robinson Township, Washington County to the Panhandle trail. Part of this project is the refurbishing and re-decking of a sixty-foot-long bridge over the Robinson Run stream.

The other significant volunteer project is a 1.4-mile trail construction project in eastern Peters Township, which will connect with Arrowhead Trail at Library Junction and extend eastward to the Allegheny County line.

This project is characterized by numerous water and drainage issues that need to be addressed. This is a DCNR-funded project headed by Dave Wright with onsite coordination by Mark Imgrund.



Volunteers working on the Robinson Run bridge pose at one of the excavated abutments. From left to right are John Wasco, Jack Peth, Dave Blistan, Roger McIlhaney, and Mark Imgrund.

Volunteers are welcome for either of these projects and no experience is necessary. Work parties are usually on Saturday mornings. If you'd like to help on these efforts, contact either John Wasco (724.796.3781) or Mark Imgrund (724.941.6351).

### New officers

Due to some unique circumstances all officers of the Montour Trail Council are new for 2004. Dennis Pfeiffer of Moon Township is the new president, Mark Imgrund of Peters Township is the new vice president, Astrid Cook of Bethel Park is the new secretary and Judy Thompson of Thornburg is the new treasurer. This is a very diverse, talented and experienced group of volunteers who have all been involved with the Montour Trail Council previously in other capacities.

### Bethel's First-Ever Ramble, Run, Ride and Ribs a Success

*Continued from Page 3*

stations along the trail. There were five stations people could travel to from Logan Route all the way to Route 19. A special thanks goes to members of the Peters Township Friends for helping us man the stations. For each station they traveled to, partygoers received a raffle ticket. The further they went on the trail, the more chances they had to win a prize.

It was great to see so many trail users enjoying the wonderful weather and using the trail. This unique, non-competitive event was a success and the Bethel Friends are looking forward to hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Party on the Trail next year.

*Beverly McKee*



## 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

Allegheny Land Trust  
 Len Asimow  
 Carolyn & Jack Balsley  
 John, Brenda, &  
 Elizabeth Berstler  
 Carol Broz  
 Bob Brozanski  
 Joe Gray  
 Daniel J. Hirsh  
 Jim & Wendy  
 Homerosky  
 Dennis Jones  
 Donald E. Kaminski  
 Michael E. Martin  
 James L. Orleman  
 Patricia Petrusik  
 Charles W. Prine

Joe Rogers  
 Patricia A. Russ  
 John G. Shortridge  
 Jack Shoup  
 Bob Smith  
 Sal Staltari  
 John C. Stankus  
 Bill Truman

### BENEFACTORS

William P. Gillespie  
 John Kennon  
 Mark J. Smith

### LEADER'S CIRCLE

Kathy Grant  
 John G. Shortridge

*Membership Chair - Jerry Agin*

## Twilight Trail Walk II (summer edition)

Or, Eat Healthy and Exercise! That's the event and that's the credo. Join your friends and neighbors on Friday, July 30, at Scones and Cones (502 Valleybrook Road) from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. In case you were not one of the 300 who attended last January's event, it is a fun way to meet old and new friends.

Your \$5 donation helps develop and maintain the Trail. You receive a "glow-necklace" to light your way, are entered in a raffle for great prizes from local businesses, and refreshments and entertainment at Scones and Cones following your walk. Children under 5 and pets are free for the event. (Buy an extra necklace for your dog!) Rain date is Saturday, July 31.

Musical entertainment is still being finalized, but if you are a DJ or have a band willing to play, please contact Mark Imgrund at [mcimgrund@adelphia.net](mailto:mcimgrund@adelphia.net).

### 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

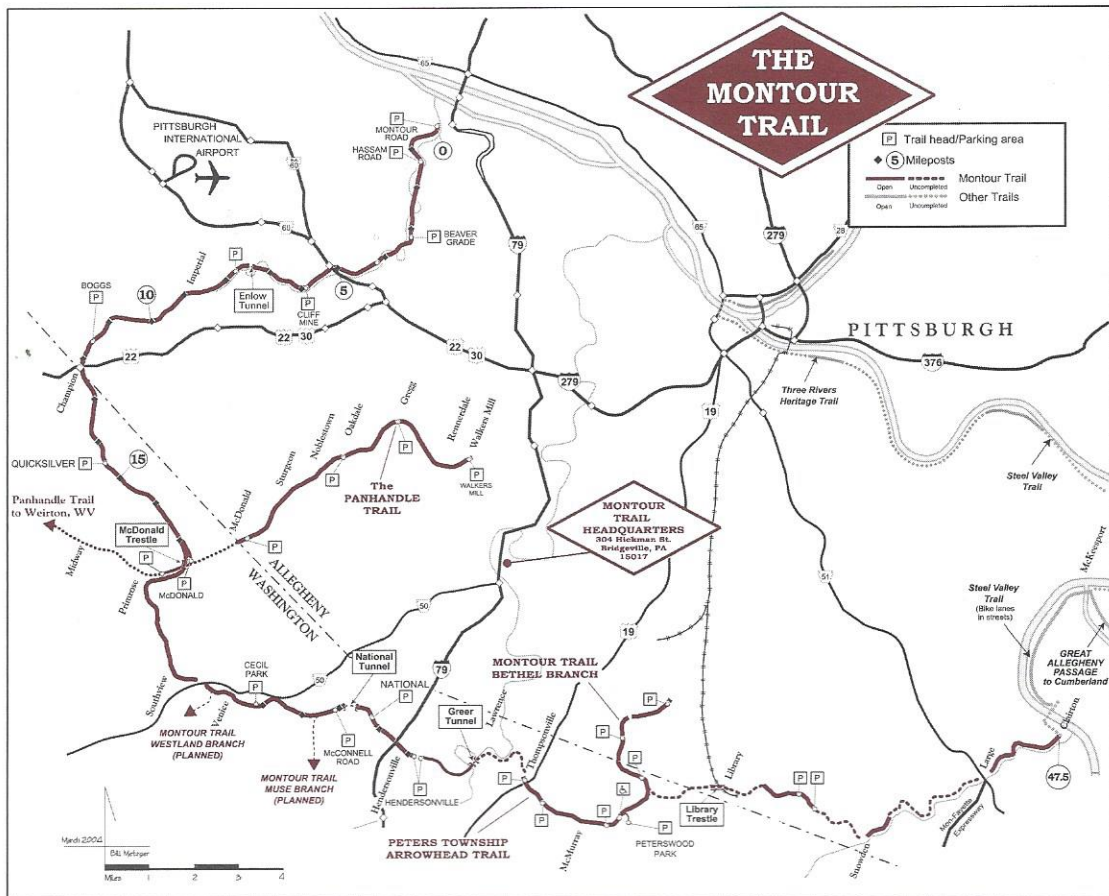
**DON'T FORGET!** The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your United Way Contributor Choice option #3308, or Combined Federal Campaign Contributor Choice option #9308, where you work.

## E-mail Helper Alert

In the last Trail Letter, we had an announcement asking for help with our e-mail account. In response, a South Hills couple said they would be willing to take over responding to e-mail inquiries.

Unfortunately, the contact information was lost in transit, so we are hoping these MTC supporters will offer up their services once again. Our all-volunteer group benefits from new offers of help.

Please call once again at 412-418-0432 or e-mail [gypsy5@verizon.net](mailto:gypsy5@verizon.net) to let us know if you are still interested in helping out. We appreciate it and hope you are still available. We apologize for any inconvenience.



**MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL**  
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**PITTSBURGH PA 15228-0866**  
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