

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

Survey results tabulated

by Stan Siranovich

When the survey first appeared in the newsletter you were promised a review of the results. Here it is, with a bare minimum of statistics. (A more detailed break down is found on Page 4.)

Sixty-five responses were received, about ten per cent of the total membership - a very good response rate for a voluntary mail-in survey. What was most liked about the trail (25 of the 65 responses) had to do with no cars, safety, children's safety, etc. Next came the natural setting, scenic beauty and peace and quiet. The most requested improvements were connection of the Peters and Cecil sections or an extension of the Cecil portions of the Trail. In second place were requests to develop trail in the Bethel Park - South Park - Library areas. Rest rooms, water fountains and benches were also mentioned as being worthwhile improvements. Many other suggestions for trail improvements were received and will be considered during the upcoming retreat.

Now for some interesting facts from the 65 respondents:

- Twenty-nine used the trail only on weekdays, 19 only on weekends and 15 on both.
- The average respondent used the trail 13 times per month.
- Walking was the most popular activity, followed by bicycling and running.
- The trail was least used between 5pm and dusk.
- All sections were about equally selected as the most-used.

The above and other results have already been used in an application for a grant (through Allegheny County) from the Department of Community Affairs' Keystone Parks, Recreation and Conservation Fund. The results will also be used to apply for other grants in the near future.

Finally, a word of thanks to all who took the time to complete and return the survey, and a reminder to everyone: You don't need to wait for a survey to ask questions or make suggestions. You can call or write to the Trail Council any time, or better yet, become an active volunteer and play a personal part in building and improving The Montour Trail. ♦



photo by Tim Killmeyer

Cross-Country skiers had two weeks of fun in the snow after a late January snowfall. Shown here are Fred and Donna Pollastrini enjoying the North Fayette section.

You can help get trees for the Trail

Ever notice that on certain sections of the Trail you just can't seem to get out of the sun? Or that old strip mining or development projects have left a dearth of trees? Well, our members and others have a chance to rectify those problems and beautify the Trail at the same time.

It has been brought to our attention that anyone who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation for \$10.00 gets **ten free trees** in a choice of eight different packages. The Trail Council suggests that if anyone would like to plant any trees on the Trail, they call their local trail group first so they can suggest proper locations and planting procedures.

This is important because in certain areas (underneath the Duquesne Light powerlines for

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SAVE THOSE
PENNIES FOR
THE TRAIL

SEE PAGE 6

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TOURNAMENT
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BUY AN INCH
OF TRAIL
COUPON
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VOLUNTEER
PROFILE:
MEET
RON
BOYD
SEE PAGE 4



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**MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER
25 REGINA DR.**

MCKEES ROCKS, PA. 15136

Or E-mail to: 74144.103@compuserve.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

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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.

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS

I got to do some cross-country skiing on the Trail after that snow we had in late January. The best day by far was Friday, February 3rd. It was about 11:00 in the morning, the temperature was in the 30's and the sun was shining the whole time. I went from the parking area around milepost 3 to the beginning of the Trail at milepost 0 and back, and I probably passed about 3 people the whole time. Somebody must have pulled their kids down the Trail on one of those plastic sleds and it smoothed out all the footprints from the past week. It made an excellent track.

I did notice during my time on the Trail this winter that a lot of education in user etiquette still needs to be done. Despite our best efforts in this newsletter, walkers still persist in using the ski tracks as a path for themselves. They didn't seem to realize that their feet often dig up the snow right down to the limestone surface creating bare spots that the skiers trip over. And even if there were no bare spots, their footprints mess up the smooth skiing surface that makes cross-country so much easier.

But it was not entirely their fault. What I found was that whoever blazed the cross-country tracks early on went right down the middle of the Trail. They should have stayed to the far right or left where people are less inclined to walk. If a couple of people walk down the trail, they like to walk side by side. You can't do this if there is a set of tracks running right down the middle of the Trail. Maybe we could put some signs up in the wintertime asking people not to walk in the cross-country ski tracks and asking skiers to stay to the sides of the Trail. Does anyone have any other ideas?

A little over a week later, I was bicycling in 50 degree weather. It was Sunday, February 19th, and the place was packed. The ground was a little soft, but I pumped my mountain bike tires up to sixty five pounds and that made it a little easier. It is a shame more people don't use the section from about mile 0 to about mile 1 1/2 because there was an incredible ice jam in the creek along that stretch. Huge chunks of ice, 8 to 10 inches thick, were backed up the width of the whole creek 100 yards or more. A tree that had fallen over the creek must have created the jam. It looked like the Yukon River or something.

At the Enlow Tunnel, I found a group of people rappelling off of the front of the tunnel on the downstream side. I explained to them that the Council probably didn't have rappelling in mind when we open the Trail to non-motorized activities. I also explained that even though they were knowledgeable and well equipped, it was setting a bad example for kids who might be using the Trail, and the first thing you know, they would be climbing to the top of the tunnel too, and we couldn't have that.

So you never know what you'll find on the Trail. Hope I find you there soon.

Tim



Letters



THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER welcomes all questions and comments. Please send all correspondence to the address on the left.

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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						

Calendar

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - Second floor of 441 Smithfield St. across from Kaufmann's, **6:00pm**. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Jack at 221-7708 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **first Tuesday** of the month - in the Boy Scout room at the Cecil American Legion. Rt. 50. **7:30**. Call 221-6406
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail**, every **second Thursday** of the month at **7:00**. At the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd.s in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 859-3020 more information.
- ♦ **Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail meeting**, **Monday, March 13**, and **Tuesday, April 11**, at **7:00**. To be held at the West Allegheny Community Library. Anyone from the communities around Findlay and North Fayette are encouraged to attend. Call Fred at 695-0134 for more information.
- ♦ **Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, every **third Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at Miller Centrifugal Co. Call 221-6406 for more information.
- ♦ **Clean-up party**, Moon/Robinson segment, every **second Saturday** of the month - **9:00am**. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information.
- ♦ **Clean-up party**, Findlay/North Fayette segment, every **Fourth Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Walk** and inspection. **Saturday, March 11**. Meet at **Milepost 0** at **9:00 am** and walk to Milepost 5 to plan for upcoming trail maintenance activities - or just for the fun of it.
- ♦ **Mountain Bike Ride** - On **Saturday, April 29**, meet at North Star Petroleum near Milepost 3 at **10:00** for a mountain bike ride through the woods and streams in Moon and Robinson Twps. Bring water. Call 787-1472 for more information.
- ♦ **Pennies for your Trail Campaign** - **Saturday, May 20** from **10:00 to 4:00**. Bring those cans and jars of pennies you've been hoarding to Milepost 0 or to the intersection of Montour Run Rd. and Park Manor Blvd. below Robinson Town Centre. Prizes will be awarded to whoever brings the most pennies. Proceeds benefit the Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail.
- ♦ **National Trails Day** - **Saturday, June 3**. Come out and enjoy your trail!
- ♦ **Tour de Mercy Day** on the whole Montour Trail. **Saturday, July 8**. Sponsored by Mercy Hospital. Details upcoming in the local papers, on T.V. and in the May/June issue of your favorite newsletter.

New Trail Publication

FreeWheeling Easy in Western Pennsylvania

A new guidebook to rail-trails and other easy motorfree bicycling, walking, and jogging paths in Western Pennsylvania and nearby Maryland has just been published. *FreeWheeling Easy in Western Pennsylvania* includes 23 developed and undeveloped trails—over 500 miles—with 100 pages of prose and maps.

Trail descriptions include detailed maps of trail routes, descriptions of trails, directions to trailheads and parking,

history and local attractions, development plans, and amenities such as water, food bike rentals and rest rooms.

FreeWheeling Easy complements existing guides. It contains more detail and covers a smaller area than RTC's *Pennsylvania's Great Rail-Trails* and it emphasizes how to find trailheads and facilities on the trail, which is the information people most often ask about.

Written by Mary Shaw and Roy Weil, the editors of *Canoeing Guide to*

Western Pennsylvania, Free Wheeling Easy will soon be available from trail councils, bike shops, outfitters, and bookstores. The Montour Trail Council will have them available at their booths set up at special events.

To order yours now, send a check to Shaw-Weil Associates, 414 South Craig St., #307, Pittsburgh Pa. 15213. Price per copy is \$7.95 plus shipping, handling, and sales tax: \$9.95 in Allegheny County, \$9.88 elsewhere in Pennsylvania. ♦

Final results of last fall's Trail use survey

- ♦ Total responses: 65 approximately 10% of the membership
- ♦ Greatest distance travelled: 35 miles (Oakmont)
- ♦ Most miles travelled per month: 300 (Hopewell)
- ♦ Total bicycle usage per month (40 respondents): 185 average = 5 per
- ♦ Total walks per month (34 respondents): 279 average = 8 per
- ♦ Total runs per month (18 respondents): 167 average = 9 per
- ♦ Total uses per month (65 respondents) 858 average = 13 per
- ♦ Respondents who used the Trail on:

weekdays only:	29
weekends only:	19
both:	15
- ♦ Reside in: Bethel Park - 7

Cecil -	6
Findlay -	2
Moon -	6
North Fayette -	2
Robinson -	5
Other -	37
- ♦ Time of day:

before noon =	28
noon to 5 =	26
5 to dusk =	18
- ♦ Greatest likes: no cars, safety, children's safety, etc. 25
- ♦ Biggest suggestion: extend and/or connect 22
- ♦ Next biggest suggestion: connect Arrowhead (Peters) and Cecil 11
- ♦ Other general comments:
 - ⇒ "Like the friendly people"
 - ⇒ "Need guidebook with mile by mile notations of sites of historical or natural interest."
 - ⇒ Complaints about horses and pets
 - ⇒ More places to sit and enjoy the scenery.
 - ⇒ Deck the McDonald Trestle
 - ⇒ Need emergency phone numbers on rules signs.
 - ⇒ Also, phone numbers to report vandalism, etc.
 - ⇒ More signs to aid in getting to the Trail.
 - ⇒ Bicycle safety tips in newsletter for people new to bicycling.
 - ⇒ Extend Cecil section.
 - ⇒ More water fountains and restrooms.

Volunteer profile:

Meet Ron Boyd

by Tim Killmeyer

Last spring, when we started getting miles 8 through 11 1/2 ready for Trail building, we were fortunate enough to have a few new trailblazers come aboard. One of those newcomers was Ron Boyd.

Whether it was picking up trash and railroad ties from the side of the Trail or painting bridges and installing decking on them, Ron was always ready to help.

The son of Frank and Diane Boyd of North Fayette, Ron, 16, has two brothers, Jason and Frank.



A student at West Allegheny High School and a member of the Imperial V.F.D., Ron says his favorite part of building the Trail was seeing as it was before all the dump sites were cleaned up and after the transformation into a Trail seeing how much was accomplished.

He says that lifting all those railroad ties certainly helped him as a member of the weightlifting club at school. Ron also enjoys hunting, fishing, and bicycling, and says he looks forward to working on the continuation on the North Fayette section into Robinson Twp., Washington County. ♦

Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. groups plan strategy

Montour Trail Council President Marshall Fausold and Secretary Bill Metzger have been joining in meetings with other Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. mainline groups. These exploratory, ad hoc meetings have focused on trying to eliminate a duplication of efforts in major fund-raising. They are also exploring other areas of cooperation so they can present a

united front to the public.

Besides The Montour Trail, the other trail groups include: The Three Rivers Heritage Trail; The Steel Industry Heritage Trail; The Youghgheny Trail, North Section; and The Allegheny Highlands Trail. This



group will not eliminate the individual trail groups. The unifying factor is that they are all involved in the Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. connection. As yet, no commitment has been made by any of the trail groups to follow any guidelines for fundraising that might be established. The exploratory meetings will continue over the next few months. ♦

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ☆ Bob & Susan Allen | ☆ Anna M. Naughton |
| ☆ Ronald H. Arenth | ☆ David Novak |
| ☆ Robert & Karen Boyce | ☆ Linda Okopal |
| ☆ Marie, Roy, & Justin Brosi | ☆ DeWitt Peart |
| ☆ Janice A. Conley | ☆ Chuck & Adriane Prickett |
| ☆ Kevin R. Craig | ☆ Rick & Laura Romig |
| ☆ Lyn A. Fahey | ☆ John Schwartz |
| ☆ Mr. & Mrs. Jesse J. Forquer | ☆ Michael Spellman |
| ☆ Thomas & Christine Frank | ☆ Robert Taranto |
| ☆ John Heisey | ☆ Wendy Terwilliger |
| ☆ David Helwig | ☆ Joe Vitullo |
| ☆ Kathleen A. Killmeyer | ☆ Kurt Waldner |
| ☆ Kraynick's Bike Shop | ☆ Mary E. Weber |
| ☆ Connie Kumer | ☆ Debbie Weigers |
| ☆ Ronald J. Liker | ☆ John W. Zisko |

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. ◆

Montour Trail Guide available soon!

The Montour Trail Council in cooperation with the Allegheny County Planning Department is in the final stages of producing the first annual "Trail Guide" for the Montour Trail. The fold out brochure (suitable for putting in a bike bag or fanny pack) will include:

- 1 The most detailed map of the Montour Trail in the history of the world, along with a description of the Trail.
- 2 Never before seen directions to major trail-heads.
- 3 Beautiful cartographic renderings of the completed and uncompleted sections - **including the actual mileage of the completed sections!**
- 4 Yet another retelling of the "Trail Rules"
- 5 Heretofore hard to find emergency phone numbers along the Trail.

These **FREE** brochures will be distributed as widely as possible; on the Trail, in bike shops, with renewal notices, to new members, and at special events. So don't call or write because you're certain to get one somewhere. ◆

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 | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR | \$250 + 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 (day time) _____ (evening) _____

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

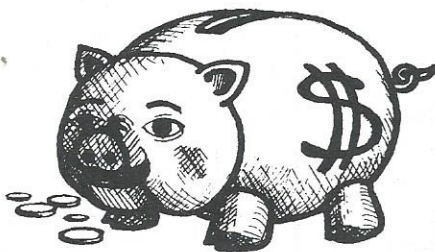
**DON'T FORGET! The Montour Trail Council
may be designated as your United Way Contributor
Choice option #3308 where you work.**

"Pennies for your Trail Campaign" set for May 20 in Moon/Robinson

by Tim Killmeyer

The Moon/Robinson Friends of the Montour Trail has announced a new fundraiser for 1995 - the Pennies for your Trail Campaign. Funds raised from this campaign will go toward maintaining and improving the 5 mile Moon/Robinson section of the Trail.

Everybody has a jar or can of pennies sitting around the house - right? Well the Friends are hoping that they can encourage people to bring those cans.



jars, boxes, and carboys of pennies down to the Trail on May 20, and donating

them to the Friends group. Booths will be set up at the intersection on Park Manor Blvd. and Montour Run Rd. below Robinson Town Centre and at Milepost 0

at Groveton, near Coraopolis.

All the pennies will be weighed and prizes will be awarded to the people who donate the most pennies by weight. The top prize is hoped to be a weekend getaway at a local hotel, but this has not been finalized as of presstime. Prizes will be announced in the May/June issue of the Montour Trail-letter.

Containers will be available for people who wish to have their own containers. back. ♦

Forest Grove Sportsmen plan two events for April

Break out the flies and the rubber worms! The Forest Grove Sportsman's Club (near milepost 2 on the Trail) is gearing up for its Sixth Annual Trout Fishing Tournament.

The club has ordered over 2,500 trout to stock Montour Run Creek between Old Beaver Grade Rd. and the Sportsman's Club. And on April 22, they will run their tournament from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Whoever catches the longest trout during that time will receive the top prize of \$175. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top ten finishers and the top five will also receive plaques. Children's prizes will also be awarded.



Early registration costs \$10.00 and same day registration is \$12.00. A Pancake Breakfast will start at 5:00 am and cost \$3.00.

Neville Island Firearms will have bait available all day at the club.

The Sportsmen are also planning a new event to be held on April 2, from 9 - 3. It is the 4 - Event Memorial Shoot. Entrants will take their turn using blackpowder rifles, pistols, trap, and archery on separate ranges. Scores will be totaled by adding your best three of four finishes, with the worst finish used as a tiebreaker. Since most people don't own all four types of weapons, loaners will be made available to contestants.

Plaques will be awarded to the top three finishers. Entry fee is \$10.00 and all proceeds will benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Call 269-0942 for more information. ♦

Archivist wanted

Anyone interested in volunteering to become the "official" historian and archivist for the Montour Trail Council should call 942-0115 for more information. We are looking to preserve our wide collection of press clippings, trail background material and other paraphernalia. ♦

Trees for the trail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

example) the trees cannot grow over a height of 25 feet. Also they cannot be planted closer than 5 feet to the Trail so as not to impede grass cutting operations.

The 8 packages include:

(#1212) Flowering Trees - (2 each) white dogwood, Washington hawthorn, redbud, flowering crab, and golden rain tree.

(#1211) Shade Trees - (1 each) sugar, silver, and red maples; weeping willow; red and pin oaks; green ash; river birch; thornless honeylocust; tuliptree.

(#1214) White Dogwoods

(#1205) Baldcypress

(#1215) Assorted Trees - (1 each) sugar, silver, and red maples; white dogwood, red and pin oaks; white pine; river birch; redbud; Colorado blue spruce.

(#1202) Live Oak

(#1224) Redbud

(#1203) Blue Spruce

Besides the ten free seedlings (6-12"), memberships include a newsletter and a copy of the Tree Book which offers a wide variety of nursery stock at a substantial discount. (5 or 6 bucks for a 3-5' tree + a free red maple tree.)

So become a member, get your ten free trees, keep a couple for yourself and give the rest to the Trail Council. Send your check, along with a note specifying which package you would like to:

National Arbor Day Foundation
100 Arbor Day Drive
Nebraska City, NE 68410 ♦

Seldom seen Cecil segment gets better access

By Dennis Sims, President, Cecil Friends of the Trail

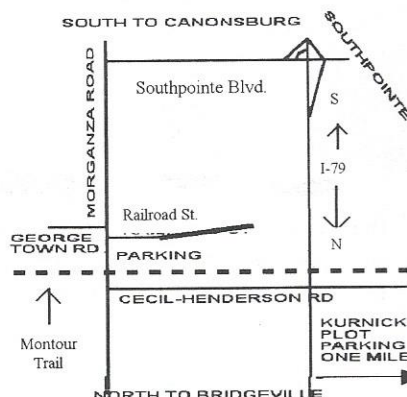
Halfway between the Bridgeville and Canonsburg Interchanges, Interstate 79 crosses a picturesque little valley containing a couple of houses, a country road, a small stream and a trail used by cyclists, walkers, runners and in winter by cross-country skiers. Several trail users that I have conversed with said they discovered this quiet section of the Montour Trail from that span.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation did the Montour Trail a favor when they completed and opened the Southpointe Interchange on I-79 just a half mile south of this valley late last summer. Only a minute or two from this interchange, the Cecil segment can be accessed and enjoyed from the Hendersonville entrance. See map for details.

This 4.5 mile segment (the first section to be built by the Montour Trail Council)

running from Hendersonville to Cecil Park shows the uncrowded, rural and rustic face of the Montour Trail. Now that this section can be more easily accessed, many more of you should get out and enjoy this section that is only ten minutes south of the Parkway on I-79.

(See map for location details)



The Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail welcome you to come out and enjoy our little piece of the country the next time you are looking for a change of scenery. To make your use of the trail more pleasurable, the Friends plan to help Brian Fullgraf install benches as part of an Eagle Scout Project this year. We also plan to cleanup the section from Morganza Road (Hendersonville) eastward to Chartiers Creek making it more user friendly.

The Cecil Friends meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Scout Room of the Cecil American Legion on Route 50. We would enjoy the pleasure of your company at our meetings. The more Friends we have, the more we can accomplish. Call Dennis Sims, President, 257-2553 or Don Berty, Vice President, 221-6406 for more information. ♦

Order form for the Incredible Inch Campaign

Disclaimer: You won't actually own a piece of the Montour Trail, but we appreciate your donation.

The whole Montour Trail is now "for sale". All 3,484,800 inches of it. Buy it by the inch, foot, yard, rod, meter, furlong, mile or league. It is all the same reasonable price; a buck an inch. That's right, a buck an inch! And your inches run the whole ten foot width of the trail (that's 120 inches wide).

You can be creative: add up the

height of your entire family and buy that many inches of trail, or measure the length of your whole family's feet. How long is your dog? Buy his length in inches of trail. Or, if your a little short, just buy the length of his tail. And they make great gifts for that active friend. If we "sold" every inch of trail, it would pay for the whole thing.

For your money, you will receive a genuine, simulated hand-lettered, faux-embossed, 8 1/2 x 11 inch official looking "deed" (suitable for framing), that will proudly proclaim your ownership of the trail (with the requisite fingerprint). This beautiful document will show the total number of inches you "own" and the township in which they are located.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER OF INCHES _____

CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE NAMED ON YOUR "DEED":

Please fill out this form and return it with your check to:
MTC INCREDIBLE INCH CAMPAIGN
1060 STANFORD RD.
PITTSBURGH PA. 15205

USE
the
COUPON

MOON TOWNSHIP
ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEG.)
FINDLAY TOWNSHIP
NORTH FAYETTE TWP.
ROBINSON TWP. (WASH.)
MT. PLEASANT TWP.

CECIL TOWNSHIP
PETERS TOWNSHIP
SOUTH PARK TWP.
JEFFERSON BORO
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Old Mother Montour sez:



I always teach my
children to follow
the Trail Rules!

