

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

Local Friends of the Trail get ready for Spring!

by Tim Killmeyer

By the time you read this all the snow should be melted and the temperatures will be settling into the mid to upper fifties. While everybody else has been spending the last month or so tuning up their bicycles and buying new walking shoes, the various Friends of the Trail organizations have been planning ways to spruce up your favorite recreational area.



Although separated timewise by about 3 months, two huge trees fell about 50 yards from one another this year. This most recent one busted up some split rail fence. The Trail was kept open because Friends Bob Boyce and Dick Quasey cut them up with powersaws.

These localized Trail groups, sanctioned by the parent Montour Trail Council, are organized in communities where Trail construction has been completed. Members of the Trail Council are automatically members of the Friends group where they live or in the section of Trail that they use the most. Non-members who help the group

are encouraged to join the MTC.

The members of these Friends groups promote, maintain, and represent the Trail in their respective communities. This allows the parent Montour Trail Council to move on to complete more sections of undeveloped Trail. In past years the Friends have cut grass, picked up litter, cleaned graffiti, planted trees and shrubs, repaired fencing, installed stream erosion protection and monitored Trail activities by various groups. (All groups must apply to MTC before holding events on the Trail.) They also man Trail information booths at local fairs and other community events.

There are currently three Friends groups in operation; the Cecil Friends of the Trail, the Moon/Robinson Friends, and the Findlay/North Fayette Friends. Each presented their plan of action to the MTC board of directors in February as per their by-laws.

Top priority for the Cecil Friends is to complete the 1 1/2 mile "Hendersonville East" section that they started last year. This will continue the Cecil section of the Trail from its present terminus at Morganza Rd. on to the Peters

Township border at Chartiers Creek. Work involved includes placing surface material and erecting fences. (Interesting note: The surface material was procured by Cecil Friends President Dennis Sims from The Meadows racetrack. He got permission this past winter from track superintendent Corwyn Greene to obtain the used 1-A limestone from the horse racing oval. This is believed to be the first time used race track material is being used on a rail-trail - ANOTHER MTC FIRST!)

Any leftover material will be stockpiled and used to resurface the rough portion of the Trail between Hendersonville and the National Tunnel.

Other plans include improving the Kurnick Parking Area; stream bank stabilization along McPherson Run near Hendersonville;

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Trail surface erosion didn't affect the Montour Trail like it did some other trails, but where it did, the Friends will make it like new this Spring.

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OF
EVENTS

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"SPINELINE"
UPDATE

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TROUT
FISHING
TOURNEY,
APRIL 20

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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

♦ **The meeting out at Fort Cherry Elementary School** last month was a rousing success. Although only about 30 people were in attendance, almost every one of them were committed 110% to completing the next six miles of Trail from Mile 11 1/2 of the present completed section to the McDonald Trestle in Robinson, Washington County. There were others who called and said that they couldn't make the meeting but to please call them when we begin construction.

♦ **Due to the inquiries** of Dick Quasey, the 911th Air Force Reserve has agreed to help us out with a few different projects. But because of previous commitments for 1996, their participation will be limited until next year. We welcome them aboard.

♦ **The complaints we receive** are few, but one of the ones we hear most often is "Why can't you do something about the people who let their dogs use the Trail for a toilet?". Well, you would think that common sense would tell people that they should drag their dog into the weeds whenever "nature calls." (That's one of the reasons for the leash rule.) But like everything else nowadays, we can't assume anything. So I've made copies of the sign in the picture on the right to help those who are "common sense challenged." Let's see if they get the message.

See you on the Trail,

Tim

P.S. Give some thought to setting aside one Saturday this year for helping out the Friends group of your choice. Not all of the tasks involve heavy lifting; there's also fundraisers and information booths to man. Check out the calendar on the next page to see which Saturday each group works.



Letters



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

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - Fifth floor of the Allegheny County Office Bldg. in the Engineering Dept., at 6:00pm. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Marshall at 531-8628 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **New Construction: Robinson, Washington County** - work crews will meet Saturdays, beginning in April, at the base of the McDonald Trestle near the intersection of Rt. 980 and Noblestown Rd. just outside of McDonald, at 9:00am. All are invited to join us as we add six more miles to the Trail! For more information call Dennis at 762-4857 or 262-3748. For information about a weekday workcrew, call Tim at 787-1472.
- ♦ **MTC Training Session - Saturday, March 16 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.** For anyone just getting involved or having recently become involved with the Montour Trail Council. This workshop will bring you up to date in the policies, history, and mission of the MTC. The by-laws of the organization will also be discussed. Instructors will be **Stan Sattinger**, Founder and past-president of the MTC and Jack Swisher, charter member and past-treasurer and past-president. The workshop will be held at **All Occasion Catering** at the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Road in Robinson Twp., Allegheny County. To register call Frank Keppel at 859-3020.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, every **third Saturday** of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Kernick Tract parking area. Call 221-6406 for more information. (No work in March)
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail meeting**, Every Wednesday before the second Saturday 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.
- ♦ **Work & 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. (No work in March)
- ♦ **Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail** Call Don at 899-3695 for more information.
- ♦ **Work & 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. (No work in March)
- ♦ **Mountain Bike Ride - Sunday, April 28 at 11:00am**, around the Trail in the Moon/Robinson area. Great ride for beginners that have never been wet or muddy. Should be able to ride 15 miles and carry your own water. We will meet at the parking area near the Brothers Grimm Lounge (near Mile 3 on the Trail). For more info call 787-1472
- ♦ **Trail Walk - New section for 1996!** Sunday, March 10 (rain date March 17) Meet at Mile 11.5 (current end of Airport Area section) across from BFI entrance at 10:30 am. Take the McDonald exit of Rt. 22 and turn left. Make the first right. You are there. Signs are posted. Walk is approximately 6 miles. Transportation back to start will be provided. See it now so you can appreciate the improvements!

FRIENDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

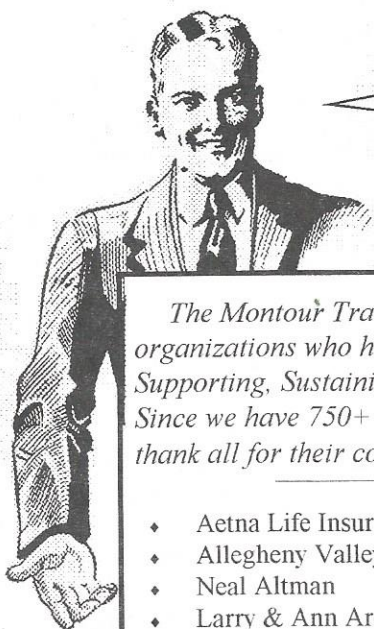
additional plantings and the creation of habitats for the fauna along the Trail. Some of this help will be provided through an Eagle Scout project; minor herbicide treatment of the Trail surface to keep it at its designed width of ten feet; and continuing to increase public awareness by setting up booths on the Trail on National Trail Day and other days and participating in the annual Indian Summer Festival.

The Moon/Robinson Friends of the Montour Trail are also planning an ambitious year. Their plans include: planting grass along the entire Moon/Robinson section; cutting weeds and grass up to five feet from the edge of the Trail several times this year; install more benches at various locations; repairing streambank and other erosion problems; expanding and improving the Hassam Rd. (near the sewage treatment plant) and Groveton parking areas. They also plan a reprise of their highly successful Penny fundraising campaign of last year and will place occasional informational booths on the Trail and at various local community

events.

The Findlay/N. Fayette Friends plan to begin the year with a much needed litter pick up campaign, particularly between the Parkway and the Cliffmine Rd. parking area. They will also complete a neighbor planting project. The rest of their efforts this year will involve preparing the short section of uncompleted Trail, from the Boggs Rd. parking area to the Rt. 22 overpass near the McDonald exit, for final surfacing.

All of these groups meet on different Saturdays of each month (beginning in April) so that they can share the limited Montour Trail Council equipment and supplies. Coordination will be critical this year because much of the equipment will be used every Saturday in the new construction taking place in Robinson, Washington County. Complicating matters even further is the fact that many regular members of the Friends groups have also committed themselves to the new construction project. ♦



Thank you!

The Montour Trail Council would like to thank all of the following individuals and organizations who have donated \$50 or more to the organization in the past year. Our Supporting, Sustaining and Benefactor members will be listed regularly in our Jan./Feb. edition. Since we have 750+ members (and growing), it is impossible at this time to list everybody, but we thank all for their continued support. 8-)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| ♦ Aetna Life Insurance Co | ♦ Brian K. Jensen | ♦ Richard L. Quasey |
| ♦ Allegheny Valley School | ♦ Paul Johnson | ♦ Ed Quigley |
| ♦ Neal Altman | ♦ John Jones | ♦ Jerry Rabinowitz |
| ♦ Larry & Ann Arch | ♦ Michael Karpa | ♦ Dave & Debby Radovich |
| ♦ John D. Babb, Jr. | ♦ Thomas F. Kaveney | ♦ Robert Randolph |
| ♦ James E. & Patricia Ann Bachmann | ♦ Dr. Roland T. Keddie | ♦ Jay & Marilyn Richey |
| ♦ Tim Baker | ♦ W. J. Kellar Agency, Inc | ♦ Ruth E. Rittler |
| ♦ Drs J. G. Benitez & L. G. Allison | ♦ Fred Kissell | ♦ Raymond Rota |
| ♦ E. Peter Benzing | ♦ Mark Krulac | ♦ Stan Sattinger |
| ♦ Sam Bertenthal & Anne Humphreys | ♦ Larson Sales Company | ♦ Dennis P. Sattler |
| ♦ Tom Busse | ♦ Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc | ♦ Donna Seidel & Jerry Green |
| ♦ Warren M. Cella | ♦ Kurt J. Lesker Co. | ♦ Dennis Sims |
| ♦ James R. Daniels | ♦ David A. Lewis | ♦ Mark J. Smith |
| ♦ Explorers Club of Pittsburgh | ♦ Paul & Susan Lieber | ♦ Jim & Pat Stafford |
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| ♦ Janet Geary | ♦ Metro Orthopedic & Physical Therapy, Inc. | ♦ Debora B. Thompson |
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| ♦ John J. Haney | ♦ Bruce E. Neeley | ♦ Gregory Walz |
| ♦ Dennis C. Harrington | ♦ Hugh & Eliza Nevin | ♦ Joyce Waslosky |
| ♦ Thomas C. Harter | ♦ Michael S. Nicholson | ♦ Ted Weidner |
| ♦ David Helwig | ♦ Susan & David Orenstein | ♦ West Hills Area Woman's Club |
| ♦ Bernie Henciak | ♦ John W. Osegueda | ♦ Tom & B.J. Wettach |
| ♦ Donald A. Hoecker | ♦ Nancy Campbell O'Farrell | ♦ E. Steven White |
| ♦ John Hooton | ♦ Bruce & Mary Jo O'Neill | ♦ Eric Williams |
| | ♦ Martin F. O'Toole, D.P.M. | ♦ Jo Wilson |
| | ♦ Pittsburgh Geological Society | ♦ Claude Zajac |
| | ♦ Andrew & Janice Poole | |
- ♦ And three donors that wish to remain anonymous.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

☆ Jeffrey A. Bosetti
 ☆ Barbara E. Cassidy
 ☆ Jeffrey R. Davis
 ☆ Janet L. DeLost
 ☆ Thomas J. Ferenc
 ☆ Teresa L. Groznik
 ☆ Judy Kemp
 ☆ Frank & Michelle
 Munsky
 ☆ Bruce E. Neeley

☆ Gayle A. Streib
 ☆ E. Steven White

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. ◆

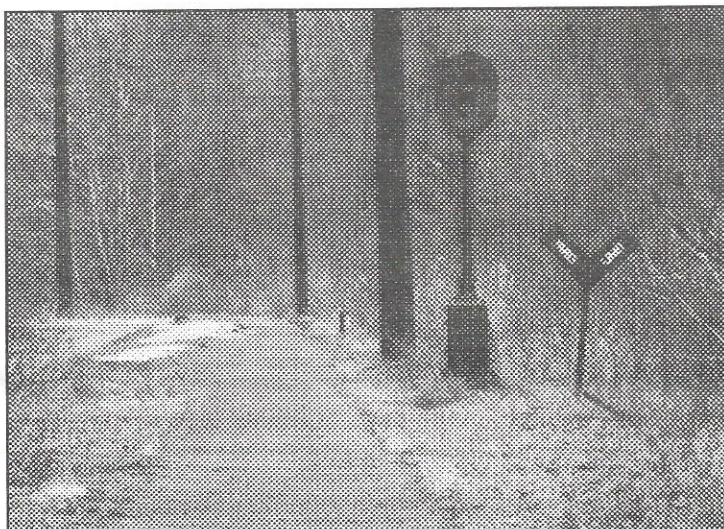


photo by Tim Killmeyer

Some of you might have noticed the improvements to the old "Yard Limit" sign just past the beginning of the Trail in Groveton. The work was done by MTC volunteer and Boardmember Bob Boyce of Crafton Heights. Bob also put new "lights" and a new door on the front of the signal (the only signal left on the whole Montour Trail) behind the sign. He plans to finish sanding and painting the signal later this year.

Political Action Committee

volunteers are needed to help make sure the concerns of the Montour Trail are heard in Harrisburg and Washington D.C. Please call 922-1702 if you would like to help. ◆

A reminder to WALKERS and CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS:

WALKERS - Please do not walk in the cross country ski tracks. They are very hard to blaze and maintain. Boots and shoes dig them up and make them less smooth for gliding. Walk, run, and ride toward the middle of the Trail.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS - Make your tracks to the far right hand side of the Trail (in either direction). They will be far less likely to be trod upon in that location. ◆

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.

- ☐ STUDENT \$5
- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$15
- ☐ FAMILY \$25
- ☐ ORGANIZATION \$50
- ☐ SUPPORTING \$50
- ☐ SUSTAINING \$100
- ☐ 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.

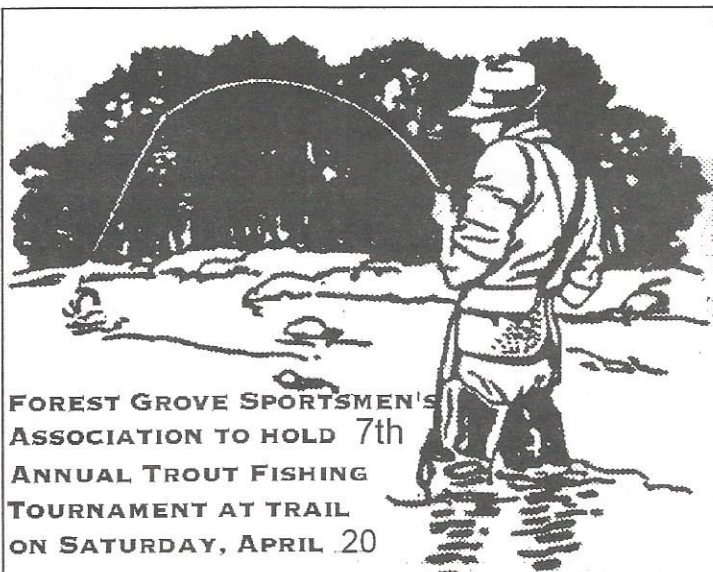
SIGNATURE _____

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.**



On Saturday, April 20, the Forest Grove Sportsmen's Association will hold its 7th annual Trout Fishing Tournament on the banks of the Montour Creek adjacent to the Trail. This year the Sportsmen plan to stock the stream with over 3,300 trout of all variety: rainbow, brook, brown, tiger, and others, all between 8" and 23".

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded in the adult category for the top ten longest fish. Prizes in the children's category go to the top three finishers. Top cash prize is \$200. There will also be door prizes and a tag-fish kitty.

The day will begin with a pancake and sausage breakfast beginning at 5:00am. Price of the breakfast is \$3.00. The price of the tournament if you register before April 18, is \$10.00. After the 18th and including the day of the tournament the price is \$12.00.

All proceeds go to stocking the stream next year and for improving the creek as a natural trout habitat without the need for stocking every year.

To register or for more information, call 269-0942. ♦

Park Manor crossing on track for improvment

Design plans have been drawn up and moved past the approval phase at the Moon Twp. level to redesign the Trail crossing at Park Manor Blvd. and Montour Run Rd. below Robinson Town Centre. The next step is submittal to and approval by PennDot.

If the plans are approved then work can begin to remove the existing guiderail around the intersection so that the Trail can curved over to the regular crosswalk at the intersection. Trail users can then use the WALK/DON'T WALK signals that are already in place. Additional guiderail will have to be installed from the end of the Park Manor Blvd. bridge over Montour Run Creek around toward the present Trail surface to keep errent autos from going into the stream.

Bob Dudash, a member of the Moon/Robinson Friends group and an engineer for Michael Baker Corp. drew up the plans and will submit them to PennDot. ♦

Reminder:

The Montour Trail Council will begin volunteer improvements and construction of the Trail in Robinson Township, Washington County on Saturday, April 6 at 9:00am. Work will continue every Saturday thereafter until the section is completed. Bring your work gloves and meet us underneath the McDonald Trestle. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Please try to set aside at least one Saturday during April, May, or June to lend us a hand. You'll be glad you did! ♦



"SpineLine" group gets official name

The SpineLine collection of the five trail groups involved in the Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. connection has finally decided on an official name. The Allegheny Trail Alliance is the moniker that will be used to present a united front to foundations and help them to prioritize grant money. The five groups involved are The Allegheny Highlands Trail; The Mont-Yough Trail; The Steel Heritage Trail; The Three Rivers heritage Trail; and The Montour Trail. The first task is for each individual group to come up with an estimate of how much

money it will take to complete each trail - task by task. Then ambassadors from each group will gather together to prioritize the tasks of each trail. Then, when foundations are approached for grants, they won't have to decide for themselves which project is more worthy of funding because the trail groups will have already figured that out amongst themselves.

The autonomy of each group will be maintained and other fundraising efforts will not be restricted in any way. ♦

Here is a letter we received just before we went to press from last year's "Pennies" campaign winners.

February 26, 1996

Tim Killmeyer
Montour Trail-Letter

Dear Tim,

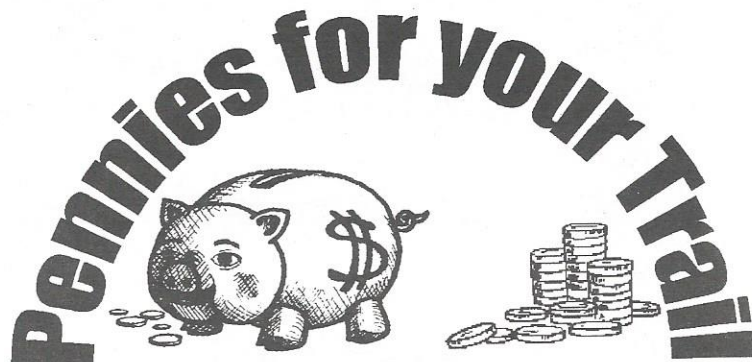
Just wanted to drop you a note to thank the Montour Trail Council for the prize of a Breakfast for Two package at the Airport Marriot. We used this prize last weekend and we had a very enjoyable time.

Even the weather cooperated with temperatures in the 50's and 60's... great weather for enjoying the trail as part of the weekend.

Thanks again and good luck with your collection this year.

Sincerely,

Linda and Leanna Zaccone



Get out those jars of pennies! Once again the Moon /Robinson Friends of the Montour Trail will be collecting pennies to help improve and maintain the Trail in the Airport area. In late May the Friends will man stations to collect and weigh your pennies. Bags will be available so you can take your container home if you like.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three donors by weight. Nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and paper money will not be turned away. All will be weighed by our electronic scales and recored by our fastidious record keepers.

Full details, including the list of prizes and the date will be posted in the May/June **TRAIL-LETTER** and other newspapers.

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 fineprint). 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**

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ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEG.)

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP

NORTH PATETTE TWP.

ROBINSON TWP. (WASH.)

MT. PLEASANT TWP.

CECIL TOWNSHIP

PETERS TOWNSHIP

SOUTH PARK TWP.

JEFFERSON BORO

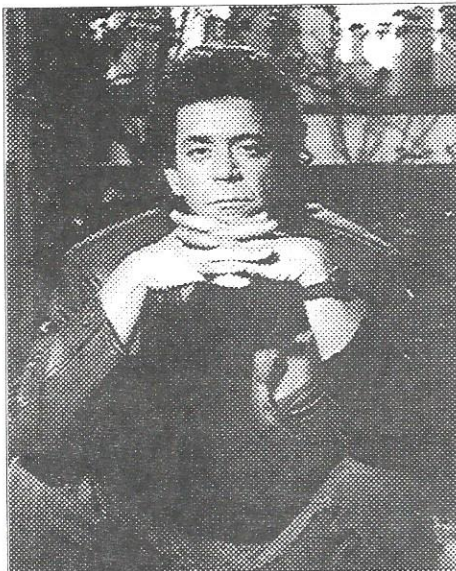
CLAIRTON

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You remember me - Lou Reed? I'm sure me and the Velvet Underground would have given "Take a Walk on the Wild Side" a whole new meaning if we could've been using the Montour Trail.

(celebrity quotation impersonated)

Montour Run Creek next to the Trail is fast becoming the favorite haunt of gangs - gangs of ducks that is. This photo, taken between Mileposts 3 and 4, was shot just after 3/4s of the birds flew away. The new de-icing fluid used at the Airport is supposed to be non-toxic to wildlife, at the expense of the olfactory nerves. Let's hope those "gangs" don't get too unruly!

photo by Tim Killmeyer

