



# MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 12 Issue 3

May / June 2001

## MTC Web Address

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

## Mantra of the Month

- Great results cannot be achieved at once, and we must be satisfied to advance in life as we walk – step by step.

— Samuel Smiles

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## Stabilization project to briefly close Trail sections

by Stan Sattinger

"DIG WE MUST" is a phrase often seen on signboards at construction projects. In our case, "DUMP WE MUST" would be more appropriate. Under a special agreement with MTC and with funding provided by Pennsylvania DEP, the Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA) will be hiring a contractor to install carbonate rock linings in sections of the banks of Montour Run. This will be done to retard further erosion due to the increased runoff of storm water while helping neutralize acid from abandoned mine drainage. Particularly heavy scouring has been occurring along the main trunk of Montour Run, undermining the

wearing surface of Airport-area sections of the Montour Trail.

The only useable means of access to the areas that require stabilization is via the Trail. To protect the safety of Trail users during the construction period, the contractor will be placing barriers closing off certain sections to use by pedestrians and bikers. The closed-off sections will include Grove-ton to Hassam Road, short sections beneath the bridge on Beaver Grade Road and near Schmidt's Tavern, and Enlow Road to Five Points. At this time we don't know how many of these sections will need to be closed off simultane-



ously, but the planned period of construction falls within the month of June. MRWA regrets this disruption to routine Trail use but will appreciate the patience and cooperation of Trail users as we work to protect the stream banks.

Nearly 1300 lineal feet of rip-rap stone are to be placed at twelve designated sites along the main trunk of Montour Run. These sites are located in Moon and Findlay Townships. Allegheny County engineer and MTC Board member Dave Wright has been doing much of the work involved in obtaining permits and preparing bidding documents for this project.

## Robinson Christian School cleans Trail

As Jena Viviano, a fifth grade student at Robinson Twp. Christian School, concentrated on "How we can be good stewards of the Earth" (the title of a study sheet for her science class), an idea of cleaning the Montour Trail came to her. She pitched the idea to her teacher, Mrs. Teresa Bailey, who gave Jena permission and full responsibility of the task.

It was full steam ahead for

Jena, who searched the internet for Trail information, and came across the name and phone number of MTC's past president, Dennis Pfeiffer.

The two conferred, and on Friday, March 30, eighteen students: Ben Kirik, Adam Shaffer, Andrew Wright, Ben Stucky, Mark Williams, Mike Bilz, Matt Gill, Joanna Martin, Gregory Duke, Shane O'Brien, Lara Lattanzio, Jena Viviano,



Mark Williams picks up more than trash on the Montour Trail. It's a "Mouse/Rat."

Hannah Miller, Katie Brown, Barry Eichmiller, Amy Linder, Greg Bihler, and Shelby Brubaker, along with their teacher, Mrs. Bailey, and parents,

Continued on page 5...



# THE MONTOUR TRAIL

## MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

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For administration and  
business: 412-257-2328

**Newsletter Editor** Deborah Hoerster

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## Trail Talk

*from the Editor's Desk*

Greetings!

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I will be giving up my title as editor of the Trail-Letter. Is there anyone interested in becoming editor of this newsletter? It's a job with more "pros" than "cons" and far more interesting than your run-of-the-mill volunteer job. You get to know the "news" first; be there to take the action shots; and interview all the "celebs" at every occasion. There's something for every taste. If yours is politics, you can hob-nob with the dignitaries at all the openings; or if you prefer biking, you can join a ride with the governor or the mayor. The choice is yours. You will also attend the MTC board meetings, which (and I won't lie to you) are four hours long, but hardly noticeable due to the excellence of the company there. Since time is of the essence, please e-mail me a.s.a.p. if you are interested, or call 412 859-3917.

On a happier note, the Moon/Rob Friends group is preparing for their 6th annual "Pennies for your Trail Day" on Saturday, May 12. Volunteers will be stationed at Groveton (mile 0) and also Park Manor Boulevard between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM to collect and weigh your pennies. (Cash will also be gratefully accepted.) Top prize this year is an overnight stay at the Marriott including a "breakfast for two." Other wonderful prizes from local establishments are also available. So don't miss out! Get in on the fun! Bring those pennies to the Trail and maybe you'll win a prize.

Happy Trails! *Debby*



### Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the  
July/August Trail-Letter  
will be due **no later than**  
June 2, 2001.

Please see Page 2 for  
submitting correspondence.  
Thank you.

### COMMENTS/NEWS

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

Thanks!

The Montour Trail Council is an *all volunteer* organization founded in 1989 to convert the abandoned Montour Railroad right of way and the abandoned Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a fifty-five mile recreational trail for non-motorized activity regardless of physical ability or financial wherewithal.



## May 2001

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		

## June 2001

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

## Calendar of Events

- \* Deloitte Consulting Community Service Day – **May 11, 2001**. Employees volunteer to create new parking, and picnic areas at access point near mile 3.
- \* Penny Day – **May 12, 2001**. Major fundraiser sponsored by Moon/Rob Friends of the Trail. To volunteer, call Debby at 412 859-3917. See "Trail Talk" (page 2) for more information.
- \* Happy Mothers Day! – **May 13, 2001**.
- \* Memorial Day – **May 28, 2001**.
- \* National Trail Day – **June 2, 2001**. Check with your local Friends' Group for information on activities in your area.
- \* Third Annual Yokatomac Trek – **June 9 to June 17, 2001**. See page 7 for more information.
- \* Happy Father's Day! — **June 17, 2001**.
- \* First Day of Summer – **June 21, 2001**.

## Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

- ◆ **MTC Board Meeting**, every third Monday of the month - **6:00 pm** at Chartiers Valley H. S., in the faculty lounge. Turn left off of the- Kirwan Heights exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go under the Interstate, and the school is on your left. (Enter through door 4.) Call Peter at 412- 854-1835 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ◆ **Cecil Events:**
  - Friends of the Trail meeting**, every fourth Tuesday of the month - at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, at **7:00 pm**. Call 412 257-2553 for more information.
  - Work & Clean-up party**, every third Saturday of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.
- ◆ **Moon/Robinson Events:**
  - Friends of the Trail meeting**, 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.
- ◆ **McDonald Events:**
  - Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party**, tentatively held on the first Saturday of every month. For more information, contact Ray Johnston at 724-356-2621.



## ...and the PREZ sez...

by Peter Kohnke



All of us were saddened by the tragic accident that took the lives of five persons in South Park a month ago, when a driver suffered an aortic aneurysm and careened into the walkway that parallels Corrigan Drive.

Although very little of the Montour Trail parallels auto traffic as closely as does the Corrigan Drive trail, safety considerations are an important part of our management of this recreational resource. It is impossible to avoid all accidents - anything we do in life involves some risks. But, of course, we want to take all reasonable measures in order to minimize those risks. Here are a few of the many safety-related steps we have taken:

- Building a trail on former railroad rights of way where one is generally quite distant from auto traffic.
- Leaving as many grade separations (bridges and tunnels) in place as possible in order to avoid at-grade crossings (intersections).
- Putting barriers at all trail en-

trances, making it difficult to get on the trail with a vehicle without the correct key.

- Installing split rail fencing alongside the trail at a number of points.
- Setting up rules to follow while using the trail.
- Having monitors who regularly patrol various trail segments.
- Encouraging the local police to ride the trail.

We plan to rebuild as many grade separations as possible. As we have limited financial resources, we have to be selective in our planning and work on those locations with greater traffic volumes. In general, we would rather live with a less than optimal condition for a few years and then build it as safely as possible than to have a compromise solution that we have to live with into perpetuity. For example, rather than put an 'up-and-over' trail (with an at-grade intersection) at the Triphammer Road crossing in South Park Township, we will wait until we can run the trail through an 18 foot diameter corrugated metal pipe under Triphammer Road and thus restore the grade separation.

Similarly, the Brush Run and Clifton Road crossings along the Bethel Branch are thought of as temporary situations.

High volume crossings where the railroad had no grade separation are particularly challenging. I am thinking of Park Manor Drive in Moon Township and PA 51 in Jefferson Hills Borough. No long-range plans for these locations have been laid out yet. For now, we will use existing traffic lights to help us cross safely.

Aside from intersections, we need to monitor the condition of physical barriers to ensure that they are still in good shape and have not physically deteriorated. And trail users need to observe and report unsafe conditions to the police and/or the MTC, as appropriate.

Finally, be a 'they', as in 'When are they going to do something about this unsafe condition?' Keep in mind that our volunteer or financial resources are limited. It is great if you bring a problem to our attention, but even greater if you are willing to offer some of your energy and skill to work with us toward getting it resolved.

## New Email Discussion Group Launched

by Jerry Agin



You are invited to subscribe to a new email group serving members, volunteers, and friends of the Montour Trail.

The purpose of the group is to allow communication among the Board, the membership, volunteers, and trail users. When significant developments occur, subscribers will be the first to hear about them. In turn, if you have comments or questions, feel free to post them on the group for the Board and other subscribers to see. We also will be centering our volunteer efforts

around the email group.

From now on, when we have a need for clean-up crews, race volunteers, or individuals with special skills, the request will go out over the email group. If you were previously on our volunteer phone list, you should subscribe to the new email group.

Here's how to subscribe: simply send a blank message to: [Montour-Trail-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Montour-Trail-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Yahoo will email you a request to

confirm your subscription. Reply to that message, and you're subscribed! The process takes less than 5 minutes. Then from time to time you'll receive email about the trail, and you'll be able to send email to all the other subscribers.

For more information, please visit <http://www.montourtrail.org/membership/egroup.html>.

This group will be a significant benefit to everyone connected with the trail. Give it a try. Subscribe today!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman

Jerry Agin

Heidi A. Ali  
Jennifer L. Bricklemeyer  
James F. Brown  
Anthony C. Bywalski  
Judy Caves  
Maurice B. Cohill, Jr  
George Doemling  
Gerben & Kaspar Family  
Mary Jo Kisow  
Gretchen & Larry Lewis  
William A. Luxner  
Dan Motto  
Lynn Marie & Tim Nixon

James Rettinger  
Dean A. Roppa  
Paul & Sandy Tempest  
Susan & Gerry Wallace

*The Montour Trail Council would like to welcome these new members and thank them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members who have renewed their membership and remind all that a growing membership is one of the criteria foundations look for when we apply for grants.*

## BENEFACTORS

**Thank You!**

E. Steven White  
Stanton W. Bockoven, Jr  
Karl Waldner  
Andrew & Janice Poole  
William P. Gillespie, Pittsburgh Valve & Fitting Co.  
Tim Baker

## LEADERS CIRCLE

**Thank You!**

Byham Charitable Foundation  
Judy & Tom Thompson  
Timothy Reid  
Development Dimensions International  
Mr. & Mrs. John Shaver

## Christian School...

...continued from page 1

Ellen Gill, Stacey Viviano, and Grant Linder, arrived at the Montour Trail full of energy, ready to pick up trash. Some of the boys claimed to see a deer in the bushes, and also unearthed some old bones. But the favorite part of the day was the discovery and capture of "mouse/rat" by Mark Williams.

Twenty trash bags later, they were ready to head back to

school, having cleaned all the debris from mile 4.0 to the gazebo at Park Manor Boulevard (mile 4.1).

Kudos to Jena for her exceptional organizational skills, and to the Robinson Twp. Christian School students, parents, and Mrs. Bailey for all their hard work as "good stewards" of the Montour Trail.



Robinson Twp. Christian School students, teacher and parents.

## Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Please send me additional flyers.
- ☐ I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the trail.
- ☐ My organization would like to provide a letter of endorsement.
- ☐ I know a group interested in a presentation.
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council.
- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT/SENIORS | \$15       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL      | \$25       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY          | \$35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING      | \$50       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING      | \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR      | \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEADERS CIRCLE  | \$500 + up |

(Membership is tax deductible)

- ☐ I wish to make an additional tax deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality.  
(Make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling tollfree, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:

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

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



## ATA Conference – 2001

by Marshall Fausold

The Allegheny Trail Alliance held its second "worldwide" conference on February 9 and 10 at the St. Joseph's Center near Greensburg. All trails of the ATA were encouraged to have as many of their members attend as possible. The Montour Trail was represented by a dozen of our most active, including many present or past officers. Registration total was over one hundred persons, including invited guests. The first goal of the event was to bring the "in-the-trenches" workers of the various trail groups together with their counterparts to exchange notes, gain a sense of a common effort, and learn about how the ATA is progressing. Secondly, the Conference was intended to provide, from sources outside the trail groups themselves, information which would be helpful or of particular interest to trail builders.

Events began Friday evening with dinner in the St. Joseph's dining hall, followed by a keynote address by David Dionne, superintendent of the Baltimore & Annapolis Trail in Maryland. A most engaging speaker, he held attention by describing the development of the B&A Trail, how it had encountered opponents and converted them to supporters, and how extensive local support had beautified and helped to maintain the trail. He then moved on to describe his other passion, the East Coast Greenway - a

trail corridor from Maine to Key West (through New York City!) - which is steadily progressing. The Greenway will also pass through the District of Columbia, and in so doing will be linked by the C&O Towpath Trail to the ATA system. Following his remarks, the Mon-Yough Trail Council hosted a social evening with a lively band and lots of refreshments. This social, together with the meal events, provided attendees from the various trails opportunity to mingle, compare notes, and renew old acquaintances. The walls of the room were lined with exhibits brought by the various trail groups to show off their accomplishments.

Saturday morning's highlight was the unveiling of the logo adopted by the ATA for the Cumberland to Pittsburgh Trail as a whole. The name chosen (after literally years of discussion) is "Great Allegheny Passage," and the logo shows a trail beside a river passing through the mountains via a tunnel. The logo and name will be presented to the public as the beginning of a coordinated marketing plan. Expect to see it a lot! The new name and logo were well received and many of the older hands were happy to see an issue of long standing resolved. Of course, the individual trails of the ATA system will

retain their own names and logos for their respective portions.

Saturday then featured two separate periods of informational group presentations from which attendees could choose topics of interest. Among these were: "Rehab of Savage Mountain Tunnel," "Development of Informational Signs," "Developing the Trail as an Educational Resource," "Marketing the ATA as a System," "Why It Takes So Long To Spend Our Federal \$," and others. Everyone found the sessions they attended to be of value, and most regretted that the schedule only permitted attending their choice of two of the offered programs.



After the second of these periods finished, everyone gathered together for a concluding session. Each trail group was invited to present a "President's Award" to a member in recognition of outstanding service over the past year. Peter Kohnke presented the MTC's award to Dick Quasey for "contributions too numerous to mention". ATA President Linda Boxx gave concluding remarks, and was surprised by an informal award presented on behalf of the ATA Board. Following a group photo outdoors in a chilly breeze, the conferees dispersed to further the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage.

## Panhandle Trail Association Forms

by Ned Williams

When it's finished the Panhandle Trail will stretch for twenty-nine miles, traversing three counties along the way from Walkers Mill in Allegheny County PA to Colliers, WV. It was clear that a single organization was needed to support both the initial and long-term development of the trail corridor.

On March 15, 2001, the Panhandle Trail Association was formed, a board

of directors elected, and the beginnings of a strategic plan started. It is an all-volunteer organization of people who live in the communities along the Panhandle corridor, and others who have an interest in the success of the trail. The area around McDonald, the interchange with the Montour Trail, should become a hotbed of trail activity over the next couple of years.

If you're interested in finding out

more about the Panhandle trail or in becoming involved in its development, please write to this temporary address:

Panhandle Trail Association  
PO Box 19  
Burgettstown, PA 15021

Or email Ned Williams at:

[ned@washtool.com](mailto:ned@washtool.com)



## Trail surface renewed

by Dick Quasey

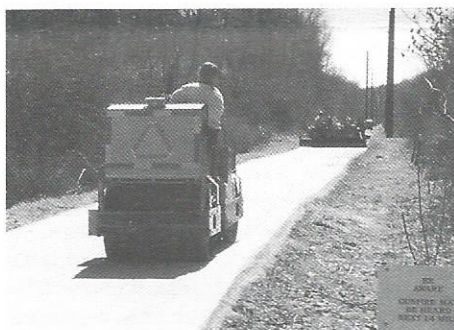
Last year Trail users began to wonder when certain parts of the Montour Trail surface would be repaired. Wet weather and heavy Trail traffic have caused serious deterioration in some places. Members of the Robinson Township (Allegheny County) Public Works Department (RTPW) shared this concern.

In early March it was agreed that RTPW would place a new surface on the Trail in Robinson Township. MTC ordered sufficient surface material and delivered the material to two sites: first, to the Forest Grove Sportsmen's Club on March 14th; and then to the vicinity of the Old Beaver Grade Road parking area, which was recently acquired by the MTC with Dave Wright's help, on March 20th and March 26th.

Now the Montour Trail from Hassam Road (mile 1.4) to Park Manor Drive (mile 4.1) has a new look and is user friendly to walkers, hikers and bikers alike.

A big "THANK YOU" to the Robinson Township Public Works Department for their concern, cooperation and support, and especially, a job WELL DONE!

(Pictures of RTPW – (top) truckers are Dennis Conti, & Ron Boff, (ctr) pavers are Stan Sowinski & Joe Bonkowski, (bottom) on roller is John Midili)



## Southview Bridge partly dismantled

by Dick Quasey

Vandals reportedly dislodged part of a walkway on the Southview Bridge late last year. This bridge crosses SR 4039 near the community of Southview in Cecil Township. The result was a threat of a hazard to the vehicles using the road below.

Last January, signs were installed which state that the bridge is closed and plans were made to eliminate this risky situation. Winter weather and poor site conditions delayed remedial work until Wednesday, the 26th of March. That day a crew of seasoned Trail volunteers of Quick-silver Bridge fame (Tom Kaveney, Mitch Cholewinski, Joe Seibel, George Gerben, Ed Ritter, and Ken Gregory) removed the walkways on both sides of the bridge, eliminating the threat to road traffic.

The bridge will remain closed until a new deck is placed on it later this year.

## 3rd Annual Yokatomac Trek – June 9 to June 17, 2001

### The trail from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC is nearly finished!

Come journey by bicycle along the C&O Canal Towpath and the completed trails of the Allegheny Trail Alliance. We'll ride from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA on nearly-level trails that once served canals and rails.

### Cycle the Trails Through Mountains

We will travel for about 300 miles along the flattest route ever built between Pittsburgh and Washington, DC. By taking eight days, we'll have lots of time to appreciate the river scenery, spectacular mountain gorges, and ex-

plore the remnant structures of rails and canals that line this now-sylvan corridor. Lodging will be close to the trail, so we'll bike right to the door of most of the motels and B&Bs. Choose the indoor lodging option, or the camping option; campgrounds are right along the trail. Lodging capacity is what limits the size of the trip, so we will need to make full use of rooms. Plan on sharing rooms. We are asking that you send \$100 to indicate your interest in the trip. This amount should approximately cover the shared costs. Reservations are being accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Make your check payable to "RTC" and mail to:

PO Box 186  
Latrobe, PA 15650.

Be sure to indicate your lodging preference, and the name of your roommate.

### Need more information?

Explore the Allegheny Trail Alliance website at: [www.atatrail.org](http://www.atatrail.org). You can explore the websites of each of the member trails from there. Trip coordinator is Duane Wolley – [d.wolley@ieee.org](mailto:d.wolley@ieee.org)





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

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They're back!

Thanks  
to your  
membership  
dues, these and  
other amenities  
are available  
along the Trail.

We spell relief,  
"R-e-n-e-w!"



PAGE 8

## Missing link lies in Mt. Pleasant

*Excerpts from The Observer-Reporter (4-2-01) by Harry Funk & Heidi Price*

The Montour Trail winds through a dozen municipalities in its 47-mile stretch between Coraopolis and Clairton. So far, portions of the trail have been completed in all but one of those communities, Mt. Pleasant Township. But Mt. Pleasant's time is coming soon, as plans have been revealed to construct the unfinished sections of the trail in Washington County.

Last week, Mackin Engineering Co. of Pittsburgh submitted preliminary drawings for the design of the trail through Robinson, Mt. Pleasant, Cecil, and Peters townships.

The trail council is complemented by several "friends" groups that have helped drive localized volunteer efforts. The latest group to be formed, Fort Cherry Friends of the Montour Trail, soon will begin clearing trees, bramble bushes and weeds from the railroad bed in Mt. Pleasant. "It's pretty well grown over," said Joseph

Seibel, a member of the Fort Cherry Friends. "It has a lot of sapling trees growing in the right-of-way. They have to be pulled out and cleared away. This is the last section that has to be done." The Fort Cherry group, formed about four months ago, includes about 40 volunteers from Mt. Pleasant, Robinson and South Fayette townships, McDonald Borough and Seibel's hometown of North Fayette. The volunteers will be responsible for clearing and maintaining 4.7 miles of the former railroad that stretches from the McDonald Trestle, along Primrose Road, through Mt. Pleasant to the Cecil border. As part of the trail construction, the McDonald Trestle will undergo extensive refurbishing. Dennis Pfeiffer of Moon Township, past president of the trail council, said work on the trestle will include removal of railroad ties from the 967-foot-long structure and the installation of a cement deck and railing.

At one point, all the bridges across road-

ways were to have been removed, as ordered by the state Public Utility Commission - including already-completed sections of the trail. The Montour Trail Council was successful in getting the state Supreme Court to reverse and remand the decision, and since then has been working with state agencies and local governments to develop a plan for maintaining some of the bridges.

Also included in the Mackin contract is completion of the unfinished portions of the Montour Trail in Peters Township, to link with the existing Arrowhead Trail, which is part of the Montour system but owned and maintained by the municipality.

A separate contract, with GAI Consulting, is addressing replacement of the overpass at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 980 in Cecil.

Read the complete article online at:  
[newsroom@observer-reporter.com](mailto:newsroom@observer-reporter.com)