



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 15 Issue 3

May / June 2004

For your consideration

Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.

Sophia Loren

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MTC Web Address

Visit the Montour Trail web-site at:
www.montourtrail.org

Grant Monies Will Help Build Trail in Allegheny, Washington Counties

The Montour Trail Council will be the beneficiary of three major grants that should enable us to build substantial portions of Trail in the next several months.

The State Transportation Commission has approved funding for two MTC enhancement projects. In Allegheny County \$400,000 was approved for Phase 8C and 8E in South Park Township. In Washington County \$400,000 was approved for a new bridge over Muse-Bishop Road in Cecil Township. Thanks to David Wright and Ned Williams who spent numerous hours preparing the grant applications. (See project details below).

In addition, the MTC received \$6,500 from a grant request of \$10,848 from the Washington County Room Tax / Tourism Grant. These funds will aid in materials acquisition for the construction of a .63-mile connection between the Montour and Panhandle Trails just west of McDonald

Washington County awarded a total of \$51,500 to 13 organizations, down from \$70,000 awarded to 15 organizations last year. Thanks to Mark Imgrund and John Hooton on putting together this successful grant application.

Dennis Pfeiffer

Project Title: Montour Trail—Phase 8C & 8E

Eligibility Category: 8—Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).

Primary County: Allegheny

Primary Municipality: South Park Twp

Primary Planning Partner: SPC

Primary PENNDOT District: Dist. 11

Funding Scenario: 80/20 PROJECTS

Total Project Cost: \$ 400,000

Federal Funds Requested: \$ 320,000

Local Funds Available: \$ 80,000

Project Title: Montour Trail—Phase 13, Muse-Bishop Bridge

Eligibility Category: 8—Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).

Primary County: Washington

Primary Municipality: Cecil Twp

Primary Planning Partner: SPC

Primary PENNDOT District: Dist. 12

Funding Scenario: 80/20 PROJECTS

Total Project Cost: \$ 400,000

Federal Funds Requested: \$ 320,000

Local Funds Available: \$ 80,000



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Astrid Cook
Editor

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Manager

Trail Talk

from the Editor's Desk

At long last, spring beckons. And with it comes the promise of summer. Already many Trail building activities are taking place (check the Friends group of your choice at right to see how you can join in), and we are getting ready for my own personal favorite outdoor holiday: National Trails Day.

On June 5th, you will find MTC volunteers staked out all along the Trail, passing out brochures and goodies, answering questions, and asking for your support. If you read the article on the front page, you may think that the funds are just rolling in. Well, in a way, they are. Thanks to the many contributors listed in our 2003 Annual Report (see insert), politicians in both Harrisburg and Washington, DC, and the hard-working volunteers active in the MTC, we are getting closer to our goal of 47-plus miles of continuous Trail from Coraopolis to Clairton. As you may notice from our new map (page 8), we are getting ever closer to that goal.

However, despite first appearances, the funds coming in are a drop in the bucket in terms of what is needed to complete the Trail, not to mention what will be needed to maintain the Trail for years and years to come. In some cases, every dollar we obtain through grants must be matched by the MTC in order to receive the funds. That means we are always in need of new revenue sources and additional contributions from you, our valued supporters.

And when it comes to supporting the MTC, you are in a unique position. Usually when you give to a non-profit group, you may not see tangible results for years, if at all. All our funds go right into Trail building and maintenance, so you see both improvements to the Trail and actual Trail being constructed (and in some cases, such as with bridges and trestles, that construction can be mighty impressive). You can use your Trail—the one for which you've helped pay—even while we are continuing to build and improve. Talk about instant gratification!

It's not often that we bring up the "dirty topic of money," but if we don't remind our users from time-to-time that the Trail is something worthy of support, we all start to take it for granted. One such chance to show support and have a rocking-rollin' good time will be held on Saturday, May 22, when Bethel Park Friends looks to raise funds for the Clifton Road Bridge project. The "Ramble, Run, Ride & Ribs" event is described in the green flyer and on page 7.

So, when you venture out this summer (and hopefully the weather will be fine during the RRRR and on National Trails day), be sure to enjoy what you've helped build. And if you can help even more—either by giving of your time or money or by asking your employer and friends to remember the efforts of the MTC—we would appreciate it.

Astrid Cook

Newsletter Deadline

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

May 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					

June 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			

Calendar of Events

Moon/Robinson Penny Day—**May 8**
 MTC Board Meeting—**May 17**
 Ramble, Run, Ride & Ribs in Bethel Park—**May 22**

National Trails Day—**June 5**
 MTC Board Meeting—**June 21**

Alternative Education Program to Add Amenities to Trails

Last fall, the Cecil Friends received a phone call from Assistant Principal Alex Covi of Keystone Oaks High School asking if we could use any assistance on our section of the Trail. He was looking for a location for the students in his Alternative Education program to do some work out in the country for which he was beginning to prepare a grant proposal to fund his project. Alex was invited to our September meeting to describe his program and to get ideas that could be included in his proposal.

His Alternative Education program is for students from troubled lifestyles that are having difficulties in the classroom. This program allows the students to learn values while providing a community service. Several years ago Mr. Covi, while teaching at Chartiers Valley High School, brought the Science Club out to the Trail for a day and performed a spring spruce up under the direction of Don Bert.

Mr. Covi was successful in obtaining the grant and his students will perform work in the Keystone Oaks School District communities of Greentree, Dormont and Castle Shannon and on the Montour Trail in Cecil and on the Panhandle Trail. Thus far, his students plan on building two dozen benches to the specs of the Allegheny Trail Alliance. A dozen or so of those benches will be spaced between Hendersonville and Southview, about a half-dozen on the Panhandle with a some spares left over. The benches will be prefabricated in the high school shop and brought to the trail for installation under the supervision of the local Friends' groups. The benches will be installed by the start of summer. He expects to have around \$10,000 to spend on trail related projects that will include transportation, food, teacher salaries and materials.

Look for a story in an upcoming edition of the Trail Letter with photos on the progress of this project.

Dennis Sims

The Sixth-Annual Yockatomac Trek to Celebrate "For George's Gorgeous Four Gorges"

June 20-27, 2004, offers bicycle enthusiasts the chance to join up with the Allegheny Trail Alliance and Trek from Washington, DC, to McKeesport.

Dubbed "For George's Gorgeous Four Gorges," the ride will cover 300 miles and journey through four gorges (Great Falls, Cumberland Narrows, Yough, Cedar Creek) that George Washington traveled through over 200 years ago.

The itinerary looks fun and fabulous:

Saturday, June 19, 2004, in Washington, DC

Arrive in Washington

Arrangements for a shuttle from McKeesport to Washington DC have been made.

Sunday, June 20, 2004, Washington, DC to Leesburg, VA

36 miles on the C&O Canal

7 miles to Lodging

Monday, June 21, 2004, Leesburg, VA to Shepherdstown, WV

37 miles on the C&O Canal

2 miles to Lodging

Tuesday, June 22, 2004, Shepherdstown, WV to Hancock, MD

51 miles on the C&O Canal

1 mile to Lodging

Wednesday, June 23, 2004, Hancock, MD to Paw Paw, WV

32 miles on the C&O Canal

1 mile to Lodging

Thursday, June 24, 2004 Paw Paw, WV to Cumberland, MD

28 miles on the C&O Canal

1 mile to Lodging

Continued on page 6

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

Edward D. Bockman

Mark R. Bradbury

Jason James Butler

Vincent E. Caputo

Kevin M. Collins

Charles Delanko

David D. Duvall

Robert S. Englesberg

Jacques B. Foster

Lori Geasley

David C. Green

Mary Carroll Grimes

Tracy L Harper

Jim Hatch

June M. Heide

Patrick Jewison

Kyle & Laura Kimble

Roger & Brenda Kruger

Carol Lowden

Frank Anthony

Marchelletta

Rob Marks

Beverly McKee

William S. Melnick

Eileen Merlina

Jeff Minter

Maryann Molbein-Jenny

Kathleen Murrio

Thomas Primke

George Relic

David Robb

Thomas A. Rosenfelder

Thomas & Jennifer

Roule

Kevin T. Shimko

Mary C. Siget

Michael R. Speese

Rodney Stevens

Lora Stumpf

Bill Stype

Thomas C. Wagner

John M. Walkmeyer

Diane J. Walkowski

Hugh V. Weaver

Larry A Wesche

BENEFACTORS

Edward D. Bockman

James M Bradley

Burgh's Pizza & Wing

Doug Ettinger

Michael J. Kiely

Paul T. McKeown

Peter P. Orsini

Dennis Pfeiffer

Patrick D. Roberts

Stan & Gerry Sattinger

Joseph W. Schultz

Thomas C. Wagner

LEADER'S CIRCLE

Byham Charitable

Foundation

Eagle Physical Therapy

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey M.

Kessel

McMurray Rotary Club

John & Sandy Newman

Kris & Linda Rouch

Swindell Dressler

Judy & Tom Thompson

E. Steven White

Robert & Teresa

Williams

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.

Membership Chair - Jerry Agin

And the Prez sez...

Hello members and friends of the Montour Trail!

I finally had the opportunity to ride my bicycle over the McDonald Trestle a few weeks ago. What a great experience! It reminded me of Stan Sattinger's quote in David Templeton's September 7, 2003, Post Gazette article: "Stan's retirement plans, he said, will consist of riding a bicycle back and forth across the viaduct. He wasn't joking."

Well, the Montour Trail Council is always planning and working on ways to complete the Montour Trail as soon as possible. This spring and summer, our volunteers will be working on two very significant trail sections. John Wasco – with engineering assistance from Jack Peth, Ned Williams and Mark Imgrund – will be heading up our efforts to develop the old Montour Railroad transfer track into a trail connection to the Panhandle trail. Part of this project will include refurbishing a sixty-foot-long bridge.

The other significant volunteer project we're working on now is to extend the Trail west from the Library junction in Peters Township to the Allegheny County line. This is a DCNR funded project headed by Dave Wright with on-site coordination by Mark Imgrund. Frank Ludwin will provide much of the heavy equipment volunteer work.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in either of these projects. You can contact John Wasco or Mark Imgrund respectively.

Happy Trails.

Dennis Pfeiffer,
President

Sixth Annual Yock Trek through George's Gorges—cont.

Friday, June 25, 2004, Cumberland, MD to Confluence, PA

Max of 48 miles on the Great Allegheny Passage

1 mile to lodging

Western Maryland Scenic Rail Road from Cumberland to Frostburg, Bike and/or Shuttle to Confluence (depending on trail construction)

Saturday, June 26, 2004, Confluence, PA to West Newton, PA

1 mile from lodging

50 miles on the Great Allegheny Passage

Sunday, June 27, 2004, West Newton, PA to McKeesport (Pittsburgh), PA

.5 mile from lodging

19 miles on the Great Allegheny Passage

Participants are expected to contribute \$200 towards the group cost plus to pay for their own lodging and expenses (reservations are to be made individually, although roommates may be available through the ATA).

There will be a van to carry baggage and to meet travelers at lunch time, but you should plan to carry with you on the bike those things you'll need for each day's ride.

For more information on this event and other ATA activities, please visit the ATA Web site at www.atatrail.org.

Astrid Cook

What's an RRRR? On May 22nd, You Can Find Out!

The Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park are having their first ever "Party on the Trail," with the subtitle of "Ramble, Run, Ride and Ribs." The purposes are to publicize the trail and to benefit the Clifton Road bridge fund. The "RRRR" will be on May 22 (Rain date May 23) from 10 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon. You can Ramble, Run, or Ride at you own leisure. Then, return for a delicious BBQ sandwich lunch. Lunch will be available the entire time. Enjoy this noncompetitive event for trail users of all ages.

The party will start at the Clifton Road trailhead, with parking on the unpaved parts of Al's Cafe parking lot. We will be have a raffle, with people getting more raffle tickets



for the greater distance travelled on the trail.

In conjunction with the RRRR, Bethel Park's police department will host a Police Pals Fun Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of George Washington School. The event will include, a bicycle safety course,

bike inspections and other activities available at a nominal cost.

The cost for Ramble, Run, Ride and Ribs is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children ages 11 to 17. Children under 11 are free. Your fee will cover include the lunch and an event t-shirt (for the first 200 registrants). See you there!

Peter Kohnke

National Trails Day Set for June 5

This year's National Trails Day will take place on Saturday, June 5. Expect to join your MTC volunteers on the Trail, whether you bike, jog, stroll or just help Fido stretch his legs.

This National event is in its twelfth year, and this year's theme is "Trails and Health... A Natural Connection."

Friends groups will be positioned at various spots along the Trail to give out information and answer questions. We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Peters Township Friends of the Trail will be hosting another Twilight Trail Talk.

This time it's warm weather instead of cold, cool refreshments instead of warm.

Enjoy the Trail "after hours" on Friday, July 30 (rain date Saturday, July 31).

More details to come in the July/August Trail Letter!



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

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Help Wanted

Once again we are in need of a new volunteer to help us at the MTC. We need someone to take over our e-mail box, answering e-mail and mailing brochures (about 90 percent of the e-mail requests are for brochures).

This job does *not* require extensive knowledge of the Trail (you can forward questions you can't answer), but it does require an Internet connection, an e-mail address (you can create one just for MTC forwarding), and general awareness about viruses (as a public account, we do get a lot of spam).

You set your own schedule, so please call 412-418-0432 today if you are willing to help!

