



The Official Publication of the Montour Trail Council

MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

The 2017 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year

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November-December 2018

The Originals: Larry Ridenour by Bruce Barron



Larry (right) poses with fellow county employee Dave Wright (left with 2017 Trail of the Year award).

Larry Ridenour, one of the Montour Trail's original 12 board members, is also remembered as one of the most crucial contributors to Allegheny County's recreational trail network. Unfortunately, that was not always a badge of honor. On one occasion, his love for trails cost him his job.

In 1996, having already helped both the Montour and Yough Trails get started on behalf of the Allegheny County Planning Department, Larry was trying to organize a trail development effort in Plum Borough. Some neighboring landowners who didn't like the idea got the attention of the Republican county commissioners, who had taken control of county government the previous November.

Larry was called in for a meeting and told, "I see you have 11 years with the county, which is enough to be vested. You'd better retire, because you're going to be fired."

Larry wasn't down and out for long, however. Pittsburgh mayor Tom Murphy soon hired him to manage the Eliza Furnace Trail project, adding to his already considerable collection of trail-building achievements.

Larry and Dave Wright represented the Planning Department in the 1989 meeting at which the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy presented its feasibility study on conversion of abandoned railroads. Larry was a perfect recruit, because the opportunity brought back childhood memories. *Continues on page 5.*

Tour the Montour Wrap-up by Pat Friesdam

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Visit the Montour Trail Web Site at:
www.montourtrail.org
To converse go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43518292159>

or

<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Montour-Trail/info>

Wow! September 22 was a perfect day for the 16th Annual Tour the Montour - not too hot, not too cold! And, wonder of wonders, the rain held off until evening.

Once again the Tour began at mile 0. Parking was kindly provided by the Friends of Pittsburgh



The author signs in a participant.

Professional Soccer. Riders and the Tour Planning Committee are so appreciative of the improvement this has brought to the start site. Starbucks Coffee, bagels and breakfast muffins were provided at mile 0 to get the riders going. REI support was also at mile 0 and at Forest Grove Sportsmens Club to help with any mechanical problems.

There were 400 + cyclists that were greeted by great volunteers at 4 rest stops where they were treated to fruit, pb&j sandwiches, trail mix, granola bars. Pepsi provided water and Gatorade. Sweetwater Bicycle Shop of Ambridge was at the Boggs rest stop for mechanical support.

A great lunch of pulled pork, haluski, hot dogs, pasta, salad was once again prepared by Cooked Goose. Mediterra sourdough bread always disappears fast. The cookie table was scrumptious due to donations by our friends Bobby, 3 Saints, Sam's Club, Shop n Save (Washington), and Eat n Park. We thank Forest Grove Sportsmens Club and Mike for sharing their great venue. UPMC physical therapy was on hand at Mile 0 to guide proper stretching prior to the ride and were at Forest Grove to help with post ride stretching. ProBikes provided info on nutrition as well as equipment info.

Great door prizes included gift cards from various stores and restaurants, a Homewood Suite stay in Robinson, Hyatt, Hilton, Marriott stays at the Meadows, a professional bike fitting by UPMC's Matt Tinkey, Aerotech jerseys, AHN therapy at Cool Springs, panniers, chocolate covered apples, and the list goes on. *Continues on Page 5.*



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The Prez says:

Hello, Montour Trail Council members, friends, users and supporters of the Montour Trail. We are very appreciative of your support of the Montour Trail system. We hope your enjoyment of the trail equates to our enjoyment of building and maintaining this 62-mile system as a unique Western PA community treasure.

This article is being devoted to a very worthwhile project to help preserve the Montour Trail greenway corridor.

Allegheny Land Trust Montour Trail 38.5 Acre Land Protection Project



Sign at Mile "1". From left to right: Tom Dougherty - Vice President ALT & Dennis Pfeiffer, President, MTC

The Allegheny Land Trust is partnering with Montour Trail Council and the Hollow Oak Land Trust to help to acquire and preserve 38.5 acres. The properties western boundary is shown in the photo above at trail mile #1 and parallels the trail to the east until mile 0.5. At the August board meeting the Montour Trail Council board voted to pledge \$5,000 towards the \$20,000 shortfall for the \$180,000 ALT purchase. As MTC members please consider helping with the funding shortage to preserve this beautiful 38.5 Acre property.

As I'm sure we would all agree, part of what makes the Montour Trail so special is the scenic landscape through which the trail passes. The gurgling streams, wooded hillsides and lush valleys are part of our region's unique natural heritage, and no matter the season the trail and its surroundings provide a much-welcomed respite from the nearby noise, asphalt, and traffic for countless users each day. People of all ages, interests and abilities have come to count on the trail and its surroundings as their place to experience nature, exercise, spend time with family, friends and pets, or simply enjoy some quiet time.

This is certainly true from Mile 0 to Mile 3 where the trail is uniquely rustic and scenic running alongside Montour Run as the high-quality stream makes its way toward the Ohio River. Wildlife and wild flowers abound, and the dense woods and clean stream combine to make it a very special corridor.

It could be easy to take these wonderfully wooded surroundings for granted-to assume that since they have always been here, they will always be here to provide the scenic beauty, clean water, fresh air, quiet tranquility, wildlife habitat, and greenspace buffer that make the Montour Trail special. But we simply do not have that luxury. Residential, commercial, and energy development continuously threaten our green space buffer so we cannot assume that our trail will always be the way it is today. There are several examples at various points along the trail where over-development of the traiside landscape has detracted from the overall trail experience.

It is for this reason that the Montour Trail Council is supporting Allegheny Land Trust's efforts to acquire and permanently protect 38.5 wooded, trail front, stream front acres in the Montour Run Valley in Moon Township. This land is a key piece of the puzzle to protect the remaining green space in the valley and connect with other protected lands to create a contiguous and permanent greenway along the trail corridor from trail mile 2.5 to 0.5. Other ownership includes Moon Township, Hollow Oak Land Trust and the Forest Grove Sportsman Club. In addition to scenic and recreational benefits, protecting this land will help to mitigate trail and downstream flooding, maintain air and water quality, and preserve contiguous wildlife habitat. *Continues on Page 5.*

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

MTC Board Meeting:

Every third Monday of the month - 6:00 p.m. 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 the Montour Trail Office for more information or to get on the agenda.

Airport Area Friends: (MP 0 to MP 12.6 and the 6.3 mile

Airport Connector) The Airport Area Friends of the Trail meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Forest Grove Fire Hall, 2044 Ewings Mill Road, Robinson Township, PA 15108. New volunteers are always welcomed. Contact Phyllis McChesney at 412-264-6303 for more information. Numerous "work parties" are held during the season. Please call 412-262-3748 to lend a hand at the work parties.

Fort Cherry Friends: (MP 12.6 to MP 20.7)

Friends of the Trail meeting: Second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the McDonald Trail Station, 160 S. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057 (adjacent to the Panhandle Trail). Work and cleanup parties will be scheduled as needed. For more information contact Tim Thomassy, 724-926-4617 or Chuck Hughey, 724-926-9436.

Cecil Friends: (MP 20.7 to MP 28.5)

Friends of the Trail meeting, every fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil Henderson Road; other months (with the exception of November and December) meet at the MTC Offices. Work and cleanup parties are scheduled as needed. Call 412-496-4308 for more information, or email densimwx@comcast.net

Peters Township Friends: (MP 28.5 to 30.4, Library Jct to near MP 35 and part of the Bethel Branch)

Friends of the Trail Meeting, first non-holiday Monday of the month at Peters Township Community Recreation

Center and varying locations during warmer weather at 7:00 p.m. Work and cleanup parties on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. For more information, please call Jim Robbins at 724-941-6132. For monthly meetings contact Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at markimgrund@gmail.com

Bethel Park Friends: (The 2.75 mile Bethel Branch and a short piece of main line trail around MP 35).

Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel Park Municipal Building Caucus Room behind the Council Chambers. Anyone interested in the Bethel Park Trail segment is encouraged to come. Work and cleanup party, every second and fourth Saturday of the month - 8:30 a.m. Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.

South Hills Friends: (MP 35.4 to 46.6)

Meeting second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at South Park Township Community Room or the Township Library located at the Township Building at 2675 Brownsville Road, South Park, 15129. Work and cleanup parties on the second Saturday of the month. For more information, contact David Oyler at 412-831-9288, davidoyler1950@gmail.com, or Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692, mckeownp@comcast.net

The Montour Railroad Historical Society:

For more information send email to mrhs@montourrr.com.

Westland Friends: (Westland Branch)

Meeting is second Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM at Paneras Restaurant in Bridgeville located on Route 50. Work and cleanup parties meet at the Galati Trailhead on Southview Road and will be announced. For more information contact Doug Ettinger at 412-302-1993 or dougettinger@verizon.net.

The Peters Friends by Julie Hahn-Miller

The Friends of the Montour Trail in Peters Township (akaThe Peters Friends) is the group responsible for the approximately 3 ¼ miles of Montour Trail in Peters Township that is not part of the Arrowhead Trail. The group was founded and chartered on September 2, 2003. The biggest challenge then, and one of the group's continuing challenges, is educating the local community about the differences between operating and maintaining the sister Montour and Arrowhead Trails.

The Peters Friends group has a vibrant and diverse set of volunteers. For example, we have an enthusiastic 9-year old boy who has volunteered for several years at our Penny Day fundraising campaign. We also have many retired volunteers who help maintain and operate the trail. Our members reside in Bethel Park, Mt. Lebanon, North Strabane, Peters, and Upper St. Clair. If you want to get involved with volunteer work on the Peters section of the Montour Trail, there is absolutely no residency requirement, just a love of the trail and the inclination to share your talents with the Peters Friends group!

Our volunteers have many interests and abilities. We have volunteers who cut grass, prune trees, and control the never-ending growth of weeds along the trail. Others in the group strategize and manage the growth of our group through recognizing and obtaining grants for the operation and maintenance of the trail. On the organizational side some maintain the minutes of our meetings and funds for the organization. Friends volunteers also coordinate scout projects and volunteer groups from local businesses to improve and maintain the trail. The Peters Friends staff an informational booth at Peters Community Day to increase awareness of the trail. We also help to staff the century turn-around rest stop for the Tour the Montour bike ride in September. Both of these events help to inform and promote usage of the Montour Trail. This is truly a setting where a committed set of volunteers allow the Peters group to thrive in a constantly changing environment.

A just-completed project the group spearheaded is the paving of the Montour Trail's Greer Tunnel. We applied for grants from The Washington 2018 Tourism Grant Program, The Treadway Foundation, and Doppelt Family RTC grant for this project. We also used funds from the Montour Trail Council. *Continues on page 5.*

Peters Friends Continues from Page 3

There are also two annual fundraisers. The first is the Twilight Trail Walk held each year on the last Friday in July. It is a festive event where 1-1/2 miles of the trail is lighted for an evening walk. This all-ages event features food and entertainment. Event volunteers come not only from the Peters Friends group but also from their families, even grandchildren. This is our signature event and is well attended each year by Peters residents and non-residents. Our second fundraiser is The Penny Day fundraiser which is held in the beginning of October. There are 3 areas in which volunteers set up tables with informational pamphlets on the trail and how to volunteer for our group, energy bars for users of the trail and finally donation sites for cash and envelopes for future donations. Money raised by the Peters Friends that does not go to ongoing maintenance expenses is used for capital expenses and to supplement and match grant monies to make improvements to the trail.

Monthly meetings are held on the first non-holiday Monday of the month. We are currently meeting on a regular basis at Pizzaz Pizza on route 19. Work parties for trail maintenance are held on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month. Other work parties may also be held on different days when a new group of volunteers from the community or volunteer organization is available to join us on the trail.

For more information you can email us at PetersFriends@montourtrail.org. We are on Facebook at Peters Friends (<https://www.facebook.com/mtcpetersfriends/>). As a volunteer you would have the opportunity to try our many tasks in the organization and we value new viewpoints. We are a friendly, multi-skilled group who welcome new volunteers year round.

IT Volunteer Opportunity

There's a lot more to running a trail organization than you might guess. Of course, we need people to fix ruts, remove fallen trees, trim weeds, and more. But we also have the more mundane tasks such as bookkeeping, updating memberships, organizing information, and just keeping the inner workings in motion. That's where this opportunity comes in.

The Montour Trail Council is in need of a new IT chairperson. We already have a crew of very capable people maintaining the website (a shout out to Diana Gong, Paul Everson, and Fran Hensler), so this person will not be a webmaster. The IT chair instead coordinates the various technologies that the trail uses, manages the web hosting service and document management system, and generally tries to keep the organization up-to-date with the various technologies. Committee meetings are arranged as necessary.

Familiarity with WordPress and Windows hosting services would be key. Otherwise, the volunteer would need a general familiarity with IT systems, including general changes in technology and regulations. The primary objectives of the position are to make sure our systems (website, membership database, document archive, communications) are running properly, and that the organization is reasonably keeping up with changing technologies.

Interested individuals can contact the departing IT chair, Deb Thompson, at deb@montourtrail.org.

Tour the Montour Wrap-up continues from page 1

AND the raffle...

Pro Bikes donated a Specialized bike with disc brakes, water bottle with cage and a helmet. The winner was Bill Shader.

Tandem Connection donated a Fuji Absolute bike. It was won by Daniel Freeman.

Seven Springs donated a 2 night stay for 2 people with breakfast and use of the gym and pool.

The winner was Diane Eannace. Congrats to all.

And thanks to everyone who stops on the trail to talk and buy raffle tickets. We love to hear your stories.

Without the volunteers this event could and would not work. They packed swag bags, worked at pre- registration, loaded the truck with equipment, drove the truck, unloaded the truck, packed it up again and unloaded it again, shopped, packed, cleaned, worked at registration, worked at parking, worked at registration, worked rest stops, worked to provide safe road crossings, patrolled, set up and worked the lunch room, organized the prizes and prize table, and put Forest Grove back together again.

As you can see, the Tour the Montour Planning Committee relies heavily on you who volunteered. Please know that your presence and efforts are so very much appreciated. Hopefully we will see you again next year. If anyone would like to volunteer, let us know. We need event volunteers as well as Committee volunteers.

Thanks to our Presenting sponsors: Advanced Orthopedics & Rehabilitation, CEC, EATON, 84 LUMBER, MARKWEST, NOVA Chemicals, Park West Supply, Friends of Pittsburgh Professional Soccer, UPMC Centers for Rehab Services, WYEP 91.3.

Corporate sponsors: Bob & Patsy Brown, Aero/tech/designs/cyclewear, Country Meadows, Creative Printings & Graphics, Meadow Ridge Development, PennaFlame, Pgh. International Airport, Pro Bike & Run, Seven Springs, Southwestern Eye Center, Tandem Connection, Washington Health System Cardiovascular Care.

Supporting sponsors: cfs bank, DAVAN Manufacturing, Inc., DiCicco Development Inc., Highfield Crossing Apts./Colebrook Mgmt., IntegraCare, Knights of Columbus, Holy Trinity Council, 11279, Matrix, , South Hills Toyota, Minor Investment Group, Sweetwater Bicycle Shop in Ambridge, and finally, thank you to FEDEX Ground, our naming sponsor, for your continuous support.

As the holiday shopping season approaches, consider using Amazon Smile for your online shopping, and designating Montour Trail Council as the recipient.

Updated Web Site by Fran Hesler

Have you visited www.MontourTrail.org recently? We've given it a face-lift, adding enticing images of the Trail and news-you-can-use. There are updated trailhead directions, intersecting trail links, amenities, mileage charts, bypasses and safety guidelines – great content that will be helpful in planning your next Trail excursion. A special thanks to all the Trail enthusiasts who agreed to let us use their photos on the site.

Think about passing the link along to your friends on social media – we need all the exposure we can get! If you have suggestions about new topics that should be included, contact webmaster@montourtrail.org.

HOME



The Montour Trail stretches 60-plus miles around Pittsburgh — the longest suburban rail-trail in the U.S. The Trail's bridges, trestles, viaducts and tunnels are impressive, and its railbeds played an important role in the region's coal-mining history.

Walk. Run. Bike. Camp.

Make your own tracks on one of the the nation's outstanding rail-trails. Bonus: If you live near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, it's right in your back yard!

The Montour Trail is a multi-use, non-motorized recreational pathway around Pittsburgh: **the country's longest suburban rail-trail**. When completed, the Trail will extend 47.4 miles; branch routes increase the overall length to 63 miles. The relatively-flat half-loop stretches from Coraopolis (13 miles northwest of Pittsburgh along the Ohio River) to Clairton (15 miles southeast of the city, on the Monongahela River). A branch in the northwest section connects directly to the Pittsburgh International Airport.

The Trail is easy to get to by car, as there are **access areas and trailheads** every few miles along the route. Pittsburgh's **rapid transit system** runs near some of these, and it is bike friendly. The Trail is **ADA accessible** as well.



Scenic beauty



Restored bridges



Historic tunnels



4-season access

The Prez Sez Continues from page 2

We have a unique opportunity to work together with Allegheny Land Trust and the Hollow Oak Land Trust (who is also in support of this initiative) to make a real and visible difference! A total of \$180,000 is needed to protect this land for current and future generations. ALT currently has pending grants totaling \$90,000 from PA state agencies, and commitments of \$70,000 from local foundations and other sources, leaving a gap of \$20,000 needed from the community to protect this key parcel forever. Additionally, a portion of the state grants noted above are dependent upon us raising local matching dollars. ALT needs our help to help them protect our trail.

Let's work together to seize the opportunity to protect these 38.5 acres of trailside Moon Township greenspace forever. You can help by sending your tax deductible donation today (note that it is for the Montour Trail Land Protection Project) to: *Allegheny Land Trust, 416 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143* or by donating on-line at www.alleghenylandtrust.org (click the "support" button and then the "Montour Trail Land Protection Project" box).

Thank you for helping us to partner with ALT and Hollow Oak to protect our trail.

Happy Trails to you.

Dennis Pfeiffer, President

Larry Ridenour continues from page 1

"When I was a child," he explained, "I had a Donald Duck comic book, and one of the stories was about using an old railroad bed as a hiking trail. So this was always in the back of my mind."

As an adult, Larry pursued his love for hiking on the Appalachian Trail, which is where he got the idea of combining government land ownership with volunteer maintenance by local friends groups. While working as a planner for a private firm in Pittsburgh, he knew that the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad was declining and began thinking about its possible future as a trail. When he joined the county planning department, Larry took on riverfront and trail development responsibilities with strong support from department director Ray Reaves.

After the 1989 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy meeting, Larry became the right man for another assignment: negotiating land acquisition with Gordon Neuenschwander, the P&LE's last president from 1986 to 1993. Larry already knew him from having developed the master plan for a park in Marshall Township, where Neuenschwander was a township supervisor.

Larry approached the P&LE with a simple message: "I have a deal you can't refuse. Give me two years and I will get the money to buy your right of way." As it turned out, Neuenschwander had already signed a deal with Duquesne Light to put a backup line alongside the railroad, to support construction of the new Pittsburgh airport. "But this was a godsend," Larry said, "because they [Duquesne Light] had to rebuild the decks on two bridges to run their trucks over them." As a result, the Montour Trail Council only had to re-deck one bridge between miles 0 and 7.3.

Larry remained a Montour Trail Council board member until he and Dave Wright decided to split up Allegheny County trail duties, with Dave managing Montour Trail development and Larry focusing on the Yough River Trail. There he took his vision beyond county borders, working with Westmoreland and Fayette Counties to create the Regional Trail Corporation. The RTC would then become a partner in the Allegheny Trail Alliance, developing the portion of the Great Allegheny Passage from McKeesport to Ohiopyle State Park.

Now retired and living in Lexington, Kentucky, Larry happily points out how times have changed: Plum Borough officials are currently advocating for the trail connection to Oakmont that he got fired for supporting 22 years ago.

MONTOUR RAILROAD HISTORY

The X1 Railroad Crane**By Bryan Seip - Montour Railroad Historical Society**

It doesn't seem like it has been 10 years since an old piece of railroad equipment came home to its current location beside the trail at milepost 30. This is the X1 Railroad Crane, which first appeared at this location 70 years ago. It is now under a continuing preservation project as a historical display of the Montour Railroad.



X1, accompanied by flat car X3, sits at Champion in 1981 while on a ditch clearing project. The clamshell bucket was being used for this job Gene P. Schaeffer photo.

The X1 was purchased new by the Montour Railroad in 1947 to replace an older steam powered crane. Built by the Ohio Locomotive Crane Company, it weighs about 39 Tons, was diesel powered and with a 50 foot boom had a lifting capacity of 25 tons.

X1 is self-propelled, but with a top speed of only 4 miles an hour, it often would be added to a train and towed to a work site from its home at Montour Junction in Coraopolis.

The crane was mostly used at the Montour Junction shops, loading and unloading materials and supplies. It would work in the outdoor car shop, where a steel panel for the entire side of a hopper car would be lifted and held while the car men riveted the panel in place.

X1 was used for track projects and to replace decking timbers on many of the bridges on the Montour. In some instances, it was sent out to a derailment site to help in re-railing cars.

While its capacity was not enough to lift a fully loaded car, it could pick up one end and move it back onto the tracks.

The X1 also employed a clamshell bucket, which was used at the shops to unload sand from a gondola into the locomotive sand house and was also used out on the line to clear ditches or recover spilled coal.

X1 had an electromagnet, which it would use to move steel parts and scrap. When a section of track was replaced, often the old tie plates and spikes were removed and thrown on the ground. When the track replacement was completed, X1 would move slowly along with its electromagnet a few inches above the ground and it would pick up those old spikes and tie plates, along with any other metal objects that had been discarded.

X1 often traveled with the X3 flat car, using it to carry the clamshell or magnet and other tools and supplies needed at a work site.

X1's final Montour project was to help dismantle the railroad. After the railroad ceased operations in the 1980's, X1 was used to pull up the rails for reuse or for scrapping.

Retired in 1983 when the Montour Railroad ceased operations, X1 was sold to Briggs & Turivas, then located in Robinson Township. B&T was moving their operation to Dennison, Ohio and the X1 went with them, working there for 10 years until it was sidelined by a major engine failure. X1 was later purchased by the Ohio Central Railroad System, but was never returned to working condition and sat idle in Dennison for another 10-plus years.



X1 unloads wheelsets at the Montour Junction car shops. A Chuck Ross photos.

In 2008, the Ohio Central was sold but the new owners had no use for an old broken-down crane and X1 seemed headed for the scrap list. The newly formed Montour Railroad Historical Society approached its owner, Jerry Joe Jacobson, to see if the old Montour relic could be saved, and he agreed to donate it to the MRHS.

A new home for the crane was found when Tom Robinson agreed to have it placed on his property at the old Montour #4 mine site for cosmetic restoration and display.

A contact was made with Century Steel Erectors, who were heavily involved in the J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge project on the trail. Century offered their help to move X1 from Dennison back to its Montour home and within a few weeks in September, 2008, X1 was home again, where work was started for its cosmetic restoration.

However, due to a lack of manpower, funding and equipment, the MRHS restoration ground to a halt and in 2015, the MRHS ceded X1 to Tom Robinson, who now continues the restoration project.

You can contact the Montour Railroad Yahoo group at http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/montour_rr/ There are currently 355 members from across the country. You are encouraged to join. There is a wealth of information about the Montour Railroad at this location and you can pose questions of its membership, from whom you are sure to get an answer. There is also much information at <http://www.montourrr.com>



I want to support the Montour Trail Council!

Membership Level

- ☐ Leaders' Circle \$500 +
☐ Benefactor \$250 - \$499
☐ Sustaining \$100 - \$249
☐ Supporting \$50 - \$99
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Welcome New Members

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

Members

Daniel Baldigowski
 Lizanne Boni
 Raymond Byrne
 John Callahan
 Recchio Cecchini
 Theresa Collins
 Patrick Connolly
 Robert L. Cook
 Darlene D'Amico
 George Dollish
 Catherine Hoffman
 Carol Hoover & Marco Schumacher
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 Larry Laude

Leaders

Tim Baker
 Robert Lehnert
 Richard J. & Martha Munsch
 David Oyler
 Jim Starr

The Montour Trail Patrol's Newest



Randelle Hedges (left) is our newest Patrol. She served 4 years working as an aircraft mechanic for the United State Air Force. She worked on the C130-H aircraft. When she left, her rank was an E5. She now lives in Washington, Pa. and has been employed by Lowe's for 8 years. Randelle says that she loves everything outdoors....hiking, backpacking, kayaking and biking on the Trail! If you are also interested in

becoming a Trail Patrol contact Jesse Forquer at jiforquer@Comcast.net.

Retirement

During our Post Tour wrap up meeting, Phyllis McChesney announced that after 16 years she is retiring from the Tour Committee. Phyllis has been our anchor. She has motivated all to make each annual Tour better than the last. Her work with the Airport Friends group, among others, has given us many fantastic volunteers. She developed the relationship with Forest Grove Sportsmens Club to provide us with this great venue for our lunch. She has kept us updated with our sponsorship packages, mailings and registrations, to name a few, but not all by a long shot.

Phyllis, the Tour Committee will miss you terribly. Thanks for everything!



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Bridgeville, PA 15017

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**Scenes from the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11
at Cefalo's Banquet and Event Center in Carnegie
Photos by Dave Oyler**

