



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 15 Issue 5

September / October 2004

For your consideration

The best thing to do behind a friend's back is pat it.

Ruth Brillhart

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MTC Web Address

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

IKEA / Montour Trail 1/2 Marathon to Run on 9/11

The 9th annual IKEA/ Montour Trail ½ Marathon and 5K Run and Walk will be held on September 11th. As in years past the events start at the IKEA parking lot in Robinson Township, Allegheny County. Walkers will be bused to the start from the IKEA lot starting at 7:45

a.m. The ½ Marathon start time is 8:00 a.m., and the 5K Start time is 8:20 a.m.

Last year we had a record turnout with 1,250 registered, and this year we expect another great turnout. It's worth coming to this year's event just to get a shirt. Chris Daub, an artist from San Diego, California, designed this year's shirt. Coca Cola Bottling has supported this event for several years and will be test marketing its new low cal/ low carb drink C2. Coca Cola Bottling furnishes all of the drinks for the event including Dasani and PowerAde. IKEA, North Park Club House and Golden Harvest Bread will be providing food following the event at the IKEA lot activities tent.

You may register by mailing applications available at the following locations: Elite Runners and Walkers on Route 60, Dick's at



the Mall in Robinson or from our trail flyer boxes located near our parking areas. You also may register in person at the IKEA Robinson Store on Sept. 9th and 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or on Sept. 11th from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Or register on-line through links on the MT website www.montourtrail.org.

Help Wanted

Come on out and be part of a great event! All volunteers receive an event t-shirt.

We still need volunteers to help in the following areas: trail event marshals, registration, and finish line. We also need someone to man our event radio repeater, which will be located at West Allegheny High School. Volunteers may e-mail jjforquer@adelphia.net or phone 412 859-3737 before 10:00PM.

Jess Forquer / Race Director

THE MONTOUR TRAIL

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Imgrund	Vice President
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Frank Ludwin	Dick Wilson
Bill Orr	



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P.O. BOX 11866
PITTSBURGH PA. 15228-0866

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For administration and
business: 412-257-3011
Fax: 412-257-3016

Newsletter
Editor Astrid Cook

Circulation
Manager Charlie Forquer

Trail Talk

from the Editor's Desk

It may not be the cruelest month poetically speaking, but September is a pretty cruel month when it comes to scheduling activities. It's late enough not to be too hot but early enough not to risk inclement weather, so everybody seems to have something going on during September. Add to the fact that 9/11 falls on a Saturday, and you may find yourself being torn in several directions at once.

I long ago came to terms with the IKEA race falling on Bethel Park's Community Day (go to the race in the morning and visit our booth in Bethel in the afternoon), but if you're a runner and a biker, you'll just be getting your legs back from the 1/2 marathon in time to Tour the Montour on the 25th.

Sadly, the Allegheny County Rib Cook-off (a big fund raiser for the MTC) was cancelled this year, leaving a bit of a breather for us over the usually hectic Labor Day weekend. But to make up for this, our work parties are in high gear, trying to get quite a few projects underway before winter weather sets in.

We hope to see you at one of our many events or work parties this September!
Astrid Cook

September 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

IKEA / Montour 1/2 Marathon—September 11

United Way Day of Car-ing—September 14

MTC Board Meeting—September 20

Tour the Montour Trail Ride—September 25

MTC Board Meeting—October 18

For updated information,
check out our new Events
Calendar at
[www.montourtrail.org/
events](http://www.montourtrail.org/events)

October 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						

Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the November / December Trail-Letter
will be due **no later than** October 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.

And the Prez sez...

Hello members and friends of the Montour Trail. I trust your summer is going well.

Our great volunteer crews continue to make progress with two major new trail construction projects. John Wasco (724-796-3781) and Jack Peth's crew are making great progress on the bridge over Robinson Run. The plan is to pour concrete for the new west abutment on August 12. This bridge will connect the Montour & Panhandle trails.

Also Mark Imgrund (724-941-6351) and Dave Wright's crew are well on the way in transforming the deep rutted, swampy, low areas of the Library junction to county line trail section in Peters Township. Most of the base for this section is now smooth and dry due to extensive drainage improvements and grading work. A special thanks to Frank Ludwin is in order. Franks superb heavy equipment operation has been a valuable asset in this transformation. If

you are you looking for a unique volunteer opportunity, please give John or Mark a call. No experience necessary.

In addition to the projects described above the Montour Trail Council is very busy with other aspects of building and maintaining the Montour Trail. Thus we are very fortunate to have an organization like the Hollow Oak Land Trust (HOLT) devoting their time into preserving open green space. HOLT has acquired three properties adjacent to the trail corridor and is trying to acquire a fourth property. HOLT could use some help with this new acquisition. Please take the time to read the article sent to us by HOLT's Executive Director, Janet Thorne. Please consider helping to preserve the corridor by helping HOLT acquire this additional property.

Happy Trails.

Dennis Pfeiffer, President

MTC Endowment Fund Launched

"After we get our Trail built....what then? Where do funds come from to maintain and develop it?" Those are essentially the questions asked of your Board in a recent session by Board member and attorney Dick Wilson. Wilson acknowledged that the Montour Trail Council has good reason to be proud of being an all-volunteer organization with an excellent record of private fund raising over the fifteen years of its existence. The reality is, however, that most of the Trail construction money has come from federal and state grants—grants that are not readily available for maintenance, equipment and "soft costs" like fees.

The MTC Board agreed that we will need to continue to operate our Trail as a Council over its ultimate 55 miles and 40 bridges once it is built. Dennis Pfeiffer, Trail President, then formed a focus group to look into how to finance future maintenance of the Trail. Thus, we announce the establishment of **The Montour Trail Endowment Fund** that, once it is mature, can be drawn on to supplement annual giving. The MTC Board selected Adam Davidson, Director of Financial Planning for Hefren-Tillotson, Inc.—a brokerage firm—and approved investment advisor and Maureen Mahoney, development officer of The Pittsburgh Foundation—a firm specializing charitable gift funding and fund management—to establish the program.

The Pittsburgh Foundation requires a \$10,000 minimum fund to open an endowment account with them. It was gratifying to learn in our July Board "kickoff" meeting that an anonymous donor offered \$5,000 to start, bolstered by another \$1,000 from a Board member. There's a promising start!

Over the next several issues this newsletter will carry articles on how our fund will work and the many ways in which you can participate and make donations. We hope you will want to do so.

John Hooton and Adam Davidson



Part of the Endowment Fund Group (l-r): MTC Pres. Dennis Pfeiffer, Adam Davidson, Maureen Mahoney, and MTC Board member John Hooton.

Come Ride with Us: Tour the Montour Turns Two

Come and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Montour Trail in September. If you and your family enjoy the trail for relaxation, or you consider yourself a long distance cyclist, come join us for a fun filled day on the Montour Trail. The 2nd Annual Fisher Scientific Tour the Montour Trail Ride is taking place on Saturday, September 25, 2004, rain or shine.

The Tour the Montour Trail Ride is not a race, but a leisurely trail ride that offers four different ride distances entirely on the Montour trail. You will be able to choose from a distance ride of 44 miles, intermediate rides of 12 or 24 miles, or a family ride of 6 miles. All distances are out and back ride lengths and all courses begin at Mile "0".

Please note that helmets are mandatory for all riders.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. with staggered start times for each ride length. The long distance ride leaves at 8:15 AM, the middle distances rides leave at 8:30 a.m., and the Family Ride leaves at 9 a.m. Pre-register before 9/18 and you are guaranteed commemorative ride T-shirt. T-shirts will be available on ride day as long as supplies last. Entry fees are \$20 for individuals, \$35 for the Family Rate (up to 4 members), and all kids 12 and under are only \$5 until September 18th. Ride day registration is \$25 for individuals, \$40 for the Family Rate, and kids are still only \$5.

Pre-ride bike checkups will be available at the start. Trail patrol and assistance will be available along the course. Rest stops will be stationed along the course with fruit, snacks, and beverages.

After the ride, plan to stay and enjoy pasta, drinks, and other goodies back at Mile "0". All registered participants are eligible for prizes and giveaways.

Registration forms and more information are available at www.montourtrail.org, by calling 412-257-3011, by email at tourthemontour@yahoo.com, or you can register online at www.active.com.

All proceeds benefit the maintenance and expansion of the Montour Trail. We hope to see everyone on Saturday, September 25th for a great day of fun.

Bill Orr

New Trail Security Director Named

You're on the Trail, having a great time... and you fall and hurt yourself... or you see something happening you know is not right... What do you do? Who do you call? The new Director of Security and his fellow Monitors can help.

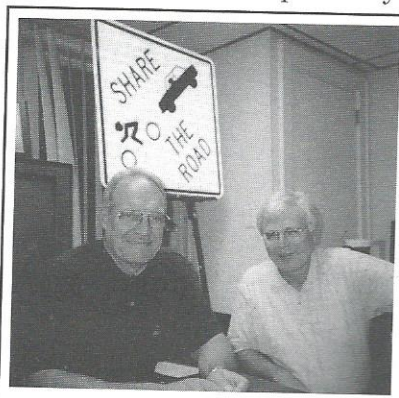
We have been most fortunate in the fifteen years the Montour Trail has been in existence to have had very few emergencies or other disturbances.

That does not mean we have not had them. We are "always watchful," says Jesse Forquer, who recently was named Director of Trail Security for the MTC.

"Jess," as he is usually called, has been a resident of Robinson Township for 39 years, a Trail volunteer for eight years, and an MTC Board member for the last six years. He was originally referred to the MTC Board for the trail patrol program by Robinson Township (Allegheny County) Police Chief Dale Vietmeier. You may also have seen him (with or without his "African Safari" hat) as Director of the very successful IKEA Half Marathon for the last 4 years. While his job description is new, Jess brings solid experience and commitment to the job. He worked with Bill Morphy to establish the Trail Monitor Patrol program in 1998. You may also have seen his yellow-shirted bike riders bearing that name in your Trail experiences. Give them a wave, ask

them a question or for a Montour Trail map!

The Montour Trail will ultimately be 55 miles long; you can imagine the effort and coordination that will be required to continue our safe record then. We need vigilance even now: a quick response by a Trail volunteer or police when something untoward takes place. That's where 911 is vital.



Jess Forquer (left) sits with MTC President Dennis Pfeifer after recently being named Director of Trail Security for the MTC.

Trail security means something as simple as removing fallen branches from the Trail or helping parents locate children because they got confused about where the kids to be picked up (that has happened!). We also say, "enjoy the Trail," but don't pick the flowers (or steal the plants!). Then, too, this is an all-volunteer Trail. Using good judgment, you can speak politely to someone doing something inappropriate to safe usage or which takes

away from the beauty of the Trail. It can also mean using your digital camera to snap a picture of an ATV rider on the Trail (unauthorized motorized vehicles are not permitted) and then calling 911 on your cell phone to report what you saw to the police. ATVs have been confiscated and the riders fined in certain circumstances. Dog leashes are a must and fines could be imposed when this requirement is ignored.

Jess says "Trail security and safety are important and the Trail rules should be followed and viewed as commonsense guidelines to make the Trail a safe place for all to enjoy." Help Jess help us.

HOLT PROTECTS LAND AROUND THE TRAIL

Those using the Montour Trail should be aware of the work of another organization that tries to protect the land surrounding the Trail in the Montour Run valley. The Hollow Oak Land Trust was incorporated in 1991, about the same time as the Montour Trail Council, and has been an active participant in many of the events celebrating the progress of the Trail.

HOLT's mission is to preserve a legacy of protected green space in southwestern Pennsylvania by acquiring and managing land and by educating the public about the importance of our region's natural resources. Members are concerned about the rapid loss of open space, particularly in the area of the Pittsburgh International Airport, which results in a decrease of water quality, recreational and educational opportunities, and wildlife habitat, sometimes accompanied by flooding and erosion.

HOLT has an active land acquisition program and seeks to acquire land surrounding the Trail (see insert page). The

Twilight Trail Walk II: Bigger and Better

What is over 7500 feet long, lighted by over 500 candles, and more fun than 25 barrels full of monkey keys? A Twilight Trail Walk, of course. Okay, so maybe the monkey barrels can't be substantiated with fact, but nearly five hundred people of all ages and scores of their canine companions enjoyed an evening stroll on the luminaria-lit Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township on July 30. The weather cooperated despite predictions of evening thundershowers by the weatherman. Even the full moon showed itself toward the end of the walk while event volunteers tore down and restored the trail back to darkness. The warm 78 degree weather was quite a departure from January's first Twilight Trail Walk, held in 27 degree weather on a lighted portion of the trail only one third as long as this one.

Participants enjoyed the musical talents of Orbital Motion, drinks from Scones and Cones, Eat 'n Park cookies, toasted marshmallows, hot dogs, and doggie treats (species appropriate). Walking the trail after full darkness fell provided an unusual perspective of moving lights that seemed to float in the darkness until those wearing the glowing necklaces, dog collars, and blinkie pins were within a few yards. One ambitious youngster even attempted some hula-hoop moves with three necklaces strung together while making her way down the trail. The spectacle of walking the nearly three-mile round trip of lighted trail with hundreds of other trail supporters was described by one unidentified pre-teen walker as "this is awesome!"

Twilight Trail Walk II Event Director Sue Headley reports that over \$2000 was raised to sup-

port the building and maintenance of the Montour Trail in Peters Twp. She continued, "I want to thank all the participants and our sponsors who helped make this event possible: Hormel Foods, Gina Lison, Nickels Bakery, Parkhurst Dining Services, Pittsburgh Children's Foundation, Sarris Candy, Scones and Cones, Subway on Valleybrook Rd., Wendy's, and Dr. Timothy Weyrich. Also, our raffle prize donors: Battery Nexus, Carnegie Science Center, Crossroads Florist, The Dairy Bar, Giant Eagle, Lorenzo Pizza, Miller's Hardware, The Olive Garden, Pizza Hut, Sarris Candy, Therapy by Hand, and Carolyn Weyrich.

Most trail events have far too many volunteers to thank individually, but this event is small enough to extend a personal thank you. With advanced apologies to anyone inadvertently left out, special thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their time to plan the event, make luminarias, set up & run the event, and clean up afterwards. They were: Cara Delesteinne, Jane Engle, Sue Headley, Jamie Headley, John Hooton, Mark Imgrund, Tina Imgrund, Peter Kohnke, John Kozak, Dennie Laughlin, Erin Long, Mark Mendolohn, Kelli Merritt, John Murphy, Craig Robbins, Jim Robbins, Karen Robbins, Jack Shoup, Sarah Shoup, Jenny Smith, and the Boy Scouts of Troop 1320.

The event was such a great success that holding another one is almost a foregone conclusion; so stay tuned for an announcement of when TTW III will be held.

Mark Imgrund

HOLT PROTECTS LAND, continued from p. 5

six properties currently owned by HOLT and totaling over 300 acres are dedicated as "conservation areas" and maintained as open space. Three of these parcels are located in the Montour Run Watershed: the Clemmons Conservation Area on Petrie Road abuts Montour Run across from Mile Post O; the Meeks Run Conservation Area is at the end of Downing Drive and protects a long stretch of Meeks Run; and the large Frank Santucci Conservation Area covers hilltop and hillsides near Mile Post 2.

Unfortunately, not all of the undeveloped land around the Montour Trail can be purchased! Consequently, HOLT has created an education and outreach program that informs the public about the environment of their communities and the importance of protecting those natural resources. In addition to a series of programs on local environmental issues and resources, HOLT staff and volunteers work with local schools to support environmental courses that connect students to the natural resources of their communities. For example, HOLT initiated and helped raise funding for a three-year bat conservation program conducted by students at the Sewickley Academy. Students built bat houses, installing them at a HOLT conservation area.

In February, the HOLT office was moved to the Nimick House in Robin Hill Park on Thorn Run Road in Moon Township. Please stop by or call (412) 264-5354 for more information about HOLT's efforts to protect the green spaces around the Montour Trail!

Janet Thorne, Executive Director HOLT

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

NEW MEMBERS

Larry Acklin
 Len Barcoucky
 Gerry & Suzy Brandt
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Emery
 Bill Fahrenhold
 David Friend
 Dave Fuego
 Paul F. Grabowski
 Sharon Hicks
 Dale R. Himmler
 Chuck Hoffman
 Linus Ireland
 Julia Johnson
 Florence Kenny & Robert
 Kenny
 James A. Krizman
 Dev Earle Lemster
 Fred & Jean Macik
 Jeff Marsico
 Michael & Donna
 Meidenbauer
 Paul Miele & family
 Angela Miller

Kris Moser
 Shirley G. O'Donnell
 John Raczkiewicz
 Michael & Pattie Romzy
 Thomas & Nancy Songer
 Maria Staresinic
 Alan Stumpf
 Temple Emanuel of South Hills
 Rocco & Laureen Violi
 Helge H. Wehmeier
 Jennifer Whirlow

BENEFACTORS

Roger C. DuBois
 Jon W. Erdner
 Dev Earle Lemster
 Pete & Janet McGuire
 Joseph P. Rudolph
 Temple Emanuel of South Hills

LEADER'S CIRCLE

Mark Schnurer
 John and Janet Swanson

Membership Chair - Jerry Agin

Beer Drinker's Lament

In a most complimentary letter addressed to your reporter, Sharron Stepanovich, Executive Director of MYREC (Mon-Yough Recreational Council) announced there will be no Allegheny County Rib Cookoff this year. The torrential, persistent rain we saw last year flooded her coffers with debt. As you may recall, they have very heavy police expenses that go on whether or not customers show up. The rains came and the police came but the customers did not.



Sharron spoke very highly of our Montour Council for its enthusiasm, good humor and attention to detail. She went on to say that of all the volunteer groups she works with, we were by far the best. How's that for good! I want to thank each of you myself for turning out in such great support. MYREC does hope to be back next year after it works out a doable arrangement with the Onorato administration at county. Thanks again. See you all next year

John Hooton

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.

- ☐ **STUDENT / SENIORS** \$15
- ☐ **INDIVIDUAL** \$25
- ☐ **FAMILY** \$35
- ☐ **SUPPORTING** \$50
- ☐ **SUSTAINING** \$100
- ☐ **BENEFACTOR** \$250
- ☐ **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.



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14th Annual Day of Caring 9/14

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 14. For the fourteenth year, the United Way will be hosting its annual "Day of Caring," where volunteers take on various projects around the community, including helping to clean up and improve the Montour Trail.

We hope you will join in this great effort and help benefit all our communities with your caring. We also thank all those volunteers both past and present who use this national event as a way to help improve our beloved Trail.

Also, please remember to renew your annual contributions to the United Way funds allocated to the MTC.

