



Rest stop at the Cliff Mine trailhead during the Tour last year. (photo: Joe Steigerwald)

## Gateway Engineers Tour the Montour Ready to Roll

Registration has opened for the 22nd annual Gateway Engineers Tour the Montour, set for Saturday, September 21, beginning at trail mile marker zero in Coraopolis.

The Montour Trail’s signature fundraising family-fun bicycle ride has a new feature this year: Courtesy of the UPMC Health Plan, the first 50 children under 16 can register for free when signing up with an adult or guardian. To take advantage of this offer, please go to: [\[montourtrail.org\]](http://montourtrail.org).

Cyclists have their choice of several distances for this non-competitive event: 12 miles or less; 15-24 miles; 44 miles; or a metric century, 62 miles. The routes are out and back, and rest/water stops with fruit, sandwiches, snack bars, water and Gatorade will be positioned at intervals along the trail.

Early registrants for the Tour are guaranteed an

## A Strong Showing for the JR Taylor 5K

The Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park hosted the annual JR Taylor 5K on Saturday, June 29. More than 170 runners and walkers participated in this year’s event, with participants ranging from age 6-76.

Lauren LaRoche was the top female finisher with a time of 19:16. Christina Thompson (19:48) finished second, and Meghan McNabb (21:06) third.

Ryan Zimba was the top male finisher with a time of 17:28. Last year’s winner, Al Lindstrom, finished second (17:37) and Caleb Guarino (18:00) third.

event t-shirt. All cyclists will enjoy a post-ride picnic lunch at the Forest Grove Sportsmen’s Club (near mile marker 1.5).

And continuing a Tour tradition, tickets for wonderful gift baskets will be sold at the lunch spot.

New and existing MTC members receive a \$5 discount on the Tour registration fee.

As part of the fundraising for the Tour, raffle tickets are available for a host of valuable prizes, all donated by local companies and businesses:

- Dual Sport 2 hybrid bike (valued at \$699), from Trek Bikes in Peters Township
- A recreational adventure package (\$560), from Wilderness Voyageurs of Ohio
- A \$500 gift card, from Tandem Connection, on the trail in Hendersonville
- A \$500 gift card from Pro Bike+Run
- A hitch, installation and 50% off bike rack (\$500), from U-Haul-McKnight Road
- A cycling clothing kit (\$250), from AeroTech Designs of Coraopolis

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10, cash only, which are being sold on the trail on weekends. They are also available by contacting the MTC office at 412-257-3011. A drawing for the raffle prizes will occur at the post-ride lunch.

Tour packet pickup will be from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, at Trek of Robinson, Route 60, in Robinson Township. Participants can also pick up their packet at registration on the morning of the Tour.

We look forward to seeing you at the Tour.



## 35 Years In!

The Montour Trail Council will be celebrating its 35th anniversary at the annual dinner meeting on November 3, 2024, at the Airport Marriott. Please plan to join us.

We’ll celebrate achievements since the Trail Council was formed in 1989 and highlight projects completed this year, including the Greer Tunnel renovation and the “missing link” of trail between Summit Station and the Stewart Road trailhead in South Park Township.

We’ll have exhibits showing how the work progressed, and the trail volunteers responsible for planning and leading the work will be standing by to explain the details.

The celebration starts with a social hour from 5–6 p.m. This is a great opportunity to make or renew friendships with the dedicated groups of Montour Trail volunteers, supporters and trail-users. A cash bar will be available.

A tasty hot dinner will be served beginning at 6 p.m., followed by presentations from 7–8 p.m. We’ll report results of the election of board members, MTC President Julian Wolfe will highlight the year’s accomplishments and there will be a featured address (details are being finalized as this issue goes to press).



## MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Julian Wolfe</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>John Dorman</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Bill Orr</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Fran Hensler</b>	<b>Secretary</b>

Dave Borrebach	2022-2024
Mark Imgrund	2022-2024
Peter Kohnke	2022-2024
Bill Orr	2022-2024
Phillip Torrez	2022-2024
Ned Williams	2022-2024
John Dorman	2023-2025
Patricia Friedsam	2023-2025
Dennis Pfeiffer	2023-2025
Jim Richter	2023-2025
Fran Hensler	2024-2026
Dave Jackel	2024-2026
Don Thobaben	2024-2026
Deb Thompson	2024-2026
Julian Wolfe	2024-2026
Tina Zottola	2024-2026

**Tour the Montour leadership opportunity.** One or two volunteers needed for 2025 to lead our signature fundraising bicycle ride, the Tour the Montour. This event, in its 22nd year, has established teams of volunteers who manage aspects of the event, with strong sponsors and eager rider participants. In 2024, future leader(s) have the opportunity to shadow the current leadership team, which will provide support in 2025. A two-year commitment is desired. No prior event planning experience needed. Please contact Phillip Torrez for more info: [thetour@montourtrail.org](mailto:thetour@montourtrail.org)

### MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

is published bi-monthly by the Montour Trail Council.  
[newsletter@montourtrail.org](mailto:newsletter@montourtrail.org)

Montour Trail Council  
2589 Boyce Plaza Rd., Suite 4  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
[MTCooffice@montourtrail.org](mailto:MTCooffice@montourtrail.org)  
**(412) 257-3011**

**Phillip G. Torrez, editor**  
Mary Torrez, design

Editorial Board:  
Mark Imgrund, Fran Hensler, Sarah Fetterman,  
and Dave Borrebach

## Prez Sez: Speaker's Guild Builds Public Outreach

By Julian Wolfe

The Montour Trail Council is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that quite rightly dedicates its focus to the management, funding, operation, and maintenance of our nearly 60-mile-long beloved trail. Late last year, the Trail Council moved to significantly enhance our public outreach and engagement with the establishment of a Speakers Guild. The progenitor of this initiative, Dr. Patricia Friedsam, co-chair of the Trail Council's Membership and Community Outreach Committee, was motivated to heighten public awareness of the existence of the trail, its operation as a private nonprofit, its rules and guidelines, volunteer opportunities, and its rich history. "As a part of our community outreach, we are shining a spotlight on a true regional gem," stated Dr. Friedsam.

It never ceases to surprise me how many people have only a thumbnail understanding of the Montour Trail. Residents and visitors to the South Hills may recognize the name as an abandoned railroad of yesteryear or quite simply a name that adorns a bridge or a road overpass. Dr. Friedsam remarked, "Even those who have heard of it, are not aware of the trail's size, the communities through which it passes, how it is maintained and by whom."

The guild presentation offers a delightful virtual tour of the trail. Among the highlights are historical documentation of the Montour Railroad's beginnings in 1879, its transformation to a rails-to-trail in 1989, and stories of the many trials and tribulations in building out such a vast trail network.

Among the many interesting tales, attendees will be entertained with the details surrounding the successful endeavors of a Trail Council founding father to personally purchase land in a burgeoning subdivision to preserve a trail corridor. These presentations also outline volunteer opportunities and practical information on topics such as trail etiquette. The Speakers Guild is fortunate to draw from a large pool of experienced trail hands to include founding fathers, past presidents and project managers, each giving the public their own unique perspective on the trail.

If your civic group, local library or business organization would like to host a speakers guild presentation, please email [MTCooffice@montourtrail.org](mailto:MTCooffice@montourtrail.org). If you are interested in attending a presentation, please check our website at [montourtrail.org](http://montourtrail.org). The schedule is also available in our bimonthly trail newsletter.

Concluding Kudos: The trail maintenance crew gets a big shout-out for their weeks'-long effort to repair the trail in the wake of the severe April storms. Trail users will have seen damage in almost every section of the Montour Trail. Maintenance chief Bill Capp and his senior deputies Dave Mikula, Bob Sutton and Dave Jackel worked assiduously to devise and execute operations to resurface washed-out areas, repair damaged culverts, and enhance drainage in advance of the high-volume summer riding season. We add our thanks to all maintenance crew members involved in this arduous work, to include Dennis Keith, Andy Smith, Terry Bimle, Andrew Garrett, Pete Merther, Michael Dailey, John Kozak, and Larry Castner. My regrets if I missed anyone. Finally, we acknowledge similar, smaller-scale trail repair and restoration efforts from each of our industrious and energetic Friends Groups. Huzzah!

## Trail Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

### MTC Board Meeting:

Every third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 2589 Boyce Plaza Road, Suite 4, Upper St. Clair. Turn at the traffic signal on Boyce Road between the railroad and the creek. 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)

Friends of the Trail meeting, every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the MTC Western Corridor Garage, 450 Cliff Mine Road, North Fayette Township, PA 15108. New volunteers are always welcome. For more information call Mark Modispacher at 412-266-1544. Work parties are scheduled as needed. For more information call 412-262-3748.

### Fort Cherry Friends (MM 12.6 to 20.7)

Friends of the Trail meeting, every 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 parties are scheduled as needed. For more information, contact Tim Thomassy at 724-926-4617 or Chuck Hughey at 724-926-9436.

### Cecil Friends (MM 22.0 to 28.5)

Friends of the Trail meeting, every fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil Henderson Road. Work parties are scheduled as needed. For more information, contact Bob Mihalco at 786-910-5575 or ramihalco@icloud.com.

### The Montour Railroad Historical Society:

For more information, email mrhs@montourrr.com

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

Friends of the Trail meeting, the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at various locations depending on weather and time of year. Work parties on the first Friday and third Saturday of every month at 8:30 am. For more information on meetings or work parties please email us at [petersfriends@montourtrail.org](mailto:petersfriends@montourtrail.org).

### Bethel Park Friends (The 2.75 mile Bethel Branch and a short piece of main line trail around MM 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 parties, every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. For more information call Bill Capp at 412-833-5928.

### South Hills Friends (MM 35.4 to 46.6)

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

### Westland Friends (MM 21.0 to 21.9, and Westland Branch)

Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact Deb Thompson at [intrepidscout@theneonweb.com](mailto:intrepidscout@theneonweb.com)

## New Program Can Boost Donor Gifts

By Joe McKittrick

The Montour Trail Council is introducing a new program that will allow members and prospective members to contribute even more to the organization.

Double the Donation will enable donors to increase their generous gifts by taking advantage of employer contributions. With the rising costs of trail maintenance, trail expansion and operating expenses, the Montour Trail Council needs to optimize donations to maintain a stronger level of support for the trail and its users.

MTC President Julian Wolfe said, "Double the Donation boosts the generosity of our members and fosters a relationship between area employers and our organization. Moreover, it will help to bring in additional funds that the Montour Trail Council can use to maintain and build the trail that's proved to be an important recreational asset to our community."

Double the Donation is a service provider to nonprofits like the Trail Council and others (including the Salvation Army, Shriners Hospitals for Children and National MS Society) to promote employer matching gifts from donors and members.

Double the Donation maintains the largest, most comprehensive and most accurate matching gift database with over 25,000 employers.

Double the Donation provides tools and support to donors so that the employer matching-gift process is less burdensome.

Matching gift programs are a type of corporate philanthropy set up to encourage employees to provide support to charitable organizations in their communities. Companies encourage this by making donations to the same nonprofits that their employees (full-time, part-time or retired) have chosen for contributions. These programs have become quite widespread, but many donors have not heard of them or aren't aware of their own match-eligibility. An estimated \$4-7 billion in matching gift revenue is left on the table each year, and the Montour Trail Council has decided to seek some of those funds.

The specifics of these programs vary from company to company, but the elements that shape these guidelines are similar. The employer match is typically 1 to 1 with some limits. The matching gift deadline can be either a firm date (December 31 is common) or a threshold based on the date of the initial donation (90 days after donation is made).

The donor will find an employer search button when donating or registering as a member of the Montour Trail Council on [montourtrail.org](http://montourtrail.org).

*Assess your eligibility and gain access to detailed information about your employer's corporate giving program by searching our database of companies with matching gift programs:*

<https://montourtrail.org/support-us/donations/>

## A Bright New Day for Hooton Garden

By Chuck Wolf, Cecil Friends Group

John and Berenice Hooton, longtime Montour Trail volunteers and active members of the trail's Cecil Friends Group, had maintained a garden for years near mile marker 27 of the Montour Trail. John, 94, and Berenice, 89, passed away in 2023. The Montour Trail Council has renamed the garden in their honor.

The garden had not been regularly maintained since the Hootons moved to Florida in 2019. Therefore, much work was needed to enhance the gardens, including:

- The Montour Trail's maintenance crew removed the old railroad ties that served as the front border.
- The Cecil Friends Group held several work parties to clean up the garden. It installed a new border of river rock to replace the railroad ties. The volunteers then weeded and put in new plants and flowers in the garden. A sign commemorating the Hootons was placed in the main area. A fresh coat of paint was applied to the "ghost bike."

Then the volunteers spread new mulch, generously donated by Bell Landscaping, to give it a fresh look.

On June 15, the Hooton family held a Celebration of Life ceremony in Carnegie for John and Berenice, who had been married for 65 years. Afterwards, the Hooton's children, Jim, Kendall and Bill, and their families came out to visit the Hooton Memorial Garden, accompanied by Cecil friends, MTC President Julian Wolfe and other trail volunteers.

"We were greatly impressed by both the fantastic revitalization of the trail gardens and the warm reception we received from the Trail Council representatives," said Jim Hooton. "We were also completely surprised and delighted that the garden is now dedicated to our parents. What a fitting tribute."



Hooton family



The dedication and hard work of Cecil Friends' volunteers created a beautiful space. (photos: Chuck Wolf)



### continued from page 1 - JR Taylor 5k

Darlaine Taylor kicked off the awards presentation with a few words in remembrance of her brother JR. She thanked the participants and planning team for their contributions and continued support.



Darlaine Taylor, sister of JR Taylor, during the awards ceremony. (photos: Mike McClaine)

The Taylor family and Century Steel Erectors were tremendous supporters of the JR Taylor Bridge, which was completed in 2011 on the Bethel branch of the trail. The first race was held in 2008.

Next year's race is scheduled to be held on June 7, 2025. Participants can sign up now to receive early bird pricing at [www.JRTaylor5K.com](http://www.JRTaylor5K.com). All proceeds support the Montour Trail in Bethel Park.



Smiles at the starting line as the runners get ready.

## Fun Fact

With about 100 participants, the inaugural Tour the Montour bicycle-ride fundraiser took place on Sept. 27, 2003. The cyclists riding the longer distances enjoyed traveling over the iconic McDonald Viaduct (right), which had been formally dedicated just three weeks earlier.



## EQT Volunteers Pitch-in For the Trail

Fifteen volunteers from EQT Corp. came out to the Montour Trail to help three trail Friends Groups July 10 as part of a one-day, company-wide volunteer effort. They included the company's CEO/President Toby Rice who helped clear brush in the Cecil section of the trail.

It was the fourth consecutive year that EQT has sent volunteers to the Montour, says Patricia Friedsam, co-chair of the trail's Membership and Community Outreach Committee, who helped coordinate the company's efforts. "EQT has been an unflinching volunteer force since 2021," she says.



*EQT volunteers fanned out on the trail to pitch in with three Montour Friends Groups.*



*A fence improvement on the bridge in Venice.*

Julian Wolfe, president of the Montour Trail Council, noted that Mr. Rice emphasized that encouraging company employees to volunteer for public service is regarded "an important community giveback" at EQT.

The volunteers spent the morning on the Fort Cherry, Westland and Cecil sections of the Montour Trail where they cut back vegetation and helped with a fencing upgrade.

EQT, which describes itself as the nation's leading producer of natural gas, has contributed to the Montour Trail Council as a sponsor of the trail's signature fundraiser, the Gateway Engineers Tour the Montour.

EQT "recognizes the importance of the Montour Trail to the communities through which it runs," Friedsam says. "It is a great example for other companies to follow."

## Mission Accomplished



*The vets and Montour volunteers outside Mission BBQ in Robinson.*

Montour Trail volunteers helped a group of seven military vets who cycled through the area on a cross-country "Warrior Expedition" in May.

It was the third time our volunteers have supported veterans on bikes sponsored by Warrior Expeditions, a veterans nonprofit outdoor

therapy program that helps ex-military personnel transition from their wartime experiences through long-distance outdoor expeditions.

Our volunteers, Mark Modispacher, a member of the trail's Airport Area Friends Group, Don Thobaben, an MTC board member, and Dino Angelici, a trail "founding father," rode with the group and provided transportation, but more importantly arranged free lodgings and meals through local businesses and played the roles as gracious Pittsburgh hosts for the visitors. Staybridge Suites in Robinson provided the veterans two free nights, said Thobaben,

noting that the hotel's general manager was happy to help since he was a veteran himself.

Angelici said, "Having ridden across the country, I know what it's like, and it was good to be able to help them. It's good to be around people who are doing it, it feels like you're with them in spirit."

The vet cyclists left Robinson via the Montour Trail and caught the Panhandle Trail toward Weirton, WV. Because the Market Street bridge in Steubenville, OH, is closed, the expedition was going to have to cross Veterans Memorial Bridge from Weirton. Knowing that vehicle traffic makes that route dangerous, Angelici called the Weirton police department, which arranged an escort for the riders to make it over the bridge safely.

The cyclists began their tour in Washington, DC, and biked the C&O Canal and Great Allegheny Passage trails to get to Pittsburgh. They will conclude their 3,700-mile-long expedition in the state of Washington.

*The vets head up the Montour Trail on their way to Ohio as Montour volunteer Mark Modispacher wishes them safe travels.*



## Trail Gifted \$2,800 from Target Circle

The Montour Trail Council received 114,614 votes from area Target shoppers in a recent Target Circle campaign that generated \$2,867 for the council. The MTC was among several nonprofit organizations chosen to participate in the charitable giving program, sponsored and funded by Target, that ended June 30. A heartfelt thank-you to all who participated and cast votes for the Montour Trail.

**The Target Circle results are in!**

Thanks to everyone who voted.



**circle** NONPROFIT PARTNER

## Montour Railroad History

### Gilmore Junction and the Westland Branch

by Bryan Seip, Montour Railroad Historical Society



Empty hoppers headed to Westland derail at the Gilmore Junction switch, March 1981. A truck crane has been called in to rerail the cars. (photo: Gene P. Schaeffer)

Gilmore Junction is located along Southview Road near Venice at Trail Mile 21.5 and was the point where the Westland Branch diverged from the Montour Railroad main line.

When the railroad was originally constructed through Southview in 1913, the main line continued past this spot curving toward Venice and the bridge over Route 50 & 980. In 1922, a switch was installed on the main line and a spur constructed to service the Morris Mine about a half mile away. The Morris Mine was owned and operated by the Gilmore Coal Co., so the track junction became known as Gilmore Junction and the track to the mine was called the Midland Spur.

Five years later, an additional four miles of track were added to reach the Pittsburgh Coal Co.'s Westland #1 Mine and the Midland Spur became known as the Westland Branch.

Gilmore Junction became a busy location as trains headed to or from coal mines to the east traveled the main line, while those going to Westland or Morris mines used the branch.

As there was no signal at the junction, and the tracks were on curves limiting sight lines in each direction, a system was needed to control train speed and avoid collisions at the junction. Yard Limit signs were installed in each of the three directions of track a distance away from the junction. Under operating rules, while in a yard limit, train engineers must control their speed so that a train can be stopped in half the distance that the engineer can visually see the track. Thus, if another train was occupying the junction switch, it could be stopped before a collision occurred.

One yard limit sign was about a quarter mile away near the Venice Bridge over Route 50 and is still in place. Another was a few hundred

feet from the switch toward the overhead railroad bridge along Southview Road. The third was across Route 50 on the branch line near the Morris Mine.

Gilmore Junction was also the site of a metal tool house, used by the Montour track gangs. A speeder car was kept inside the shed, along with tools, spikes, track joiners and other materials needed to maintain the track. Spare ties and rails were stacked outside the shed. The doors faced the main line so the speeder car would be wheeled out and placed onto the track, then used to transport the men and materials to a work site. The tool house also had a stove to supply heat during the winter. The pavilion currently at the site uses the slab foundation from the tool house, and the tracks for the speeder car can still be seen embedded in the concrete.

Derailments would occasionally happen at the junction, often caused by the hopper cars "picking" the switch and climbing off the rails. Snow and ice buildup or a mis-set switch could cause the car wheels to go off the rails. When this happened, track gangs and recovery truck cranes would be quickly sent to the site to get the cars back on the track. Any such disruptions would block both the main line and the busy branch, shutting down the entire railroad through that area, so it was imperative to quickly clear the blockage.

After being abandoned for nearly 30 years, the Westland Branch was reconstructed in 2012 by MarkWest Energy to serve their newly built gas loading facility at the old Westland Mine site. Using a piece of the original Montour main line and the Westland Branch, a condition of a long-term lease by the energy company from the Montour Trail Council included building a trail along with the railroad. Thus the Westland Branch of the Montour Trail again carries traffic, both on the rails and on the trail.



A string of empty hoppers heads out the Westland Branch, while a westbound train waits on the main line for the switch to clear. (photo: Gene P. Schaeffer)

You can contact the Montour Railroad Historical Society through Facebook by searching for **the Montour Railroad Historical Society**. There are currently 425 members from across the country. There you'll find a wealth of information about the Montour Railroad and you can pose questions of its membership. You can also check at [montourrr.com](http://montourrr.com)

## I want to support the Montour Trail Council



### Become a member now

Complete this form, scan the QR code, or go to [mountourtrail.org/support-us/](http://mountourtrail.org/support-us/)



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Annual Membership Level

- Trail Blazer..... \$1,000+
- Leader's Circle.....\$500
- Benefactor.....\$250
- Sustaining.....\$100
- Supporting.....\$50
- Family.....\$35
- Individual.....\$25
- Student/Senior.....\$15

Montour Trail Council  
Use Only

Cash

Check

Credit Card

Contribution enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Montour Trail Council**

Mail to: **Montour Trail Council**  
2589 Boyce Plaza Rd. Suite 4  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Federal Tax ID: 25-1634718

## Planning for the Trail's Future

By Shawn McClintock

Vision 2050 aims to identify the direction and objectives of the Montour Trail Council over the next 25 years.

Stage One is underway, highlighted by a July 29 Montour Trail Council board of directors' visioning/brainstorming session and management assessment surveys, plus identifying stakeholder groups and the best method for including them in the process.

"We want a people-centered approach with input from a wide range of Montour Trail stakeholders and are looking at various methods, including personal interviews, focus groups and targeted surveys, to hear their perspective directly," said project team member and MTC board member Dave Borrebach.

In early June, the Claude Benedum Foundation of Pittsburgh awarded the Montour Trail Council a grant in support of the project. Vision

2050 aligns with the foundation's stated role in the community: "We seek to empower people to develop their own capacity and the capacity of their institutions to succeed."

Michelle Walker and Heather Sage, a two-person consulting team with substantial experience conducting strategy development assignments with regional environmentally-oriented not-for-profit organizations, will facilitate the process and work with the MTC board to develop three key documents:

- **Vision 2050:** A statement of what the MTC will represent and what it will have achieved by 2050.
- **Major Milestones:** A set of intermediate objectives that must be met over the next 25 years for Vision 2050 to be achieved.
- **2025-2027 Strategic Plan:** Near-term objectives that take the initial steps toward achieving the Milestone objectives and Vision 2050.

## Welcome New Trail Members and Donors

The Montour Trail Council welcomes these new members and donors and thanks them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members and donors who have recently renewed their annual contributions. Please note that foundations and other grant-making agencies often look at a strong membership as a criteria in their consideration of our funding requests. Not all new members have been entered as of our print deadline and will be listed in the next edition of the *Trail-Letter*.

### New Members

Bill Adams  
Tim Aiken  
Leslie Arch  
Jill Armentrout  
Donald Barus  
David Beauvais  
Linda Beck  
Mark Beckner  
Edward Beighey Sr.  
Nick Bileck  
Karen Bricker  
Mike Chernysh  
Alan Conlon  
Lyn Cost  
Donald Dazen  
Debra Deininger  
Les Dutka  
Brittany Engelhardt  
Michael Evans  
Rob Ferrainolo

John Flanigan  
Erin Forrester  
Bill Fuchs  
Shane Gezzi  
Matthew Gibeaut  
Darren & Marsie Grant  
Joe & Robin Grant  
Samantha Hickman  
Michael Hunter  
Steven Hunter  
Carl Jaros  
Linda & Russ Jodoin  
Peter Kaplan  
Jerry Kunig  
Jack Lazek  
Michelle Leive  
Colleen Lindow  
Courtney Loper  
Martin Magan  
Michael Martin  
Keith McClure

William McGinnis  
Sandeep Menon  
Esther Miller  
Fred Miller  
Michael Motosicke  
Richard Murray  
James & Wendy Parnell  
Rob Pecori  
John Pravlochak  
Emily & Nicholas Price  
Mike Prokopovich  
Kristine Ream  
Toby Rice  
Sarah Rubis  
Jim Scott  
Steve Shuttleworth  
Bill & Carmie Singer  
George Springer  
David & Bettie  
Stammerjohn  
Alan Stone

Mike & Dee Super  
Robert & Dee Tach  
Donna Tenney  
Jason Toney  
Robert Trohaugh  
Gregory Udovich  
Monica VanDieren  
Ryan & Lori Vube  
Judy Wertheimer  
Sean Weston  
Philip & Sarah Wildenhain  
Stanley Wolfe  
La Monte Yarroll  
Carol Ziss

### Trail Blazer

James W. Boyd  
Rich Caruso  
Richard J. Munsch  
Toby Rice

### Leader's Circle

Theodore Frick  
Richard Novak  
Gary & Mary Sedlacek  
Jeff Sorbara  
Philip & Sarah Wildenhain

### Benefactor

Holly Bernardi  
Terry Bimle  
Dick Bryant  
Mark Cappello  
Ed & Sandi Cleary  
Catherine Davin  
Tom & Sara Dougherty  
Brittany Engelhardt  
Paul T. McKeown  
Janet McKinney  
Patty McLuckie  
Monica VanDieren  
John Yadosky  
Christina Zottola

### IN MEMORY

**Dad**  
Marcella Banas

### IN HONOR

**Union of Maryann Hoffman & Dennis Pfeiffer**

The Chappels,  
Godishs &  
Hookers  
Alison Cimmet &  
David Hoffman

### Tina Zottola

Jeffrey Bees



Montour Trail Council  
2589 Boyce Plaza Rd, Suite 4  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BRIDGEVILLE PA-  
PERMIT NO.37

Address Service Requested

