



The Montour Trail Council: 36 years of trail building

March-April 2025, Vol. 37, No. 2

## They're Back

*The Montour Trail's maintenance crew returned to the trail in March as the weather broke amid the beginning of Spring. The maintenance crew, responsible for the upkeep of the trail surface, among other tasks, is sometimes the most visible of the dedicated trail volunteers to regular trail users. They've spent much of their time of late in the vicinity of the trail's soon-to-be-opened Muse branch (near mile marker 24) putting down asphalt, millings and large stones. Shown here is pipe installation for drainage along the Muse. The stellar maintenance crew logged 4,200 volunteer hours and resurfaced a record six+ miles on the mainline trail last year.*



## Events Policy Revised

by John Dorman

Each year, the Montour Trail Council sponsors various events including the Tour the Montour, JR Taylor Race and Penny Days. But most of the events that take place on the trail are not sponsored by the Trail Council.

The Montour Trail is open to the public and operated for the benefit and enjoyment of all its users. Some of those users enjoy the trail by organizing activities such as trail walks, rides and 5 & 10K runs.

The MTC has welcomed these activities and our Event & Special Activity Policy was designed to strike an appropriate balance between our day-to-day users and event participants. In 2024 the MTC hosted 11 organized events with approximately 800 participants of all ages.

*continued on page 5*



## Shaping Our Future Looking Down the Road

The Montour Trail Council board at its April meeting will consider approving vision, mission and values statements in culmination of a year-long "Vision 2050" initiative.

These statements will guide the organization for the next 25 years. Milestones or benchmarks will be developed that must be achieved to serve the needs of the organization, its volunteers and trail-users, and surrounding communities and allied organizations as it continues to build and maintain the 60-mile trail, now in its 36th year.

*continued on page 4*

## Tour the Montour Gaining Traction

Preparations are underway for the 23rd annual Gateway Engineers Tour the Montour, the Montour Trail Council family-fun bicycle ride fundraiser.

"We have some new things cooking for the Tour that we believe our participants will enjoy," said Tour Director Bill Orr. "It's always good to keep things fresh. Stay tuned as we roll out the details."

The Tour is set for Saturday, Sept. 13, rain or shine. The start of the non-competitive event in which cyclists can select the length of their choice – 12 miles or less; 15-24 miles, 44 miles or a metric century, 62 miles – will be at the trail's mile marker zero in Moon Township. About 450 riders participated in the Tour last year.

Gateway Engineers of Pittsburgh returns for the fifth year as the lead sponsor for the Tour. "We've developed a great partnership with Gateway, and we appreciate the company's full-on support for our signature fundraiser," Orr said.



Last year, nearly 50 other community and professional businesses and corporate concerns signed up to sponsor the Tour, helping the Montour Trail Council to raise more than \$45,000. All proceeds from the ride go toward keeping the trail in top condition.

The Trail Council has begun seeking sponsors for this year's Tour. Please contact us to receive sponsorship information: 412-257-3011. Sponsorships start at just \$350.

Registration for the Tour will begin this summer. Please consult the MTC website at [montourtrail.org](http://montourtrail.org).



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Julian Wolfe</b> | <b>President</b> |
| <b>Bill Orr</b>     | <b>Treasurer</b> |
| <b>Fran Hensler</b> | <b>Secretary</b> |

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| John Dorman      | 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 |
| Dave Borrebach   | 2025-2027 |
| Peter Kohnke     | 2025-2027 |
| Mark Modispacher | 2025-2027 |
| Bill Orr         | 2025-2027 |
| Dave Oyler       | 2025-2027 |
| Tom Prezel       | 2025-2027 |
| Ned Williams     | 2025-2027 |
| Chuck Wolf       | 2025-2027 |

### Help Wanted: Finance Volunteer Opportunity

The Montour Trail Council seeks a volunteer Accounts Payable Specialist to join our finance team. He or she will work, in conjunction with our business operations manager, to: Disburse payments to vendors/suppliers; prepare reimbursement payments to volunteers; record deposits and ETFs; update vendor and donor information; assist MTC Finance Committee with annual audit; and prepare reports such as list of checks and A/P aging, using QuickBooks standard reports. Familiarity with QuickBooks online desirable. Time commitment: about two hours/week at the trail office. If interested, contact: [treasurer@montourtrail.org](mailto:treasurer@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

[MTCOffice@montourtrail.org](mailto:MTCOffice@montourtrail.org)  
(412) 257-3011

EIN: 25-1634718

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

### Editorial Board:

Mark Imgrund, Fran Hensler, Sarah Fetterman,  
and Dave Borrebach

## Prez Sez: The MTC Engineering and Construction Committee: An Organizational Juggernaut

By Julian Wolfe

Last year, I decided to use this column as an opportunity to highlight the valuable work accomplished by MTC committees. We launched this series with a profile of the newest MTC group, the Information Technology and Geographic Information System committee. This month, I will execute a 180-degree turn and discuss the MTC's first and oldest standing administrative group, the Engineering and Construction committee.

The Engineering committee was established in the late 1990s. As one of the trail's founding fathers explained, board meetings were running more than four hours and were still not sufficient to adequately consider all necessary topics. Consequently, the Engineering committee was created to manage and maintain the larger physical trail, and devise and oversee projects for trail expansion. Today, much of that mandate remains the same. As the trail has grown to nearly 60 miles since the MTC was founded, however, the committee's mandate has expanded to include issues such as oversight of construction contiguous to the trail, such as redevelopment of land for commercial and home-building.

The E&C committee is led by Tom Prezel. A former engineer with Bettis Labs, Tom has been chair or co-chair of this committee for more than 15 years. Committee members come from a variety of backgrounds, including engineering careers in the private and public sectors. Other committeemen who had careers in the military, public education, government and business also bring unique skill sets to the committee.

As mentioned above, large scale trail maintenance is a key responsibility of the Engineering committee. The maintenance crew, led by Bill Capp, is funded by and reports directly to this committee. This dedicated group is in operation from March until November each year, with some crew stalwarts racking up more than 500 volunteer hours in a calendar year. The maintenance crew begins each year with a defined action plan, which is primarily focused on trail resurfacing and necessary repairs, such as improvements to drainage. As was the case in 2024 however, storm damage often dictates the maintenance crew's priorities and timelines. The Trail Council and maintenance crew take great pride in the condition of the trail, so please extend a thank you to the crew the next time you see them laboring to enhance the trail and the trail user experience.

While the maintenance crew is highly visible, I must take the opportunity to highlight at least one part of the Engineering committee's work that is largely unseen by the general public. Project selection and project oversight consumes a large portion of the group's time. It is the responsibility of this committee to draft the annual priorities for new construction and maintenance projects for the new year. The Engineering committee must weigh a number of factors, including the availability of funds and volunteers, as well as necessary approvals from state and municipal authorities.

The Engineering Committee will remain at the tip of the spear as we look to expand and preserve the Montour Trail. The most important element of this group's success is the volunteers. If you have the interest and motivation to help build trail, plan and oversee projects, advocate on the MTC's behalf with government officials, or just fix things, this committee delivers a huge punch. You can either send us an email at [volunteer@montourtrail.org](mailto:volunteer@montourtrail.org), and talk with a trail volunteer. We have the challenges and rewards for you! Huzzah.



*Engineering committee members inspecting prototype construction for the Greer tunnel repair project, completed in May 2024.*



## 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 Rd., North Fayette Township 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 St., McDonald 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 a.m. For more information on meetings or work parties, please email us at 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 Rd., 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 or Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692, 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

## Annual Blessing of the Bikes

To kick off the 2025 cycling season the Airport Area Friends of the Montour Trail will hold its annual Blessing of the Bikes on Saturday, April 26, starting promptly at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at mile zero in Moon Township.

Tim Killmeyer, a Diocese of Pittsburgh deacon and a founding member of the trail, will officiate the ceremony, which is free and open to men, women and children of all faiths.

"The service will ask for protection and guidance for riders in all of their travels as well as expressing gratitude for the gift of our bicycles in the enjoyment of the world we traverse on them," Killmeyer said. "Prayers for riders who have died this past year will also be offered, and we'll conclude with a sprinkling of holy water."

Following the blessing, cyclists are invited to ride up the trail at a distance of their choosing.

Should it rain on April 26, the blessing will be held on Saturday, May 3.

**10:00 AM on Saturday, April 26**



All are invited to Mile Zero of the Montour Trail outside of Coraopolis on Rt. 51 (near the Highmark soccer fields) for a blessing of bicycles and their owners.

After the blessing cyclists can proceed directly onto the trail for a ride. Park at Mile 0 itself or alternatively park somewhere up the trail and ride to the blessing then ride back to your car. (Rain date is May 3)

[archangelgabrielparish.org/tabascriders](http://archangelgabrielparish.org/tabascriders)

## Westland Branch Receives \$5,000 Gift from Trail User



Chartiers Township resident Gene Dennison has been cycling the Montour's Westland branch since it opened for trail users in 2012. It gets him to other sections of the trail on the mainline and he enjoys bringing his grandchildren out for rides on the branch.

"The views are fantastic," Mr. Dennison says, noting the expanse of farmlands, rolling pastures, and wild flowers and other vegetation, not to mention the wildlife.

In appreciation of the branch, Mr. Dennison recently gifted the Montour's Westland Friends Group \$5,000 for maintenance of the branch.

He says that the Montour Trail receives no ongoing governmental funding, which makes support from people who use the trail imperative. Moreover, "people don't realize that the trail is completely volunteer," that volunteers are responsible for tending to its maintenance and oversight.

Deb Thompson, president of the Westland Friends, says, "We are extremely grateful for Mr. Dennison's donation to help the Westland Friends Group take care of our sections of the trail. His generosity and thoughtfulness will allow us to enhance a beautiful and scenic section of the Montour Trail for everyone to enjoy."

The gift is the largest donation from an individual ever received by the Westland Friends, which formed in mid-2017. It has responsibility for the 4.1-mile Westland branch and a mile section near the Galati trailhead.

Mr. Dennison, 74, lives a couple miles from the Westland branch. Having been in the area for 25 years, he has seen various sections of the trail develop since its founding in 1989.

He will often ride bikes on the branch with his grandson who loves to see the trains on the track that runs adjacent to the trail. "He'd look at it all day, if he could," says Mr. Dennison. "He finds it exciting." Another thing that his grandson enjoys is finding small pieces of coal while they're on the trail, he says.

The history of the area is also appealing, with its rich tradition of coal mining, Mr. Dennison says. "I love the historical signs on the trail ... You start thinking about the history (of the region) and how it developed."

In his letter of thanks to Mr. Dennison, Julian Wolfe, MTC president and a member of the Westland Friends Group, wrote that the Westland branch "has some of the most beautiful rural vistas one can find on the entire Montour Trail," largely untouched by residential development that's occurred on some other sections of the trail.

"Your donation will help to preserve and enhance the unique nature of the trail in this bucolic area of Mount Pleasant and Chartiers townships."

---

### *continued from page 1 - Our Future*

As the board heard in its monthly meeting in March:

- The vision statement will define the future, what the council's long-term effects will be;
- The mission statement will define what the council does to achieve the vision;
- The values statement will establish the core principles that drive how the council interacts and chooses its courses of action.

These statements will support clarity in strategic decision-making and provide guidance in prioritizing among competing resource demands.

Once the statements are decided, milestones for the council's path into the future will be hammered out at a strategic plan retreat in May. The Trail Council historically has convened a strategic plan

retreat every three years.

The Montour Trail Council began laying the groundwork for Vision 2050 in January 2024. It received grant funding from the Benedum and R.K. Mellon foundations to finance the effort, which included hiring Pittsburgh strategy development experts Michelle Walker and Heather Sage.

In the course of their work, the consultants conducted more than 70 individual interviews with Montour board members and other volunteers, local government officials, individual funders, foundations, businesses supporting and supplying the MTC, and leadership from other regional trail groups. Collectively, their comments lauded the Council for its 35+ years of work and expressed interest in mutual cooperation.

---

## Call to Action! YouTube

A promotional video for the fledgling Montour Trail was produced 35 years ago as the Trail Council championed its vision to use an abandoned rail line for "a ribbon of recreation and relaxation." Tim Killmeyer, one of the trail's founding members, says the video has not been widely seen since it was produced in 1990.

"It was created through the instigation and connections of Dennis Sims (another founding member, Cecil Friends Group leader and the first editor of the *Trail-Letter*) to help convince groups we visited and others that a 45+ mile rail trail would be a good thing for the local communities, something that wasn't really known 35 years ago," says Killmeyer. "I think we were proven right!"

This historical seven-minute-long video, posted on YouTube in February, can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/TrailPromo>





## Volunteers Enhance Trail with Trees

In April, trail volunteers planted 18 bare root trees provided by the nonprofit TreePennsylvania organization along the trail's Fort Cherry and Cecil sections.

TreePennsylvania, in collaboration with PA's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, and Penn State University Extension, provided 1,200 trees to 50 recipients statewide including the Montour Trail Council's conservation subcommittee.

Funded through TreePennsylvania's dual season Bare Root Tree Grant program and the Pennsylvania Environmental Justice Forests grant program, the trees are to be planted in parks, public spaces, schools, and community centers throughout Pennsylvania.

Patricia Friedsam, co-chair of the conservation subcommittee, said the trees planted along the Montour Trail will help enhance the natural setting of the trail's mainline. "We would like to maintain a park-like setting around the Montour," she said.

The trees were planted by the trail's Fort Cherry and Cecil friends groups at mile marker 16.7 near Fort Cherry Road and PA-980 and at mile marker 24.5 in the Cecil section of the trail. The trail's maintenance crew lent their expertise to the planting, which occurred over two days.

Last Fall, the Montour Trail received its first group of trees from the nonprofit TreePennsylvania – 15 shade trees of varying species – that were planted by volunteers on the Muse branch.

The Bare Root Tree Grant initiative highlights the vital role that trees play in improving public health, combating climate change and enhancing the quality of life for residents.



### *continued from page 1- Event Policy Update*

The increasing popularity and volume of these events motivated the MTC's Operations Committee and Board of Directors to review and revise the events policy requirements and procedures so that organizers and trail managers alike would understand how to apply for, review and conduct a special event.

The basic requirements of the policy are largely unchanged, but procedures have been clarified, and additional information and guidance are provided related to very large events.

Other key changes include:

- Revisions to the application form to better specify the information required to review and manage an event;
- Clarification of insurance requirements for organizers;
- Clarification of event signage requirements; and
- Provisions for events using the Arrowhead Trail, which is owned and managed by Peters Township.

In each case, the revisions are designed to assure that day-to-day users and event participants enjoy the safe access to the trail and its natural surroundings that we have all come to expect.

The updated policy and application form are available on the MTC website (<https://montourtrail.org/events/plan-your-event/>).

If you would like to organize an event, please read and follow the policy. We look forward to seeing you out there!

*Mr. Dorman is the Montour Trail Council's events coordinator.*



## Montour Railroad History

### History Seen Along the Trail – Railroad Mileposts

by Bryan Seip, Montour Railroad Historical Society



A faded milepost 32 sits in front of hopper cars in the loaded yard at Montour Mine #4 in 1975. This original milepost was restored and is now on display at trail mile 30. (Photo: Gene P. Schaeffer)

While using the Montour Trail, you will find milepost markers along the trail. In some locations, you will also find steel posts with white numbers on a black plate. These are original Montour Railroad mileposts. The mileposts were used as reference points to clear sections of track for trains to operate or to report maintenance problems along the railroad.

Due to a different starting point, the railroad mileposts do not match up to the trail milepost locations. Trail mile zero is at the Route 51 bridge in Moon. Montour RR mile zero was the switch connection with the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Rail Road, which was beside the bridge to Neville Island, about a mile from the start of the Montour.

The railroad set their mileposts during its construction. The original tracks in 1879 followed Montour Run, as it wound between Coraopolis and Imperial. In 1914, the main line was extended from Imperial to West Mifflin. During the 1920s, several realignment projects were undertaken to eliminate some sharp curves and other problems with the original right-of-way. These realignments shortened the actual mileage of the railroad.

An example is at trail mile 2.7-2.8, where a new cut was made through the hillside and the railroad was straightened, with two new bridges installed in 1924. Another area is along Montour Run Road between Beaver Grade Road and Park Manor Boulevard. These projects eliminated a half-mile of original right of way and relocated Montour Run in some spots. Look along the creek near the bridges at mile 3.5 and at 3.7. You can see old stone bridge abutments where the original tracks crossed the creek.

Along Cliff Mine Road at trail mile 5.5, you will find a steel post and

plate with a white 7 on it. This was railroad mile 7, so there is about a mile-and-a-half offset at this point.

The biggest single revision was made in 1926 when Enlow Tunnel was bored at trail mile 7.2. The original tracks followed Montour Run, looping around the hillside. The tunnel shortened the railroad by another half-mile. Look along the creek at the two bridges near the tunnel, mile 6.9 and 7.1 and you can see old abutments from the original main line.

As these realignments were completed, the original railroad mileposts were not reset. Thus some “miles” were no longer a mile long and a few mileposts had ceased to exist. Since the mileposts were used as physical locations for train orders or to report track problems, this discrepancy did not hinder train movements. Using a milepost for reference simply meant that post’s physical location, despite the actual distance from Montour Junction.

As the railroad approached Imperial, about a mile of right-of-way had been eliminated by the realignments. Add in the difference in starting points and railroad milepost 10 is near trail milepost 8 - about a two mile offset. The 1914 Mifflin Extension of the railroad experienced very little realignment during operations, so this two-mile differential is maintained between Imperial and Bethel Park.

The Montour Railroad Historical Society has restored or replaced some of the original railroad mileposts. As you travel the Montour, you will find railroad mileposts 7, 30, 31 and 32. Mileposts 37 and 38 are along the trail’s Bethel Branch, which was originally the railroad’s main line. Mileposts 24, 25, 26, and 27 are planned to be restored this year. Several other original mileposts still exist that have not yet been rehabbed, including Mile 10, 13 and 21. For trail mileage to find these posts, subtract two from the RR numbers.



Milepost 31 was replaced in 2013 – the 100th anniversary of the railroad at that location. Kurt Anderson & Tim Sposato do the honors. (Photo: Kurt Anderson)

**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 [montourtrail.org/support-us/](https://montourtrail.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

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

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

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

Montour Trail Council  
Use Only

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check
- ☐ Credit Card

Federal Tax ID: 25-1634718

## Trail Counts

One year ago, the *Trail-Letter* published an article about the three newly purchased Eco Counters to be used to count users along the trail. The devices separately track cyclists and pedestrians and record their direction of travel. During 2024, the counters were installed at five locations, including the Airport, Fort Cherry, Cecil, Peters and South Hills segments of the trail. Each counter was left in place for at least 3 months to give us a long-term summary of users. One counter, in Cecil, was left in place from April through November to track the change in usage from early spring through late fall.

Each device provided daily uploads of trail user counts, including mix and direction of travel, through an automatic cellular connection to an online, map-based reporting system. The units also monitored their own 'health' and reported when

something might be wrong so that we could check and maintain them. This feature came in handy several times when insects looking for shelter built nests inside the devices, obstructing the infra-red sensors used to count pedestrians. In each case, the system generated notices of the issue (it reported "zero-counts" being recorded — not that there were insects inside) so that the problem could be cleared, and counting could resume.

At the end of the year, the accumulated information was tallied and showed nearly 170 thousand cyclist and pedestrian visits across the five locations (a total of 340,000 'in' and 'out' counts). The data also highlighted the average daily and weekly usage patterns at each point and recorded the increase in users that resulted from completing the trail connection near Stewart Road.

We initiated the count program to support our requests for funding and plan our improvements and activities to serve our users and develop the trail. The program is already paying off. The 2024 counter results were used in a recent grant application that required us to provide visitor information as part of the justification for the request. Counts have also been shared with traffic engineers considering whether crossing lights should be added at an intersection to improve trail user safety.

In the near future, the devices will be reinstalled for the 2025 count on the trail — some in the same locations, and some in new locations — to continue the data collection and provide the MTC Board and Friends Groups additional information to manage and grow the trail.

*by John Dorman*

## 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*.

### Trail Blazer

Dave Oyler

### Leader's Circle

John Dorman  
Gateway Engineers  
Patrick McElhinny  
James Prostko

### Benefactor

Justin Bolitho  
Richard Bryant  
Maria Byrge  
Mark Cappello  
Ken Eltschlager  
Joseph Grimes  
Donald Mysliwicz  
Thomas M. Thompson  
Daniel G. Winschel

### In Memory

Gil McGurl  
David Borrebach  
Deborah Esia  
Mary Ann Gross  
Margaret Hite  
Mark Imgrund  
Stan Sattinger  
Julian Wolfe

### In Honor

Ben Brown  
Tom Van Himbergen

### Laura & Jeff Siefer

Roy & Carolyn  
Yarrington

### New Members

Richard Bryant  
Maria Byrge  
Maria Chis  
Eugene Dennison  
Michael Faix  
Mark Grin  
Jen Hayed  
Donald Krewin  
Jaime McCain

Michael Moats  
Josh Nellist  
Ivan Ober  
Heather Roberts  
Joel Shaul  
Thomas Shelt  
Amber Snedeker  
Sarah Spreckic



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

### Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE

PAID  
BRIDGEVILLE PA-  
PERMIT NO.37

