Local Friends of the Trail get ready for Spring!

By the time you read this all the snow should be melted and the temperatures will be setting into the mid to upper fifties. While everybody else has been spending the last month or so tuning up their bicycles and buying new walking shoes, the various Friends of the Trail organizations have been planning ways to spruce up your favorite recreational area.

The members of these Friends groups promote, maintain, and represent the Trail in their respective communities. This allows the parent Montour Trail Council to move on to complete more sections of undeveloped Trail. In past years the Friends have cut grass, picked up litter, cleaned graffiti, planted trees and shrubs, repaired fencing, installed stream erosion protection and monitored Trail activities by various groups. (All groups must apply to MTC before holding events on the Trail.) They also man Trail information booths at local fairs and other community events.

There are currently three Friends groups in operation; the Cecil Friends of the Trail, the Moon/Robinson Friends, and the Findlay/North Fayette Friends. Each presented their plan of action to the MTC board of directors in February as per their by-laws.

Top priority for the Cecil Friends is to complete the 1 1/2 mile "Hendersonville East" section that they started last year. This will continue the Cecil section of the Trail from its present terminus at Morganza Rd. on to the Peters Township border at Chartiers Creek. Work involved includes placing surface material and erecting fences. (Interesting note: The surface material was procured by Cecil Friends President Dennis Sims from The Meadows racetrack. He got permission this past winter from track superintendent Corwyn Greene to obtain the used 1-A limestone from the horse racing oval. This is believed to be the first time used race track material is being used on a rail-trail - ANOTHER MTC FIRST!) Any leftover material will be stockpiled and used to resurface the rough portion of the Trail between Hendersonville and the National Tunnel.

Other plans include improving the Kurnick Parking Area; stream bank stabilization along McPherson Run near Hendersonville;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 SEE FRIENDS
Editor's Observations

♦ The meeting out at Fort Cherry Elementary School last month was a rousing success. Although only about 30 people were in attendance, almost every one of them were committed 110% to completing the next six miles of Trail from Mile 11 1/2 of the present completed section to the McDonald Trestle in Robinson, Washington County. There were others who called and said that they couldn’t make the meeting but to please call them when we begin construction.

♦ Due to the inquiries of Dick Quasey, the 911th Air Force Reserve has agreed to help us out with a few different projects. But because of previous commitments for 1996, their participation will be limited until next year. We welcome them aboard.

♦ The complaints we receive are few, but one of the ones we hear most often is “Why can’t you do something about the people who let their dogs use the Trail for a toilet?” Well, you would think that common sense would tell people that they should drag their dog into the weeds whenever “nature calls.” (That’s one of the reasons for the leash rule.) But like everything else nowadays, we can’t assume anything. So I’ve made copies of the sign in the picture on the right to help those who are “common sense challenged.” Let’s see if they get the message.

See you on the Trail.

Tim

P.S. Give some thought to setting aside one Saturday this year for helping out the Friends group of your choice. Not all of the tasks involve heavy lifting; there’s also fundraisers and information booths to man. Check out the calendar on the next page to see which Saturday each group works.

Letters

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.
- MTC Board Meeting, every third Monday of the month - Fifth floor of the Allegheny County Office Bldg. in the Engineering Dept., at 6:00pm. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Marshall at 531-8628 for more information or to get on the agenda.

- New Construction: Robinson, Washington County - work crews will meet Saturdays, beginning in April, at the base of the McDonald Trestle near the intersection of Rt. 980 and Noblesville Rd. just outside of McDonald, at 9:00am. All are invited to join us as we add six more miles to the Trail! For more information call Dennis at 762-4857 or 262-3748. For information about a weekday workcrew, call Tim at 787-1472.

- MTC Training Session - Saturday, March 16 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. For anyone just getting involved or having recently become involved with the Montour Trail Council. This workshop will bring you up to date in the policies, history, and mission of the MTC. The by-laws of the organization will also be discussed. Instructors will be Stan Sattinger, Founder and past-president of the MTC and Jack Swisher, charter member and past-president and past-president. The workshop will be held at All Occasion Catering at the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Road in Robinson Twp., Allegheny County. To register call Frank Keppel at 859-3020.

- Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month - in the Boy Scout room at the Cecil American Legion. Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406

- Work & Clean-up party, Cecil segment, every third Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Kernick Tract parking area. Call 221-6406 for more information. (No work in March)

- Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail meeting, Every Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00. At the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd.s in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 859-3020 more information.

- Work & Clean-up party, Moon/Robinson segment, every second Saturday of the month - 9:00am. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information. (No work in March)

- Findlay/North Fayette Friends of the Trail Call Don at 899-3695 for more information.

- Work & Clean-up party, Findlay/North Fayette segment, every forth Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information. (No work in March)

- Mountain Bike Ride - Sunday, April 28 at 11:00am, around the Trail in the Moon/Robinson area. Great ride for beginners that have never been wet or muddy. Should be able to ride 15 miles and carry your own water. We will meet at the parking area near the Brothers Grimm Lounge (near Mile 3 on the Trail). For more info call 787-1472

- Trail Walk - New section for 1996! Sunday, March 10 (rain date March 17) Meet at Mile 11.5 (current end of Airport Area section) across from BFI entrance at 10:30 am. Take the McDonald exit of Rt. 22 and turn left. Make the first right. You are there. Signs are posted. Walk is approximately 6 miles. Transportation back to start will be provided. See it now so you can appreciate the improvements!

Additional plantings and the creation of habitats for the fauna along the Trail. Some of this help will be provided through an Eagle Scout project, minor herbicide treatment of the Trail surface to keep it at its designed width of ten feet, and continuing to increase public awareness by setting up booths on the Trail on National Trail Day and other days and participating in the annual Indian Summer Festival.

The Moon/Robinson Friends of the Montour Trail are also planning an ambitious year. Their plans include: planting grass along the entire Moon/Robinson section; cutting weeds and grass up to five feet from the edge of the Trail several times this year; install more benches at various locations; repairing streambank and other erosion problems; expanding and improving the Hassam Rd. (near the sewage treatment plant) and Groveton parking areas. They also plan a reprise of their highly successful Penny fundraising campaign of last year and will place occasional informational booths on the Trail and at various local community events.

The Findlay/N. Fayette Friends plan to begin the year with a much needed litter pick up campaign, particularly between the Parkway and the Clifton Rd. parking area. They will also complete a neighborhood planting project. The rest of their efforts this year will involve preparing the short section of completed Trail, from the Boggs Rd. parking area to the Rt. 22 overpass near the McDonald exit, for final surfacing.

All of these groups meet on different Saturdays of each month (beginning in April) so that they can share the limited Montour Trail Council equipment and supplies. Coordination will be critical this year because much of the equipment will be used every Saturday in the new construction taking place in Robinson, Washington County. Complicating matters even further is the fact that many regular members of the Friends groups have also committed themselves to the new construction project.
The Montour Trail Council would like to thank all of the following individuals and organizations who have donated $50 or more to the organization in the past year. Our Supporting, Sustaining and Benefactor members will be listed regularly in our Jan./Feb. edition. Since we have 750+ members (and growing), it is impossible at this time to list everybody, but we thank all for their continued support. 8-)

- Aetna Life Insurance Co
- Allegheny Valley School
- Neal Altman
- Larry & Ann Arch
- John D. Babb, Jr.
- James E. & Patricia Ann Bachmann
- Tim Baker
- Drs. J. G. Benitez & L. G. Allison
- E. Peter Benzing
- Sam Bertenthal & Anne Humphreys
- Tom Busse
- Warren M. Cella
- James R. Daniels
- Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
- Mr. & Mrs. Sigo Falk
- Marshall Fausold
- Thomas C. Fix
- Connor, Joanne, Tyler, & Eli Fox
- Janet Geary
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Golliday
- Joseph E. Goodwill
- Cliff and Marilyn Ham
- John J. Haney
- Dennis C. Harrington
- Thomas C. Harter
- David Helwig
- Bernie Hencka
- Donald A. Hoccker
- John Hooton
- Brian K. Jensen
- Paul Johnson
- John Jones
- Michael Karpa
- Thomas F. Kaveney
- Dr. Roland T. Keddie
- W. J. Kellar Agency, Inc
- Fred Kissell
- Mark Krulac
- Larson Sales Company
- Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc
- Kurt J. Lesker Co.
- David A. Lewis
- Paul & Susan Lieber
- Ginny McCloskey
- Walter J. McGervey
- Jack McGinnis
- Paul T. McKown
- Metro Orthopedic & Physical Therapy, Inc.
- Bill Morphy
- B. A. Mrusek
- Bob & Betty Muzik
- Bruce E. Neely
- Hugh & Eliza Nevin
- Michael S. Nicholson
- Susan & David Orenstein
- John W. Osegueda
- Nancy Campbell O'Farrell
- Bruce & Mary Jo O'Neill
- Martin F. O'Toole, D.P.M.
- Pittsburgh Geological Society
- Andrew & Janice Poole
- Richard L. Quasey
- Ed Quigley
- Jerry Rabinowitz
- Dave & Debby Radovich
- Robert Randolph
- Jay & Marilyn Richey
- Ruth E. Rittler
- Raymond Rota
- Stan Sattinger
- Dennis P. Sattler
- Donna Seidel & Jerry Green
- Dennis Sims
- Mark J. Smith
- Jim & Pat Stafford
- Cliff Stevenson
- Frank & Elizabeth Suatoni, Jr.
- William & Joan Terrell
- Donald R. & M. Eileen Teysier
- Debora B. Thompson
- Sam Tischler
- Norman Tournay
- Andrew & Ming Tung
- Gregory Walz
- Joyce Watslowsky
- Ted Weidner
- West Hills Area Woman's Club
- Tom & B.J. Wettach
- E. Steven White
- Eric Williams
- Jo Wilson
- Claude Zajac

And three donors that wish to remain anonymous.
WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
☆ Jeffrey A. Bosetti
☆ Barbara E. Cassidy
☆ Jeffrey R. Davis
☆ Janet L. DeLost
☆ Thomas J. Ferenc
☆ Teresa L. Groznik
☆ Judy Kemp
☆ Frank & Michelle Munsky
☆ Bruce E. Neeley
☆ Gayle A. Streib
☆ E. Steven White

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

Some of you might have noticed the improvements to the old "Yard Limit" sign just past the beginning of the Trail in Groveton. The work was done by MTC volunteer and Board member Bob Boyce of Crafton Heights. Bob also put new "lights" and a new door on the front of the signal (the only signal left on the whole Montour Trail) behind the sign. He plans to finish sanding and painting the signal later this year.

Photo by Tim Killmeyer

Political Action Committee
Volunteers are needed to help make sure the concerns of the Montour Trail are heard in Harrisburg and Washington D.C. Please call 922-1702 if you would like to help.

A reminder to WALKERS and CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS:
WALKERS - Please do not walk in the cross country ski tracks. They are very hard to blaze and maintain. Boots and shoes dig them up and make them less smooth for gliding. Walk, run, and ride toward the middle of the Trail.
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS - Make your tracks to the far right hand side of the Trail (in either direction). They will be far less likely to be trod upon in that location.

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.
- I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council.

- STUDENT $5
- INDIVIDUAL $15
- FAMILY $25
- ORGANIZATION $50
- SUPPORTING $50
- SUSTAINING $100
- BENEFACCTOR $250+ up

(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) __________

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 toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-9999. 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 where you work.
**Park Manor crossing on track for improvement**

Design plans have been drawn up and moved past the approval phase at the Moon Twp. level to redesign the Trail crossing at Park Manor Blvd. and Montour Run Rd. below Robinson Town Centre. The next step is submittal to and approval by PennDot.

If the plans are approved then work can begin to remove the existing guardrail around the intersection so that the Trail can curve over to the regular crosswalk at the intersection. Trail users can then use the WALK/DON’T WALK signals that are already in place. Additional guardrail will have to be installed from the end of the Park Manor Blvd. bridge over Montour Run Creek around toward the present Trail surface to keep errant autos from going into the stream.

Bob Dudash, a member of the Moon/Robinson Friends group and an engineer for Michael Baker Corp. drew up the plans and will submit them to PennDot.

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**Reminder:**

The Montour Trail Council will begin volunteer improvements and construction of the Trail in Robinson Township, Washington County on Saturday, April 6 at 9:00am. Work will continue every Saturday thereafter until the section is completed. Bring your work gloves and meet us underneath the McDonald Trestle. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Please try to set aside at least one Saturday during April, May, or June to lend us a hand. You’ll be glad you did!

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**“Spineline” group gets official name**

The Spineline collection of the five trail groups involved in the Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. connection has finally decided on an official name. The Allegheny Trail Alliance is the moniker that will be used to present a united front to foundations and help them to prioritize grant money. The five groups involved are The Allegheny Highlands Trail; The Mon-Yough Trail; The Steel Heritage Trail; The Three Rivers Heritage Trail; and The Montour Trail. The first task is for each individual group to come up with an estimate of how much money it will take to complete each trail - task by task. Then ambassadors from each group will gather together to prioritize the tasks of each trail. Then, when foundations are approached for grants, they won’t have to decide for themselves which project is more worthy of funding because the trail groups will have already figured that out amongst themselves.

The autonomy of each group will be maintained and other fundraising efforts will not be restricted in any way.
Here is a letter we received just before we went to press from last year’s “Pennies” campaign winners.

February 26, 1996

Tim Killmeyer
Montour Trail-Letter

Dear Tim,

Just wanted to drop you a note to thank the Montour Trail Council for the prize of a Breakfast for Two package at the Airport Marriott. We used this prize last weekend and we had a very enjoyable time.

Even the weather cooperated with temperatures in the 50’s and 60’s... great weather for enjoying the trail as part of the weekend.

Thanks again and good luck with your collection this year.

Sincerely,

Linda and Leanna Zaccone

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Order form for the Incredible Inch Campaign

Disclaimer: You won’t actually own a piece of the Montour Trail, but we appreciate your donation.

The whole Montour Trail is now “for sale”. All 3,481.800 inches of it. Buy it by the inch, foot, yard, rod, meter, furlong, mile or league. It is all the same reasonable price: a buck an inch. That’s right, a buck an inch! And your inches run the whole ten foot width of the trail (that’s 120 inches wide).

You can be creative: add up the height of your entire family and buy that many inches of trail, or measure the length of your whole family’s feet. How long is your dog? Buy his length in inches of trail. Or, if you’re a little short, just buy the length of his tail. And they make great gifts for that active friend. If we “sold” every inch of trail, it would pay for the whole thing.

For your money, you will receive a genuine, simulated hand-lettered, faux-embossed, 8 1/2 x 11 inch official looking “deed” (suitable for framing), that will proudly proclaim your ownership of the trail (with the requisite fingerprint). This beautiful document will show the total number of inches you “own” and the township in which they are located.

Please fill out this form and return it with your check to:
MTC INCREDIBLE INCH CAMPAIGN
1060 STANFORD RD.
PITTSBURGH PA. 15205

CIRCLED CITY NAME FOR THE INCH CAMPAIGN

NAME: ____________________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________
CITY: ____________________________________________
STATE: ______ ZIP: ______
NUMBER OF INCHES: ____________________________

CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE NAMED ON YOUR “DEED”:

MOON TOWNSHIP
ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEQUA)
FINDLAY TOWNSHIP
NORTH PAFETTE TWP.
ROBINSON TWP. (WASHINGTON)
MT. PLEASANT TWP.

CECIL TOWNSHIP
PETERS TOWNSHIP
SOUTH PARK TWP.
JEFFERSON BORO
CLAIRTON
BETHEL PARK
Montour Run Creek next to the Trail is fast becoming the favorite haunt of hikers, nature lovers, and new age locals. Let's hope these changes don't get too drastic.

Montour Pass 3 & 4, was shot just after 3:00 am. The trip was successful. Let's hope we can have some new meaning.

You remember me - Lou Reed? I'm sure you do. I have given 'Take A Walk On The Wild Side' a whole new meaning. If we could've been using the Montour Trail.

(celbrity quotation impersonated)