Burgh's Pizza 10K Run takes wing

by John Hooton

You know, sometimes projects DO work out! Burgh's Pizza and Wing Pub owners, Dan, Frank and Tom Daily, with no prior experience but with lots of enthusiasm, put together a most successful 10K fundraiser for the Montour Trail on April 22, 2001.

Some 351 runners entered, 286 finished and 75 One-Mile walkers showed up on a drizzly Sunday and kicked off the event in grand style. David Hackworth won for the men in 33:53 and Sabine Kane won for the women in 43:46. Very decent times that speak to the quality of the runners and the race itself.

True to its subtitle of being for "family, friends and fun", the event did offer attractions for the serious athletes, weekend joggers and family supporters of all. Prize money, official timing, water stations, proximity to the Pittsburgh Marathon and a great race package that included logo track shorts and "Burgh Bucks" all gave the new event credibility in the race community.

From the outset in September 2000, efforts leading to the pleasures of race day came from a serious objective – raising funds to help promote, develop and maintain the Montour Trail. The race committee, listed below, set an objective of $3,000. Then they went to work. Thirty-two sponsors made cash contributions and many more donated in-kind goods and services resulting in net proceeds of $7,000 after all expenses were met.

Burgh's was able to donate $6,000 to the Trail (doubling its objective) and added $1,000 to Cecil Township for its generous support and assistance to "the cause". This outstanding windfall lets the MTC to look at the Trail maintenance equipment "wish list" in a new light.

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Deloitte Consulting – Global Impact Day
local business creates new park area for Trail-users

Last November the Montour Trail Council (MTC) was contacted by Deloitte Consulting, located in RIDC Park West, with the intent of arranging a community day project for 40 or so of their employees on May 11, 2001 as part of a corporate-wide effort. This Global Impact Day at Deloitte Consulting resulted in a miniature park on the Montour Trail, and the expansion and improvement of the parking area at the end of Old Beaver Grade Road (past Trail Blazers and across from Multi-phase Erectors). Coincidentally, Dave Wright was in the process of acquiring this particular property for MTC from National Transit Authority and succeeded in doing so in April.

Now MTC has another official Trailhead at Mile 3.1.

It started with a survey of the Deloitte Consulting staff as to what type of rehabilitation project would best deserve their attention this year. The Trail won hands down! Due to its close proximity to Deloitte Consulting, it was a

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Dear Friends of the Trail,

Today, as I started out for my daily walk on the Trail, I realized that I would have to slow my pace a bit, due to some minor aches and pains. Without having to concentrate on speed or my feet, I was able to pay more attention to my surroundings. And what magnificent surroundings they were! Wildflowers were in abundance along both sides of the Trail — the likes of which I’ve never seen before (mainly because that particular section has not been mowed for a while). Nevertheless, there were so many colors and varieties of plants, some of which were so very fragrant, I found all my senses alive with curiosity and wonder, wanting to see even more at every turn. Though the day’s temperature was almost 90 degrees and humid, it was one of my most enjoyable walks.

I read that in the United States, employees receive less holidays and time off than in Europe. We surpass them in fast-paced living, and become annoyed by those not up to our speed. Isn’t it sad that there is so little time to enjoy the beauty of nature — the essence of life — because we live life in the fast lane? Think about nature and its beauty the next time you stress beyond words. Make time for yourself. Come to the Trail, and let your senses drink deeply of all that is free.

Happy Trails!

Debby

PS: We are in need of a new editor for this Trail-Letter. If interested, send your email to: trailtalk@aol.com
Calendar of Events


Friends’ Meetings and Work Parties

♦ MTC Board Meeting, every third Monday of the month - 6:00 pm at Chartiers Valley H. S., in the faculty lounge. Turn left off of the Kirwan Heights exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go under the Interstate, and the school is on your left. (Enter through door 4.) 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 in the new Cecil Township Municipal Building located beside Cecil Park on Rt. 50. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.
  - Work & Clean-up party, every third Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.

♦ 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 724-899-3696 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 Mckown at 412-835-6692.

♦ Port Cherry Events:
  - Friends of the Trail Meeting, the first Wednesday of the month at McDonald Boro. Bldg., Council chambers at 7:00 pm. Work & Clean-up party, (trail clearing from McDonald Trestle to Cecil Twp.) every Saturday this summer. Volunteers are needed. For more information, contact John Wasko at 724-796-3781, or Joe S. at 724-693-2523.
Building the Montour Trail Council's "main line" from Coraopolis to Clairton takes up most of our attention. But we also want to spread out to the sides, to connect up nearby communities. A lot of activity has happened, and will happen on these connections. Let me go down the list: (Note that some of the below are just ideas at this time; permission from landowners have not been obtained or even requested.)

First, the branches/connectors which were used by a railroad:
- The Bethel Branch - mostly complete
- The Muse Branch (Cecil Township) - not started yet
- The Westland Branch (Cecil, Mount Pleasant, and Chartiers Townships) - not started yet
- The extension from milepost 0 to downtown Coraopolis itself - we are investigating access to the real estate at this time.

Then the non-railroad connections:
- The Panhandle Trail, which extends west from Collier Township and will cross the Montour Trail at McDonald is developing its own organization and will offer more scenic mileage for Montour Trail users.

Other sister trails of the Great Allegheny Passage.
- Rails-with-trail along the Pittsburgh Industrial Railroad, which follows Chartiers Creek from Canonsburg to Upper St. Clair
- Extending the Bethel Branch beyond Logan Road up to Millennium Park, following the former Montour Railroad right of way when possible.

Perhaps you can let your mind wander to other possible connectors. I don't see how we can have too many. Share your ideas with others. Then take action on one of the above ideas or your own. If you don't know how or where to get started, contact me. The progress along the Bethel Branch occurred as quickly as it did because the people living near it wanted it to happen.

Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off coming soon – volunteers needed

The annual Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off will take place once again at South Park over Labor Day weekend, starting on Friday, Aug. 31, through Monday Sept. 3, and volunteers are needed for the beer booths. The Montour Trail Council offers its help in exchange for a donation, usually $4000 annually, from the Mon-You Recreational & Educational Committee (MYREC), and has come to rely on these funds for its operating budget.

As before, this year's Rib Cook-Off coordinator, and Saturday's Day Captain, is John Hooton. John can be reached at 412-257-4101 (day) or 724-942-0115 (eve.). Other Day Captains are: Friday – Frank Ludwin; Sunday – Dennis Pfeiffer; Monday – John Wasco. Please join in the fun. Open the taps, fill the cups, and enjoy the festivities. Pick up the phone. Call now to volunteer! You'll be glad you did.

Montour High School students do their part to spruce up the Trail

Each year without fail, Montour High School students from the G.A.T.E program and Environmental Club, under the supervision of their teachers, Mr. Fleming and Mr. Kutzvich, choose the Montour Trail as one of their field trips. It's not for a tour of the Trail that they come, rather, it's a day of hard work helping to clean and beautify it. Some of the tasks performed between miles 0 and 4.1 were: grass cutting, replacing broken split rail fencing, weed chopping behind fencing, and weeding and planting flowers in two of the park areas. Because the students of these groups were energetic and self-motivated, it was a pleasure to work with them. The Moon/Rob Friends of the Montour Trail were totally pleased with their performance, and are looking forward to working with them again next year.

Many thanks to these hard-working students: Katie Butler, Marissa Catanzarite, Erin Conlon, Angelo D' Cicco, Jim Dupin, James Fazio, Candace Garfalo, Christine Giovannetti, Jason Hendricks, Matt Karg, Jeremy Kierski, Jim Lang, Dan Manius, Thomas Michaels, Rafaelae Moleiro, Steven Morphy, Bob Rizzo, Brian Schenella, Jacob Sullivan, Calvin Sweitzer, and their teachers, Bob Fleming and Bill Kutzvich. Also grateful thanks to Trail volunteers, Joan & Carl Schweiger, Freda Cochran, Dick Quasey, Bill Morphy, Jerry Bates, and Deb Hoerster for making it all possible.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman    Jerry Agin
Bill & Anne Barnes    Leo & Shirley Lorenzi
James Bartos    Vevette I. McCaskey
BKG Industries, Inc.    Janet McKinney
Archie Brinza    Richard S. Mosser
David S. Buchowski    Stewart Perry
Michael D. Buchwach    Dane Plunkett
Leona Carroll    Patrick D. Roberts
Kelly Clowson    Michael Schneider
Frank DeBor    Joseph W. Schultz
Dennis & Leesly DeLeonard    Rena & Jim Seideneck
Donald E. Emerson    Clifford Smith
Jon W. Ebert    Deborah C. Thropp
William & Sandra Faulkner    Teresa Williams
Charlie Forquer
Melanie A. Gerstel
Corey Jackson
Lisa M. Kaiko
John A. Kaufman
Michael J. Kiely
Kim Kifer
Brian Kuhns
Carl J. Long & Associates

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 they apply for grants.

BENEFACTORS

Andrew & Janice Poole
William P. Gillespie, Pittsburgh Valve & Fitting Co
Mark J. Smith
Michael J. Kiely
Joseph W. Schultz

LEADERS CIRCLE

Mark Schnurer
Kathy Grant

Burgh's Pizza 10K...

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Race Director Tom Daily reflected, "being associated with great people in our hard-working race committee, our many sponsors and volunteers made Burgh's 10K Run one of the most rewarding experiences I've known." Mark your calendars now. Next year's race date is slated for April 21, 2002.

The Dailys want to thank the race committee again for their outstanding efforts and are looking forward to working with them next year. They are Jesse Forquer, John Hooton, Tim McGinley, Dennis Pfeiffer, Amy Reichman, and Bill Woodrum.

Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

☐ I want to spread the word. Please send me additional flyers.
☐ I have written my Legislators 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/SENIORS  $15
INDIVIDUAL  $25
FAMILY  $35
SUPPORTING  $50
SUSTAINING  $100
BENEFACOCTOR  $250
LEADERS CIRCLE  $500 + 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) ________
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.
IKEA-Montour Trail 1/2 Marathon and 5K Run & Walk receives strong support from businesses and communities

by Jesse Forquer

This is the 6th year for the Montour Trail 1/2 Marathon and 5K Run and Walk. IKEA has been the host sponsor of this event for all 6 years. In days when we hear so much about the importance of the bottom line, IKEA’s investment of financial and human resources toward this event, puts them in a class by themselves. IKEA even encourages the MTC to seek other sponsors, and provides booths in their parking lot for them to promote their businesses. Last year, this event raised over $6000 for the trail.

Some of our other well known sponsors are: Computer Associates, Burg’s Pizza & Wing Pub, Eagle Physical Therapy, Elite Runner’s and Walkers, Kaufmann’s, Interstate Communications, Ohio Valley General Hospital, Robinson Town Center, and Svedala BMH.

The surrounding communities support this event as well. Police departments from Findlay, Moon, North Fayette, and Robinson Townships provide traffic control, while Emergency Services are provided by Mercy Mobile, Robinson EMS, and Valley Ambulance EMS. The Salvation Army is also there every year to support this event by serving coffee and donuts to all the volunteers.

The Montour Trail Council wishes to thank all of the sponsors, businesses, communities, volunteers, and participants for supporting this event year after year. And we look forward to seeing you at this year’s Race/Walk on September 8th, 2001.

IKEA-Montour Trail Half Marathon

by Jerry Agin

The Sixth Annual IKEA-Montour Trail Half Marathon and 5K Run and Walk will be held Saturday, September 8, 2001.

There are three events: a half marathon race of 13.1 miles, a 5K race of 3.1 miles, and an untimed walk of about 3 miles. All events start in the parking lot of IKEA in Robinson Town Center. Racers run down Park Manor Boulevard to the trail, then proceed out and back on the trail. Walkers will be bused to Hassam Road, and can enjoy a leisurely stroll back to Park Manor Boulevard.

The finish line for all three events is at the bottom of Park Manor Boulevard. Buses will transport all runners and walkers back to IKEA for refreshments and awards.

If you feel inclined to participate in any of these events, use the enclosed yellow flyer to apply. Or check out the web page at http://www.montourtrail.org/race.

The race requires many volunteers to be successful. Volunteers help with packet stuffing, registration, traffic control, water stations, split timing, and the finish line. If you’d like to help out, please leave a message at 412-343-4294, or send email to race@montourtrail.org.

Deloitte Consulting...

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natural selection. A committee was formed and after many weeks of deliberations, under the guidance of Bill Doerr, Impact Committee leader, Dana Scarfo, Impact Project Manager, and Rochelle Stachel, Regional Impact leader, “Deloitte Park” was born. Plans were drawn up for a parking lot and access ramp leading to the Trail, landscaping with shrubs and flowers, a picnic table area with split rail fencing and wildflowers, a handmade park bench, and a beautiful mural on the bridge abutment made by Sto-Rox students, and their art teacher, Danielle Smicik. Everything went according to plan that Friday morning, and by 4:00 p.m. they had packed up their belongings, leaving only the beautiful rehabilitation of a very popular fishing site along the Trail.

Unfortunately, there is not enough room for listing all the names, but the MTC thanks the employees of Deloitte Consulting for their fine ideas and hard work, and also thanks Sto-Rox students for the splendid rails-to-trails mural for all to see and enjoy.

Please visit “Deloitte Park” if you are in the area. It’s worth the effort!

Above & below pictures feature Deloitte Consulting employees enhancing Trail access area at mile 3.1. At center right, Sto-Rox students create colorful rails-to-trails mural.
A penny saved is a penny donated to the Trail

“Penny Day” on the Moon/Rob section of the Montour Trail turns rain into sunshine for the many Moon/Rob Friends, who volunteer their time working hard to make this major fundraiser a success. This year’s annual event brought in $3500 which is used for Trail maintenance, and amenities. It would not be possible without the many people who donate their coins and cash. Some save for a whole year just to win one of the many great prizes given away to those who bring in the most pennies. The area businesses who support the yearly “Penny Day” campaign are to be commended. Without their prize donations, it would not be as much fun, nor bring in quite so much money. Many thanks to all of them. They are: Airport Marriott, AmeriSuites, Bravo, Dingbats, Outback Steakhouse, King’s, Applebees, YaFei, Butys’s Lounge, Sneakers, Bronze Hood Lounge, and Trailblazers Bike Shop.

This year’s top winner, with a coin weight of 28.758 pounds was Annette Murray of McKees Rocks; the second place winner was Deloitte Consulting of Pgh. with 20.652 pounds; and third place went to Nancy Calhoon of Coraopolis with 17.092 pounds – all pennies from Heaven! Thank you! And tremendous thanks go to Troop 301 and all the faithful volunteers of Penny Day.

Montour Trail Council volunteer activities continue

Montour Trail volunteers have been very busy in the month of April. A crew removed trees that were shading the structural steel of the Library Trestle in South Park Township. The trees were removed in an effort to keep the bridge drier and thereby slow down corrosion. Engineers are currently designing a concrete deck and railings for installation on this 500-foot-long trestle crossing Route 88 and the Port Authority Transit tracks. On existing Montour Trail about a half-mile east of the Library Trestle, Eagle Scout candidate, Neil Stapley built and installed several park benches. The bench design chosen by Mr. Stapley features lumber that is thicker than on other similar benches to improve durability of the design.

The Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park have been preparing to have their two-mile trail segment extend south another .7 miles to the Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township. They have been cutting back brush and cleaning up debris in anticipation of construction this fall. Another crew performed tree cutting between Large and Clairton where trail construction is expected to begin in a few months. The latter area is more overgrown than most other Montour Trail property because this former Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way was abandoned more than 20 years ago.

If you would like to volunteer with the construction of Montour Trail connecting to the Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township, please contact Bob O’Connell at 412-833-6259. Those interested in trail-building activities in South Park Township and in Jefferson Hills, please call Paul McKeown at 412-835-6992 or send him an email at mckeownp@libcom.com. McKeown is also looking for skilled volunteers such as engineers, attorneys, marketing professionals, and computer literate people. Additional information about the Montour Trail can be found at www.montourtrail.org.

Cecil Ribbon Cutting

by Dennis Sims

After a cloudy start to the day, the Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail marked National Trail Day 2001 by officially cutting the ribbon on a 0.6-mile section that connects Cecil Park with PA Route 980 and extends this first section of the Montour Trail, completed 9 years ago, to 5.2 contiguous miles.

Cutting the ribbon, shown in the picture below were: (l to r) Frank Daily, who helped bring the Burgh 10K to the Cecil Section of the Trail, raising money for both the Montour Trail and the Cecil Parks and Recreation Board; Peter Kohne, President of the Montour Trail; Dennis Sims, President of the Cecil Friends; Frank Ludwin, Washington County Parks and Recreation Board; Dick Quasey, former MTC president; and Washington County Commissioner, J. Bracken Burns. And at the far right, are Cecil Friends, Ed Zupancic, and Hoyt Hall. Hoyt (Ambassador to the Cecil Section of the Trail), continues to make a strong recovery after a serious illness this past winter.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, President Kohne announced the designation of the Allegheny Trail Alliance as a National Recreational Trail of which the Montour Trail is part of.

and Mr. Quasey announced that the bridge over Georgetown Road could be back in place by the end of July after some repairs are made.

Special thanks go to Frank Ludwin, who provided and operated the equipment to spread the trail surface; and to Dr. Paul Rankin, who provided the equipment to grade; and to Mark Secreti, who operated the equipment to do the final grading.
After 11 years, the Montour Trail Council finally has an Office

by Bruce Barron

Always wanting to devote as much resources as possible to trail building and maintenance rather than administration, the MTC has conducted its operations out of board members' homes for over a decade. But a designated gift of free rent at a well-furnished, centrally located office was too good an offer to refuse.

The new office is located at 304 Hickman Street in Bridgeville, just off Route 50 and immediately behind the Bridgeville Post Office. Contributions by three anonymous supporters have assured the MTC of rent-free occupancy for the next two years. In addition, Automatic Data Processing and PNC Bank donated used furniture and file cabinets. John and Berenice Hooton arranged the lease on behalf of the MTC board.

The MTC held a formal opening ceremony for the office on June 8, featuring the presentation of a $6,000 contribution to the trail from Burgh's Pizza and Wings. This gift represented the proceeds of the highly successful, first annual Burgh's Run, which took place along the trail in Cecil Township in April. Frank & Tom Daily of Burgh's also presented a $1000 check to Cecil Township in appreciation of its superb cooperation with the race.

Among those attending the opening were State Representative John Maher, John Fippy's legislative assistant Briana Din, Mackin Engineers, Bob Genter and Mahendra Bhalakia, biking columnist, Larry Walsh of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, and representatives of the Bridgeville Area News, and the Washington Observer-Reporter.

The office will not be staffed on a regular basis but will be used for document storage, meetings, and correspondence. The new contact information is:
Montour Trail Council
304 Hickman Street, Suite 3
Bridgeville, PA 15017
Phone (412) 257-3011

Cutting the ribbon as the MTC opened its first ever office on June 8 are: (l to r) John Hooton, Bob Genter, Peter Kohnke, and Tom Daily. (Far right is Dennis Pfeiffer.)