



Montour trail-letter

Volume 16 Issue 4

July / Aug 2005

Outback Steakhouse Walkabout Event Offers Treasure to Montour Trail Clean-up Efforts



Mark your calendars and get your tickets for the Outback Steakhouse Montour Trail Walkabout on Sunday, August 14th. Outback Steakhouse restaurant in Moon Township is hosting this great event. Plenty of food, fun and prizes will be in order on Sunday morning.

walking trails between the Gazebo and the mile 4 marker over the summer. This area will be brimming with prizes for the event, and you can check out the new trails in this area. You can win Outback food certificates, Montour Trail items, and other great prizes!

Paige Harbaugh and the staff at the Outback Steakhouse in Moon Township wanted to host an event that would benefit the reconstruction and clean-up of the Montour Trail after last year's flood. Paige Harbaugh, Proprietor of the Moon Township Outback Steakhouse, commented, "The trail is enjoyed by everyone in the community. Participating in this event, by donating the food and hospitality, was the perfect opportunity to touch a lot of people".

Once you're done walking and treasure hunting, take the shuttle back up to the Outback restaurant for some great food. Lunch will be served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to all registered participants of the event. Please note that lunch will not be served before 11:00 a.m.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Outback Steakhouse in Moon Township. Once there, you can take a shuttle courtesy of ACTA (Airport Corridor Transportation Association) from the restaurant down to the Trail and either take a leisurely Sunday morning stroll or be adventurous and treasure hunt for prizes. Five Boy Scout Troops will be building permanent

This special event is limited to 250 people. Tickets are \$15 and children under 12 are just \$10. Buy your tickets early and forget about being left out of this event. To purchase tickets and reserve your spot at the event, call 724-695-2638, or email tucker@montourtrail.org. That's great food, fun, and prizes all in support of the Montour Trail.

Bill Orr

For your consideration

You can't get spoiled if you do your own ironing.

Meryl Streep

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In search of... A New Trail Letter Editor

The MTC is now accepting applications for a volunteer Trail Letter editor. Skills include: A willingness to get the job done!

We will happily accept offers from jouranalists (would-be or otherwise), but writing/editing skills are not absolute requirements. Lay-out skills are, also, a plus but not required.

If you are one of those people who has never volunteered in a work party

because you aren't the "get up early on a Saturday" type, this is the perfect chance for you to help out the Trail in a unique (and public) way.

We'll be happy to train a willing volunteer, and the entire board contributes to putting together each Trail Letter.

Please call 412-418-0432 or e-mail acalncl@yahoo.com with your background and interest.

MTC Web Address

Visit the Montour Trail web-site at:

www.montourtrail.org



Calendar of Events

**MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dennis Pfeiffer	President
Mark Imgrund	Vice President
Astrid Cook	Secretary
Judy Thompson	Treasurer
Bill Capp	Bill Orr
Jesse Forquer	David Oyler
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John Hooton	Ned Williams
Peter Kohnke	Dick Wilson
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Bridgeville, PA 15017
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 newsletter@montourtrail.org

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

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

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
PHONE NUMBERS:

For information: 412-831-2030
For administration and business: 412-257-3011
Fax: 412-257-3016

Newsletter Editor Astrid Cook

Circulation Manager Charlie Forquer

July 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MTC Board Meeting— **July 18**
 Peters Township Twilight Trail Walk — **July 22**
 MTC Board Meeting— **August 15**
 MTC Board Meeting— **August 14**

For updated information, check out our new Events Calendar at www.montourtrail.org/events

The Montour Trail Council is an *all volunteer* organization founded in 1989 to convert the abandoned Montour Railroad right of way and the abandoned Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a fifty-five mile recreational trail for non-motorized activity regardless of physical ability or financial wherewithal.

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

- ◆ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - **6:00 p.m.** at 304 Hickman St., Suite 3, Bridgeville, PA. Turn right off of the Bridgeville exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go straight at next light and make left turn onto Hickman St. just after the Post Office. Call Peter at 412-854-1835 for more information or to get on the agenda.
 - ◆ **Cecil Events:**
Friends of the Trail meeting, every **fourth Wednesday** of the month at **7:00 p.m.** From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil-Henderson Road; other months meet at the MTC Offices, Call 412-257-2553 for more information. **Work & Clean-up party**, every **third Saturday** of the month - **9:00 a.m.** (Subject to change; check information boards.) Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more info.
 - ◆ **Moon/Robinson Events:**
Friends of the Trail meeting, the **Wednesday** before the second Saturday of the month at **7:00 p.m.**, 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 a.m.** Call 412-262-3748 for more information and location.
 - ◆ **Findlay/North Fayette Events:**
Friends of the Trail, call Don at 724-899-3695 or Pete at 412-788-4136 for more information. **Work & Clean-up party**, every **fourth Saturday** of the month - **9:00 a.m.** 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 p.m.** 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 a.m.** Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.
 - ◆ **South Hills Trailblazing:**
Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party, **last Saturday** of every month. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, call Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692.
 - ◆ **Fort Cherry Events:**
Friends of the Trail Meeting, **first Wednesday** of the month at McDonald Borough Bldg., Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. **Work & Clean-up parties**, scheduled as needed. For more information, contact Joe Seibel at 724-693-2523.
 - ◆ **Peters Township Events:**
Friends of the Trail Meeting, **first non-holiday Monday** of the month at Peters Township Parks and Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. For more information on **Work & Clean-up parties**, please contact Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at mcimgrund@adelphia.net.

Tails Were Wagging on the Montour Trail

The first annual Tails for the Montour Trail went off without a bite or a scratch on National Trails Day, 2005 as 50 dogs and their masters attended the event held by the Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail. The fun-walk took place between the Kurnick Access Area on Cecil Henderson Road and Hendersonville. Water stops were provided at intermediate points along the trail for the dogs and a water stop for everyone along with some fruit snacks at the turn around at the Hendersonville Access Area. Upon the return to Kurnicks, everyone could have a hot dog and a cold drink. Each participant was given a poopy bag to clean up after their pet and waste receptacles were provided at each water stop so they would not have to carry the bag too far. Several acquaintances of a participant dressed up as dogs to wish her a happy birthday as they passed under the I-79 overpass.

Dennis Sims



Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the September / October Trail-Letter will be due **no later than** August 10, 2005

Fifth Anniversary Gift? For the Burgh's Race, it's Snow!

OK, so it takes a perverse view to welcome snow, but can you imagine what a steady rain would have been like? The pictures below tell you everyone had a good time at the Fifth "Burgh's 10 K Run/ 2 Mile Walk" held April 24 at Cecil Park where it adjoins The Montour Trail.

The numbers looked good, too. We had 332 registered runners and 87 registered walkers, including 81 "walk-ups" on Race Day. The 10K results included 264 finishers with Matt

Meurer, 23, of Pittsburgh, finishing first with a record time of 32:41, followed by second place finisher Peter Boyd, 30, of Union City with a time of 34:24 and in third place Ed Koontz, 34, of Bethel Park with a time of 35:02. For the ladies, Rebecca Smallwood, 26, of Morgantown, crossed the line in 37:38, closely followed by Laura Hruby, 44, at 37:53 and in third place Tammy Slusser, 39, of Monroeville with a time of 39:56.

Prize money for both men and women is \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and third place \$100. Following the 10K Run and 2 Mile Walk, participants, spectators and volunteers enjoyed a great lunch buffet, including soft drinks and beer, music and the awards ceremony.



All of this effort and fun goes to help develop and maintain The Montour Trail. We are happy to credit corporate partners DeBlaso Beverage/Michlob Ultra Light and a host of supporting sponsors, entry fees and funds from

Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub Patron Board for giving us a net revenue of approximately \$22,000— our most successful yet. Burgh's plans to present a check for \$20,000 to the Trail on Saturday, June 25, 2005. Additional donations are to be made to Parks and Recreation Depts. of Cecil and Bridgeville for their invaluable help and support.

The Trail Council, for its part, offers its thanks to Burgh's, the sponsors, volunteers and especially all who attend and make it such a fun day. Think about this for next year: how about some "Theme" Runners (remember the "caterpillar" group and others who added levity to the "retired" Pittsburgh Great Race?).

John Hooton

And the Prez sez...

Greetings to Members and Friends of the Montour Trail!

On National Trail Day June 4th, I had the pleasure of attending "Cecil Friends" and "Bethel Friends" events. The Cecil Friends held a 5K Fun Walk for our four-legged animal friends. The Bethel Friends held a "Party on Trail" near the site of the future Clifton Road Bridge. Both events were well attended and a lot of fun.

The most satisfying experience for me was meeting and talking to the great hard working members of the friends groups. You again have a chance to experience a friends group event on July 22nd when the "Peters Friends" have their Twilight Trail Walk. Come and enjoy the event and take the opportunity to thank the friends members for their dedicated support of the Montour Trail.

Speaking of friends, Jesse Forquer is heading up an effort to establish a remembrance to our friend Mr. Dick Quasey. Dick was a great friend that left us in September of 2003. Dick's daughter, Kathy, wrote a message to Jesse and his wife Dianne, which we include below.

"In her own words"

May 16, 2005

Dear Dianne and Jess,

We are all touched by your remembrance of our Dad. We all miss him very much, of course. Your kind words bring many thoughts rushing forth . . . we know he had a big heart — so big that it couldn't help but spill over to others who he met.

He spoke to me a couple of times of how happy he was working on the trail. As you may know, during his career, he was involved in enormous projects including dams and mining projects spanning from the Middle East to the far reaches of western Australia. He worked with top government officials, donned Arabian headgear at one point and relished local delicacies - even monkey brains according to my mother. But in the end, he was happiest at home, working with this gardening and working on the trail.

It meant a lot to him that the trail will be a legacy for future generations — all the beautiful natural habitat and the opportunity it presents for those long talks with those we love. In fact, his last e-mail to me was about putting the last panel in on the (McDonald) bridge. He and I walked often on the trail when I was home - and I cherish those memories. I have a picture of him on the trail in the distance turning to face me with the trail extending before him. That's how I think of him now — while there is distance between us, he's leading the way to where we're all going — and one day, I'll be seeing him again. May God bless you for your friendship to him and your kindness to us.

Kathy

Happy Trails,

Dennis Pfeiffer, President

IKEA 1/2 Marathon Turns Ten

On September 10, 2005 the 10th Annual IKEA/ Montour Trail ½ Marathon and 5K Run & Walk will take place. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event which was founded by IKEA for the benefit of the Montour Trail operations, maintenance and construction. This event has raised over 80,000 dollars for the Montour Trail since it's inception. Molly Brevard of IKEA was the first race director. We have been unable to find Molly. If anyone knows of her where a bouts please contact the Montour Trail . We want Molly to be present to help commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the event.

Last year's event had 1060 registered and we are looking for another great turnout this year. So come' on out, participate in the event and support the Montour Trail. Dick's Sporting Goods will be providing 1,000 dollars in gift certificates that are given away in our raffle. North Park Club House, Golden Harvest Bread and IKEA will be supplying food for the post race festivities at the IKEA lot. Coca Cola will be providing PowerAde , Dasani Water and Coca Cola soft drinks as always this year. I have heard that we may be taste testing some new Coca Cola products as last year with C2.

All activities start at the IKEA parking lot in Robinson Township, Allegheny County. Walkers will be bused from the IKEA parking lot to the walk start near Hassam Road beginning at 7:45 a.m. The 1/2 Marathon start time is 8:00AM and the 5K start time is 8:20AM both of these events start in the IKEA parking lot. At the conclusion of the run and walk, buses will shuttle people back to the IKEA lot. Runners will again have to go through the chip recovery area on the other side of Park Manor Blvd to turn in their chips before going to the buses. For complete event and registration information see the attached registration form.

Comcast became a premier sponsor of the event this year and will be airing 50 to 60 five-minute interviews in August between Tonia Caruso and Dennis Pfeiffer our MTC President on their Newsmakers which will be aired on Comcast's CNN channel 33. These cable broadcasts will be going out to ½ million homes in Allegheny, Beaver, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

Coca Cola has been a Corporate Partner for the event for several years and is now supporting several other trail events with their great products and banners. Dick's Sporting Goods and Eagle Physical Therapy have both become Corporate Partners this year. Event Supporting Sponsors are: A.J Myers & Sons Inc., The Mall at Robinson, Robinson Town Center, Swindell Dressler Computer Associates, Elite Runners and Walkers, Interstate Communications, North Park Clubhouse, The Salvation Army, Great Harvest Bread and Metso Minerals.

Jess Forquer/ Race Director

Watershed Team Improves Conditions in Montour Run

Between May 16 and 26, a 12-person AmeriCorps team, aided by volunteers of the MTC and the Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA), made great progress toward restoring Montour Run to its health prior to the flood of September 17, 2004.

The AmeriCorps team members donned waders and life vests and entered the stream with hand tools and chain saws, breaking up tangles of branches and other debris, bagging non-biodegradable trash, and hauling the branches up to high ground to decompose. They dragged the trash to trail-side for later pickup by volunteers during work parties held on May 21 and June 4, and they worked side-by-side with the volunteers loading the trash into waste-disposal dumpsters on May 21.

Blockages to stream flow were removed from the stream at the Findlay Activity Center and at the California Hollow Bridge in Imperial; at the abandoned railroad bridge abutments near the YMCA Western Area Program Center; and just downstream of the Beaver Grade Road crossing of the stream. In all, three large 30-cubic-yard dumpsters were filled with debris that the team removed from the stream and floodplain.

The Montour Run Flood Restoration was a project of the Washington, DC-based Senate 7 Team of the National Civilian Community Corps, a division of



Above: AmeriCorps team members (from left: Nancy Paraskevopoulos, Hilary Ahrens, Kaija McIntosh) decide how they will remove debris from the stream behind Findlay Activity Center. Below: Team members (from left) Matt Shifflet, MRWA's Ed Nelson, team leader Taryn Vanaskie, and Maggie Carr discover a badly rusted Honda motorcycle found in the Montour Run stream bed near the Enlow Ball Field.



AmeriCorps. This project was physically demanding of the team members, but they neither weakened nor complained about the wet and muddy conditions in which they had to work. The team members were housed in camping facilities at Raccoon Creek State Park.

A number of area businesses and organizations contributed to the success of this project. Waste Management provided the three dumpsters, and space was made available in an additional dumpster by Valley Electric. The MTC provided the Trail truck and two chain saws, which were resharpened free of charge by Kuhlman Sales and Service of Coraopolis. Food was donated by Speedies Pizza of Imperial. Raccoon Creek State Park provided the life vests, while the MRWA furnished hand tools and waders. The MRWA's Mark Fedosick, Ed Nelson, Stan Sattinger, and John Shaver supervised and coordinated all aspects of the project.

MTC and MRWA volunteers who took part in the debris pickup sessions on May 21 and/or June 4 included: Tom Aubrecht; Mark Fedosick and family; Diane and Jesse Forquer; Frank Jagerski; Dave McMillen; Pete Merther; Lauren Meyer; Ed Nelson; Bill and Laura Orr; Jon Pavlakovich; Dennis Pfeiffer; Stan Sattinger; and Jeff Williams.

Stan Sattinger

Flood Repair Continues with Moon Township Help, DCNR Grant

The most commonly asked question of the Montour Trail Council (MTC) these days is "How are those flood-damaged miles coming?" so the Council is pleased to report continued progress.

On May 16, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Michael DiBerardinis awarded the Montour Trail Council \$50,000 for flood repairs. In addition, a separate DCNR grant will enable Allegheny County to build a two-mile trail link from the Montour Trail to the South Park Fairgrounds.

"We are most grateful to Secretary DiBerardinis and the DCNR for their support," said MTC President Dennis Pfeiffer. "These funds should enable the MTC to substantially restore the flood-damaged sections."

Work is progressing on the flood-damaged portions of the trail between miles 0 and 9.5. As reported previously, Findlay Township completed repairs in April from mile 9.5 to the Parkway West overpass at mile 5.5. More recently, on June 3 the Moon Township Public Works

cont. next page

Welcome New Members

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

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ronald Backer | Gina Slattery |
| Nickolas Bohonak | Anthony Spisak |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Boocks | Dr. William G. Teitelbaum |
| Frank R. Braden, Jr. | Mark Tyrrell |
| Kathleen M. Burns | Kathryn Vincent |
| Jerome J. Dantry | Mikel Vukmanic |
| William J. Farenhold | Sara J. Walfoort |
| Sharon M. Gawaldo | G. Deborah Walko |
| David E. Grus | Janet Whipskey |
| Linda E. Hoffman | Jeff Williams |
| Dave Hrinak | Angela Youngblood |
| Maureen A. Jenkins | Eric & Roxanne Zeisloft |

BENEFACTORS

- LaVonne & Grant Franjione
- Paul T. McKeown
- David Oyler
- Mark J. Smith

LEADER'S CIRCLE

- William P. Gillespie
- Kathy Grant
- Andrew & Janice Poole

Membership Chair - Jerry Agin

Flood Repair Help, cont.

Department completed the restoration of the trail's base from mile 5.5 to Park Manor Boulevard (mile 4.1). The MTC thanks Jim Henkemeyer, Moon Township Public Works Director, and his crew for their excellent efforts. Asphalt millings donated by Allegheny County were used for this base. The limestone #10 top surface for this section is scheduled for delivery on June 27.

Mile 4.1 to mile 3.1 at Old Beaver Grade Road suffered the most damage from Hurricane Ivan. Sub-base restoration had been halted in this section in December 2005 due to a lack of funds. The April 12 grant of \$50,000 from the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (ARAD) enabled the MTC to give its contractor, BKG, notice to resume work. BKG hopes to complete restoration of the sub-base in this section by the end of June. The Robinson Township Supervisors have authorized the Robinson road crew to place the base and final surface from mile 4.1 to 1.4, after BKG's work is complete.

"With the superb support of the DCNR, ARAD, Findlay, Moon, and Robinson Townships, we are now very optimistic that the Montour Trail will be fully restored in the near future," Pfeiffer said.

Bruce Barron

Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

- I want to spread the word. Please send me additional flyers.
- I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the trail.
- My organization would like to provide a letter of endorsement.
- I know a group interested in a presentation.

- STUDENT / SENIORS** \$15
- INDIVIDUAL** \$25
- FAMILY** \$35
- SUPPORTING** \$50
- SUSTAINING** \$100
- BENEFACTOR** \$250
- LEADERS CIRCLE** \$500 + up

- I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council. **(Membership is tax deductible)**
- I wish to make an additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____ to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality. (Make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (daytime) _____ (evening) _____

E-MAIL _____

By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

SIGNATURE _____

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling tollfree, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866
PITTSBURGH PA. 15228-0866

DON'T FORGET! The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your **United Way Contributor Choice option #3308, or Combined Federal Campaign Contributor Choice option #9308, where you work.**

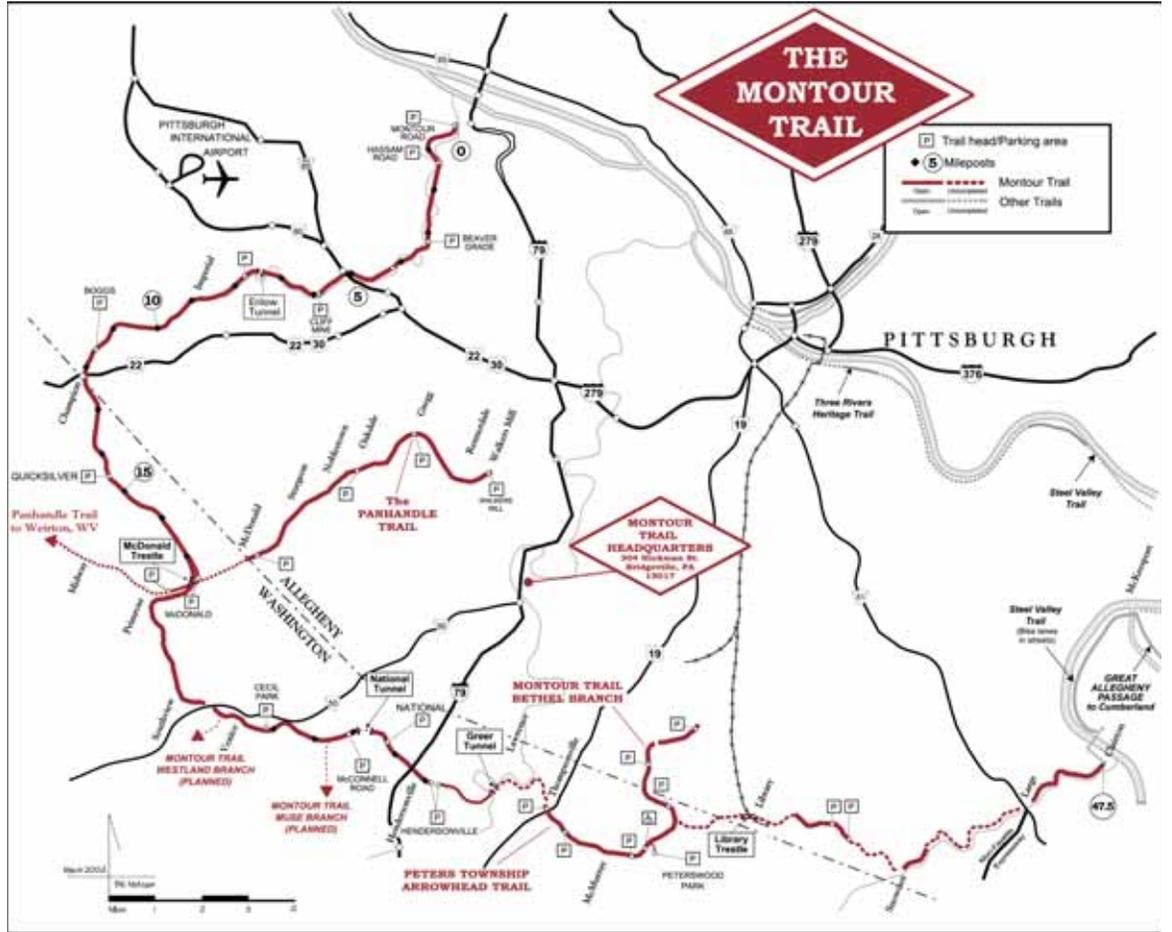
**Help Wanted for
IKEA 1/2 Marathon**

It's been ten years in the making, but on September 10, the IKEA 1/2 Marathon and 5K walk will be held for the 10th year. And we need your help.

Come' on out and be part of a great event! We need volunteers to help in the following areas: trail event marshals, registration and finish line. All **volunteers** receive an event t-shirt.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Jess Forquer at 412-859-3737 before 10:00 p.m. or contact him by e-mail at jjforquer@adelphia.net.

For additional information on the IKEA race, see the flyer attached inside or the article on page 5.



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