



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 16 Issue 23

May / June 2005

For your consideration

While one person hesitates because he feels inferior, the other is busy making mistakes and becoming superior.

Henry C. Link

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MTC Web Address

Visit the Montour Trail web-site at:

www.montourtrail.org

Bethel Branch Busy with Party on Trail, Bike Raffle and Planned Bridge Building

2004 was an active year for the Clifton Road Bridge effort. As many of you know, the bridge fund established in 2001 contained about \$14,000 at the beginning of the year. To publicize the effort, we erected a new sign in April at the site with the assistance of Brentwood Bank.



In May, J.R. Taylor died in an unfortunate accident and his family decided that they wanted to build the bridge as a memorial to him if it could be named after him. The Taylor family owns Century Steel Erectors and J.R. was Superintendent there, so the tie-in to the bridge was a natural. The Taylor family started right away by asking for contributions in lieu of flowers. Their naming proposal was officially accepted by the Montour Trail Council at the board meeting in July. In September, the Taylor family sponsored a motorcycle ride (not on the trail!) and netted \$47,000.

By early in 2005, the fund had risen to \$127,000! This fund is being put together in a way not to take away resources from the other important work of constructing the main line of the Montour Trail. In addition to funds, services have been volunteered.

Rubie Greenewald, an employee at Century Steel, has stepped forward to be Project Engineer. For the actual construction, many of the services will be performed by Taylor family and friends, including members of the ironworkers local of which J.R. was a member. So, while one might expect to pay \$800,000 for such a structure, we hope to get by with considerably less.

Fund raising efforts will continue through 2005 and beyond, until the bridge is completed.

Peter Kohnke

TRM Cycles Raffles a Bike to Benefit the Bethel Branch

Every year in February, Tom and Monica Mantle, owners of TRM Cycles in Mt. Lebanon hold their Preferred Customer Sale. As a highlight of this year's sale, they raffled off a Bianchi Avenue to benefit the Bethel Branch. The Avenue is a cross-terrain bike that is great for rail trails or easy rides around



Bethel News continued on p. 6



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER
304 Hickman Street
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Or E-mail to:
newsletter@montourtrail.org

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
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

Trail Talk

from the Editor's Desk

For those of you looking for the annual report, have no fear. It will be in the next Trail Letter. With all the flood activity and extra donations, we are making every effort to get a comprehensive report together for your reading edification. Hopefully, we will not overlook any of our generous donors of both labor and funds.

We are in high spirits and even higher active form as summer approaches. The long drawn out winter (Burgh's Run in the snow?) has given way at last and we are frantically (or, perhaps more accurate, enthusiastically) finishing up and starting various construction projects. Flood remediation is nearly complete in terms of closed trail. It will take far longer to put the Trail back as it was, but we are working to completely reopen all the trail that was closed by damage following Hurricane Ivan last fall. See the update on page 5.

If you have been out on the Trail this spring, you have probably seen one of our many work crews. If you have ever wondered how the Trail gets built, well, it's accomplished on volunteer sweat! And there are plenty of ways you can join in the fun and hubbub! Feel free to contact a friends' group (at right) for information on work projects and where you can help.

As for me, I am also looking for a volunteer or two. After spending the better part of four years working with the Montour Trail in the newsletter department, I am hoping to step down by the end of this year. While I will certainly miss putting together the Trail Letter, my family and work obligations require me to search for (and hopefully find) a worthy successor.

Anyone with a willingness to commit to editing the newsletter would be welcome. Of course, writing and desktop publishing skills would be helpful, but any candidate with enthusiasm and a love for the Trail is welcome to apply. Please call me at 412-418-0432 to discuss your interest or ask any questions.

We hope you will become an active volunteer with us this year, so don't be shy! Join in today!

Astrid Cook

Newsletter Deadline

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

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.

May 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				

June 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		

Calendar of Events

MTC Board Meeting — **May 16**

National Trail Day — **June 4 includes...**
 Bethel Park Party on Trail
 Moon/Rob Penny Day
 Cecil Trails to Trails

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

MTC Board Meeting— **June 20**

Peters Township Friends Grand Opening "Phase 11" — **June 25**

Peters' Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Offers Bonus: A Bike Tour

You're invited to help us celebrate the opening of the newest 1.4 mile section of Montour Trail in eastern Peters Township on June 25, 2005, at 11:00 AM. The ceremony will take place on the trail a few hundred yards east of the Brush Run Road trail head. As more details become available closer to the date, they will be posted on our web site's event page (www.montourtrail.org/events/).

Also, in conjunction with Peters Community Day held in Peterswood Park later that day, we will be conducting bicycle tours of this newest section of trail. At various times throughout the afternoon, round trip tours roughly five miles long will begin at the Community Day booth of the Friends of the Montour Trail in Peters Township. Bring your bike, stop by our booth, and join tour leader Ned Williams on this fun tour.

Mark Imgrund



An unidentified biker is the first to ride on this newly installed trail surface in east Peters. Arrowhead Trail is visible in the background.

And the Prez sez...

Greetings to Members and Friends of the Montour Trail!

Spring brings renewal, which is certainly happening in the "flood damaged" portion of the Montour Trail. On April 12, Findlay Township completed the restoration of the trail in from mile 5.1 to 8.5. On April 11, the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (ARAD) awarded the Montour Trail \$50,000 from a special storm emergency grant program. Also, generous contributions continue to come in to add to the funds donated by to the Laurel Foundation, MTC members and friends. While there is much more work to be done, Findlay Township and ARAD have provided great momentum towards the restoration of the Montour Trail. (See update on page 5.)

Now that the milder weather has arrived, the MTC activities have picked up significantly. Jack Peth and the "phase 15" crew have restarted work on the bridge to connect the Montour Trail to the Panhandle Trail. Jack has scheduled a concrete pour to strengthen the center section of the bridge. The concrete abutments were poured last fall.

On April 25, MTC contractor Carmen Paliotta began work to replace the concrete arch tunnel over Muse Bishop Road. A new 190-foot-long steel girder bridge designed by Mackin Engineering will be installed in its place. Unfortunately, the trail at this site and Muse-Bishop Road will be closed for about six months during construction.

Mark Imgrund and the "phase 11" crew have started placing the final trail surface on the section that will connect Peters Township East to South Park Township. A grand opening of this section is planned for June 25th (Story above).

Finally, I wanted to mention another great friend of the Montour Trail. The Daily brothers Tom, Frank and Dan held their 5th annual Burgh's 10K race to benefit the Montour Trail on April 24th. While this newsletter will reach you after the race, you can still support the race and have a lot of fun doing it.

There is a huge race donor board at Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub restaurant at 533 Washington Drive. You can take the family and have a nice lunch or dinner at Burgh's Family restaurant. You will also see all of the banners supporting the race and the beautiful mock checks totaling \$50,000 from the previous four races. While there, ask the waitress for a Burgh's Race "donor board" envelope. A few bucks placed in the envelope will get your name added to the impressive donor board, and all of the donations are added directly to the race totals, which Burgh's in turn donates to the trail.

Happy Trails,

Dennis Pfeiffer, President

National Trail Day Offers Dog Owners Their own Event

First, there was the Ikea ½ Marathon, 5K run and walk. Then, there was the Burgh's 10K run and two mile fun walk. Next came along the Tour the Montour.



Now, there is the 5K Tails for the Montour Trail Fun Walk. The MTC events listed above provided runners, walkers and cyclists a way to donate to the Trail and have a good time doing it. Now, dog walkers have an opportunity to do the same.

The Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail are organizing the inaugural Tails for the Montour Trail 5K Fun Walk to be held on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4th, 2005, (rain or shine) between 9:00 a.m. and noon. The Walk will bark off at 10:00 a.m. The Walk begins at the Kurnick (National) Access area along Cecil Henderson Road in Cecil Township and will take place between Tarr Heights Road and the Hendersonville Access area.

All licensed and vaccinated dogs are welcome to attend with their owners. Dogs must be leashed. Each participant is limited to two dogs for the event. Registration is \$10.00 per dog. All proceeds for the event will go to maintain the Montour Trail. Each dog will get a neckerchief (while supplies last) and the owner will receive valuable pet information.

Refreshments will be available for both the four legged and two-legged participants. There will be representatives from several animal-related organizations in attendance. You will also be able to have a photo of your pet taken and then have it placed on items such as t-shirts, mugs, etc. In addition, you will be able to purchase specialized dog treats and be eligible for "door" prizes provided by donors and sponsors in the Trail area.

So leash up Fido or FiFi and bring him or her down to the Trail and have a good time raising money to support the maintenance of the Montour Trail. For more information and to download a registration form, please visit the Montour Trail Web site at www.montourtrail.org/events/tailswalk.htm or call for details at 724-745-8393.

Dennis Sims

Flood Update: ARAD Awards MTC \$50,000 for Flood Repair; Findlay Township Trail Repairs Complete

The Montour Trail Council is pleased to announce two major developments in repairs of the flood-damaged Montour Trail.

The Allegheny County Regional Asset District (ARAD) has awarded the Montour Trail Council \$50,000 from a special storm emergency grant program created in November 2004 following Hurricane Ivan's impact. Funds will be used primarily to restore a section of trail in Robinson Township, between Old Beaver Grade Road (mile 3.1) and Park Manor Drive (mile 4.1), which remains impassable and closed to all trail traffic. Extensive sub-base repairs are needed in this section. The estimated cost is over \$41,000 just to complete the sub-base repair and stream bank restoration near Old Beaver Grade Road.

"We would like to thank ARAD for their generous support," said MTC President Dennis Pfeiffer. "These funds will enable the MTC to give our contractor the notice to continue sub-base repairs in the most severely damaged section of the trail in Robinson Township."

Farther south, the Findlay Township Road Department has completed restoration of the trail in Findlay Township by laying the final limestone surface material. This project, from the Parkway West overpass at trail mile 5.1 to the Findlay Activity Center (mile 8.5) was led by department manager John O'Neil using material purchased by the MTC. The Findlay Township road crew had previously restored the base with asphalt millings donated by Allegheny County.

The MTC thanks the Findlay Township Road Department and John O'Neil for their efforts, as well as the township supervisors (Chairperson Tom Gallant, Vice-Chair Janet L. Craig, and Raymond L. Chappell) for approving the project.

The MTC is now focusing on continued reconstruction needs from mile 0 to mile 5.1. As funding becomes available, it is hoped that Moon and Robinson Townships will be able to assist with the restoration of this section. The MTC is very thankful for the many generous monetary and in-kind contributions it has received. Donations for flood repair can be sent to the Montour Trail Council at 304 Hickman St, Suite #3, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

Bruce Barron

TRM Raffle Benefits Bethel Branch

Continued from p. 1

the neighborhood. Raffle tickets were sold at a table displaying an artist's sketch of the proposed J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge over Clifton road along with trail brochures.

At the end of the two-day preferred customer sale Tom Mantle pulled the winning ticket and the Bianchi Avenue went to a woman who lives along the Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township. TRM Cycles has supported all of the fundraising ventures of the Bethel Branch by sponsoring the Party on the Trail and Pennies for the Trail day in Bethel Park. TRM Cycles is located at 719 Washington Road in Mt. Lebanon.

Beverly McKee

Bethel Party on the Trail to Celebrate National Trails Day

The Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park will be hosting the Second Annual Party on the Trail on Saturday, June 4th. The party goes from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with registration at the Washington Elementary School parking lot off Clifton Road. You can walk, run, or ride the trail at your leisure, as this is a noncompetitive event for trail users of all ages. Raffle tickets will be given at stations along the trail as well as everyone receiving a raffle ticket with his or her registration. The further you go, the more raffle tickets you acquire. When you return from the trail, enjoy a delicious lunch provided by Brian's Hardwood Hogs. The raffle for prizes will be held at 3:00 p.m. but winners need not be present. After you enjoy your time on the trail, be sure visit the J. R. Taylor Classic Car Show being held at the parking lot of Al's Café.

The price for the Party on the Trail is \$5.00 for children age 3-10, \$10.00 for children 11-17, and \$15.00 for adults. Registration includes lunch, a ticket for the raffle, and an event t-shirt (while supplies last). All proceeds from this event will go to the J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge fund. Help us build a bridge over Clifton Road to make the trail crossing safe for the entire family! For information, call Beverly at 412 835-4126 or fill out registration form included with this newsletter.

Beverly McKee

MTC Changes Internet Service Provider

Quietly and without fanfare, the MTC web site went live on our new internet service provider (ISP) Interland at 10:00 a.m. on Feb 13. You probably didn't notice because of the well-executed plan for moving to this new ISP.

There was a 2-3 day transition period, during which the site was hosted by both the new and old servers. Site visitors per day to the new server ramped up from four on the day the switch was thrown to about 260 visitors per day a few days later. Many thanks to volunteer webmasters Dave Hajnik and Deb Thompson for their efforts in making this transition happen so smoothly, including the modification of numerous existing pages.

Simply stated, we've made this most recent move to Interland as our ISP because we outgrew the services that Pittsburgh Connect was able to provide for us free. Some of the new features we plan to take advantage of include obtaining detailed web/page "hit" statistics, more montourtrail.org e-mail addresses, taking advantage of online database information, special on-line web pages with selected access (userid/password), cgi (script-based) services, and a web master's user console.

We want to thank our previous ISP Pittsburgh Connect for their nearly four years of providing us with free web site hosting. Back in 2001 they quickly came to our rescue when we needed to find another web hosting service provider. So as we move on, we gratefully acknowledge the past support of Pittsburgh Connect.

Mark Imgrund

Twilight Trail Back for a Third Go-Around in Peters

On Friday, July 22nd from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m., The Friends of the Montour Trail in Peters Township will be hosting the third Twilight Trail Walk on Arrowhead Trail. This popular fundraising walk will start at a new location this year, St. Petersburg Center, at 210 Valleybrook Road.

For a \$5.00 donation, participants can enjoy a 2-mile walk along the luminaria-lit trail. Participants will receive a glow necklace to light their way, and an entry into a raffle for great prizes from local businesses. There will also be refreshments and as in previous walks, entertainment is planned. Children under 5 and pets are free.

If it rains, the walk will be rescheduled for the same time on Saturday, July 23rd. All proceeds will benefit the West Peters Trail Construction Fund. Contact sheadley@adelphia.net or mcimgrund@adelphia.net for additional information.

Mark Imgrund

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

Martin Beck
 Diane Blackburn
 Dennis M. Caffrey
 Todd Carter
 Renee Caruso
 Lawrence Castner
 Kiley Cauvel
 Jan & Tom Galownia
 Girl Scout Brownie Troop #490
 Rick & Cathy Goclano
 Nancy Harris
 Mark R. Kozlowski
 John T. Lopinsky
 Joanna Massetti
 Lorraine Merow
 Sue Moore
 Carolyn Morrison
 Angela O'Donnell
 Doyle & Nancy Ohler
 Aaron Peterson
 Abbi Rabeneck
 Diane Rodriguez

Kurt Rothenberger
 Wes & Susan Ryals
 Tim Schumann
 Laura Smith-Seemiller
 Durga Somani
 Timothy Taddeo

BENEFACTORS

Ken Eltschlager
 Daniel E. Horn
 Dev Earle Lemster
 Paul T. McKeown
 Diane M. Redington
 Maria & Ken Staresinic
 Karl Waldner

LEADER'S CIRCLE

Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
 Garden Club of Allegheny County
 McMurray Rotary Club
 Kris & Linda Rouch
 Thomas C. Wagner

Membership Chair - Jerry Agin

Outback Steakhouse Partners with The Montour Trail to Benefit Trail Repairs

Recognizing the need for assistance following the devastating floods of September 2004, the Outback Steakhouse in Moon Township has offered support. On Sunday, August 14th, the Outback Steakhouse in Moon Township will sponsor a new event, yet unnamed, to benefit the Montour Trail. Details are still being worked out, but there will be something for everyone!



Paige Harbaugh, managing partner of the Outback Steakhouse in Moon, approached the Montour Trail about opportunities for the restaurant to help its neighbor. Thus, the event was born. The Montour Trail is excited about this new partnership. In addition to working with the Outback Steakhouse, local Boy Scouts will be assisting with the cleanup and preparation of the Trail for this event.

Keep a lookout in the next newsletter for more information about this exciting event.

Bill Orr

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.**



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Skilled Volunteer Help Needed for Garage

Skilled volunteers are needed to work on the interior of our new trail garage. The shell of this Quonset Hut building is complete. We need electrician(s) to install lighting and electrical outlets, carpenter(s) to install walls to a restroom facility, and plumbers to install a sink and toilet. This work can be done on the schedule of your own choosing.

A skilled volunteer is needed to construct wooden frames for trailhead signs matching existing trailhead signs.

If interested contact Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692 or by e-mail mckeownp@adelphia.net.

