Serving Up Finally Brewed TEA

The Montour Trail Council made a big leap back in 2002.

Even though our first federally funded project, the five miles of trail from Venice to McDonald, was about to start construction, we could see that a lot more funding would soon be needed. So we determined to make a serious attempt to get a High Priority Project line item written into the next federal transportation bill to keep Montour Trail construction on the move.

ATA had blazed the way with a line item in the 1998 TEA-21 bill. That previous bill funded much trail construction on the Great Allegheny Passage and on the Montour. We learned that it was important to talk with our legislators and to show them very

IKEA Marks its First Decade with Continued Success

On September 10, 2005 the Annual IKEA/ Montour Trail ½ Marathon and 5 K Run & Walk was held. This year was very special because it was the 10th Anniversary of the event.

Ten years ago IKEA approached the Montour Trail Council with the idea of sponsoring a race to raise funds for trail maintenance and construction. IKEA’s offer was of course accepted and IKEA became the founding sponsor and has hosted the event for the last 10 years. In the last ten years IKEA has helped the Montour Trail raise over 120,000 dollars through the events. A special awards presentation was held before this year’s event to present a commemorative plaque to IKEA for outstanding continued leadership and support as the founding sponsors of the event.

Although the final accounting isn’t complete it is estimated that this year’s event will raise approximately 19,000 in cash with an equal amount received in in-kind donations for prizes and services.

Because the Parkway West was down to two lanes and the exit to IKEA was closed for the weekend of the event for paving, we were not sure what kind of a turnout to expect. Although flyers were despairing as fast as we could print them, the number of people signed up at the end of August

For your consideration

Whatever you do, do wisely, and think of the consequences.

Jean Jaques Rousseau
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.

### November 2005

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**MTC Annual Dinner — November 6**

**MTC Board Meeting — September 19**

**MTC Board Meeting — November 21**

For updated information, check out our new Events Calendar at [www.montourtrail.org/events](http://www.montourtrail.org/events)

### December 2005

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**Newsletter Deadline**

All articles for the January/February (2006) Trail-Letter will be due **no later than** December 15, 2005
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.

Outback Walk-About Hopes to be First of Many

On Sunday, August 14th, the first ever Montour Trail Walkabout took place at the Moon Township Outback Steakhouse. A total of 133 participants took part and $2,126 was raised for the Montour Trail.

The event kicked off with ACTA (Airport Corridor Transportation Authority) providing transportation down to the Gazebo at Park Manor Boulevard for those who wanted to go look for treasures in the newly opened walking trails in the land between the mile 4 marker and the Gazebo. The treasure hunters searched for special Outback Steakhouse pins that were hidden along the paths. Upon returning to Outback, the pins were used to redeem great prizes donated by local businesses, food coupons from Outback and Montour Trail items.

The best part for many who took part in the event was the food provided by Outback Steakhouse. Chicken, hamburgers, salad, soup and mashed potatoes were all available. Many were fascinated at some of the old pictures that were on display from when the trail was being built back in the early 1990s.

All in all, the event was a huge success. On behalf of the Montour Trail Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paige Harbaugh and the entire staff of the Outback Steakhouse in Moon Township for their time and generous contribution to the Montour Trail. The next time you stop in the restaurant, thank the Outbackers for their generosity and support of the Montour Trail. Look for the 2nd Annual Walkabout in 2006.

Bill Orr
Hello to the members and friends of the Montour Trail.

Thanks for your support through a very busy year. I think this one may have been the Montour Trail Council’s busiest ever. The MTC held four fundraising events and three new trail openings this year. In addition there were numerous friends groups events during the year. So it seems like a good time to reflect and appreciate the numerous accomplishments of the year.

The annual MTC dinner was held on Sunday, November 6th at the FW Post 764 on 640 Valley Brook Road in McMurray, PA. To help us celebrate a very successful year, our good friend Mary Shaw was our featured speaker. Mary had some very interesting insights into trails that she shared with us. Mary and Roy Weil of course are the authors of the premier cycling book *Freewheeling Easy*. Please see our Web site for additional details relative to the dinner.

This year activities, like many other years’, could not occur without the numerous volunteers who make them happen. MTC volunteers are an interesting, dedicated and diverse group of individuals. An example of one of these volunteer efforts was the recently completed refurbishment of the bridge over the Robinson Run stream in Washington County. This bridge will eventually connect the Montour to the Panhandle Trail. This very difficult “two year” effort was headed by Jack Peth, John Wasco, Dave Wright, Ned Williams and Charlie Beaumariage. Jack Peth led the efforts to create new concrete abutments. Dave Wright led the most unpleasant (to me) painting task and Charlie highlighted everyone’s efforts with a special finish. Charlie had this wild idea to honor the railroad heritage for which the Montour Trail owes its existence. Charlie’s persistence has produced one of the most interesting trail bridge decks in the country. Look for future descriptions of this project and the special “Charlie” deck.

Unfortunately, there was one volunteer on this project who donated some blood equity and some unwanted hospital time. Avid cyclist Dave Blistan, who is also a Cecil Friend, took a painful tumble off the bridge and landed in hospital. Dave, a resident of Bridgeville, is doing better now, but has gone through some painful times and has some rehab work in his future. We were very glad to see Dave at a recent planning meeting for the Muse-Bishop bridge opening. Thanks to all of the volunteers on this project and a very special mention to Dave Blistan. Thanks again, Dave, and please get back to 100 percent soon.

Happy Trails.

*Dennis Pfeiffer, President*

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**One Year After Ivan: Trail Re-opens and Donors are Thanked**

On Friday September 16th a grand reopening of Montour Trail’s newly restored first 9½ miles was celebrated. The opening occurred just one day before the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ivan. Ivan devastated these 9½ miles of trail, which reside in Moon, Robinson and Findlay Townships. The Master of Ceremony for the event was Stan Sattinger, who also was instrumental in leading MTC’s efforts in much of the cleanup.

The MTC was honored with the presence and inspiring words of numerous dignitaries. Speaking were U.S. Congressman Tim Murphy, Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, President Montour Run Watershed Mark Fedosick, Findlay Township Manager Gary Klingman and Robinson Township Manager Rich Charnovich. (Moon Township Manager Greg Smith could not attend.)

Stan Sattinger thanked the numerous organizations and volunteers that assisted with the restoration. Thanks were expressed to the following for monetary donations: DCNR $50,000 grant, Laurel Foundation $25,000 grant, two Allegheny County Regional Asset District grants totaling $75,000 and private donations from 161 individuals totaling $21,492. In addition, thanks were expressed for work donated by Findlay Township, Moon Township, Robinson Township, AmeriCorps Senate 7 team and hundreds of volunteers. Also, a thank you was expressed to Allegheny County for donating many tons of asphalt millings and to Allegheny County Public Works Director Thomas E. Donatelli and Dave Wright in leading the restoration efforts.

Special thank you awards were presented to the townships of Findlay, Moon and Robinson. The three townships were commended for rebuilding the trail by expending many “man hours” to place the milled asphalt as a base and the final surface of limestone.

*Dennis Pfeiffer*
IKEA Race Celebrates 10 Years, cont. from p. 1

was below last year. To our pleasant surprise the final tally for this year shows that we had 1002 registered. That total is under last year’s 1060, but is respectable and over 1000 for the fourth year in a row. Approximately 30 % of the people this year registered on event day. Special thanks are due to our loyal following because they had to overcome some adversities to get to this year’s event.

The ½ Marathon Run Open Men winners were as follows: 1st Place, Matt Meurer, 23, (1:09:37); 2nd Place, Dan Princic, 25, (1:11:47); and 3rd Place, Daniel Rabe, 23, (1:12:11). The ½ Marathon Run Open Women winners were as follows: 1st Place: Megan Duerring, 28, (1:21:31); 2nd Place, Mary Alico, 42, (1:25:05); and 3rd Place, Jill Knesh, 31, (1:25:31).

The 5K Run Open Men winners were as follows: 1st Place, David Gramlick, 23, (14:44); 2nd Place, Peter Boyd, 31, (15:13); and 3rd Place, Eric Shafer, 36, (15:32). David Gramlick trashed our previous 5k-course record set by Frank Bauder in 1998 of 15:11.

The 5K Run Open Women winners were as follows: 1st Place, Jeannette Boyd, 29, (18:46); 2nd Place, Ashley Zervos 20, (20:02); and 3rd Place, Sharon Trimmer, 43, (20:44). Congratulations to other 5K finishers: Randy Francis 35, (Son of Trail Patrol Lin Frances) 7th overall and 1st in AG 35 to 39, (17:41); MTC member Bill Orr, 36, (20:16); and Rex Harpst 39, of Computer Associates (21:07).

Interestingly, five of the top finishers in the IKEA / Montour Trail ½ Marathon and 5K Run finished in the top ten of the Great Race 10K. Matt Meurer finished 2nd, Peter Boyd 3rd, Michael Rossi 4th, Eric Shafer 6th and Eric Anish 8th.

Congratulations to all of our event finishers. The complete results may be viewed on the Runners’ High Website at http://runhigh.com.

From the registration to the finish line, this year’s event progressed without a hitch. This was largely due to the fact that we have a team of seasoned people who have been working together for several years now. Congratulations to all of the members of the race committee who include Jennifer Murdock of IKEA (PR Manager) and the following Montour Trail Volunteers: Laura Orr (Assistant Director/Registrar), John Hooten, Phyllis McChesney, Peter Merther, Dennis Pfeiffer, Dave Porterfield, Frank Keppel, Dennis Sims, Van Weaver and Ned Williams.

Special thanks are due to Bill Orr for updating our Web site, which made it as attractive and easy to navigate. In addition, both Laura Orr and Dianne Forquer, who was in charge of the finish line, did great jobs transitioning to standard timing due to the technical glitch with the chips. They never lost a beat.

Kevin Smith, Owner of Elite Runners and Walkers, also deserves our deep appreciation for being there to help out and offer us the benefit of his experience. Kevin is a race director himself and is very well known and respected in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Special thanks to our Premier Sponsor, Comcast; our Corporate Sponsors, Coca Cola, Eagle Therapy and Dick’s Sporting Goods; and our Supporting Sponsors, AJ Myers, Computer Associates, Elite Runner’s and Walkers, PennAllergy.com, The Mall at Robinson, Robinson Town Center, Interstate Communications, Swindell Dressler, North Park Clubhouse, The Salvation Army, Great Harvest Bread Co. and Metso Minerals.

Special thanks to all of the emergency services (Northwest EMS, Robinson EMS and Valley EMS) provided for the event, which were excellent, as usual. The Findlay, Moon, North Fayette and Robinson Township Police departments handled the traffic control and all did a fantastic job. Also, thanks go out to the Boy Scouts of America for helping to man our water stations and Sacred Heart School Cross Country team from Coroapolis for helping with the split timing.

Last but certainly not least, special thanks to all of the Montour Trail Volunteers who came through again and made this year’s event a great success.

Jess Forquer
clearly how important the Montour Trail was to the people of their districts, to the region and to the entire state of Pennsylvania.

And we found a great friend in a former PA state senator just elected to the U.S. House, Rep. Tim Murphy. A psychologist, author, and medical expert, Murphy is one of several medical practitioners in Congress that thoroughly understands the importance of exercise and recreation to human well-being. He’s a frequent jogger on the Montour, even suggesting it as an ideal marathon course. Tim was not only just as eager as any of us were to complete the trail but also in a position to be of real help.

The funding process was full of setbacks. We had to channel all our existing TEA funding to the Muse-Bishop project to meet a state-imposed deadline, freezing work on the connection to Peters Township. Ivan left us with a half-million dollar washout that took all we could muster to effect recovery.

Worst of all, the passage of the new transportation bill, set for spring 2003, dragged on and on. But Rep. Murphy remained bright and optimistic and his staff quite eager to help. We took advantage of the repeated delays to promote the Montour to the staffs of Senators Specter and Santorum and to share the vision of the larger world of an interconnected trail system with its great benefits of recreation, health and economic and community development.

This spring there finally appeared to be real movement on Capitol Hill to pass the T-bill. Once again, we rewrote the explanation of Montour’s needs and benefits, revised the estimates, updated our charts, and hurried around to make some last-minute visits. “You know,” said Tim Murphy once again, “I’ll do anything I can to help the Montour Trail.” He set a firm foot about the halls of Congress, and the Senate, to do just that. Ironically, the Burgh’s Race over, Muse-Bishop was just then going into construction.

The T-bill and our new bridge both got assembled over the summer. The west abutment was poured; the bill was passed by the House. East abutment placed, and the T-bill passed the Senate. Muse-Bishop’s steel girders were lifted into position the week President Bush signed the new bill into law.

And our High Priority Project line item was, miraculously, in it. Rep. Murphy had, in the end, been able to secure $1.6 million for the Montour Trail. Senator Rick Santorum had added $200,000 more, giving us $1.8 million with which to attack Montour’s biggest gap, between Hendersonville and Route 19. At the October 15th opening, Montour President Dennis Pfeiffer expressed to Rep. Murphy, and to Senator Santorum’s staffer Jason Davidek, our collective feelings that we could not possibly thank them enough. But what we can do is put this funding to work as soon as possible, and that we pledge to do.

So the October 15th ceremony served a dual purpose. It gave Rep. Murphy a venue to publicly present Montour a $1.8 million check, as well as formally dedicate the new Muse-Bishop Bridge. Under a clear Autumn sky, the efforts of many people were brought into a gathering focus that day, although only a few could be thanked aloud. Among these were Washington County Commissioner Larry Maggi, design firm Mackin Engineering president Ody Mackin, and Carmen Palliotta, whose contracting firm built the bridge. If everyone who had worked on the line item and the bridge had been there with scissors, we would have needed a ribbon stretching longer than the soaring span itself.

Muse-Bishop is named for two towns connected, and the completion of the bridge celebrates the joining of what had been separated. We were honored to have Cecil Chairman Ben Coleman and Peters Councilman Mike Neville represent their home townships at the October 15th celebration, who we hope to see again when we complete the Trail connection between the Cecil and Peters communities in the near future.

Ned Williams
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
Gilbert Andes
Kerry Boehner
Dennis F. Carlin
June Elizabeth Connolly
Jan & Albert Cooksey
Catherine Darves
Donald T. Deeley
Natalie Freund
Patrick & Beverly Garvey
Marcia Gerwig
Dr. James Goldsmith
The Horoho Family
Dick & Becky Jones
Ronald T. Jones
Steve Kaufman
Chris Lambert
Warren Martel

Sue A. Neff
Larry O'Toole
Pam & Randy Penn
Matthew A. Sanfilippo
Melvin N. Vesely
Jill Wiggins

BENEFACTORS
Aldo Angelo
Kerry Boehner
Gregory A. Brzozowski
Daniel W. McKenna
Maria & Ken Staresinic
Helge H. Wehmeier

LEADER’S CIRCLE
Jim Kurtanich

Membership Chair - Jerry Agin

Bike Raffle to Benefit Bethel Branch

TRM Cycles is raffling a Fuji Cambridge 20 inch bike to benefit the Bethel Branch of the Montour Trail. It has an aluminum frame, 21 gears, suspension fork and seat post, gel saddle, and adjustable stem. This bike will fit a rider who is 5’9” to 6’1”. This is the perfect bike for trail riding. Tickets are $1.00 and can be purchased at TRM or by contacting Beverly McKee at 412-835-4126. The raffle will be held on Dec. 22nd.

After many years at their Mt. Lebanon location, TRM Cycles is moving to 4100 Library Road (Route 88) in Castle Shannon. It will be located in the same building as Manage My Car. The new location offers ample, free parking. To get ready for the location change TRM Cycles is holding a store wide moving sale. Everything in the store, including bikes, is on sale. There are no layaways or special orders, in stock merchandise only. TRM’s last day at the Mt. Lebanon store is December 30th. The new store in Castle Shannon will open on January 2nd.

Tom and Monica Mantle have been great supporters of the Bethel Branch providing us with prizes, publicity and soliciting funds.
Don’t Forget Your Year-End Donation

Space limits have caused us to postpone this month’s article on our Foundation fund. However, you can still make a difference by contributing to the fund with a tax-deductible donation for 2005.

More information will be coming in next year’s first Trail Letter, but if you want to help the MTC this year and need more information on how to contribute, please call 724-942-0115 or e-mail: info@montourtrail.org.

The MTC thanks you for your continued support and wishes you a very happy new year!