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The Montour Trail Council honored a much-loved former president and unforgettable volunteer July 1 with the dedication of the Richard L. Quasey Memorial between mile markers 2 and 3.

Approximately 60 people were in attendance, including 14 members of the Quasey family. The ceremony opened with an invocation by Tim Killmeyer, followed by the presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and “Star-Spangled Banner.” Speakers included Dennis Pfeiffer, Frank Keppel, Forest Grove Fire Chief Jack Carney, Kathy Quasey (Dick’s daughter and a published author), and this writer, who served as master of ceremonies.

Dick’s likeness on the plaque. The inscription on the plaque is printed on page 4

MTC speakers offered special thanks to three people who made significant contributions toward building the memorial. Tommy and Denise Somma, owners of Thomas J. Somma’s Funeral Home and Tri-State Monument Company, donated and mounted the bronze plaque for the memorial. Chuck Marks, a local contractor, moved and set the rock used to mount the plaque and provided topsoil for the memorial site. All three have also offered help with the plaque to be placed on the trail just west of the McDonald Viaduct, the shining capstone of Dick’s volunteer service to the Montour Trail.

Taking part in the ceremony were a Korean War veterans honor guard and flag bearers from Boy Scout Troop 301 under the direction of Janet Jackson. We all had the pleasure of meeting William Killmeyer, Tim’s father, who was one of the honor guard members. There also were nine uniformed firemen, eight from the Forest Grove Fire Station and one from Moon Run. Robinson Township Commissioners Stephanie Triko-Seelyo and Jerry Brouker were in attendance as well as Treasurer Ed Ritter, who is also a firefighter and trail volunteer. Retired Moon Township police detective and trail volunteer Tony Banks played taps on his trumpet while Mary Quasey, Dick’s wife, unveiled the memorial.

After the ceremony, the Airport Area Friends of the Trail hosted a luncheon at the Forest Grove Fire Hall. Mary Quasey spoke at the luncheon and offered sincere thanks to all who worked on the Quasey Memorial.

continues on page 4
I extend a warm welcome to the members and friends of the Montour Trail.

I suspect our founding fathers did not believe the length, the money and help it would take to complete the job. I am not referring to fathers George, Benjamin or Alexander but to fathers Dino, Stan, Jack, Dick, Larry, Marshall, Bill, Peter and Dennis. The latter founded the MTC seventeen (17) years ago. Early estimates of “completing the job” (55 miles of Montour trail) were five years and about 1.5 million dollars.

Seventeen years later the MTC has completed forty three (43) miles of trail at a valued cost of about $7,500,000. Ned Williams, Engineering & Construction Chairman, now estimates that $6,400,000 and six years should enable the MTC to substantially complete the trail. The “valued” costs do include many “in kind” services from the townships, Allegheny County and volunteers. However, the MTC founding fathers as you see were rather short on the cost & time projections. In fact, last year the cost of engineering & constructing the Muse/Bishop Bridge alone was over 1.5 million dollars.

The third aspect of building the trail is obtaining help through numerous partnerships. The MTC has always been very successful in establishing and developing these partnerships. However, the amount and diversity of these helpful partnerships was unforeseeable in the early years. From the beginning, the MTC knew that it was essential to establish strong relationships with the municipalities and the two counties through which the Trail passes. However, many other partnerships have developed as the first 43 miles were completed.

Please join the MTC in thanking and in helping us to enhance our relationships with our special partners as shown below. I know I have probably missed someone, but this will give you a good idea of the team effort required in building the Montour Trail.

**MTC Trail building partners:** Allegheny & Washington Counties

**Municipalities:** Coraopolis, Moon, Robinson (Allegheny County), Findlay, North. Fayette, Robinson (Washington County), Mount Pleasant, Cecil, Peters, Bethel Park, South Park, Jefferson Hills and Clairton.

**Funding Sources:** Federal Enhancements, Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Allegheny County Regional Asset District, Washington County Tourism, Private Foundations and over 1,000 MTC members.

**Elected Officials:** Congressman Tim Murphy, Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum, Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, Washington County Commissioners Bracken Burns, Diane Irey and Larry Maggi;; Pennsylvania Senator John Pippy and numerous representatives.

**Organization Partners:** Southwest Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pittsburgh International Airport, Allegheny Trail Alliance, Allegheny Land Trust, Hollow Oak Land Trust, Montour Watershed Association and numerous boy scout troops.

**Special Fundraiser Partners:** Burgh’s Pizza & Wing Pub, IKEA, Fisher Scientific and Outback Steakhouse.
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, dates are spontaneous so check information boards. Meet at the Kurnick Access Area Garage when called. Call 412-257-2553 for more info.

South Hills Friends of the Trail
Meeting first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Hills Borough Building. Work and cleanup parties the first Saturday of the month. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, call David Oyler at 412-831-9288, davidoyler@verizon.net, or Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692, mckeownp@adelphia.net

Airport Area 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.

Fort Cherry Friends:
Friends of the Trail Meeting, second 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 Ray Johnston at 724-356-2621.

Peters Township Friends:
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.

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.

From the Editor’s Desktop
While preparing this edition of the Trail-Letter, my email alert was beeping frequently from traffic on the Montour-Trail Yahoo site. This is a place where many trail users visit to talk about Trail happenings, good and bad. I recommend that all our readers become members of this site to discuss trail stuff with other users. The web site is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Montour-Trail/. Another location for trail discussions can be found at www.clubmtc.com.

This day, there was a thread that was getting longer by the hour discussing trail safety. The discussion was mainly about trail users and their personal music devices such as Walkmans and IPODS. Some of the writers were concerned that these users would be unable to hear an approaching cyclists’ bell or vocal warning that he or she was about to be overtaken by the cyclist. Several of the writers talked about these users wandering into the cyclist’s path forcing the cyclist to take action to avoid an accident. The thread then morphed into a discussion about faster users who do not warn when overtaking slower users. One writer suggested that a safety campaign educating the trail user how to share the trail with other users commence. This sounds like a good idea. Others have emphasized that we should use common sense, but common sense is not all that common anymore, on or off the Trail. So, as a reminder to all of our trail users, keep your eyes and ears open while enjoying the trail. Not just to take in Nature, but to be aware that others are using the Trail and they may not be paying attention because they are enjoying nature.

We also ask that trail users keep there eye open for dirt bikes and quads. If your cell phone is equipped with a camera, snap their picture and email it to the editor. He will see it gets to the proper authorities so that the violaters can be brought to justice.

In the next issue of the Trail-letter look for an article about the new milepost program that measures the trail distance rather than the railroad distance. There has been some recent discussion about discrepancies in the mileposts. I’ll let Vice President Mark Ingrumd describe his project.

I would like to thank Bob Ciminel, founder of the Montour Railroad Yahoo Group, for his story on Champion #1. Look for articles about Montour Railroad history in future issues of the newsletter from members of this group.

Dennis Sims
**Tour the Montour Four**

Mark your calendars, save the date, and prepare to partake in the falls best trail ride – The Tour the Montour! Join us on Saturday, September 23rd for the 4th Annual Tour the Montour, or as we like to call it – Tour the Montour Four.

The ride will be starting at Mile “0” in Coraopolis. Trail mile “0” is located at Rt 51 and Montour Road, just off of I-79 and the Coraopolis Bridge that connects to Neville Island. Parking areas will be made around Mile “0” for the event. Look for our parking volunteers on the morning of ride day to guide you into the parking area.

Registration begins at 7:00 AM with staggered start times for each ride length. The long distance ride leaves at 8:15 AM, the middle distances rides leave at 8:30 AM, and the Family Ride leaves at 9:00 AM. Pre-register before Sunday, September 17, and you are guaranteed one of our world famous commemorative ride T-shirts. T-shirts will be available on ride day as long as supplies last. Entry fees are $20 for individuals, $35 for the Family Rate (up to 4 members), and all kids 12 and under are only $5 until September 18th. Ride day registration is $25 for individuals, $40 for the Family Rate, and kids are still only $5.

Pre-ride bike checkups will be available at the start. Trail patrol and assistance will be available along the course. Rest stops will be stationed along the course with fruit, snacks, and beverages. We will have some history signs up along the ride pointing out little interesting facts about the trail, the Montour Railroad and the history of the area.

Please note that helmets are mandatory for all riders.

After the ride, plan to stay and enjoy some food, drinks, and other goodies back at Mile “0”. As always, we have some great raffle prizes to give away and all registered participants are eligible. All proceeds benefit the maintenance and expansion of the Montour Trail. We hope to see everyone on Saturday, September 23rd for a great day of fun out on your bike.

Bill Orr / Ride Director

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**The 11th Annual Ikea 1/2 Marathon**

On September 9, 2006, the 11th Annual IKEA/ Montour Trail ½ Marathon and 5K Run & Walk will take place. This year marks the 11th 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 98,000 dollars for the Montour Trail since it’s inception. The event is one of the premier running events in the Tri-state area, so sign-up and join us for one of the races or the fun walk on the scenic Montour Trail. New this year, Dr. Ryan Kaufman of Finn Chiropractic, a Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician, will be offering A.R.T. treatment massage, and stretching to all participants and volunteers.

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 AM. The 1/2 Marathon start time is 8:00 AM and the 5K start time is 8:20 AM, 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. For complete event and registration information see the attached registration form enclosed.

Help Wanted:

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

Volunteers may contact:
Phyllis McChesney via e-mail at phyll45283@aol.com or phone 724 695 2638.

Jess Forquer/ Race Director

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**Remembering Dick Quasey**, continued from Page 1

The dedication of the Quasey Memorial marked the end of a long journey that started three years ago with the passing of our friend Dick Quasey. This memorial is a permanent marker in time, proclaiming that once a great man lived here and that he should always be remembered. When future generations read the inscription on the memorial they will know that men who do good things are honored. In reality, then, Dick will continue through his legend to be a role model for generations to come. - Jess Forquer

Richard Lee Quasey
1924-2003

“Dick”

Known as a loving family man, business man, US Marine, life long Boy Scout and community volunteer fireman.

Dick dedicated countless hours to all of his endeavors, including building and maintaining his beloved Montour Trail.

His contributions to the trail were numerous His leadership qualities were valued when he led the way on some very special construction projects.

All who met Dick, respected him.
All who knew Dick will always remember him as a good “Friend.”
Bethel Park

The Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park celebrated National Trails Day on June 3 by holding the first J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge 5K Race, followed by their third annual Party on the Trail.

The race kicked off just south of Clifton Road—where we hope to see the Taylor Memorial Bridge constructed within the next two years—at 8:30 a.m. with a good turnout. After the post-race refreshments and awards, the Party on the Trail kicked off. Walkers and bicyclists traveled up to 6.6 miles of the trail, stopping at designated stations to get their passports punched for the raffle. Along the way they enjoyed not only the scenic Montour Trail, but numerous activities, games, music, bicycle decorating, and lunch at the adjacent Washington Elementary School. It was another great National Trails Day in Bethel Park!

Cecil Township

National Trails Day 2006 was marked by the Cecil Friends with Tails for Trails Two, a non-competitive 5K fun walk for dogs and their owners. The walk took place on the Montour Trail between the Kurnick Plot and the new Muse Bishop Bridge. There were 70 dogs registered for the event which earned over $1000 for the Cecil Friends.

Several animal related groups had tables for the owners to visit and upon everyone’s return from the Walk; hot dogs with all the trimmings and cold drinks were available.

Participants could participate in a Chinese auction which included prizes ranging from a sketch of their pet to health club memberships. Door prizes included gift certificates to several area restaurants and a three day stay at Camp Bow Wow in Greentree. A professional photographer was also roaming about taking photos of the participating canines and making them available to their masters.

A special thanks to Mary Ellen McKenna, Joan Dristas and Pat Lee for their hard work in rounding up the sponsors and vendors, and a special thanks to Frank Ludwin, who was our “Chef” and for providing a generator to power the lights in the National Tunnel.

The Cecil Friends thank their many sponsors and vendors who made this event a success and we hope to see everyone again on June 2, 2007 for Tails for Trails Three on National Trails Day.

South Park

Thanks to Eagle Scout candidate George Meszeros, the Montour Trail segment in South Park Township now has a bulletin board and a trail information center. The bulletin board is located at the parking lot along Piney Fork Road, between Brownsville Extension and Triphammer Roads.

George demonstrated his leadership skills by arranging for donated materials and coordinating the efforts of scouts Rick Cassel, Colton Credar, Alex Davin, Andrew and Ben Elder, James Miller, Brandon VanKirk, Nick Wancheck, and Mike Zumbo of Troop 1843 from Jefferson Hills Borough, Scoutmaster Kurt Miller, and adults Karen Cassel and George Meszaros Sr.

The design was based upon a board built in 2004 by Eagle Scout candidate Max Mendelsohn of McMurray. George modified the design to take advantage of the materials donated by Brookside Lumber and Pleasant Hills Hardware among other businesses. George and his fellow scouts spent more than 100 hours on the project, including landscaping the site and the planting of day lilies and azaleas.

Our thanks to George and his fellow scouts, and the trail users in South Park Township also thank them.

High Schoolers groom Hendersonville area Trail garden

What a welcome sight on a rainy morning in June! The four girls in the photo are clients of the nonprofit community service agency “Try-Again Homes” of Washington, Pa. The girls were applying mulch, weeding, and grooming at the trailside garden behind Fidler’s building in Hendersonville when your reporter happened to come by.

The handsome garden, about 200 feet long, was initially planted three years ago after Trinity High School teacher Heather Watson obtained a grant to beautify this portion of the Trail.

Gardens don’t take care of themselves, and Try-Again Homes personnel were asked to help keep this one beautiful. They have faithfully returned several times each year to tend it.

Unfortunately, the garden has been relatively isolated by the removal of the Georgetown Road bridge, but it’s worth going out of your way to see the girls’ excellent work. We hope to replace the bridge in the next few years, after which this garden should become a popular sight enjoyed by many.

Front, l-r: Valerie Claus, Amanda Cress, Jennifer Boyer, and Maria Menvey are the heroines keeping the Trail's Hendersonville garden looking great. Project director Ed Moyer is behind the girls. In the rear of the photo are supervisors Carra Wheat (seated) and Azure Comedy.
Champion No. 1 – The Heart of the Montour Railroad by Bob Ciminel

The broad vacant field to the east of the Route 22 overpass at Champion once served as the heart of the Montour Railroad. This is where the Montour brought its “stop-off” coal for processing at the Champion coal washer.

“Green” coal, also called “run-of-mine”, contained slate, shale, and sandstone from the coal seam and had to be cleaned and sized before it could be sent to customers. The coal washer at Champion was built by the Pittsburgh Coal Company in 1928 to centralize the cleaning process, rather than having to clean the coal at the individual mines. Only the Montour No. 10 mine at Library had its own processing plant.

Incoming coal was shoved up the hill to the car dumper next to Route 980. From there, it worked its way through the various cleaning and sizing equipment in the main building and then was reloaded onto coal cars. Empty coal hoppers were stored in the yard west of the plant and loaded cars were stored in the east yard. When the yard at Champion was full, additional cars were stored at Boggs Yard on the other side of Route 22. The plant could process about 13,000 tons of coal per day, which equates to approximately 260 cars a day.

Raw coal first went through a crusher where it was broken into 8-inch and smaller pieces. Three sizing screens then sorted the coal according to size. Coal between 8 and 4 inches in diameter went directly to the loading area and into hopper cars. Coal less than 4 inches went to another bank of screens where it was sorted into four different sizes: 4” x 2”, 2” x 1.25”, 1.25” x 0.5”, and 0.5” x 5/16”. These sizes were blended with other grades of coal based on carbon content, sulfur content, and other chemical and physical specifications. Coal smaller than 5/16” went into flotation tanks where the waste was separated and sent to the huge refuse pile on the other side of Route 980. However, in the early days of Champion operation, the refuse was loaded into side-dump railcars and hauled to a refuse dump west of Boggs Yard.

The attached artist’s rendition of Champion No. 1 is a view from the east looking toward the northwest and shows the loaded yard and DISCO plant. DISCO was a form of low-temperature coke that produced a smokeless flame, suitable for residential coal stoves and furnaces.

The Disco Company was formed by the Pittsburgh Coal Company in 1947 with a $3 million investment. The process used carbonizers to remove coal tar, which is the major source of smoke when burning coal. The plant at Champion could produce 800 tons of Disco from 1,000 tons of raw coal.

The Champion coal washer underwent many modifications and improvements in its 55-year history and may soon be the new site of a refuse-burning electric generating plant. It is estimated that the two refuse dumps associated with Champion contain more than 55 million tons of carbon-containing waste. This can provide enough fuel to run a 300-megawatt generating station for about 25 years. Isn’t it ironic that the Montour Railroad, which hauled all of that coal waste, can still provide a service to the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania long after its demise?

Montour Run Stream Banks Further Stabilized by Stan Sattinger

In work sessions jointly sponsored by Duquesne Light and the Montour Run Watershed Association, stream bank sections of the main trunk of Montour Run were reinforced on April 26 in observation of Earth Day and Arbor Day. Teams installed numerous plantings in exposed sections of the stream bank in the vicinity of the Cliff Mine Road bridge and at the Park Manor Drive gazebo. These riparian improvements will help secure sections of the Montour Trail that have been threatened by erosion due to flooding events in recent years.

At the Cliff Mine site, improvements were made at two different stream bank levels. The Duquesne Light team applied a branch layering technique, installing layers of bundled branch cuttings of desirable low-growing species (dogwood and willow) anchored to the bank at high-water level. Metal stakes were first driven into the bank, and following the installation of bundles, an intermediate layer of peat and a covering of straw were added. The stakes were then bent over to anchor the composite of these layers to the bank. Over the ensuing weeks and months, roots from the cuttings will be growing into the soil, and foliage will grow from their buds. The roots are expected to eventually be able to hold the soil in place during flows of high water; in much the same way as does grass.

At both the Cliff Mine and the Park Manor sites, Montour Run Watershed Association volunteers installed planting stock of burning bush, honeysuckle, butterfly bush, and forsythia species at the top of the stream bank. They installed 27 plants supplementing the red osier dogwoods that they had planted at Cliff Mine during 2003.

Gene Stutzman and other landscaping experts from Hazlett Tree Service of Townville, PA assisted the Duquesne Light team. Overall planning for the sessions was accomplished by Jennifer Arkett and Harold Winkle of Duquesne Light’s Vegetation Management Department. MRWA volunteers included Charlie Cooper, John Davidson, Dave Marshall, Steven Marshall, Dave McMillen, Ed Nelson, and Stan Sattinger.

The MTC appreciates the efforts of all personnel involved in these planting sessions.

Left: Employees of Duquesne Light and Hazlett Tree Service of installing components of the branch-layered stream bank stabilization. Right - Branch-layered bundles awaiting bending over of stakes that will anchor them to the stream bank.
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
Leslie J. Broglie
Andrew Callaghan
Christopher A. Cartier
Karl & Joan Ceyrolles
Fran Claude
Devon Cole
James A. Deitt
Joseph E. Donovan
Nicholas S. Dunford
Todd H. Edwards
Mrs. Constance Garbe
Eric Gordon
Tucker Gordon
Joyce & David Hufnagel
Patricia & Jay Jinkens
John S. Kartik
Robin Keese
Patricia Koch
August R. Lang
Michelle Large
Clyde Leonard
Joseph P. Mantey
Thomas McKenzie
Tonya Moss
Carrie Neubauer
John & Barbara Ann Pessy
Timothy Pournaras
Kevin P. Prykull
Thomas E. Puskar

Membership Chair - Jerry Agin

Leader’s Circle
Leslie J. Broglie
Kathy Grant
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffry M. Kessel
David Oyler
Mark Schnurer

Benefactors
James M. Bradley
Crafton-Ingram Rotary
Todd H. Edwards
Jacques B. Foster
Pete Grondziowski
John Kennon
Michael J. Kiely
Dev Earle Lemster
Phyllis McChesney
Thomas McKenzie
Paul T. McKewon
Patrick D. Roberts
Mark J. Smith

Three years ago......

Three years ago, the contractor was starting to place the concrete panels on the Montour Viaduct. The viaduct would open to trail users with great fanfare in one month.
Official Tour the Montour Entry Form

Print Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Phone ____________________________________
Email ____________________________________

Male/Female ______ Age: ________
Additional Names:
Name __________________ M/F ______ Age ________
Name __________________ M/F ______ Age ________
Name __________________ M/F ______ Age ________
Name __________________ M/F ______ Age ________
Name __________________ M/F ______ Age ________

Course:
6 _____ 12 _____ 24 _____ 44 ______
T-Shirt size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Entry Fee:
Single $20 per person: ___ x $20 = ______
Family Rate (limit 4 members) $35 ______
Children 12 and under $5 ______
Total Entry Fee ______

Please mail entry and checks payable to:
Montour Trail Council
P.O. Box 459
Imperial, PA 15126

All mailed entries must be post marked by
September 17, 2006.

Waiver: In consideration for the acceptance of this
entry, I waive for myself, my heirs and assigns, all
rights and claims for damages which I might have
against the Montour Trail Ride, to be held on
Saturday, September 23, 2006; the Montour Trail
Council, other sponsoring organizations, business,
or individuals as a result of any and all injuries
suffered by myself in that event. I also release any
photos that may involve myself. (Must be signed
by guardian if under the age of 18)

Signature: ____________________________ Minor
name if under 18: _____________________________