2014 was a Year of Getting Things Started

For the Montour Trail organization and the trail itself, 2014 was one of those years that will be seen as a time when a lot of initiatives big and small really started gaining some steam. One of the great joys is to see the variety of ways in which people contribute all sorts of ideas to bring support and enrich the trail experience for all. The ongoing photography competition, for example, has given us all some surprising new looks at what we thought was familiar ground.

Camping, Anyone?

Camping activities took a big leap with many more people using the facility at Kurnick. The Boggs campground really came into its own with a new Adirondack shelter, tent platforms, and other amenities. And a nice piece of land, located along Peters Creek in Jefferson Hills, was donated to MTC for a third camping area. Better yet, we were awarded funds from REI to help build it. A good start!

Adding More Trail

The Montour Junction area near Coraopolis saw significant cleanup in advance preparation for design of the extension west of Mile 0. This effort is just breaking out and starting to move towards getting built. A huge volunteer effort was made at the Pleasant Street trail section, involving some real jungle clearing as the beginnings of that section. The Westland Branch received a flurry of work and got...almost done, before winter. On the eastern end, the on-road route through Glassport – which connects Montour to the Great Allegheny Passage – was significantly improved through a much better signage system. All of these will bear much fruit in terms of a more extensive trail system for this year and going forward.

Starting to Plug the Big Gaps

Perhaps the biggest story of 2014 would be the groundbreaking and start of construction on the Library Viaduct, about which much has been written. But practically right next to it in South Park is the Consol property, and it was in 2014 that we finalized an easement agreement with Consol to allow us to plan the trail across it. This is a really good start towards taking the trail route off some particularly busy roads in the South Park area.

In Washington County, the last two remaining gaps in the Montour also got their respective starts towards completion. Ground was broken for Valley Brook #2 Bridge in Peters, and also for the Venice Bridge in western Cecil. These projects have continued to move along neck-and-neck towards a fall 2015 completion. But again, after many years of planning and preparation, 2014 was the year they got started.

Improving the Council’s Effectiveness

A lot of good ideas were aired at a planning session in late 2013, and this past year they have greatly improved the way MTC works at implementing its mission. Two examples are a much stronger and thorough Finance Committee, which is a huge help to the Treasurer, and a newly formed Operating Committee, which has started to fill some large gaps in and around all of the different activities of the trail organization. New approaches to solving long standing problems are now able to be brought to light, which will be a big help in years to come.

Good Story Telling

A lot of money was needed to push Library Viaduct over the top – a half million dollars – and so we polished up the story of how important of a project it was. We took the story to the foundation community, where it resonated well enough to secure what was needed. This was a powerful reminder of what a vital asset Montour is to the whole region, and what with many newsworthy events happening in connection with the trail, we got more good press than ever before. Montour went a long way to becoming a household name in this region.

Volunteers Stay Strong

So much of what keeps Montour strong is what happens behind the headlines, with hundreds of volunteers giving their time, work, and good ideas. Many are so modest that they don’t talk much about the hours they devote, but it looks like continues on page 2
2014 was Continues from Page 1 another 20,000 hour plus year. Who knows what little efforts started will turn out to make a big difference in the future? Probably quite a few, like acorns. The whole region owes all of you a debt of gratitude. And particularly the participants in Montour’s fundraising events benefitted from ongoing strong volunteerism.

The Year Ends with a Start

Montour celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary at a fine Annual Dinner in November, where good camaraderie set the tone for the evening. Barely a month later, just before the holidays, we lost one of our most capable and hardest working volunteers, Frank Ludwin. It was a very difficult time for many people. But the township and the trail he loved have joined to make a new start, this one on a connecting trail leading to Southpointe.

So . . .

All of these 2014 initiatives will change and grow the Montour Trail in ways that may be hard to predict, but will certainly be fun to watch. And to help with! 2015 will see a great deal of activity, as will years to come. Thank you for all of your support, and enjoy the trail!

Thank you 2014 sponsors and special donations!

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Thank you to Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub 10K & 5K Run and the Daily Brothers for their continued support.

Thank you to the following companies who matched their employee's donations:
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Every attempt is made to ensure that listings are correct, but if there are errors or omissions please contact us.

MTC 2013 Annual Report - Financials

Montour Trail Council 2014 Organizational Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflows:</th>
<th>Outflows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTC Memberships</td>
<td>88,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Fundraising Events</td>
<td>96,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lease Rental</td>
<td>51,646</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Lease Rental</td>
<td>242,753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shale Royalties</td>
<td>33,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>21,084</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Inflows</strong></td>
<td>$ 534,441</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Outflows</strong></td>
<td>$ 268,483</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note that nearly all of the above difference was directed towards capital projects.

Montour Trail Council 2014 Trail Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflows:</th>
<th>Outflows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Inflows</strong></td>
<td>$ 2,849,045</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Outflows</strong></td>
<td>$ 2,110,336</td>
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<td><strong>Difference</strong></td>
<td>Funds from grants not yet fully expended on open projects.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Maintenance Endowment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflows:</th>
<th>Outflows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Inflows</strong></td>
<td>$ 322,938</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Outflows</strong></td>
<td>Fund balance at the end of 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special to the MTC Trail-letter