Montour Trail in 2017 Pennsylvania’s Trail of the Year

The Montour Trail Council was very proud when the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) selected the Montour Trail as its 2017 Trail of the Year! At a local ceremony DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said, “Quality, benefits to the region, and a strong volunteer network and multitude of partnerships qualify Montour for this honor. Length, variety of terrain, and a rich history all emerge to show why the Montour Trail has helped Pennsylvania emerge as a national leader in the rail to trail concept.”

MTC president Ned Williams stated, “It’s an honor to be selected as the 2017 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year from among all the trails across the state that competed. The award is a testament to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who contributed tens of thousands of hours over the MTC’s 27-year history.”

The National Tunnel Experiment

Bill Capp and his gang of volunteers closed the National Tunnel for the winter season with plywood panels. The exception was that vestibules on each side were added to allow trail users access to the tunnel this winter. Plastic curtain strips were then added to the vestibules. The installation was a success. In the first week of January, there were several consecutive days of sub-freezing temps with overnight lows in the below zero. The sensor readings in the tunnel showed that the temperature dropped from 50 to around 46 during the cold spell. Thus, no freezing is occurring in the tunnel and safe passage is being maintained through the tunnel in the winter.

Allegheny County Congratulates MTC

Allegheny County Council officially congratulated the Montour Trail Council (MTC) for being named the 2017 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Council Representatives Sue Means and John Palmiere co-sponsored the resolution, which was joined by the entire Council.

Ribbon Cutting, Ground Breaking and the Trail of the Year Event

The Montour Trail Council and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) teamed up on June 1st to hold a combined Trail of the Year award celebration, official ribbon-cuttings for the Library Viaduct and the Pleasant Street trail section, and a ground breaking for Pleasant Street East. See comment above from DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn.

The event was held on the new Pleasant Street trail section, just east of the Library Viaduct. In illustration of a major theme of the event, the approximately 100 participants and observers arrived by foot, bicycle, car and trolley. The Pleasant Street trail section just completed and the trail soon to be constructed in the Library area will bring the trail to within just 60 feet of the Port Authority Library Park & Ride lot.

Discover the Westland Branch

The Montour Trail has a 4.1-mile-long branch that is seldom visited by trail users. However, this branch is a few folk’s favorite portion of the Montour Trail with abundant rural beauty and solitude. It also is a favorite of rail fans with an active parallel railroad.

The MTC has recently allocated resources to address maintenance and a few trail members have volunteered to improve the branch. These trail members formed a new Westland Friends of the Montour Trail. The new maintenance initiative is now in full operation.

New Construction

The MTC continues to make progress with engineering and approvals for the three unfinished sections in South Park Township. The Coraopolis extension is waiting on DEP approval before this construction can start.

Maintenance

Our six dedicated Friends groups continue to perform the difficult and unheralded maintenance required on a 62-trail mile system. Please thank them as you are passing and do get involved with a local group. They do have a lot of fun.

Eagle Scout projects

The MTC continues to work with Eagle Scout candidates on various projects on the Montour Trail. Following are three of the ones completed in 2017:

- Eagle Candidate Hugh Zimmerman, with help from several of his fellow scouts and coordination by the Montour Railroad Historical Society, installed four Montour Railroad Historic interpretive signs.
- Scout Zack Painter with the help of his brother Ryan, fellow Scout Dan Shemon, and his Dad Scott installed a stretching station at the Cliff Mine Trail Head.
- Scout Henry Pearce from Troop 238, sponsored by St. Bernard Church in Mt. Lebanon and his fellow scouts and an Airport Area Friends’ Volunteer, built a picnic bench with a roof at the old Beaver Grade Road trail head. 

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Continued from Page 1

Directional Signs added at each trail head.

Directional signs have been added at each trailhead. Each sign has the trailhead name and mileage. Also, on the sign are arrows showing in one direction the mileage to the next trailhead and to the start of the trail in Coraopolis. In the opposite direction arrows show the mileage to the next trailhead and to the end of the trail in Clairton.

Members and Donors Provide Broad, Enduring Support

At its foundation, the Montour Trail Council is a membership organization. Membership is stronger than ever and donations are up. Members are making a loud statement that the trail is very important to an increasing number of people. It’s clear that the people of this region want to keep the trail in place and in good shape for their children and grandchildren to use and enjoy.

Your Board of Directors, along with everyone who works on the trail, thanks you all for your ongoing support of the Montour Trail.

Thank you 2016 sponsors and special donations!

84 Lumber Company
Advanced Orthopaedics & Rehab
Aero Tech Designs, Inc
AI’s Cafe
Anthony’s Original Wholesale Produce
cfs bank
Bedner’s Greenhouse
Bonnie Loya Real Estate
Bob & Patsy Brown
Brentwood Bank
Brush Run Veterinary Clinic, Inc
Al & Pat Cambridge
Casper Colosimo & Son, Inc
Century Steel Erectors
Cooked Goose Catering Company
Country Meadows
Creative Printing
Davan Manufacturing Inc
DiCicco Development
Eat n Park
Eaton Corporation
Mary Engel
Falconi Toyota of Washington
FedEx Ground
First National Bank
Fleet Feet
Forest Grove Sportsman
Highfield Crossing Apartments
Holy Trinity Knights of Columbus
Homewood Suites
KOB Solutions
MarkWest
Meadow Ridge Development
Mediterra Bakery
Miller’s Ace Hardware
Nova Chemicals
Opeka Auto Body
Park West Supply
Penna Flame Industries
Pepsi Bottling Co.
Pittsburgh International Airport
Pro Bike Run
UPMC Centers for Rehab Services
Seven Springs
Edgar Snyder & Assoc
Joseph M. Somma
Funeral Home
Southpointe Investment Group
Southwestern Pennsylvania Eye Center
Starbucks (Washington)
The Tandem Connection
The Eye Gallery
Three Saints Bakery
Tony Zuback Insurance
Top Gear Bicycle Shop
Trax Farm
Trek of Robinson
Pleasant Valley Veterinary Clinic
Washington Health System
WYEP 91.3 FM-WESA 90.5 FM

Montour Trail Council 2017 Organizational Operations (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues:</th>
<th>Expenses:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTC Memberships</td>
<td>83,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Fundraising Events</td>
<td>49,162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lease Rental</td>
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<td>Additional Lease Rental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Royalties</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$176,683</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note that net cash from operations is directed by the board toward capital projects and the maintenance endowment fund.

Montour Trail Council 2017 Trail Construction (Unaudited)

Inflows: $20,000
Outflows: $35,452

Difference: Funds received in prior years expended on projects.

Maintenance Endowment: $557,453 Fund balance at the end of 2017

2017 In Memory of & In Honor of

Donation received from Linda Roman in memory of her father James Smith
Donation received from Bob & Merrilynn Young in memory of Robert J. Young
Donation received from Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Broglie in memory of their son Justin Broglie
Donation received from Jean & Dan Hesford in memory of John Staab
Donation received from David Papp in memory of Jack Haines
Donations received from “Jacqueline’s Friends in memory of Jack Haines
Donation received from Barbara Myers in memory of Tom Todd
Donation received in honor of Jeff & Laura Seifer by Carolyn & Roy Yarrington
### 2017 Annual Report of Membership Contributions

**$1000 and up**
- David Borrebach & Margaret Kinsky
- David & Theresa Jackel
  - Dr. Peter R. Kohnke
  - Kurt J. Lesker Co.
  - Richard J. Munsch
- David Oyler
- Dennis Pfeiffer
- Jeffrey Sorbara
- Judy & Tom Thompson
- Bruce & Barbara Weigand

**Anonymous**

### $500 to $999
- Siddharth Pant & Andrea DiMartini
- Kenneth & Celia Christman
- Renee DeMay
- Knowledge Center Enterprises, LLC
- Francis Feld
- Jim & Wendy Homersky
- Chad Thomas & Beth Kearns
- Kelli Kuhlmeier
- Robert Lehnert
- Thomas Levine
- Annemarie Lyons
- Bradley Mauersburg
- Patrick McCullough
- Wayne & Cindy Pfirrmer
- Ronald Piroli
- Robert Purdy
- Linda Roman
- Stanley & Lisa Sbei
- Jay & Judy Shock & Family
- Jim Starr
- Wendy Walton
- Christopher Wright
  - J. A. Wunderlich, III
  - Anonymous

### $250 to $499
- Jennifer A. Callery
- Dennis F. Carlin
- Todd Carroll
- Nancy Chauvet
- Jere Cowden
- David F. Hajnik & Debora B. Thompson
- John Dorman
- John & Katie Doyle
- Robert G. Fecher
- Cathy & Jeffrey Finch
- Don & Shelly Fink
- Bernard Halpin
- Roger Hindenlang & Susan Urat
- Donna Hoffmann & Richard Dum
- Mark & Tina Imgrund
- Janet & Gordon Jackson
- Kent James & Marriane Wilma
- John & Eileen Kennon
- Sue Ann Langfitt
- Larry Laude
- Iris & Jerry Liberator
- Charles & Joan Marstiller
- Dave & Veronica Mattson
- Paul T. McKeown
- Janet McKinley
- Art McSorley
- David & Julie Miller
- William Morse
- Chris Mullin & Sarah Gaffen
- Rolf Otterness
- William & Mary Ann Rose
- Joseph & Barbara Rudolph
- Gary & Mary Ann Sedlacek
- Victoria & David Serafini
- Robert & Amelia Shillingsburg
- Warren & Dawn Smith
- Brian Stark
- Judith Stemmier
- David Tettick
- Andrew & Ming Tung
- John A Wall
- Rob & Sharon Ward
- John & Mary Jo Wasco
- Kourtney Watkins
- Helge H. Wehmeier
- David N. Zrowka
  - Anonymous

### $100 to $249
- Diane Aiken
- Christopher Aiken
- Brad Albert
- Cheryl & David Alessi
- Joyce Alper
- Neal Altman
- Aldo Angelo
- Gina Armenini
- Ken & Sue Arthur
- Tom Austin
- James & Patricia Ann Bachman
- Aaron Barchowsky
- Barry Barger
- Bruce & Nancy Barron
- Jay Barry
- Christopher & Amy Bartels
- Elaine Becker
- Lisa Coyle Bell
- Kristin & Keith Biehl
- Kevin & Susan Boehme
- David R. Bologna
- Marcella Borzina
- Kevin Brewer & Tony Licon
- Krisse & Kate Brownlee
- David & Lenore Buchta
- Linda Friedsam Buday
- Sarah Buffington
- Michael & Gayle Bukowski
- Benjamin Bursley
- James E. Butler
- Michael Capozzoli
- Janis Carey
- Hugh J. Carr
- Kent Carter
- Pete & Cris Casillo
- Carrie Cleske
- Gini Chander
- Eric Chipp & Katie Unger-Chipps
- Kevin Cleary
- Geoffrey & Julia Coleman
- Michael Collins
- James Collopy
- Justin Conley
- Charles Edward Coughlin
- Jeff Coughlin
- Paul Culan
- Mike Curley
- Richard CWielski
- Joseph & Donna Czarny
- Jeffrey Davis
- Rita & Vince Deluzio
- Debbie DiBucchi & Dino Ciabattoni
- Jason Ditzenberger
- Jennifer Donahue
- Tom & Sara Dougherty
- Roger C. DuBois
- Barb & Brian Dunst
- Mary Engel
- Bill Engler Jr.
- Sara & Robert Englesberg
- Paul Fackler
- Robert Fannin & Christine Pinch
- Peter & Michele Fedysin
- Janet Femiani
- Cynthia Fink
- Bruce & Barb Fisher
- Mr. & Mrs. William Friedrich
- Patricia Friedsam, MD
- Dr. Janie Harden Fritz
- Robert & Ann Fronduti
- Robert B. & Gina M. Fulton
- Gigi Gerben
- Alfred & Melanie Gerstel
- Paul & Mary Lynn Grav
- George & Tammy Green
- James Greenberg
- David Gregory
- Michael Grzesiak
- James D. Harkins
- Marc & Barbara Harrold
- Paul Hartigan
- Roger Hartung
- Georgianne Hayd
- Maryann Hoffman
- Phyllis Hoge
- John Holtzapfel
- John & Berenice Hooton
- Joseph Homelw
- Kathy Hrabovsky & Michael Oppenheim
- Henry & Elizabeth Huffman
- Susan Hughes
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- Charles Jackson
- Bayard & Karen Johnson
- Father Rich Jones
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- Dennis Joyce
- Denise Kane
- Michael & Janet Karpa
- David Kasper
- Brian Kelly & Dave Garber
- Michael King
- Fred & Chris Kissell
- William Knapp
- Bob Kornskey
- Cathy & Charlie Krajewski
- Carolyn & Randy Krakoff
- Bill & Stephanie Kulp
- Jack Kun
- Jason Kurtz
- Anthony Lalli
- Tom Lamb
- Don Lammers
- Donald Larriza
- Grant & Laura Lindner
- Greg Lintner
- James & Carol Locher
- John & Fran Lopinski
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- Alyson Carol Matheny
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- John Matthews
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- Francis M. McCaffrey
- Shawn McClintock
- Marcia & Thomas McFadyn
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- Tom & Sandy McIntyre
- Lynda & Craig McKay
- Rachel & Charles Mertz
- Roger & Mary Meyer
- Joseph Minkевич
- Jen & Gary Milavec
- Paul J. Miller
- Mark Modispacher
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- Daryl & Linda Nath
- Bert Oltah
- John F. Palmieri
- Marti & Bill Parasida
- Raymond & Michele Pausch
- Jon & Libby Pavlovkavich
- Geralyn Perrotti
- Kara Pesavento
- Jim Popp
- Tony Preisio
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- John & Donna Rosser
- Raymond Rota
- Jerry Rubenstein
- Deborah L. Rudar
- Steve Rudolph
- Clayton & Nancy Russell
- Mark Sabich
- Mary Beth Schmidt
- Alan & Bunny Schorr
- Barb & Vince Senatoro
- Aruna & Mahendra Shah
- Timothy Sheedy
- David Shuey
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- Dennis Sims
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- David Wildman
- Arthur & Sharon Wirtz,
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- Joseph A. Yerman
- Eric & Roxanne Zeisloft
  - Anonymous

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- Bob & Susan Allen
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- Martha Long Bagdes
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- Tim & Kathy Banfield
- Robert & Beverly Barron
- Ed and Joyce Bachion
- Rachel Beman
- Margaret Beamer
- James Banati
- Daniel & Dorothy Bielecki
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- Karole C. Bolden
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- Stephen Brown
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- Jim & Barb Bucci
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- John Buckwalter
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- Edward Carnegie
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- Pappas Deno
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- Norman Farrish
- Dorothy Folsen
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- Marlene L. Galluise
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