

Rail-Trail News

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania is dedicated to renewing Northeast Pennsylvania's historic pathways as recreational trails for all to enjoy.

NEW MEMBERS

Brad Edmondson, Ithaca, NY
 Frances Gruber, Honesdale, PA
 George Brown, Pittston, PA
 Todd Malkin, Fair Lawn, NJ
 John Proctor, Scranton, PA
 Patrick Foster, Union Dale, PA
 Jeff Wheeler, Susquehanna, PA
 Rich & Ann Brunori, Peckville, PA
 David & Linda Walk, Ellicott City, MD
 Steven & Cindy Detwiler, Susquehanna, PA
 Leroy Hicks, Spring Brook Township, PA
 Tom Janotsky, Jenkintown, PA
 Elizabeth Broberg, Dalton, PA
 Harry & Gulay Kiskaddon, Herrick Center, PA
 Charles & Virginia Ahearn, Kingsley, PA
 Kelly A. McAndrew, Fleetville, PA
 Daniel J. Keller, Perkasia, PA
 Frederick P. Cross, Bushkill, PA
 Marianne Scanlan, Scranton, PA
 Bruce & Faye Reed, Muir, PA
 Carol Ho, Medford, NJ

RENEWING MEMBERS

Steve & Meg Suraci, Union Dale, PA
 Howard & Lenore Tonkin, Carbondale, PA
 Donald & Roberta Whitney, Edmond, OK
 Romayne Romyn, Dunmore, PA
 Paul & Jane Dietche, New York City, NY
 Pat & Will Acker, Nicholson, PA
 Patricia O'Hara, Union Dale, PA
 Robert Monroe, Somersville, NJ
 Jim & Eleanor Curran, Brooklyn, NY
 Doris & Otto Hetrick, Trevoise, PA
 Cathy Stevens, Doylestown, PA
 David & Cathy Maxey, Gladwyne, PA
 Charles Culnane, Wilmington, DE
 Joseph & Harriet Moore, Gladwyne, PA
 Joyce Holmes, Clarks Summit, PA
 Linda Newberry, Jermyn, PA
 Chris Egold & Pegram Johnson, Wayne, PA
 Mickey & Judy Langsfeld, Meadowbrook, PA
 Beth Gallagher, Scranton, PA
 Fred & Myrna Lally, Nicholson, PA
 Dr. James & Louise Watson & Susan Hall, Union Dale, PA
 Eugene Benson, Carbondale, PA
 Sue & Bob Sanderson, Limekiln, PA
 Carolyn O'Reilly, Union Dale, PA
 Marcus & Connie Perry, Metuchen, NJ
 Maureen Brennan & Gary Piorkowski, Mayfield, PA
 Rodrica Tilley & Michael Poster, Montrose, PA
 Rev. David Delzell, Union Dale, PA
 Carl & Mary Pucul, Vandling, PA
 Barbara Turock, Clarks Summit, PA
 Paula Freundlich, Staten Island, NY
 David & Margaret Tomazic, Forest City, PA



Rail-Trail Council Begins Fund Drive for Next 10 Miles

People are finally out enjoying the newly resurfaced section of trail from Forest City to Herrick Center. 'Discover the D&H Tours' have been a hit, with many locals finding out that there's a great trail in their backyards. You no longer have to drive to Jim Thorpe to ride a long distance trail. Now, we are getting ready for the next ten miles from Herrick to Thompson. We have been fortunate to receive Federal Highway Transportation Enhancement funds to cover 80% of the construction costs. State funds from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources will cover around another 10%. That leaves us the need for additional funding and a great reason to begin a fund-raising campaign. Please look over the enclosed flyer and please give us your assistance in any way possible. Perhaps you may know of a

business that may be a possible donor. Please help us spread the word about the trail and its potential. Remember we are a non-profit, charitable organization and donations are tax-deductible. When you renew your membership, consider giving a bit more. Don't forget we also need volunteers and plan to begin our Trail Tender program soon!

| C | A | L | E | N | D | A | R |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| SUN, SEPT 9, 10 AM | THURS, SEPT 27, 6/7 PM | SUN, SEPT 30, 9 AM | SAT, OCT 6, 10 AM | SAT & SUN, OCT 13 & 14, 11 AM | WED, OCT 17, 6 PM | THURS, OCT 25, 6/7 PM | THURS, NOV 15, 6/7 PM |
| 'Discover the D&H Bike Ride' for all levels. Forest City Trailhead | Rail-Trail Dinner/ Meeting. Orson Inn, Route 370, Orson | Little Sisters of the Poor Benefit Bike Ride and Walk. Forest City Trailhead | 'Discover the D&H Bike Ride' beyond the D&H, return on O&W. Mountain bike suggested. Forest City Trailhead | Elk Mountain Octoberfest. Rail-Trail info booth & merchandise | 'Discover the D&H Bike Ride'. Family Bike Night— all ages kids please! | Rail-Trail Dinner/ Meeting. Beacon Restaurant, Route 171, Union Dale | Rail-Trail Dinner/ Meeting. Frank's Restaurant, Simpson |

Old & Weary!

Bullmoose 2-10-2 #354 heads
across the Preston Park trestle.

Photo by George Krumm
on August 3, 1941.



We say thanks to Rail-Trail News readers who have enjoyed our articles on the history of our trail. While its trail days have hardly begun, its rail days spanned about a hundred years. During those years, railroad activity “up and down the line” involved the shipping of billions of tons of freight, the carrying of hundreds of thousands of passengers and the touching of uncountable lives. Railroading was the linchpin commercial activity of the entire area. Nothing else came close.

Our recent articles have been about what some have termed the golden age

of railroading, that is, the so-called Age of Steam, and in that age, about the Delaware & Hudson and Erie Railroads. The part of today’s trail that might be called our left branch was shared by these two railroads. The Erie, from its inception one of the largest rail systems in America, funded and built the line from Carbondale to the New York border with a usage agreement from the D&H in hand, thus minimizing risk of capital. The two railroad companies shared the route for decades, until the D&H took over whole ownership.

One might think two railroads chugging up through the same real estate ought to have been sufficient. Ah, but in the American way of business, it came to pass that investors were persuaded of the need for a third line. Thus was born the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad. Dot com bubble, anyone? Viewed in the hindsight of history, it is easy to conclude that the NYO&W, usually abbreviated as O&W and quickly wag-tagged as the Old and Weary, ought not to have been born. In the patois of horse racing, the O&W was an also-ran.

It is easy to understand the economic plight of the O&W. Like the D&H, it was a “coal road,” built for and dependant on anthracite hauling. In a typical year in the 1920’s production amounted to about 80 million tons, hauled out by nine Railroads. Market shares? Reading Railroad, about 20%. The Lehigh Valley, Lackawanna and D&H about 15% each. Erie 10%. Four other lines had to fight for the rest. Alas, the NYO&W came in dead last at a mere 2%. Looking at the numbers in the cold light of history, the O&W never had a chance. It was one of the first victims two powerful economic trends: the postwar growth of trucking and the decline of the hard coal industry. The O&W closed down in 1952.

Nevertheless, in its halcyon days this little railroad could and did raise the millions (today, billions) required to build the dual track right-of-way that is now the ‘right branch’ of our trail. As today’s trail users may easily observe, for many miles through the Lackawanna River valley the rights-of-way parallel one another (D&H/ Erie on the left, O&W on the right), usually separated by the river but often only yards apart. Sharing the valley, the O&W also shared the Herculean task of climbing up out of it to head for New York State. After clearing Stillwater Gap, the O&W veered right and headed through the farmlands of Wayne County.

They did it with equipment that matched the Erie’s in size: ‘Mountain’ type 4-8-2 steamers (given numbers in the 400 series) and even larger ‘Decapod’ type 2-10-2 engines, numbered in the 300’s. Like most roads, the O&W also had many smaller task-related engines. And like the gigantic Erie and the D&H, they brought the jingle, the rumble and the roar to generations. As the fall of their cinders retreats into memory, we hail the grit of their people—old and weary in nickname, but in reality never unbowed.



Committee members
 Nancy Crafferty, Tom Moreken,
 Betty Moreken, Peter Kanton,
 Mother Charles Patricia, and
 Chairpersons Carol & Bill Burke.

Little Sisters of the Poor Benefit Bike Ride & Walk

The Little Sisters of the Poor and the Holy Family Residence of Scranton are celebrating their Centennial with a benefit bike ride and walk on the trail on Sunday, September 30th. The Sisters chose the D&H Rail-Trail and Forest City as a focal point since their founding mission in this area involved caring for elderly coal miners.

The Little Sisters of the Poor began in France around 1843 caring for the poor and begging for assistance. By the late 19th century, the Little Sisters mission had spread to the United States, and in 1906, a Scranton entrepreneur named Martin J. Maloney, the inventor of the gas street light, decided to seek out the Little Sisters in hopes of establishing a local home for elderly miners. His request was eventually approved and construction of the Maloney Home began in May 1907. There, the Little Sisters treated the local elderly for the next 68 years. In 1976, the nuns moved down the hill into the bigger Holy Family Residence, where they've remained ever since. Now in its centennial year, Holy Family Residence is one of 206 Little Sisters homes in 32 countries.

Please come out, and give the Little Sisters your support while exploring the trail for a walk or ride. Registration starts at 9 AM on Sunday, September 30th, with the ride or walk following at 10 AM. There'll be prizes and refreshments! For more information call 570-343-4065.

- Michael & Janet Bischak, Nutley, NJ
- Mr & Mrs. Andrew Graytock, Simpson, PA
- Mark Dorish, Simpson, PA
- Marge & George Balunas, Herrick Center, PA
- Mary Jo Hart, Brackney, PA
- Carole Motsko, Thompspon, PA
- William & Dede Tersteeg, Dalton, PA
- Frank Trainor, Susquehanna, PA
- William & Romayne Kerl, Simpson, PA
- Rollin & Pat Tingley, New Milford, PA
- Gerald & Carlyn Bell, Phoenixville, PA
- Kathy & Bob Shostek, Union Dale, PA
- Robert Strong, Susquehanna, PA
- Tom & Cathy Schuyler, Easton, PA
- Barbara Erhard, Moscow, PA
- Mike Guzzi, Olyphant, PA
- James Hill Jr., Waymart, PA
- Tom Mizianty, Waymart, PA
- Robert Dietz, Forest City, PA
- Jane Varcoe, Waymart, PA
- Lyle & Marge Cunningham, South Gibson, PA
- Alice Breig, Waverly, PA
- Frank Stankus, Forest City, PA
- James & Lucille, McKane, Archbald, PA
- Lee & Janet Fletcher, Thompson, PA
- Peter & Rita Macheska, Simpson, PA
- Dr. Lewis & Cathy Druffner, Avoca, PA
- Marian Franceski, Forest City, PA
- Bill Culnane, Susquehanna, PA
- Jack Fries, Vandling, PA
- Father John King, Starrucca, PA
- William & Barbara Connor, Union Dale, PA
- Richard & Ann Marie Utegg, Vandling, PA
- Frank R. Currier, Keyport, PA
- Stephen & Cindy Reed, Honesdale, PA
- Ben Terry, Pleasant Mount, PA
- David Heim, Hawley, PA
- Frank & Barbara Piotrowski, Forest City, PA
- Susan Matous, Kirkwood, NY
- Janet & Paul Bendyk, Herrick Center, PA
- Bruce Begin, Jessup, PA
- Walt & Jay West, Warrington, PA
- Jack & Jane Tighe, Prospect Park, PA
- Jon Villaume, Narberth, PA
- Patrick & Kay McCarthy, Waymart, PA
- Roy Kallinen, Media, PA
- Emil & Donna Buatti, Bartonsville, PA
- Richard Burlage, Thompson, PA
- Kim & Elliot Ross, Union Dale, PA
- Robert C. Morgan, West Pittston
- Frank & Marney Roia, Thompson, PA
- Dan & Diane Kimberley, Susquehanna, PA
- May Ann Thomas, Newtown Square, PA
- Dr. & Mrs. Howard Fragin, Clarks Green, PA
- Donna Murphy, Union Dale, PA
- Thelma Lowry, Forest City, PA
- John Bruns, Susquehanna, PA

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Brett & Victoria Senior & Family, Radnor, PA

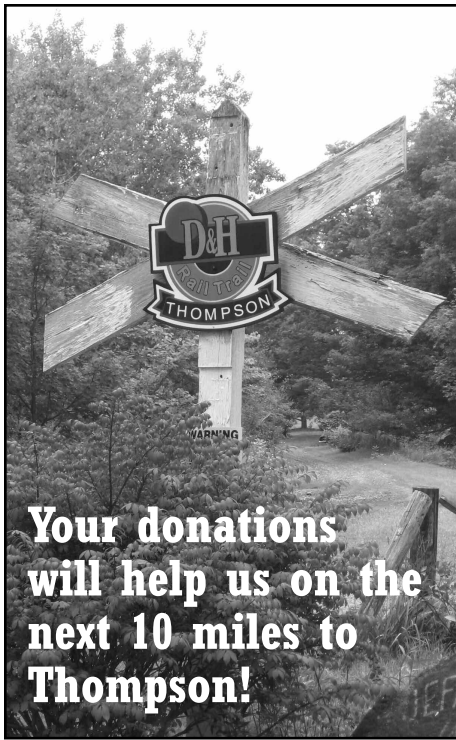
Membership Renewal Form

Please renew! The date on the mailing label on the reverse indicates when your membership expires.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime/Founding \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation for Memorial Tree Fund. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Sponsor \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Call me to discuss a corporate donation. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club/Organization \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Our group would like a slide presentation. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am available for trail cleanups. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am available to plant trees. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a new RTC brochure. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in finding out more about the 'Trail Tender' program. | |

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| NAME _____ | PHONE NUMBER _____ | |
| STREET ADDRESS _____ | E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ | |
| CITY _____ | STATE _____ | ZIP _____ |

Make checks payable to **Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA**
 P.O. Box 123, Forest City, PA 18421-0123 Phone: 570-785-7245 E mail: tcrcrail@epix.net



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to plant bareroot trees along the trail in Forest City, early November. Call the office 785-7245.

Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA
P.O. Box 123
Forest City PA 18421-0123
tccrail@epix.net
www.nepa-rail-trails.org

Many Thanks Due

Camp Ramah, Lakewood senior campers repaired the Thompson sectional toolhouse, hopefully saving it from demolition.

Herrick Hill Blueberries and **Bill Keim** donated blueberries for our now famous blueberry & ice cream sundaes at Old Home Week in Forest City.

RB Fries and **Brian Bartholomey** for a great deal on a Chevy truck ready for trail maintenance work.

NEPA Sno-Trails again for help with bridge repairs. Here's wishing them a great snow year.

Rich Giavedoni, Bob Breuche, and Frank Brager for trail maintenance work.

Southern Wayne Trailriders Association for their continuing input on equestrian issues.

Note: Changes to "Discover the D&H" Tours

Please check the Rail-Trail calendar of events for the Fall, as the free bike rentals are not available for September 9th. Northeast Sports in Honesdale is selling their business and all their rental bikes. Sorry to see them leave.

Trail Tenders Needed

For many years the Council has been discussing the inception of a 'friends of the trail' program. With ten miles of improvements, ten more to come, and an onslaught of trail users, it is time to begin the volunteer program. Most non-profit trails and even those run by municipalities, counties or authorities, rely on volunteers to patrol the trail, report on conditions, assist with maintenance, suggest and initiate special projects, if desired. We'll be asking rail-trail members and trail users to adopt a section of trail, most convenient to them. The trail tender will be asked to fill out a trail assessment form at least 4x a year and especially following storms. Any trail safety issues can be reported immediately to the trail office. Simple maintenance items will be performed as needed (cutting brush, raking eroded sections, etc). It is also hoped the Trail Tender will be able to assist trail users with trail information, give out brochures/maps and any advice that a visitor may have. Please let us know if you are interested in hearing more about the Trail Tenders program by calling the office or checking the box on the renewal form.

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| Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 10 Forest City, PA |
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