**Half-Marathon Planned**

The D&H Distance Run will take place on Sunday, September 7, 2008 out of the Forest City Trailhead. The 13.1 mile run will be an ‘out & back’ on the newly resurfaced section of trail from Forest City to Union Dale & back. It will be a great tune-up for those training for the Steamtown Marathon on October 12th.

There are many runners training on our trail for various runs: the crushed stone surface is easy on the joints and there is no traffic to contend with. Many local runners have asked us to consider a longer distance run since there are already many 5 & 10Ks in the area. The run will benefit the next ten miles of trail and the race committee will be working out the details, with registration forms available by May. Sponsors will be sought for this exciting race. Watch the website for details.

We will be needing many volunteers for that day—registration, parking, water stations, race results, pre- & post-race activities. All volunteers will get a great shirt!

**Volunteers—call the office or check your renewal form.**

**Membership Campaign Continues**

A big thanks to all our members who have renewed their memberships recently (see the list!). Membership support helps us to match grants, which depending on the source, the required match can be between 20 to 50%. In addition, evidence of a wide and active membership helps us to prove community support for our goals.

We sent out a letter to all our members who were a bit behind on their annual renewal. Many did not receive a request, but we will continue to indicate the DATE DUE for renewal on your mailing label.

Note the large number of new members! Many of our new members have participated in our “Discover the D&H” tours—hikes, walks or bike rides—held twice monthly. Since the group activities were so popular, we will be continuing the series starting in May. Clip & save the schedule. Updates and additions will be on the website and in the next newsletter.
Robert A. C. Jacoby, Philadelphia, PA
Ronald M. Jackson, Falls, PA
James Houlihan, Archbald, PA
James Yeich, New Milford, PA
Irene & Mark Rabinowitz, Wynnewood, PA

LIFETIME MEMBERS
Kuni M. Holbert, Starrucca, PA

RENEWING MEMBERS
Albert Harcar, Susquehanna, PA
Karl & Lyndsey Matoushek, Waymart, PA
Ed & Katherine Schreiber, Lake Katrine, NY
Pat Green, Dunmore, PA
Stephen Bruno, New Milford, PA
Charles & Ann Walker, Archbald, PA
Betty Jean Graybeat, Telford, PA
Donna Cole, Binghamton, NY
Dolores Sembrat, Olyphant, PA
Inger M. Pearson & Frank McDonald, Union Dale, PA
Dr. Bernard & Harriet Rothman, Philadelphia, PA
John & Gloria Zerzul, Telford, PA
Ned & Sylvia Holtein, Ft. Washington, PA
Mike Sheridan, Olyphant, PA
Paula Roos, Honesdale, PA
Ryan Andrews, Tunkhannock, PA
Mark C. Walsh, Highland Lakes, NJ
Doug & Betsy Frey Family, Carbondale, PA
Esther Friedman, Clarks Green, PA
Mary Felley, Dalton, PA
Michael J. Yavorsky, Hop Bottom, PA
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Millett Jr., Clarks Summit, PA
Rose & Jerry Behrry, S. Abington, PA
Robert & Helen Dannecker, Ogwo, NY
Geoffrey & Nancy Paine, NYC, NY
Bernie McGurl, Scranton, PA
Laura Holbert, Philadelphia, PA
Ann Pietrobon, Greentown, PA
George D. Wagner, Avoca, PA
G. David Wagner & Dr. Patricia Sperling, Springbrook Twp, PA
Steve & Lu Matis & Sons, Flemington, NJ
Joe & Lorraine Healey, Laffin, PA
Bob & Janet Anderson, Radnor, PA
Roger C. Baldwin, Easton, MD
T.J. & Mary Farley, Honesdale, PA
Jim & Bobbi Achey, Union Dale, PA
Leon S. Zimmer, Clearwater, FL
Ken & Lynn Potts, Ft. Washington, PA
Ted Moran, Tillson, NY
Joan Tully, Thompson, PA
Joe Pavlovich, Waymart, PA
Jeffrey O’Hara, Carbondale, PA
Robert T. & Carol Frost, Nicholson, PA
Joe & Kathy McGurl, Clarks-green, PA
William G. Kaufman, Carbondale, PA
Tim & Janet Tedesco, Oakland, NJ
Donald E. Welsch, Scranton, PA
James Yeich, New Milford, PA
Jim & Martha Bralla, Susquehanna, PA
Matthew & Tammy Hunter, Union Dale, PA
Alma Lavin, Carbondale, PA
Joseph & Kim Gillott, City, PA
Richard C. Marquardt, Waverly, FL
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stanton, Simpson, PA
Karen Naughton, Simpson, PA
Annie G. Shultis, Simpson, PA
Ang Guzio, Olyphant, PA
Delores O’Neill, Honesdale, PA
Delores P. Kowaski, Dickson City, PA
Marguerite Bradycart, Lake View, PA
Kurt Grabfelder, Clarks Summit, PA
Donald & Elisabeth Korinda, S. Abington Twp., PA
Ivan & Elaine Burman, Jackson, PA
Jane Ellis, Union On Dale
Eleanor Spellman, Carbondale, PA
Peter & Marian Borick, Herrick Center, PA
William J. Kennedy, Honesdale, PA
James & Amy Fleming, Waverly, PA
Edwin & Florence Decker, Clifford, PA
John & Dottie Niles, Carbondale, PA
Jane Frye, Scranton, PA
Emie Keller, Clarks Green, PA
Nancy Surodoal & Richard Stanger, Scranton, PA
Jean & Bob Swenson, Philadelphia, PA
Stan & Sharon Hadley, Lakewood, PA
Frank W. Dressler, South Gibson, PA
Helmuth & Gisela Keller, Union Dale, PA
Claribel Todd, Carbondale, PA
Andy Bolak, Simpson, PA
Bob Wagner, Simpson, PA
Joe & Linda Monteforte, New Milford, PA

Go Paddle Your Canoe!
By Mark C. Walsh

Stillwater Cliffs—300 million years of tectonic history at a glance

Our recent articles have been about a time when giant coal-fired locomotives ruled the rails. We again thank readers who have expressed appreciation for them. And now for something completely different!

Our Rail-Trails wind through land of joyous beauty. The tourist brochures call our hills the “Endless Mountains.” Of course, they are not actually endless, and might better be described as rolling hills. But they are part of a virtually endless process, and once were among the tallest mountains on earth. Return with us now to time before rails, before calendars and before written history as we answer this basic question: how did our Rail-Trail country get this way?

The earth was born some 4.6 billion years ago (exact age is uncertain, but what’s a few million years among friends?) as a gigantic mass of gas and rock. It cooled over time to a molten sphere. Ever so slowly, it took on the general character is has today. It came to consist of three parts: a thin crust, a thick mid-section called the mantle and a center called the core. Our planet may be likened to a baseball. Its thin crust (about 65 miles deep under Pennsylvania) is proportionately about as thick as a baseball’s leather skin. The mantle compares, similarly, to the tightly-wound string that is the ball’s second layer. The core compares to the cork/rubber center of the baseball.

Our baseball simile gives us a sense of proportion, but is not useful for much else. Unlike a baseball, with a cover held in place by seams, the earth’s seams, its mountain ranges, are not held in place, so its crust slips and slides. Further, while a baseball’s cover is continuous but for seams, the crust of the earth consists of what might be likened to gigantic floating islands made mostly of rock. These islands, called plates, do in fact move and bump into each other (Yes, earthquakes.) and often crack to vent steam and other matter (Yes, volcanoes.) Our Northeast Pennsylvania Rail-Trail country is taking, literally, the ride of its life atop the North American Plate, moving at the speed at which your hair grows.

Within the earth, the boundary between the crust and mantle is not distinct. Beneath and within the solid crust, matter continuously morphs back and forth from liquid to solid. When volcanoes erupt, we get a look some of this matter, molten lava that, in its physical character, has to be described as plastic. It transforms before our eyes from liquid to solid.

Turning from baseball, let’s now think of the underside of the earth’s crust as a throw rug. Yes, a throw rug. If you kick or bump into a throw rug’s edge, it will wrinkle. If you keep it up, some wrinkles will fold over onto themselves. This is what is took place, oh-so-slowly, some 280 million years ago, about sixty-five miles below where you sit as you read these words: plastic flow, wrinkling and folding. Because the plastic material is not uniform, it folded into distinct layers. These hardened as they moved toward the surface, and formed layers of what poor non-scientists like us call “rock.”

Moved toward the surface? Yes. With plates being pushed laterally by one another and floated by the mantle, the earth’s crust was being heaved upward. When our Rail-Trail country underwent folding, it was but a small part of a land that came to the surface in high, terribly jagged mountainous form; think of it as a few stitches in the seam known as the Appalachian Mountains. But don’t put your house up for sale! There is hardly any of this taking place under Rail-Trail country just now, for this process is an irregular one.
The progression continued. Erosion, in the form of wind, rain, snow, ice and airborne particulate matter has, over eons, transformed once very high jagged peaks and deep valleys into beautiful rolling hills in Northeastern Pennsylvania. If your imagination boggles at this, keep in mind that a million years is a long time. If you set out to count to a million and counted at the rate of once per second without stopping, it would take you almost 12 days. Surface erosion over hundreds of millions of years has made craggy, inhospitable mountains into gentle rolling hills.

The Rail-Trail is a great place to enjoy them, and to get a sneak-peek at their wondrous gentle rolling hills.

Discover the D&H Tours
Sponsored in part by the United Way of Susquehanna County.

Bike Ride. Sunday, May 18, 10 AM. Forest City Trailhead. All ages and abilities.

Summer Solstice Walk with Jane Frye Saturday, June 21, 10 AM. Wildflower search and natural history info. Simpson Trailhead.

Trail Walk with Ed Golecki, incorporating basic yoga into your walk. Wednesday, June 25, 6 PM. Forest City Trailhead.

Simple bike repairs followed by bike ride, all levels. Sunday, July 13, 9 AM. Forest City Trailhead. Sponsored by New Milford Bike Shop.

Bike Ride, all levels. Sunday July 27, 10 AM. Forest City Trailhead. Sponsored by Cedar Bike Shop.

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

- I am interested in finding out more about the ‘Trail Tender’ program.
- I am available to plant trees.
- I am available for trail cleanups.
- Call me to discuss a corporate donation.
- Our group would like a slide presentation.
- Send me a new RTC brochure.
- I am interested in finding out more about the ‘Trail Tender’ program.
- I will volunteer for the Half-Marathon.

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: tccrail@epix.net
Trail Work Update

Construction plans for the next ten miles from Herrick Center to Thompson are still under revision. Changes are being made to the drainage plans, ramp details at Ararat and Thompson and a new specification for the trail surface. The council is continuing to find additional sources for match. Your renewal and donations help us to match the required 20% of the construction costs.