November 2009 Volume 17, Number 3

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.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Daniel & Debra Thompson, Clarks Summit, PA
Mountain View Garden Club, Clifford, PA

NEW MEMBERS

Arnold Beavers & Cheryl Kerman, Hallstead, PA
Amy Broadbent & Curt Bogart, Waverly, PA
David Durko, Union Dale, PA
Nancy, John & Patrick Hollenback, Greenfield Twp, PA
Ed & Wanda Juersivich, Poquoson, VA
Richard Pomager, Dickson City, PA
Joel Whitehead, Thompson, PA

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Charles & Ginny Ahearn, Kingsley, PA
Thomas Allen, Union Dale, PA
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Alan & Peggy Armstrong, Greenfield Twp, PA
David Baker, Montrose, PA
Jeff Baker, Jermyn, PA
Marge & George Balunas, Herrick Center, PA
Banicky Family, Thompson, PA
Henry Bardel, Staten Island, NY
Deborah Barkley, Dunmore, PA
Fran & Deb Barrett, Chester Springs, PA
Gary & Debbie Bates, Waymart, PA
Bruce Begin, Jessup, PA
Gerry & Carlyn Bell, Phoenixville, PA
Gene Benson, Carbondale, PA
Pam & Craig Benson, Thompson, PA
Marlyn Bernard, Pleasant Mt., PA
Edward Biasi, Layfayette Hill, PA
Michael & Janet Bischak, Nutley, NJ
Andrew Bolak, Simpson, PA
Ross Beresford & Magdalen Braden, Kingsley, PA
Frank & Peggy Brager, Forest City, PA
Florence Brown, Scranton, PA
Rod Brown, Waymart, PA
Bob & Ethel Breuche, Union Dale, PA
Raymond Brown, Thompson, PA
Rich & Ann Brunori, Peckville, PA
John Bruns, Susquehanna, PA
Emil & Donna Buatti, Bartonsville, PA
Bob & Marsha Burcher, Honesdale, PA
William Burke, Moscow, PA
Ronald & June Burton, Hallstead, PA
Barbara Bussart, Ambler, PA
Frank & Bernadette Caffiero, Staten Island, NY
Allen Casal, Dunmore, PA

Cable's Store to Be New Office

On October 2nd, the Rail Trail Council purchased Cable's Store in Union Dale. The Council is currently headquartered in a small A-frame building behind the Forest City Post Office. The Cable's Store location offers the advantage of being located right next to the trail and has much more space than their current location. We hope to move the office sometime in early 2010.

The new Rail-Trail headquarters will occupy the first floor of the Cable's Store location. There is enough additional space that it can be shared with another office or a small store. Feelers have been put out to find someone interested in renting the store space. The second floor of the building contains a three-bedroom apartment which the Council plans to rent. The building also contains a basement that will provide much-needed storage.

Clark Cable of Union Dale sold the building on behalf of the estate of his father, Clark Cable Sr. The older Cable ran the store from 1932 until he turned 65. He continued to operate a barbershop in the store until he passed away in 2008 at the age of 91.

If anyone is interested in a rental—either the apartment or for store/office space, please call.

C A L E N D A R

NOVEMBER 19
Rail-Trail Dinner Meeting. All welcome. Frank's Place, Simpson 6 PM dinner, 7 PM meeting

NOVEMBER 21
Trail Tenders Ice Cream Social, Cables Store, Union Dale 1 PM

NOVEMBER 29
Trail Walk, Simpson Trailhead, 9 AM. All welcome.

DECEMBER 17
Christmas Dinner, Stonebridge Restaurant, 6 PM. Reservations needed.

NO JANUARY MEETING

Daniel Cawley, Commack, NY
Robert Cederquist, Malvern, PA
Joseph Chmiel, Pittston Twp, PA
Peter Ciarlante & Grace Long, Newton, PA
Richard & Marie Cochrane, Clarks Summit, PA
Leonard Coddington, Dingmans Ferry, PA
Community Bank & Trust, Clarks Summit, PA
Casey Congdon, Union Dale, PA
Mary Conrad, Scranton, PA
Billy Culnane, Susquehanna, PA
Charles Culnane, Wilmington, DE
Lyle & Marge Cunningham, South Gibson, PA
Frank Currier, Keyport, NJ
Bob & Helen Dannelker, Owego, NY
Mr. & Mrs. William Davis, Jermyn, PA
Edwin & Florence Decker, Clifford, PA
Fred & Rose Defeo, Starlight, PA
Thomas DeMatteo, Roaring Brook Twp, PA
Kay DeRichie, Simpson, PA
Steve & Cindy Detwiler, Susquehanna, PA
Robert Dietz, Forest City, PA
Joseph & Marie Dragwa, Simpson, PA
Frank Dressler, South Gibson, PA
David Durko, Union Dale, PA
Christine Elder, Carbondale, PA
Doug & Marge Eldridge, East Orange, NJ
Susan Ensley & Ed Chaplin, Starrucca, PA
Ted & Pattie Evanish, Scott Township, PA
Faith Fleming, Waverly, PA
Jim & Amy Fleming, Waverly, PA
Jeff & Nancy Fleming, Dalton, PA
Lee & Janet Fletcher, Thompson, PA
Patrick Foster, Union Dale, PA
Dr & Mrs Howard Fragin, Clarks Green, PA
David Franceski, Union Dale, PA
Marian Franceski, Forest City, PA
Jeanne Frank, Forest City, PA
Katherine Frey, Carbondale, PA
Jack Fries, Vandling, PA
Thomas Fron, Johnson City, NY
Jane Frye, Scranton, PA
Fred, Mary and Zach Garm, Forest City, PA
John Gebert, Lake Ariel, PA
David Gibson, Clarks Summit, PA
Paul & Barbara Gildea, Sandy Hook, CT
Joseph & Kimberly Gillott, Forest City, PA
Vince & Marylou Gilotti, Lehighton, PA
Arnie & Lin Gordon, Philadelphia, PA
Kurt Grabfelder, Clarks Summit, PA
Ralph Grambo, Poyntelle, PA
Gravity Inn, Waymart, PA
Francis Graytock, Forest City, PA
Marie Graytock, Simpson, PA
Betty Jean Graybeal, Telford, PA
Pat Green, Dunmore, PA
Mike Guzzi, Olyphant, PA
Francis & JoAnn Hadnagy, Thompson, PA
Dan Hanlon, Pleasant Mt, PA
Mary Jo Hart, Brackney, PA
Gary & Rhonda Hartley, Roselle Park, NJ
Michael Hapstak, Scranton, PA
Joyce Hatala, Fleetville, PA
Ernest Heller, Park Ridge, NJ
Hendrick MFG Co., Carbondale, PA
Otto Hetrick, Trevose, PA
Highhouse Family, Honesdale, PA
Ursula Hobson, Philadelphia, PA
Normale Hodgson, Virginia Beach, VA
Laura Holbert, Philadelphia, PA
Donald Holibaugh, Forest City, PA
James Houlihan, Archbald, PA
David & Carol Howell, Dalton, PA
Matt & Tammy Hunter, Union Dale, PA
Bob Hunter, Union Dale, PA
Ronald Jackson, Falls, PA
Irene Jankowski, Scranton, PA

Getting There Was Half the Fun...

We are a nation of wanderers. The typical American seems to think nothing of taking a day-trip to Chicago, and less of jetting to LA for a long weekend. But there was a time, not very long ago, when the word "weekend" did not exist in our language, and travel at today's pace was beyond imagining. In the mid 19th century, just before what are now our rail-trails were built, the average person spent a lifetime without traveling more than ten miles from home. When we were largely an agrarian nation, only the rich and fancy traveled greater distances. They did so by horse-drawn carriage, and at some discomfort. Then, a bit more than one hundred years ago, a sea change came about in our society.

Historians tell us that two events brought the change about. The first of these was the Civil War. Yankee and Rebel soldiers, acting in the urgent climate of total war, marched hundreds of miles and rode the primitive rail lines for hundreds more. Illinois farm boys fought in Georgia. Texans fought in Pennsylvania. When the dust settled, people by the hundreds of thousands came to realize that this was a great land, a land worth seeing, a land unlike any other in the history of the world. Enter the second event: the postwar railroad boom.

Early railroads were not very fast, but all is relative. They were twice as fast as the speediest horse, and had a hundred times the endurance. In the space of a few decades, the railroads changed everything.

They did more than change travel. They changed attitudes. Paired with Sam Morse's new-fangled telegraph, they brought our country standard time. Where once it might have been noon in Simpson, at that very instant it might have been 11:55 in Susquehanna. Time of day in a given town was mostly guesswork and was determined, as often as not, by the local clergy! It was a matter of looking at a clock, then ringing the church bell at a locally-agreed-to hour, say eight a.m. When the bell rang, locals set their clocks. Nobody in Simpson cared what time it was in Susquehanna. But when it came to pass that trains had to meet other trains, that schedules had to be in synchrony, the very way people thought about schedules underwent immense change. Where once people thought in terms of weeks and days, they now thought in hours.

What's more, that farm gal in Orson could now shop in Scranton. And that colliery in Richmondale could become an industrial behemoth.

Of course, early passenger travel had its drawbacks. The trains rolled and rattled, and showered passengers with smoke and dirty black cinders. (Anthracite-fired trains showered passengers with smoke and clean black cinders.) By today's standards, the trains were slow. We have included a simplified NYO&W schedule with this article. It will give you an idea of time-of-travel a century ago. By the way, at Cadosia, New York it was possible to connect with main line trains that went to such places as New York, Ontario and points western.

When our great and great-great grandparents got on board those lokie smokers, they thought only of a short shopping trip, or of a social visit, or a brief bit of business just around the bend. They did not realize that as they bought their tickets, they ticketed America for the greatest lifestyle change in history. The next time you enjoy a walk on our wonderful Rail-Trail, look ahead. Try to see the rails your great-great grandma saw. How far did those rails go?

They went on forever.

Mark C. Walsh

This simplified 1898 timetable shows only the morning train. In actuality, there were four trains each day, each way.

Scranton to Cadosia on the NYO&W

Leave Scranton	08:35 a.m.
Arrive Olyphant	08:42
Arrive Peckville	08:46
Arrive Archbald	08:53
Arrive Jermyn	08:56
Arrive Mayfield	09:00
Arrive Carbondale	09:10
Arrive Browndale	09:26
Arrive Union Dale	09:36
Arrive Pleasant Mount	09:40
Arrive Orson	09:50
Arrive Poyntelle	10:00
Arrive Winwood	10:15
Arrive Preston Park	10:21
Arrive Starlight	10:26
Arrive Hancock	10:31
Arrive Cadosia	10:36

D&H Distance Run

The 2nd annual D&H Distance Run was great success again, with 257 racers entered. Thanks to the many runners who participated and to our many sponsors who helped out in various ways. Susquehanna Pipeline Partners and Endless Mountains Energy were the primary sponsors. They provided not only a monetary donation, but arranged for a total landscaping makeover of the Forest City Trailhead and for the placement of mums at the trailhead, along the course, and hung along the bridges over the Lackawanna River. They also assisted with repairs to the bridge decking and railings. Thanks SPP & EME!!

Other sponsors included Leeward Construction, The Beer Express in Simpson, Jerry's Sport Center, Honesdale Bank, Community Bank & Trust, Adams CATV, Comprehensive Physical Therapy, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, McGovern Insurance Agency, Hendrick Manufacturing, Stonebridge Inn & Restaurant, H&R Block Carbondale, Quotes Coffee House, Elk Mountain Ski Resort, Idlewild Ski Shop, Brophy Marketing, Flying Chickens Design, Franceski Waste Containers, NEPA Runner, NEP Sno-Trails, Pennsylvania American Water, Watercolors by Marilyn McDowall and the United Way of Susquehanna County.

Volunteers made the event a success. There were emergency personnel and equipment from seven different entities, both stationary and traveling along the course. New this year, all emergency personnel had great orange T-shirts with a cross on the back. Thanks to Cottage Hose of Carbondale, Forest City Fire & Ambulance, Union Dale Fire Police, Clifford Emergency personnel, Belmont Ambulance, Barnes-Kasson emergency personnel, Andy Belcher (emergency organizer), and Elk Mountain Ski Patrol.

Many Rail-Trail members and area residents assisted with many tasks, as registration, parking, water stops, mile marking, timing, and clean-up. Over 50 volunteers were instrumental in running a smooth race. Thanks to all too numerous to list!

Non-perishable food items were collected for the Forest City Salvation Army Food Pantry from both runners and volunteers, with a special raffle held for those donating food items. Race results can be seen on the Rail-Trail website – www.nepa-rail-trails.org thanks to Hill View, Inc. for keeping the site updated!

Racer T-shirts and coffee mugs are still available and can be purchased for $5.

Note our new e-mail address: trails@nep.net

Charles Johnston, West Orange, NJ
Margaret Jordan, Union Dale, PA
Roy Kallinen, Jr, Media, PA
Jim Kasten, Hallstead, PA
Ernest Keller, Clarks Green, PA
Nancy Kelly, South Gibson, PA
Don & Karyn Kintzer, Orinda, CA
Harry & Gulay Kiskaddon, Herrick Center, PA
Jim & Carol Kline, Douglassville, PA
Marilyn Kneeland, Equinunk, PA
Brett Koder, Coopersburg, PA
Richard Kresock, Forest City, PA
George Krooss, Poyntelle, PA
Ed Kowaleswski, Forest City, PA
Liz Krivda, New Paltz, NY
Joseph Kulinski, Forest City, PA
Alan, Diane, & Jason Kurlansky, Carbondale, PA
Eleanor Kurosky, Montrose, PA
Louis & Linda Kwiatek, Starrucca, PA
Lackawanna Bicycle Club, Dunmore, PA
Fred & Myrna Lauy, Nicholson, PA
Raymond, Linda & Kami Lee, Thompson, PA
Mr & Mrs Marink Lemut, Philadelphia, PA
Patrick Leonard, Pleasant Mt, PA
Kathleen Little, Waymart, PA
Gene Long, Clarks Green, PA
Thelma Lowey, Forest City, PA
Bonnie Lundy, Gladwyne, PA
Dave & Micki Lukens, Union Dale, PA
William Mamber, Lakewood, PA
Richard Marquardt, Waverly, PA
Bob & Angel Marx, Union Dale, PA
Mary Masker, Somerville, NJ
Steve & Lu Matis, Flemington, NJ
Jane & Win Matthews, Union Dale, PA
Robert & Elaine Menthe, Weathersfield, VT
Vic & Sharon Milani, Dickson City, PA
Millett Real Estate, Scranton, PA
Thomas Mizianty, Waymart, PA
Robert Monroe, Somerville, NJ
Joseph & Harriet Moore, Gladwyne, PA
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Bob Morgan, West Pittston, PA
Carole Motsko, Thompson, PA
Pat Mulcare, Waymart, PA
Richard Murray, Morganville, NJ
Karen Naughton, Simpson, PA
Ralph Naylor, Dalton, PA
Mike Newak, Forest City, PA
Glenn Newman, Richboro, PA
Andy & Donna Nikish, Schwenksville, PA
John & Dotti Niles, Carbondale, PA
Larry Noonan, Malvern, PA
Louis Orehek, Vandling, PA
Margaret & Paul Ortip, East Greenville, PA
Walter Paciga, Simpson, PA
John Pash, Jermyn, PA
Joseph & Marjorie Pavlovich, Waymart, PA
Inger Pearson & Frank McDonald, Union Dale, PA
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Joan Peters, Kingsley, PA
Dennis Peterson, Lake Ariel, PA
Chris Pezak, Carbondale, PA
Chrissy Phillips, Scott Twp, PA
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Galli Podboy, Browndale, PA
Michael Poster & Rodrica Tilley, Montrose, PA
Ken & Lynn Potts, Fort Washington, PA
Ruth Pranzitel, Waymart, PA
Carol Ho & Donald Preitz, Pleasant Mount, PA
James & Linda Proctor, Union Dale, PA
Carl & Mary Pucul, Vandling, PA
Joann Puskarcik & Roy Morsch, Starlight, PA
John Race, Carbondale, PA
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Tom Rasimas, Avoca, PA

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Joan & Haydn Samuel, Union Dale, PA
Ronald Schmidt, Scranton, PA
Fred Schultz, Washington Crossing, PA
Gerald Schwarztrauber, Archbald, PA
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Delores Sembrat, Olyphant, PA
Judy Senio, Pennfield, NY
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D E Smith, Bethlehem, PA
Jay Smith, Salem, NJ
Richard, Snyder, Milford, PA
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Pamela Sweda, Hamlin, PA
Donald & Cheron Swody, Mainesburg, PA
Robert Tedesco, Union Dale, PA
Richard Terpstra, Montrose, PA
Ben Terry, Pleasant Mount, PA
Jerry & Debbie Their, Dalton, PA
Mary Ann Thomas, Newtown Square, PA
Regina Yeager Todd, Moscow, PA
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Jane Varcoe, Waymart, PA
Denise & Pete Vauter, East Stroudsburg, PA
Jim & Joann Verboys, Union Dale, PA
Sara Jane Vignali, Murray Hill, NJ
Jon Villaume, Narberth, PA
William Waerhouse, Olyphant, PA
Bob Wagner, Simpson, PA
David Walk, Ellicott City, MD
Patti & Bill Walker, Nicholson, PA
Mark Walsh, Highland Lakes, NJ
James & Louise Watson & Susan Hall, Union Dale, PA
Robert Welte, Windsor, NY
Stan & Joyce Wierzbicki, Greenfield, PA
Diane Witko, Greenfield Twp, PA
Ed & Kathleen Zack, Union Dale, PA
Louis & Pat Zefran, Forest City, PA
Raymond Zrebiec, Browndale, PA

DONATIONS

In Memory of Robert Fischbeck, Jerry & Vicky Lewandowski
In Memory of Jake Beautz, Nancy Ross
Anonymous donation, $5,000
In Memory of Betty LaCoste, Nancy Ross

Jefferson Junction Turntable Unearthed

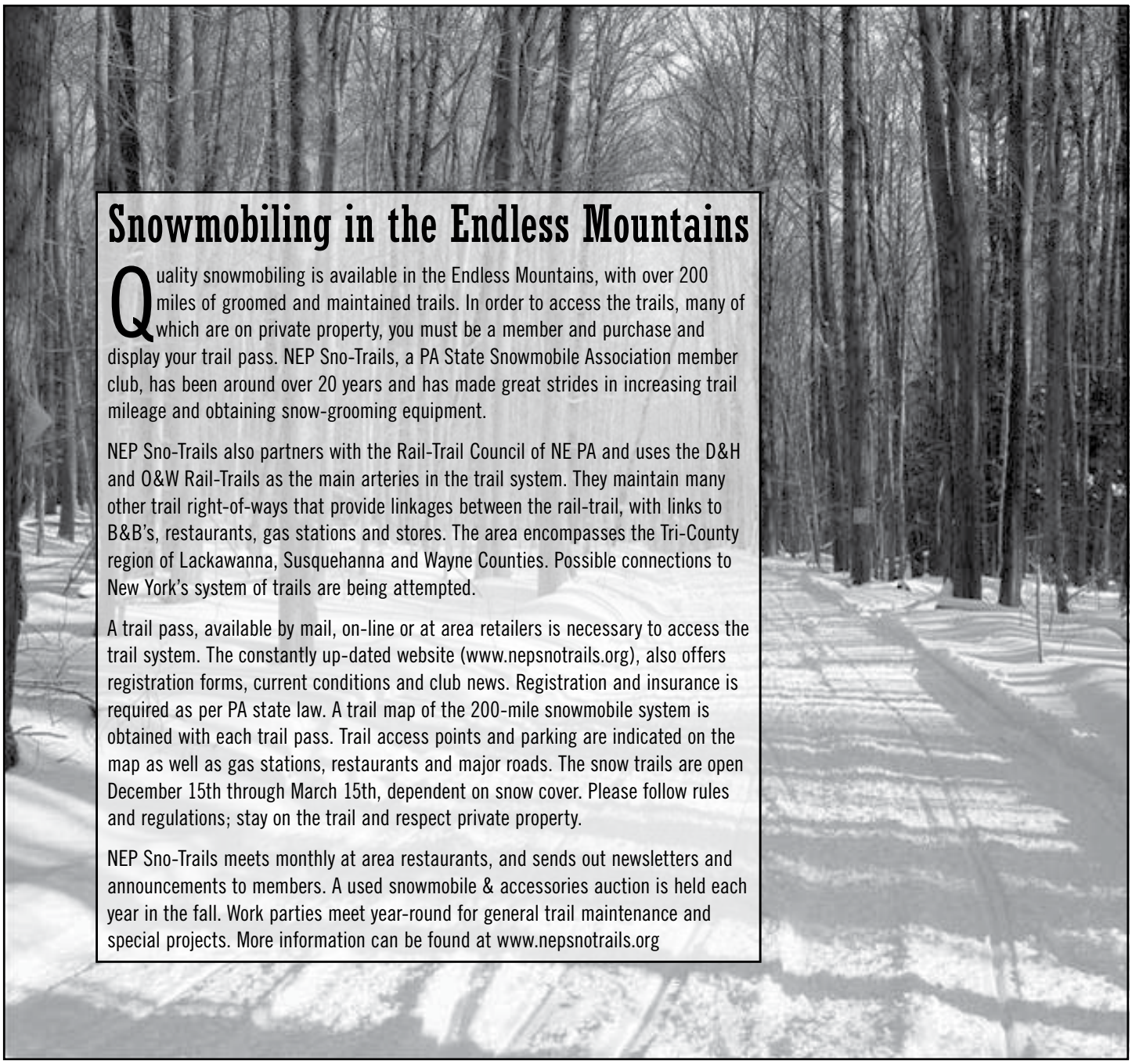
The Starrucca Creek in the Lanesboro area has been ripping up the D&H railbed over the past few years. The Creek has changed its course following recent violent rainstorms. Last year the Council stabilized the trail in Brandt and we are now searching out funds to stabilize the creekbank and trail in the Jefferson Junction area, just south of Lanesboro. Jefferson Junction is the area where the D&H connected with the Erie main line and went on toward Binghamton.

Large rectangular chunks of stone were noticed years ago in the stream. This past summer, the waterflow washed away more streambank to reveal a half circle of around 5 large stones, surely a built structure.

Thanks to the dandh yahoo group ('for anyone interested in D&H history')—the mystery was solved. The structure is the remains of an Armstrong turntable, a 75' bluestone pit, used to turn locomotives by hand. The remains in the creek are part of the center support for the turntable bridge (4 bolts seen). The table would have pivoted on this support and was supported at the edge of the pit by a flanged wheel that rode on a circular rail near the outer wall of the pit. The turntable was accessed by a trailing switch off the northbound track. The nearest crossovers were at the Junction and near the road crossing in Lanesboro. So engines would have to travel some distance after turning to resume duties as a pusher on southbound trains.

In the 1940's the track at the Cascade Wye was constructed to the north, near the NY line so that larger locomotives, as Challengers could turn around and resume their job as a pusher.

The Council is seeking funds to not only stabilize the trail and riverbank, but protect what remains of the turntable.



Snowmobiling in the Endless Mountains

Quality snowmobiling is available in the Endless Mountains, with over 200 miles of groomed and maintained trails. In order to access the trails, many of which are on private property, you must be a member and purchase and display your trail pass. NEP Sno-Trails, a PA State Snowmobile Association member club, has been around over 20 years and has made great strides in increasing trail mileage and obtaining snow-grooming equipment.

NEP Sno-Trails also partners with the Rail-Trail Council of NE PA and uses the D&H and O&W Rail-Trails as the main arteries in the trail system. They maintain many other trail right-of-ways that provide linkages between the rail-trail, with links to B&B's, restaurants, gas stations and stores. The area encompasses the Tri-County region of Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties. Possible connections to New York's system of trails are being attempted.

A trail pass, available by mail, on-line or at area retailers is necessary to access the trail system. The constantly up-dated website (www.nepsnotrails.org), also offers registration forms, current conditions and club news. Registration and insurance is required as per PA state law. A trail map of the 200-mile snowmobile system is obtained with each trail pass. Trail access points and parking are indicated on the map as well as gas stations, restaurants and major roads. The snow trails are open December 15th through March 15th, dependent on snow cover. Please follow rules and regulations; stay on the trail and respect private property.

NEP Sno-Trails meets monthly at area restaurants, and sends out newsletters and announcements to members. A used snowmobile & accessories auction is held each year in the fall. Work parties meet year-round for general trail maintenance and special projects. More information can be found at www.nepsnotrails.org

Membership Renewal Form

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

- ☐ Lifetime/Founding $500
- ☐ Patron/Sponsor $250
- ☐ Club/Organization $100
- ☐ Family $25
- ☐ Individual $15
- ☐ Senior/Student $10

- ☐ I am available for trail cleanups.
- ☐ Call me to discuss a corporate donation.
- ☐ Send me a **new** RTC brochure.

☐ **I am interested in finding out more about the 'Trail Tender' program.**

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please update your address here if necessary. 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: trails@nep.net

Making the Connection

By Deb McNamara

Do you know there's a place not too far away that can improve your health, reduce stress, and captivate children? Our 38 miles of trail are an ideal place for exercise and exploration. Regardless of how far you walk, run, or bike it's an opportunity for mental, physical, and spiritual growth. The D&H is a historic treasure right in our own back yard.

Since our last newsletter my VISTA position has kept me busy both in the office and on the trail. As you can see by the long list of renewals, our June membership drive was very successful. We also have new reminder postcards to let you know it's time to renew your membership. On the trail I have been assisting several high school seniors with community service projects. So far this year the trail has hosted a dog walk, cystic fibrosis walk, and a run raising money for local soldiers killed in Iraq. Currently two Forest City seniors, Destiny Santerre and Amanda Mendoza, are planting and painting around both Simpson and Browndale Trailheads. Our D&H Distance Run food drive collected several boxes of food for the Forest City Salvation Army Food Pantry. We are holding three community walks/runs this fall (9/20, 10/17, & 11/29). Join us for exercise and conversation.

Our Trail Tender Program is going strong. Our next meeting will be an ice cream social Saturday November 21st, 1 PM at Cable's Store in Union Dale. We are always looking for new members. Join us and learn more about our mission. Lastly we are working on a partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to provide bikes and companionship to underserved children. The bikes will be used on the trail promoting outdoor activity for children who otherwise might not have the opportunity. We hope to raise donations for at least 10 bicycles to get the program off the ground. If you are interested in donating or becoming a mentor please give me a call.

See you on the trail.

Trails Tenders to Meet

Trail Tenders will meet on Saturday, November 21st at 1 PM for an ice cream social and information sharing. We'll meet at the new Rail-Trail office in Cable's Store, Union Dale. There will be time for a trail walk if anyone is interested. Bring friends and family for an informal get-together. New Trail Tenders welcome!

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more."

—John Burroughs

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

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