

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.

Rail-Trail Celebrates 20 Years!



20% cash. We have applied for state funding for that match and hope to hear in the Fall. We also continue to raise the matching funds needed, with our D&H Distance Run and memberships. Phase 2 will include trail improvements from Herrick Center to the Ararat Road, not Thompson as previously planned. We also hope to receive a grant to redeck the 2 bridges just north of Forest City.

At his point we continue to try to keep the railbed passable with a mountain bike and of course for hiking. Recent years have seen many torrential downpours, which force us to repair specific sections as needed. We rely on our local snowmobile club – NEP Sno-Trails to assist with many of the trail repairs and improvement projects. This past fall we completed trail work at the Thompson curve, where excavation of coal from the railbed over 25 years ago left steep and uneven grades. The ramp at the bridge now is at a 5% grade, as recommended for trail use, as are other portions of the trail in the Thompson area. NEP Sno-Trails made improvements to the trail in the Starrucca/Buck Falls area. Again areas with that were steep were graded and stabilized. We hope to improve the trail area across Ararat Road with similar ramp work in the Fall.

Thanks to our many members who have continued to support our efforts over the years. We now have over 1700 members, most of whom contribute with their membership dollars every year. And thanks for your patience, as it sure takes a lot of time, effort, funding and donations to continue with trail improvements.

The Rail-Trail Council has been working for 20 years on its mission of “renewing NEPA’s historic pathways as recreational trails for all to enjoy.” We were very lucky to get started early in the now popular rail-trail movement of transforming old railbeds into linear parks. We were also fortunate that we only had to deal with two owners to secure a 38-mile right-of-way.

With a Master Plan completed along with construction documents for 32 miles, we are able to apply for state funding and federal highway transportation enhancement (TE) funding. However, these grants have become very competitive and communities can apply for sidewalk improvements from the same pot of funds. We do have TE funds of approximately 1 million for the next phase of trail improvements, but we must match TE funds with

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Teresa Calafut, Clifford Twp., PA
 Paul Fogal (Pocono Whitewater), Jim Thorpe, PA
 Erick & Lydia Gavalis, Wyncote, PA
 Paul Kielbasa, Avoca, PA
 Sean McCarthy, Pleasant Mount, PA
 David Wilcox, Montrose, PA
 Nancy Wottrich & Bruce McNaught, New Milford, PA

RENEWING MEMBERS

Adams CATV, Inc., Carbondale, PA
 Harry, Barbara & David Albert, Hallstead, PA
 Alan & Margaret Armstrong, Jermyn, PA
 Jack & Ruth Bertolino
 Michael & Janet Bischak, Nutley, NJ
 John Blodnikar, Browndale, PA
 Nancy Berry-Boyne, Easton, PA
 John Bruns, Susquehanna, PA
 William Burke, Moscow, PA
 William & Alice Burrell, Carbondale, PA
 Robert Burschnick, Forest City, PA
 David Butler, Vandling, PA
 Donna Caputo, Clifford, PA
 Francis Chesnick, Utica, NY
 Thomas & Carol Chesnick, Vandling, PA
 Norman Coyle, Lake Ariel, PA
 James Clayton, Thompson, PA
 Charles Culinane, Wilmington, DE
 Elinor Daley, Greenfield Twp., PA
 Brud & Wanda Davis, Rehoboth Beach, DE
 Lewis & Catherine Druffner, Avoca, PA
 J Dixon Earley, Camp Hill, PA
 Richard & Linda Eckersley, Scranton, PA
 Barbara Erhard, Roaring Brook Twp., PA
 Dennis Favello, Union Dale, PA
 Bill & Barbara Feduchak, Blakley, PA
 Ray, Kelly, RJ & Michael Felins, Covington Twp., PA
 Fiddle Lake Farm, Thompson, PA
 Esther Friedmann, Clarks Green, PA
 Robert T Frost, Jr., Nicholson, PA
 Edward Giombetti, Jessup, PA
 Betty Jean Graybeal, Telford, PA
 Stephen Gull, Susquehanna, PA
 Sandra Guman, Archbald, PA
 Cathy & Bob Guzzi, Dalton, PA
 Stan & Sharon Hadley, Lakewood, PA
 Ken & Joan Halbach, Forest City, PA
 Fritz & Jo Ann Hall, Clifford Twp., PA
 Gary & Rhonda Hartley, Roselle Park, NJ
 Joseph & Lorraine Healey, Lafin, PA
 Hennie van den Hengel Family, Springville, PA
 Mary & William Hodnik, Binghamton, NY
 Anne Holmes, Shavertown, PA
 Roger Homeyer, Newfoundland, PA

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**LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
Pancake Breakfast**
 7-10 AM. Union Dale United
 Methodist Church

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
**Endless Mountains Trail
Bird & Wildflower Walk**
 8 AM. Meet at the Price
 Chopper on Rte 706 at 7:45.
 Carpool to trail at Rose Road

TUESDAY JUNE 7
Community Trail Walk
 6 PM. Union Dale Trailhead

JUNE 17-19
**North Branch Susquehanna
Greenway Sojourn**
 Bainbridge NY to Great Bend

PA. Making the Connection
 between NY & PA River & Trails.
www.headwatersrivertrail.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
**North Branch Susquehanna
Greenway Sojourn overnight
stop in Lanesboro.** Time &
 place TBA. Program on D&H
 Rail-Trail & Starrucca Viaduct

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
LHVA Heritage Bike Tour
 Various levels of bike rides

THURSDAY, JUNE 23
RT Dinner/Meeting
 6/7 PM. Beacon Restaurant,
 Union Dale

JULY 7, 8, 9
**Union Dale Volunteer
Fireman's Picnic**
 Union Dale Fair Grounds.
 Parade & Fireworks: Friday,
 July 8; Lawn Tractor Pull:
 Saturday, July 9

JULY 9-10
Ultramarathon 100 Mile Run
 on D&H from Lanesboro to
 Thompson (4X)

SUNDAY, JULY 17
Community Trail Walk
 9 AM. Simpson Trailhead.
 Panther Bluff hike option

THURSDAY, JULY 28
RT Meeting

7 PM. Rail-Trail Office at
 Cable's. Sandwiches
 at Cable's Deli, 6-6:30

SUNDAY AUGUST 7
**Stillwater and Special
Places Hike**
 9 AM. In conjunction with
 Forest City Old Home Week
 (August 4-7)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
Geocaching along the D&H
 9 AM. Union Dale Trailhead.
 Learn about a great family
 activity!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11
4th Annual D&H Distance Run
 9 AM Start. Forest City Trailhead

James Houlihan, Archbald, PA
 Joe & Kay Jerin, Mayfield, PA
 James & Verna Johnson, Pompton Plains, NJ
 Margaret Jordan, Union Dale, PA
 Helen Kashuba, Factoryville, PA
 James Kasten, Hallstead, PA
 Tom Kavanagh, King of Prussia, PA
 William & Diane Keller, Clarks Summit, PA
 George & Michele Kelly, Germantown, MD
 Ken Kirschner & Family, Wilmington, DE
 Joseph & Mary Kluck, Simpson, PA
 Allen & Nancy Koberlein, Honesdale, PA
 Donald & Elisabeth Korinda, S. Abington Twp., PA
 James Kulp, Lancaster, PA
 Leaping Rabbit Farm, Waymart, PA
 Linde Corporation, Honesdale, PA
 Gary Lippi, Carbondale, PA
 Thelma Lowry, Forest City, PA
 Bonnie & Joseph Lundy, Gladwyne, PA
 Gail Mardfin, Bernardsville, NJ
 Richard & Sally Marquardt, Waverly, PA
 Steve & Lu Matis, Flemington, NJ
 John McGlinchey, Levittown, PA
 Barbara & Michael McMonagle, Green Lane, PA
 John Meade, Pittston, PA
 Joseph & Linda Monteforte, New Milford, PA
 Carole Motsko, Thompson, PA
 Donna Murphy, Morgantown, WV
 Andy & Donna Nikish, Schwensville, PA
 Patty O'Hara, Union Dale, PA
 Delores O'Neill, Honesdale, PA
 Louis Orehek, Vandling, PA
 Chris & Renee Palmer, Honesdale, PA
 Ed & Gladys Pantzar, Vandling, PA
 Roy & Vee Pauli, Scranton, PA
 Michael Petronchak, JR, Eynon, PA
 William Polny, Wapwallopen, PA
 Felix & Mary Prezelski, Forest City, PA
 Tim Proctor, Union Dale, PA
 Frank & Donna Prybeck, Milltown, NJ
 Beverly Rainforth, Binghamton, NY
 Torunn Rhodes, Hanover, NH
 Jose Rodriguez, Kearny, NJ
 The Ross Family FNDTN, Clarks Summit, PA
 Joan & Hayden Samuel, Union Dale, PA
 Sue & Bob Sanderson, Limekiln, PA
 Ester Schwalb & David Haase, Brooklyn, NY
 Joseph Spitzer, Scranton, PA
 Richard Storck, Montrose, PA
 Deb Stover & Del Negron, Warminster, PA
 Ken & Anne Swartz, Union Dale, PA
 Tim & Janet Tedesco, Oakland, NJ
 John & Jane Tighe, Prospect Park, PA
 Edward Timinskas, Mechanicsburg, PA
 Tri-County Sportsman, Clifford Twp., PA
 Joan Tully, Thompson, PA
 Henry Tusar, Forest City, PA
 George Wagner, Avoca, PA
 Walt & Jay West, Warrington, PA
 Don & Roberta Whitney, Edmond, OK
 Tom & Patricia Williamson, Clifford Township, PA
 Michael Yavorosky, Hop Bottom, PA
 James Yeich, New Milford, PA
 Bob & Maggie Young, Madison Twp., PA
 Eugene Zaverl, Browndale, PA

DONATIONS

Douglas & Margaret Sheldon, Dalton, PA
 Frank & Donna Prybeck, Susquehanna, PA
 In memory of Larry Noonan, Nancy Ross
 In memory of Michael Polednak, Nancy Ross
 In memory of Charles Frederick, Ruth Frederick
 In memory of John Haas, Nancy Ross
 In memory of Joseph Machek, Nancy Ross
 In memory of Bill Feddock, Nancy Ross

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF BRUCE ROSS

Ruth & Jack Bertolino, Newtown, PA
 John Blodnikar, Browndale, PA
 Magdalen Braden & Ross Beresford, Kinglsey, PA
 Dave & Eva Christiansen, Forest City, PA
 Betsy & Elizabeth Davis, Naples, FL
 Endless Mountains Innkeepers Association, Union Dale, PA
 Don & June Felley, Rydal, PA
 Clarence Fleming, Pasadena, CA
 Ruth Frederick, Lakewood, PA
 Robert T. Frost, Jr., Nicholson, PA
 Ed & Sylvia Holteen, Ambler, PA
 Carol Hunter, Fort Myers, FL
 Richard & Sally Marquardt, Waverly, PA
 Mountain View Garden Club, Clifford, PA
 Lawrence & Asbjorg Noonan, Malvern, PA
 Nancy & Ralph Powell, Peterborough, NH
 Will & Peggy Powell, Peru, Vermont
 Marvyn Raphaelson, Union Dale, PA
 Peter & Karen Ross, Centennial, CO
 Sue & Bob Sanderson, Limekiln, PA
 Cathy Stevens, Doylestown, PA
 Women's Resource Center, Scranton, PA
 Raymond Zrebiec, Browndale, PA

Jefferson Branch, D&H Forest City



This article ran in the March 1996 newsletter, following an interview with Bill Feddock.

The completion of the Jefferson Branch of the D&H in 1870 brought Forest City to a new era when railroad construction uncovered large outcroppings of coal. Up until that time, lumbering, (especially of hemlock), bark peeling and milling were the major activities. Thus a former name—Forest Mills.

The decade of the 1880's saw a tremendous growth spurt for FC, all due to coal mining. As the population exploded, every type of store possible was built during this decade—hardware, clothing, bakeries, drug stores, meat markets, notions and more. A hotel, pool-room, restaurants, as well as the first church and school were all part of the 80's expansion. Forest City entered the twentieth century as the largest community in Susquehanna County and was considered the "Northern Gateway to the Anthracite."

Reflections from Bill Feddock, Forest City native, gives a feel for the early decades of the century and the impact the D&H had on the area. Bill's uncle Stanley Julius was the first telegrapher at a 'telephone-booth' sized station at the present Simpson Viaduct. He later advanced to superintendent of the Susquehanna Railroad Yard.

"...The D&H Roundhouse in Carbondale was huge, with 40-50 railanes. It housed the largest collection of pusher engines in the world. These were needed to push heavy loads of coal over the elevation change from Carbondale to Forest City and on to the highest point, Ararat.

You could hear and feel the ground rumble when a freight load was headed north. Despite the loudness, it was a comforting sound to FC residents. The deep Whooo-Whooo meant the trail train was rounding the curve at Castle Garden (below what is now the sewer treatment plant). This was a small group of houses engaged in 'truck farming.' Locals passed over a wooded bridge walkway and through quaint Castle Garden on their way to pick blueberries of on the way to Klondike Basin—an icy cold spring."

"...It was an easy 'hop' if you were coming home from Simpson or if you wanted to head up to Stillwater with your bamboo rod. It was not quite so easy on trails headed south and 'downhill' and accidents were not uncommon. It was an exciting pastime to stand on the iron bridge (was behind Hornbeck's) that crossed over the railroad tracks when the engines and its load were pushing north. The bridge shook under your feet with great puffs of white steam."

"...If there was coal to be moved north, it was ready in cars to be picked up at the Erie Coal Company Breaker (Rte 247 to Browndale would run right into the heart of this breaker). The railroad at this point was about 6 tracks wide."

"...The train might stop at the FC station at the foot of Depot Street if there was catalog merchandise ordered by residents to be dropped off or passengers picked up."

"...If the train was passing through, messages could be exchanged with the aid of a 30' bamboo rod with a loop on one end. The large loop enabled the engineer to stick his arm through and bring the rod in to unclip the message at the straight end. The rod was then dropped up or down the tracks and retrieved by someone from the station. Everyone in the vicinity always stopped to watch this 'act'."

"...The switchman at the station also got the attention of locals as he kept the lanterns lit with the appropriate color: red, green or yellow. His was an important job to avoid collisions!"

New Business Opens in Union Dale



May 11th marked the grand opening of Cable's Deli located next door to the Rail-Trail Office! Co-Proprietors Judy Peltz and Sharon Straway previously ran the deli at Arlo's Store for 5 years. The two friends from Thompson were getting offers to run other local restaurants when Rail-Trail contacted them about Cable's. Judy and Sharon felt comfortable the moment they set foot in the Rail-Trail Building and immediately began making plans for their new business, Cable's Deli. The deli offers breakfast items including egg sandwiches, bagels and fresh brewed coffee. Lunch includes subs, sandwiches, cheese steaks, stromboli, hamburgers, hot dogs and a variety of salads. You can also buy deli meats, homemade baked goods and basic staples such as newspapers, eggs, bread and milk. Everything is made from scratch and available to eat in or take out. So, next time you are out enjoying the trail stop in for a visit. Have a seat inside and catch up on the local news or use our outside picnic table to relax in a country setting. *Cable's Deli is open daily from 6am to 6pm, closed on Wednesday. Their phone number is 570-679-2151.*

Bill Feddock

Bill Feddock, 89, of Forest City passed away recently in a tragic house fire. Bill was a charter member of the Board of the Rail-Trail Council and was elected to Board Emeritus status, just prior to his passing. Bill wrote a weekly column in the *Forest City News* "Tales 'n Scales" that covered a myriad of topics from the local outdoors. Bill worked with the Council to protect, enhance and interpret the areas along the Lackawanna River. He often reflected on Forest City, mining and railroad history that became the basis for newsletter articles. (see article on previous page)

John C. Haas

John C. Haas, 92, retired chairman of Rohm & Haas Company and a tireless champion of community service regionally and nationally, died Saturday, April 2. John became a life-time member of the Rail-Trail Council in May, 1995. His generous contributions over the last 16 years were truly a gift to our organization. His legacy lives on through the people and organizations he touched.

Our Green Leader

Check out the June issue of *Happening Magazine*. Our executive director, Lynn Conrad was chosen as one of NEPA's Green Leaders. Pick up a copy or read online at www.happeningsmagazinepa.com



Saturday, June 18—Father's Day Weekend!
Mellow Park, Peckville, PA

- The Archbald Limited—a 5 mile family-friendly route.
- The Powdermill Express—an 11 mile intermediate level ride.
- The Carbondale Special—a 22 mile challenge tour.
- The Union Dale Pusher—44 mile route for experienced biking enthusiasts.

See www.lhva.org for more information.

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"/> I am available for trail cleanups. |
| <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"/> Send me Sam's Club Business Membership Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$15 | <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

Please update your address here if necessary. Make checks payable to **Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA**
P O Box 32, Union Dale PA 18470 Phone: 570-679-9300 E mail: trails@nep.net

My View from the Trail

Sometimes life is all about pace. There is something about being on the trail that calms my spirit, sharpens my senses, and brings me joy. I can't think of more important work than being part of saving and renewing pathways that may someday be a nationwide network of trails. Connecting these corridors will help create healthier places for healthier people.

These pathways continue to grow with creation of "The Lackawanna Greenway." This 75 mile trail will connect Pittston, PA to the NY State border making the D&H Rail-Trail a key part of a potential long-distance network. It will also provide a connection to the D&L Trail system which reaches into metropolitan Philadelphia creating a network of trail stretching from New York State into Philadelphia and New Jersey. Being part of a "Mega Greenway" creates opportunities for enhanced economic development and promotes tourism in our region.

So, with so many possibilities don't forget to schedule outdoor time into your regular routine. Whether it's a short walk or a week long biking adventure, the trail can be a welcome relief from stress. Check our schedule of activities and make some time to reconnect with nature.

See you on the trail,

Deb McNamara

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

—Theodore Roosevelt

Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA

P O Box 32

Union Dale PA 18470

trails@nep.net

www.nepa-rail-trails.org

Change Service Requested



D&H and Endless Mountains Trail Spruced Up

Rail Trail joined Pennsylvanians across the state – and Americans across the nation – for the Great American Cleanup. A trash pick-up was held between Union Dale and Forest City. Thank you to our great volunteers: Mike Yavorosky, Michael Race, Ray Zrebiec, Grace Gilhooley, Corryn Prince, Jim Verboys, Kirk Newsom, Timothy Bradley, Helen Newsom and Linda Griffiths. Thanks to our Montrose friends who helped cleanup the Endless Mountains Trails: Jim, Mary, Mara, Mike & Ethan Blachek, Rena Scroggins, Tom Frost, Brian Cobb, William Wellman, Bob Bartron, Kirk Newsom, Deb McNamara and Lynn Conrad.

Non-Profit Organization

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