Our 25th Anniversary & Art on the Trail

Art on the Trail and Rail-Trail Council’s 25th Anniversary combine for a special day of celebration! Along with celebrating 25 years as an organization, our historic trail will showcase some of the best art in Pennsylvania when “Art on the Trail” returns. Artists will show and sell their work in three historic buildings—Cable’s Store, Robert Starks’s Susquehanna Studio and the Masonic Lodge. In addition to art our special events include:

11 AM: A guided walk back in time with Pat Peltz and Lynn Conrad. Learn about the history of Union Dale.

1 PM: Children’s (and adult) nature photography class with Sherry Sparks. Bring a camera.


4–6 PM: Anniversary celebration with live music, quilt raffle, food and drink!

All Day: Take a trail ride on “The Party Bike.” The bike will be available all day and can be reserved by groups of 8 or more.

Rail-Trail Council of NEPA has reached a milestone in the life of our organization. Please help us celebrate this special day as we share memories and friendships. We truly appreciate all of our members and their support helping to make this possible! Cable’s Deli will also be celebrating their 5th year serving the community with great food and baked goods. Stop by the deli, say hi and wish Judy, Sharon and Koral happy anniversary. Check our website for additional information.
**New Members**

Elaine Decker, Montrose PA

Betty Ann Consiglio, Lake Ariel PA

Mary & William Hiller, South Canaan PA

Janie Wavelry, Wavelry PA

Matthew Hurford, Philadelphia PA

**Renewing Members**

Thomas Barnard, Harding PA

Fran & Deb Barrett, Chester Springs PA

Robert Barrett, Newtown Square PA

Ed Beazut, Union Dale PA

Peter & Carol Bork, Berwick PA

Frank & Peggy Brager, Forest City PA

Ali Breig, Breckinridge CO

Gary & Maureen Brown, Moyfield PA

Mike Budzinski, Kingston PA

Keith & Teresa Bush, Hawley PA

John Burkhardt, Pottstown PA

Mary Butler, Little Meadows PA

Tom & Judy Butler, Union Dale PA

Teresa Calafat, Clifford Twp. PA

Spencer & Andy Callender, Thompson PA

Paul Covert, Madison Twp. PA

Breit Cuccini, Philadelphia PA

Charles Culnane, Wilmington DE

Chuck Culnane, Hallstead PA

Tom Dematella, Aeolus Brook Twp PA

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Dragwa, Simpson PA

J. Dean Earsly, Hazes City FL

Richard & Linda Eckerson, Scranton PA

William Farber, Carbondale PA

Mary & Thomas Farley, Waymart PA

Dennis Favella, Union Dale PA

Bill & Barbara Feduchak, Blakely PA

Mary Feely, Jenkintown PA

David & Mary Fitzpatrick, Dalton PA

Faith Fleming, Wavelry PA

Jeanne Frank, Clifford Twp PA

Patricia Franks-Evans, Scott Twp. PA

Mike & Paula Freundlich, State Island NY

Don & Kathy Frey, Clifford Twp. PA

Robert & Lynn Furlock, Woodstock, CT

Charles Gillod, Susquehanna PA

Steve & Lisa Gansky, Ringers PA

Laurene Graham & Larry Wilson, Clifford Twp. PA

Francis Graystock, Union Dale PA

Steve & Louise Guscik, Thompson PA

Francis & Julian Halpignys, Thompson PA

Wayne & Janne Hurst, Pleasant Mount PA

Bill & Barbara Helmer, Union Dale PA

Otto Helnick, Tresco PA

Patrick & Ursula Homan, Philadelphia PA

Ann Holmes, Shavertown PA

Lori L. Hubal, Hawley PA

Joe & Kay Imes, Moyfield PA

Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Jordan, Scranton PA

Beverly & David Johnson, Esson Falls NJ

David Kennedy, Moscow PA

John Kessler & Rich Schnur Jr, Afton NY

Joe & Mary McKee, Simpson PA

Martyn Kneeland, Equinunk PA

Allan & Nancy Kobierski, Horseheads PA

James Kuip, Lancaster PA

William & Maureen Kupiec, Union Dale PA

Elanaar Kurysky, Montrose PA

Heather Linde, Olyphant PA

Thelma Lowry, Clifford Twp. PA

James & Katherine MacKenzie, Oxford PA

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Manquist, Wavelry PA

John Marx, Scranton PA

Barbara & Michael Mcdonough, Green Lake PA

Eric & Sharon Milani, Dickson City PA

Keith Miller, Trappe PA

Robert Morgan, Harding PA

Richard & Marcia Murray, Morgantown NJ

Debra Nale, Southwest Harbor ME

Evelyn Pantzar, Forest City PA

Gene Pau, Landing NH

Roy & Vern Paul, Scranton PA

Inger Pearson, Union Dale PA

Dennis Peterson, Lake Ariel PA

James Pelgrino, Jersey PA

Bett Posparska, Binghamton NY

Frank & Donna Pylebick, Susquehanna PA

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**Bridge of Stone**

The Rail-Trail Council is developing historical interpretive signage for the D&H Rail-Trail, adjacent historical properties and railroads. We are now working on a sign for the Erie’s Starrucca Viaduct. The D&H Rail-Trail passes under this magnificent “Bridge of Stone” in Lanesboro. We have a grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region to assist in the cost of the sign. However at our first committee meeting it was decided to increase the size of the sign due to the complexity of its fascinating history. So now we are searching out additional funding.

We plan to erect a two-panel kiosk wayside exhibit, instead of a one-panel exhibit. We probably need to raise another $2,500 to cover the cost of the larger exhibit. Any amount would be welcome. All donors with donations of $100 and up will be engraved on a surrounding patio of bluestone pavers. Endless Mountains Stone Company is donating two bluestone benches that can also be engraved with a donor’s information. We hope to have this project completed by the summer of 2016 and are planning an unveiling and celebration of the viaduct.

Two captions from the proposed wayside exhibit:

“Built by the Erie Railroad in 1847–48, The New York and Erie was the first railroad to connect the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes. It was to stretch 483 miles from Piermont on the Hudson River to Dunkirk on the shores of Lake Erie. Construction took place at various places starting in 1835 at Deposit, New York. The railroad was to remain in New York state entirely, but it was necessary to cross into Pennsylvania two times to avoid difficult terrain.”

“Some 800 men, mostly Irish immigrants, furnished the muscle for the stone masonry work. They resided in a ‘city of tents’ and received about one dollar a day in wages. Work was completed in early November, 1848 and the track was laid by the end of the month.”

Donor levels for Starrucca Viaduct wayside exhibit:

Donors will be recognized on a patio of engraved bluestone pavers covering the interpretive sign:

- **$100** 12" x 12" (3 lines)
- **$200** 12" x 24" (5 lines)
- **$350** 24" x 24" (7 lines)
- **$500** 36" x 24" (10 lines)
- **$1,000** Bluestone bench inscription

Number of letters per line, number of lines and size of letters is determined by block size and will be configured upon request. Please contact the office for a donor’s application.

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**Trains**

In an age where no one sees a train except a freight in rumbling python slither along some superhighway which shares a narrow valley with a river, I find it odd that wherever I stay, whether with friends or strangers, it becomes a dream. Some train’s whistle keeps me awake.

The cars and busses robbed them of their fares. They corralled their passengers in urban corridors. Starved and undernourished, they were on their own. The trains went into hiding and bred in darkness. I think the trains went into hiding and bred in darkness. Starved and undernourished, they cut their losses by cutting loose brakesmen, firemen, and red caboose boys. They cut their losses by cutting loose brakesmen, firemen, and red caboose boys. (I miss those little houses.)

They roared their passengers in urban corridors. They went down the word to little towns and dairy farms that they were on their own. The cars and buses robbed them of their fares. And what is worse, no one seemed to care, for the railroads in their hay day had displayed a haughty air.

Now they’re humble, healing some, breeding more, and now they smile as they go by. Yet I know that they still lack some muscle tone and a bit more rehabilitation, for when they wake me in the night, their whistles still sound like hoarse trombones.

—Christopher Denton
Upcoming Trail Events

Winter is over, or rather, it never really got off the ground. Luckily our Winter Trail Day’s were not a casualty of the unseasonably warm weather! All our events were well attended and when Mother Nature didn’t cooperate snowshoe events became winter hikes. We did have a small window of snow on the trail in time to hold our first “Learn to Cross Country Ski Day.” Here’s what we have in store as the seasons change:

SUNDAY, MAY 29
8 AM: Join us for a bird walk on the D&H Rail Trail with environmental educator, Nancy Wotrich. Spring is a busy time in the bird world. While some are establishing their breeding territories here, others are just passing through on their way to nesting grounds farther north, so both the variety of species and numbers of individuals swells to an annual high. This event will focus on sight identification as well as song, habitat and behavior. The event is limited to 20 people so call or email to sign up early. Bring binoculars!

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
10 AM: Rail Trails 25th Anniversary/Art on the Trail

SATURDAY, JULY 31
10 AM: “Secrets of the D&H” bike ride with the Southern Tier Bike Club. The ride starts on the Union Dale Trailhead with a brief history of the D&H Railroad before heading out on the trail for an interpretive bike ride. Take a bike ride back in time when mining, processing and transportation of coal fueled the economy of our region.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
10 AM: “Secrets of the D&H” hike. This summer we discover secret areas on the northern end of our trail. Details TBA.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
9 AM: The 9th annual D&H Distance Run/5K. The weather is finally looking like spring so dust off those running shoes and start training for the 2016 D&H Distance Run/5K. This half marathon/5K is RTC’s major fund raiser and 100% of the proceeds go to trail maintenance and improvements. It takes a small army of volunteers to make the race a success so if you would like to volunteer or become a sponsor please contact the Rail-Trail Office. You can register online at GetMeRegistered.com, dhdistancerun.com or our website.

Quilt Raffle
Thanks to Rail-Trail member Linda Leber you have a chance to win this beautiful handmade quilt! Linda donated the quilt entitled “Pennsylvania Keystone” in celebration of our 25th anniversary! The quilt measures 80” by 93” and would look beautiful on a full/queen bed or as a wall hanging. This, along with other great prizes, will be raffled off at our 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 25. Tickets are $1 and all proceeds will benefit the trail. See enclosed flyer.

Engineering & Design Grant
The Rail-Trail Council has received a grant award from PA DCNR’s Community Conservation Partnership Program to design and engineer trail improvements on our northern section of D&H from Stevens Point to the NY border. This section was purchased separately from the 32-mile D&H and has no design work. It includes a one-mile spur from Jefferson Junction to the active rail that crosses the Starrucca Viaduct and the 6-mile section to the border. We hope to have the plans ready to go for the next Transportation Alternatives Program application in two years.

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

☐ Lifetime/Founding $500  ☐ I am available for trail cleanups.
☐ Patron/Sponsor $250  ☐ Call me to discuss a corporate donation.
☐ Club/Organization $100  ☐ I am interested in finding out more about the “Trail Tender” program.
☐ Family $35  ☐ Send my newsletter electronically (instead of by mail) to: ____________________________
☐ Individual $20  ☐ Send me a brochure.
☐ Senior/Student $15

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

DONATIONS
In memory of Sandy Christiansen
Dave & Eva Christiansen
In memory of Mary Prezelski
Patricia Prezelski
In honor of James Gavin
Matthew Hurford
In honor of Dave Horner
William & Randa Sutch
Gerald & Kathleen Franceski, Union Dale PA
Mark Walsh, East Stroudsburg PA
PJM Corp., Matching donation of Francis Barrett

STARRUCCA HISTORICAL SIGN PROJECT
Roy & Vee Paul, Scranton PA
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, Scranton PA

Patron/Sponsor $250
Individual $20
Family $35
Club/Organization $100
Lifetime/Founding $500
Senior/Student $15
Trail Tender Meeting

Who are Trail Tenders? They are ordinary people who volunteer their time to maintain and enhance sections of the D&H and Endless Mountain Trails. Our spring Trail Tender meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 15 at 3 PM. If you are interested in joining this growing volunteer program please join us. Becoming a Trail Tender is easy and you can choose your level of involvement.

A big THANK YOU to our Trail Tender volunteers who have donated over 30 hours of community service this year alone.

Spring Trail Cleanup

Saturday, April 25 & Sunday, April 26, 9 AM

In 2015, volunteers from around the state collected over 6 million pounds of trash from Pennsylvania's landscape to keep our communities clean and beautiful. This year Rail-Trail Council will partner with “Friends of the Starrucca Creek” in their efforts to clean up the D&H Rail-Trail in the Melrose Area. The group won a 2015 Environmental Partnership Award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for their extraordinary work in cleaning up the Starrucca Creek, Lanesboro and other northern trail areas. Volunteers meet, rain or shine, where Melrose Road crosses the D&H Rail-Trail. Cleanup supplies will be provided as will lunch and dinner! Volunteers are welcome one or both days. GPS coordinates to the site: 41.929147–75.507154

Check out our new promotional video: www.nepa-rail-trails.org