**NEW LIFETIME MEMBER**

Jim Tighe & Family, Browndale, PA

**NEW MEMBERS**

Senator Lisa Baker, Dallas, PA
Cheryl & Randall C Blauvelt, Westwood, NJ
Joe & Chris Brophy, Scott Twp, PA
Joann Clemon, Union Dale, PA
Tom & Lori Eshelman, Union Dale, PA
Judith Getzula, Carbondale, PA
Mike & Joanne Gozycki, Larksville, PA
Daniel Miller, Scottsville, KY
Thomas J Murphy, Windsor, NY
Joseph Prula, Covington Twp, PA
Gino Setta, Thompson, PA
Sharon Seymour
Jon A Thomas, Clarks Green, PA
Kimberly & Michael Walter, Simpson, PA

**RENEWING MEMBERS**

Bruce E Adams, Lancaster, PA
Bruce & Eileen Baessler, Montrose, PA
Joseph A Blaskiewicz, Honesdale, PA
Peter & Carol Borick, Bemick, PA
F Warren & Carol Brog Jr, Dalton, PA
Stephen Bruno, New Milford, PA
Keith & Theresa Buhl, Railway, NJ
Erin Debish, Clifford Twp, PA
Tiffany Debish, Bwoodale, PA
Robert Dietz, Bradley, CA
Ed Giombetti, Jessup, PA
Robert dietz, Bradley, CA
Tiffany Debish, Browndale, PA
Sylvia Ritten, Hono, PA
Robert Hunter, Union Dale, PA
Bill & Marilyn Hiller, South Canaan, PA
Sylvia Ritten, Hono, PA
Neil Jordan, Union Dale, PA
David Kennedy, Covington Twp, PA
Delores Kownaski, Dickson City, PA
Richard Lane, Woodbridge, NJ
Joy & Mickey Langford, Bradford, PA
Gary Lippi, Carbondale, PA
Mano & Rochelle Lemait, Philadelphia, PA
Michael McCambridge, Thornton, PA
John Morris, Simpson, PA
Walter & Pamela Mosher, Forest City, PA
Lawrence Mower, Poyntelle, PA
Edward & Gladys Pantzar, Vandling, PA
Evelyn Pantzar, Forest City, PA
Roy & Vee Paul, Stranton, PA
Joseph & Marjorie Pavlovich, Waymart, PA
Vincent Pepe, Exeter, PA
Mark & Joan Reading, Union Dale, PA
Fred Romic, Adamsown, PA
Tom & Cathy Schuyler, Easton, PA
Martin & Carol Schuyler, Springtown, PA
Edmund R Skarbez, Browndale, PA
Michelle Smith, Covington Twp, PA
Joe Spitzer, Jefferson Twp, PA
Joanne & Charles Stetz, Waverly Twp, PA
Lawrence & Sandra Taylor, Waverly Twp, PA
John Thompson, Dickson City, PA
Janet & Anthony Tocci, Union Dale, PA
Mark Whalen, Binghamton, NY
Mark Whalen, Binghamton, NY
Walt & Jay West, Warington, PA
Susan & Jeff Whiter, Susquehanna, PA
Joseph & Debra White, Susquehanna, PA
Joy Zazzera, Carbondale, PA

**DONATIONS**

D&H Caboose Restoration
Daniel Miller, Scottsville, KY
Edmund R. Skarbez, Browndale, PA
Mark Whalen, Binghamton, NY
Joy Zazzera, Carbondale, PA

**MEMORIAL DONATION**

Nancy Ross in memory of Andrew Crowler and Bill Urbans’ mother

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**Trail Construction Updates**

**Simpson to Union Dale**
Trail restoration work is proceeding from the south at Morse Avenue in Simpson, working north towards Forest City. Restoration includes digging out the swales (ditches) to the newly installed crosspipes, trail grading and resurfacing. The proposed schedule for trail completion to Forest City is by the end of July, in time for the Forest City Trail Town Festival (August 4). Trail activities will use the trail from Forest City south. Trail restoration to Union Dale is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

**Herrick to Ararat**
Trail improvements are well underway from Herrick at SR 374 to Ararat Road, about 6.5 miles to the north. Additional drainage pipes were replaced, especially in the area around Hathaway and Romobe Lakes. The project is proposed to be completed by mid-August. When both projects are complete, there will be 20 miles of continuous improved trail from Carbondale to Ararat!

**Lanesboro Bridge**
A DCNR grant was awarded to deck the railroad bridge over the Starrucca Creek, near Luciana Park. The design, engineering and bid documents are underway and we plan to have it completed by the end of this year.

**Trail Maintenance**
A number of trail maintenance projects are underway in the Thompson area. Culvert repairs and drainage swale cleanouts are on our to-do list.
The Forest City area in the 1860’s was densely covered with stately hemlocks. Lumbering attracted settlers to the area as there was a need for loggers and bark peelers—hemlock bark being used to produce tannic acid, for tanning hides for leather goods. In 1864, William Pentecost and his family moved from the Prompton area to conduct an extensive lumbering business. He purchased the standing hemlock on the D&H Canal Company tract. The D&H had purchased much land in the 3 county area around 1857 or earlier for lumbering and had erected mills along the Lackawanna River. One early D&H mill was at the outlet from Stillwater; another mill was located near ‘Castle Garden’ Browndale. The area at this time was known as Forest Mills. William Pentecost later operated the Castle Garden mill and was said to begin digging coal in the area to supply local needs.

It wasn’t until the Jefferson Branch of the Erie Railroad (built with D&H backing) was being built in 1869 that large outcrops of coal were discovered. Railroading and coal mining are perhaps the two factors that led to the growth of Pentecost, later named Forest Mills (1886).

The Hillside Coal & Iron Company, owned by the Erie Railroad, purchased large tracts of land and established the first commercially profitable coal mining enterprise at North Railroad Street. A small breaker was erected using timber from the continuing lumbering operations. While this first vein produced little coal, a mining hamlet sprung up—about a dozen buildings owned by Hillside Coal. After fire destroyed this breaker in 1885, the foundation for the Clifford Breaker was laid (near today’s Franceski Lumber Yard & Babe Ruth Park).

The Clifford Colliery had a very productive mine shaft (No. 1) with very pure anthracite found in thick veins. This shaft along with the erection of a breaker using steam power, confirmed hopes that mining would become a permanent business. In 1886, another shaft No. 2 was opened. This brought an influx of miners, mostly Welsh into the area. About 300 men and boys were employed under the direction of Benjamin Maxey (father of PA’s Supreme Court Justice, George W. Maxey). The driving of another shaft near the Clifford breaker in 1889 created a demand for additional mine workers. Miners from Eastern and Southern Europe began arriving in Forest City to fill that demand.

Another large mining operation was the Clinton Colliery, owned by the D&H Railroad. Many remains can be seen off both sides of the trail just south of the FC Trailhead. The supervisor was Abraham Vandling, for whom the town was named. It produced 15.3 million ton of coal during its 50 year lifetime.

The New York, Ontario and Western (O&W through Browndale) also had its share of the coal market. Built in 1888, it had to catch up with and compete with the Erie and the D&H for shipping coal. They were fiercely competitive and in many cases, the O&W had to build bridges over the Erie/D&H tracks without touching their properties. The O&W’s Northwest Branch went over both the Lackawanna River and Erie to get coal from collieries in the Richmondale area. The O&W had many sidings for coal cars just about 1.4 mile north of the trail entrance in Simpson—Northwest Junction.

The Delaware and Hudson had an edge over many of its competitors: it not only owned a number of mines that produced the mineral, but also a transportation system for bringing it to market. These competitive advantages caught the eye of the US government. It was during the Teddy Roosevelt ‘trust-busting’ era, when the Hepburn Act of 1906 banned shipments of coal across state lines by railroads if that coal was produced in railroad-owned mines. A legal loophole allowed a subsidiary, even if wholly owned by the railroad, to mine the coal and ‘sell’ to the railroad for shipment. The D&H Company created the Hudson Coal Company, which was able to ship its coal on the D&H Railroad!

The mining of anthracite coal and its transport over the rails is a fascinating relationship that evolved together and led to the growth of the Forest City area.

Come celebrate our anthracite heritage with us on August 4.
Rail-Trail and Lanesboro Awarded Transportation Grant!

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funds of 1.3 million were recently awarded to improve the D&H Rail-Trail from Brandt to the NY border, about 5 miles. Funds will be administered and construction will be overseen by Penn DOT with Lanesboro, as the municipal sponsor. We hope that trail improvements can begin sometime in 2019. This scenic section is along the Starrucca Creek, passes under the magnificent Starrucca Viaduct and then follows the North Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Thanks to a PA DCNR grant we were able to develop construction documents for this section.

Are You Training? Try a ¼ Marathon!

The D&H Distance Run is September 9, 2018 from the Forest City Trailhead. The Coal Cracker Run on August 4th 8 AM includes a 2 mile or a quarter-marathon (6.55 miles)—the perfect distance to put into your training regimen, before the half! See more information on both races on www.dhdistancerun.org

Check Out Our New Website
www.neparailtrails.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 $35
- Individual $20
- Senior/Student $15

- I am available for trail cleanups.
- Call me to discuss a corporate donation.
- I am interested in finding out more about the “Trail Tender” program.
- Send my newsletter electronically (instead of by mail) to: ____________________________
- Send me a brochure.
- I am willing to volunteer for the D&H Caboose restoration project
- I am enclosing a donation to be used towards the D&H Caboose restoration project

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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
OTHER DONATIONS
Delores Kownaski, Dickson City, PA

D&H DISTANCE RUN
Gold Sponsor ($1,000):
Spring Hill Foundation, Clifford, PA
Silver Sponsor ($500):
Elk Mountain Ski Resort, Union Dale, PA
Linde Corporation, Pittston, PA
Bronze Sponsor ($250):
Michael A Barbetti CPA, LLC, Dunmore, PA
Chef’s Place Inc, Union Dale, PA
Endless Mountains Pharmacy Inc, Clifford, PA
Gerber Assc Real Estate, Clifford Twp, PA
Charles W Grimm Construction Inc, Waymart, PA
JHA Companies, Montrose, PA
Keystone Propane, Trop, PA
LaBella Associates DPC, Dunmore, PA
Thomas J McLane & Associates Inc, Scranton, PA
NEP Telephone Co, Forest City, PA
Lenox Propane, Clifford Twp., PA
Friend of the Trail (under $250):
Fitzsimmons Insurance Agency Inc, Forest City, PA
Franceski Lumber Co Inc, Forest City, PA
Hendrick Manufacturing, Carbondale, PA
Hotel Anthracite, Carbondale, PA
Idlewild Ski Shop, Clifford Twp, PA
Leeard Construction Inc, Honesdale, PA
McGovern Insurance Agency Inc, Carbondale, PA
Mohegan Sun Pocono, Wilkes-Barre, PA
Nikis at the Ben Mar, Carbondale PA
Stilt’s Restaurant Svcs, Scranton, PA
The Beacon, Union Dale, PA

Two Raffles on October 25th!

Quilt Raffle
Thanks to Linda Leber for the beautiful quilt ‘railroad days’–an underground railroad inspired historical quilt.

D&H Distance Run Raffle
Sponsors for our half-marathon contribute a wide variety of merchandise and gift certificates. Tops this year is an Elk Mountains Seasons Pass! Other prizes include gift certificates at area restaurants.

Please renew! The date on the mailing label below indicates when your membership expires. (No date indicates you are receiving a complimentary copy!)