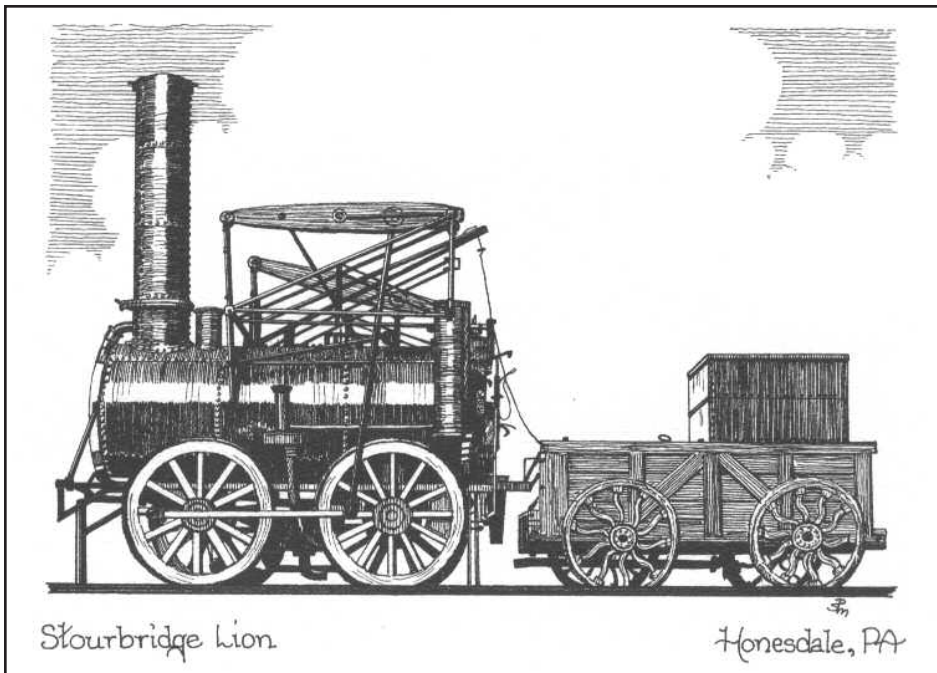


# Rail-Trail News

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania is dedicated to renewing Northeast Pennsylvania's historic pathways as recreational trails for all to enjoy.



## Stourbridge Lion 175th Anniversary

**T**he Stourbridge Lion was the first commercial locomotive to run in America. On August 8, 1829 the trial run began in the vicinity of the present Wayne County Historical Society's Museum, and proceeded north across the Lackawaxen River, then west for about two miles. There in Seelyville it encountered a bridge under which the locomotive's tall smoke stack could not pass. The engine was reversed and returned to its starting place amid the cheers of the people and the booming of a cannon.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, which was chartered six years before, had purchased the Stourbridge Lion, along with three other locomotives in England. The company planned to use these locomotives on level sections of their gravity railroad, which bridged Moosic Mountain between Carbondale and Honesdale. This would provide the final link in the transport of Lackawanna Valley mined coal to New York City. In Honesdale the coal would be transferred to canal boat, make the 108-mile journey to Kingston, NY, and then be transferred again to travel down the Hudson River.

It is not certain when or how many locomotives actually arrived in Honesdale. We do know that the Stourbridge Lion arrived and made its famous run on August 8, 1829. Unfortunately due to the weight of the engine and unstable wooden tracks the plans for its use on the D & H Canal Co. gravity railroad were abandoned.

The Stourbridge Lion was then housed in a local shed and over the years many loose parts were stolen, the company recycled the wrought iron, and the boiler was sold to a Carbondale foundry.

### Summer 2004 Calendar

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JUNE 12

**Pride & Patriotism Day** Waymart Wayside Park, Rte 296. Parade, 11 am. Rail-Trail display on new proposed trail & historical information (11 am–3 pm). Bike Ride 3 pm on proposed trail. Meet at Waymart Elementary School.

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JUNE 19

**Thompson Town Fair** All day activities—Bike ride, parade, crafters, sidewalk sale, food, music, displays. Rail-Trail Bike ride 9 am. Meet at Jefferson Trailside Inn.

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JUNE 24

**RTC Dinner/Meeting** Mountainview Restaurant, Clifford. Dinner available from the menu. All welcome! 6–7 pm

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JULY 22

**RTC Dinner/Meeting** Skip's Pub, Belmont Corners, Pleasant Mount, Rte 371. Dinner available from the menu. All welcome! 6–7 pm

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AUGUST 5, 6, 7

**Forest City Old Home Week** RTC fundraiser: Blueberry & ice cream sundaes. RT merchandise & information.

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AUGUST 7

**D&H – Stourbridge Lion Symposium** Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center, 8 am–3 pm. (\$50) Reservations: 570-253-3240

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AUGUST 7

**“Roar of the Lion” Rail Excursion, BBQ and Play** 4:30–9:30 pm. (\$35) Reservations: 570-253-1960

NO August RTC meeting

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SEPTEMBER 23

**RTC Dinner/Meeting.** TBA

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Jeanne Nicolas, Clarks Summit, PA  
Hennie van der Hengel & Family, Springville, PA  
Chris Turner/Mary Woestman, Montrose, PA  
Tim & Deb O'Brien, Clarks Summit, PA  
Patrick Farley, Waymart, PA  
Sharon & Lester Miller, Etters, PA  
Ted & Pattie Evanish, Jermyn, PA  
Frank & Donna Prybeck & Family, Susquehanna, PA  
Robert Cederquist, Wayne, PA  
John McKinnon, Scranton, PA  
Dr. Sharon Telban, Avoca, PA  
Donna Caputo, Clifford, PA  
Leaping Rabbit Farm Bed & Breakfast,  
Waymart, PA

## RENEWING MEMBERS

Don Holibaugh, Forest City, PA  
Mark Whalen, Binghamton, NY  
Edward M. Maybeck, Pittsford, NY  
Oscar Stone, Thompson, PA  
Tom Rutherford, Harford, PA  
Kathleen Corpuel, Camp Wayne, Preston Park, PA  
Dorothy Walker/Steve Urbanick, Clarks Summit, PA  
Larry G. Mayes, Snow Shoe, PA  
William & Barbara Connor, Union Dale, PA  
Richard Terpstra, Montrose, PA  
Ronald Schimdt, Scranton, PA  
Roy & Vee Pauli, Scranton, PA  
Mary Snyder, Susquehanna, PA  
Stephen Bruno, Hallstead, PA  
Tom & Denise Kavanagh, King of Prussia, PA  
Dr. Ralph Grambo, Poyntelle, PA  
Charles W. Glidden, Susquehanna, PA  
Chuck & Nancy Rood, Hillsborough, NJ  
Tom Galiardo, Macungie, PA  
Maryann Lawson/Robert Grow, Allentown, PA  
Mary Beautz, Forest City, PA  
Alice Breig, Waverly, PA  
Rev. David G. Delzell, Union Dale, PA  
George Bolak, Warminster, PA  
Steve & Cindy Reed, Honesdale, PA  
Evan Romer/Mary Sweeney, Windsor, NY  
James P. & Louise S. Watson, Union Dale, PA  
Maureen Brennan/Gary Piorkowski, Mayfield, PA  
John J. Quinn, Randolph, NJ  
Alma Lavin, Carbondale, PA  
G. B. & Kathy Franceski, Union Dale, PA  
Raymond Archibald, Scranton, PA  
Fred Sanders, Susquehanna, PA  
Gail Barna, Waymart, PA  
Mike & Paula Freundlich, Staten Island, NY  
Irene & A.J. Mecca, Simpson, PA

The Smithsonian Institution acquired various parts of the locomotive beginning in 1888 and exhibited the reassembled and recreated parts in their National Museum of American History in Washington, D C. Recently, it was moved to the B & O Museum in Baltimore, MD.

During the twentieth century the Stourbridge Lion locomotive has become a symbol of local heritage and renderings recently have been incorporated into many organizations' logos. As the one hundredth anniversary of its running was nearing, Honesdale began plans for a grand celebration as did the now Delaware & Hudson Company. The company obtained blue prints from England and a near exact replica was constructed. Since 1993 this replica has been on permanent exhibit at the Wayne County Historical Society's Museum in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. (Taken from the Web site of the Wayne County Historical Society at waynehistorypa.org)

August 8, 2004 is the 175th anniversary of the Stourbridge Lion's first trial run.

## 175th Anniversary of the Running of Stourbridge Lion, 1829-2004

**Symposium: August 7, 2004, 8:00 am-3 pm, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center, Mayfield. Registration Fee: \$50.**

**570-253-3240 or wchs@ptd.net**  
Topics include Stourbridge Lion history, the D&H Gravity Railroad and Canal and Roebling Aqueducts, Overview of Anthracite Mining, the 1846 Carbondale Mine Disaster, the 'America' Controversy and more.

**Rail Excursion, Barbeque and Play, \$35. 4:30-9:30 pm.** Reservations, Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, 570-253-1960. Stourbridge Lion "Roar of the Lion" Rail excursion to Lackawaxen, PA. A picnic, featuring the Red Schoolhouse's famous chicken barbecue, will be served. Following the barbecue, a short vignette by the Ritz Company Players, titled *Train of Thought—A Lion's Share of Pride*, will bring to life the historic events of 175 years ago.

## Trail Guide Ads Wanted

Our D&H trail guide is scheduled for reprinting this Fall 2004. It will coincide with upcoming trail improvements that will include the ten-mile resurfaced trail section from Forest City to Herrick Center.

The Council is soliciting business-card-size ads from trail-side or trail-related businesses that would like to advertise. Your business can claim a spot in your section of trail or on the general information pages. We will add a legend to each map of approximate places the trail businesses may be found.

The guide is similar to a 'trip-tic' and includes general trail info, directions, and etiquette tips. Each of eight sections of trail has its' own page with map and pertinent information. The guide has been a big hit to date and is small enough to be carried in a pocket or fanny pack while using the trail.

Due to the size of the guide, the business card size is all we can use.

The cost of the business card size ad (3.5" x 2.0") would be \$25 per printing. It has been our past experience that the guide is reprinted every 2 to 3 years. This would offset our printing costs and get your ad into the hands of the ever-growing number of trail users.

We sell the guides for \$2, which we believe is reasonable and gives them some value so as not to be thrown out or littered on the trail. You will receive five guides with your paid trail guide advertisement. If you wish additional copies, we can send you the first ten for \$10, then \$2 for additional copies.

Please send your business card ad to the Rail-Trail office with a payment of \$25 by September 1, 2004. Questions? Call the office at 785-7245.

# Thompson Town Fair

Thompson will hold their second annual Town Fair on Saturday, June 19th with all day activities. The Rail-Trail will sponsor a bike ride for all levels (different mileage options) at 9 am. Meet at the Jefferson Trailside Inn.

There will be a parade at 11 am and music all day with a dance at 6 PM in Freedom Hall. There will be crafts, vendors, yard sales, bake sales, sidewalk sales & specials at area businesses. The Endless Mountains Cruisers will be on display as well as magic shows, and karate demonstrations. A variety of foods will be available: a chicken BBQ at noon (Hobbs), hamburgs, hot dogs & more (local Crimewatch), pizza & wings (Thompson Hose) and Rooney's ice cream.



## Thought You'd Never Ask!

*Just a quick taste of the fascinating history of the Stourbridge Lion. Come to the symposium to learn more!*

### **What is the relationship of the D&H Gravity Railroad to the present D&H Rail-Trail?**

The Delaware & Hudson Gravity Railroad (1829-1899) was designed as a more practical means of hauling coal over the Moosic Mountains than horse-drawn sleds and wagons. Extending around sixteen miles from the mine-fields in Carbondale to the D&H Canal in Honesdale, the Gravity utilized a series of inclined planes, where stationery steam engines pulled the coal-filled cars up the incline. Gravity then enabled the cars to roll down the level to the next plane. At first chains, then ropes and finally steel cables (developed by John Roebling) pulled the cars up the original eight planes (extended to 28 planes). The Gravity was extended down the Valley between 1843 and 1860 (Archbald, Mayfield, Jermyn, Olyphant, Scranton). Other improvements to the Gravity included a separate light track for the return of empty cars from Honesdale to Carbondale and down valley.

Although built for transport of anthracite, the Gravity became a passenger excursion line (1870), especially on Sundays for picnicing at Farview or for the park at Lake LaDore. Cars were entirely open, similar to a flat car with a roof. The seats were long benches across the car. The most exciting part of the trip was the

descent around Shephard's Crook down the mountain back to Carbondale.

The Gravity was replaced by steam engine technology beginning in 1870 and continued until 1899 when gravity tracks were completely converted over to steam. A new and more efficient means of transporting anthracite was sought that would operate year-round, since the canals froze in winter. The 37 mile Jefferson Branch was proposed from Carbondale to Lanesboro. This would replace the D&H Gravity and the Canal system.

### **Are there remnants of the D&H Gravity or Steamline between Carbondale and Honesdale?**

Yes! Inclined planes, bridges, abutments, dams, and miles of railbed (gravity-light & heavy beds, steam beds) exist. Gravity Park in Carbondale, Shephard's Crook, Stone Arch Bridge at Keen's Pond, Swackhammers' Loop, and many more.

### **Are there any plans to develop any of the Gravity railroad sections into rail-trails?**

Yes! The RTC is still working to find funds to reconnect the D&H Honesdale Branch (steamline) around the new Federal Prison at Waymart. Design and engineering plans are complete for a 'Canaan Township Connection Trail' of about two miles. This reconnection will enable further development of trails over the Moosic Mountains into Carbondale, or a connection to the O&W Rail-Trail near Simpson.

Robert Strong, Susquehanna, PA  
William V. Burke, Moscow, PA  
Keith W. Raser, Shohola, PA  
Ed & Gladys Pantzar, Vandling, PA  
Donald E. Chapman, Lake Ariel, PA  
Rita & Peter Macheska, Simpson, PA  
Frank Zebrowski, Waymart, PA  
"Big Ed" Michalski, Archbald, PA  
Cathy Stevens, Doylestown, PA  
Thelma Lowry, Forest City, PA  
Frank D. Stankus, Forest City, PA  
Bob Young & Family, Moscow, PA  
Blanche Spielman, Starrucca, PA  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence A. Noonan, Malvern, PA  
William G. Kaufman, Carbondale, PA  
Tim & Janet Tedesco, Oakland, NJ  
Hayden & Joan Samuel, Union Dale, PA  
Pat Mulcare, Waymart, PA  
Mari & John Doherty, Waverly, PA  
Ernest & Joann Heller, Parkridge, NJ  
Max & Geri Tow, Deposit, PA  
The Honorable Sandra J. Major, Montrose, PA  
William I. Pentecost, Clarks Green, PA  
Gunvor T. Handeland, Princeton, NJ  
John Blodnikar, Browndale, PA  
Scott & Melinda Quigg, Montrose, PA  
Felix & Mary Prezelski, Forest City, PA  
Joyce & Mike Petronchak, Jr., Eynon, PA  
Linda & Robert Gilchrist, Lake Como, PA  
Bob Wagner, Simpson, PA  
Lizanne Krivda, New Paltz, NY  
John J. McAndrews, Sr., Carbondale, PA  
John & Lisa DeMark, Vandling, PA  
Leonard & Betty Coddington, Dingmans Ferry, PA  
Judy & Mickey Langsfeld, Meadowbrook, PA  
Mary Hadley, Browndale, PA  
Fred & Rose DeFeo, Starlight, PA  
Joyce & Stan Wierzbicki, Greenfield Twp., PA  
Barbara & Joseph Alinoski, Olyphant, PA  
Frank & Barbara Piotrowski, Forest City, PA  
Donald E. Smith, Bethlehem, PA  
Raymond Brown, Thompson, PA  
Dwight Spencer McBain, Honesdale, PA  
Beth Evans, Thompson, PA  
Marilyn Kneeland, Equinunk, PA  
Glenn Smith, Dunmore, PA  
Louise Guanzini Roney, Starrucca, PA  
Robert Tedesco, Union Dale, PA

### **MATCHING GIFTS**

Prudential Foundation/Max Martinez  
Johanna Bizub Schmidt

## Thanks Girl Scouts!

The Clifford Girl Scout Cadette Troop 281 organized and conducted a very successful trash pick-up along the D&H Rail-Trail in Union Dale and Forest City north. The effort was part of the Great PA Cleanup on April 24th. Over 500 groups took part in this statewide effort supporting Earth Day. The Cadettes advertised with posters, put out press releases, arranged for gloves, & trash bags through PA DOT, and also arranged for the trash to be picked-up. Their efforts brought out 18 volunteers for a successful clean-up day. Thanks to Cadettes: Nancy Acker, Elizabeth Haley, Valerie Maciuska, and Bethany Zablonksy.

## Restoring the Canaan Township Trail

The Rail-Trail Council continues to gather support for the proposed 'reconnection trail' around the new federal penitentiary at Waymart. Two historical panels have been received from Bureau of Prison's consultants as part of the mitigation procedures. One outlines the Delaware & Hudson Railroad's Honesdale Branch, where the major part of the trail will be. There is also an excellent new monograph that was developed by the consultant covering the history of this steamline as well as the Gravity Railroad. This book is available for \$5 through the Waymart Historical Society or the Rail-Trail Council. The other historical panel

deals with the fascinating history of the Farview State Hospital Agricultural Complex. Both of these interpretive panels will be displayed in appropriate places along the trail.

## Wanted

Wanted by the Waymart Historical Society: Wooden beam 30 feet in length or longer. It should be 16 inches deep by about 9 inches wide or close to these dimensions. Probably such beams exist if a barn or old building has been torn down. Call RTC office at 785-7245.

## Membership Renewal Form

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime/Founding \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Call me to discuss a corporate donation.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Sponsor \$250    | <input type="checkbox"/> Our group would like a slide presentation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club/Organization \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am available for trail cleanups.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25             | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a new RTC brochure.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15         |   |

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](mailto:tccrail@epix.net)

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