

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.



D&H Rail-Trail Grand Opening September 23

**Ten Miles of D&H Trail
Finally Completed**

Finally after several delays, the first ten miles of the D&H Rail-Trail is ready for an onslaught of bikers, runners and hikers. The construction began back in October of 2005, with brush clearing and ditch cleaning. Work continued in the spring, with all drainage improvements complete when the torrential rains hit June 26th —about 12 inches in a little over 2 days. It was fortunate that the new surface was not put down yet, as we would have lost much more. Work stopped until damage could be assessed and additional work approved. New crosspipes were added along with all eroded sections filled in.

This ten-mile section is now in very good condition. The new trail surface is great—4 inches of AASHTO#10 or stone dust. It's great for running, smooth & slightly yielding, but doesn't mark. Some have even used road bikes, without problem. The gates are scheduled to be installed by mid-September along with some fencing and regulatory signage. We are also improving the parking-trailhead area in Forest City, and encourage all to use this trail access point. From Forest City you can bike, run or walk 2 miles south (downgrade) to where improvements end at gate. You'll follow the Lackawanna River, crossing over the 'black bridge' with a concrete deck. Further south, are landowner issues, which we continue to work on, so that we may bring the trail improvements to Simpson and Carbondale in the near future.

From Forest City, you can go north for about 8 miles of improved trail (flat with a slight upgrade) to Herrick Center at the Route 374 crossing. You'll pass from anthracite spoils into unspoiled countryside, with the Lackawanna River on the east, crossing over 2 river bridges. Stillwater Dam, an Army Corp flood control will be visible. You'll pass through Union Dale, where there is a historical sign in a small trailside park, next to Cable's Store. The improved surface ends at two miles past Union Dale. Work was also completed on Route 374 to help increase the sight distance for crossing this road.

C

SEPTEMBER 23

Rail-Trail Ribbon-cutting 9:30 am,
Forest City Trailhead,
Route 247,
Industrial Park.
See full schedule
on page 2.

A

SEPTEMBER 28

**Rail-Trail Dinner/
Meeting** All welcome!
Lake Lorain
Restaurant. 6 pm
dinner, 7 pm meeting

L

E

OCTOBER 7-8

**Elk Mountain
Octoberfest**
RT booth, info,
merchandise, snow-
mobile raffle. Bike
rides, Sunday 10 am,
meet in upper lot.

N

D

OCTOBER 26

**Rail-Trail Dinner/
Meetin** All welcome!
Beacon Restaurant,
Union Dale. 6 pm
dinner, 7 pm meeting

A

NOVEMBER 16

**Rail-Trail Dinner/
Meeting** All welcome!
Frank's Restaurant,
Simpson. 6 pm
dinner, 7 pm meeting

R

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth W. Meyers, Dingman's Ferry, PA
Donald & Roberts Whitney, Edmond, OK
Mike Guzzi, Olyphant, PA
Donna Cole, Binghamton, NY
Richard Giavedoni, Thompson, PA

RENEWING MEMBERS, MAY–AUGUST 2006

Jim Clayton, Thompson, PA
William & Barbara Connor, Union Dale, PA
Veronica Macheck, Pleasant Mount, PA
Marian Franceski, Forest City, PA
Ed & Florence Decker, Clifford, PA
Christina H. Fehlner, Moscow, PA
Howard & Lenore Tonkin, Carbondale, PA
Cathy & Bob Guzzi, Clarks Summit, PA
Mark Dorish, Simpson, PA
Peter & Rita Macheska, Simpson, PA
James Hill, Waymart, PA
Mary Felley, Dalton, PA
Donald E. Welsch, Scranton, PA
Edward Giombetti, Jessup, PA
Joyce Holmes, Clarks Summit, PA
Donna Murphy, Union Dale, PA
Frank Zebrowski, Waymart, PA
Kielty & RJ Turner Family, Union Dale, PA
Bob Wagner, Simpson, PA
Alice Breig, Waverly, PA
Fred Lally & Myrna Lemke, Nicholson, PA
John & Sandra Kugler, Springtown, PA
John, Susan & Melissa Short, Waymart, PA
James & Lucille McKane, Archbald, PA
Tom Mizianty, Waymart, PA
Rolin Tingley, New Milford, PA
Robert Dietz, Forest City, PA
Robert Burshnick, Forest City, PA
John & Susan Sheerin, Olyphant, PA
Lyle & Marge Cunningham, South Gibson, PA
Steve & Meg Suraci, Union Dale, PA
Felix & Mary Prezelsky, Forest City, PA
Michael Bernarsky, Simpson, PA
Carole Motsko, Thompson, PA
Daniel P. Hanlon, Pleasant Mt., PA
Shirley R. Leslie, White Mills, PA
Edward & Gladys Pantzar, Vandling, PA
Donna Caputo, Clifford, PA
Frank D. Stankus, Forest City, PA
Billy Culnane, Susquehanna, PA
Ruth A. Pranzitelli, Waymart, PA
Frank M. Lewis, Clifford, PA
Peter & Marion Borick, Herrick Center, PA
F. Warren Breig, Jr. & Carol Fells, Dalton, PA
James & Linda Proctor, Union Dale, PA
Eugene & Janet Warden, The Villages, FL
Christopher Egolf & Pegram Johnson, Wayne, PA
Irene Jankowski, Scranton, PA
Romaine Roman, Scranton, PA
Fred W. Schultz, Washington Crossing, PA
Lori L Hubal, Thompson, PA
Wade & Gail Rendle, Nicholson, PA
Father John J. King, Starrucca, PA
Harry & Elaine Aumack, Thompson, PA
Charles Culnane, Wilmington, DE
Pat & Joe Narciso, Thompson, PA
Ed Chaplin / Susan Ensley, Starrucca, PA
Fred Went, Ambler, PA
Robert G. & Lynn M. Frink, Woodstock, CT
Bonnie & Tad Bartkowski, Villanova, PA
Andy Baron / Joan Carey, LaPlume, PA
Mary Ann Nichols, Clarks Green, PA

D&H Rail-Trail Grand Opening Schedule of Events

A ribbon-cutting celebration for the first ten miles of improved trail will take place at 9:30 am with speeches by trail partners and RTC president. A special announcement by Congressman Don Sherwood is expected related to Northeast Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry grant dollars for both Forest City Borough and the D&H Rail-Trail. Trail partners include PennDOT District 4.0 and Pa Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. Refreshments will be donated by Arora & Associates, trail engineering & design firm.

The trail opening will also be a PANA (Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition & Activity) event. The Lackawanna County chapter, who is developing a brochure of all trails in the area, will be present with nutritional and healthy lifestyle information. Healthy snacks will be available for purchase; water is free, thanks to Pennsylvania American Water Company.

Around 10 am will be bike rides for all ages & abilities. The Council would like to see as many bikers as possible hit the trail. Those who wish to bike with a group are welcome to join one of three groups by ability & distance. All groups will review trail etiquette guidelines and be eligible to win prizes. Families with kids are encouraged for a safe, easy biking experience.

At 11 am, walking groups will depart to the south for walks of various lengths. Stretching & breathing will be emphasized.

At 12 noon a leisurely 'walk & talk' will also be held discussing railroad and mining history, taking a look at historical remnants and environmental consequences.

At the tent, we'll have RT info and merchandise, a new brochure and healthy snacks for sale. Visit tables for information on healthy lifestyles by Penn State Cooperative Extension (free trail mix!) and CMC Community Health Education. Sign in and receive a raffle ticket for various prizes; you'll also receive tickets following participation in events. Sign up for walking or biking groups to continue throughout the Fall at various times.



Grants Will Bring Trail Improvements to Thompson

The Council received notice of another Transportation Enhancement grant for Phase II trail improvements from Herrick to Thompson, of about 11 miles. Matching construction funds were also announced by PA DCNR. Plans are being reviewed and reformatted for the bid process, which should go to bid by mid-year 2007. Again, extensive drainage improvements are needed, with culverts in need of opening, cleaning and relining with stone. Brush will need to be cut and the trail graded to ensure drainage towards the sides. Resurfacing with stone dust will occur with gates, fencing and other amenities. Ramps in the Ararat and Thompson area will be regraded with much fill brought in. A parking and trailhead area will be established in Thompson.



12 Inches of Rain!

The June floods caused around \$35,000 of damages to 10 miles of D&H trail in the Forest City area. Other sections are still being assessed for damage and anyone who would like to volunteer their time to record eroded areas on trail maps is welcome to call the office. We are also asking members with machinery to assist in the repair of damaged sections.

Mary & Tom Farley, Waymart, PA
 William Mamber, Lakewood, PA
 Paula Freundlich, Staten Island, NY
 Timothy, Christine & Jack Shean, Scranton, PA
 Lackawanna Bicycle Club, Dunmore, PA
 Buatti Family, Bartonsville, PA
 Kyle & Christina Burak, Peckville, PA
 David & Nadine Hogan, Binghamton, NY
 Ned & Sylvia Holteen, Ft Washington, PA
 John Price, Carbondale, PA
 Judy & Mickey Langsfeld, Meadowbrook, PA
 Gunvor T. Handeland, Princeton, NJ
 Edward M. Maybeck, Pittsford, NY
 Abby Peck, Waverly, PA
 John & Georgia Overholtzer, Telford, PA
 George & Michele Kelly, Germantown, PA
 Gail Barna, South Canaan, PA
 Bill & Romayne Kerl, Simpson, PA
 Jon Villaume, Narbeth, PA
 Gail Mardfin, Bernardsville, NJ
 Jane Tighe, Prospect Park, PA
 Cathy Stevens, Doylestown, PA
 Joann Puskarcik & Roy Morsch, Starlight, PA
 Tom & Carol Frost, Accomac, VA
 Ben Terry, Pleasant Mt, PA
 David S. Heim, West Islip, NY
 Frank & Marney Roia, Thompson, PA
 Jim & Eleanor Curran, Brooklyn, NY
 Ed Michalski, Archbald, PA
 Roy & Vee Pauli, Scranton, PA
 Maureen Brennan, Mayfield, PA
 Carl, Ann & Dan Arabia, Lincroft, NJ
 Kathy & Bob Shostek, Union Dale, PA
 Ed Timinkas, Mechanicsburg, PA
 George Wagner, Avoca, PA
 Delores Kownaski, Dickson City, PA
 Beth Gallagher, Scranton, PA
 Mary Jo Hart, Brackney, PA
 Alan Highhouse Family, Honesdale, PA
 Marge & George Balunas, Herrick Center, PA
 Barbara Erhard, Moscow, PA
 John Bruns, Susquehanna, PA
 Marilyn Kneeland, Equinunk, PA
 William Polney, Wapwallopen, PA
 Jack Fries, Vandling, PA
 Don Holibaugh, Forest City, PA
 Tim Reilly, Kingston, PA

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"/> Donation for Memorial Tree Fund. |
| <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"/> Our group would like a slide presentation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am available for trail cleanups. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a new RTC brochure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$10 | |

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: tcrcrail@epix.net

Bill Keller, Clarks Summit, PA
 Bill & Alice Burrell, Carbondale, PA
 Ken & Lynn Potts, Ft. Washington, PA
 Dennis Stedenfeld, Thompson, PA
 Joe & Harriet Moore, Gladwyne, PA
 Otto & Doris Hetrick, Trevoze, PA
 Tom DeMatteo, Moscow, PA
 Thelma Lowery, Forest City, PA
 Tri-County Sportsman's Association, Carbondale, PA
 Mary & Carl Pucul, Vandling, PA
 Ruth Jones, Forest City, PA
 Galli Podboy, Browndale, PA
 Mary F. Beautz, Forest City, PA
 Dan & Diane Kimberly, Susquehanna, PA
 Howard & Jill Fragin, Clarks Green, PA
 Michael & Janet Bischak, Nutley, NJ
 Lou & Rose Orehek, Vandling, PA
 John Gebert, Lake Ariel, PA
 Frank R. Currier, Keyport, NJ
 Stephen Voyce, Simpson, PA
 Steve & Cindy Reed, Honesdale, PA
 Joseph V. Pavlovich, Waymart, PA
 Alphonse Chesnick, Kearny, NJ
 Robert Monroe, Somerville, NJ
 Robert Dannecker, Owego, NY
 M/M Robert W. Sanderson, Limekiln, PA
 Delores Sembrat, Olyphant, PA
 Norma Ebner, Plainsboro, NJ
 Lewis C. Druffner, Avoca, PA
 Charles W. Glidden, Susquehanna, PA
 Jeffrey O'Hara, Carbondale, PA
 Mark Silfee & Jean Shinn, Union Dale, PA
 Mary Ann Thomas, Newtown Square, PA
 G. David Wagner & Patricia Sperling, Moscow, PA
 Mark Walsh, Highland Lakes, NJ
 Don & Karen Kintzer, Orinda, CA
 Robert Marx, Union Dale, PA
 Clinton Leet, Honesdale, PA

DONATIONS

NEP Sno-Trails (towards new copier)
 Nancy Ross in honor of the 50th Wedding
 Anniversary of Marilyn & Richard MacDowell
 Richard & Sally Marquardt

Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA
 P.O. Box 123
 Forest City, PA 18421-0123
 tccrail@epix.net

Thank You!

Thank you to Leeward Construction who saw us through our 1st construction project and flooding issues with expertise & understanding!

Thanks also to PennDOT inspectors, Joe Salak and Don Sutton for their oversight, advice & assistance.

New Brochure

New D&H and O&W Rail-Trail Brochure available! Ask for one when you renew or join.

New Groups Forming

Stop by on September 23 or call the office to join a walking or biking group. Groups will form at various times as per your request (785-7245).

Armchair Tour

For an armchair tour of the D&H and its remnants (and other nearby railbeds), see www.nepaview.piczo.com. It's a great website, thanks to member Mike Guzzi.

Memorial Tree Fund

Thanks to all who have been donating to the Memorial Tree Fund. A planting of memorial oaks will take place in the Spring of 2007 near the Forest City Trailhead. We are still accepting donations! Watch for details.

Wanted

A pickup truck for trail maintenance, running condition. Letter of donation will be given for tax purposes.

D&H Rail-Trail Grand-Opening

September 23rd, 9:30 am
 Forest City Trailhead
 Route 247, Industrial Park
 Ribbon-Cutting, Trail Activities

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 10
 Forest City, PA