

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.

Open House



Come and see us at the new Rail-Trail office at Cable's Store, Union Dale on Saturday, June 19th. We will start the day with a nature walk along the trail and along the stream at 9 am. The open house will be from 11 am to 2 pm with complimentary coffee and ice cream. Next door, at Susquehanna Studio from 12 to 4 pm, Bob Stark will show his paintings and pottery and also feature an exhibit of local children's artwork. A bike safety clinic at 11 am will be held for kids ages 7-12, with limited free helmets available. Please register in advance if you need a helmet and would like to attend the class.

We've moved to our new location at Cable's Store, Main Street, Union Dale. Note our new mailing address and phone number: P O Box 32, Union Dale, PA 18470, 570-679-9300

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Bob & Ethel Breuche

NEW MEMBERS

Lee & Barbara Brown
 Robert & Judith Celli, Devon, PA
 Ralph Kirsch, Susquehanna, PA
 Joel Levy, Hallstead, PA
 Art and Sheila Inden, Wilmington, DE
 Matthew Schaefer, Endwell, NY
 Lorraine Vitris, Moosic, PA
 Richard Weiner, Manhattan Beach, CA

RENEWING MEMBERS

Margaret Jordan, Union Dale, PA
 Roy Kallinen, Jr, Media, PA
 Jim Kasten, Hallstead, PA
 Ernest Keller, Clarks Green, PA
 Nancy Kelly, South Gibson, PA
 Don & Karyn Kintzer, Orinda, CA
 Harry & Gulay Kiskaddon, Herrick Center, PA
 Jim & Carol Kline, Douglassville, PA
 Marilyn Kneeland, Equinunk, PA
 Brett Koder, Coopersburg, PA
 Richard Kresock, Forest City, PA
 George Krooss, Poyntelle, PA
 Ed Kowaleswski, Forest City, PA
 Liz Krivda, New Paltz, NY
 Joseph Kulinski, Forest City, PA
 Alan, Diane, & Jason Kurlansky, Carbondale, PA
 Eleanor Kurosky, Montrose, PA
 Louis & Linda Kwiatek, Starrucca, PA
 Lackawanna Bicycle Club, Dunmore, PA
 Fred & Myrna Lauy, Nicholson, PA
 Raymond, Linda & Kami Lee, Thompson, PA
 Mr & Mrs Marink Lemut, Philadelphia, PA
 Patrick Leonard, Pleasant Mt, PA
 Kathleen Little, Waymart, PA
 Gene Long, Clarks Green, PA
 Thelma Lowey, Forest City, PA
 Bonnie Lundy, Gladwyne, PA
 Dave & Micki Lukens, Union Dale, PA
 William Mamber, Lakewood, PA
 Richard Marquardt, Waverly, PA
 Bob & Angel Marx, Union Dale, PA
 Mary Masker, Somerville, NJ
 Steve & Lu Matis, Flemington, NJ

C A L E N D A R

APRIL 22
 RTC Dinner/Meeting, Beacon Restaurant, Union Dale. 6/7 pm

APRIL 24
 Great NEPA Cleanup Union Dale D&H Rail-Trail, Ravine cleanout 9 am

MAY 16
 Bike Ride sponsored by New Milford Bike Shop, Bridgewater Trail-Three Lakes Loop, 9 am (at bike shop). A 22-mile mountain bike ride with steep climbs, see www.newmilfordbike.com

MAY 22
 Community Walk, Union Dale, 9 am Cable's Store

MAY 27
 RTC Dinner/Meeting, Candlelight Inn, Herrick Center. 6/7 pm

JUNE 5
 Heritage Explorer Bike Tour, Mellow Park, Blakely

JUNE 12
 Panther Creek Nature Preserve Field Trip, sponsored by the Audubon Society, 10 am. O&W Trailhead, Simpson

JUNE 19
 RTC New Office Open House. All day activities, exhibits, food. Cable's Store and Susquehanna Studio, Union Dale

JUNE 24
 RTC Picnic, Lake Idlewild Pavilion, 6 pm. Hamburgs & hotdogs provided. Bring a salad or dessert.

JULY 22
 RTC Dinner/Meeting, Cozy Corner, Carbondale. 6/7 pm

JULY 25
 Bike Ride sponsored by Cedar Bike Shop, Forest City Trailhead

JULY 31
 Coal Cracker Run, Forest City. Community Bank start 8 am

AUGUST 1
 Stillwater Cliffs Hike, 9 am. Meet at 'yellow gate' off Route 171.

SEPTEMBER 12
 D&H Distance Run, a 1/2 marathon on the trail. 9 am start

OCTOBER 2
 Go Green Bike Tour, Countryside Conservancy. countrysideconservancy.org

Jane & Win Matthews, Union Dale, PA
 Robert & Elaine Menthe, Weathersfield, VT
 Vic & Sharon Milani, Dickson City, PA
 Millett Real Estate, Scranton, PA
 Thomas Mizianty, Waymart, PA
 Will & Pat Acker, Nicholson, PA
 Raymond Archibald, Scranton, PA
 Michael Bahnweg & Grace Gilhooley, Union Dale, PA
 Roger Baldwin, Easton, PA
 Daniel Baron, Honesdale, PA
 Sophie Bartkus, Thompson, PA
 Gerry & Rose Beaudry, Horsham, PA
 Ali Breig, Waverly, PA
 F. Warren Breig & Carol Fells-Breig, Dalton, PA
 John Bruns, Susquehanna, PA
 Richard Burlage, Brooklyn, NY
 David Byman, Clarks Summit, PA
 Joan Carey, LaPlume, PA
 Patricia Cembalest, Clarks Summit, PA
 Francis Chesnick, Utica, NY
 David & Carol Clemens, Hallstead, PA
 James Clayton, Thompson, PA
 Norman Coyle, Lake Ariel, PA
 Elinor Daley, Greenfield Twp, PA
 Thomas DeMatteo, Cable's Store
 Lewis Druffner, Jr., Avoca, PA
 Richard Eckersley, Scranton, PA
 Barbara Erhard, Roaring Brook Twp, PA
 Bill & Barbara Feduchak, Blakely, PA
 Mary Felley, Dalton, PA
 Daniel & Tracy Fenton, Hopewell, NJ
 David & Mary Fitzpatrick, Dalton, PA
 Patricia Fox, Hop Bottom, PA
 Linda Fried, Teaneck, NJ
 Esther Friedmann, Clarks Green, PA
 Carol Frost, Narberth, PA
 Tom Frost, Jr, Nicholson, PA
 Stephen Gall, Susquehanna, PA
 John Gorel, Forest City, PA
 A.J. Guzzi, Olyphant, PA
 Jacqueline Hart, Brackney, PA
 J. Rodger Heaton, Davidsonville, MD
 William & Mary Hodnik, Binghamton, NY
 Anne Holmes, Shavertown, PA
 Roger Homeyer, Hamlin, PA
 David & Jo-Ann Horner, Lower Gwynedd, PA
 Joseph & Catherine Jerin, Mayfield, PA
 Mr. & Mrs. James Johnson, Pompton Plains, NJ
 Bill Keller, South Abington Township, PA
 George & Michele Kelly, Germantown, MD
 Dan & Diane Kimberley, Susquehanna, PA
 Ken & Sandy Kirschner, Wilmington, DE
 Joseph & Mary Kluck, Simpson, PA
 Allen & Nancy Koberlein
 Donald & Elisabeth Korinda, S. Abington Twp, PA
 Frank & Beverly Kulikowski, Lakewood, PA
 Alma Lavin, Carbondale, PA
 Leaping Rabbit Farm B&B, Waymart, PA
 Shirley Leslie, White Mills, PA
 Linde Corporation, Honesdale, PA
 Richard Maiolatesi, Peckville, PA
 John Marx, Scranton, PA
 Matoushek Family, Waymart, PA
 Bob & Joyce McGraw, Pleasant Mount, PA
 Deb & Jack McNamara, Union Dale, PA
 Jack Meade, Pittston, PA
 Elwood Merring, Lake Ariel, PA
 E.J. Michalski, Archbald, PA
 Joseph Monteforte, New Milford, PA
 Jeffrey O'Hara, Carbondale, PA
 Dolores Oneill, Honesdale, PA
 Carolyn & James O'Reilly, Union Dale, PA
 Geoffrey & Nancy Paine, New York, NY
 Evelyn Pantzar, Forest City, PA
 Joyce & Mike Petronchak Jr., Eynon, PA
 Anthony & Barbara Puglisi, Huntingdon Valley, PA
 Ginny & Marvyn Raphaelson, Lake Harmony, PA
 Stephen & Cindy Reed, Honesdale, PA
 Frank & Marney Roia, Thompson, PA
 David Haase & Ester Schwalb, Brooklyn, PA
 Kathy & Bob Shostek, Clifford Twp, PA
 Jay & Fran Smith, Salem, NJ
 Susanne Sanderson, Limekiln, PA
 Joe & Kathy Sterchak, Collegeville, PA
 Richard Storck, Montrose, PA
 Debbie Stover & Del Negron, Warminster, PA
 Kenneth & Anne Swartz, Union Dale, PA
 Tim & Janet Tedesco, Oakland, NJ
 Edward Timinskas, Mechanicsburg, PA
 Tri-County Sportsman's Assoc, Simpson, PA
 Joan Tully, Thompson, PA
 Jeri Turner, Union Dale, PA
 Brian & Lora Urbas, Brown Dale, PA
 Ann Walker, Archbald, PA
 Ken & June Walters, Nicholson, PA
 Jeff & Susan Wheeler, Susquehanna, PA
 Pat & Tom Williamson, Clifford Twp., PA

Just Men, and Boys...

Last summer, an article in this space introduced a Rail-Trail Council activity we have called The Colliery Commemoration Project. This work has the purpose of identifying all of the many collieries located along the D&H/Erie and O&W Trails, locating them with pinpoint accuracy and preparing informative historical markers for placement on the trails. Most importantly, because the project has unearthed a treasure of information, we shall be able to identify by name each worker whose life was lost along our trails and to place every name on an accurately-located commemorative marker at actual colliery sites. When this project is complete, a now-beautiful part of our rail-trail system will become a kind of outdoor museum, and will salute the sacrifice of hundreds of men and boys whose names are all but forgotten.

The research phase of the work is almost complete. We have all of the names, and are now double-checking the colliery-by-colliery lists in a rather elaborate process.

The names come from official Commonwealth of Pennsylvania documents long out-of-print. Scranton's Anthracite Heritage Museum granted us permission to examine the complete set of records in archives. Much of the checking involves simple but tedious spell-checking of names; the colliery clerks and mine inspectors who prepared the original reports always got the facts right but often got the spelling wrong! The typical mine clerk was hired to record tonnage numbers and often had difficulty with typically-Slavic (not to mention Lithuanian or Italian) names.

Locating the collieries was surprisingly complex. The last underground mines at the uppermost end of the "Northern Anthracite Field" closed seventy-five (or more) years ago; time and the elements have rendered all that is left (mostly, concrete foundation traces) obscure. Nevertheless, we have assembled quite a collection of maps and a few old aerial photos, and have now chart-located every colliery. Those readers who plan to be on the trails in late March may encounter an intrepid band of explorers, equipped with compasses, GPS instruments, maps, surveying equipment and coolers stocked with Yuengling Lager. Don't panic! You will have encountered our field crew, working to pinpoint on the ground what we already have on our master map.

Here's a small sample of what we have discovered so far:

- About 350 men and boys died in the collieries found along our Simpson-on north trails. We shall release the actual number when checking is complete. This number is consistent with colliery production; it is a little more than one percent of total anthracite colliery fatalities, just as area production consisted of a little more than one percent of total anthracite tonnage.
- At the behest of Administrator Chester Kulesa and Curator Richard Stanislaus of the Anthracite Heritage Museum, we are careful to use the phrase 'men and boys.' This is because nearly ten percent of those killed were in their teens. Breaker boys, 'spraggers,' door boys, 'skinners'—the collieries were dreadfully dangerous to all who entered therein.
- Even though "killed in the mines" was the popular phrase, about fifteen percent of our casualties



Bad News: Everyone in Coal Country knew about the Black Maria. This is what one looked like.

First Annual Heritage Explorer Bike Tour

LHVA invites you to join the first annual "Heritage Explorer Bike Tour" on June 5, 2010. A project of the Leadership Lackawanna class of 2009–2010, the event will offer participants the opportunity to experience the region's natural beauty and history as they ride the beautiful Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. The event is open to all riders. It will have routes for beginners, seniors, and families with small children, as well as more challenging courses for experienced cyclists. The weekend features two events:

- **A Kick-Off Party** Friday, June 4th, 5–8 pm, Electric City Trolley Museum, at Steamtown National Historic Site in downtown Scranton. A \$15 admission fee includes hors d'oeuvres, specialty foods and beverages, live entertainment, and raffle prizes. Those participating in the Bike Tour can pick up their event packets at the Electric City Trolley Museum beginning at 3:30 pm and any time during the Friday Night Kick-Off Party. New participants also may register at this time.
- **The Heritage Explorer Bike Tour** Saturday, June 5th, Mellow Park in the Borough of Blakely. Participants will receive a breakfast and a light lunch, course maps, and an opportunity to paint on the Heart to Art mural. Participants check in between 7 and 10 am. At 12:30 pm, following the tour, an awards ceremony will be held at Mellow Park. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Four courses available: **The Archbald Limited** Beginner Route (5 miles); **The Powdermill Express** Family Route (10 miles); **The Carbondale Special** Intermediate Route (20 miles); **The Forest City Wildcat** Enthusiast Route (40 miles to Stillwater Dam; ride at your own risk as far as you would like beyond the dam.)

www.lhva.org/docs/biketour_brochure.pdf

Laurie Graham & Larry Wilson, Union Dale, PA
Art & Joanne Wilson, Jermyn, PA
Howie & Karen Wyandt, Union Dale, PA
James Yeich, New Milford, PA
Bob & Maggie Young, Madison Twp., PA
Eugene Zaverl, Browndale, PA

IN HONOR OF

Ned & Sylvia Holteen, in Honor of Felley's & Rosses
Romayne Romyn, in memory of Milton Romyn
Nancy Ross, in memory of John Pehanich
Kuni Holbert, In Honor of Lothar Holbert

CABLE'S STORE DONATIONS

Anonymous	Beth Gallagher
Robert Angler	Eugene Gallagher
Raymond Archibald	David Gibson
Patricia Payne Atkins	Edward Giombetti, Jr
Donald Atkinson	Francis Graytock
Eileen Baessler	Mark & Kelly Gutshall
Jeff Baker	John Haas
Andrew & Joan Baron	Stanley & Sharon
Jon Bauer	Hadley
Dorrance Belin	Francis & Jo Ann
Michael & Janet	Hadnag
Bischak	Ken & Joan Halbach
John Blodnikar	JoAnn & Alfred Hall
Peter Borick	Robert & Joanie Hall
Magdalen Braden &	Joyce Hatala
Ross Beresford	Robert & Jan
Warren Breig, Jr,	Hawthorne
Rod Brown	Pat & Ursula Hobson
Richard Burlage	Kuni Holbert
Robert Burshnick	Anne Holmes
David & Ann Butler	David Horner
Camp Wayne For	Tom Kavanagh
Boys (Corpuel)	Ernest Keller
Alphonse Chesnick	John Kessler
Thomas & Carol	Rev. John King
Chesnick	
David & Eva	
Christiansen	
Richard Cochrane	
Culnane's Garage	
Lyle & Marjorie	
Cunningham	
Frank Currier	
Robert Dannecker	
William Davis	
Frank & Winifred	
Dressler	
J. Dixon Earley	
Joel Edelstein	
Christopher Egoal	
William Farber, SR	
Dennis Favello	
Mary Felley	
James Fleming	
Faith Fleming	
Gerald & Kathleen	
Franceski	
Marian & William	
Franceski	
Robert & Lynn Frink	

lost their lives in the breakers or on the rail links between the mines and the breakers. The entire colliery, not just the mine, was a treacherous place.

- By far the most dangerous of colliery jobs was that of the miner and/or his helper. They worked at the 'face' of the coal, that is, at the exposed vein of anthracite. Nearly two-thirds of in-mine deaths at our rail-trail collieries were from 'falls of rock' or 'falls of coal. Miners were skillful and very careful, but it often mattered not.
- Not surprisingly, colliery work was a young man's game. Not counting the teenagers mentioned above, about half of those killed were single men under 35, most of whom were miners or helpers killed at the face of coal.

Our research has unearthed quite a volume of statistical information. We have colliery tonnage data by year for each of the sites on our list, as well as numbers of workers, work days per year, and the like. But no numbers 'jump' like the casualty numbers, for each of those comes with a name.

A great deal of research has been done on the history of anthracite mining, and as a result we know a lot about it, and about the men and boys who did it. On the whole, they were a stoical bunch, not given to sentiment or to hyperbole. We are sure they would have resisted being called heroic. They were just men, and boys, who did what they had to do. But it will be our honor to commemorate them, for they were brave beyond measure. It is worthy that we who stand on their shoulders rescue them from the anonymity in which they now rest.

Mark C. Walsh

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 a new RTC brochure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$10 | <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

Making the Connection

It's hard to believe nine months have passed since I started my year as a VISTA volunteer with Rail-Trail! The changing seasons bring a variety of new challenges to the office, the most ambitious being our move to Cable's Store. Slowly we are putting away boxes, organizing office space, and sorting through 20 years of history. You can see by the number of names in the newsletter, many people responded to the move with generous support. Thank you for helping us usher in a new era for Rail-Trail.

Spring is just around the corner and we are busy scheduling walks, hikes, cleanups, as well as other events. With our new garage area we plan to create a work space where volunteers can refurbish bicycles to distribute to underserved children. Last month we meet with Augie Mueller and Steven Bard, two individuals who have opened their hearts to improve their community. They volunteer their time and talent collecting used bicycles and refurbishing them for several bicycle give away programs in the Binghamton area. Last year they gave away 125 bicycles and this year they plan to give away over 200! We are seeking used bicycles (in good shape) and tools such as wrenches, pliers, screw drivers, etc. We hope to involve the help of community volunteers. This would make a great senior/service project. If you have items to donate please give us a call.

Fundamentally, volunteering is about giving your time, energy and skills freely. In the last nine months I have been inspired over and over again by the volunteer hours given freely by so many Rail-Trail members.

See you on the trail!

Deb McNamara

"Actions and words are the window through which the heart is seen" —**American Proverb**

Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA
P O Box 32
Union Dale PA 18470
trails@nep.net
www.nepa-rail-trails.org

Endless Mountain Study

The Council has received proposals for a feasibility study on the Endless Mountain Trail. The trail was originally part of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W) Railroad as the 14-mile 'Montrose Branch' that extended from Alford to Montrose. It operated for around 50 years bringing freight and passengers to and from Montrose. When it was abandoned in 1944, a retired judge living in Montrose happened to have a friend who worked for the DL&W. The trail was sold for a dollar to the judge in order to establish a trail for a local horseback riding club. Thus, one of the nations' first rail-trails was established, as the Bridgewater Riding Trail, and later becoming known as the Endless Mountain Trail. If you are interested in serving on the study committee please contact the office.

Trash Pick-up

Join us for a trash pick-up on April 24, 9 AM at Cable's Store in Union Dale. As part of the Great NEPA Clean-up we will remove garbage from the trail and adjacent steam bank. This will be a huge effort that will require heavy equipment and manpower. Much of the trash will be recycled. Thanks to Alliance Landfill for their donation of a dumpster. If you know of other areas on the trail that need attention please call the office.

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