

# 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 Distance Run



## September 12th

New this year, we are using chip timing, with Fast Finishes, a much more accurate way to time races. It also enables us to increase the field limit to 325 racers. Racers can also register online at Get Me Registered.com or call the office for a registration form. Forms and our sponsor list can be found at the Rail-Trail website ([www.nepa-rail-trails.org](http://www.nepa-rail-trails.org)). Try to sign up by August 20th for early registration and to be guaranteed your T-shirt & correct size.

The race has become more and more popular, with an easy upgrade on the way out and the downhill grade on the way back. We have been attracting many first timer 1/2 marathoners, as the surface is also very forgiving. The timing is 4 weeks before the Steamtown Marathon, which makes it a perfect training run.

All runners and volunteers are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Forest City. There will be a special raffle of great prizes as dinner certificates. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

## Community Fall Walk Series

How can we better connect to the "air" around us? Linking our breath with our mind/body connection can enhance our walking/hiking experience. Ed Golecki will provide information and a short presentation regarding yoga/breath work/mindfulness on Thursday, October 7th at 5 PM at the Union Dale Trailhead, next to the Cables Store Rail-Trail office. Afterwards, there will be a short walk/hike to incorporate the information into the activity. So, join us for a nice evening with a bit of information/education and a bit of a walk to enjoy an evening in the Fall. On Saturday, October 23rd at 9 AM, we'll practice what we have learned with a brisk morning walk leaving from the Forest City Trailhead.

### NEW MEMBERS

- Deborah Alunni, Jessup, PA
- Robert Barto, Pottsville, PA
- Edward Bielawski, Olyphant, PA
- Wayne & Sara Chudleigh, Union Dale, PA
- Ann Dean, Ridgefield, NJ
- Kathleen & James MacKenzie, Oxford, PA
- Norbert & Pam McGettigan
- Robert & Deloras Moon, Macon, GA
- Ralph & Debbie May, Union Dale, PA
- Joan Muellerteile, Bexley, OH, in memory of John & Mary Polesnak
- Village of Four Seasons, Union Dale, PA
- Dan & Linda Wescott, Equinunk, PA
- Allen Willis, Hawley, PA

### RENEWING MEMBERS

- Dorrance Belin, Waverly, PA
- Mitchell & Deborah Bertha, Roaring Brook Twp., PA
- David & Janette Bianco, Forest City, PA
- John Blodnikar, Browndale, PA
- Todd & Colleen Bobrovcan, Clifford Twp., PA
- Martha & James Bralla, Susquehanna, PA
- George Brown, Pittston, PA
- Theresa & Keith Buhl, Rahway, NJ
- John Burkhardt, Jr., Pottstown, PA
- William & Alice Burrell, Jr., Carbondale, PA
- Robert Burshnick, Forest City, PA
- Alphonse Chesnick, Kearny, NJ
- Tom & Carol Chesnick, Vandling, PA
- Tom & Kathy Chesnick, Crystal Lake, PA
- Anne & Andy Crowley, Endwell, NY
- Ruth Davis, Susquehanna, PA
- Richard & Rita DeMaria, Gwynedd Valley, PA
- John & Lisa DeMark, Vandling, PA
- Heather & David Elgena, Landenberg, PA
- Tom & Mary Farley, Waymart, PA
- Doug & Betsy Frey, Clifford Twp., PA
- Christina Fehner, Moscow, PA
- Jeff & Nancy Fleming, Dalton, PA
- Paula & Michael Freundlich, Staten Island, NY
- Robert & Lynn Frink, Jr., Woodstock, CT
- Eugene Gallagher, Clarks Summit, PA
- Beth Gallagher, Scranton, PA
- Richard Giavedoni, Oakland, NJ
- Alan Gillick, Dickson City, PA
- Edward Giombetti, Jr., Jessup, PA
- John & Mary Gorel, Forest City, PA
- Steve & Linda Griffiths, Union Dale, PA
- Richard & Sandra Guman, Archbald, PA
- Robert & Kathy Guzzi, Dalton, PA
- Stan & Sharon Hadley, Lakewood, PA
- Ken & Joan Halbach, Forest City, PA
- James Hanson, Thompson, PA
- David Heim, Hawley, PA
- Mary Henrie, Danville, PA
- Beth Holmes, Carbondale, PA
- John, Fred & Linda Jimenez, Hampton, NJ
- Father John King, Starrucca, PA
- Harry & Gulay Kiskaddon, Union Dale, PA
- Delores Kownaski, Dickson City, PA
- Robert Kramer, Equinunk, PA
- John & Sandra Kugler, Springtown, PA
- Richard Lane, Woodbridge, NJ
- Micky & Judy Langsfeld, Meadowbrook, PA
- Donna Ludwig, Forest City, PA
- Peter Macheska, Simpson, PA
- Sandra Major, Montrose, PA
- Ken & Leslie Maas, Dalton, PA
- David Maxey, Gladwyne, PA
- Bernie McGurl, Dickson City, PA
- John & Amelia Morris, Simpson, PA
- Lawrence Mowrer, Poyntelle, PA
- Valerie Pratt, Carbondale, PA
- Dorothy & Andrew Notchick, Simpson, PA
- Howard & Mary Ellen Nusbaum, New York, NY
- Walter Paciga, Simpson, PA
- Roy & Dee Pauli, Scranton, PA
- Abby Peck, Waverly, PA
- Gary & Maureen Piorowski, Mayfield, PA
- William & Stella Polny, Wapwallopen, PA
- James & Nancy Prawdick, Deptford, NJ
- Donald Preitz & Carol Ho, Pleasant Mount, PA
- Felix & Mary Prezelski, Forest City, PA
- Tim Proctor, Union Dale, PA
- Frank & Donna Prybeck, Susquehanna, PA
- Beverly Rainforth, Binghamton, NY
- Keith Raser, Shohola, PA
- Wayne & Susan Shontz, Thompson, PA
- Bruce & Faye Reed, Muir, PA

## C A L E N D A R

### MEETINGS

#### AUGUST

No Rail-Trail Meeting

#### SEPTEMBER 23

6 PM dinner/7 PM Meeting at Ben-Mar Restaurant, Carbondale

#### OCTOBER 28

6 PM dinner/7 PM Meeting at The Beacon Restaurant, Union Dale

#### NOVEMBER 18

6 PM dinner/7 PM Meeting at Franks Place, Simpson

#### DECEMBER 16

6 PM Christmas Party at Stonebridge Restaurant, Union Dale. Reservations required.

### TRAIL EVENTS

#### AUGUST 29

Hike the Endless Mountains Trail sponsored by the Sierra Club, 9 AM. Call for meeting location.

#### SEPTEMBER 12, SUNDAY

D&H Distance Run Forest City Trailhead 9 AM

#### OCTOBER 7

Yoga Walk, 5 PM Union Dale Trailhead

#### OCTOBER 9 & 10

Elk Mountain Octoberfest. Visit the Rail-Trail Booth.

#### OCTOBER 23, SATURDAY

9 AM Walk, Forest City Trailhead

Gail & Wade Rendle, Nicholson, PA  
 Ed & Mary Schreiber, Lake Katrine, NY  
 Robert & Terry Segerstrom, Thompson, PA  
 Andrew Shamro, Union Dale, PA  
 Frank & Judy Sokloski, Colonia, NJ  
 C.D. Stevens, Doylestown, PA  
 Lorraine Swader, Blakely, PA  
 Rachel & Matthew Swierzewski, Sellersville, PA  
 Lawrence Trygar, Roaring Brook, PA  
 Jane Varcoe, Waymart PA  
 Thomas & Carolyn Warlond, Newtown, PA  
 Mark Walsh, Highland Lakes, NJ  
 Waymart Area Historical Society, Waymart, PA  
 Donald & Marion Welsch, Scranton, PA  
 Fred Wenz, Ambler, PA  
 Walter & Margaret West, Warrington, PA  
 Mark Whalen, Binghamton, NY  
 Peter & Viktoria Wood, Pipersville, PA  
 Michael & Barbara Yavoroski, Hop Bottom, PA  
 Edward Zindell, Jermyn, PA  
 Ray Zrebiec, Howell, NJ

## CABLE'S STORE DONORS

Adams CATV	Fred & Myrna Lally
Robert Angler	Richard Lane
Raymond Archibald	Morton & Judy Langsfeld
Patricia Payne Atkins	Lee Electric
Don Atkinson	David & Reiko Lemon
Eileen Baessler	Herbert Little
Jeff Baker	Eugene Long
Andrew & Joan Baron	Bonnie Lundy
Jon Bauer	Peter Macheska
Dorrance Belin	Gail Marfin
Michael & Janet Bischak	John Marx
John Blodnikar	Ken & Jennifer Mayers
Peter & Marian Borick	James & Lucille McKane
Magdalen Braden & Ross Beresford	Robert Menthe
Alice Breig	Millett Real Estate
Warren Breig, Jr.	Michael Morosky
Rod Brown	John & Amy Morris
Richard Burlage	Carol Motosko
Rachel Burnis	Joseph & Pat Narciso
Robert Burshnick	Karen Naughton
David & Ann Butler	Kirk & Helen Newsom
Donna Caputo	John S. Niles
Alphonse Chesnick	Lawrence Noonan
Thomas & Carol Chesnick	G.A. Paine
David & Eva Christiansen	Christopher Palmer
Richard Cochrane	Roy & Vee Pauli
Culnane's Garage	Joseph Pavlovich
Lyle & Marjorie Cunningham	Patricia Payne Atkins
Frank Currier	William Polny
Robert Dannecker	Richard Pomager
William Davis	Felix Prezelski
Alfred & Rose Defeo	James Proctor
Thomas DeMatteo	Frank & Donna Prybeck
Frank & Winifred Dressler	Dr. Anthony Puglisi
J. Dixon Earley	Thomas Rasimas
Joel Edelstein	Torunn Rhodes
Christopher Egolf	Jose Rodriguez
William Farber	Nancy & Bruce Ross
Dennis Favello	Arthur Roth
Mary Felley	Ron Ryczak
James Fleming	Susanne Sanderson
Faith Fleming	Gerald Schwarzauber
Gerald & Kathleen Franceski	Caroline & John Seamans
Marian & William Franceski	Joan Seeley
Robert Frink	Judy & Mike Senio
Beth Gallagher	Andrew Shamro
Eugene Gallagher	Doug Sheldon
David Gibson	Wayne & Susan Shontz
Edward Giombetti	Gail Suckles
Francis Graytock	Jill Smolowe
Mark & Kelly Gutshall	Michael & Cathy Stanton
John Haas	Roger Steedle
Stanley & Sharon Hadley	Cathy Stevens
Francis & Jo Ann Hadnagy	Nancy Surdoval
Ken & Joan Halbach	Richard Terpstra
Joanie & Robert Hall	Mary Ann Thomas
JoAnn & Alfred Hall	John Tighe
Joyce Hatala	Lois & DonTodd
Rob & Jan Hawthorne	Nenore Tonkin
Ursula & Pat Hobson	Gary Treven
Kuni Holbert	Lawrence Trygar
Ann Holmes	Henry Tusar
David & Jo-Ann Horner	Janet Tvarnyanas
Tom Kavanagh	William Urban
Ernest Keller	Jane Varcoe
John Kessler	Jon Villaume
Rev. John King	William Waerhouse
Don & Karyn Kintzer	William & Patty Walker
Allen Koberlein	Michael & Sharon Wallace
Delores Kownaski	June & Ken Walters
Rich & Patty Kresock	Dr. James Watson
James Kulp	Charles Welles
	Stephanie & Chuck Westgate
	Mark Whalen
	Stan & Joyce Wierzbicki
	Earl Wootton
	Michael Yavoroski
	Raymond Zrebiec

# Coal Colossus



Demand for anthracite was seasonal, so the NYO&W set up these huge storage yards at Cadosia, NY, and each summer piled up next winter's coal, just mined along today's Rail-Trails. Photo 1910, courtesy of NYO&W Historical Society, from the John Stellwagen Collection.

Let's hike our favorite Rail-Trails! Let's make it a long trek, approaching twenty miles. In addition to our trails, we'll hike offshoots along rail spurs that no longer exist. Don't panic! There is no need to tote a canteen or your favorite walking stick, because...this is a hike taken only in the imagination! It takes place back when anthracite collieries dotted the countryside. Today's trails shall give way, in our minds, to yesterday's rails. We begin north of Forest City. We are on the stretch of track right alongside Route 171; you can see the roadway from the right-of-way.

Looking west, across Route 171, you see an ancient and dirty Mack Bulldog truck growling its way under a loading chute. You're looking at a colliery some called "Anna Kate," later known as the Petersen colliery and then the Williams. This one was an all-truck, no rail colliery, an exception to the colliery-next-to-railroad rule. (Whoops! Pardon this digression. There is equipment you must bring that we neglected to mention. Notebook and pencil. Got it? Off we go!)

We walk south. Soon, an amazing sight: an aerial tramway, just like a ski lift. This one, however, carries huge 'buckets' of coal, and dumps their contents into rail cars at a siding not far from where, in 2010, a road down to the water company's plant crosses the tracks. The tramway runs continuously; buckets come, buckets go.

Watch out! Two enormous D&H "Sixteen hundreds" are backing down the line. A whistle shrieks. We give them lots of room. They pass us and round the bend, out of sight. We keep walking, and shortly come to old Clifford colliery. We are in Forest City proper now, and to the 10,200 tons we jotted in our book at Anna Kate, we add 3,957,000 tons, the Clifford output during its lifetime.

We walk some more, this time only yards. Another colliery, the oldest of them all, the Railroad Street. We cannot make an entry in our book, because there simply aren't any numbers on record that far back, in

1875. It was a small facility; much of its horsepower was, in fact, mule power. We spot the legendary Old Tom hauling a mine car. He gives us a wink.

We continue. At the foot of Grand Avenue we eye the Forest City culm washer, circa 1940-45, and add 282,300 tons to our list. Further south, we reach big daddy, the Forest City colliery. Its works and outbuildings stretch hundreds of feet north and south; exhaust spews from the steam-house, which produces all the breaker's power. And the breaker, surely the residence of King Coal himself, towers over the tracks. We crane our necks to look up at it, because its roof is at least one hundred feet above us. The structure groans and snorts, shudders and grinds, roars and squeals—and tells us to jot 20,185,900 tons into our notebooks. That's right. Twenty millions tons, over Forest City colliery's nearly seventy years of life.

Our hike continues, and at a point east of the Borough of Vandling we meet Forest City colliery's virtual match: Clinton. Like Forest City colliery, it is gigantic. Its dedicated D&H switch engine works constantly to shuttle hopper cars in and out of the breaker chute-ways. Shorter-lived than Forest City colliery, Clinton crunched out 15,334,000 tons, and operated a washery that added 753,300 more.

Hiking further south, we pass loading chutes that connected, by narrow gauge railway, to the Buffalo works in Richmondale. This was ancient (1888-89) and small; jot 223,400 tons into the book. But when we continue south, we reach another giant when we arrive in Simpson and encounter "the Northwest." This colliery had two locations during its long life, the first in Simpson proper, then the second, north of town. Add 9,623,300 more tons.

Now, let's reverse course. Heading north from the Simpson Trailhead, we stand aside as an O&W "coal drag" chugs past. The train is very good at making noise, blowing smoke and hauling coal. A "Bullmoose" 2-10-2 locomotive leads it; sixty cars each carrying 30 tons follow; three 'pusher' engines,

each a "Berkshire" 2-8-4, bring up the rear—with, of course, the caboose. One thousand, eight hundred tons head toward their markets in Western New York and Ohio, and we keep on trekking.

Over a mile from the modern trailhead site we reach Northwest Junction. Looking north and south to make sure our way is clear, we trot across the steel bridgework, crossing the Lackawanna as well as the Erie-D&H rails. After a few more miles we reach Richmondale. We add 2,384,100 tons to the book. Then, back along the spur, we return to the O&W Scranton branch and head further north. We pass the small North-East colliery and add 107,200 tons. We cross Clinton Creek, just south of Browndale, and add another 120,300 tons for the Clinton Falls colliery, just upstream.

When we reach Brace Brook, north of Browndale, we find the colliery that built the tramway we saw at the start of our hike: Stillwater. Named not for the lake but for the name of the land tract, this colliery adds 956,600 tons to our tally. We jot it into our notebook, and we come to the end of our hike.

The tonnage total in our imaginary notebook is, for the Browndale-Forest City-Vandling-Richmondale area, 43,453,800. The Simpson area adds 9,730,500. This last figure is for the Simpson area collieries located along our trails; there were, of course, other coal-producers in Simpson.

And so, dear reader, we have added up the coal. The tiny part of Pennsylvania along our trails was, in fact, a coal colossus. Any way we look at it, this was industrial production on a grand scale. In the next article in this space, we shall add up the cost.

Mark C. Walsh



## Rail-Trail Open House

Over 100 people joined us on Saturday, June 19th to celebrate the opening of our new office in Cable's Store! The day started at 9 AM with a nature walk followed by a bike safety course. We provided free bike helmets to local children and officer Novak from the Carbondale police department demonstrated how to properly fit a helmet. Afternoon activities included a book signing for "The Beechwood Settlers" by Pat Peltz, Susquehanna Studio art exhibit and a historical display of old photo's and D&H memorabilia. Visitors were treated to popcorn, ice-cream, coffee and cookies. Thanks to all who made our open house a success.



## Cascade Creek Bridge Decked

The railroad bridge crossing Cascade Creek on the far northern D&H Rail-Trail in Harmony Township has been decked. The short bridge was to be used as a go-around during bridge work on State Route 1015. Thanks to PennDOT District 4.0 and Minichi Contractors for including the Rail-Trail in their rehabilitation projects.

### 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 <b>new</b> RTC brochure.                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$15     | <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



June 25th marked the end of my first year as a VISTA with Rail-Trail. I was just one of 6,500 VISTA'S who served in 1,200 projects nationwide. Like my fellow VISTA'S I worked developing new programs, raising funds and otherwise building the capacity of our non-profit organization to become more sustainable. It was a busy and rewarding year. It leaves me with a new appreciation for my community and the challenges within it.

This summer also brought new energy to our trail with the addition of our Summer VISTA Associate. Andy Conrad has been busy mowing, weeding, planting and helping to develop an educational program for children. Soon we will have a "tree trail" where children and adults can use the trail to explore and identify over 60 different trees. It's one more way our trail can provide healthy outdoor activities and could not be accomplished without his help. Our trail has never looked better!

Thanks to some generous support from our community our bike project was a success. We matched new and used bikes to area underserved children. Elaine & Ivan Burman, Mayor Pat Coles, Cedar Bike Shop, Dick's Sporting Goods, Nancy Ross, Todd Stevens and many more donated bikes. HKQ Kids foundation provided free helmets.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time freely over the last year. The evidence of their efforts is everywhere and their contributions are invaluable.

See you on the trail,  
**Deb McNamara**      *"The highest reward for a person's work is not what they get for it, but what they become because of it." —John Ruskin*

Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA  
P O Box 32  
Union Dale PA 18470  
trails@nep.net  
[www.nepa-rail-trails.org](http://www.nepa-rail-trails.org)

# Tree Trail Update

Over the past three years, over 50 trees have been planted along the trail in Forest City. The trees can be found along the D&H from the Industrial Park Road to the Erie Street access point. To date, more than 60 different species of new and existing trees are labeled with their common and scientific name. Our summer Vista worker has worked to weed and mulch around all the trees as well as map the trees using GPS and Google Maps. We will be presenting the project to various age groups, so that parents, teachers and kids are made aware of the educational merits of the 'tree trail'. There are also 12 numbered trees to be identified; these 'unknowns' are the same species as labeled trees. The identification list is our website. We are working out the mapping details, which will be available on-line. If you'd like to see a Dawn Redwood, a Kentucky Coffee Tree, a Yellowwood, or various species of oaks and maples, get out on the trail! If you would like more information, or attend the presentation, call us at the office.

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