Projects in Motion—RTC Capital Campaign

Our capital campaign “Projects in Motion” is underway. Thanks to the many who have donated; we have raised around $17,000 to date. As these projects will continue into next year, so will our campaign. Funds raised through the campaign will provide the essential matching funds needed to move forward with development.

To update you on the “Projects in Motion” Campaign:

- The UGI pipeline is in the ground and extensive trail drainage improvements have begun; trail resurfacing will take place in the spring.
- The 6.5 mile D&H trail improvement project from Herrick Center to Ararat has begun with clearing and grubbing; major work will resume in the spring.
- Trail switchbacks between old railroad bridge piers on the D&H between Thompson & Starrucca are complete with an interpretive sign.
- The O&W Brownsville Bridge is finished—complete with a new concrete deck & railings.
- Engineering plans are being finalized for a 7-mile stretch of trail on the northern D&H from Stevens Point to the New York state border.
- The D&H Pusher Caboose should be moved before the winter to its new home in Union Dale with plans to restore it as a historic display.
- Continuing survey and legal work on the Endless Mountains Trail; we hope to form an action committee to keep this trail intact.
- With Lackawanna River Heritage Trail improvements in the Carbondale area, we will finally make the connection and there will be 20 miles of improved D&H from Carbondale to Ararat.

We just received word that RTC was awarded a DCNR Recreational Trail grant to redeck the railroad bridge in Lanesboro! We still are awaiting word on grants for signage, and for Transportation Enhancement funding for major trail improvements to the northern D&H.

We look forward to a number of ribbon-cuttings and trail events to highlight our success. Please plan on joining in the celebrations!
Now Believe There Are Bodies Under the Coal

Special to the Binghamton Press.
Susquehanna PA, September 9, 1907: It is stated by the residents near Jefferson Junction, where the Erie freight wreck occurred August 7th. In which 12 cars were completely demolished and tons of coal piled up, that a terrible odor now exists and has been noticeable since a week after the wreck. At the time of the wreck it was thought that three tramps, who it is determined, were stealing a ride on the ill fated train, were beneath the wreck, but at the time the Erie officials refused to believe it. As the coal has never been removed the residents of the section are thoroughly convinced that bodies of some human beings are beneath the huge pile of coal.

O N E H U N D R E D Y E A R S A G O

Scranton Times, November 30, 1917
Feds May Take Action Against D&H

Railroad officials told the Fuel Administration that they don’t have enough cars to get the coal to market. The spokesman said they are also investigating that claim as well.

Federal officials are investigating the Delaware and Hudson Railroad for coal hoarding. According to an official with the Fuel Administration, the D&H is storing massive amounts of coal at its railyards in South Carbondale. The administration estimates there could be 200,000 tons of coal stored at the yard.
### 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

**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

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### Winter Trail Days

Rail-Trail Council’s Winter Trail Days events include yoga and snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, nature hikes and more. Motivating yourself for exercise in winter can be difficult when the days are short and the weather is chilly. We plan to make it easier with a variety of events we promise will be both fun and informative.

Help chase away those winter blues and get out on the trail with a pair of snowshoes. Rail-Trail has snowshoes free to loan. Give us a call to learn more about renting a pair. Snowshoeing is a wonderful group activity and also a great way to get that heart rate up.

On **February 17th at 1pm**, join us at the Rail-Trail Office in Union Dale for a Nature Discovery Walk with retired district forester Jim Kessler. This two hour hike will take us to places on and off the trail where we will discover lots of hidden secrets! We will focus on evergreen plants and animal track identification.

Visit our Facebook page and website for dates for cross-country skiing events and our March “Discover the Secrets” hike.

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### Switchback Trails

On **October 28** approximately 60 hikers joined Rail-Trail on a hike to the newly improved switchback trail between Thompson and Starrucca in the Buck Fall’s Ravine (photo above). We couldn’t have asked for a more perfect morning, the weather was warm, the sky was blue and the views were beautiful. Rail-Trail was thrilled not only with the large turnout, but everyone’s enthusiasm of the improvements made to that section of trail. Thanks to all who participated. We invite those who haven’t to visit this part of the trail to enjoy the improvements made to this part of the D&H Rail-Trail. An interpretive sign funded by the Overlook Foundation shows photos of the old 480 foot long railroad bridge that spanned the ravine.

This very complicated project was engineered by Todd Schmidt and built by contractor Dan Rutledge. Thanks to their expertise, it’s now an easy hike through the ravine.

### Forest City Trail Town Celebration

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**August 4, 2018** is the date set for a Trail-Town Celebration in Forest City. The Greater Forest City Business Alliance, the Forest City School District, the Historical Society and the Rail-Trail are working together to make a memorable day for all those who attend. There is a possibility of a light parade, chicken BBQ, fireworks, and a passport program. Rail-Trail will host a few events on the trail starting with a Coal-Cracker race at 8 am followed by a bike ride with bikes available for rent and the possibility of a geocaching event later on in the day. The Forest City Historical Society will also be celebrating the 250th anniversary of Anthracite Coal with many informative and fun events throughout the day. So when you hang those new 2018 calendars up flip over to August and mark down this date, it is sure to be an enjoyable day for all.

The **D&H Rail-Trail from Carbondale to Union Dale** remains closed for the winter and early spring due to the UGI pipeline project until trail drainage and resurfacing is completed.
Thanks to Endless Mountain Stone for donating the bluestone benches alongside the Starrucca Viaduct sign in Luciana Park, Lanesboro.


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

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT