**Trail Construction Updates**

Phase II of D&H trail construction from Herrick Center to Ararat Road will be put out to bid in May and construction should start by July, 2017. Drainage improvements are the number one priority, followed by grading and resurfacing with Trail Surface Aggregate. Access control gates and regulatory signage will be installed. We hope it will be completed before the winter sets in! This project sponsored by Herrick Township combines funding from PennDOT, DCNR and DCED and RTC matching funds.

Still awaiting permitting is the Buck’s Falls Ravine switchback project. A series of user friendly switchbacks will be constructed down the north & south sides of the ravine where a 480’ long RR bridge was removed. This project is partially funded by the Atlantic Sunrise Environmental Stewardship Program.

The Browndale O&W RR bridge (pictured above) is out to bid and should be completed by early summer. It will have a new concrete deck and railings. Funded by DCNR Rec Trails.

And the caboose restoration project continues!

All three trail construction projects have partial funding and matching funds are needed. We ask for your continued donations either as membership dues or dedicated donations. We plan to begin a capital campaign to raise the funds necessary through social media very soon.
In 1871, coal and lumber were the main businesses in Herrick Center, part of the Herrick Township. As a result, the Jefferson Branch of the Erie Railroad established a train station there. The Depot was located along the west side of the tracks south of today’s Route 374. At that time, the main road was the Newburg and Cochecton Turnpike, which went from Newburg on the Hudson River to Cochecton on the Delaware River. The building of this road in 1801 and others opened up Susquehanna County to travel and growth.

In 1804, when Henry Drinker (a shipping and importing merchant in Philadelphia and one of the largest landowners in Susquehanna County) was a commissioner in Philadelphia, the Cochecton and Great Bend Turnpike was proposed. It was finished in 1811 and became the principal route from Newburg to Western New York. Daily mail was delivered first on horseback and then by mail coaches drawn by four horses, 50 miles from Cochecton, across the river to Damascus, Lebanon, Pleasant Mount in Wayne County, through Herrick, and on to Gibson, New Milford, and Great Bend. These two turnpikes became the Newburg Road.

Herrick was a busy place with the railroad station, post office and store. There were three hotels and three tenant houses; also two sawmills, a wagon shop, a feedmill and a tannery with a bark house and furnace.

The Jefferson Railroad of the Erie Railroad extended from Carbondale to Lanesboro. There it connected to the Lackawanna and Susquehanna Railroad from Albany. The Erie paid the state of Pennsylvania $10,000 a year for the right to pass through without taxation. The railroad opened up a new age in the history of this area and helped to stimulate the development of Herrick Center and the nearby villages.

Herrick Center will be the start of the Rail-Trail Phase II improvements.
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 Trail-Trail Council of Northeast PA
P.O. Box 32, Union Dale PA 18470 / Phone: 570-679-9300 / E-mail: trails@nep.net

D&H Distance Run: Half Marathon & 5K

Remember for this year only, we will be moving the race to start at the Union Dale picnic grounds, head down Main Street and get on the trail and go north. Registration is open at GetMeRegistered.com. You can find detailed information there or at dhdistancerun.com

Support Rail-Trail through AmazonSmile

Are you looking for a really easy way to support Rail-Trail? We have the answer for you, shop at AmazonSmile and choose Rail-Trail Council of NEPA as your favorite nonprofit. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price on all eligible items to Rail-Trail. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Then select Rail-Trail Council of NEPA to receive donations from eligible purchases you make while shopping. Thank you always for your support for the ongoing development of the trail.

Trail Tenders to Meet

Eyes, Ears, and Advocates on the Trail is a description we like to use for our Trail Tenders. They are ordinary people who volunteer their time to maintain and enhance sections of the D&H and Endless Mountain Trails. Our spring Trail Tender meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 28 at 2 PM. If you are interested in joining this growing volunteer program please join us. Becoming a Trail Tender is easy and you can choose your level of involvement. We will be discussing the updated information on trail construction, areas that need oversight, ways to volunteer and other ways to donate your efforts. And remember for those Trail Tenders that haven’t picked up their trail tender shirt stop in our office and we will be happy to get one to you.

Art in Bloom

Mark your calendars for Art in Bloom on the Trail on June 24 from 11–6 PM. Rail-Trail and Mountain View Garden Club have teamed up to make this year’s event a memorable one. The Garden Club’s highly anticipated plant exchange will be one of the many exciting highlights of the day. We invite you to stay, relax and be entertained by Jim Carro and Friends. Enjoy beer tasting by Iron Hart and wine tasting by Luchi’s Family Wine Cellar. Shop at a variety of local artists and vendor tents (one being LulaRoe, ladies!) Eat Cable’s Deli’s delicious chicken BBQ (Presale tickets can be bought at the Rail-Trail office for $10.) Take part in voting on art work by Mountain View and Forest City art students who have been working on a themed art project “Nature and History on the Trail.” The winner will receive recognition by Rail-Trail Council on a variety of media outlets.

Don’t forget to fill out the raffle tickets included in the newsletter this month for the chance to win some really unique and beautiful prizes. First and second prize will be homemade quilts donated by Linda Leber and Cathy Stevens, as well as many other beautiful items made and donated by the artists and vendors. Tickets are $1 and all proceeds will benefit the trail.

SUMMER EVENTS

MAY 13
Yoga Hike, 10 AM, Union Dale trailhead

MAY 21
Bird Walk with Nancy Wotruch, 8 AM, Union Dale Trailhead. RSVP please.

MAY 28
Trail Tender Meeting, 2 PM, Rail-Trail Office

JUNE 10
Yoga Hike, 10 AM, Still Water Cliffs

JUNE 24
Art in Bloom, 11–6 PM, Union Dale trailhead & Bob Stark’s Mill Studio

JULY 8
Panther’s Bluff Hike with Jane Frye, 9 AM, O&W Simpson Trailhead

SEPTEMBER 10
D&H Distance Run, Union Dale Fire Company Picnic Grounds, 9 AM start
Earth Day Weekend Cleanup Success

A picture is worth a thousand words, may be the perfect caption for shots captured during the Earth Day weekend Trail Cleanup in Thompson, yet many of them don’t do the job justice. Organized by Friends of Starrucca Creek and the Rockwell family the event was smooth sailing. Dozens of volunteers turned up each day anticipating the hard work that needed to be done. Dumpsites along the trail were scouted out earlier in the week by Dana Rockwell and groups were sent out with trucks, gloves and trash bags. One site in particular took up most of the day near Buck’s Falls. Years of dumping down a steep embankment created a site that was not only a couple feet deep and scattered in tires, but also a difficult area to retrieve the trash. Yet, with the creative thinking of our volunteers, a “trash sled” was quickly put together and made the job much more efficient. The weekend ended with a shared sense of accomplishment and pride of the trial. Rail-Trail would like to extend a huge thank you to all of those that donated their time and energy and a special thank you to the Rockwells and Friends of Starrucca Creek for organizing a really great weekend.

Thank you, Wanda Rockwell for cooking up a delicious lunch for all of the really hungry workers. And thank you for your support that keeps the Rail-Trail a truly beautiful and special place in Northeastern Pennsylvania.