Trail Updates

• The section of D&H Rail-Trail closed for the UGI pipeline project from Forest City to Union Dale, should open before the end of April. The new trail surface is in place; all that’s left is some shoulder and fencing work. Latest information will be on our Facebook page and website.

• A new concrete deck (photo above) has been placed on the Lanesboro Bridge with funding from PA DCNR; the asphalt approaches should be completed in the next few weeks.

• The Stevens Point Trailhead with trail improvement to Brandt should go out to bid in the next few months. We are hoping that this one mile section will be open before the end of the year. The Brandt to NY border trail section is on PennDOT’s schedule with review of the construction documents, environmental clearance and a trail walk in May. That 5 mile section should go out to bid by end of year with a potential Spring 2020 construction.

• We are in the process of working with an engineer to work on permitting and design of a prefab bridge over the Starrucca Creek in Stevens Point. New abutments are needed, but we will keep the original laid stone abutments.

• We are working with a contractor to improve the drainage of the Endless Mountains Trail from Montrose to Tiffany Corners. This work will also include grading to promote drainage.
With our bike ride that celebrates the connection of the D&H Rail-Trail and Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, trail users will be traversing the section of former railbed that led out of the Carbondale Yards. Here’s some of the history of this area.

The Wurts Brothers began purchasing coal land in the upper part of the Wyoming Valley shortly after the beginning of the 19th century. By 1815 they had started digging out anthracite coal which they hauled to market over the mountains to the east of their camp on the Lackawanna River. The Wurts original site became the village of Carbondale and remained the center of the D&H operations in Pennsylvania. From here the gravity railroad carried the anthracite over the Moosic Mountains to Honesdale, from where the company’s canal moved it along the Delaware River to the Hudson River near Kingston.

Over the years, the city grew around the railroad and Carbondale became the focal point of all D&H operations in the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields. With the construction of the Erie’s line from Carbondale to Susquehanna, Carbondale became a major railroad and mining center with coal breakers, a huge railyard and the large roundhouse dominating the valley. At Duffy’s field just a short distance south, the company built a large facility to store anthracite during the summer months when demand was low.

Nearly all the short “mine run” trains that distributed empty hoppers and picked up loaded ones, worked out of Carbondale, although some were dispatched from the small yards at Green Ridge near Scranton and Hudson, just above Wilkes-Barre. At Carbondale, the loaded hoppers were formed into solid coal trains that moved north to Oneonta, where they were further classified by final destination. A small number of coal trains ran from Wilkes-Barre straight through to Oneonta, but all stopped at Carbondale to get additional locomotives for the steep climb over Ararat Summit. As many as four helper engines were added to trains, making the roundhouse a very busy place.

Like many rail facilities, it was difficult to gain access to the central activities. Carbondale was especially poor in this respect because it was impossible to get near the tracks except at the ends of the yard.

Carbondale ceased to be of importance to the D&H when the line between there and Ninevah Junction was abandoned in 1985. The company chose to operate over the easier grades of the former DL&W line from Scranton to Binghamton. All that now remains is the Carbondale Riverwalk Trail and the many industries in the Carbondale Industrial Park.

Article and photo from Delaware & Hudson Steam in Color by Chuck Yungkurth, 2001, Morning Star Books.
New Brochure

Our new D&H Rail-Trail brochure has just arrived! Please let us know if you would like one when you send in your membership, or email us:
trails@nep.net

CELEBRATE THE CONNECTION
Bike Ride
Sunday, May 19th

Ride the D&H Rail-Trail from Ararat to the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail in Carbondale. A newly resurfaced trail with an easy 20 miles downgrade.
Bikers will bike at their own pace.
A family event!

Celeboratory lunch at Hotel Anthracite, Carbondale.
Music by Jim Carro & Friends

DETAILS:
• Meet at Hotel Anthracite at 9 AM.
• Use the Church Street entrance to the parking garage.
• Bikes will be loaded onto trailers by Pocono Bike.
• Bikers will be bussed by Propst.
• Leave for Ararat by 9:30.

COST:
Includes bike & biker transport from Carbondale to Ararat and Lunch $35
Need a rental? add $15

REGISTER:
Please pre-register at GetMeRegistered.com.
No walk-ins. Event is limited. Rain or Shine!

QUESTIONS:
570-679-9300 trails@nep.net

Donations
Nancy Ross, In Memory of Claribel Todd
Nancy Ross, In Memory of Doug & Don Frey
PJM Corporation, matching funds from Francis Barrett
Zakaria Family Trust, on recommendation of Joan & Ray Best
D&H Caboose Restoration
Bill Bayne, Hallstead, PA

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 NEW 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 / Email: trails@nep.net
Trail Happenings

MID APRIL
Tree planting in Forest City and Montrose.

APRIL 27–28
Friends of the Starrucca Creek Cleanup Days.

MAY 4
Nature Hike with Jim Kessler, Union Dale Trailhead, 10 AM.

MAY 11
LRCA Riverfest & Canoe-a-thon. See lrca.org

MAY 14
NEPA Annual Trail Forum, Anthracite Center, Carbondale: Keynote Speaker Russ Roca from Path Less Pedaled. See pathlesspedaled.com

MAY 19
Celebrate the Connection Bike Ride Ararat-Carbondale Lunch.

MAY 23

JUNE 15
Yoga Hike, Frank’s Place, 9 AM.

AUGUST 3
Forest City Trail Town Festival: Coal Cracker Race, Bike Ride, and a Historical Bus Tour of the trail.

SEPTEMBER 8
D&H Distance Run Half-marathon and 5K.

SEPT 18
Forest City Trail Town Mixer: Meet our trail friendly businesses. Forest City Trailhead.

SEPT 29
LHVA Heritage Bike Ride Carbondale. All levels, varied mileage.

SAVE the DATE

D&H Distance Run & 5K
September 8, 2019
The half-marathon returns this year to a newly improved trail. D&H Rail-Trail -- Forest City out to Union Dale and back. Benefits trail maintenance.

GetMeRegistered.com
Early registration April 8-22 $40
Registration $45 by August 17th (guarantees T-shirt)
Late or same day registration $60

Rail-Trail Council • dhdistancerun.com
trails@nep.net • 570-679-9300

WHEN DOES MY MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE?

Your membership renewal date is to the right of your name on the mailing label, highlighted in yellow. To the extreme right is the mailing date. Effective 2019, memberships for all receiving electronic newsletters will expire on December 31.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.neparailtrails.org

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