

# 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.

## NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Bischak, Simpson, PA  
Jim & Terry Seeley, West Chester, PA

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Frank Arcaro, Scranton PA  
Pat and John Atkins, Waverly PA  
Donald Atkinson, Yeadon PA  
Steven Bard, Endwell NY  
Julianne and Ron Barrett, Klamath Falls OR  
Frank J. Barry, Forest City PA  
Michael & Sheila Batkiewicz, Dix Hills NY  
Frank & Lori Beardell, Wilmington DE  
Rebecca & Alan Bennett Montrose PA  
Ray and Joan Best, Ipswich MA  
Mike Bischak, Simpson PA  
Buzz Boomer, Clifford PA  
Bob and Ethel Breuche, Clifford Twp. PA  
Vickie Brownell, Thompson PA  
Jim & Sheryl Brownlow, Thompson PA  
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Clark and Winnie Cable, Honey Brook PA  
Kathleen & Rob Cable-Drill, Chester Springs PA  
Donna Caputo, Clifford PA  
Frank and Joann Cermiaro, Simpson PA  
Kathy Bertolino & Richard Chesi Union Dale PA  
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Barbara Connor, Union Dale PA  
Paul & Lynn Conrad, Clifford Twp. PA  
Grimm Construction Inc., Waymart PA  
Lyn and John Coyne, Wayne PA  
Bill Cullen, Poyntelle PA  
Dr. Glenn Czulada, Dickson City PA  
Janet Davala, Brunswick NJ  
Paul & Jane Dietche, New York City NY  
Joe Dolce Thompson PA  
Francis Dubas Jr, New Canaan CT  
Richard & Linda Eckersley, Scranton PA  
Joel and Betsy Edelstein, Elkins Park PA  
Chris & Peter Egoft, Toronto ON  
William Everett Jr, Wilkes-Barre PA  
Charles & Joanne Farley, Palmerton PA  
Ray, Kelly, RJ, Michael Felins, Covington Twp PA  
Sally Fischbeck, Clifford PA  
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Jerry & Kathy Franceski, Union Dale PA  
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Tom Frost, Jr., Nicholson PA  
Jean & Richard Giavedoni, Thompson PA  
Jeffrey & Brooke Gould, Thompson PA  
Pat Green, Dunmore PA  
Stan and Sharon Hadley, Lakewood PA  
Patrick and Ursula Hobson, Philadelphia PA  
Lothar & Bethann Holbert, Susquehanna PA  
Lothar Holbert, JD Lakewood PA  
John and Carole Kameen, Forest City PA  
Brian and Melissa Kaufman, Throop PA  
Paul & Pamela Kelly, Montrose PA  
Pat & John Kennedy, Blainston NJ  
Jim & Denise Kilgore, Starrucca PA  
Chris & Debby Kutich, Clifford Township PA  
Mickey and Judy Langsfield, Meadowbrook PA  
Scott & Jill Linde, Pittston PA  
Eric and Mary Anne Linde, Honesdale PA  
Barbara Linde, Honesdale PA  
Sam & Linda Long, Union Dale PA  
Sue F Lorraine, Utica NY  
Vicki Lydecker Sacramento CA  
Marilyn MacDowall, Raleigh NC  
Jay Mallory, Vestal NY  
Jim and Elaine McAndrew, Califon NJ  
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Auggie Mueller, Vestal NY  
Nina & Bob Nesky, New Milford PA  
Peggy Newak, Greenfield Township PA  
Helen and Kirk Newsom, Union Dale PA  
Chris and Renee Palmer, Honesdale PA  
Patricia Papocchia, Bethany PA  
Phil & Lauri Pass, Clifford Township PA  
Maureen Brennan and Gary Piorkowski, Mayfield PA  
Ruth Pranzitell, Waymart PA  
Bob Price, Lake Ariel PA  
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Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, Inc., Scranton PA  
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Trish & Bill Robinson Paoli PA  
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Jim and Gloria Ross, Waverly Twp PA  
Art and Ginny Roth, Clifford Township PA  
Rudy and Nina Ruedemann, Kingsley PA  
Betty Russell, Wernersville PA  
Daniel Rutledge, Tyler Hill PA  
Bob Sadauckas, Hop Bottom PA  
Bob & Sue Sanderson, Limekiln PA  
Jim Sanderson, S. Abington Twp. PA  
Frank & Susan Sargent, Hawley PA  
Dan & Aimee Schumucker, Hatboro PA  
Jim Schultz, Marathon FL  
Jim and Terry Seeley, West Chester PA  
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Gary & Kim Smith, Union Dale PA  
Jill Smolow, Little Falls NJ  
Jim Spano, Hillsborough NJ



## D&H named PA's 2021 Trail of the Year

The Rail-Trail Council was notified that the D&H Rail-Trail was designated PA's 2021 Trail of the Year by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The trail was nominated by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR), the region through which most of the trail passes. According to DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn, trail use throughout the state dramatically increased during the pandemic as residents and visitors sought healthier recreation options. The D&H also showed an increase in trail users, especially bikers and hikers. And that increase has continued into the winter, with more snowshoers, XC skiers and snowmobilers. Cain Chamberlin, executive director of EMHR) remarked "it's a great trail to connect with nature, history and our many beautiful Main streets and towns in rural NE Pennsylvania."

The RT Council will be celebrating the designation with special trail events all year long. The Council will also be celebrating its 30th anniversary as a non-profit organization. The trail will receive a special plaque as Trail of the Year, a poster for promotion and funding for signage to enhance trail safety. Check out our website and Facebook page for the latest trail activities and special events.

Bob and Elizabeth Stark, Union Dale PA  
 Doug and Marge Stark, South Lebanon Twp PA  
 Joe and Kathy Sterchak, Collegeville PA  
 Leo Stermole, Ellicott City MD  
 Cathy Stevens, Doylestown PA  
 Andy Strauss, Trenton NJ  
 Mary & Ed Strauss, Philadelphia PA  
 Peter Strickler, Malvern PA  
 Nancy Surdoval, Tucson AZ  
 Don Taber, Wilmington DE  
 Bob and Karen Taylor, Union Dale PA  
 Mary Ann Thomas, Newtown Square PA  
 Debra and Daniel Thompson, Crystal Lake IL  
 Jim Tighe & Family, Browndale PA  
 Michael & Barbara Tilton, Sparta NJ  
 Hennie Van Den Hengel, Springville PA  
 Jane Varcoe, Waymart PA  
 Jon Villaume, Honesdale PA  
 Bill & Patty Walker, Union Dale PA  
 Mark C Walsh, East Stroudsburg PA  
 Al Weiner, Fairplay CO  
 Earle and June Wootton, Montrose PA  
 James Yeich, New Milford PA  
 Robert Youker, Rockville MD  
 Dave Zebrowski, Forest City PA  
 Adams Cable, Carbondale PA  
 Mountain View Garden Club, Clifford PA  
 Southern Tier Bicycle Club, Binghamton NY  
 Pennsylvania Bluestone Assoc, New Milford PA

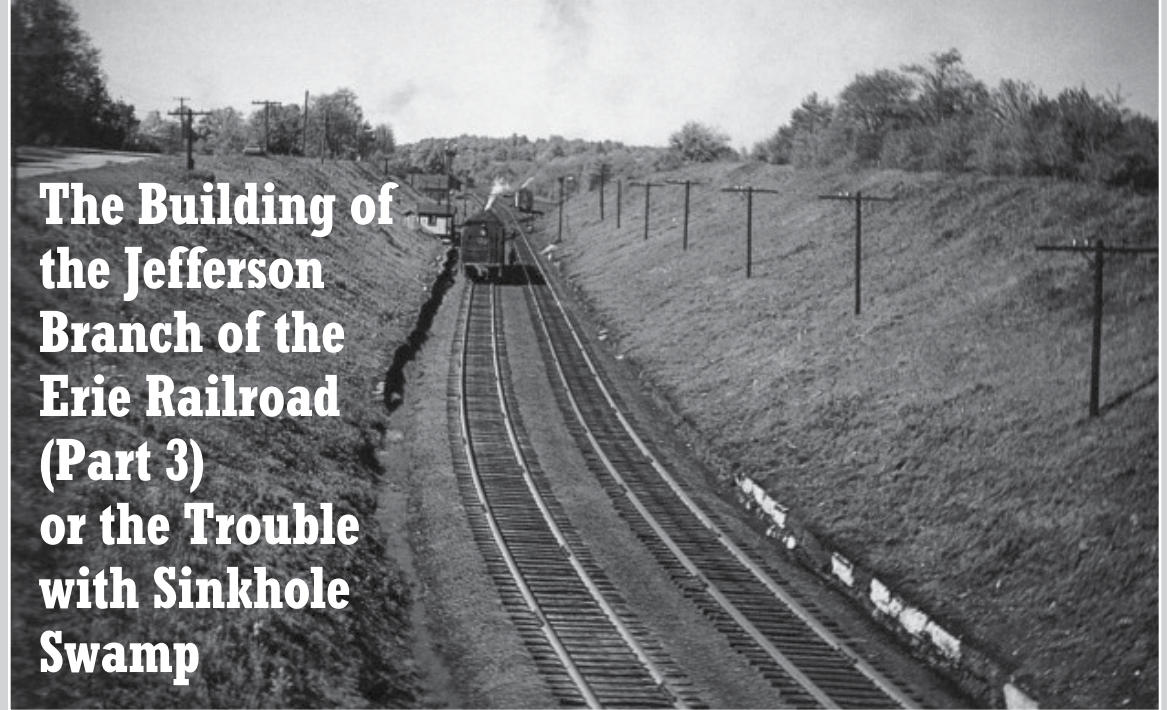
## NEW MEMBERS

Susan Anderson, Exeter, PA  
 Brian Cavallaro, Binghamton, NY  
 Valerie Clemens, Union Dale, PA  
 Laura Davis, Kingsley, PA  
 Lorie Fallon, Thompson, PA  
 Joe & Lynn Gluck, Susquehanna, PA  
 Margret Hatch, Dickson City, PA  
 Ed Kimes, Union Dale, PA  
 Bobby Kopec, Archbald, PA  
 Thomas P & Kate Kurosky, Montrose, PA  
 Angela Lambert, Jermy, PA  
 Celia & Lawrence Levit, Union Dale, PA  
 Lightning Bike Racers, Honesdale, PA  
 Denise Marcel, Pleasant Mount PA  
 Jeffrey & Shannon Pavlovich, Vandling, PA  
 Catherine Refice, Clarks Summit, PA  
 Diana Evans Slick, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Dawn Steele, Nicholson, PA  
 Tammy Swetter, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Mary Weaver, Susquehanna, PA

## RENEWING MEMBERS

Edward Ameika, Duryea, PA  
 Senator Lisa Baker, Dallas, PA  
 Rena Bevilacqua, Archbald, PA  
 Peter & Carol Borick, Berwick, PA  
 F Warren Breig Jr, Dalton, PA  
 Rich & Ann Brunori, Union Dale, PA  
 Jon Burdick, Susquehanna, PA  
 Tom & Carol Chesnick, Vandling, PA  
 Billy Culnane, Thompson, PA  
 Chuck Culnane, Hallstead, PA  
 Elaine Decker, Montrose PA  
 Fred & Gloria DeSanto, Pittston, PA  
 Karen & Robert Dinning, Clarks Summit, PA  
 Dymond S Ranch, Thompson, PA  
 Mary Farley, Waymart, Pa  
 David & Mary Fitzpatrick, Dalton, Pa  
 Paul Fogal, Jim Thorpe, PA  
 Marian Franceski, Forest City, PA  
 Patricia Franks-Evanish, Archbald, PA  
 Esther K Friedmann, Clarks Green, PA  
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 John & Elizabeth Hawley, Montrose, PA  
 Bill & Barbara Heller, Union Dale, PA  
 Joe & Kay Jerin, Mayfield, PA  
 Beverly & David Johnson, Randolph, NJ  
 Jim Kasten, Hallstead, PA  
 Robo & Sarah Keating, Clifford Twp, PA  
 William Kerl, Carbondale, PA  
 Dan & Diane Kimberley, Susquehanna, PA  
 Ken Kirschner, Wilmington, DE  
 Joe & Mary Kluck, Simpson, PA  
 Edward Kowalewski, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Kathy Land, Waymart, PA  
 Joyce Lomma, Scranton, PA  
 James & Kathleen MacKenzie, Oxford, PA  
 Dave & Micki Lukens, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Joe & Bonnie Lundy, Gladwyne, PA  
 Colleen MacDaniel, Thornhurst, PA  
 Peter Macheska, Simpson, PA  
 Gail Mardfin, Santa Rosa, CA  
 Richard & Shirley Masters, Kingsley, PA  
 Michael McCambridge, Thornhurst, PA  
 Steve & Connie McDonnell, Waverly, PA  
 Sally McGrath, Kingsley, PA  
 Keith Miller, Trappe, PA  
 Millett Family, Scranton, PA  
 Joseph Nardelli, Franklintonville, NJ  
 Vincent & Mary Lynn Obell, Olyphant, PA  
 Gred & Vicki Otto, Hedges, PA  
 Ann Marie Pettinato, Carbondale, PA  
 Frank & Donna Prybeck, Susquehanna, PA  
 The Rabinowitz Family FDN, Bala Cynwyd, PA  
 Beverly Rainforth, Binghamton, NY  
 Tom & Sally Roberts, Clifford, PA  
 Charles & Nancy Rood, Fayetteville, PA  
 Haydn & Joan Samuel, Union Dale, PA  
 Melvin & Geri Seely, Honesdale, PA  
 Robert & Terrilyn Segerstrom, Thompson, PA  
 Mike & Judy Senio, Penfield, NY  
 Willard & Gail Sickles, Dalton, PA  
 Michelle Smith, Covington Twp, PA  
 Bruce R Stephens, Nicholson, PA  
 Matthew & Rachel Swierowski, Sellersville, PA  
 Robert Terpak, Harrisburg, PA  
 Richard Terpstra, Montrose, PA  
 Mary Torney, Montrose, PA  
 Tri-County Sportsman Assoc, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Bill Urban, Philadelphia, PA

# The Building of the Jefferson Branch of the Erie Railroad (Part 3) or the Trouble with Sinkhole Swamp



One of the most difficult sections to build on the Jeff was at Ararat Summit where a heavy cut was necessary to reduce the elevation. Ararat Summit is about 20 miles north of Carbondale and is considered the highest (in elevation) track in Pennsylvania. The second highest trackage being at Kane Summit on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad.

For a distance of about fourteen hundred feet, or ¼ mile, the earth was excavated out and removed on cars running on a temporary track to the south. The earthen material was used to fill in the marshy area, known as Sinkhole Swamp, located just north of Romobe Lake. The depth of the cut can be seen in photo.

After the railroad opened in October of 1870, numerous landslides occurred during the Spring thaw in 1871. This material was also used to fill in the marshy areas at Sinkhole Swamp. These landslides delayed the opening of the Jefferson Branch that year.

Later a trestle, "Trestle 3½" was constructed over the swamp. It was 25 to 40 feet in height; the length was not reported but from the map it appeared to be at least 400 feet long. This section continued to be a problem area for many years. Thirteen years after the opening on the Jefferson Branch, in 1883, the area still had its problems.

"Trestle 3½ on the Jefferson Branch is causing the Erie company considerable trouble, or to use an old expression, more trouble than it is worth. The trestle is a quite high and long one and is built over a swamp or overgrown lake. Its foundation is none of the strongest, and on several occasions the trestle has sunk some way in the swamp." *Carbondale Leader*, February 23, 1883

Today there is no evidence of this trestle and Sinkhole Swamp is more lakelike. A new historical sign was researched and is now being fabricated about Ararat Summit, the Ararat Railroad Station, the Ararat Wye and Sinkhole Swamp. It will be installed in the spring of 2021 at the Ararat Trailhead.

*Thanks again to S. Robert Powell for this information, found in his DVD series on the D&H Canal and Railroad series, available from the Carbondale Historical Society.*



USGS map 1932

# Trail Events

Wow, what a winter we are having! Perfect snow conditions for snowshoeing, xc skiing, winter hikes and snowmobiling on the trail. We have snowshoes to borrow and xc ski equipment can be rented from Chet's at Elk Mountain. Yes, COVID-19 is still a threat and that will not stop us. We will continue to ask that event participants wear a mask and honor the six-foot distance.

Check our website for EVENTS at [www.neparailtrails.org](http://www.neparailtrails.org) or check our Facebook page, "Winter on the D&H Trail." Please like us if you haven't already.



# Special Events

## MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Winter Challenge 30 miles in 30 days. Sign up on [www.tailonthetrail.org](http://www.tailonthetrail.org) Northeast PA chapter.

## FEBRUARY 20

Winter Tree Walk with Jim Kessler 10 AM Lanesboro to Brandt section of the trail, meet at Luciana Park.

## SPRING

TBA Mushroom Foray and Bird Migration Walk. Details to be announced.

## BUILDING HEALTH SERIES

Outdoor group activities designed to build health naturally:

### WALKING MONDAYS

10 am, meet at the Rail Trail Office.

### SECOND SATURDAY TRAIL YOGA

We will meet at Rail Trail Office and caravan to the designated trailhead.

FEBRUARY 13, 9:45 am

MARCH 13, 9:45 am

APRIL 10, 9:45 am

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY POP-UP ACTIVITIES

Hiking, XC Skiing and Snowshoeing. Check Facebook for daily updates.

### FULL MOON HIKES

Meeting at the Rail Trail Office.

FEBRUARY 27, 7 pm start

MARCH 28, 7:30 pm start

APRIL 26, 8 pm start

## 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"/> I am interested in finding out more about the "Trail Tender" program.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35             | <input type="checkbox"/> Send my newsletter electronically (instead of by mail) to: _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20         | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a NEW brochure.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$15     | <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to volunteer for the D&H Caboose restoration project                |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 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](mailto:trails@nep.net)

Richard & Ann Marie Utegg, Vanding, PA  
 Denise & Peter Vauter, Forest City, PA  
 Mike & Sharron Wallace, Scranton, PA  
 Richard Watson, Lakewood, PA  
 Tom & Patricia Williamson, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Michael Yavorosky, Hop Bottom, PA  
 The Young Family, Madison Twp, PA  
 Louis & Patricia Zefran, Forest City, PA

## DONATIONS

Pat & John Atkins, Waverly, PA in honor of Nancy Ross  
 Kathleen Bailey, Hilltown, PA  
 Jack Burcher & Bonnie Beers, Honesdale, PA  
 Richard & Linda Eckersley, Scranton, PA  
 Jerry & Kathy Franceski, Union Dale, PA  
 Patricia Green, Dunmore, PA  
 Marilyn & Bill Hiller, South Canaan, PA  
 Nancy Kiss, Flourtown, PA in honor of Nancy Ross  
 Chris & Debby Kutich, Clifford Twp, PA  
 Celia & Lawrence Levit, Union Dale, PA in honor of  
 Nancy Ross  
 Valerie Pratt, Carbondale, PA  
 Frank & Donna Prybeck, Susquehanna, PA  
 Frank Ramiza, Exeter, PA  
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA  
 The Ross Family Foundation in honor of Nancy Ross  
 Sanofi US Services. Matching Donation from  
 Michelle Smith

Dr. Douglas & Margaret Sheldon, Thompson, PA  
 Jon Villaume, Honesdale, PA  
 The Zakaria Family Foundation, Jersey City, NJ

### Memorial Donations

Mona E. Ballard, Jenkintown, PA in memory of June Felley  
 Dorrance & Susan Belin, Waverly, PA in memory of June Felley  
 Mary Felley, Jenkintown, PA in memory of Jack McNamara  
 Marian Franceski, Forest City, PA in memory of William Franceski  
 Eloise Hyde, North Abington Twp, PA in memory of June Felley  
 Matthew & Tammy Hunter, Union Dale, PA in memory of June Felley  
 Joseph & Marjorie Pavlovich, Vanding, PA in memory of Anna Sotak Rutherford  
 Donald & Renea Refice, Scranton, PA in memory of Jack McNamara  
 Haydn & Joanie Samuel, Union Dale, PA in memory of Jack McNamara  
 William & Randa Sutch, Blue Bell, PA, in memory of June Felley  
 Robert R. Taylor, Union Dale, PA in memory of Bob Hunter  
 Mary Karen Wyandt, Union Dale, PA in memory of June Felley

### Caboose Restoration

Robert & Terrilyn Segerstrom, Thompson, PA  
 Willard & Gail Sickles, Dalton, PA  
 Richard Terpstra, Montrose, PA



## Winter Wanderings on the D&H Rail Trail

**W**e recently had a Second Saturday 'snowshoe' Trail Yoga with many participants eager to give snowshoeing and trail yoga a try...and I will let Lisa and her nephews tell you all about it.

*There's so much to see and do on the D&H Rail Trail. Like many people, this past summer I spent more time exploring the outdoors and put in lots of sunny miles biking on the D&H Rail Trail. Whenever their schedules would allow, I'd bring my 10-year old triplet nephews and niece to burn off some energy. After meeting Cindy and Lynn on a Wednesday group ride, I started following the D&H Rail Trail's Facebook page for more activities and I soon discovered the Rail Trail isn't just for biking! In January, I went snowshoeing for the first time at an event hosted by the Rail Trail Council of NEPA and brought along my two nephews. Here is what they thought.*

### What was your expectation of snowshoeing?

**Nathaniel:** *I thought we would be walking up and down hills in the snow with grippy shoes.*

**Josiah:** *I wasn't too sure about it.*

### How did the snowshoes feel?

**N:** *They felt like wearing big flip flops—it was hard to run in them.*

**J:** *They were comfortable, but a little awkward. Don't try to go too fast at first.*

### What did you see?

**J:** *Snow-covered trees that looked pretty and animal tracks.*

**N:** *Mushrooms and a small creek that we explored.*

**J:** *The bike trail is really cool and goes for a really long time.*

**N:** *It has a lot of cool wildlife.*

### Who did you meet?

*The group was really friendly and nice. Cindy explained a lot of things to us about the woods. She showed us the animal tracks and said that you can follow the animal tracks to guide you out of the woods. She showed us the really cool shelf mushrooms that were growing out of the trees and hanging upside down. We also learned about a gunpowder factory that used to be near the creek and made gunpowder for the civil war.*

### Would you go snowshoeing again?

*Yes, definitely!*

### Closing thoughts:

**N:** *It was easy to master. We like trying new experiences*

**J:** *You can discover a lot of awesome and exotic plants and wildlife even in the wintertime.*

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

## 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.

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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 Forest City PA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED