

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

Thomas, Lori & Shanna Eshelman, Union Dale, PA
 Nancy Van Kuren & Tim Greene, Mattawan, MI
 Allen & Nancy Koberlein, Willow Street, PA
 Fred & Myrna Lally, Nicholson, PA
 Thomas E. Wooden Sr., Montrose, PA
 Robert Youker, Rockville, MD

NEW MEMBERS

Tim & Andrea Braun, Susquehanna, PA
 Shawn Brown, Carbondale, PA
 Kim Dragwa, Brown Dale, PA
 Jean Fairfield, Thompson, PA
 Sean & Nancy Hanahue, Clarks Summit, PA
 David Kaplan, Clifton, NJ
 Amy Kordish, Greenfield Twp, PA
 Richard Kordish, Greenfield Twp, PA
 Scott Leet, Honesdale, PA
 Mark Miller, Scott Twp, PA
 Michael & Mary O'Hara, Carbondale, PA

RENEWING MEMBERS

Jim & Bobbie Achey, Union Dale, PA
 Bruce Adams, Lancaster, PA
 Edward Ameika, Duryea, PA
 Gary & Debbie Bates, Waymart, PA
 Peter Baumann, Susquehanna, PA
 Gerald & Carlyn Bell, Phoenixville, PA
 Craig & Pam Benson, Thompson, PA
 David & Linda Bernarsky, Vandling, PA
 Esterina Bevilacqua, Archbald, PA
 Joseph Blaskiewicz, Honesdale, PA
 Peter & Carol Borick, Berwick, PA
 Keith & Theresa Buhl, Rahway NJ
 Robert Chambers, Tenafly, NJ
 Tom & Kathy Chesnick, Clifford Twp, PA
 Wayne & Sara Chudleigh, Union Dale, PA
 Richard & Marie Cochrane, Clarks Summit, PA
 Nicholas Cost, Forest City, PA
 Norman Coyle, Lake Ariel, PA
 Laura Davis, Kingsley, PA
 John & Lisa Demark, Vandling, PA
 Mary Farley, Waymart, PA
 Ed Giombetti, Jessup, PA
 Francis Graytock, Union Dale, PA
 Stephen Goscinsky, Ringoes, NJ
 Marie Greto, Carbondale, PA
 Mike & Joanne Gryiec, Larksville, PA
 Richard & Sandra Guman, Archbald, PA
 Grant & Sharon Gutkowski, Linden, NJ
 Robert Guzzi, Dalton, PA
 George & Susan Haff, Union Dale, PA
 Mary Jo Hart, Montrose, PA
 Joyce Hatala, Fleetville, PA
 Alan & Linda Highhouse, Honesdale, PA
 Charles James, Susquehanna, PA
 The Jimenez Family, Hampton, NJ
 Beverly & David Johnson, Randolph, NJ
 Jim Kasten, Hallstead, PA
 Dominic Keating, Waverly, PA
 Bill Keller, South Abington, PA
 Don & Karyn Kintzer, Orinda, CA
 Joe & Mary Kluck, Simpson, PA
 Delores Kownaski, South Windsor, CT
 Tom & Kate Kurosky, Montrose, PA
 Richard Lane, Woodbridge, NJ
 Thelma Lowry, Clifford, PA
 Bernice Lukus, Vandling, PA
 Colleen MacDaniel, Thornhurst, PA
 Debbie McNamara, Union Dale, PA
 Walter & Pamela Moshier, Forest City, PA
 Mark Moskowitz, Wynnewood, PA
 Evelyn Pantzar, Forest City, PA
 Edward & Gladys Pantzar, Vandling, PA

New Grants

Governor Tom Wolf and PennDot Secretary Yassmin Gramian announced the funding for only 64 projects in Pennsylvania, with the only Susquehanna County project being awarded to the Rail-Trail Council for the improvement of the D&H Trail from the Melrose Crossing to Steven's Point.

Funding for this project comes from the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program with over half of the funds made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Press Release, this funding program is specifically earmarked for projects and activities that are defined as "transportation alternative, including on-and-off road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation, trails that serve a transportation purpose, and safe routes to school projects."

These funds will be used to grade and resurface the existing trail as well as re-establish existing drainage from just before the trail crossing at Melrose Road in Thompson, PA heading north to Steven's Point, PA. Users can expect a strong trail surface aggregate as seen in the southern end of the trail when the project is completed.

The Rail-Trail Council would like to thank the Susquehanna County Commissioners for supporting this project through municipal sponsorship.



Left to Right: Trail Ambassadors Mary Kovaleski, Jon Burdick and Judy Gretzula.

Trail Ambassadors

We know that our rail trails offer a wide range of benefits to people, communities, businesses, and the environment. From physical and mental health, to supporting local economies, to fostering a better environment, our goals can only be met by bridging the gap between people and the vast resources surrounding our trails. We believe the best way to foster this growth is with relational connections. Social media and websites are a great tool to use for quick questions, but when visitors want more information, they are looking for on-the-ground, trustworthy people to point them in the right direction. With 38 miles to cover this presents an opportunity to capture the unique insights of our committed trail users. For example, take Jon Burdick, an RTC board member who specializes in capturing the trail through photographs for its natural beauty and historic value on the northern end. These pictures are posted on social media where people are entranced with the scenic opportunities that they didn't know were available and then they are directed on how to access these opportunities themselves. Or take Mary Kovaleski, an energetic woman who you can find at our trail events, in the office with a new visitor, or chatting with someone on the trail who has questions about the trail or other things to do in the area. Another example is Judy Gretzula. Judy put in 1000 miles on her bike in 2021, and you can find her organizing group bike rides and introducing new people to the trail. Each of these three Trail Ambassadors have something unique that they offer to people. Our goal is to continue to make more connections for people so that we can maximize our positive impact in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Trail Ambassadors can expect to be invited to an exclusive one-day forum with food, awards, relatable presentations, as well as receive access to local events and attractions that fit their category of interest and direction. If you are interested in learning how you can use your experiences on the trail to create relatable connections for people to our trails, local businesses, over-night accommodations, history, and trail programming, then contact us with your interest and we will send you more information!

Brandt and the Start of Stickley Furniture



With D&H Rail-Trail improvements now underway in Brandt area and with a new historical sign under design, it's a perfect time to delve into the history of the area. The village of Brandt is on the south (left) side of the Starrucca Creek as you cross the SR 1009, heading towards Lanesboro.

Brandt was established around 1860, before the Civil War, as Harmony Centre by Henry Brandt and Jacob Schlager. It was “well-located for manufacturing purposes,” along the Starrucca Creek. And with the Erie and D&H Railroads that opened in 1870, it was perfectly positioned to attract many businesses. Brandt and Schlager were business partners, operating a tannery, a chemical business and a chair factory. Also in Brandt were a brick factory, a blacksmith, several stores, a church and boarding house. Harmony Centre was renamed Brandt in honor of Henry Brandt when he passed in 1886.

The Brandt Railroad Depot was located just beyond the now SR crossing, where a small wooden bridge crossed over the creek. Brandt was one of seven railroad stations on the Erie/D&H railroads (now trail). Across the creek from the Depot was a large three-story building “Brandt Chair Manufacturing Company” and the blacksmith shop. You needed to cross the bridge to get to the village, partially hidden by the large chair factory. What was hidden behind the 3-story factory were beautiful homes in a park-like setting and a Presbyterian church with a striking steeple.

The Stickley brothers came to work in their uncle Jacob Schlager's chair factory in 1870 when they moved from Wisconsin with their family. Mother, Barbara Stickley had her roots in Pennsylvania and following marriage difficulties moved her all her eleven children to Brandt to be near her family. Barbara was part of a distinguished lineage closely linked to the prestigious and wealthy Brandt's. Thus, the Stickley boys began their first formal training in furniture making in the small village of Brandt. The 1880 US Census shows Barbara Stickley and her sons, Gustav and Charles Stickley living there as Chair Makers. By 1883, all five brothers Charles, Leopold, Gustav, Albert and John George were well on their way to careers in the furniture industry. The oldest, Gustav became a foreman while Charles and Albert became skilled in various operations as caning seats and decorative touches. Gustav, Charles and Albert formed Stickley Brothers and Company in Brandt in 1883.

“The manufacture of chairs employs at present seventy-five men and boys. The chairs made at this establishment are among the finest made in this country. People who look with distrust upon factory made

furniture, should visit these shops and see for themselves how substantially Brandt's chairs are put together. The upholstering department is presided over by a gentleman who is master of the profession, and in the wood-making room several skilled carvers are employed who deftly transform the “oak wood” into life-like figures.”

Later in 1883, the three brothers, Gustav, Charles and Albert took off on their own (with financial backing from Uncle Jacob and Henry Brandt) and started a factory in Binghamton—The Stickley Brothers. Charles later joined with his cousin, Schuyler Brandt to start the Stickley-Brandt Furniture Company in Binghamton, while the other brothers left to start on their own. Gustav started his own company in Eastwood (Syracuse) New York in the late 1890s. Youngest brothers, Leopold and John George started the L.&J.G. Stickley Furniture Co. in Fayetteville, NY in 1900. Stickley-Brandt chairs were also made in Grand Rapids, Michigan, under the direction of Leopold. It was said that the Stickley Brothers were each capable of building and directing their own furniture companies, but were unable to work together.

Gustav visited England in 1884, and was exposed to the European arts and crafts movement. Upon his return, he started the company, United Crafts, which later became known as Craftsman Workshops. Gustav became known for simple designs reflecting his ideals of simplicity, honesty and truth in materials. This was in direct contrast to complicated and fancy Victorian designs. In 1901, he published the first issue of *The Craftsman* magazine, an important vehicle for promoting the Arts and Crafts philosophy. Gustav is also well-known for his “Craftsman Home” designs that could be seen in his monthly magazine. Plans were made available to subscribers, free of charge upon request. As with his furniture, his homes were based on the ‘virtues of simplicity, utility and organic harmony.’ Stickley designed at least 241 homes and published over 221 plans. He wrote in the magazine: “The word that is best loved in the language of every nation is home, for when a man's home is born out of his heart and developed through his labor and perfected through his sense of beauty, it is the very cornerstone of his life.”

Gustav Stickley died on April 21, 1942. Today, his works are still widely recognized, especially his early pieces from 1900–1904, that appeal to collectors. Seems that the brothers copied each other's styles and it may be confusing as to which brother certain pieces can be credited. As Gustav declared in his own 1909 catalog, “To add to the confusion, some of my most persistent of these imitators bear the same name as myself....” For example, Charles' designs often used Gustav's cabinet door hardware design. The youngest brothers, Leopold and John George purchased Gustav's Craftsman Shops in 1918, combining the two leading mission style furniture firms.

Although no longer held by the Stickley family, the successor firm to the L. & J.G. Stickley Company continues to operate in Manlius, New York, as Stickley-Audi. It produces a variety of styles, including many original Gustav Stickley Arts and Crafts designs. The Company operates a museum, located in the original L.&J.G. factory building. It features the work of the Stickley brothers and is located near its current factory site.

This article only touches on the highlights of the Stickley Family, but much more fascinating information can be found with the resources below. Or you can explore further with a daytrip. How many homes were built using Gustav's designs and how do you recognize a craftsman house or how can you recognize Stickley furniture?

- The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, Morris Plains, New Jersey
- The Stickley Museum, Fayetteville, New York
- Gustav Stickley Home, Syracuse, New York
- Article: *Ray Stubblebine & Craftsman Farms*
- www.stevenspoint.com by Diane Rockwell Bott
- <https://artsandcraftscollector.com/journey-article/the-forgotten-brother/>
- *The Stickley Brothers: The Quest for an American Voice*, Michael E Clark, Jill Thomas-Clark

Nice to Meet You!



Hello! My name is Valerie Senese, I am the new executive director since the well-deserved retirement of the previous executive director, Lynn Conrad. Before I continue to introduce myself, I would like to first acknowledge the legacy that Lynn has provided through

her 28+ years with the Rail-Trail Council. Lynn's work can be symbolically represented through the growth of the D&H Trail. Named the 2021 Trail of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, this trail started as a long list of wishes, hopes, and dreams. Through her dedication, resourcefulness, and focus, the trail has materialized from the dreams that it started from in the early nineties. Lynn has truly created a legacy, and if you are like me, who would be sad to see Lynn go, then cheer up, because you can still find her around the office, writing historical pieces for the newsletter, and on the trail!

With a clear path blazing forward, it's with great pleasure that I continue to lead the organization while working with a dynamic board of directors. My desire is to enhance, create, and sustain economic and community development and historical and environmental preservation through the cultivation and maintenance of linear parks here with the Rail-Trail Council. Recently, I have accepted a two-year term on the Pennsylvania DCNR NextGen Council, and I am committed to ensuring that our trails will be an investment that can be appreciated and used across the lifespan and for generations to come. I look forward to meeting everyone either through the newsletter, via email, in-person at the office, at one of our many trail events, or over the phone. I would also like to thank all of our supporting members. Without donations and contributions like yours, we would be unable to accomplish the projects that we have here in the Endless Mountains.

Building Health Series

Spring reminds us of many things, probably the number one thing is that the snow will be gone and the weather is warmer. Snow being gone is not always the case, as we could have snowshoed in April with nature's last attempt at winter weather. However, with the snow now behind us, the weather has started to warm up, the fragrance of lilacs are in the air, the buds on the trees are now a fresh green, the days are longer and you just want to get outside. The night sky during May has offered an opportunity to be outside observing the Full Moon's show of a Lunar Eclipse and Blood Moon. Did you catch the "Planetary Trio," where Venus, Mars and Saturn were aligned on the horizon just before dawn? There are so many things to do, learn, and enjoy while exercising your body and mind. Being outdoors is NATURALLY grounding, mind clearing and uplifting.

We at the Trail offer a **Building Health Series** with weekly and monthly activities showcasing different sections along thirty-eight miles of trail. We offer **Walking Mondays** at 10 am every Monday and **Biking Wednesdays** at 5 pm during the summer months with different monthly meeting points along the trail. **Second Saturday Trail Yoga/Mindfulness/Meditation** that happens the second Saturday of every month and **Full Moon Walks/Hikes** happen the night of the full moon every month. There will also be pop-up hikes, walks, and bike riding throughout the season.

If you are interested, you can check our website at www.neparailtrails.org/Events. You can also email us at nepatrails@gmail.com or call 570-679-9300 with any questions or to reserve your spot in any activity. Outdoors and active, don't miss out!

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY HIKES & BIKES

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region is sponsoring the 2022 'Hikes & Bikes' series. For more information go to www.emheritage.org/events/

HIKE SALT SPRINGS

June 18-19

HIKE PANTHERS' BLUFF

July 16

HIKE D&H THOMPSON

July 17

BIKE VIADUCT TO VIADUCT

Metric Century Road Ride, August 6 (Rain date August 7)

BIKE THE NORTHERN D&H

Steven's Point North, October 15

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 the Trail Ambassador 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

Catherine Parsons, Simpson, PA
 Roy & Vee Pauli, Scranton, PA
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 Bruce & Faye Reed, Muir, PA
 Resource Environmental Management,
 Montrose, PA
 Tom & Sally Roberts, Clifford, PA
 Ron & Chris Ryczak, Mayfield, PA
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 Katrina Scott, Union Dale, PA
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 Tom & Patricia Williamson, Clifford, PA
 Peter & Viktoria Wood, Pipersville, PA
 Sharon Wunner, Bear Creek Twp, PA
 Michael Yavorosky, Hop Bottom, PA
 Janelle Zigon, Vandling, PAA

DONATIONS

Memorial Donations:

In Memory of William "Buzz" Boomer –
 Debbie McNamara, Union Dale, PA
In Memory of Kelly J. Felins, MD – Raymond
 Felins, Covington Twp, PA
In Memory of Rudolf Ruedemann –
 Mountain View Garden Club

Caboose Restoration:

Stephen Goscinsky, Ringoes, NJ

Other Donations:

Mary Lynn Brannon, Carbondale, PA
 Delores Kownaski, Windsor, CT
 Frank & Catherine Martin, West Grove PA
 Melanie Urdang, Union Dale, PA
 Robert Youker, Rockville, MD



Program manager Cindy Klenk using the new bike station.

Bike Station in Union Dale

If you stop in at our Union Dale Trailhead you may notice a new trailside amenity. Brought to the trail by a generous donation provided by the Frank & Lori Beardell Family, we now have a bike repair station where users can pump a tire and have access to tools needed for minor bike repairs. We also received grant funding from the Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Initiative to install one more station in Simpson.

Trail Closure Notice

Due to trail construction activities, the trail is closed until this October from Steven's Point to the NY Border. While we will miss the use of this section of trail this summer, including the annual Ultra-Marathon Event, we look forward to the ribbon cutting that will be held in the fall and the gifts that the new trail will provide to its users for decades to come.

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. Memberships for all receiving electronic newsletters will expire on December 31.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED