

# 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

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Pocono Biking, Jim Thorpe, PA  
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Pete Katapski, Scott Twp, PA  
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Michael Levchak, Chester Springs, PA  
Eugene & Patricia Litz, Greenfield Twp, PA  
Susan Lucenti, Montrose, PA  
Matthew Mullally, Callicoon, NY  
Ann Marie Noone, Union Dale, PA  
Peter Olivieri, Dallas, PA  
Jeffrey Piscanio, Bernville, PA  
J Anthony Quinn, DMD, Waverly, PA  
Kevin Rooney, Floral Park, NY  
David Sutton, Honesdale, PA  
Dona Warner, Union Dale, PA  
Kim Zelna, Greenfield Twp, PA

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Edward Cameron & Katherine Shelly, Thompson, PA  
Bruce Campbell, Lancaster, PA  
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E Christine Elder, Carbondale, PA  
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Matilda Gavalis, Union Dale, PA  
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Kenneth Hannon & Tomas Ramirez, Washington, DC  
Chet Harhut, Greenfield Twp, PA



## We Missed You!

The holidays flew by, and so did our 4th quarter issue for the 2022 Rail-Trail Council Newsletter. This newsletter you are holding in 2023 is not a replacement, it is just a bit tardy, and for good reason!

As you are probably aware, our offices are located in Union Dale, PA inside the Cables General Store Building that our organization owns. For years, we have shared the downstairs space with our delightful neighbors who run the General Store, but this year they asked if they could expand for café seating, and we were much obliged to support their expansion!

If you are wondering where we went, then you won't have to look far. We moved our business offices upstairs and have an accessible back office still located on the first floor. Moving our offices during the holidays was a lot of work, but with the help of our great staff, volunteers, and a donation from Tom's Flooring, we were able to make it happen. Being that we have moved upstairs, you might be asking yourself, "If I want to visit, but stairs are not my thing, how do I stop by?" We have got you covered with an intercom system in place downstairs where we can come to you! Whether you want to stop in and ask questions, chat, peruse some of our books, or renew your membership, we are still here to serve you, but with more options to do so!

If you haven't already, we would like to inspire you to come check out the expanded Cables café that boasts local artwork, a variety of seating arrangements, and an atmosphere that is perfect for either trail use, or to just enjoy on its own. For more information, check them out on Facebook at Cables General Store.

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 Millett Family, Scranton, PA  
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 Joseph Prula, Couldsboro, PA  
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 Tim Reilly, Larksville, PA  
 Gail Rendle, Nicholson, PA  
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 Richard Schlasta, Forest City, PA  
 Melvin & Geri Seely, Honesdale, PA  
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 Kenneth & Gail Twiford, Lancaster, PA  
 Melanie Urdang, Union Dale, PA  
 Richard & Ann Marie Utegg, Vandling, PA  
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 Craig M Wahy, Sr, Clarks Summit, PA  
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 Walter West, Warrington, PA  
 Susan Wheeler, Susquehanna, PA  
 Stan & Joyce Wierzbicki, Greenfield Twp, PA  
 Peter & Joan Wood, Lawrenceville, NJ

## DONATIONS

### Caboose Restoration Donations:

Theresa & Keith Buhl, Rahway, NJ  
 Melvin & Geri Seely, Honesdale, PA

### In Honor of:

*In honor of Paula Roos 90th birthday –*  
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

### Memorial Donations:

*In Memory of Dave Christiansen –*

Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

*In Memory of Dave Christiansen –*

Kenneth Hannon & Tomas Ramirez

*In Memory of Jack McNamara –*

Inden Family, Wilmington, DE

*In Memory of Howie Wyandt –*

Bill and Marilyn Hiller

*In Memory of Dave Christiansen –*

Eva Christiansen, Midway, UT

*In Memory of Don Best – Ray & Joan Best –*

Zarkaria Family Foundation, NJ

### Other Donations:

Dorrance & Susan Belin, Waverly, PA

James C Brownlow, II, Vero Beach, FL

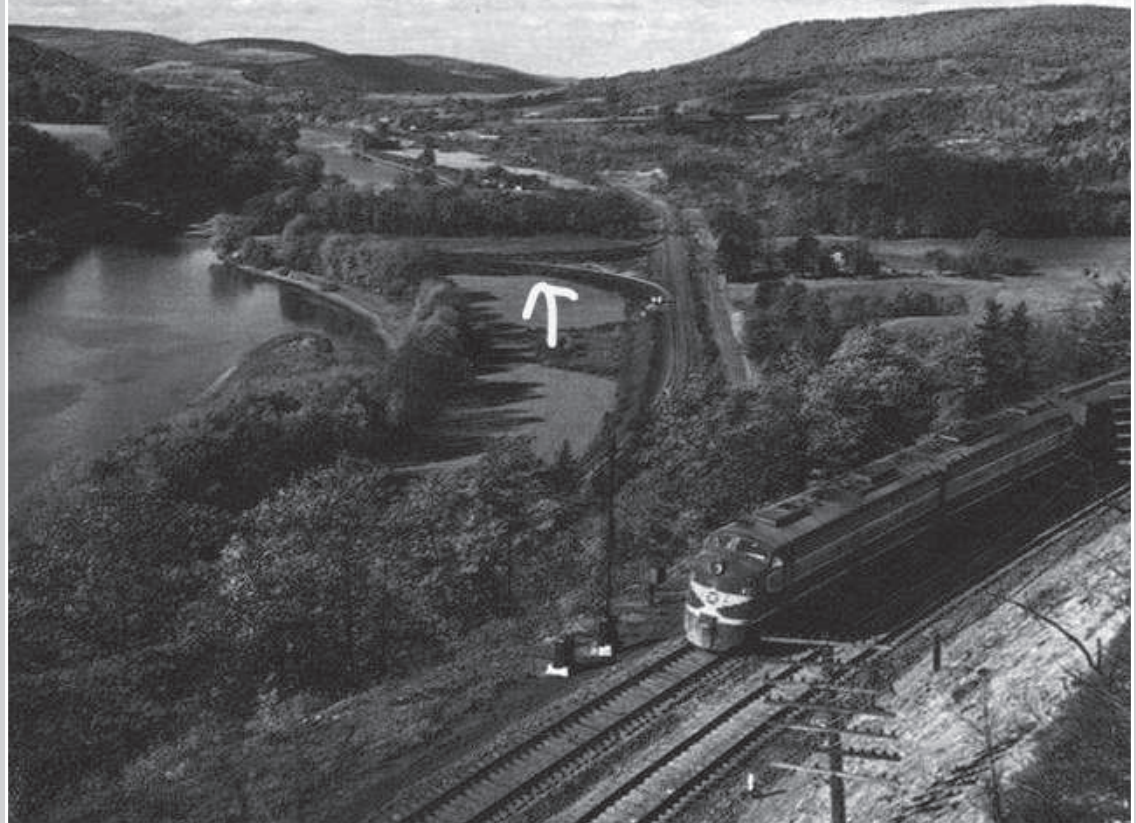
Edward Cameron & Katherine Shelly,

Thompson, PA

Gerald Franceski, Union Dale, PA

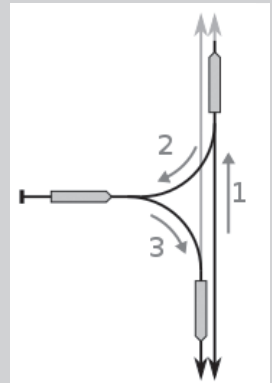
Fred and Mary Garm, Forest City, PA

# D&H Cascade Wye



As we enjoy and explore the newly improved trail section from Stevens Point to the NY border, we would like to update some of our older historical articles that deal with this fascinating section.

Along the 38-mile D&H are two areas next to the railbed known as wyes: the Ararat Wye and the Cascade Wye. A wye is a triangular junction of rail tracks with a switch. Wyes are used for turning railroad equipment such as engines around. It is the equivalent of a three-point turn, where a locomotive can turn around and face the direction from which it came. Pushers were used to push trains loaded with coal out of Carbondale up the grade to Ararat Summit. The pushers would ‘wye’ at the Ararat Wye, and return to Carbondale to push the next train. At present the Ararat Wye is difficult to find as it is grown in. However, it is possible to see, as it has a south leg, a north leg and a tail. The Ararat Wye is located on the east side of the D&H just north of the Ararat Road crossing (up and over the road), where the adjacent terrain flattens out. Easier to find is the Cascade Wye, which is on the new section of improved D&H. It is named after Cascade Creek which flows under the railbed and empties into the Susquehanna River. The Cascade Wye is north of Lanesboro, before the New York State border on the west side (riverside) of the trail. Traveling north you will pass a new trailhead: the “Cascade Wye Trailhead.” Go another two hundred yards and look for the south leg of the wye. If you have crossed over a short railroad bridge, you have gone a bit too far north. The wye is on a raised railbed, so it is easy to see and find. Also, it has been cleared of vegetation by local boy scouts, so it is an easy walk out to the tail next to the river. Recently, the site has been developed into a primitive campsite with a wayfinding sign for through paddlers on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. It has a picnic table, a fire ring and access to the river. Plans are to install a historical sign at the wye.







## Ribbons & Riding & Hiking, Oh My!

The year 2022 was filled with growth, change, and excitement as our organization not only had one, but two ribbon cutting ceremonies! On October 15th, 2022, we celebrated a new Trailhead located in Stevens Point, PA and one mile of resurfaced trail, drainage, and design going north to the Village of Brandt. This project was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant program, as well as grant matching funds from members like YOU! Additionally, we celebrated approximately five more miles of resurfaced trail from Brandt to the NY border and a new trailhead located near the Cascade Wye. This project was funded by the federal Transportation Alternative Set Aside program and managed by PennDOT. If a ribbon cutting wasn't good enough, we were fortunate to team up with the Endless Mountains Heritage Region to bring the public a free community event to celebrate this momentous occasion. The day provided a history walk, a guided bike tour, music, food, vendors, and a bounce house located at the Olivia House AirBnB just off the trailhead in Stevens Point, all surrounded by gorgeous fall weather that could not have been ordered better if we had tried.

## Health Corner

Walking season may be suspended for a couple of months, but there is always something to do on the Trail. We are still enjoying Walking Mondays, every Monday at 10 am, with a hardy group of walkers, and we love to see new faces. Our Board Member and Trail Ambassador, Jon Burdick, has started a "Hike a Section of the Trail" program. One Saturday a month, Jon will lead a walk along a 4–5 mile section of the D&H Trail, hoping to showcase the 38 miles of D&H Trail on foot, from Simpson to the NY border.

Some are anxiously awaiting the winter and hoping to get a good amount of snow this season so we can snowshoe and cross country ski. We are planning our annual Celebrating Winter Event for the first Saturday in February, with snowshoe hikes, and a cross country ski clinic, and food and music at the Caboose at our Union Dale D&H Trailhead. We hope to see you outdoors and active on the Trail!

You can check out our website at [www.neparailtrails.org/events](http://www.neparailtrails.org/events) and Facebook page at Rail-Trail Council for more information about our events. Please pre-register for any, and all events by calling 570-679-9300 ext 201 or email [cindy.nepatrails@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.nepatrails@gmail.com).

### Building Health Series

#### WALKING MONDAYS

10 am, meeting at the Trail Office in Union Dale

#### SECOND SATURDAY MINDFULNESS HIKE

10 am, meeting at the Trail Office and caravanning to the site. Hike a section of the Trail with Jon Burdick, 10 am, TBA

### Love of Nature Education Series

#### FULL MOON WALKS

6:30 pm, meeting at the Trail Office in Union Dale. January 6th (the Wolf Moon), February 5th (the Snow Moon), March 7th (the Full Worm Moon). [www.fullmoonology.com](http://www.fullmoonology.com)

#### JANUARY TREE WALK WITH JIM KESSLER

10 am, January 21. Meeting at Union Dale Trailhead

### Event

#### CELEBRATING WINTER

12–4 pm, February 4th, at the Caboose in Union Dale. Snowshoe hikes, XC ski clinic, food and music

*Outdoors and Active!*

## 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 me a NEW brochure.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20         | <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to volunteer for the D&H Caboose restoration project                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$15     | <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a donation to be used towards the D&H Caboose restoration project |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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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: [nepatrails@gmail.com](mailto:nepatrails@gmail.com)

Chet Harhut, Greenfield Twp, PA  
 John & Amelia Morris, Simpson, PA  
 Vincent & Mary Lynn O'Bell, Olyphant, PA  
 Lauri Pass, Union Dale, PA  
 Ross Family Foundation, James A Ross,  
 Waverly Twp, PA  
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 Linda L Scott, Honesdale, PA  
 Sharon Seymour, Carbondale, PA  
 Jon Villaume, Honesdale, PA  
 Thomas & Susan Williams, S Abington Twp.,  
 PA  
 Thomas E Wooden Sr, Montrose, PA  
 Tom's Floor Shop, Childs, PA  
 United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc  
 Zakaria Family Foundation



### SPECIAL THANK YOU

**To Our 2022 Volunteers:**

Bob Breuche  
 Ethel Breuche  
 Ann Brunori  
 Rich Brunori  
 Jon Burdick  
 Carissa Butler  
 Barb Connor  
 Lynn Conrad  
 Paul Conrad  
 Judy Gretzula  
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 Jim O'Pecko  
 Valerie Pratt  
 Scott Reinhart  
 Nancy Ross  
 Tim Senese  
 Valerie Senese  
 Faith Watersw

## 2022 D&H Virtual Challenge

The D&H Virtual Challenge Kick Off Event featured dedicated riders who came out to the Forest City Trailhead on September 11th to celebrate the D&H Trail, their health, and the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and they did so during a rainstorm! With tents in place, live music playing, and warm, delicious food provided by Cables General Store, the kickoff event featured smiles, happy riders, and even some surprise guests! The rest of the event continued virtually until November as trail users supported a good cause for the maintenance and development of the D&H Trail while challenging themselves to get outdoors and get their Tails on the Trail. This event helped us raise just over \$6,000.00 and we would like to thank our event sponsors and registrants for making this happen.

## From the Desk of Ann Brunori

I am excited to be participating in my first Rail-Trail Council of NEPA project in conjunction with the DEP Community Stewardship Grant Program and the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners Program. Our project is titled the "D&H Rail-Trail Swale." We are also working with the Watershed Conservancy District to provide further protection of the wetland and wildlife at the D&H Rail-Trail in Ararat at the beginning of the Starrucca Creek which would enhance the environment, help mitigate local climate change, and support the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA's mission to provide health, wellness, and economic growth to the surrounding communities. It is with great pleasure to be able to reach out to local volunteers who would be willing to share their time, energy, and creative ability to successfully complete this project. At the same time, you will be learning about swales, native trees, plants, and shrubs as well as some of the history surrounding the D&H Rail-Trail. I sincerely hope you will consider volunteering for this amazing project along the Trail in Ararat on Saturday, April 29 (rain date Saturday, May 6) between the hours of 9 am-4 pm. You do not have to commit to a whole day, but it would be much appreciated for any amount of time you would be willing to share with us. To register for this opportunity please call the office at 570.670.9300 ext. 200 or email me at [ann.nepatrails@gmail.com](mailto:ann.nepatrails@gmail.com).

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 P.O. Box 32  
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[trails@nep.net](mailto:trails@nep.net)  
[nepatrails@gmail.com](mailto:nepatrails@gmail.com)

### 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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