

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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Montrose, PA
Cindy Klenk, Greenfield Twp, PA
Resource Environmental Management,
Inc, Montrose, PA

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Village of Four Seasons, Union Dale, PA

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Michael & Bree Gillespie, Lancaster, PA
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Kim & Shirley Griffiths, Clifford Twp, PA
Linda & Steve Griffiths, Union Dale, PA
Mike & Joanne Gryzniec, Larksville, PA
Richard & Sandra Guman, Archbald, PA

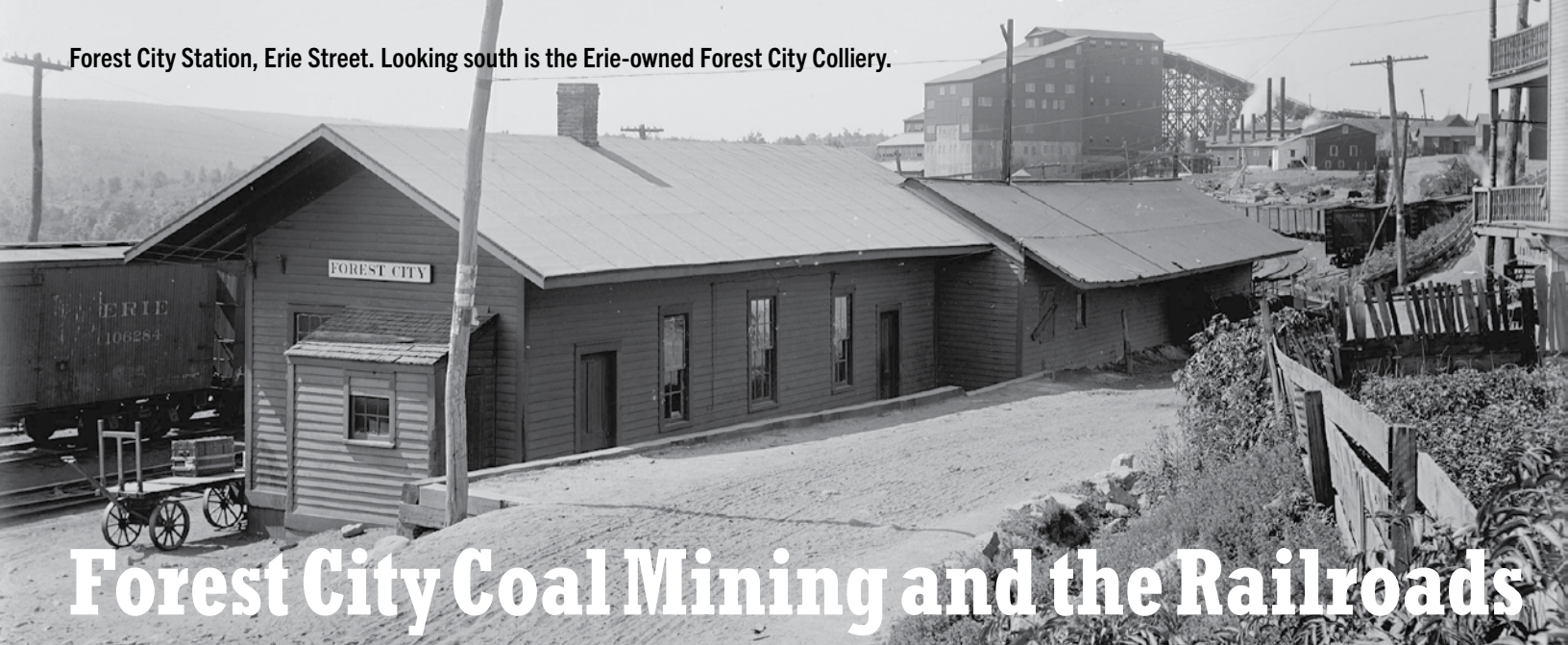


Trailside Planting Project

The D&H Rail-Trail Swale project on April 29 (rain date May 6) took place in order to improve a trail section surrounded by wetlands in Ararat that was damaged by beaver activity, flooding, and climate change. Volunteers planted trees, perennials and shrubs as service berry, dogwoods, Joe Pye Weed, winterberry, swamp rose, meadowsweet and other native plants. The project was funded by the Department of Environmental Protection 2022 Environmental Education Grants Program with guidance from Penn State Extension Staff, Susquehanna County Conservation District, and the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA. Volunteers also learned about habitat enhancement, living with beavers, climate change, watersheds, tree identification, and more. Free tree seedlings went to the first 25 registrants! Volunteers received a certificate for community service hours. A bench was built and donated by the students at Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center for this trailside peaceful area.

CALENDAR	
MAY 25	RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM
JUNE 29	RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM
JULY 27	RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM

Forest City Station, Erie Street. Looking south is the Erie-owned Forest City Colliery.

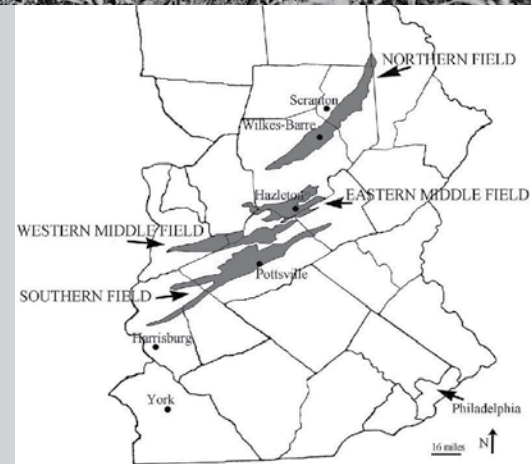


Forest City Coal Mining and the Railroads

The RTC is working on a historical interpretive sign for the FC trailhead with partial funding by the Overlook Foundation. Any donations are appreciated for this and other historical signs.

The mining of anthracite coal and its transport over the rails is a fascinating relationship that evolved together and led to the growth of the Forest City Area. Also, the history of immigration to the United States and this area is closely linked to the history of railroads and coal mining.

The Forest City area in the 1860s was densely covered with stately hemlocks and known as Forest Mills. Lumbering attracted settlers to the area as there was a need for loggers and bark peelers—hemlock bark being used to produce tannic acid, for tanning hides for leather goods. In 1864, William Pentecost and his family moved from the Prompton area to conduct an extensive lumbering business. He purchased the standing hemlock on the D&H Canal Company tract. The D&H had purchased much land in the 3-county area around 1857 for lumbering and had erected mills along the Lackawanna River. One early D&H mill was at the outlet from Stillwater; another mill was located near Castle Garden, Browndale.



Forest City is considered the northern gateway to the anthracite coal fields.

As railroads grew in popularity, the canal company recognized the importance of replacing the canal and gravity system with a railroad. D&H managers signed a contract with the Erie Railroad for the construction of a railroad between Carbondale and Lanesboro. The Erie Railroad would own the tracks, known as the Jefferson Branch, and lease to the D&H, who would be responsible for track maintenance and dispatching.

The 35-mile “Jeff” from Carbondale to Lanesboro was constructed in 20 months! It was bid out in 32 sections—contractors could bid on one or more sections. The chief engineer was Scotsman Bryce Blair, who is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery, Carbondale.

During the construction of the “Jeff” in 1869, large outcroppings of coal were discovered. Since both the Erie Railroad and the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company owned large tracts of land around Forest City, coal mining became an important business. Even though the Erie and D&H shared the same railroad track, they were fierce competitors in coal mining, processing, and transportation.

The railroad was also known as the Jefferson-Ararat Railroad, as the steep grade was well-known to railroaders and was defined by the powerful engines needed to transport coal out of Carbondale to its high point in Ararat. In its heyday, the Jefferson Branch was the mainline from the coal regions of Northeastern PA with one D&H freight train every hour either north or south—24 trains a day. The Erie used it as a branch line and had 3-5 trains per day.

The largest collieries (coal-processing plants with mines, breakers and rails) in the area were owned and operated by the railroads. The Hillside Coal & Iron Company, owned by the Erie Railroad established the first commercially profitable coal mining enterprise at North Railroad Street (Babe Ruth Park and Yucca Flats area). It was known as the Clifford Colliery and had a very productive mine shaft with very pure anthracite found in thick veins. Mining of this shaft brought a large influx of immigrants to the area. The Erie also owned other mining operations as the Forest City Colliery, located where the post office is now.

The D&H Railroad mined and operated as Hudson Coal Company with Clinton Colliery as its largest operation. Many remains can be seen off both sides of the trail just south of the Forest City Trailhead. The supervisor was Abraham Vandling, for whom the town was named. It produced 15.3 million tons of coal during its 50-year lifetime. *(To be continued next issue.)*

Health Corner

What a glorious early spring for Northeastern PA! The warm weather brings the promise of summer and being outside for hours. There's something about the sun and its warming of the earth in the Northern Hemisphere this time of year; it brings everything to life. The buds are budding on the trees, the grass is greening, the bulbs are turning into daffodils, paperwhites, and crocuses and we are no different, we just love being outside in the sun soaking up its powerful and warming energy. Hiking, biking, walking, running, cleanups, and preparing for the change of season is upon us. Take advantage of the many activities that are available. Get out, get involved, volunteer and make a difference. Meanwhile, Rail Trail Council have many activities planned for the upcoming months. You know, we love seeing our members on the Trail! Active and Outdoors!

Check our website, www.neparailtrails.org/events/taillonthetrail, and Facebook page at Rail Trail Council for information about upcoming events. Please pre-register for any and all events by calling 570-679-9300, ext. 201 or email cindy.neparails@gmail.com

Building Health Series

WALKING MONDAYS

10 am. Meet at the Rail Trail office in Union Dale.

BIKING WEDNESDAYS

May, 5:30 pm. From the Simpson/Morse Ave Trailhead.

June, 5:30 pm. From the Forest City Trailhead.

July, 5:30 pm. From the Union Dale Trailhead.

POPOP SUNDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS WALKS

Meet at the Trail Office. Bring pocket tablet for Gratitude Journaling. Time announced on Friday of that week on the website or Facebook.

Love of Nature Education Series

FULL MOON WALKS

June 3, 9:30 pm. Meet at the Rail Trail office.

July 3, 9 pm. Meet at the Rail Trail office.

Check out fullmoonology.com for fun facts.

POPOP HIKES WITH JIM KESSLER

Mind-clearing hikes, wildflower walks, bird migration hikes, tree hikes.

Check the website or Facebook.

MONTROSE AREA ADULT SCHOOL EVENTS

Please register with Montrose Area Adult School, www.montroseadultschool.org

Luciana Park/Starrucca Viaduct to Brandt walk: May 15, 10 am.

Rain date May 17.

Little Ireland Road Trailhead to Bucks Falls walk: June 15, 10 am.

Rain date June 17.

Union Dale Trailhead to Ararat Trailhead bike ride: July 13, 10 am.

Rain date July 15.

Forest City Outdoor Town News

The FCOT Action Team is working on improving connections from trail to town. A Welcome arch will be installed at the Erie Street Trailhead, enticing trail users to travel up to Main Street. Sculptures and murals are planned and improvements to Center Street alongside the library are in the works. A trail sculpture is soon to be installed at the Forest City Trailhead. Hopefully, more trail sculptures will follow.

Please support the May 21st Trail Trot 5K and community walk at 10 am at the FC trailhead. It is in memory of local runner and trail volunteer Don Teague. Registration and more information at VisitForestCity.com



The poster features a circular logo at the top with a sun and trees, containing the text 'D & H Trail Town' and 'Forest City Teague Trail Trot 5K 2023'. Below the logo, it says 'IN MEMORY OF DONNY TEAGUE'. The main event date is 'Sunday, May 21, 2023'. Below that, it reads '5K 10am Start & Community Fun Walk Immediately After'. There are four circular photos showing people participating in the event. At the bottom, it lists 'EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE UNTIL April 30, 2023' and 'REGISTRATION & SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES AT VisitForestCityPA.com'. The contact email is 'gfcba13@gmail.com'. The location is 'D&H Trailhead | Commerce Boulevard, Forest City'. A small note at the bottom states: 'Monies raised will support projects connecting our region's outdoor assets to local commerce organized by the Greater Forest City Business Alliance & sponsored by the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA.'

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 \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a brochure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a donation to be used towards the D&H Caboose restoration project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a donation for the wishlist to be used for _____ |

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: neparails@gmail.com

Grant & Sharon Gutkowski, Linden, NJ
 Bob Guzzi & Family, Dalton, PA
 George & Susan Haff, Union Dale, PA
 Susan Hall, Union Dale, PA
 Ron Harting, Windsor, NY
 John R Harvey, PhD, Bethany, PA
 William & Barbara Heller, Union Dale, PA
 Alan J Highhouse & Family, Honesdale, PA
 Anne Holmes & Frouke DeQuillettes, Archbald, PA
 Sylvia C Holteen & Family, Ambler, PA
 Joe & Kay Jerin, Mayfield, PA
 Neil Jordan, Union Dale, PA
 Helen & William Kashuba, Factoryville, PA
 Jim & Jan Kasten, Hallstead, PA
 Bill Keller, South Abington Twp, PA
 Don & Karyn Kintzer, Orinda, CA
 Delores Kowanski, South Windsor, CT
 John A Kukowski, Susquehanna, PA
 James L Kulp, Lancaster, PA
 Heather & Darrin Larkin, Clifford Twp, PA
 Albert & Eleanor Lempke, New Milford, PA
 Gretchen Ludders & Family, Clarks Summit, PA
 Dave & Micki Lukens, Clifford Twp, PA
 Bernice Lukus, Vandling, PA
 Colleen MacDaniel, Thornhurst, PA
 Bill Maitland, Jr, Lenoxville, PA
 Karen Makara, West Chester, PA
 Asher & Cathleen Mall, Waymart, PA
 Denise Marcel, Pleasant Mount, PA
 Gail Mardfin, Santa Rosa, CA
 Sarah W Marquardt, Waverly, PA
 Judith Marsh, Union Dale, PA
 Shirley C Masters, Kingsley, PA
 Karl & Lyndsey Matoushek, Waymart, PA
 Tim & Emily McDonough, Hellertown, PA
 Roseanne Mensel, Carbondale, PA
 Keith O Miller & Family, Trappe, PA
 Mark & Kate Moore, Susquehanna, PA
 Ed Moran, Spencer MA
 John Morris, Simpson, PA
 Greg & Vicki Otto, Hegins, PA

Edward & Gladys Pantzar, Vandling, PA
 Evelyn Pantzar, Forest City, PA
 Catherine Parsons, Simpson, PA
 Roy & Vee Pauli, Scranton, PA
 John J Price, Carbondale, PA
 Frank & Donna Prybeck, Susquehanna, PA
 Tom & Sally Roberts, Clifford Twp, PA
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 Haydn & Joanie Samuel, Union Dale, PA
 Ronald A Schmidt, Scranton, PA
 Jerry Schwartzrauber, Archbald, PA
 Mike Senio, Penfield, NY
 Sharon Seymour, Carbondale, PA
 Susan W Shontz, Scranton, PA
 Gail Sickles, Dalton, PA
 James T & Roseann Swegel, Union Dale, PA
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 Dr David & Margaret Tomazic, Clifford Twp, PA
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 Tri-County Sportsman's Assoc., Simpson, PA
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 Peter & Viktoria Wood, Pipersville, PA
 Bob & Maggie Young, Madison Twp, PA
 Gordon & Mary Ann Speights Young, Union Dale, PA
 Louis & Patricia Zefran, Forest City, PA

DONATIONS

Caboose Restoration Donations:

Karen Dinning, Clarks Summit
 Ed Giombetti, Jr, Jessup, PA
 Steve Goscinsky, Ringoes, NJ
 Shirley C Masters, Kingsley, PA
 John J Price, Carbondale, PA
 Ronald A Schmidt, Scranton, PA
 Sharon Seymour, Carbondale, PA

In Honor of:

In honor of Hadyn Samuel birthday –
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

Memorial Donations:

In Memory of Nancy Wottrich
 Charles & Virginia Ahearn, Kingsley, PA

In Memory of Margaret "Peggy" Brager
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

In Memory of Barbara Puchnick
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

In Memory of Jimmy Muir
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

In Memory of Willard (Bill) Sickles
 Gail Sickles, Dalton, PA

Other Donations:

Ann Marie Furdock, Forest City, PA
 Mike & Joanne Gryziec, Larksville, PA
 John R Harvey, PhD, Bethany, PA
 Colleen MacDaniel, Thornhurst, PA
 Shirley Masters, Kingsley, PA
 Vincent (Vinny) & Mary Lynn O'Bell, Jessup, PA
 United Way of The Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc, Allentown, PA
 United Way of Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Thomas & Susan Williams, South Abington Twp, PA



D&H Rail-Trail Wish List

Trail maintenance and beautification are not covered by any grants, but we rely on membership dollars and donations to keep the trail clean, safe, and enjoyable. Some items needed, either by donation or funds towards purchase:

- New/used truck for trail maintenance
- Weed-whacker
- Chain saw and chains
- More benches and picnic tables
- A pavilion or trail shelter
- More historic signage
- Mile and 1/2 mile markers
- Directional signage
- Trail art or sculptures
- Security cameras
- New fencing at trailheads

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

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 4
 Forest City PA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED