

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.

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The D&H Challenge Continues!

Our big fundraiser for trail improvements and maintenance will continue as the D&H Trails Challenge during PA Trails month—September. Challenge yourself to bike at least 40 miles on the trail or walk/run at least 20 miles! Of course, the mileage does not need to be done all at once. Mileage and times can be entered onto our website, as part of Get Your Tail on the Trail. New this year is a history challenge or scavenger hunt. Questions will be sent to participants about the history of the railroad and the towns it went through. Answers can be found on the historical signage along the trail!

Register at GetMeRegistered.com. Only \$25! You'll get a tee shirt and a raffle ticket. We will have a post-challenge celebration "Biketoberfest" on October 21 at the Caboose in Union Dale—which will include trail events, food, music, and a raffle. BYO beverage and chair. Sponsors are being sought to fund the challenge, donate to the raffle, and donate towards trail maintenance.

CALENDAR

- AUGUST 24**
RTC Meeting, Cables Café, 7 PM
- SEPTEMBER 28**
RTC Meeting, Cables Café, 7 PM
- OCTOBER 26**
RTC Meeting, Cables Café, 7 PM

Forest City Coal Mining and the Railroads



Scranton to Cadosia
on the New York, Ontario & Western

Leave	Scranton	08:35 a.m.
Arrive	Olyphant	08:42
Arrive	Peckville	08:45
Arrive	Archbald	08:53
Arrive	Jermyn	08:56
Arrive	Mayfield	08:56
Arrive	Carbondale	09:10
Arrive	Forest City (Browndale)	09:26
Arrive	Union Dale	09:36
Arrive	Pleasant Mount	09:40
Arrive	Orson	09:50
Arrive	Poyntelle	10:02
Arrive	Winwood	10:15
Arrive	Preston Park	10:21
Arrive	Starlight	10:26
Arrive	Hancock, NY	10:31
Arrive	Cadosia, NY	10:36

This is a simplified 1898 timetable showing only the morning northbound train.
There were four trains each day, each way.

Source: Series of advertisements, circa 1905,
Forest City News.

Part two of two. *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.



There were three railroads that ran through the Forest City area! Yes, three! Remember both the Erie Railroad and the D&H Railroad ran on the tracks that is now the D&H Rail-Trail. The third was the O&W Railroad which ran through Browndale. All railroads owned and operated coal mining operations and were competitors in coal shipping. Most of O&W coal came from the Lackawanna Valley and Scranton.

The Delaware and Hudson had an edge over many of its competitors: it not only owned a number of mines that produced the mineral, but also had the transportation system for bringing it to market. These competitive advantages caught the eye of the US government. It was during the Teddy Roosevelt “trust-busting” era, when the Hepburn Act of 1906 banned shipments of coal across state lines by railroads if that coal was produced in railroad-owned mines. A legal loophole allowed a subsidiary, even if wholly owned by the railroad, to mine the coal and “sell” to the railroad for shipment. The D&H Company created the Hudson Coal Company, which was able to ship its coal on the D&H Railroad! The Erie Railroad already had a separate coal company—the Hillside Coal and Iron Company.

The New York, Ontario and Western (O&W, now known to locals as the B trail) also had its share of the coal market. Built in 1888, it had to catch up with and compete with the Erie and the D&H for shipping coal. They were fiercely competitive, and in many cases, the O&W had to build bridges over the Erie/D&H tracks without touching their properties. The O&W’s Northwest Branch went over both the Lackawanna River and Erie/D&H Railroad to get coal from collieries in the Richmondale area. The O&W had many sidings for coal cars just about 1.4 miles north of the trail entrance in Simpson—the Northwest Junction.

The O&W station in Browndale was called the Forest City Station and had a five-room apartment for its station agent. The O&W Scranton Division’s railyard was in Mayfield where there was a roundhouse, turntable, and powerhouse as well as coal storage areas. The O&W grade was also steep—1.95% from Mayfield to Forest City, requiring much engine power. The summit of the line was at Poyntelle, where the grade went downhill to Cadosia (near Hancock, NY).

Also known as the “Old and Weary,” it was the last railroad to tap into the wealth of transporting anthracite and the first railroad to go bankrupt in 1957. The O&W was also known for transporting dairy products and ice, as well as passengers from the Scranton area to Wayne County and beyond to the Catskills.

The Decline of the Railroads

Through the 1940s, the use of anthracite coal as a home heating fuel declined such that the Erie Railroad decided to sell the line in 1955 to its tenant the D&H. Then known as the Penn Division of the D&H, it became a critical link in bridge traffic (traffic obtained by connecting railroads) from Wilkes-Barre to Albany. Nicknamed the “Bridge Line to New England and Canada,” it carried lumber and paper products south. While the D&H attempted to continue operations in the Conrail era, its use of the Jefferson (or Penn) Division ended in 1980 when it purchased the former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (DL&W) line from Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Binghamton, New York, from Conrail. This DL&W line has significantly easier grades than the “Jeff.” Once abandoned, the former Jefferson Division was stripped of its rails and allowed to return to nature, until being reborn as the D&H Rail-Trail.



Making the Connection

Four Senior's from Forest City Regional High School just made the connection between the D&H Rail Trail and Main Street Forest City more inviting! Brayden Piatak, Jayden Fuchs, Dylan Bezek and D.J. Heath turned a senior project into art. The four Seniors designed and fabricated a welcome arch for the Erie Street Trailhead. The idea is to encourage trail users to leave the trail and visit Main Street Businesses. With the help of their advisor, Mr. Bill Graziano, the boys created a gateway designed to grab the attention of the ever-increasing traffic on the trail. The project is part of the Outdoor Town/Trail Town Initiative in collaboration with Rail-Trail Council and the Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team. *Left to Right: Brayden, Jayden, Nick Bonham (helper), Dylan and D.J.*

Trail Happenings

WALKING MONDAYS

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

BIKING WEDNESDAYS

August 2, 9, 16, 23. 5:30 PM. Start at Simpson/Morse Ave Trailhead.
 August 30. 5:30 PM. Start at Stevens Point Trailhead.
 September 6, 13, 20, 27. 5:00 PM. Start at Forest City Trailhead.
 October 4, 11, 18, 25. 4:30 PM. Start at Union Dale Trailhead.

FULL MOON WALKS

All leave from Union Dale Trailhead.
 August 1 Sturgeon Moon. Meet at 8:30 pm.
 August 30, Blue Moon (second full moon in one month). Meet at 8 pm.
 September 29, Harvest Moon. Meet at 7:30 pm.
 October 28, Hunter's Moon. Meet at 7 pm.

POPOP WALKS, HIKES AND BIKE RIDES

Watch for a Facebook post or sign up to receive emails.

Visit Us at the Expo



Come and visit the Rail-Trail Council at our booth at the Expo! Free admission! Friday, September 29, 11 AM-6 PM and Saturday, September 30, 9 AM-4 PM.

Did You Know?

The northern D&H newly resurfaced trail runs along the beautiful 2023 PA River of the Year North Branch of the Susquehanna River? Join us for a river cleanup on Thursday, August 24. Check our website and Facebook page for details.

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: nepatrails@gmail.com

Dr. Bill & Randa Sutch, Blue Bell, PA
 Bob & Sue Taylor, Union Dale, PA
 Ed Taylor & Family, Westbrook, ME
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 Joseph & Debra White, Susquehanna, PA
 Sharon Wunner, Bear Creek Twp, PA
 Karen Wyandt & Family, Union Dale, PA
 Al & Patsy Zedar, Honesdale, PA
 Louis & Patricia Zefran, Forest City, PA

DONATIONS

Caboose Restoration Donations:

Gary E Lippi & Family, Carbondale, PA
 Henry Tusar, Forest City, PA

Memorial Donations:

In Memory of Ginny Ahearn:

Charles Ahearn, Kingsley, PA
 Eileen & Bruce Baessler, Montrose, PA
 Thomas & Mary Ann Bonos, Stockton, NJ
 Bridge Friends, Clifford Twp, PA
 Sheryl Brownlow, Vero Beach, FL
 Judy Mitchell, Kingsley, PA
 Mountain View Garden Club, Clifford, PA
 David & Luann Palmer, Hop Bottom, PA
 Dale & Margaret Empet, Kingsley, PA
 Nancy Ross, Union Dale, PA

In Memory of Reiko / Lemon

David Lemon, Beacon, NY

In Memory of Judy Senio

Mountain View Garden Club, Clifford, PA

Other General Donations:

Anonymous
 William & Connie Dempsey, Clifford Twp, PA
 Michael McCambridge, Thornhurst, PA
 Sharon Seymour, Carbondale, PA
 Carol Sherwood & Lewis Trelease, Windsor, NY
 United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc

Wish List Donations:

Kathy Bertolino & Richard Chesi, Union Dale, PA
 Mike Guzzi, Olyphant PA
 Carol Sherwood & Lewis Trelease, Windsor, NY
 Jane Varcoe, Waymart, PA



Bike Repair Station

A big thanks to Kost Tire for the donation of a bike repair station, now installed at the Forest City Erie Street Trailhead. Kost has been a long-time sponsor of all Rail-Trail events!



Stevens Point Picnic Tables

The Rockwell Family has built and installed two picnic tables at the Stevens Point Trailhead in memory of Joel Rockwell. *From L to R are Dana Rockwell, Stan Rockwell, and Terry Rockwell.* Trail ambassador Jon Burdick assisted with the project. The Rockwell Family are long-time friends and protectors of the trail.

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