

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

Bill & Connie Dempsey, Clifford Twp, PA
 Tony & Janie Quinn, Waverly, PA

PATRON SPONSORS

Timothy O'Hearn, Scranton, PA
 Paula Roe-Prior, Thompson, PA

NEW MEMBERS

Sandy Biancardi, Old Forge, PA
 Michael Burns, Throop, PA
 Cables General Store, Union Dale, PA
 Sheila Johnson, Cave City, AR
 Len Karpinski, Mountaintop, PA
 Chandra Lantz, Glen Allen, VA
 Timothy A LaRue, Montrose, PA
 Christa Lepore, Bogota, NJ
 Todd Moffett, Thompson, PA
 Joe Murray, Thompson, PA
 Mary Nemes, Bethlehem, PA
 Mary Beth & Dave Raub, Susquehanna, PA
 Patricia M Salmon & Family, Windsor, NY
 Mark & Amy Silow, Philadelphia, PA
 Ginny & Brian Todd Smith, Montrose, PA
 Richard Zick, New Milford, PA

RENEWING MEMBERS

Harry Aumack, Keyport, NJ
 Robert & Jessica Aumack, Keyport, NJ
 Thomas Baileys, Forest City, PA
 Michael Bischak & Family, Nutley, NJ
 Mel & Judy Borosky, Fell Twp, PA
 Rich & Ann Brunori, Union Dale, PA
 Jon Burdick, Susquehanna, PA
 William V. Burke, Moscow, PA
 Bill & Alice Burrell, Carbondale, PA
 Owen Conaghan, Clifford Twp, PA
 M Ellen Cullen, Oxford, PA
 Billy Culnane, Thompson, PA
 Mark Dorish, Simpson, PA
 Christine Elder, Carbondale, PA
 Bill & Barbara Feduchak, Blakely, PA
 Peter Franke, Souderton, PA
 David Gibson, Clarks Summit, PA
 Alan and Mary Ellen Gillick, Clifford Twp, PA
 Jacki Hart & Marty Goodwin, New Milford, PA
 Todd & Sharon Glover, Clarks Summit, PA
 Arnie Gordon, Wayne, PA
 Stephen & Louise Guszick, Clifford Twp, PA
 Stephen Hansen, Tobyhanna, PA
 Beth Holmes, Fell Twp, PA
 David & Carol Howell, North Abington Twp, PA
 Bambi Ilku, Springville, PA
 Ernie Keller, Clarks Summit, PA
 Susan Kelley, Carbondale, PA
 Robert Klemo & Laurie Tevlin-Klemo, Hazleton, PA
 Ed Kowalewski & Family, Clifford Twp, PA
 Michael Levchak, Chester Springs, PA
 Larry Levit & Celia Seigerman-Levit, New York, NY
 Eugene & Patricia Litz, Greenfield Twp, PA
 James & Kathleen MacKenzie, Oxford, PA
 Sarah W Marquardt, Waverly, PA
 Sally McGrath, Kingsley, PA
 Jeffrey Mead, Montrose, PA
 Elwood Merring, Lake Ariel, PA
 Walter Moshier, Forest City, PA
 Mark Moskowitz, Wynnewood, PA
 Michael Natishak, Apalachin, NY
 John & Carol Neary, Olyphant, PA
 Jim O'Pecko, Forest City, PA
 Joseph & Marjorie Pavlovich, Waymart, PA
 Ann Marie Pettinato, Carbondale, PA
 Dan Pregnar, Scranton, PA
 Bert Prohaska & Emilie Kudela, Binghamton, NY
 Fred Romich Jr, Adamstown, PA
 Joe Ruddy, Scranton, PA
 Rich Schnur & John Kessler, Afton, NY
 Esther Schwalb, Brooklyn, NY
 Jerry Schwartzrauber, Archbald, PA
 Melvin H Seely & Family, Honesdale, PA
 Kathy & Bob Shostek, Clifford Twp, PA
 Richard Snead, Phoenixville, PA



Deb McNamara, FCOTAT and Artist Scott Nichols

Forest City Trailhead Unveilings

On December 9th, two new structures were unveiled at the D&H Trailhead in Forest City. One was a sculpture designed and fabricated by Scott Nichols to bring attention to the free Wi-Fi at the trailhead. The sculpture was funded by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region with matching funds from the Rail-Trail Council and the Greater Forest City Business Alliance. More trail sculptures are planned along the trail and will lead trail users to Main Street in Forest City. The Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team continues to work to establish a vibrant outdoor-focused community.

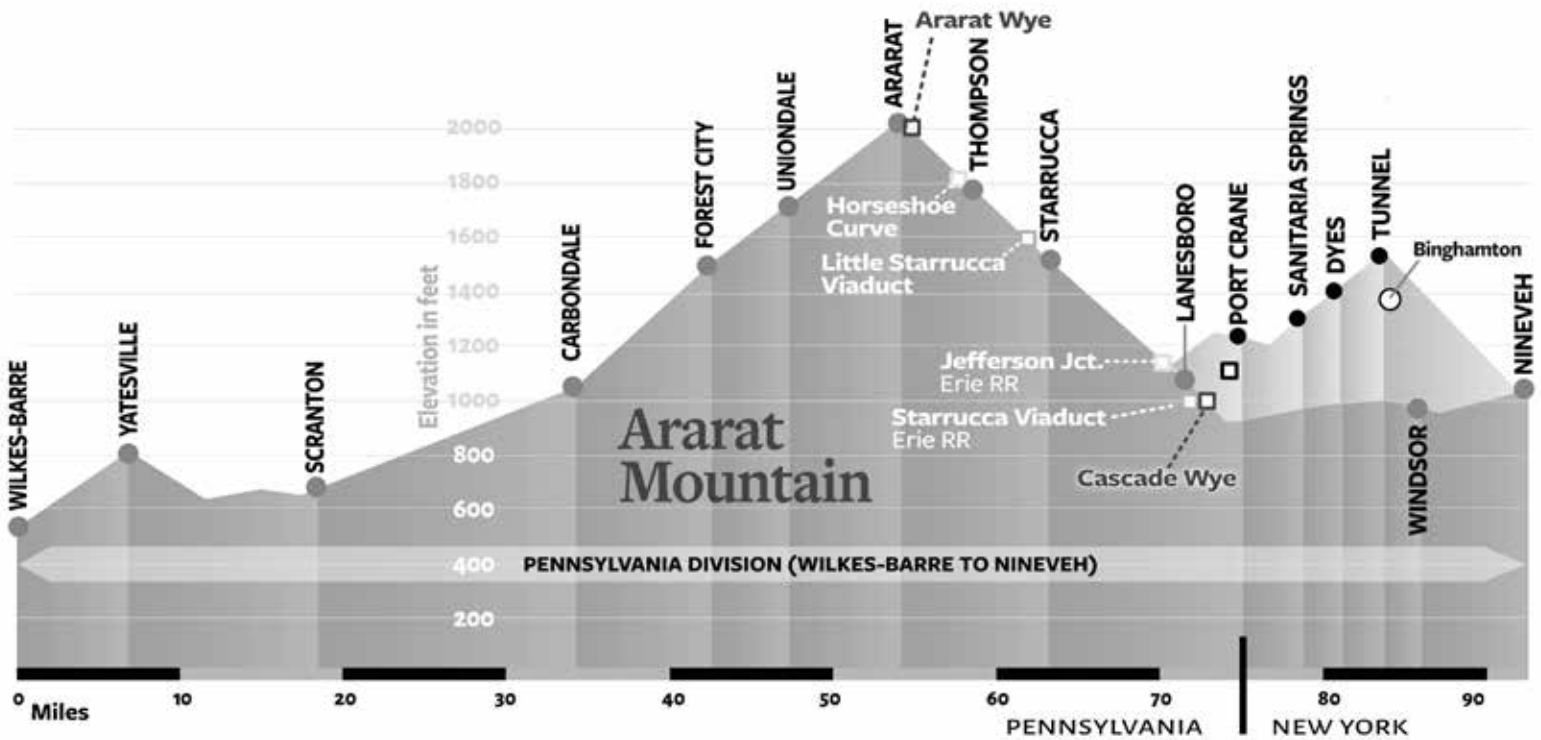
A historical sign was also unveiled, that highlights the coal mining and railroad influence on the growth of Forest City. The Council has received numerous grants for signage from the Overlook Foundation and this addition brings our interpretive sign total up to seventeen.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 25
 RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM

FEBRUARY 22
 RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM

MARCH 28
 RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM



Redrawn from the original by Jim Shaughnessy by Diane Turrell of DDH Design

Cascade Wye Sign

Another historical sign has been installed at the southern entrance to the Cascade Wye. Wyes are 'Y' shaped sections of railroad tracks for train engines to turn around. The D&H had two wyes: Ararat and Cascade. The Ararat Wye is located (hard to find) just north of the Ararat Road crossing. This is just beyond the highest elevation of the railroad, so pusher engines could turn around and return to either Carbondale or the NY border. The Cascade Wye, near the NY border along Cascade Creek is easy to find and both north & south legs are maintained out to the Susquehanna River. Thanks again to the Overlook Foundation.

2024 Trail Construction Plans

The RTC is working on getting construction plans finalized and out to bid for the Thompson section of D&H Rail-Trail from Main Street Thompson to the bottom of the Bucks Falls Ravine. Hoping for a spring construction startup. This project is funded by DCNR, Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, with RTC providing a 20% match.

Another spring project will be the quarter-mile surface improvement of the trail in Lanesboro from the Viaduct Street crossing to the bridge near Luciana Park. Thanks to Susquehanna County Marcellus Legacy Funding!

We are also working with PennDOT to get construction plans in proper format for a major trail improvement project from Stevens Point south to Melrose Road. This project combines funding from TASA (Transportation Alternative Set-Aside program) and DCNR. This is a section of trail much in need of drainage and surface improvements. We hope to have it ready to go out to bid by the Fall of 2024.



A Perfect Fall Adventure on the D&H Rail-Trail

We appreciate this post by Discover NEPA's Matt Giambra.

Fall is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful seasons to enjoy the great outdoors. And what better way to embrace it than by taking a leisurely stroll or bike ride along the D&H Rail-Trail.

Originally a railway line, the D&H Rail-Trail has been repurposed into a 38-mile recreational trail from Simpson to the NY Border. All year round, runners, hikers and cyclists can enjoy the trail while soaking in the beautiful landscape of NEPA. During our recent visit, the vibrant autumn colors demonstrated just how stunning the trail could be.

We started our adventure at the Starrucca Viaduct. The dramatic archways made for the perfect backdrop as we snapped our first few photos of the path. We then continued down the trail and into Union Dale

where we met up with a few others who were enjoying trail the as well. Before heading to Forest City, we stopped at Cables General Store for a quick bite and a hot cup of coffee; a perfect respite on a brisk fall day.

We continued making our way to Forest City and stopped to check out the Stillwater Dam. The scenery made for such a beautiful backdrop; we couldn't resist the temptation to pose the jeep for a quick photo. After soaking in the scenery for a few extra minutes, we finally made it into town. The Forest City trailhead was well-marked and proved a great place to meet and chat with fellow travelers.

Our last stop at the Simpson trailhead was bittersweet. While it was great knowing we arrived at our final stop, it was hard knowing another year would have to pass before seeing the vibrant fall foliage again. We had a great time exploring the D&H Rail-Trail and look forward to revisiting again soon.

<https://www.discovernepa.com/articles-and-stories/picture-this-autumn-views-on-the-dh-rail-trail/>

Winter is Coming

There's always something to do along the 38 miles of D&H Trail. And this winter will be no different! We can't wait for you to join us during this most peaceful and pristine time in nature. It's invigorating...whether we are snowshoeing in the woods along the stream or snowshoeing in under a full moon, illuminating the way through the woods, oh my goodness, absolutely nothing like it.

Hopefully, we will be able to put together a couple of **XC skiing clinics**, where you will learn useful skills to enjoy this sport anytime, especially along the trail.

Walking Mondays continue along different sections of the trail, sometimes taking a field trip to a nearby State Park to allow you to experience all the possibilities available and enjoy the winter and get outdoors.

If you would like to do a **group event** with 5 or more, please email Cindy. nepatrails@gmail.com.

We have snowshoes available to our members. For non-members we ask that you become members or give a donation.

Keep an eye out for Special Events: Celebrating Solstice on the Trail, Winter Tree Hike, Yoga Hike, Mindfulness Hike, Celebrating Winter.

Hope to see you out on the Trail! Happy Holidays!

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

Matthew & Rachel Swierzewski, Sellersville, PA
Janet Tedesco, Oakland, NJ
Robert & Mary Tomaine, Fell Twp, PA
Anthony & Janet Tvaryanas, Union Dale, PA
Melanie Urdang, Union Dale, PA
Jack Vetter, Lake Ariel, PA
Robert Welte, Windsor, NY
Susan & Jeff Wheeler, Susquehanna, PA
Joyce & Stan Wierzbicki, Greenfield Twp, PA

DONATIONS

Caboose Restoration Donations

Bert Prohaska & Emilie Kudela, Binghamton, NY
Melvin H Seely & Family, Honesdale, PA
Margaret M. Trakimas, Denton, MD

In Honor of

Nancy Ross in honor of her 90th birthday:
from her "Bridge Buddies"

Nancy Ross in honor of her 90th birthday:
Rich & Ann Brunori

Nancy Ross in honor of her 90th birthday:
Mary Felley, Jenkintown, PA

Nancy Ross in honor of her 90th birthday: Cindy Klensk,
Greenfield Twp, PA

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Katie Smith:

Peter & Lyn Strickler, Malvern, PA

In Memory of Virginia (Ginny) Ahearn:

Gerald L & Margaret L Miller, Kingsley, PA

Other General Donations

Robin Assarian, Conroe, TX

Michael Burns, Throop, PA

Chicago Trading Co, Chicago, IL

Jane Frye, Scranton, PA

Gerald B Franceski, Union Dale, PA

Judy Gretzula, Carbondale, PA

Larry Levit & Celia Seigerman-Levit, New York, NY

Jason Harry & Meg Robinson, Rumford, RI

Ross Family Foundation (James A. Ross)

Sharon Seymour, Carbondale, PA

Douglas & Margaret Sheldon, Thompson, PA

Richard Snead, Phoenixville, PA

United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc

Melanie Urdang, Union Dale, PA

Dona Warner, Union Dale, PA

Judy Wells, Poynette, PA

Ray Wengsen, Plymouth, PA

E-mail Blasts

Please note we use Brevo for e-mail blasts that are important announcements or events on the trail. Hopefully you can allow these announcements through your email security. They will come from neparailtrailcouncil@gmail.com



Happy 90th birthday to our founder, Nancy Ross!



Thanks to Tree Pennsylvania for 12 bareroot trees that were planted with volunteers at the Stevens Point trailhead and along the trail in Luciana Park.

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