



ALONG THE CORRIDOR

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE CORRIDOR

World Canals Conference Held in Bethlehem

Nearly 200 international delegates from seven different countries were drawn to our region September 12-15 for the World Canals Conference, where they experienced the historic and cultural heritage of the Lehigh and Delaware canals in Pennsylvania and the Morris and Delaware & Raritan canals in New Jersey. The D&L and the National Canal Museum co-hosted the conference, an event that included three days of workshops, presentations and tours topped off by post-conference events.

Tours included an “inside the gates” look at Bethlehem Steel, where delegates learned how local canals played a significant role in our nation’s industrial development. On a visit to Easton, they experienced the new Emrick Technology Center, the Josiah White Canal Boat Ride and the National Canal Museum.

“This conference was held in a particularly nice setting in old Bethlehem with the good old hotel,” said Keith Manchester of Nova Scotia, Canada. “We enjoyed the Bethlehem Steel plant tour as it is really the first time we have visited an old industrial ‘ghost town.’ I was also impressed on how well the Canal Museum presented the concept of canals for children.”

Another tour took delegates along the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania and the Raritan Canal in New Jersey for a look at the Groundhog Lock in Raubsville, Lock #11 in New Hope and the Prallsville Mill Complex before finishing the evening with dinner and jazz music at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown. Post-conference tours were also popular.



200 people cheered on paddlers for six homemade boats at the first annual “Float Your Boat” community event on Sand Island in Bethlehem, September 10. The event marked the beginning of the international 2006 World Canals Conference.



The hill traveled by World Canal Conference members is the same incline that was once part of the Morris Canal system. “Trucks” pulled uphill by a turbine-powered wire rope pulley system held the canal boats. At the summit, the truck delivered the boat into the canal and the boat continued its journey to Newark.

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Dink Award

The World Canals Conference’s annual “Dink Award” originated in 1990 when Rory Robinson turned an embarrassing moment into a good chuckle for all. As the story goes, he was preparing to give his presentation when a full tray of slides slipped out of his hands and scattered across the floor. When he finally got them back in order, they appeared on the screen, upside-down!

Each year, delegates are on the lookout for potential Dink Award winners, watching for the slightest indiscretion. This year’s honor was bestowed upon Susan Taylor, Executive Director of the Friends of the Delaware Canal, and John Smith, an engineer with the DCNR’s Bureau of Facility Design and Construction.

How did they earn such accolades? For their valiant efforts to speed-walk Hugh Moore Park in Easton, sneak in another lock sighting and catch the bus just in time.

“We were really close and high-tailing it back to the bus when they called on my cell phone,” Taylor says with a smile.

Partners and Prospects

This September, I was thankful that our congressmen introduced legislation to reauthorize funding for the D&L Corridor and transfer operations to the non-profit entity. While the Corridor's designation by Congress is permanent, its legislation must be reauthorized if we are to continue to receive NPS funding and technical assistance. We don't anticipate approval this year, but it was important to start the process. Reauthorization is so critical—as confirmed in the Conservation Study Institute's recent findings—because it preserves our federal funding so that we can continue strengthening the capacity of the partners we work with to help improve their delivery of service.

The D&L is a unique organization—we don't own the resources we work with. Much of what we do depends on partnerships with agencies that own our region's historic and natural treasures. Because so many of these regional agencies, municipalities and community groups count on the D&L, there is much at stake. Not to mention the future preservation of these resources for our children and grandchildren.

Please stay informed about our reauthorization as it will likely be reintroduced again next year. As you take a look through "Along the Corridor" you'll see the D&L is busier than ever with new projects, new employees and new offices in Easton and Lehighton!

Thank you for your continued support and the fine work you do.

Allen



White Haven Engine House Almost Complete!

Residents were excited to see windows installed on the White Haven Engine House in October. The community's vision to transform the historic structure into a community library and heritage visitor's center is well underway. With support from the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, DCNR's Heritage Parks program, the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission's Keystone grant program, Federal Department of Interior funding and the Hommer Foundation, plans call for the Engine House—one of the last remaining structures of its kind—to be restored by 2009.

The library component will provide educational needs for children from three school districts. Visitors will appreciate the historic significance of this magnificent Lehigh Valley Railroad structure that had previously been unavailable to the public.

Section 1 of D&L Trail Complete

This summer, Slatington residents began enjoying a 1.7-mile section of trail built on the former Lehigh Valley Railroad, a section that starts just west of the Walnutport-Slatington Bridge and ends near Lehigh Gap.

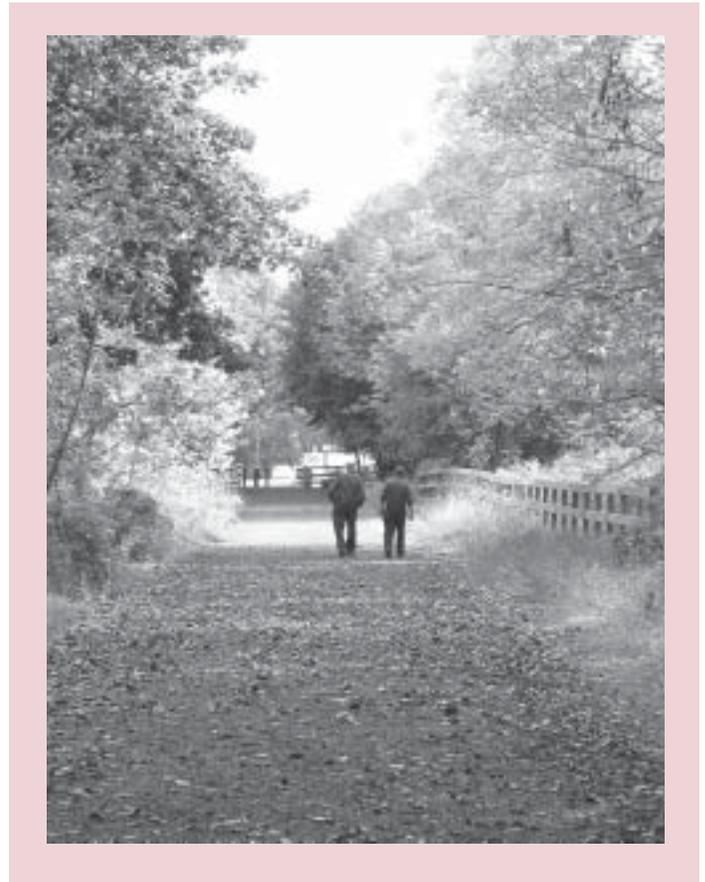
“This trail was in use by citizens as soon as we laid the surface down,” says D&L Stewardship and Trail Manager Bill Mineo. “Other communities are already copying our design.”

It is the first section of D&L Trail to be completed to the specifications of the Delaware and Lehigh historic engineers, with a surface made of crushed limestone.

“Not only is limestone locally abundant,” says Mineo. “It has a natural reaction with the clay soil that hardens and forms a solid soil-concrete surface.” Mineo says the surface is wheelchair accessible and better for running because it is softer than gravel, asphalt or poured cement. It can accommodate just about any non-mechanized use except rollerblades and horses.

In July, maintenance of this trail section was turned over to Lehigh County Division of Parks. The D&L Trail Tenders plan to sow grass seed on the edge of the trail, which will improve its appearance and prevent erosion. The next section under construction south of Slatington will eventually join with Section 1 to form a loop along the Lehigh River.

A trail dedication ceremony is planned for Spring 2007.



World Canal Conference *(continued from front page)*

“My favorite was the post-conference tour of the Morris canal on Friday,” said Manchester. “This was of particular interest to me as the inclined planes on the Morris canal are similar to the ones on the old Shubenacadie Canal, which passes through our back yard in Nova Scotia.”

Delegates traveled from countries as far as Finland to experience the conference and ranged in age from elementary school age to senior citizens. A group of sixth graders from the Genesee Community Charter School in Rochester, New York attended and enjoyed the conference immensely.

“Not only did the children learn information about canals, but they have gained valuable life skills that can only be acquired by experience,” says Lisa O’Malley, curriculum specialist for the school.

Workshops on the heritage of the canals included a presentation by D&L Vice President of Heritage Programs, Elissa Marsden, and another by D&L Stewardship and Trail Manager, Bill Mineo. Marsden joined Kay Sykora of the Manayunk Development Corporation to discuss how canal restoration has led to recreational opportunities and park space

along the canal and the riverfront. Mineo joined James Amon, former executive director of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission, to discuss the formation of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission (D&R) as a National Heritage Area.

“The Europeans in the audience were very eager to learn how we do things through partnership,” says Mineo, “because most of their canals are government-funded.”

Another presentation included members of the D&L’s Conservation Study Institute team; Suzanne Copping of the National Park Service and Daniel Laven of the Conservation Studies Initiative. They explored the strengths and challenges associated with a partnership-driven conservation approach.

Local organizations found the World Canals Conference an excellent opportunity to showcase the area’s unique heritage and to learn more about restoration of our cultural resources.

“As we visited the sites, it was easy to hear and see the pride each organization held for its ‘masterpiece’,” says D&L Operations Manager Rayne Schnabel. “We were just as proud to include the sites in our program as the people were to show them off. This was a rare opportunity for almost 200 national and international guests to see the Corridor and its communities.”

New D&L Staff

Scott Everett, Stewardship and Trail Manager

H. Scott Everett from Egypt, Lehigh County, recently joined the D&L as Stewardship and Trail Manager, a position that is being transitioned from Bill Mineo in preparation for Bill's retirement.

Scott combines more than 20 years of experience in mechanical design and project management at Air Products and Chemicals in Allentown with years of volunteer work in parks and recreation, most recently as chairman of the Whitehall Township Recreation Commission. He is excited to dedicate his time and talent to the mission of connecting and maintaining the 165-mile D&L trail.

"Everywhere you go, there are people passionate about trails and saving historic landmarks," he says. "I look forward to working with these groups and local governments as we construct and interpret the Corridor."

Scott is a volunteer with the Ironton Rail Trail and recently served on the commission to update the Whitehall Township open space plan. In the process, he became skilled in local government operations. He is currently finishing a degree in organizational leadership at Penn State Lehigh Valley. His project management skills, attention to detail and ability to work with CAD drawings and blueprints will be key to his job at the D&L.

"His talent in details and design and his personal commitment are a good mix," says D&L President and Executive Director Allen Sachse.

Projects that Scott has started include completing Section 2 of the Slatington Trail, gaining access through the Glen Summit section in Luzerne County and extension of the trail from the bridge in Northampton north through Catasauqua.

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Dennis Scholl, Outreach Coordinator

Dennis Scholl joined the D&L as outreach coordinator in 2005, when he hit the ground running to recruit and train Trail Tender volunteers.

"As I took on Sherry Acevedo's role, my main challenge was getting to know all of the partner organizations that help take care of our trail," he says. "We have a good base of volunteers, but we always need more, especially to fill leadership roles."

Dennis's former experience includes developing an environmental education program for the Saucon Valley School District and years of public relations and editorial experience at Rodale Press in Emmaus. He is excited about getting local high schools involved in Corridor volunteer work.

"Community service is required by most schools today," says Dennis. "And this is an excellent opportunity for students to learn how to reintroduce native plants, establish a bird blind or interpret part of the trail historically."

In fact, a passion for history makes Dennis an advocate of trail interpretation. "I think the Corridor has such a fascinating history, from the William Penn Walking Purchase to the Industrial Age. The more trail sections we open, the more we can interpret the history of each area."

When not out on the trail, Dennis also supports Corridor public relations and special events. And he's the sole proprietor of "Monarchs Alive," a seasonal home-based business in which he ships monarch butterflies across the country for release at weddings and other special events.

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Trail Tender volunteers from four counties gathered on November 14 in Lehigh Gorge State Park to clean overgrowth that blocked public viewing of historic Lock #28. They also improved existing walking paths in the lock area.

New D&L Staff *(continued)*

Amey Senape, Manager, Lehigh Valley Industrial Heritage Coalition (367 words)

Amey Senape, a Bucks County historian and preservationist who co-founded “Save Our Steel” in 2003 when developers talked of tearing down Bethlehem Steel, is now helping the D&L manage the Lehigh Valley Industrial Heritage Coalition. A partnership between the Historic Bethlehem Partnership, the D&L and more than 25 other local organizations, the coalition advocates broad-based interpretation of the site that will tie Bethlehem’s heritage with the Valley’s larger industrial story.



“It’s really a large and varied story,” says Amey, who now works 30 hours a week in the D&L’s Easton office. “If developed correctly, in an historically sensitive way, this site will be a huge draw for heritage tourism. It’s a microcosm of American history.”

Fortunately, the BethWorks Now LLC team (current owners of the site including Newmark & Company Real Estate Inc. of New York), understand the historic value and want input from local organizations. In addition to \$450 million worth of stores, shops, restaurants, movie theaters and possible Las Vegas Sands slot parlors, the team is looking to preserve the iconic blast furnaces and many of the original structures through adaptive reuse. Local BethWorks Now LLC partner Michael Perrucci has asked the Lehigh Valley Industrial Heritage Coalition to come up with a broad interpretation plan for the site.

“We have much more power as one voice,” says Amey. “When we got together we all essentially had the same concerns in mind.”

Amey holds a Master of Arts degree in history from Lehigh University, with a concentration in public and industrial 20th Century history. In 2007, she plans to complete a Historic Preservation certificate at Bucks County Community College. She has years of experience volunteering for non-profits such as Bucks County Community College’s Hearth & Home Show, the Foundation for Historic Building Rescue, Inc. in Harleysville and Lehigh Valley Beyond Oil. The Bethlehem Steel site also holds personal meaning for Amey—her father was a steelworker at the site for more than 30 years.

“This site has enormous significance,” she says. “Growing up in Allentown, I have fond memories of Hamilton Street and especially Hess’s. I was so upset when they knocked it down. “I didn’t want another piece of our heritage destroyed.”

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Construction Consultants with the D&L

Two new D&L consultants have been hired to help with management of a growing number of construction projects—Rolland “Rollie” Rhodomoyer and Michael Korb.

Rollie Rhodomoyer began managing construction projects on a consulting basis when he retired from a 38-year career with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). A native of Bloomsburg, Pa. and a 30-year resident of Bucks County, he moved to western Pennsylvania a couple years ago when Somerset County asked for his help. Now, he travels to the eastern side of the state to oversee D&L projects such as:

- Conrail siding project in Fairless Hills
- Delaware Canal construction
- Flood repairs
- Bristol Toll House “comfort station”

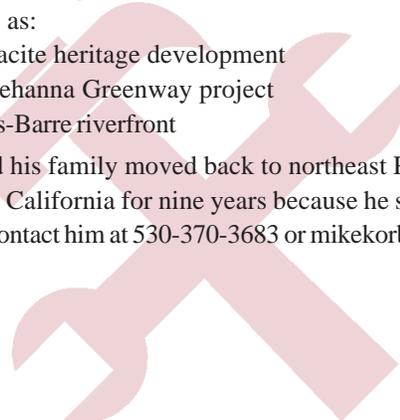
Along with his contacts at DCNR, Rollie’s attention to detail and tenacity are key to getting projects moving. Contact him at 215-593-6434 or Rhody0812@aol.com.

Michael Korb, who currently resides in Wapwallopen, Luzerne County, is a retired professional engineer and manager who worked in the mining, steel, water treatment, construction and chemical industries. He now works as a consultant to the D&L and GTS Technologies, an environmental consulting firm in Harrisburg. His career included more than 20 years at Bethlehem Steel as a general manager, where he developed and managed mines, negotiated environmental compliance issues and oversaw key operations. Since his work at the Steel, Korb has worked for Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. in Tamaqua, Wilmot Engineering Company in White Haven, Earth Conservancy in Ashley and Mineral Resources LLC in Oroville, California.

Mike now manages some of D&L’s Luzerne County projects such as:

- Anthracite heritage development
- Susquehanna Greenway project
- Wilkes-Barre riverfront

Korb and his family moved back to northeast Pennsylvania after living in California for nine years because he says it “feels like home.” Contact him at 530-370-3683 or mikekorb@epix.net.



Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission
2750 Hugh Moore Park Road
Easton, PA 18042

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and State Heritage Park is a joint effort of private groups and interested citizens, county and municipal governments, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government to conserve cultural and natural resources and provide appropriate development opportunities for a sustainable future.

Future issues of *Along the Corridor* will be available online and via email. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please write to the above address or send your email to info@delawareandlehigh.org.

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D&L Staff Moves Come visit us in our new offices!

As promised, the Easton staff relocated their offices this summer to the second floor of the new Elaine and Peter Emrick Technology Center in historic Hugh Moore Park. Our new address is:

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
2750 Hugh Moore Park Road
Easton, PA 18042

The phone number remains the same. Construction is now underway on the first floor exhibit chronicling the history of industry and technology in the Lehigh Valley.

The D&L Market Towns office in Slatington also moved this summer to the Lehighon Borough Annex—the former Lehighon Junior High building at 110 North 3rd Street. The Borough of Lehighon received \$60,500 in PHPP funds through the D&L to assist in this historic rehabilitation project, a key to the downtown revitalization efforts in Lehighon. The D&L's new Lehighon address is:

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
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110 North 3rd Street - Room 220
Lehighon, PA 18235

Please note, the Lehighon office has new phone numbers:
[phone] 610-377-4063, [fax] 610-377-5023

* Thank you, Florist Insurance of Slatington, for donating furniture for our new office.