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Spring 2013 - Volume 4, No.1 - Connecting, Preserving, Revitalizing

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April 18th Dinner Will Celebrate Partners

Please join us on April 18 for the D&L's Heritage Partnership Celebration & Dinner, a special evening that honors your colleagues and community partners and launches the D&L's 25th anniversary. The event will be held at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem, 437 Main Street, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception. Dinner will be served at 6:30; the evening will conclude at 9 o'clock.



We will be honoring Susan Taylor (Lifetime Achievement

A Purposeful Celebration



Award), Lehigh County Parks and Recreation (Heritage Development Award), Peter and Carol Kern (Leadership Award), and Bridge Street Foundation (Stewardship Award). Please RSVP by April 5th. To make reservations online, please click [here](#). For further information, contact Loretta Susen at 610-923-3548 x221.

Future Funding: The New Normal?

In late March both houses of the U.S. Congress passed a continuing resolution that extends federal funding for the Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Corridor and 11 other National Heritage Areas (NHAs), restoring funding and authorization which was lost on September 30, 2012 - but for only one year.

At the same time, all across Pennsylvania, State Heritage Area leaders are rallying to restore this important heritage line item in the Commonwealth's budget.

While this is pretty good news, it comes as a result of ongoing and hard struggles. And, it leaves communities and organizations with challenges of planning and smart action—how do you make critical commitments with financial uncertainty hanging over every move? Why should private partners contribute and commit to the vagaries of this process?

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the story.

Keystone Fund Honors D&L Trail

The Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) Trail was recognized as Pennsylvania's best trail project by the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund at the organization's 20th anniversary celebration in Harrisburg on March 18. Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor President/Executive Director, Elissa Garofalo, accepted the honor.



By Elissa Garofalo,
D&L President /
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This is a particularly hectic time - and never has our work been so important. So, it's with sheer excitement that I look forward to seeing you on April 18th for our annual dinner. (See related story on left.)

After nearly 25 years of dreaming and planning, and with much thanks to the hard work by scores of partners throughout the D&L Corridor, we have been able to build 84% of the 165-mile trail, from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol. Today, completion is within sight. And we want to thank you, celebrate this year's outstanding stories and their honorees, and tell you more about the new opportunities and resources that are coming our way.

And there's more. While working on the update of our management plan and meeting with small groups of heritage-minded folks in Bethlehem, trail-minded folks in Luzerne County and community-minded

“The D&L Trail is more than just a trail; it’s truly a platform for education, conservation, interpretation, economic revitalization and recreation,” Garofalo said. “It’s a privilege to accept the Keystone Award on behalf of the D&L staff – past and present – as well as our many partners, volunteers and 1.65 million visitors and residents who love the D&L Trail.” [Click here](#) to read the rest of the story.

Trail-Building Season Underway

D&L Trail building is off to a fast start this year. Right now, projects are underway in the Borough of Lehigh, where a new trailhead with a capacity for approximately forty cars is being constructed along Route 209 in Lehigh;



in Lehigh; in Lehigh and Wright Townships in Luzerne County, where 9.7 miles are being added to the D&L Trail between the northern boundary of Lehigh Gorge State Park and the new Black Diamond Trailhead off of Route 437 ; and in the City of Easton, where a short but important connection is being made between the D&L Trail in Palmer Township and Hugh Moore Park in Easton.

When complete in late spring or early summer, each project will provide vital trail connections, albeit in slightly different ways.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the story.

RTC Report: D&L Trail Pumps \$19 Million into Corridor Economy

To an organization that’s building a long-distance trail, quotes like these make all the hard work seem more worthwhile: *“It was a breathtaking ride. I enjoyed the scenery, the peace, the quiet; I can’t wait to do it again. I enjoyed all of the placards along the way telling the history of the canal.”*



folks along the Delaware Canal, the importance of our partnerships became clear once again. The D&L will be announcing corridor-wide projects which already are putting our respective missions to work - and specifically how the D&L can help you meet your local goals.

It will become apparent at the dinner how we’ll be able to fulfill on these promises... as we announce the addition of significant assets to tell the story of our regional heritage, the story of ‘where America was built.’ It’s a night that affects us all.

But I just want to take a moment to reflect on how our ancestors would be proud that we’ve helped regenerate our original lands and rivers - now a National Historic Landmark, on the National Register of Historic Places, and designated a National Recreation Trail! To each of us in the region it’s our story to tell...and it’s the purpose of the D&L to assist in the effort.

So on April 18th, we begin to celebrate the first 25 years of

Or this: *“The (D&L) Trail influenced where we purchased a home when we moved to Pennsylvania.”*

Impressive remarks, to be sure, but just a sampling of the hundreds of comments made by D&L Trail users who took part in a 2012 trail survey conducted by the Northeast Office of the Washington, DC-based Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC). The survey took place between the boroughs of White Haven in Luzerne County and Bristol in Lower Bucks County, and was made possible by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The methodology used in the survey was tested previously on Pennsylvania trails and documented in RTC’s Trail User Survey Workbook. [Click here](#) to read the rest of the story.

Trail Tenders Leadership Workshop Planned for May 4

The D&L Trail Tenders will be holding a chapter leadership workshop on May 4 to train volunteers for supervisory roles within each of the Tenders’ five chapters.



The D&L hopes to have steering committees in place for all chapters by the end of October. The committees will be responsible for developing and promoting chapter activities, including cleanups and social functions.

The day-long workshop at the Emrick Center in Easton’s Hugh Moore Park will focus on the organizational structure of the Trail Tenders; the Tenders’ role in the maintenance of the D&L Trail and historic structures along it; the development, scheduling and execution of chapter cleanups; recruiting new chapter members; maintaining and using a chapter database; and developing and executing a simple public relations plan.

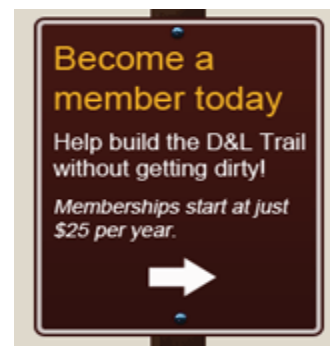
The workshop gets underway at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. Lunch and workshop materials will be provided. You do not need to be a current Trail Tender to attend the workshop. Interested persons should contact D&L Outreach Coordinator, Dennis Scholl (dennis@delawareandlehigh; 610-923-3548

connecting, preserving and revitalizing our historic corridor, the incredible nationally significant story of natural resources, industry, our communities and their peoples, found in each and every backyard up and down the corridor.

It is our purpose to maintain the framework and enhance the platform on which we can preserve and interpret the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations. As has been said: “It takes a village” and I look forward to working with you for the next 25 years.

Looking forward to toasting you on April 18th at the Hotel Bethlehem at 5:30 PM.

See you there!



D&L Links:

- [Rails to Trails Conservancy](#)
- [Landmark Towns of](#)

x225), no later than April 20.

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- [Tales of the Towpath interactive website](#)
- [Keystone Fund](#)



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Our Mission: To enrich the communities within the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor thru actions and partnerships that conserve the resources, tell the stories and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Corridor.