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Winter 2011 - Volume 2 - No. 3 | Preserving our heritage to enrich our future.

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D&L Marathon a Runaway Success

Five hundred twenty five runners from 15 states and the District of Columbia registered for the inaugural Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Marathon and Half-Marathon along the D&L Trail on Sunday, October 23.



Twenty-four-year-old Chris Bauer of Sea Cliff, NY was the overall winner of the 26.2-mile marathon in a time of 2:53.14. The top time in the half-marathon was turned in by 42-year-old Sean Robbins of Shavertown, PA, who ran the 13.1-mile course in 1:17.05.

Hundreds of spectators gathered at the finish line near Lehigh Gap to cheer on the 475 runners who competed in the races. Runners started in Northampton and followed the D&L Trail through portions of Northampton, Lehigh, and Carbon counties.

Online Articles

- [Tales of the Towpath receives state's top Social Studies award](#)
- [D&L Trail Alliance gets underway](#)
- [Corridor hosts America's Heritage Area leaders](#)
- [Landmark Towns accomplishments](#)

Partners and Prospects



I simply cannot believe that 12 years have passed since I accepted the position of Executive Director of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Marathon runners also covered parts of the Slate Heritage Trail in Slatington and the Lehigh New England Trail in East Penn Township, Carbon County. The wide, flat course proved to be a favorite among the racers. ([Click here to continue.](#))

Ribbon Cuttings Mark Trail Openings

The construction of the D&L Trail took a monumental leap forward in 2011.



More than nine miles of smooth, wide, compacted limestone trail were installed on former Lehigh Valley Railroad bed in Lehigh and Carbon counties last summer, making the proposed 165-mile trail from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol that much closer to completion. Trail usage has been overwhelming to the point that on weekends, all of the trailhead parking lots in both counties are full.

“This is an example of something we can all agree on: There is universal support for the development of trails,” Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham said at the dedication of 6.5 miles of the D&L Trail in late August. “These projects are good for today, they’re good for us, they are good for our grandkids.” ([Click here to continue.](#))

Exceptional Partners Honored

The presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to longtime D&L Board of Directors member, Don Bernhard, highlighted the D&L’s annual Partner Recognition Dinner at the Hotel Bethlehem on November 4.



Bernhard’s award was one of eight presentations made to organizations, communities, businesses, and individuals who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of historic and natural resources

Commission. It has been a pleasure to lead this partnership network. I’ve been fortunate to lead an organization that is at the forefront of America’s heritage and landscape preservation program. But in no way can I take credit for the wealth of accomplishments that have occurred since I’ve come aboard. There are many other factors and players involved. Here are some noteworthy keys to the D&L’s success:

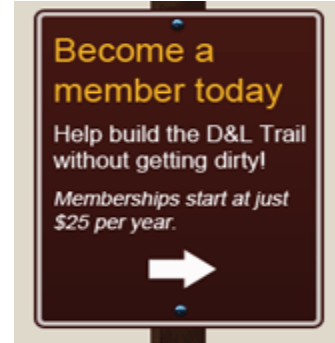
- We have a model management plan developed in the 1990s that steers our ship, providing as much vision for the partnership to follow today that it did 15 years ago.
 - Our partners are deeply passionate about the Corridor’s heritage and have been supportive and patient, knowing the complexity of the challenges that often confront us.
 - The D&L Commission/Board of Directors always has been supportive of innovative approaches and our willingness to tackle big problems.
 - The D&L staff; I cannot say enough about them. Each member is very talented, dedicated to serving, and very creative.
- These special ingredients have enabled the D&L to do many amazing things. I’d like to highlight a few D&L projects that never would have happened without the participation of our many partners and volunteers: ([Click here to continue.](#))

in Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon and Luzerne counties. The dinner was attended by more than 100 D&L partners and guests.

Bernhard, who has worked for PPL Corporation since 1995 and is the company's current Director of Community Affairs, joined the D&L Board of Directors shortly after Congress designated the D&L as the country's third National Heritage Area in 1988. Don became Chair of the Planning Committee and oversaw a planning team that included the National Park Service, three state agencies, local non-profits, consultants, and members of the D&L Commission. Under Don's guidance, the Planning Committee developed the D&L Management Action Plan, a benchmark that still serves the D&L today.

Six other awards were presented at the dinner. ([Click here to continue.](#))

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D&L Links:

- [View 2011 Top Photos](#)
- [Give Tales of the Towpath for Christmas](#)
- [Spend Christmas in the Corridor](#)
- [Become a Trail Tender](#)
- [Join the Trail Patrol](#)
- [Go to the Tales of the Towpath website](#)
- [Plan your next hike on the D&L Trail](#)



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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.