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Spring 2012 - Volume 3 - No. 2 | Connecting, revitalizing, preserving

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New Federal Legislation Is Key to Heritage Areas Survival

It's no secret that the D&L receives significant support from the National Park Service. What most people don't understand, however, is the tenuous nature of this funding. In very real terms, unless there is positive legislative action during this session of Congress, funding for the D&L and 11 other National Heritage Areas (NHA) will expire this fiscal year.



But there is a bright side to the issue as well, and it comes in the form of two very important bills that recently were introduced to

Online Articles

- [OSM-VISTA Worker Makes Impact in Luzerne](#)
- [D&L Announces National Trails Day Events](#)
- [Landmarks Towns Achievement Awards](#)
- [National Canal Museum Hosts Immersion Days](#)
- [New Video Highlights Trail Tenders' Work at Sand Island](#)
- [Register for 2nd Annual D&L Heritage Marathon and Half-Marathon](#)

BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER by Elissa M. Garfalo

address the looming fiscal challenge.

In February, U.S. Congressman Charlie Dent introduced the National Heritage Area Act of 2012, also known as House Bill 4099. This is the most comprehensive legislation ever to address the sustainability of the NHA movement. The bipartisan bill was co-authored by Congressman Paul Tonko of New York. To date, 36 additional members of Congress have become co-sponsors of the bill. I'm very pleased to report that Pennsylvania Congressmen Lou Barletta, Mike Fitzpatrick, Thomas Marino and Tim Holden all were original co-sponsors. ([Click here to continue reading story.](#))

D&L Trail Alliance Making Quick Impact in Corridor

The D&L Trail Alliance is making a quick impact. With support from the William Penn Foundation, D&L staff members took just one year to develop a regional alliance of more than 100 federal, state, regional, municipal, non-profit, and private partners who share a vested interest in the stewardship and promotion of the 165-mile D&L Trail. The alliance includes a Stewardship Council and three regional councils.

Members of the Stewardship Council represent non-profits, municipalities, counties and state parks that own or manage sections of the D&L Trail. They focus on the logistics of building and maintaining a long-distance trail and use council meetings as a forum for sharing best practices, seeking advice, and discussing trail policy. Although the council has met only a few times, there have been meaningful exchanges about a variety of trail issues ranging from a trail horse policy to volunteer insurance.

Regional councils include representatives of trail organizations, educators, business owners, bicycle advocates, volunteers, and others who focus on programming, marketing, building volunteer capacity, and other issues specific to their council area. ([Click here to continue reading story.](#))

PA Turnpike Commission Helps



A changing of the guard took place at the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor on January 20. It was a pretty big day as my mentor and predecessor Allen Sachse took the leap and relinquished day-to-day duties at the D&L. For me it was a career culmination as I was named to the position of President and Executive Director.

While Allen may have retired from the position after 12 dedicated years, we are fortunate because he continues to serve as a part-time Special Advisor. He will focus on the D&L's federal, state and strategic partnerships.

And so we have the best of both worlds: a seasoned professional who is recognized as a leader in the national and state heritage development forum; and an energetic journeyman who is prepared to lead the D&L's diverse slate of

Build D&L Trail

The D&L Trail doesn't get built without partnerships. A rather unique partnership will be unveiled in Carbon County in the next few months. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has recently replaced the Interstate 476 bridge in Parryville, a project that required a construction easement from the Borough of Lehigh, using a portion of the old Lehigh Valley Railroad bed owned by the borough. Knowing that the D&L Trail was planned to eventually run through this section, Lehigh negotiated construction of the trail, per D&L specifications, as part of the easement terms with the bridge contractor. This 2.5-mile section will be completed sometime this summer.



This project fits in nicely with other projects and grants the D&L currently is working on to complete the 30 miles of D&L Trail in Carbon County. In a few months, work should begin on a new D&L trailhead in Lehigh, which will provide parking to access 20 miles of trail that stretch south to Cementon in Lehigh County. In addition, the D&L applied for a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural resources (DCNR) grant on behalf of Carbon County. The grant would provide funding to tie Weissport into the Lehigh section of the D&L Trail and also provide a pedestrian crossing and American Disabilities Act (ADA) access at Route 895 in East Penn Township. Please check the D&L website (www.delawareandlehigh.org) for future updates.

Facebook? Twitter? D&L On Top of Social Media

In order to inform more people about the activities and events along the corridor, the D&L is actively involved in several social media sites. In addition to our website delawareandlehigh.org that contains a



partners and talented staff into a sustainable future. The D&L is ready for the challenge!

As this new chapter begins, you can expect the D&L to focus on connecting, revitalizing and preserving our nationally significant resources along the Corridor in Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks counties. Connecting. Revitalizing. Preserving. Three words you will see time and time again as we move forward.

The D&L's most recognizable asset is the D&L Trail. Today the trail is the connector that binds the heritage assets we strive to revitalize and preserve: our canal system, historic towns, green valleys, inspiring mountaintops and ridges, remnants of early industry, and the distinctive culture that follows its path.

For many, the Heritage Area concept is an unwieldy one. I like to think of Heritage Areas as "living" National Parks. Our landscape is not always park-like in the traditional sense, and our resources are owned and managed by a variety of local and state partners rather than a single entity. However, the D&L is the one organization connecting, revitalizing

wealth of information on the trail and local attractions, the D&L utilizes Facebook and Twitter to provide additional information to its followers. Each platform gives the D&L an opportunity to interact with different people who are interested in the corridor.

Facebook is used to keep followers updated on news, events, and articles related to the D&L. Facebook offers the D&L a place for D&L “friends” to share their pictures of the trail as well as interact with individual followers. “We really want our Facebook page to have a community atmosphere,” says D&L intern, Jerry Rogers.

To join the D&L Facebook community, go to www.facebook.com/DelawareandLehigh and click the “like” box.

The D&L is also an active participant in Twitter. There are two Twitter accounts that are used to tweet updates on the corridor. @exploreDL tries to stay connected with individuals who are interested in various aspects of the trail, such as hiking, biking, and anything else related to the trail. @DLheritage is geared more toward people who want to be informed about the organization of the D&L and its projects through blog posts, newsletters, etc. Both avenues provide a wealth of information.

The D&L uses social media outlets to help spread its message of connecting, revitalizing, and preserving. We’re always looking for new ways to keep the community informed. Make sure to join their social media outlets in order to be up-to-date on all the D&L’s events and happenings.

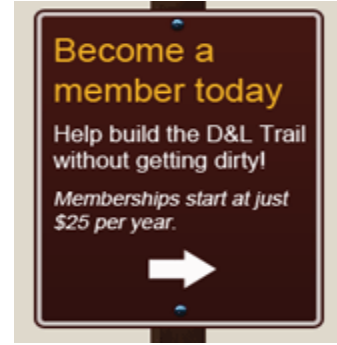
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and preserving the many historic, cultural and natural resources across the region.

In 1988, the D&L was designated as one of America’s first National Heritage Areas because of the role our 19th-century transportation system played in fueling the American Industrial Revolution. As a result, this organization broke new ground in the areas of cultural resource management and landscape conservation and became a model for organizations across the nation.

Today, we continue to lead the Heritage Area movement, and - as in the beginning - the D&L continues to evolve as we seek new streams of funding to enhance our programs. In the coming years, more new ground will be broken as we evaluate our membership structure, survey supporters and launch new campaigns that will connect, revitalize and preserve this region’s resources for many years to come.

I look forward to your long-term support of the D&L.



D&L Links:

- [National Heritage Area Act of 2012](#)
- [Susquehanna Greenway Partnership](#)
- [Landmark Towns of Bucks County](#)
- [National Canal Museum](#)
- [Tales of the Towpath](#)



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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.