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Fall 2013 - Volume 4 - No. 2 | Preserving our heritage to enrich our future.

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25 Years Strong and a Bright Future

Twenty-five years ago our region was designated the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor by an Act of Congress for its integral role in the American Industrial Revolution of the mid-1800s. Congress signaled its recognition of the outstanding role our people and communities played in building America. No surprise then, ours is a story that's alive on main streets and along the D&L Trail reaching from the anthracite mines of Carbon and Luzerne counties to the port of Bristol.

Today, most of the five-county, 165-mile D&L Trail is complete, connecting the communities in our region like a backbone. It's



Online Articles

- [D&L Marathon Gets Closer](#)
- [D&L Mule Mascot Gets a Name](#)
- [Josiah White II Lock Ride Set for Oct. 5](#)
- [D&L Encourages Businesses To Assess Themselves](#)
- [New Life for White Haven Engine House](#)

A Significant Signing



By Elissa Garofalo

time to celebrate all we have done, and who we are!

Our Heritage Corridor:

- Preserves and shares the story of our heritage, and teaches young and old—it's time to celebrate.
- Is a resource of recreation and civic health wherever you live—it's time to celebrate!
- Is a key connection to community, for everyone—it's time to celebrate!
- Is powerful, creating \$230 million in revenue and more than 3,300 jobs annually--it's time to celebrate!

So, during the next year - our Silver Anniversary - the D&L will be celebrating up and down the corridor, in your neighborhood. Everyone should be involved.

- "Get Your Tail on the Trail" leads the way in health and fitness as thousands walk and bike the towpath.
- Look for 'Art on the Trail,' too, in the year ahead; a spiritual journey along our beautiful, inspiring—and conserved--resource.
- Next June begins the new opportunity to "Summer with Finn" at the Museum, as he tells his 'Tales of the Towpath' and offers kid-friendly fun.
- The iconic Josiah White II canal boat, tugged by mules Hank and George, will be home to "Conversations on the Canal": conversations that will find their way to your heritage communities' special events.
- Lecture series, film nights and interpretative walks will focus on our community, right here where America was built.
- Special events led by Della, our new mascot mule, will abound--from Canal Days to 5k walks to the D&L Heritage Marathon.

And a whole lot more for the entire family will be announced in the weeks and months ahead. Be sure to join us!

Watch www.delawareandlehigh.org for details.

D&L Trail Has Biggest Year

D&L President/ Executive Director

On August 8, 2013, the leaders of the D&L Heritage Corridor signed an Alliance Agreement with the Smithsonian-affiliated National Canal Museum. With this signing, we officially have combined assets to expand the telling of our nationally-acclaimed story: "Where America was Built"!

This alliance uniquely combines the reach of the D&L Corridor, its stakeholders, partners, and communities, with the archives, artifacts, and publications of the Museum. The Corridor is dedicated to connecting, revitalizing, preserving, and celebrating the nationally significant cultural, historic and recreational aspects of our communities. The National Canal Museum's collections hold the canal, coal, coke, steel, rail, cement and textile artifacts, pictures, films, and documents that tell the stories of our communities. America was built here and the world needs to celebrate!

One historian once phrased it like this: "the baton of industrial invention and entrepreneurship [circa 1850] had passed across the Atlantic to American

This has been the biggest year of D&L Trail construction in our 25-year history. Major projects have been completed and more are underway. Here's what's been happening:



D&L Trail – Black Diamond Trailhead and Trail

Completed: The Black Diamond Trailhead and about ten miles of trail from Mountain Top to White Haven; the first section to leave the rivers and utilize the old rail beds that lead into Wilkes-Barre.

Funding: \$1.2m from the Federal Highway Administration through PennDOT

Our Partners: the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association (trail owner) and the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry (trailhead owner and trail monitor with the PA Game Commission.)

D&L Trail – White Haven North Trailhead – Lehigh Gorge State Park

Completed: A basic ADA-compatible trailhead where the D&L Trail meets Lehigh Gorge State Park.

Still to do: Signage on Main Street in White Haven, Carbon County, identifying Main Street as a "Share the Road" section of the D & L Trail. To be completed by year's end.

Funding: \$7,000 State Heritage Areas

Our Partners: PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks and the Borough of White Haven .

To continue story, click [here](#)

"Living History" Comes to Freemansburg

Tales of the Towpath is coming home to Freemansburg.

Fourth-grade students from five Bethlehem elementary schools will get an up-close, hands-on taste of 1850s canal when field trips at the new Freemansburg



hands. Key to the American takeover lay in the huge deposits of anthracite coal, and when Josiah White, a broad-visioned Philadelphian built a transportation system—one of America's outstanding canals and America's second railroad line—it became a transportation system which flowed coal from mine to market." Our Heritage Corridor became the center of iron production in the world in the mid-19th century; then, in the 20th, during the Reagan administration, its national historical significance as "the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution" was recognized by Congress during the Reagan administration, when it created the public-private framework under the mantle of the National Park Service (NPS) to revitalize, preserve, and celebrate our communities' heritage.

So, as more than one headline writer has put it, we're merging "the federal power of the National Park Service with the storytelling prowess of the Smithsonian-affiliated Museum"—and let me add, our many and diverse stakeholders! Smithsonian Institution calls our effort 'inspirational'. NPS noted it as 'very impressive'. American Alliance of

Canal Education Center (FCEC) debut on September 30.

The 2.5 acre site - close to where storybook character Finn Gorman lived - includes the Lehigh Canal's Lock 44, an 1829 locktender's house, a restored mule barn, ruins of a large 19th century grist mill that operated at the site for more than 125 years, and a fully watered section of the Lehigh Canal nearby. It's a perfect setting for students to explore the lives and work of locktenders and their families as they study the D&L's Tales of the Towpath social studies curriculum.

"It's a great site," said D&L Outreach Coordinator, Dennis Scholl, who is managing the project. "There's not a collection of canal structures like it anywhere else along the Lehigh or Delaware canals. We're very lucky to be able to develop it for educational purposes."

D&L Trail Tenders and other volunteers have invested nearly 3,000 volunteer hours clearing invasive vegetation, erecting split-rail fences, refurbishing the interior of a full-size mule barn, building a dozen picnic tables and an outdoor classroom, installing vegetable, herb and dye plant gardens, repairing the north wall of Lock 44, and building a walkway inside the lock for a student math activity.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Tails Are Getting on the Trail

From the couch to the D&L Trail ... residents are "Getting Their Tails on the Trail"

More than 2,200 of your neighbors have gotten their "Tails on the Trail" since May.

They are taking part in the 165-mile Trail challenge, launched by the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) and St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN).

This unique wellness program aims to introduce the D&L Trail to regional residents by encouraging them to venture outdoors, get active and explore nature by walking, running or biking the



Museums (AAM) calls us 'ahead of our time'.

Today, with the D&L Trail as our platform, the Heritage Corridor creates over 3,300 jobs and \$240 million in annual revenues. It is home to 1.6 million residents and entertains untold visitors. Our purpose, our mission, is to enrich the communities of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor through programs and partnerships that conserve the resources, preserve the history, revitalize our communities and celebrate the story. Canals, rivers and railroad run through it – they are integral to our story.

As our Heritage Corridor enters its 25th year of service to the community, let me thank every one of you for your part in this pioneering undertaking. As the "new" organization prepares to shape the next 25 years, what's needed next comes from you. Whether it's through leadership, membership, or help in the field, your continuing involvement in conserving and celebrating our communities is a key to our future success. So don't be surprised when you hear from us. There is obviously much to do as we build on 50 years of the Park and Museum, 35 years of the Canal Boat

D&L Trail. The 165 miles represents the length of the D&L Trail from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol and travels through dozens of communities.

“Get Your Tail on the Trail” promotes fitness for everyone, from the couch potato to the avid runner. It allows participants to be active when it is convenient for them—on their time. Bonnie Coyle, MD, Director of SLUHN’s Community Health Department states that “Daily exercise increases strength and endurance, helps to maintain a healthy weight, decreases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and provides you with a more restful sleep. Benefits of regular exercise include an improved self-esteem, especially for children and adolescents”.

The response has been overwhelming! Since May, more than ten times the expected number of people have registered, and they have collectively logged over 160,000 miles! The most miles logged by one person—1,519!

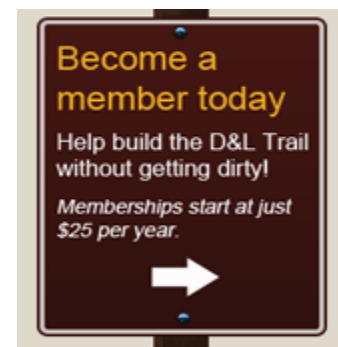
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Ride, and 25 years of the world-leading story of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Proudly, we conserve resources and preserve history as we enhance quality of life—making our community a better place to live and visit.

America was built here, and the best is yet to come!



D&L Links:

- [Get Your Tail on the Trail](#)
- [Tales of the Towpath](#)
- [White Haven Engine House History](#)
- [National Canal Museum](#)
- [Landmark Towns of Bucks County](#)



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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.