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Winter 2012 - Volume 3 - No. 4 | Connecting, Revitalizing, Preserving

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D&L Marathon Exceeds Expectations

The wind and biting cold air that accompanied the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy wasn't enough to deter 678 runners from crossing the finish lines of the second Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Marathon & Half-Marathon on November 4.



Leading the way was 23-year-old Pat McLaughlin of Maple Glen, PA, who ran between the blue-and yellow finish flags south of Lehigh Gap to claim the half-marathon championship a little past 9:10 a.m. McLaughlin covered the 13.1-mile D&L Trail course in a blazing time of 1:10:42, a blistering 5:24 per-mile pace. Deedra Porfirio of West

What If?



**By Elissa Garofalo,
Executive Director**

A new year will begin in less than a month. Looking back

Pittston, PA, was the top female half-marathon winner (8th overall) in a time of 1:30:47.

Michael Arnstein, a New York City Marathon entrant until damage from Sandy cancelled the Big Apple event, won the D&L Marathon in a time of 2:38:07. Arnstein was among 150 runners who registered online in a little over an hour when news broke that the NYC race wouldn't be held.

Jessica Kennedy of Morristown, NJ, was the top female marathon finisher (10th overall) for the second year in-a-row, covering the 26.2-mile course in 3:06:37.

Considering that millions of people in the Northeast lost power the week of the race, including the D&L offices in Easton and Lehigh, and that the D&L Trail was compromised by the enormous storm, it was a victory just to get the races off. Exceeding last year's event total by more than 200 runners was very sweet icing on the cake. A volunteer turnout of more than 125 - despite communication problems - put organizers on Cloud Nine.

"We were able to address the challenges presented by Sandy and still accommodate more runners," said D&L Executive Director Elissa Garofalo. "The D&L staff, volunteers, local municipalities and runners really stepped up to the plate." [\(Continue story by clicking here.\)](#)

Do You Support the D&L?

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor works hard to sustain the quality of life in the Delaware, Lehigh and Wyoming valleys.

With 2013 soon upon us, we ask you to consider joining the "I Support the D&L" movement by becoming a D&L member. For a tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more, you can help the D&L



helps frame our place in history, but it's anticipation of the opportunities that lie in front of us that really builds my enthusiasm.

"What if?" are two great little words that open a world of possibility. The D&L Corridor is embarking on a stimulating conversation that starts with these words ... and they are already getting us to some interesting questions.

Take the D&L Trail, our flagship program. What if the D&L Trail could be a world-class experience, 165 miles long? What would make it "world class?" Which steps should we take first, second, third? Who needs to join us?

What if the D&L Trail is something more? What if, in reality, it is our region's "central park" and every resident's "backyard park?" What if it is a greenway vital to water quality, storm water management, and wildlife habitat? What if it is really our platform for education, and for our region's identity? What do these roles mean for the trail over the long term?

What if that world-class experience were to depend not simply on creating a fantastic recreational trail, but on revealing its history and historic places along the way? Who is telling this story and how can we unite to make it a world-class tale?

Who will our leaders be in this future we are imagining? What if every school child grew up

sustain a portfolio of partnership-based programs that benefit businesses, municipalities, and people living in - and outside - the D&L Corridor.

Here's how your donation will be used:

It will Connect – your contribution will help us make the final connections in the historic, 165-mile D&L Trail. The network of trailheads we're developing soon will connect hundreds of historic, cultural, natural, and recreational venues from Bristol in Lower Bucks County to Wilkes-Barre in Luzerne County.

It will Revitalize – your donation will revitalize key corridor communities in the five eastern Pennsylvania counties we serve: Bucks, Northampton, Lehigh, Carbon and Luzerne.

It will Preserve – your money will help us preserve our distinctive American heritage through programs such as our award-winning elementary school curriculum, Tales of the Towpath.

Please make a tax-deductible donation today! If you'd like to see some people who already support the D&L - and learn more about our membership and donor programs - [click here](#).

William Penn Foundation Lends Support to D&L Trail Alliance

The William Penn Foundation recently awarded the D&L Trail Alliance a grant of \$330,000 to support the next two years of our work. Major projects will include:



- A marketing and communications plan for the D&L Trail that will help us better convey information about the trail and attract trail users
- Expansion of the Landmark Towns of Bucks County program to a regional “trail town” program serving communities along the entire length of the Delaware Canal
- Improved access and safety at the Middleburg Rd.

knowing what it takes to make this place special?

In 1993, the D&L National Heritage Corridor embarked on a journey to “connect, preserve, and revitalize” the great places in Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, Lehigh, and Bucks counties. That journey has been guided by a management plan, a growing National Park Service program and support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources to celebrate and invest in America’s most significant historic regions.

Twenty years later, that plan and a great deal of hard work and investment have led trail partners to a great moment.

We are within three years of a “golden spike” joining of north and south segments of the D&L Trail, with a pedestrian bridge at Jim Thorpe. We are undertaking a major new initiative to ensure the trail’s long-term future with the help of the William Penn Foundation. A corps of volunteers builds, maintains, and patrols the D&L Trail and saves precious historic canal structures. More than 600 wayfinding and interpretive signs installed along the trail and in nearby communities celebrate our history and attract and guide trail users.

Thousands of schoolchildren know and love the D&L Trail through our Tales of the Towpath program and the programs of our education partner, the National Canal

crossing in Luzerne County and the “landing area” in Catasauqua, Lehigh County

- A feasibility study for National Historic Trail status that may allow us to secure additional federal funds for trail stewardship

We are very grateful for the William Penn Foundation’s support of the D&L Trail Alliance. You will hear much more about the grant and these projects in the coming months.

D&L Honors Volunteers at Luncheon

More than 70 D&L volunteers gathered at the National Canal Museum in Hugh Moore Park, Easton, on December 1 to enjoy a holiday luncheon in their honor.



Members of the D&L Trail

Tenders and Trail Patrol, and many people who volunteered at the D&L Heritage Marathon, enjoyed an afternoon of great food and conversation. The luncheon was the first holiday gathering for D&L volunteers, but considering the turnout, won't be the last.

D&L Executive Director, Elissa Garofalo, and Outreach Director, Dennis Scholl, welcomed the volunteers and thanked them for their service.

Great Year for the D&L Trail

The year 2012 will go down as one of the best years in the history of the D&L Trail. Groundbreakings were held, new trail sections opened, and usership rose to new



levels. Just how good was it? So good, say D&L Trail Manager Scott Everett, that several trailheads have developed 'parking issues.' You know your ship has arrived when parking becomes a

Museum. At least 40 communities have participated in projects to connect to the trail and maximize their economic gains from its proximity.

Certainly, all involved in the D&L Trail have a great deal to celebrate – and much more success to anticipate. Now, though, it is time to consider how we build on this success. How can we ensure enough resources – partners, helping hands, funds, policies, public support – to:

- Build and maintain a superb trail?
- Preserve irreplaceable historic places and structures?
- Tell this region’s fascinating stories?
- Help visitors find and enjoy this region’s great places?
- And, last but hardly least, take advantage of the economic potential all of these good things offer?

“What if” are two little words we’re using to help us find great answers – to some great questions.\

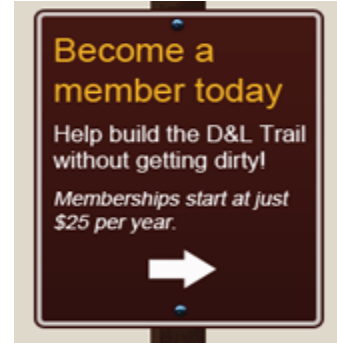
What if YOU could help us? As we work on a new management plan for this region that will take us from 2013 to 2028, we’d like to hear your views. [Click here](#) to take a five-minute survey to share your ideas with us. Thanks!

problem.

"It's a testament to the increased exposure the trail has seen through the (D&L Heritage) marathon, trail events, project dedications, increased publicity and quite simply, word of mouth," Everett says. And with the D&L's largest - and longest - trail construction project underway in Luzerne County, and other projects on tap, 2013 may be even better.

What's in store for the upcoming year? [Click here](#) to read Everett's 2013 D&L Trail outlook.

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D&L Links:

- [William Penn Foundation](#)
- [Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center](#)
- [Freemansburg Canal Education Center](#)
- [Join the D&L Trail Tenders!](#)
- [D&L Staff and Board of Directors](#)



Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

2750 Hugh Moore Park Road
 Easton, PA 18042
 Phone : 610.923.3548
 Fax: 610.923.0537

www.delawareandlehigh.org



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.