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Spring 2014 - Volume 5 - No. 1 | Inspiring Connections

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Love History and Public Speaking? Volunteer With Us!

It's not all hard labor around here these days. Thanks to last year's alliance of the D&L and National Canal Museum, we're able to offer new volunteer opportunities that also focus on history, but don't require swinging a pick axe or pruning trees.



The D&L has long relied on its Trail Tenders volunteers to assist municipalities along the D&L Trail with trail maintenance and the preservation of canal locks and other structures left from the days of mule-drawn boats and steam locomotives.

Online Articles

- [Get Your Tail on the Trail Begins 2nd year](#)
- [Welcome New Members!](#)
- [Revitalizing Our Landmark Towns](#)
- [200-year-old connection in New Hope](#)
- [News from the NCM Archives](#)
- [Volunteers . . . THANK YOU!](#)
- [Catasauqua's Old Home Week](#)

Delivering Results for 25 Years

Trail Tenders have done - and continue to do - a tremendous job keeping the historic, long-distance D&L Trail open to the public. Now we're branching out.

New emphasis is being placed on volunteer opportunities at the National Canal Museum in Hugh Moore Park, Easton, at Lock 44 in Freemansburg, and at Lock 23 in Walnutport. Volunteers are needed at all those locations to tell the stories of our past as museum guides, field trip docents and special-event interpreters. We're also hoping to attract folks who are interested in leading historic and environmental walks or bike rides along the trail.

We're anxious to get started and are looking for volunteers now. In fact, we're beginning museum guide training at the National Canal Museum on May 12 at 1 p.m. If you live in the Easton area and are interested, please consider joining us.

Want to get involved with any of our education programs? Get in touch with Dennis Scholl, our Director of Education and Museum Services at 610-923-3548 x225 email Dennis at dennis@delawareandlehigh.org. He'll be happy to provide you with all the details.

canals.org Has New Website

A new website for the National Canal Museum is online at canals.org, thanks to work by the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor staff with local website designer Michael Duck of Webfoot Digital.

Duck is designing a site that can automatically reformat itself to look great on whatever kind of computer, tablet, or smartphone you use to access it. In addition to updating the look and feel of Canals.org, the new site will make it even easier to learn about what's happening at the museum and Hugh Moore Park while also helping to attract new visitors.



By Elissa Garofalo, D&L President/Executive Director

Ever since President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, we have listened to our stakeholders, and created great experiences for them. We listen to our communities and engage in projects that improve your quality of life. We focus on tangible results that make a difference for you and the people around you. We promise inspiration – great relationships, memorable experiences and meaningful connections.

The D&L was established to preserve the 165-mile historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, it's the D&L Trail that connects residents and visitors to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage along the way.

At first, our funding came primarily from the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of

"We want to help connect people with the great resources at the museum and the park, whether they're parents planning a trip to Easton, cyclists looking for information on the towpath, or just someone on a smartphone who needs directions to the canal boat," said Duck, whose business is based in Bethlehem.

The new site is scheduled to go online in early May. For more information about Webfoot Digital, visit webfootdigital.com or follow Webfoot Digital on Facebook or Twitter.

The Celebration Continues

Throughout the year, the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor will celebrate 25 years of connections, preservation, revitalization and sustainability. Through the hard work of a talented staff and dedicated cadre of partners, innovative educational, interpretive and wellness

programs have grown. And with only 15 per cent of the trail left to build, we are nearing completion of the coveted D&L Trail. These accomplishments would not have been realized without amazing help from our members, sponsors, funders, community partners and local, state and federal governments.

This spring, the D&L kicked off the celebration by hosting three luncheons, one in each of our three regions, to mark our silver anniversary and recognize partners. The camaraderie, venues and food attracted guests who have been influential throughout the years.

New Hope's Logan Inn was the site for the first luncheon in Bucks County. The D&L Commission's first Chairman, Will Rivinus, commented on the impressive legacy of the D&L, the only organization leading a regional effort to create and promote a network based on the region's common heritage. To continue, click [here](#).



Conservation and Natural Resources. It was this financial support that allowed 10 solid years of planning and the an inclusive process to develop our Management Action Plan, Visually Speaking (our graphics and design standards), Interpretive Education Plan (the framework to tell our nationally significant story) and the D&L Trail Workbook.

The D&L's second decade was dedicated to executing the plans. Partners joined forces with us to begin interpreting the mines-to-market story on wayside panels, volunteers signed up to become Trail Tenders, and the Market Towns and Landmark Towns initiatives began revitalizing our smaller communities. A favorite of many, Miles of Mules drew attention to our story in a very creative and visible way. Tales of the Towpath transformed how local history is taught in our elementary schools. Ninety-eight percent of the D&L Trail was in public ownership by 2008.

The last five years have been - and the coming five will be - dedicated to building the D&L Trail and sustaining our core heritage resources for the future. New backing from the William Penn Foundation has made the vehicle for long-term stewardship possible. The formation of the D&L Trail Alliance created the means for landowners and stakeholders to meet regularly and share best practices. The D&L Trail has been embraced by the Circuit, Philadelphia's

Immersion Days Off to Great Start

Immersion Days – the National Canal Museum's spring student field trip - kicked off in Hugh Moore Park on April 29 when the first of 1,800 elementary students scheduled to visit through June 4 took part in a variety of interactive lessons that introduced them to the science and technology behind canal construction and operation.



Eighty per cent of this year's Immersion students already have been immersed in canal life before they take the field trip. That's because they've studied the D&L's Tales of the Towpath social studies curriculum in the classroom for 4-6 weeks. Tales of the Towpath familiarizes the students with canal terminology and concepts and a lot more. During Immersion Days, they act out parts of the curriculum's science and culture concepts through lessons on simple machines, friction and buoyancy, blacksmithing and the geology behind it, and everyday life on the canal. Pulling the 96,000-pound Josiah White II canal boat is a big hit with everyone. So is blowing melodious tones on a conch shell, the communication tool of choice along the Lehigh and Delaware canals in the 1800s. And there's scarcely a student who wouldn't like to take home Hank and George, the park's amiable thousand-pound boat-pulling mules.

"Our staff does a tremendous job explaining science and culture to these boys and girls," said Dennis Scholl, the D&L's Director of Education and Museum Services. "They break it down in terminology that is easily understood and also matched to state academic standards. It's not boring; not to the kids or the teachers."

For more information on Immersion Days, contact Dennis Scholl at 610-923-3548 x225 or dennis@delawareandlehigh.org.

2014 Trail Outlook

The new construction year is off to a good start with the recent



Regional Trail Network as a conduit to the Lehigh Valley. Nearly 10 new miles of trail were added in Luzerne County.

Most significantly, the foundational role our industrial heritage plays has been validated. In On August 8, 2013, the D&L brought the Smithsonian-affiliated and AAM-accredited National Canal Museum under its umbrella.

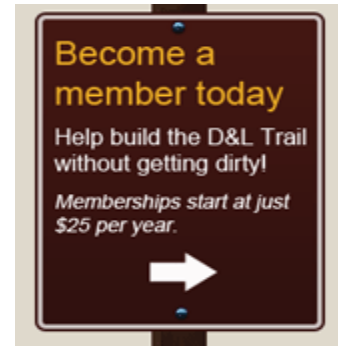
To chart the course forward, our Management Action Plan Update was also completed in 2013. Information was gathered and trends assessed. Needs, strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities were examined. Through a public process that involved surveys, workshops and focus groups, strategic guidance was provided to confirm our vision and mission and set goals. The plan of action for the next 5-10 years was the result of a thorough analysis of options for achieving goals and setting priorities.

I trust you will join us as we work toward our crucial goals to create lasting bonds by connecting our geography, people and stories along the D&L Trail; assure a future for our invaluable heritage assets through preservation and education; advance economic vitality through revitalization activity that results in economic impact; and create positive visibility through celebrations.

opening of the Lehighon Trailhead in Carbon County. The balance of the year will be spent designing upcoming projects in Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties, with a focus on eliminating physical trail gaps in these areas.



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D&L Links:

- [Ride the Josiah White II canal boat](#)
- [Visit the National Canal Museum](#)
- [Delaware Canal Festival Coming Up](#)
- [Tales of the Towpath website](#)
- [D&L/St. Luke's Hospital Network "Get Your Tail on the Trail" program](#)
- [Register for D&L Half-Marathon Run/Walk](#)
- [Buy autographed copies of "Tales of the Towpath"](#)
- [Learn about the D&L Trail Alliance](#)
- [D&L volunteer opportunities](#)



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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.