



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Summer 2017

Smithsonian Honors D&L with Affiliate Status

As noted in the Executive Director's message, our merger is complete. In addition, we have the honor to be the FIRST National Heritage Area recognized as a Smithsonian Affiliate. Why? Because the D&L is a collective that showcases what makes our region nationally significant. As the nation's most forward-thinking Affiliate, we bring the Smithsonian Institution to your backyard.

Here's the official declaration and dispatch from the Smithsonian's Harold Closter, the originator of the innovative merger idea:

On behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, I would like to add my congratulations on the reopening of the National Canal Museum and its merger with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Since 2002 when the Smithsonian created an affiliation with the National Canal Museum, we have learned and come to appreciate the tremendous role that this area has played in the industrial revolution, and the significant contributions the canals have made to the building of America. With this merger, we will now enter into a new chapter of our partnership, expanding our collaborative interests and potential to the entire heritage corridor. The D&L will be the first of its kind in the Smithsonian Affiliate network, a group of over 200 educational and cultural organizations that share the Smithsonian's mission and commitment to the increase and diffusion of knowledge. Like the D&L Corridor, the Smithsonian cares deeply about the nation's natural, cultural and historic resources and the powerful stories they tell. We too are dedicated to collaborating with communities to make science and history - encapsulated in trails, towns, people and artifacts - more meaningful and relevant to our everyday lives and inspirational to our future. We are excited about the array of educational opportunities that lie ahead in working with the D&L, and are honored to be part of this historic announcement. We look forward to accompanying you down this important pathway for many years to come.

Harold A. Closter
Director, Smithsonian Affiliations

Message from the President We are one!

About four years ago, the D&L and the National Canal Museum began a trial run together. Chairmen Nick Forte and Peter Marmaras signed a document that brought the Museum under a management agreement with the D&L.



The subsequent transition period gave us time to integrate our management, finance, marketing, and development functions to create a solid operational foundation for the future. More importantly, the partnership helped mobilize delivery of the Corridor's nationally significant story, including a fresh new focus on completing and optimizing the D&L Trail.

On April 1, 2017, we finalized our alliance and officially we became one. The National Canal Museum is now the Signature Program of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

This merger is a culmination of the region's best practice in strategic nonprofit management. Together, the D&L and the National Canal Museum are better and stronger than ever. By combining the museum's reach of 10,000 visitors with the D&L Trail's annual reach of over 280,000, our ability to tell the mine-to-market is more robust.

Your personal investment, coupled with the strong foundation that we have created through our merger, will help the D&L transform the region into a place where government, non-profits, businesses, residents and visitors conserve our heritage, tell its story, preserve our significant places and build on these assets for a stronger economy – today and for generations to come.

Elissa Garofalo, Executive Director

Join us for Dinner and a Cruise!

Saturday, July 29 — History of Beer Making in the Lehigh Valley Cruise
 Saturday, August 12 — Canal Music, Stories & Songs **SOLD OUT!**
 Saturday, August 26 — Roaring 20's Music Cruise
 Saturday, September 9 — Bethlehem Steel Cruise
 Saturday, September 23 — Wine Tasting Cruise
 Saturday, October 7 — The Italian Connection
 Saturday, October 14 — Blues Cruise with the Steve Brosky Band



Each cruise has a different theme. Dinner and music authentically reflect a piece of regional history and introduce guests to Lehigh Canal history.

The two-level, 20'x50' Josiah White II has room for up to 60 dinner cruise passengers. The boat is equipped with modern electric and sound systems as well as two bathrooms on the lower level, one of which is ADA-accessible. There is a lift for the physically impaired to access the lower level.

Book your Canal Cruise today at www.Canals.org

New! Sunset Cruises on the Lehigh Canal

Experience a fully restored section on the Lehigh Canal and Hugh Moore Park at the most beautiful time of the day. This cruise is perfect for taking photos! Join us for a one-hour cruise on Pennsylvania's only mule-drawn canal boat amidst the golden light of sunset. Sip sangria and savor delightful tapas while taking in life at the slower pace of the past (2 miles an hour to be exact!). \$25 per person (10% off for members). Ages 21+ only.



Piece by Piece, Like a Puzzle:

D&L Gets Closer to Creating a Continuous 165-Mile Trail

Building the D&L Trail is like building a puzzle. We can envision the finished result, but we encounter many variables along the way as we strive to complete 165 continuous trail miles. Here's an update:

Anthracite Region

- North Branch Land Trust is designing and constructing a 6.5-mile stretch around Wilkes-Barre Mountain.
- Pocono Forest and Waters Conservation Landscape awarded \$10,000 for Oliver Mills Crossing's Phase II Corridor analysis.
- We applied for funding to design and permit D&L Trailhead and 4.7-mile section of trail from Oliver Mills to Mountain Top.
- Middleburg Road Crossing construction begins in September.
- Construction on Mansion House Bridge at Jim Thorpe is underway. Adjacent retaining wall and trail on east side is in the permitting stage.

Lehigh Valley Region

- NorBath to D&L Connector construction is complete.
- Dry Run Bridge bid process is underway.
- Applied to DCNR for \$500,000 to finish engineering, issue permits, and construct the Lehigh County-owned section of trail in Catasauqua and Hanover Township. This project will include replacing the pedestrian bridge at the Deily Coal Yard.
- Working with Wildlands Conservancy and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to plan and expedite trail design and construction on the west side of the Lehigh River between Cementon and Allentown, as well as the Kimmets Lock/Bradford Street gap.

Bucks County

- Delaware Valley Regional Planning awarded D&L \$75,000 to purchase materials needed to close the Tyburn Road trail gap; DCNR will contribute labor.
- PennDOT District 6-0 has sent the CSX Tunnel project out for bid.
- We are installing wayfinding signage through Tullytown and estimate it will take 4 months to complete.
- Wayfinding signage planning underway in Bristol and Tullytown.

Canal Museum Unveils New Exhibition: “The Hidden History of Island Park—1827-2017”

The Hidden History of Island Park—1827-2017, this season’s special exhibition in the National Canal Museum, tells the story of the island in the



Lehigh River upstream from Chain Dam. The island has been farmland, a transit point for the Lehigh Navigation, and an amusement park. It’s been part of Hugh Moore Park since the early 1960s. Today, Island Park is an overgrown wildlife sanctuary, accessible only by boat or canoe.

The exhibition contains photographs and artifacts from the National Canal Museum and Pennsylvania Canal Society’s collections, loaned items from the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, Lehigh University’s Linderman Library, and from Bob Pasquini, a long-time volunteer for NCM.

Upon entering the exhibition, visitors encounter color photos of a kayak trip to the island, then are drawn back in history by two early Lehigh Navigation maps of the island and the area that is now Hugh Moore Park.

Vintage photos show the causeway that allowed the mules to cross from towpath on the Bethlehem Township side of the Lehigh to the island, pull the boats along the towpath on its south shore to the Change Bridge and cross to the river’s south bank and entrance at Section 8 of the canal.

The exhibition is a rare opportunity to see the Museum’s collection of ice harvesting tools, like those used to cut and store the pure ice that froze in the Gut, the spring-fed pond on the island. The only known photo of ice harvesting on the island accompanies the tools.

Easton Trolley’s amusement park gave Island Park its enduring name. Photos and postcards show well-dressed park goers enjoying the rides, entertainments, and cool shady spots that drew thousands of local people there for twenty-five summers. On display are some of the few artifacts that remain of Island Park, several of which were discovered by guest curator Bob Pasquini on his visits to the island. A video of additional photos, featuring music from Island Park’s legendary Long Carousel (which eventually moved to Bushkill Park), completes the visitor experience.



Island Park’s Historical Timeline

1818 – Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company gains virtual ownership of the Lehigh River, including its islands, to transport anthracite from its Carbon County mines to market.

1825 – Isaac Chapman maps the Lehigh from Mauch Chunk to Easton for the LCN prior to construction of the two-way Navigation. His map calls the island “Uhley’s Island.”

1829 – The two-way navigation is completed. Boats cross the river at a point just west of the island, connecting to a mile-long towpath on the south shore leading to Section 8 of the Canal. An LCN map shows two sections of the island leased to the Uhler and Smith families for farming.

1857 – LCN loses the south riverbank towpath to the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and builds a causeway from the Bethlehem Township side of the Lehigh to the island. A towpath on the island’s south shore connects to the Change Bridge, a wood and wire rope suspension bridge that allows the mules to pull canal boats across the Lehigh.

1875 to ? – An ice house is built on the island, and ice harvesting begins in the Gut.

1893 – Easton Trolley Company leases the island from LCN; builds an amusement park to lure weekend riders and a trestle for its trolleys to cross the river. Island Park opens on July 18, 1894.

1894-1917 – Thousands visit Island Park every year for its rides, games, free dancing and entertainment, boating, swimming, and relief from city heat.

1917 – Winter ice and flood waters destroy both the LCN causeway and the trolley trestle. Both are rebuilt; Island Park continues for three more seasons.

March, 1920 – Flood and ice destroy the causeway and trestle again. Faced with a \$27,000 cost to rebuild, Easton Transit closes Island Park.

1930-1942 – LCN boat traffic declines drastically; navigation ends permanently after flood in 1942.

1950s
The Change Bridge dismantled; only the piers and wire rope cables remain.

1962 – LCN sells its navigation properties; Hugh Moore, retired president of Dixie Cup, gives the city of Easton most of the money to buy 560 acres of land and canal, including Island Park; the area becomes Hugh Moore Park.

Bridging the Gap, Making the Connection: JT Mansion House Bridge Construction Underway

In early April, DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards, local officials and trail group representatives in breaking ground for the pedestrian bridge at Jim Thorpe. The project is a key north-south link in the D&L Trail and an anticipated economic stimulus for Carbon County. Completion is expected in late November.

The 250-foot steel and wood bridge spanning the Lehigh River will lead hikers and bicycling enthusiasts to and from Jim Thorpe's iconic downtown and connect the anthracite region to the rest of the Lehigh Valley and beyond.

"This is a project that has been many years in the making. It's one of 10 major trail gaps DCNR is working to close," Dunn said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "Focus now is on this pedestrian bridge, but the trail's entire 165 miles are testament to the D&L Heritage Corridor staff and the many partner municipalities along

the trail because -- without the capacity provided by D&L staff over the years and willingness of municipalities to support the trail efforts and maintain the trail -- we would not be standing here today."

The secretary said it is a "top DCNR priority" to help the D&L reach its goal of completing the corridor by 2020, making it the longest multi-use trail in the state.

PennDOT's \$2.5 million grant to Carbon County was a key to funding the bridge. Secretary Richards said, "PennDOT is focused on safety and improving mobility, which is good for our citizens and our local economies. This critical bridge link will make the trail even easier to use, and we expect that will bring additional use and investments."

With the pedestrian connector in neighboring Lehighton completed in 2016, the bridge will nearly complete the trail in Carbon County. The only remaining gap is just below the new bridge in Jim Thorpe.



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(January 1 - June 30, 2017)

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Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves the historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the D&L Trail connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage. The National Canal Museum is the D&L's *Signature Program*.

Future issues of Along the Corridor will be available online and via email. The print version is a benefit of membership. If you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please let us know by email info@delawareandlehigh.org or call 610 923 3548 x221.



Smithsonian Affiliate

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 29	Dinner Cruise: Lost Tavern Brewing Beer Tasting
August 13	Dinner Cruise: Old Canal Days
August 16	Audubon Society Program
August 14 - 18	Wildlands Summer Camp (Hugh Moore Park)
August 26	Dinner Cruise: Roaring '20s Music
September 9	Dinner Cruise: Bethlehem Steel Cruise
September 16 & 17	International Talk Like a Pirate Days on the Josiah White II
September 23	Dinner Cruise: Sand Castle Winery Wine Tasting
September 30	Members-Only Event TBA
September 30	Trail Tender Clean Up (Freemansburg)
October 2 - 20	Freemansburg Field Trips
October 7	Dinner Cruise: Italian Theme
October 14	Dinner Cruise: Blues Cruise
October 14	Get Your Tail on the Trail Finale Event
October 28	National Mule Day at the NCM
October 20,21,27,28	Haunted Hugh Moore Park
October 29	Museum & Boat Close for the Season
November 5	D&L Heritage Half Marathon
December 2	"For Your Eyes Only" Members Archive Event
December 9	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Need more inspiration?
Please visit delawareandlehigh.org

Contact Us:

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