



ALONG THE CORRIDOR

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Conservation Study Institute Starts D&L Study

The D&L Commissioners asked the Conservation Study Institute (CSI) to help them make an informed decision about the Corridor's future structure. CSI, a program of the National Park Service, is a partnership between academic, government and nonprofit organizations that studies trends in conservation and provides a forum to discuss current issues, best practices, and future directions.

The D&L staff was thrilled to hear that CSI could help. In cooperation with the University of Vermont, CSI began the "D&L Sustainability Study," which aims to accomplish the following goals:

- Evaluate progress made in accomplishing the purposes of the Corridor's authorizing legislations and the strategies set forth in the Corridor's Management Action Plan;
- Identify actions and work needed to protect, enhance and interpret the

Corridor and its nationally significant resources;

- Analyze the National Park Service (NPS) and the Pennsylvania Heritage Park Program investments in the Corridor to determine leverage, strategic investments and impacts of investments; and
- Examine models, options, and opportunities to enhance state and local partnerships and to continue the NPS relationship, including possibly receiving a permanent NPS designation or new framework to support the work of the Corridor.

This study follows a similar effort completed on the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Area in Rhode Island, which helped inform their commission's programming and future strategic direction. Daniel Laven, a PhD candidate

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The National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute

Since the National Park Service started the Conservation Study Institute (CSI) in 1998, the CSI has helped numerous groups stay in touch with the evolving field of conservation, develop more sophisticated partnerships and find new strategies to enhance the stewardship of our parks and communities.

"The world has profoundly changed since the late nineteenth century when the first national parks were created. These changes have challenged the National Park Service to assume responsibilities never anticipated when the agency was established in August 1916 ...[today] parks are part of broader communities...[and] park management is more complex..."

—National Park Service Director's Order on Communication

National Park Service Director tours Heritage area



This summer, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella toured the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area. Pictured left to right: Allen Sachse, executive director of the D&L, Fran Mainella, Natalie Solfanelli, executive director of Lackawanna National Heritage Area, Kurt Zwiwl, executive director of Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, John Cosgrove of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and Brenda Barrett of the National Park Service.



Allen Sachse presented a copy of The Stone Coal Way to National Park Service Director Fran Mainella recently during a dessert reception in Scranton, PA at the home of John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas.

Partners and Prospects

*"It is good to have an end to journey towards;
but it is the journey that matters in the end."*

Ursula LeGuin

I was first introduced to a small piece of this Corridor 35 years ago – a broken-down lock in Hugh Moore Park in Easton. From that day on, I was overwhelmed by this region's shared dedication to save a cultural and natural heritage that could preserve the stories of the Industrial Revolution. But how would we accomplish such a monumental task?

There was some anxiety about taking an unknown path, but advocates realized the scale of landscape was too large and the threats to the resources too imminent for traditional approaches to work. We understood a new, bold and totally different partnership was necessary. In 1988, we sought the designations of National and State Heritage Corridor and became one of only three areas to receive this designation by Congress. We were then challenged to build a new type of park through partnership.

By choosing the road less traveled, we made a huge difference—even though along the way, it has taken a lot of patience and determination to stick with it. Our road has had many detours, at times seeming to go nowhere—the years of planning, the scarcity of funding, the initial 10-year sunset and the complexities of piecing a 165-mile transportation system back together. But now I understand; that's where the real journey begins.

Now it's time for the next fork in the road, since the federal authorization for the Commission and funding expires in two years. I'm thrilled to report that we've contracted with the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute (CSI) to help us prepare. By evaluating our management structure and our partnerships in an objective way, a well-qualified CSI study team will help Corridor partners make informed decisions about our future. Concurrently, we have asked the PA Economy League to begin a cost and operation analysis for the future stewardship of the D&L Trails.

During some of the detours, we may have felt uneasy, but in the end they have served to make the Corridor partnership stronger. Without the detours and forks in the road, what fun would it be?



CSI Study

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at the University of Vermont who received a three-year CSI fellowship to study emerging trends in conservation, was part of the Blackstone project team and is participating also in the D&L study.

"There's a huge demand to study national heritage areas," says Laven, who is currently interviewing D&L partners as part of the initial research. "A lot of people think [heritage areas] represent the future of conservation. If that's true, we need to investigate how they function."

The D&L's study team includes the following staff from the CSI office and the NPS National Heritage Areas Washington, DC office:

Suzanne Copping, Assistant Coordinator, NPS National Heritage Areas Program

Jackie Tuxill, CSI Director for Partnership Programs

Daniel Laven, CSI Doctoral Fellow at University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

Phil Huffman, independent consultant

Each member will work closely with D&L staff to implement the study, which has three phases:

1. Data collection to document D&L accomplishments to date and to understand the factors that make this partnership system work. Methods of data collection and analysis include document review as well as interviews with D&L staff and project partners.
2. Analysis of the current D&L management framework and identification of a series of management options. Methods include document review as well as interviews with D&L management and staff.
3. Preparation of a study report, which will be presented to the D&L Commission at the conclusion of the project.

"Engaging the staff and partners in dialogue with one another will benefit the D&L Corridor in countless ways," says Copping. "We want this study to benefit everyone involved." Interviews will be done on a confidential basis, so partners and staff will be able to talk openly and honestly.

"This is a great way for the D&L to get an independent assessment of what options they have for the future," says Tuxill. "I'm interested in learning how the D&L helps to connect three distinct valleys from a heritage tourism perspective."

Watch for some of the study's major findings in an upcoming newsletter. If you have questions about the study, contact Allen Sachse at allen@delawareandlehigh.org.

Celebrating Lock 11

Lock 11 in New Hope, the first lock to operate on the Delaware Canal in more than 50 years, was dedicated on June 17. Though the April flood prevented the Friends of the Delaware Canal from lowering a boat into the lock for the ceremony, the restoration project was not otherwise hindered by floodwaters. State, county and local officials gathered with members of the Friends and the Historic Delaware Canal Improvement Corporation to celebrate.

Since the current volume of water is not sufficient to operate the lock, water is being pumped in from the river so that the mule-drawn canal boat ride can operate between Centre Bridge and New Hope. Because of the flooding, the Lock 11 drop gate is serving as a temporary dam for the watered section.

Now an exciting tourist attraction, Lock 11 serves as an endorsement for the future of the Canal, says Susan Taylor, executive director of the Friends of the Delaware Canal.

“The Canal is one of the jewels of the State Park system,” said Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, at the ceremony. “We will improve the canal and do the repair work that is necessary.”



To learn more about Lock 11, visit the Friends' website at www.fodc.org or visit the lock at 145 South Main Street, New Hope, PA



A crowd gathered next to the newly restored structure in New Hope, PA for the Lock 11 dedication ceremony.



Jim Revie, president of the Historic Delaware Canal Improvement Corporation, introduces State Senator Joe Conti at the Lock 11 dedication ceremony.



Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, speaks at the Lock 11 dedication.



World Canals Conference

“Sweden’s network of canals is impressive,” says Rayne Schnabel, D&L special projects coordinator, after attending the *Six Canals in Six Days* World Canals Conference held in Sweden from August 22 to 27. “The Swedes were very hospitable. We felt welcomed at every lock by representatives who were excited to showcase their site.”

Lance Metz, historian at Easton’s National Canal Museum, joined Schnabel, enjoying a unique opportunity to traverse Sweden from Göteborg/Trollhättan in the west to Stockholm on the east coast. Trips by boat offered a magnificent view of Sweden’s canals, a firsthand look at how canals preserve heritage tourism on the other side of the world. Sights included waterfalls, modern commercial vessels specially built for the Trollhätte canal locks, aqueducts, lock-keeper and bridgeman cottages, dry docks and Stockholm’s archipelago.

“Two things impressed me,” says Metz. “Seeing active waterways that are still heavily used, and rock cuts through the mountains that were just spectacular. The conference enabled us to catch a flavor of Sweden, and we hope our conference in 2006 will help them catch a flavor of the Lehigh Valley area.”

During the conference, Schnabel shared a presentation about the D&L Corridor with 125 delegates and invited them to attend the 2006 World Canals Conference to be held in Bethlehem, PA.



Photo by Mark S. Schnabel

You’re invited, too! Join us in Bethlehem for the 2006 World Canals Conference on September 12-14, 2006

The D&L has teamed up with the National Canal Museum and other local partners to host this world-class event, returning to the United States for the first time since 2000. Our theme, “Industry to Recreation: Greening the Coal Canals” will explore how Pennsylvania and New Jersey’s once active canals have become recreational outlets to preserve the region’s heritage. Attendees will visit the region’s towpath canals and experience an “inside the gates” tour of Bethlehem Steel. Other highlights include a visit to the National Canal Museum and Hugh Moore Park in Easton and the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown.

Registration will be limited to 200 delegates, so **sign up today!** Visit www.canals.org or call 1-888-423-9345.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. If interested, contact Rayne Schnabel at (610) 923-3548.

PA Planning Association Comes to Bethlehem

You name it—historic preservation, brownfields, private-public partnerships, reuse projects, smart transportation—all of these topics and more are on the menu for 2005 Annual Pennsylvania Planning Association Conference, to be held at the Hotel Bethlehem October 9-12. In the midst of Bethlehem’s transition from an industrial era to an exciting prototype of what industrial communities can become, this is the perfect place to convene city planners, engineers and developers.

“This is a great opportunity for planners,” says Darlene Heller, Bethlehem planning and zoning director and PPA Conference chairperson. “There are so many good examples of planning efforts here in the Valley.”

D&L Development Manager Elissa Marsden will present two workshops. On Tuesday, October 11, she teams up

with Karen Williamson of the Heritage Conservancy for a mobile workshop in which they’ll drive part of the route for the “D&L Drive” scenic byway. Later that afternoon, Marsden will lead a session about marketing to the heritage traveler, using the D&L’s recent publication *The Stone Coal Way* as an example. D&L Market Towns Manager Dale Freudenberger also will lead a workshop about the Market Towns initiative and the impact this pilot program has made on small local communities.

Bethlehem welcomes attendees from across the state to explore its rich colonial and industrial history, hike the trails, and enjoy the historic architecture of the downtown. To register for PPA2005, download a brochure at www.planningpa.org or call (717) 671-4510.

Check Presented for the Panther Valley Heritage Trail Feasibility Study

The D&L National Heritage Corridor recently accepted a \$2,000 check from the Carbon Schuylkill Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC) of Nesquehoning, PA for the Panther Valley Heritage Trail feasibility study.

“We know the importance of local partnerships when it comes to developing linkages with the D&L Trail” said Richard Forgay, executive director of the CSIDC. “This trail is vital to linking our communities in Panther Valley and providing a stimulus for further economic development.”

In addition to funding from the CSIDC and the D&L, the \$40,000 study will be funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Senator Raphael Musto, Rep. Keith McCall, the Borough of Lansford, and the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership.

In July, the D&L released a map detailing the proposed trail route, which links two national heritage areas with existing trail systems in Tamaqua, Summit Hill and Jim Thorpe. McTish, Kunkel & Associates of Allentown is conducting the study and creating conceptual designs. If you are interested in serving on the local stakeholders committee to review plans, contact Dale Freudenberger at (610) 760-1624 or dale@delawareandlehigh.org.



Richard Forgay, executive director of the Carbon Schuylkill Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC), recently presented a \$2,000 check to Elissa Marsden, development manager of the D&L National Heritage Corridor, for the Panther Valley Heritage Trail feasibility study. Members of the CSIDC and Marsden gathered in front of a replica mine car at a former mule barn in Nesquehoning, PA.

Bethlehem Steel Featured by NPS Magazine

A recent cover of *Common Ground*, the award-winning magazine from the National Park Service, features shadows of Bethlehem Steel blast furnaces. The cover story, “Rebirthing Bethlehem: A Steel Town Seeks New Life” by David Andrews explores the history of “the Steel,” as they once called it, and puts a face on the future of the site as BethWorks Now.

Andrews quotes D&L Executive Director Allen Sachse about the distinctive nature of Bethlehem Steel. “It’s the only place where you have a mass of furnaces still standing. It’s the only integrated site left where you can see the entire process of making steel,” he says.

With the drama of an epic novel, Andrews recounts how the Steel rose and fell, affecting thousands of lives. Then he turns to the more recent controversy over whether or not a casino will be part of the plan for this “city within a city.” If you’re interested in the history or preservation of Bethlehem Steel, read the article in its entirety at

<http://commonground.cr.nps.gov/Index.cfm>



Grant Opportunities

We are looking forward to the next PA Heritage Park Program (PHPP) grant year 2006/2007. Letter of Intent to apply packets will be sent in the near future.

If you would like information or to ensure receipt of the packet, contact Rayne Schnabel at 610-923-3548 or e-mail Rayne@delawareandlehigh.org

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The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and State Heritage Park is a joint effort of private groups and interested citizens, county and municipal governments, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government to conserve cultural and natural resources and provide appropriate development opportunities for a sustainable future.

Future issues of *Along the Corridor* will be available online and via email. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please write to the above address or send your email to info@delawareandlehigh.org.

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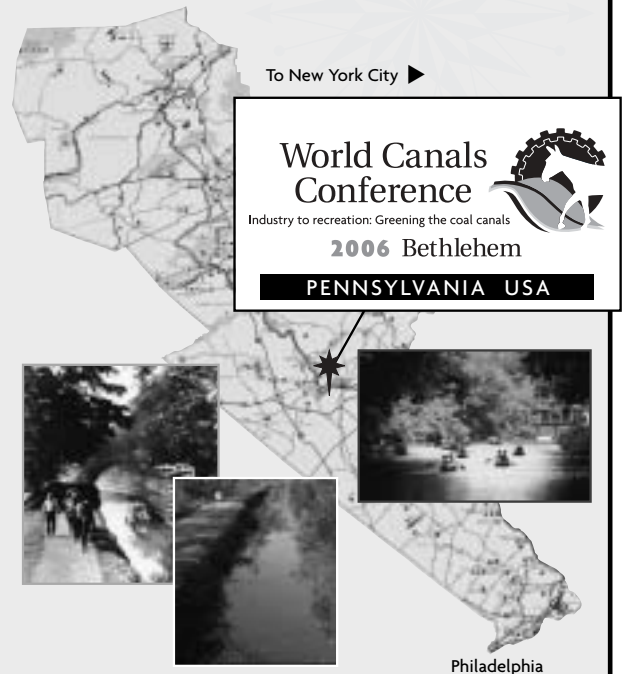
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Save the Date

September 12-15, 2006



Map shows virtual boundaries of The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor