



ALONG THE CORRIDOR

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

Water, Water Everywhere

It was a deluge of water no one could have predicted—twice. First, Ivan, the tropical storm traveled up the coast and took Pennsylvania by surprise on Sept. 18, 2004 leaving an eerie scene of bridges washing downriver. Then after six short months, the Delaware and Lehigh rivers rose again due to heavy rain—this time four feet higher. At 35.2 feet, 14 feet above flood stage, this was the third-highest level ever recorded in Easton. Residents gazed in disbelief at their underwater highways and towns.

“This is the worst flooding that Pennsylvania has seen in decades,” said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff.

Local municipalities, residents and businesses were just beginning to recover from the September flood when April showered down tens of millions of dollars in damage from the Delaware Water Gap to Yardley.

“The frustrating part is we just finished fixing everything from the last flood,” says Randi Kaplan, vice-president of Kaplan’s Awnings located just across the free bridge in Easton. “Twice in eight months is just emotionally and physically draining.”

In September, Kaplan’s had four feet of water in the basement, and this time it rose 8 feet in just 12 hours, almost reaching the first floor. “Our family business has been here for 21 years and never had a problem,” says Kaplan. “They tell you it happens maybe once every 50 years.”

Six months ago, President Bush declared a major disaster for Pennsylvania, opening the way for the use of federal disaster funds to help recovery efforts. A total of 56 Pennsylvania counties were declared federal disaster areas from September through February. With yet another flood, these counties will not soon be taken off the list.

Pennsylvania state, county and local governments who suffered flood loss and damages from Ivan have already received \$29 million in public assistance funds to date, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After damages are assessed from the recent flood, public assistance funds could double.

As of March, the following FEMA funds were approved for counties along the Corridor.*

COUNTY	FEDERAL SHARE
Bucks	\$228,062.67
Carbon	\$56,115.62
Lehigh	\$10,349.23
Luzerne	\$2,485,093.44
Northampton	\$955,000.60

In each county, the D&L will provide technical assistance for restoration planning. Bill Mineo, D&L stewardship and trail manager, who assessed the damage from the September flood in some of the areas, will continue to provide direction.

The following repairs were completed after the first flood. Please note that at time of publication, it was too soon to assess damages from the April flood.

Bucks County Repairs

In Bucks County, Ivan’s floodwaters washed away years of progress along the Delaware Canal. But many friends rushed in to help. Members of the Delaware Canal State Park Legislative Caucus committed to finding dollars. Then, the Friends of the Delaware Canal created the Delaware Canal Flood Response Fund and led clean-up efforts, raising \$20,450.

Through efforts and funding by the



Repairs to the towpath near the David Library following September’s flood allowed the southern 25 miles of the Delaware Canal to be rewatered.

Photo by John Sikora, courtesy of Friends of the Delaware Canal



Photo by Pete Sperry, courtesy of Friends of the Delaware Canal

Friends and the Historic Delaware Canal Improvement Committee, repairs of two blowouts near the David Library are completed. This allowed the southern 25 miles of Canal to be rewatered from the river inlet in New Hope to Bristol. The project cost was \$102,176, which included the following work:

- Accessing the site
- Soil erosion control
- Dredging deposited material
- Repairing the two major breaks
- Lining with bentomat
- Filling in other areas of bank erosion
- Grading and seeding
- Restoring the access areas

(continued on page 2)

Partners and Prospects

It doesn't seem long ago that the D&L National Heritage Corridor was recognized by Congress for its nationally significant resources and important history. Throughout the years, many of our goals have been met and we are able to enjoy these accomplishments today.

However, numerous aspirations remain, and within the authorizing legislation there is a termination date set for the Commission of November 2007—a date rapidly approaching. When the Commission sunsets, National Park Service (NPS) technical assistance to the Corridor could be reduced, as well as a loss of Heritage Partnership funding.

In response to the pending sunset, we have created a non-profit organization—Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.—to be the successor and take on the work of the Commission. Everyone's hope is for this transition to be seamless, serving our Corridor with the same programs, expert staff and an overlap of board members.

Congressional designation as a National Heritage Corridor will *always* remain, recognizing the nationally significant resources here. Collectively, it is our responsibility to be good stewards of these resources and their stories. As a non-profit, the D&L National Heritage Corridor, Inc. will enjoy flexibility not afforded the Commission—such as new avenues of funding, the potential of creating a membership base, the opportunity to form new strategic partnerships and the ability to assume ownership of key resources, if appropriate.

No doubt, this is an exciting and challenging time for the Corridor. So I ask partners and friends to join in as we focus our eyes toward the future. We hope to continue and even strengthen our relationship with the NPS, the nation's most respected and qualified steward of America's heritage. We also will undertake two very important studies: The Conservation Study Institute (CSI) of the NPS will assess our progress and accomplishments, evaluate our partnerships in comparison to national models and suggest options to continue the NPS participation and strengthen Corridor partnerships. At the same time, the non-profit PA Economy League will work with Corridor partners who have primary responsibility for management of the D&L Trails.

Together these initiatives will offer new options for the stewardship and sustainability of the Corridor's nationally significant heritage resources—our most important work and our gift to future generations.

Allen

Water, Water Everywhere *(continued from front page)*



Photo by Michael Prentice

Ivan's rising floodwaters near the dam in Easton deluged Larry Holmes Drive. The Fleet Bank sign across the street from the river is submerged. Contractors hauled silt away for weeks as extensive towpath damage near the dam was repaired by Hugh Moore Park.

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is funding the restoration of the towpath trail through this section. The Friends are scouting for a similar project in the northern section of the Canal, from Easton down to Upper Black Eddy, where damage is much more extensive.

Lehigh Valley Area

In the Borough of Walnutport alone, the cost of flood repair and restoration from the September flood is estimated at \$232,040. Restoration is required for Guard Lock 21 and 22, including stripping and stockpiling of topsoil, installing complete footers, abutments and wing walls, backfilling stone, grading and seeding. The check dam was destroyed at the northernmost point and a middle check dam was recently repaired. Erosion and sedimentation control measures are also required.

In Easton, the towpath near the dam was completely washed out from the turbulent waters. Hugh Moore Park hired a contractor to repair this well-traveled section, and they hauled truckloads of silt away for weeks. The National Canal Museum funded towpath repair at the locktender house in the park, so that their canal boats can make an appearance this spring. Park workers are still removing downed trees, sand and silt; and about half a dozen sinkholes have been filled in. FEMA funding is planned for the following more costly projects: repair of a towpath bridge pier on the bridge that connects the river with the canal; two sinkholes in the basin area between Lock 47 and 48; and extensive towpath repair in the area between Third Street and the old Canal Museum on PA Route 611, which was under about 15 feet of water.

The Borough of Freemansburg sustained damage to the Main Street Extension, a vital link between Bethlehem Township and the City of Bethlehem open space and recreational corridors. Other damage in Bethlehem Township has reportedly been repaired with dollars from the township and other private sources.

This deluge of water has left its mark on the Corridor, area residents and businesses. Along with restoration and repair, additional flood control measures will be implemented as dollars become available. Watch for updates in future issues of "Along the Corridor."

** Please note that at the time of publication, it was too soon to assess FEMA funding for the most recent April flood.*

Two Men for the Job: Trail Tenders team up

D&L trail specialist Sherry Acevedo gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Jacob Alexander, on January 13, 2005. While our favorite trail specialist was out on maternity leave, the D&L had two temporary staff members guiding the Trail Tenders. **Dan Kunkle**, executive director of the Wildlife Information Center, will help in Northampton, Lehigh and Carbon County because of his familiarity with the D&L. **Bob Skulsky**, manager of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, was an ideal partner further north in Luzerne County and part of Carbon County.

Dan, who taught biology for 28 years at Freedom High School in Bethlehem, left teaching last June to implement the goals of the Wildlife Information Center's Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge and Restoration Project. The project aims to restore ecologically degraded land in Lehigh Gap, part of the Palmerton Superfund site. Since the center purchased the land, the D&L has been a key partner.

"Bill Mineo of the D&L encouraged us to go forward with our rather bold initiative and pledged his support as a partner in the project," says Dan. "Sherry recruited volunteers and planted warm season grass seeds on the refuge to prove it was feasible to use an airplane to seed the steep slopes."

Last year, Dan also worked closely with Sherry on planning National Trails Day events.

Bob Skulsky began learning about trail tending when he retired from the Federal Government after 37 years of service and started working on rails-to-trails with the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. With a base of more than 200 volunteers, he has been working on a 16-mile section of spur trail that runs from Hazleton to Eckley Miner's Village and on to Rockport.

"Getting involved with the D&L is a plus for me and for the volunteers who work with me," says Bob.

The first four miles of the Hazleton spur trail will be opened



Bob Skulsky



Dan Kunkle

to the public in May, and Bob's group is ready to start switching gears from developing a trail to maintaining it for use by hikers and bikers.

Dan and Bob will help coordinate volunteer activities such as clean-ups and maintenance work and talk with stakeholders to facilitate adoption of trail by municipalities.

"It is a privilege to work with the staff of the D&L," says Dan. He jokes, they needed two men to take Sherry's place!

"I'm very excited about the unique opportunity to be associated with a National Heritage Corridor," says Bob. "I want to learn from others' experiences and share my experiences on developing a trail."

Dan and Bob will be available to help trail tenders and partners. So, if you are having a meeting, need help or desire the involvement of the D&L, please contact them.

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(610) 760-8889

Bob Skulsky
civic@hazletonchamber.org
(570) 450-2013

Hazleton Area Rails to Trails Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting

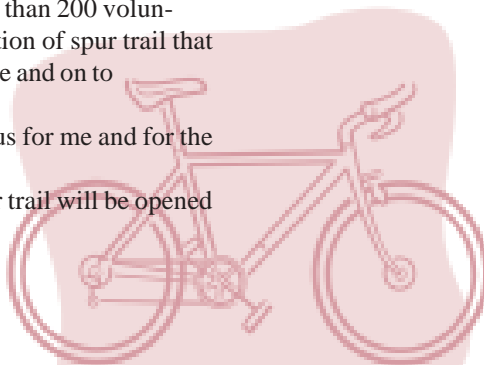
To celebrate the opening of 4 miles of spur trail

Sunday, May 15

- 11 a.m.: 4-mile hike starting at Ashmore entrance
- 12 Noon: 8-mile bike ride starting at trail head
- 12:30: Ribbon cutting and picnic

Your family is invited to join in the fun!

For more information, contact Bob Skulsky at (570) 450-2013



Stellar Students on Staff

Camille Lore and **Elizabeth Wolski** are a priceless addition to the D&L staff. And Camille and Elizabeth agree it's been an unbeatable learning experience for them. Camille is completing an internship as part of her degree in public administration at Kutztown University, and Elizabeth chose to work with the D&L under Lehigh University's Community Fellows program—part of her master's degree.

Camille Lore

Camille sought an internship that would help her interface with local government and community groups, and she also wanted to learn more about the link between environmental preservation and economic development. The D&L Market Towns office in Slatington was the perfect match.

A quick learner, Camille was able to jump right in, designing facades using a high-end graphics program and writing applications for community projects with the guidance of Market Towns manager Dale Freudenberger.

"Camille has been invaluable to our efforts in Market Towns," says Elissa G. Marsden, D&L Development Manager. "Both Dale and I are able to delegate projects that require detailed research."

One project Camille enjoyed is helping to plan the Market Towns Technology Center to be located in the old Lehigh school building. The Center is a unique resource where small business owners and others will be able to access software, a graphics workstation and other office technology that they might not otherwise have access to.

"I get to see smart growth principles taking place," says Camille. "I've learned a lot by watching projects come to fruition. One example is the historic district ordinance for Jim Thorpe, which my knowledge from a land use planning class actually helped with."

Elizabeth Wolski

Elizabeth graduated from Lehigh University in May 2001 with a bachelor's degree in international careers and Africana studies and minor in education. For several years, she worked for The Corporate Executive Board in Washington,



Camille Lore and Elizabeth Wolski

DC as a marketing associate and analyst, and then as a meeting planner. She left the company in July 2004 to enter the graduate sociology program at Lehigh University.

As part of Lehigh's Community Fellows program, Elizabeth is gaining additional research and work experience at the D&L, to finish her master's degree by August 2005. Initially, she completed some survey work for the D&L with visitors to Jim Thorpe and Walnutport. Her results profiled demographic characteristics of a typical visitor and the reasons for visiting town, as well as visitor feedback about the town's amenities and attractions.

But by far, the D&L project Elizabeth should be most proud of is marketing and distribution of *The Stone Coal Way*, the newly published visitor guide to the D&L Trail.

"Elizabeth was my 'secret weapon' for getting *The Stone Coal Way* out onto bookshelves and into the market quickly," says Marsden. "She brings skill and polish to each task she is presented with."

Thanks to Elizabeth's marketing plan and strategy, *The Stone Coal Way* is now available at more than 25 retailers including private, chain, and university bookstores, outdoor retailers and museums.

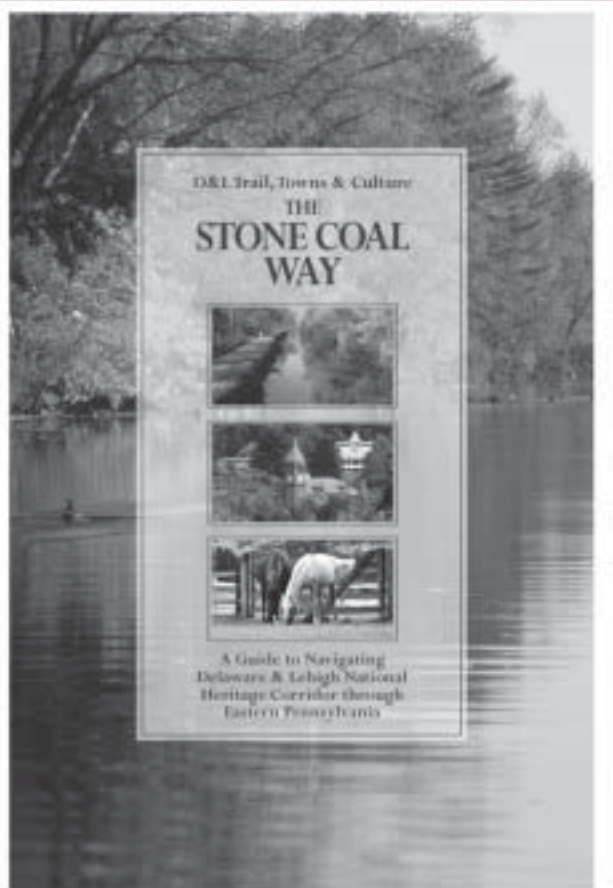
"It's great to see the excitement in the community around this new guide," says Elizabeth. "And that is rewarding for those who have worked on the book since the beginning."

Before graduation, Elizabeth will also assist with research and activity ideas for a program that the D&L will bring to elementary schools, using her background in education. She then plans to pursue an adjunct faculty position at local 2-year or 4-year colleges.



Signage and facade improvements in Palmerton are part of the Corridor Market Towns Initiative, with matching funds from Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The Borough of Palmerton also received D&L assistance to design their upcoming "Hometown Streets" project that was funded by PennDOT.





Now Available!

The Stone Coal Way

Tom Shealey, author
Elissa G. Marsden, editor

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor has compiled a “best-of” list of places along the D&L Trail where visitors and travellers can find rewarding heritage and outdoor experiences in eastern Pennsylvania.

The Stone Coal Way offers a fascinating glimpse of how people and geography evolve under the influence of something as simple as the discovery of anthracite coal.

The author and editor have developed a beautiful, 152-page full-color guide. It is broken into three sections because the D&L Trail passes through three unique “worlds” from mountain to market. **The Stone Coal Way** is spiral bound, 6"x9" and user-friendly. It includes four new maps – three of which conveniently pull out to 18.”

Call 610-923-3548 to order your copy for \$19.95 (plus shipping). *The Stone Coal Way* is also available online at www.delawareandlehigh.org by clicking on “Merchandise.”

DCNR Dollars Announced

Congratulations to D&L partners listed below who will receive funding for 2004-2005 Pennsylvania Heritage Parks and Growing Greener (PHPP) Grants. **The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) authorized funding for distribution totaling \$272,000 to the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.**

State projects that will receive funding this calendar year include:

- \$ **D&L National Heritage Corridor Management Grant**
- \$ **Visually and Graphically Speaking**, Phase IV, for communities in Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks Counties
- \$ **Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve**, Solebury & Upper Makefield Townships, Bucks County
- \$ **White Haven Engine House Heritage Information Center**, White Haven, Luzerne County
- \$ **Steel Stax** project, to preserve and interpret the blast furnace complex, Bethlehem, Northampton County

Federal projects that will receive NPS- Heritage Partnership funding this calendar year include:

- \$ **Palmerton Streetscape**, Palmerton, Carbon County
- \$ **Steel Stax**, Bethlehem, Northampton County
- \$ **D&L Trail, Lehigh Trail Planning**, Lehigh County
- \$ **Visually and Graphically Speaking**
- \$ **Municipal Assistance for Conservation (MAC)**
- \$ **Shaping the D&L Drive II**

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor selects projects based on benefits to the Commonwealth, viability and cost. The D&L staff seeks applicants from the northern, central and southern parts of the Corridor. Next year’s application process will begin this fall.

One of DCNR’s highest priorities is to build community conservation partnerships with local government, businesses and non-profit organizations, and the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program is a key part of their mission.

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission
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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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A Federal, State, and Local Partnership

New Emails for Commission staff

The D&L staff is sporting new e-mail addresses, and you can now easily reach any member of the staff by typing firstname@delawareandlehigh.org.

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Convention and Visitors Bureau representatives met in Harrisburg recently to develop a marketing plan and lodging packages based on *The Stone Coal Way*. Front row: Mary Ann Bungerz of the Lehigh Valley, Mathilda Sheptak of Pocono Mountains, Keith Toler of Bucks County. Back row: Michael Stershic of the Lehigh Valley and Merle Mackin of Luzerne County. The multimedia campaign will kick off during Summer 2005, funded by a matching grant from the PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development.