



ALONG THE CORRIDOR

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

Familiar Faces in New Roles

In October 2005, the Commission entered into an agreement with the new non-profit (D&L, Inc.) to manage Corridor activities. As a result, D&L staff in Easton and Slatington became part of the D&L National Heritage Corridor, Inc. This offers the staff the opportunity to apply for other grants only available to non-profit agencies.

“It was time to regroup,” says Allen Sachse, now president of the non-profit. “With so many changes happening and funding for a new position for the Lehigh Valley Greenways Initiative, we were able to look at everyone’s talents and skills and create new opportunities for our existing staff.”

It was clear that more time should be devoted to the grant process. But there were other tough questions to answer, such as “Where is the D&L headed?” Everyone agreed on some top priorities:

- Trail construction
- CSI study
- World Canals Conference and other key events/partnerships
- Economic development efforts such as Market Towns
- Fostering relations with state legislators in Harrisburg and federal officials in Washington, D.C.

After establishing priorities, the D&L, Inc., agreed on a new structure that put everyone’s best talents to work. Many of the faces in the new staff structure will be familiar, even though their job descriptions may have changed.

“We’ve increased our capacity to deal with a growing workload on a more timely basis,” says Sachse.

In this issue, you’ll meet the new management team. Watch for other members of the team in future *Along the Corridor* issues.

Allen Sachse, President and Executive Director

In addition to his role as executive director of the D&L Commission, Allen Sachse has taken on the new role of president of D&L, Inc. With oversight of the non-profit and the Commission, he has the benefit of working with the staff and both boards to accomplish D&L goals.

“We have two boards that work very well together,” says Sachse. “We always have a joint work session in addition to our individual meetings, so that we’re clear about who is responsible for what.”



The staff of the D&L National Heritage Corridor, Inc., (front to back, left to right): Dennis Scholl, outreach coordinator; Elissa Marsden, vice president, Heritage Programs; Sherry Acevedo, Lehigh Valley Greenways Initiative manager; Allen Sachse, president and executive director; Sandy Duda, Market Towns office assistant; Rayne Schnabel, executive assistant and operations manager; Cindy Young, project assistant; Dale Freudenberger, Market Towns manager; Isidore “Bill” Mineo, stewardship and trails manager; and Selene Haralambous, project assistant. Not pictured are consultants Pat Riegler, accountant, Rolland Rhodomeyer, trail planner and Doug Reynolds, interpretive specialist.

Though his role has not changed much, Sachse says the new D&L, Inc. management structure will give him more time to focus on the federal reauthorization of the Corridor—key to the organization’s future. He plans to travel to Washington, D.C. several times in the coming year to help members of Congress draft legislation and work toward getting a bill introduced in the House and Senate. Though he says it can be a slow process, Sachse is hopeful.

If we get federal reauthorization, I see the organization expanding, and possibly having new partnerships with the National Park Service and DCNR,” he says. “If we don’t get reauthorized, the organization is likely to become smaller.

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CSI Sustainability Study – Interim Report

In the last issue, we discussed the sustainability study initiated by the D&L Commission to evaluate our work along the Corridor and help inform future decisions. A project team from the National Park Service's (NPS) Conservation Study Institute (CSI) was hired to:

1. Study the strategies set forth in the Corridor's Management Action Plan of 1993;
2. Identify additional work needed to protect and enhance the Corridor;
3. Analyze NPS and PA Heritage Parks Program (PHPP) investments and impact; and
4. Examine opportunities for future structure and funding.

After thorough research, interviews with partners and focus groups, the CSI team has identified some critical ingredients for the future of the Corridor's partnership system. The team has also outlined management options, opportunities and other ideas to sustain and enhance the Corridor.

In anticipation of the completed report, the team released an interim report packed with useful information, outlined below. The report will be available via our website www.delawareandlehigh.org in the near future.

Accomplishments in the D&L Corridor

The D&L Management Action Plan of 1993 outlines **175 action items** to be addressed by the Corridor partnership. In the CSI team's assessment:

- **83 %** of the action items have been acted upon: they are either complete, underway or ongoing.
- **55 %** of the implemented actions are Corridor-wide in scope, implying that a good portion of the work has focused on aspects that often cross municipal boundaries, such as conservation.
- **35 %** of items address the need to foster understanding of the Corridor's resources and history—which shows interpretation is an important component of the Corridor vision.
- During the first seven years the Commission and staff were involved in **25 projects and programs**. By contrast, in the seven years just ended the partnership has engaged in **more than 130 projects and programs**. Clearly the Corridor staff's capacity, reach and responsibilities have expanded over time.



NPS Conservation Study Institute advisors Phil Huffman, Jackie Tuxill and Nora Mitchell lead the "Futures Workshop" held at the Ice House in Bethlehem.

- The Corridor initiative has maintained a balance between site-specific, local and region-wide projects, and many projects address multiple Corridor goals.

An analysis of selected projects and programs shows that D&L staffers work in different capacities with partners—as mentors, facilitators, reviewers, direct investors and leverage agents. The Commission and D&L, Inc. play an important role in promoting a broad Corridor-wide vision and in keeping individual projects aligned with that vision.

Leverage in the Corridor

The CSI study team found that federal and state dollars leveraged a great deal more funding for projects in which the D&L Commission had a direct investment. From the D&L's inception through 2005, the total federal investment of \$8 million from the National Park Service has leveraged nearly 13 times its value in direct funding from other sources. State funding through the PA Heritage Parks Program, totaling \$6.44 million, has leveraged nearly 16 times its value. Pennsylvania state agencies have supplied more than 35% of the funding invested in Corridor projects.

In addition, non-financial leverage includes partner-in-kind support, staff time and energy toward Corridor goals, new projects and activities that have been catalyzed by Corridor programs, and significant volunteer time.

Critical Ingredients of the Corridor's Partnership System

The following ingredients have been identified as critical to sustaining and enhancing our partnership system:

- The state and federal government connections provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and NPS.
- An effective, nonpartisan management entity that is charged with stewarding the mission—the D&L, Inc.
- The network of partners who must have sufficient capacity to carry out projects and take on leadership roles over time.
- Secure, stable funding from diverse sources.
- The ability to leverage funds, resources and ideas.
- A broad, integrated vision that provides an overarching framework for collaboration and welcomes the diversity of D&L partners.

CSI Study *(continued)*

- A compelling regional story that connects local resources, links people and communities.
- Collaborative processes that enhance and reinvigorate the partnership system and create meaningful community engagement.
- Time sensitivity, since it takes time for a system as complex as the D&L partnership system to evolve and mature.

Options and Opportunities for the Future of the D&L Corridor

The report presents a range of management options for the Commission and the D&L, Inc. to consider as they look toward the future. The first four options would involve federal legislation, accompanied by the reauthorization and appropriation of federal funding through the NPS budget. The second two options would further cement the involvement and support of the state, the five counties and the multitude of municipal governments in the Corridor, in particular the involvement of DCNR. The last five management options identify ways to enhance and strengthen the affiliation with the National Park Service.

Other opportunities identified by the team include beginning a new strategic planning process to continue what was begun with the Management Action Plan of 1993; making better use of the region's shared heritage to bind the Corridor together; and building the capacity of partners through leadership training, a mentoring program, and efforts to help partners secure the support, staffing and expertise they need.

For a complete copy of the *Sustainability Study Interim Report*, visit www.delawareandlehigh.org/sustainability



D&L staffers recently toured trail projects in Carbon and Luzernes counties with state legislators. Shown at the Nesquehoning Trestle at Lehigh Gorge State Park are, from left, Leo Kucewicz (Aide to Sen. Musto), Rollie Rhodomeyer (D&L Trail Consultant) Sen. Ray Musto, Bill Mineo (Trail & Stewardship Manager), and Rep. Keith McCall.

Exciting New Offices!

Elaine and Peter Emrick Technology Center

In April, the D&L staff will relocate their offices to the new **Elaine and Peter Emrick Technology Center** in historic Hugh Moore Park, Easton. It's an ideal location, near the Locktender's House Museum, the restored Lehigh Canal, the mule-drawn boat Josiah White II and 19th Century industrial ruins. To top it off, the highlight of this 14,000 square-foot, two-story educational center will be an exhibit chronicling the history of industry and technology in the Lehigh Valley.

The address is 2750 Hugh Moore Park Road, Easton PA 18042.



"This facility will expand the visitor experience for school kids and families, and help the museum preserve the heritage of innovation in the Lehigh Valley," says the museum's executive director Robert Rudd.

It will also include a reception area, mechanical areas, archives and a library where local historians, professors and students will benefit from access to the museum's collections.

The Technology Center was made possible by a charitable gift of \$1,250,000 from Elaine and Peter Emrick. Additional funds for the center have been earmarked in the state capital budget. The National Canal Museum broke ground for the center in September 2004, and construction is nearly complete.

Mark your calendar for the latest in family fun.
Float Your Boat Community Festival

Sand Island in Bethlehem
 Sunday, September 10
 Details to come!

Familiar Faces in New Roles *(continued from front page)*

Sachse joined the Corridor staff after a 30-year career as Eastern Pennsylvania heritage parks and recreation supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) where he helped to develop the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program. He holds a Bachelor's degree in recreation and park administration from Penn State University.

"I really enjoy the work the Corridor is doing," he says. "To me, it's fun dealing with partners and community agencies when there is so much enthusiasm and support."

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Elissa Marsden, Vice President, Heritage Programs

Elissa Marsden's role has expanded from heritage development manager to vice president, heritage programs. A specialist in local economic development, Marsden will provide more administrative oversight for programs, oversee the grants application process and travel more frequently to Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. to work with legislators. Formerly in the Lehigh office, Marsden now spends a couple days a week in the Easton office working with the entire staff on projects and serving as deputy to Allen when he is on the road. During the past year, the CSI Study process has been a primary focus of her work.

"I enjoy it because I get to see all the different levels from the community where I live all the way up to the state and national levels," says Marsden. "Support from state and federal governments is key, but you have to have that foundation in the communities first."

Marsden's team includes Dale Freudenberger, Market Towns manager, Dennis Scholl, outreach coordinator, and Sandy Duda, Market Towns office assistant. Their work will continue to focus on economic development—including the Market Towns initiative, a new grouping of towns along the Delaware called Landmark Towns, Carbon County's Peer-to-Peer process and completing the MGM2 surveys that quantify the economic impact of Corridor attractions.

"This group has a lot of mutual respect for one another," she says. "We share a passion for the Corridor and its resources."

Marsden will also continue outreach, starting with a new marketing and web project with the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau. She is on the heritage and cultural tourism committee of the Pennsylvania Travel & Lodging Association and the committee that reviews heritage tourism grants for the DCED. Before joining the D&L, she helped revitalize her hometown of Jim Thorpe as Main Street Manager in the 1980s and also served as a consultant for the National Main Street Center, where her skills were put to use in communities throughout the United States. She tested her skills as co-owner of an outdoor retail store during the 1990s.

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Isidore "Bill" Mineo, Stewardship and Trails Manager

Isidore "Bill" Mineo will continue his managerial role as stewardship and trails manager, managing trail construction and maintenance. His team includes Sherry Acevedo, now manager of the Lehigh Valley Greenways Initiative, and Rolland Rhodomeyer, who was recently hired as a trail planner on a consulting basis.

After completing the acquisition of more than 30 miles of trail, Mineo's biggest challenge is working with Penn DOT and other key players to get construction started and moving on each section. Construction has begun for section 1 of the trail, which starts in Slatington and ends two miles north near Lehigh Gap. Twenty-five miles of trail are currently under design.

Mineo's more than 30 years of experience in resource, park and recreation management are invaluable to the D&L. In the early years, he was instrumental in making the Corridor project happen in his roles as superintendent of Parks and Recreation with Northampton County and as Director of Parks and Recreation for Chester County. He also helped to preserve the local sections of the Appalachian Trail in partnership with Carbon and Lehigh Counties, the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and other local agencies. Mineo holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Lafayette College and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in chemistry.

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Rayne Schnabel, Executive Assistant and Operations Manager

In her expanded role as operations manager, Rayne Schnabel will oversee D&L operations in addition to her work with special projects, events, marketing and grant applications. Her team includes consultant Pat Reigler, CPA, project assistant Selene Haralambous and administrative assistant Cindy Young. Some of Schnabel's current projects include the World Canals Conference and the Hometown Heritage program at Easton High School, but new events and programs are always on the horizon.

"The D&L not only offers opportunities for partners, but also opportunities for employees to advance their skills and try new programs," says Schnabel. "There is a willingness to listen to new ideas here, and an opportunity to manage your own projects."

An employee since 1998, Schnabel understands how the organization functions and has a knack at keeping things running on track. With Reigler's help, she will also be developing a policies and procedures manual for the staff in addition to other human resource tools.

"I rely on the staff," says Schnabel. "I could not do this much without the support of Pat, Selene and Cindy."

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Pedal the Pennsylvania Greenway Sojourn!

If you like active vacations, there's no better place than the seat of a bike to experience the scenic beauty and history of the D&L Corridor. On July 22, cyclists will gather at White Haven's Hickory Run State Park for six days of mostly off-road riding on shady rail-trails and back roads. Sponsored by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in partnership with the D&L National Heritage Corridor and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, the 200-mile Pennsylvania Greenway Sojourn begins on the Lehigh Gorge State Park Trail and concludes in Valley Forge National Park in Philadelphia on July 28.

Highlights include rafting on the Lehigh, dining and sightseeing in Jim Thorpe, pedaling the route of Pennsylvania's first railroad, visiting the old Gruber Wagon Works, riding the new Thun rail-trail into Pottstown and Valley Forge National Park's miles of bike paths and historic sites.

The Sojourn's \$395 registration fee includes 15 catered meals and camping accommodations; registration deadline is June 1. The three-day option in the D&L Corridor is \$295, including eight meals. Sojourners' luggage will be transported. Families are welcome. For more information: www.railtrails.org/sojourn or call 717-238-1717.



Join 300 soon-to-be friends on the Pennsylvania Greenway Sojourn



Kids are welcome—and those age ten and under get a \$100 discount.



A water fight is part of the fun of rafting the Lehigh.

Carbon County Trail Maintenance

In Carbon County, plans call for the D&L National Heritage Corridor to improve 5 miles of existing towpath between the canal and the east side of the Lehigh River, almost 7 miles of rail-trail, and 1.5 miles of trail along the west side of the Lehigh River. Carbon County residents look forward to the environmental, recreational and economic benefits of these trail improvements. However, residents also realize the need to manage and maintain the new trails.

In January 2005, with funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and local municipalities, a committee of 16 Carbon County residents hired a peer consultant to develop a system for management, funding and maintenance of the D&L Corridor in Carbon County. The group's proposal builds upon the existing Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission (LCRC), which includes seven member municipalities. By adding other municipalities and Carbon County as partners, the peer study committee hopes that the LCRC can increase financial support and paid staffing and formalize the in-

kind maintenance service.

The peer study committee has asked elected officials to support the Corridor within Carbon County for its many quality-of-life benefits, economic impact and preservation of historic resources. Their challenge now is to gain sufficient financial support for the project and to put together a structure and intergovernmental agreement that will be adopted by the partners.

Just Announced: the D&L Market Towns Initiative: Fostering Canal Town Revitalization in the D & L NHC has been chosen to receive the National Park Service Legacy Initiative award.

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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World Canals Conference

Industry to Recreation: Greening the Coal Canals



2006 Bethlehem

September 12-14

*"Industry to Recreation:
Greening the Coal Canals"*

Join us for an inside look at how Pennsylvania and New Jersey's once active canals have become recreational outlets to preserve the region's heritage. Delegates from around the world will visit the region's towpath canals and experience an "inside the gates" tour of Bethlehem Steel.

Register by April 30, 2006 to receive early discounted registration fee of \$475. *A Day Rate of \$225 USD is also available.* Registration is limited to 200 delegates, so **sign up today!** Visit www.canals.org or call the D&L at (610) 923-3548.

Post-conference tours – September 15.

*Sponsored by the D&L NHC, National Canal Museum
and other local partners.*