

# LHVA Ambassadors' Update



INFORMATION FROM THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY

APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2007

## Construction Begins on New Trail in Mayfield and Carbondale

On Friday, May 11, LHVA began construction on the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center Trail with a groundbreaking ceremony at the corner of Business Route 6 and Meredith Street in Mayfield, PA. Over four dozen officials and citizens were in attendance at the event.

The LHVC Trail is the newest section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. It will begin at a trailhead and parking area at Meredith Street, and will follow the Lackawanna River west for just over one mile. Work is well underway with much of the trail cleared of trees and brush. The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, when completed, will provide a 40-mile multi-purpose trail from Forest City to Duryea.

The project is funded by the National Park Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Completion is set for early fall 2007.



*Officials break ground on the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center Trail. From left: LHVA Chief Operations Officer Jesse J. Ergott; LHVA Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli; Lackawanna County Commissioners Robert C. Cordaro and Michael J. Washo; LHVA Founding Chair Msgr. Joseph Quinn; LHVA Board of Directors Chair Alan Sweeney.*



## A New Look and a New Column

### New logo unveiled

LHVA announces the creation of a new logo for the organization. The crisp contemporary graphic design was developed by Sweda Advertising of Archbald, PA. The logo exemplifies LHVA's three core themes of land, people, industry. These themes permeate every aspect of LHVA's work as outlined in our 2004 Management Action Plan. The logo now appears on our banners and signs (see photo at left), as well as this year's stylish red Ambassadors hats. Please contact us at 570-963-6730 if you need our new logo for your materials.

### Expanded newsletter

These are busy times for LHVA and we have lots of good news to share! We have expanded our electronic newsletter, the *Ambassadors' Update*, to a four-page format to give us more room. Since our changes took a bit longer than we anticipated, we have combined the April, May, and June issues. Moving forward, the *Update* will continue to go out on a monthly basis.

### New column

Since April, LHVA has been a regular contributor to the monthly publication, *Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal*. LHVA Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli uses this forum to discuss cultural and heritage tourism, heritage education, environmental renewal, and economic and community revitalization.

## LHVA Revs Up in MotorCities

LHVA Chief Operations Officer Jesse Ergott served as Co-Chair of the 2007 International Heritage Development Conference from June 17 to June 21, 2007, in Detroit, MI. Sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) and hosted by the

MotorCities National Heritage Area, the conference offered sessions, workshops, and off-site tours highlighting heritage development challenges and solutions.

Mr. Ergott directed the Marketing Committee for the conference. LHVA Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Board of Directors Chair Alan Sweeney, and Director of Public

Education Colleen Carter joined Mr. Ergott at the event. One highlight included the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Fédération des Parcs Naturels Régionaux and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (see accompanying article



on page 3). Also noteworthy was a keynote address given by filmmaker Ken Burns, which included a series of clips drawn from Burns' new World War II documentary film, "The War."

For information about the 2007 IHDC and the ANHA, visit [www.nationalheritageareas.org](http://www.nationalheritageareas.org).

# Ride the Rails on the *Heritage Explorer Train!*

Fun for the whole family! On Saturday, August 18, join us on the *Heritage Explorer Train* as we ride the rails from Scranton to Carbondale for Pioneer Nights. The train ride includes activities, snacks, entertainment, and more. In Carbondale, enjoy a parade, a scavenger hunt, and plenty of good food. The train departs from Steamtown National Historic Site at 10 a.m., and will arrive back at approximately 4:30 p.m. Tickets are free for children 12 and under! Adult tickets are \$5.00, and tickets for seniors 65 and over are \$4.00. All passengers require a ticket and seating is limited. Visit a Lackawanna County library from July 15 to August 15 to pick up your tickets. *Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.* Info: Lackawanna County Library System at (570) 348-3003 or [www.lclshome.org](http://www.lclshome.org).



*Happy faces on the train!*

## Partners in the News

*Projects spotlight region's cultural, historical and natural resources*

### Doors Open Lackawanna

On May 5, **Doors Open Lackawanna** welcomed 350 area residents and visitors to downtown Scranton to explore cultural and historic properties. Over twenty sites showcased their building's architecture and history through tours and activities. This Leadership Lackawanna project was sponsored by an LHVA grant. LHVA staffer, Colleen Carter, was the project manager.

### Steamtown Discovery Center

On May 20, the Children's Education and Discovery Center, *Imagination Station*, opened at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton. Designed by Mark Brennan of Steamtown and Dan Perry, Director of Cultural Conservation at LHVA, the Center was funded by a grant from LHVA. Check out [www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea) for program information.

### New Children's Activity Center

The Electric City Trolley Station and Museum premiered their new Children's Activity Center on June 1. The Center has five new interpretive displays to help children grasp the history of trolley transportation around Scranton. A scavenger hunt through the museum is a highlight of the Center. LHVA supported the project with a grant and technical assistance. Students from the Career Technology Center created the exhibits.

### Historic House Tour

The Lackawanna Historical Society presented its successful Historic House Tour on the Hill on June 3. Over 800 people attended the event on that beautiful summer day, enhanced by a gracious lunch and free ice cream in a tent alongside the Catlin House in Scranton.

### Stormwater Seminars



Lackawanna College Environmental Institute sponsored two free public seminars on stormwater management on June 5 and June 20. The June 5 seminar at the

Clarks Summit Fire Company focused on "Stormwater Management and the New PA Best Practices Manual." On June 20, the event at the Lackawanna College Environmental Institute Building in Covington Township discussed "Local Approaches to Stormwater Management." This series was supported by grants from LHVA and the Scranton Area Foundation.



Lackawanna Heritage Valley  
WHERE AMERICA'S STORY LIVES

### Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

A National and State Heritage Area  
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The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is a partnership of government, business, civic organizations, and individuals dedicated to the development of the region's historic, cultural, economic, and natural resources through preservation, education, and promotion of our heritage.

LHVA's goals are to tell the region's story; facilitate partnerships; preserve and enhance the physical character and economic vitality of the communities in the Lackawanna Valley; improve the visitor experience; and reconnect people to the Lackawanna River.

### Lackawanna County Commissioners

A.J. Munchak  
Robert C. Cordaro  
Michael J. Washo

### Board of Directors

Alan Sweeney, Chair  
Harry Lindsay, Vice Chair  
Barbara Colangelo, Treasurer  
Jenine Ikeler, Secretary  
Thom Welby, Assist. Secretary/Treasurer  
Marisa Bevilacqua  
Thomas Bell

### Staff

Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Executive Director  
Jesse Ergott, Chief Operations Officer  
Alice Sokoloski, Fiscal Director  
Dan Perry, Director of Cultural Conservation  
Colleen Carter, Director of Public Education  
Thomas Cipriano, Program Officer  
Margo Tomlinson, Executive Assistant  
Diane Chelik, Administrative Assistant  
Beverlyann Liuzzo, Administrative Assistant  
Jack Carling, Contracts Manager  
Sarah Piccini, Intern  
Stephanie Roberts, Intern



Lackawanna County Commissioners  
A.J. Munchak, Robert C. Cordaro and Michael J. Washo

## WVIA Presents Documentary Premiere of "Ubaldo"

*Ubaldo*  
documents  
a cultural  
festival  
more than



800 years old that can be found in only two cities in the world, Gubbio, Italy, and Jessup, PA. Their stories create a uniquely intimate bridge between two countries, two cultures, and two communities. The film tells the story of how this tradition came to the town of Jessup, and follows a tour group from Jessup during its visit to Gubbio for the 2006 celebration. *Ubaldo* was shot entirely on location. On May 1, WVIA launched the documentary with an exciting live premiere at the Mellow Theater at Lackawanna College in

Scranton. WVIA continues to broadcast the film on WVIA-TV. LHVA is proud to support this story of our region's rich Italian heritage.



## LHVA Building Sold to St. Rose Academy

In May, Saint Rose Academy, a high school in the Catholic tradition for students in grades 7 to 12, purchased the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center in Mayfield from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. This transaction completes a two-year process that began in 2005 when the newly formed school moved into the facility. At present, LHVA's offices remain in the building while a new site is selected for the Authority.

## Featured Partnership

### LHVA Hosts French Delegation

*Four visitors "very impressed" by their tour of Lackawanna Heritage Valley*

On June 21, LHVA was pleased to welcome a delegation from the Fédération de Parcs Naturels Regionaux, a system of forty-five regional nature parks in France.

The delegation includes Jean-Luc Beghin, director of the Espaces Naturels Regionaux, a three park coalition in the north of France; Serge Menicucci, consultant for the Fédération and past director of the Verdon Park; Jacques Decugnière, representative of the Parc du Lubéron; and Luc Coppin, president of the communal union of the Parc du Scarpe-Escaut in the north of France.

Earlier in the week, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Fédération as part of the 2007 International Heritage Development Conference in Detroit (see related article on page one). This agreement indicates the willingness of ANHA, a membership organization of thirty-seven National Heritage Areas including LHVA, to work closely with the Fédération. This partnership will promote mutual understanding and share best practices and technical expertise across international boundaries.

After the conference, Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Executive Director of LHVA, and Allen Saches, Executive Director of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, escorted the

delegation to Scranton. The visitors were welcomed by Mayor Christopher Doherty during the evening ceremonies of the

Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities conference.

Their visit included a tour of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area in southern Pennsylvania, a visit to a Scranton/Wilkes Barre Yankees baseball game, and a full day tour of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley.

The delegation returned to

France on June 24 following a visit to Palmerton and the Lehigh Gap, part of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor in eastern Pennsylvania.

The MOU builds on more than two years of exchange and dialogue between the Fédération and the Alliance. Representatives from the ANHA, including Ms. Solfanelli, visited the French Regional National Parks in fall 2006 to learn best practices in the heritage development movement.

"LHVA is pleased to be the first National Heritage Area to partner with members of the Fédération de Parcs Naturels Regionaux. In particular, Parc du Scarpe-Escaut has a coal mining heritage similar to our own. We look forward to sharing ideas for projects and educational programs."

*Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Executive Director*



*A delegation from the Fédération de Parcs Naturels Regionaux in France prepare for their tour of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. From left: Lackawanna County Commissioner Robert Cordaro, Jean-Luc Beghin, Jacques Decugnière, LHVA Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Luc Coppin, and Serge Menicucci.*

# “Get a Clue” About You and Your World!

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you were a kid in 1900? Join us at your local Lackawanna County library for the answers!

## A Passport to history...

When kids ages six to twelve sign up for the summer reading club, you receive a Passport that allows you free admission to seven local heritage sites in Scranton. The Passport lists clues to find at each site. Wow!

After you visit all the sites, return your completed Passport to your local library and receive a prize certificate for one free pizza from Old Forge Pizza Express. Just remember - kids must present their Passport at each site for free admission. Everyone else must pay the site admission fees.

## But that’s not all! The Artists are coming!

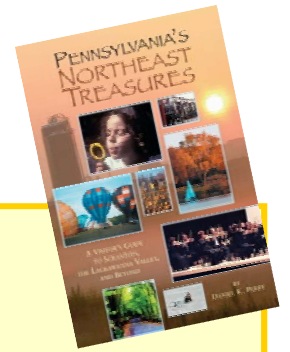
Visit your library and check out the Summer Artist Series. Each week during the month of July, a new artist will visit your library to help you to learn about your world through music and movement, theater, art, and stories. It is fun for the whole family.

- Week of July 9: World Dance Theater
- Week of July 16: Actor Richard Grunn
- Week of July 23: Artist George Strasburger
- Week of July 30: Storyteller Lisa Facciponti

## And what about those Trunks?

When you visit your library on the other days, dig into the Heritage Traveling Trunk. It is filled with cool things from the past that you can touch and play with. The trunks have railroad engineer and conductor hats, a railway lantern, a railroad spike, coal and lace, clothing, maps, books, DVDs, and lots more.

The summer reading program and the Heritage Traveling Trunks Program are free to all members of the Lackawanna County Library System. The program is a partnership of Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Lackawanna County Library System, Lackawanna County, Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19, and area cultural and heritage sites. Contact your local library for more information.



**Pennsylvania's Northeast Treasures: A Visitor's Guide to Scranton, the Lackawanna Valley, and Beyond.**

Perfect for summer day trips with family and friends. Available at local book stores and heritage sites.

**\$19.95**

## New Staff

### Sarah Piccini

No longer a “newbie,” Sarah recently passed her one year anniversary as an Intern at LHVA. She assists Colleen Carter, Director of Public Education, with public relations, outreach, and program management. Sarah is a native of Greenfield Township, and is a senior at the University of Scranton with dual majors in History and Communications.

### Stephanie Roberts

The newest face at LHVA is Environmental Intern and Bloomsburg University senior, Stephanie Roberts. She assists Jesse Ergott, LHVA Chief Operations Officer and manager of LHVA’s many trail projects. Stephanie works with the Conservation Alliance, organized a recent trail clean up, and assists with environmental programming. She is pursuing dual majors in Environmental Planning and French.

## Summer Artist Library Schedule

Mon	1 pm	Valley Community Library, 739 River St., Peckville
Tues	11 am	Dalton Community Library, 113 E. Main St., Dalton
	1 pm	Green Ridge Library, Green Ridge at Wyoming Ave., Scranton
Wed	11 am	North Pocono Public Library, 113 Van Brunt St., Moscow
	1:30 pm	Carbondale Public Library, 5 North Main St., Carbondale
Thur	10:30 am	Taylor Community Library, 200 Union St., Taylor
	2 pm	Abington Comm. Library, 1200 W. Grove St., Clarks Summit
Fri	10:30 am	Lackawanna County Children’s Library, 500 Vine St., Scranton



**The Heritage Explorer Trolley Bus is Coming!**

Look for details in the July Update.