

LHVA Ambassadors' Update



INFORMATION FROM THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY

MARCH 2008

LHVA Awards \$48,000 to Local Organizations in First Quarter



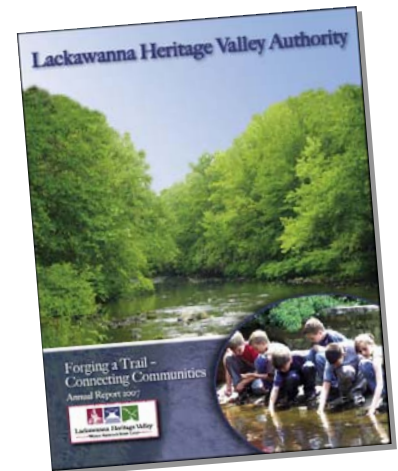
Center Street in Scranton puts on a festive air for First Night 2008. Scranton Tomorrow photo.

During the first quarter of 2008, LHVA awarded \$47,975 to eleven partner organizations, with grants ranging from \$100 to \$20,000. This funding was matched dollar-for-dollar by each organization. In many cases, LHVA's contribution was a catalyst for leveraging significant funds from other sources.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority's Partnership Grants Program provides financial assistance to nonprofit and civic organizations, heritage attractions, and municipalities to develop heritage, cultural, environmental, and community development projects. These initiatives significantly enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley.

LHVA receives funding from the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to support its grants program. LHVA is grateful to our federal, state, and local legislators and elected officials for their ongoing support of our program.



LHVA Annual Report Highlights Year of Transition, Expansion

Hot off the press, the 2007 Annual Report details a fruitful year for LHVA and its partners. Highlights from the Annual Report include:

- LHVA hosted a French delegation during its visit to NEPA during summer 2007. The visit coincided with a memorandum of understanding between the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and France's Federation de Parcs Naturels Regionaux.
- A new section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail opened in Carbondale Township and Mayfield Borough.
- The Heritage Explorer Train carried nearly 300 adults and children on a fun-filled excursion to Carbondale's "Pioneer Day" festivities in August.

We look forward to continuing to build strong partnerships and to develop important projects that have a measurable impact on the high quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

To view the Annual Report, go to www.LHVA.org.

Grant Recipients

Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, <i>Exhibit Upgrade</i>	\$20,000
General Jerome F. O'Malley Memorial Foundation	\$10,000
NEPA Philharmonic, <i>Family Concert: "Songs of the Earth"</i>	\$ 5,000
Scranton Tomorrow, <i>First Night 2008</i>	\$ 5,000
Scranton Tomorrow, <i>First Night 2009</i>	\$ 5,000
Steamtown National Historic Site, <i>Winter Lecture Series</i>	\$ 1,200
Ice Harvest Festival 2008	\$ 750
Melanian News, <i>Black History Month Dinner</i>	\$ 375
Dunmore Historical Society, <i>Local History Books for Dunmore School District</i>	\$ 300
Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center, <i>Community Awards Program</i>	\$ 250
Greater Carbondale YMCA, <i>Community Day Event</i>	\$ 100

LHVA in Transition

Welcome New Board Members!

Join us in welcoming new members to the LHVA Board of Directors.

Julia K. Munley

Attorney Munley received her undergraduate degree from Marywood University and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Dickinson School of Law in 1992. Ms. Munley is currently a board member of the Northeast Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, and a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers of America, the Federal Bar Association, Lackawanna County Bar Association, and Luzerne County Law and Library Association. In 2004, Ms. Munley was recognized for her dedication and commitment in providing pro bono legal representation to an emergency rescue worker injured in the World Trade Center disaster.

Ella S. Rayburn

Ms. Rayburn worked as Curator and Cultural Resources Specialist at Steamtown National Historic Site from

1989 until her retirement in 2006. She represented the National Park Service during the rehabilitation of the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue. Ms. Rayburn serves on the Board of Directors of the Lackawanna Historical Society and contributes many hours per week as that organization's curator, and is a member of Scranton's Historic Architecture Review Board.

Ex-Officio Members

Dennis DeMara, Northeast Region Recreation and Parks Supervisor of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Harold "Kip" Hagen, Superintendent of Steamtown National Historic Site, were invited to join the LHVA Board of Directors as non-voting, ex-officio members. Dennis and Kip are both strong partners and advocates of LHVA, and represent the Authority's two main funding partners.

Grants

Inspire the youth in your community to become the preservationists of tomorrow. Museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation organizations, libraries, and archives are invited to partner with a local school or youth group and apply for funding to help preserve the history of their communities.

Each year, The History Channel awards grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations across the country that partner with schools or youth groups on community preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting and preserving the history of their communities.

The 2008/2009 Grant Cycle has begun and the [Save Our History grant program guidelines and application](#) are available online. Please click on the link to learn more and submit an application! Good luck! All questions can be directed to info@saveourhistory.com.

DEADLINE: Applications are due June 6, 2008.



SAVE★OUR HISTORY



Lackawanna Heritage Valley
— WHERE AMERICA'S STORY LIVES —

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

A National and State Heritage Area

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Scranton, PA 18503
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Fax: (570) 963-6732
Email: heritage@LHVA.org
Web: www.LHVA.org

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.

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Corey O'Brien
A.J. Munchak

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Stephanie Milewski, RLA, Trail Manager
& Environmental Program Officer
Sarah Piccini, Program Officer - Interpretation
& Preservation
Mary Metschulat, Executive Assistant
Beverlyann Liuzzo, Administrative Assistant
Diane Chelik, Administrative Assistant
Jack Carling, Contracts Manager



Lackawanna Greenway & Heritage Trail



LRCA Riverfest Set for Saturday, May 10th

Join the Lackawanna River Corridor Association for its annual Riverfest featuring the Canoe-a-Thon, Duck-a-Thon, and Regatta events. This year offers an expanded entertainment line-up, booth exhibits, and activities. Finish line activities will be held at the Olive Street Bridge in Scranton, across the road from the Scranton High School.

The Regatta

Now in its sixth year, participants decorate their floating vessels and parade down the Lackawanna River. Businesses, organizations, and individuals are welcome to compete. The most creative and/or humorous craft wins \$100.

Canoe-a-Thon

Paddlers take part in a timed run on the Lackawanna River from two Mid-Valley launch sites to the finish line at the Olive Street Bridge. Canoeists can compete as part of an athletic event or take a more leisurely paddle downstream. Ribbons and medals will be awarded in seven categories. Participants may use their own canoes and kayaks, or can rent a canoe or kayak from LRCA (pre-registration required).

Duck-a-Thon

The courageous LRCA flock of ten duckies will take a perilous launch into the waters of the Lackawanna River for an exciting race against other plucky ducky competitors. The race runs from the Farmers Market to the hotly contested finish at the Olive Street Bridge. Cash prizes of \$500, \$200, and \$50 will be awarded to the sponsors of the first, second, and third place ducks. Ducks are available for a \$5 individual sponsorship, or sponsor a flock of eight for \$20. Contact the LRCA offices to sponsor a duck or flock.

INFO: Visit www.lrca.org or call the LRCA office at (570) 207-7608 for info, registration and sponsorship information.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:00 am Canoe-a-Thon registration begins at Archbald and Peckville launch sites
- 10:00 am Canoe-a-Thon begins at both launch sites
- 11:30 am Riverfest activities begin at the Olive Street Bridge finish line site
- 3:00 pm Lackawanna River Regatta begins
- 5:00 pm Duck-a-Thon begins (launch at Farmers' Market; finish line at Olive St. Bridge)

Would You Like a Job That Matters?

LHVA, in local partnership with the Lackawanna County Conservation District and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, is now accepting applications for two OSM/VISTA positions. Each full-time position includes a modest stipend as well as other benefits. A joint initiative of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and Americorps/VISTA, the program targets issues associated with the legacy of coal-mining in Appalachian watersheds, including communities struggling with depressed economies. For information about these positions, please contact Stephanie Milewski at (570) 963-6730 x8203 or smilewski@LHVA.org. Additional OSM/VISTA program information can be found at www.accwt.org.

Spring Symposium a Great Success!

Sponsored by LHVA and the Heritage Valley Roundtable, the inaugural Spring Symposium on March 31st at Steamtown National Historic Site drew a large crowd and rave reviews. More than 75 people attended the event featuring internationally-known interpretive planner John Veverka. With amusing anecdotes and an easy, conversational style, Mr. Veverka shared information about recent tourism trends and practical advice on how to attract visitors to cultural, heritage, and environmental sites.

Participants came from as far as Upstate New York and Bethlehem, PA, to attend the workshop. Local cultural and heritage sites were well represented, with special kudos going out to the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum for bringing eighteen staff, volunteers, and board members to the event!

Copies of John Veverka's PowerPoint presentations are available on CD at no charge. LHVA also will be compiling a video of the day for distribution. To request a copy of the CD, please contact Sarah Piccini at spiccini@LHVA.org or (570) 963-6730 x8227.

Lackawanna River Clean-Ups Scheduled



Bring your boots and bring a friend to help us clean up the Lackawanna River before Riverfest!

Clean Up By Boat

Sat. April 26th - 9 am to 1 pm

Paddle down the river to clear the navigation channel. Call 207-7608 to join the flotilla of hardy volunteers!

Clean Up the Riverfest Site at Olive Street

Sat. May 3rd - 10 am to 2 pm

Help get ready for the festivities. Wear sturdy work clothes and shoes. Gloves, bags, and water will be provided.

Place-Based Education

Teachers Use Museums & Environment as Classrooms

“Museums as Classrooms” Offers New Sessions

NEIU 19 begins another year of its popular “Museums as Classrooms,” which allows teachers to visit local historic and heritage sites and develop lesson plans for use in their classrooms. Officially known as “Using Community-Based Primary Resources to Enhance Classroom Instruction,” the program started in order to “excite the teachers so they excite the students,” says program developer Tom McHugh.

“Museums as Classrooms I” began March 25th, and features visits to seven local cultural and heritage attractions. “Museums as Classrooms II” started at the request of teachers who wanted to learn more about the region’s history and heritage. It runs from April 9th to May 10th, and includes a tour of local Underground Railroad routes, a day on the Lackawanna River, and a tour of area churches including a presentation by a Russian Orthodox iconographer. **Info:** Click on the [NEIU’s website](#) or call Karen White at (570) 876-9240.



A tour of the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour is part of the popular “Museums as Classrooms I” course offered by the NEIU 19. LHVA photo.

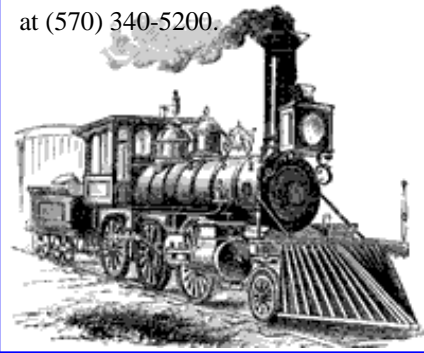
Environmental Courses for Teachers

The Keystone College Environmental Education Institute (Kceel) is offering a unique opportunity for area teachers to engage in hands-on, inquiry-based science and environmental education while earning credits or Act 48 hours. The week-long courses for 2008 are: Astronomy (June 22-27), Watershed Explorers (June 22-27, 2008), Forests and Society (July 13-18), and Climate Change and the Energy Challenge (July 20-25). **Info:** Visit the web site at www.Kceel.keystone.edu or contact Nora Dillon at (570) 945-8555 or nora.dillon@keystone.edu.

“National Park Week” at Steamtown NHS

In conjunction with National Park Week on April 19-26, Steamtown National Historic Site begins its 2008 train ride season on April 19th with the popular “Scranton Limited,” a short three-mile train ride. The theme for National Park Week 2008 is “Kids in Parks,” with exhibits, theater presentations, partner displays, and Junior Ranger activities. On Junior Ranger Day, April 26th, children ages 6-12 can become Junior Rangers during their visit. Children 5 and under can work with their parents on a special “Discovery” program.

Info: Click on www.nps.gov/stea or call Steamtown at (570) 340-5200.



LHVA Partner Events

Library Receives Grant

The Scranton Public Library was one of only eight libraries in Pennsylvania to be awarded a \$30,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant to develop a plan for digitizing local historical collections. The Library will partner with LHVA, the Lackawanna Historical Society, the Times-Tribune, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, and Steamtown National Historic Site. “This is the first step in guaranteeing the survival of many unique books, maps, photos, and directories dealing with our area,” said Library Director Jack Finnerty. The ultimate goal is to make the digital resources available online. **Info:** Click on <http://scrantonarchives.pbwiki.com>.

Centennial Anniversaries to be Celebrated

Two historic structures will celebrate their 100 year anniversaries this year: the Everhart Museum, and the Radisson at Lackawanna Station Hotel (the former DL&W train station). LHVA Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli has joined Everhart

and Radisson officials and other members of the community on the Centennial Planning Committee. Built in 1908, these buildings represent a city at the height of its progress. Ms. Solfanelli reminded the group that “100 years later, we are still doing innovative things,” pointing to the new medical school as a prime example. Watch future newsletters for upcoming events to celebrate these two historic treasures.

Charter Day a Great Success

The Anthracite Heritage Museum recently hosted more than 150 people and 30 groups for its Charter Day festivities on Sunday, March 9th, marking the anniversary of the document by which King Charles II of England granted to William Penn the land that is now known as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. LHVA participated, along with more than 30 other organizations. Exhibits, heritage activities, and refreshments combined to make for a fun-filled celebration.