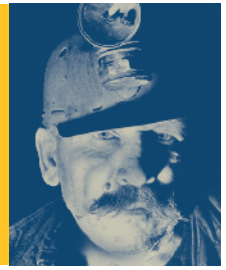


LHVA Ambassadors' Update



INFORMATION FROM THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY

OCTOBER 2008

Don't Miss What's Inside this Issue!

LHVA in Transition	2
Summer Heritage Passport Program Success	3
Book Details Region's History	3
LHVA Participates in Economic Impact Survey	4

“Making History Fun”

On September 17th, 360 people gathered for a community celebration to honor Alan Sweeney as part of the Lackawanna Historical Society's annual dinner. The event featured the announcement by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historic Organizations (PFMHO) that Mr. Sweeney had been chosen to receive their state-wide “2008 Individual Professional Leadership Award.” Held at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, the lively event featured a documentary film about Mr. Sweeney's accomplishments as well as official proclamations, and lots of stories and laughter. Several speakers noted that Mr. Sweeney epitomizes the ability of one individual to make a profound difference in the life of a community. In his closing remarks, Mr. Sweeney reminded the audience to “keep making history fun!”



Photo from left: Alan Sweeney, Chair of the Board of Directors of LHVA and President of the Board of the Lackawanna Historical Society, with Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Executive Director of LHVA.

LHVA Grants Help Make Projects Possible Throughout the Region

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority works with partners to tell the Lackawanna Heritage Valley's story using creative projects and programs. LHVA's Partnership Grants Program provides funding assistance to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and public agencies for community-based projects.



Lackawanna Railfest 2008 showcased modern and historic railroading at Steamtown National Historic Site with the assistance of a LHVA Sponsorship Grant.

LHVA supports projects that are aligned with one or more of its goals and that fit into one of its major funding categories (see below). Since these categories are interrelated, a project may be relevant to more than one area.

LHVA's Goals:

- Facilitate partnerships and strengthen local capacity.
- Tell the Lackawanna Heritage Valley's story.
- Preserve and enhance the physical character and economic vitality of Heritage Valley communities.
- Improve the visitor experience.
- Reconnect communities to the Lackawanna River.

LHVA's Four Major Funding Categories:

1. *Community and Economic Development*—LHVA encourages cultural and heritage tourism initiatives that bring new visitors to our area. Tourism spending impacts jobs, spurs new development, and boosts the region's revitalization.

2. *Cultural Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Local Heritage* - LHVA fosters the conservation of the region's distinctive and varied cultural resources. This includes historic preservation, adaptive reuse of older buildings, and conservation of the cultural traditions that help communities retain their unique character.

3. *Environmental Conservation/Renewal and Trail Development* - In addition to the development of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, LHVA promotes and supports environmental conservation efforts throughout the Lackawanna Greenway.

4. *Interpretation and Place-Based Education* - LHVA supports educational and public programs that tell the story of our region's heritage and culture, or that encourage an understanding and stewardship of the area's environmental resources.

The Partnership Grant Program is a competitive
Continued on page 2

Educational Mini-Grant Program Now Accepting Applications

LHVA is interested in funding creative heritage or environmental themed educational projects for the 2008-2009 school year. The Educational Mini-Grants Program awards ten \$500 grants to educators teaching kindergarten through twelfth grades in the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 service area. This program is open to includes classroom teachers as well as educators at cultural, historic, and environmental organizations. Projects must take place between December 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.



For program guidelines and application form, click on www.LHVA.org

LHVA Grants - Continued from page 1

program with four levels of funding:

• Educational Mini-Grants Ten Grants of \$500 Each

For educational projects that promote students' appreciation of the Lackawanna Valley's heritage; and/or that develop the students' understanding of their role as caretakers of the environment. Open to all kindergarten through twelfth grade educators (classroom and informal) in the NEIU 19 service area. Application deadline is October 31, 2008.

• Sponsorship Grants \$100 to \$2,000

These grants support community-based public programs, activities, events, and publications. Applications are accepted year-round, but they must be received a minimum of three months (12 weeks) prior to the event/program date.

• Community Challenge Grants \$2,001 to \$5,000

Funding for larger or more complex projects including exhibits, interpretive displays or panels, trail signage, public programming and activities, program materials, "bricks-and-mortar" work, cultural conservation activities, and planning studies. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but they must be received at least three months prior to project start date.

• Major Partnership Requests \$5,001 to \$50,000

Grants for significant initiatives such as planning studies, historic preservation projects, trail development, and regional public programming. The Intent-to-Apply form is due on Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at Noon (the new Intent-to-Apply Form will be available on LHVA's website on November 1, 2008). Invited applications are due in March 2009. Funding announcements will be made in Fall 2009 for projects to begin in Spring 2010.

Grant applications are assessed based on (1) the merits of the project; (2) how well



The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies created a series of traveling exhibits on the history of the nineteenth-century Underground Railroad in Northeastern Pennsylvania with funding assistance from LHVA.

the project meets LHVA's goals and funding categories; (3) the ability of the organization to implement the project and to administer the grant, and (4) evidence of strong partnerships and community support. All grants, except for the Educational Mini-Grants, require dollar-for-dollar matching funds. Mini-Grant projects do not require matching funds, although they strengthen an application.

LHVA will host its annual grants workshop in January 2009. Details will be posted in upcoming newsletters. For more information about LHVA grants, or to discuss a project, contact Colleen Carter, Director of Programs, at ccarter@LHVA.org or (570) 963-6730 ext. 8211.

Please Note!

LHVA has recently revised the application forms for the Educational Mini-Grants, Sponsorship Grants, and Community Challenge Grants. Please use the updated application forms for all submissions, and discard any previous versions.

To learn more about LHVA's grant program or to download forms, visit www.LHVA.org, and click on "Funding" and "Grant Application Guidelines."

LHVA in Transition

LHVA Staff to Serve on Community Boards

LHVA is proud to announce that **Sarah Piccini, LHVA's Program Officer-Interpretation and Preservation Specialist**, has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces. The Board of Directors assists the museum in its mission to collect, preserve and interpret the history and culture of the hard coal region of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

LHVA Director of Programs Colleen Carter has been appointed to the Lackawanna County Council on Arts, Culture, and Education. The Council advocates and supports high-quality arts opportunities and programs for people of all ages throughout Lackawanna County. Colleen will bring her knowledge and experience to the Council's grants and strategic planning subcommittee.



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.

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Corey O'Brien
A.J. Munchak

Board of Directors

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Atty. Julia K. Munley, Secretary
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Daniel K. Perry, Chief Operating Officer
Alice Sokoloski, Fiscal Director
Colleen Carter, Director of Programs
Stephanie Milewski, RLA, Trail Manager
& Environmental Program Officer
Sarah Piccini, Program Officer - Interpretation & Preservation
April Rogato, Executive Assistant
Beverlyann Liuzzo, Administrative Assistant
Diane Chelik, Administrative Assistant
Jack Carling, Contracts Manager



Partner News

The Big Read Features Landmark Detective Novel

Dashiell Hammet's *The Maltese Falcon* is this year's selection for **Scranton Reads**. Featuring hard-boiled detective Sam Spade, the novel is rife with murder and intrigue – and it has sparked a host of exciting community activities for the month of October.

October 3 from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. - Speakeasy Jazz Night at Scranton Cultural Center

October 4 at Noon – *The Maltese Falcon* Scavenger Hunt, downtown Scranton

October 8 at 7:00 p.m. - Panel book discussion at Marywood University

October 9 at 7:00 p.m. - *The Maltese Falcon* film and discussion at Marywood University

October 25 at 6:30 p.m. - *Murder and Mayhem in the Streets of Scranton* walking tour, downtown Scranton

October 26 – *The Maltese Falcon* symposium, details TBA.

For more information, a list of children's events, and updates, visit www.scrantonreads.org or call the Albright Memorial Library at (570) 348-3000.



Lackawanna Historical Society Offers Popular Cemetery Tour

On October 5th and 12th, the Lackawanna Historical Society will conduct its popular tours of historic Dunmore Cemetery. Under the direction of Julie Esty, the cast will bring history to life in a series of scenes – most are new, with some old favorites from previous tours. These dramatic tours are a fun and interesting way to learn about local history. The tours require walking. For details, call the Society at (570) 344-3841.

Where: **Dunmore Cemetery**

When: **Sundays, October 5th and 12th, at 2:00 p.m.**

Cost: **Donations are welcome.**

Summer Heritage Passport Program is a Great Success

The Lackawanna County Library System is proud to report that 3,580 children registered for the Summer Reading Club and received a passport as part of the Summer Heritage Passport Program. The passports allowed area children to explore seven cultural and historic attractions free of charge between June 16th and August 24th. The sites tallied 1,032 visits from passport holders during this period, up from 477 visits in 2007. Many parents reported that they were staying close to home and taking advantage of library programs this summer due to the high cost of gasoline.



The Lackawanna County Library System used a Community Challenge Grant to help fund the annual Summer Heritage Passport Program.

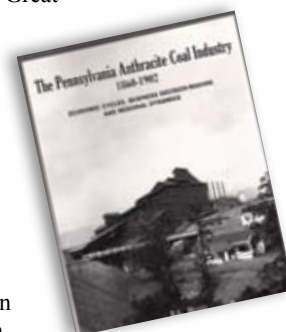
As part of the Summer Heritage Passport Program, LHVA supported four programs at Lackawanna County libraries during the month of July. Storyteller Lisa Facciponti, musician Uncle Pete Tawny, visual artist Nikki Moser, and the Penn State Master Gardeners presented family-friendly activities with an environmental theme. The libraries had a total attendance of 1,235 for these programs, an increase from 970 participants last year.

New Book Details Region's Anthracite History

Author Richard G. Healey details the importance of the anthracite coal industry in a new book, "The Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Industry, 1860-1902." Healey, a professor at the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, offers extensive analysis of railroad company accounts and correspondence, together with statistical data on hundreds of mines. Published by the University of Scranton Press, the book includes a wealth of figures, tables and maps, as well as a collection of high-quality reproductions of rare historic photographs.

The book is the definitive source on the economic development of the anthracite coal industry from the American Civil War to the Great

Anthracite Strike of 1902. It retails for \$60, and is available for purchase at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum Store in McDade Park in Scranton.



Lackawanna Greenway & LRHT

OSM/VISTA Volunteers to Assist LHVA and Partners on Environmental Projects

The Lackawanna County Conservation District (LCCD), the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), and LHVA are pleased to announce that two Office of Surface Mining/Volunteers in Service to America (OSM/VISTA) have been engaged to assist the three organizations with a variety of collaborative environmental projects.

Lindsey Ritchie and **Christopher Bludgus** will be joining LHVA in December. In October and December, the pair will attend special training sessions along with LHVA Trail Manager Stephanie Milewski and LCCD Watershed Specialist Alana Roberts.

Lindsey is a graduate of George Mason University in Virginia. She has a strong interest in environmental issues, particularly concerning water resources. Lindsey resides in Mechanicsburg, PA. A recent graduate of Marywood University, Christopher resides in Scranton. Christopher has a strong background in community service. As a native of New Jersey, he came to Scranton to attend Marywood, and he has developed a commitment to our region, its culture, and its people.

Some of the OSM/VISTA projects include water quality testing, abandoned mine land remediation, community outreach, and development of the Lackawanna Greenway. LHVA is pleased to partner with LCCD and LRCA on these important initiatives.

Welcome, Lindsey and Christopher!



HeritagePA Unveils New Name, Logo

Members of Pennsylvania's twelve state and nationally-designated heritage areas and corridors recently announced that they have formed HeritagePA, an association that serves as a statewide resource network for the Pennsylvania heritage movement. The collaborative effort will strengthen and expand each region's productivity and contributions.

HeritagePA is a non-profit outgrowth of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Heritage Areas Program, which designates official heritage areas within the state and provides funding and other assistance. The program helps regions promote innovative community revitalization and economic development through tourism, enhancing visitor experiences, sustaining public-private partnerships, and promoting conservation of each region's natural, historic, scenic and cultural resources.

Lackawanna Heritage Valley, the first state heritage area designated in Pennsylvania in 1991, joins eleven other heritage areas as founding members of HeritagePA. The other areas include: Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Lancaster-York Heritage Region, Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, Lumber Heritage Region, National Road Heritage Corridor, Oil Region National Heritage Area, PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area and the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area.

HeritagePA has established a website at www.heritagepa.net that contains information about each heritage area or corridor.

LHVA Conducts Economic Impact Survey

LHVA is proud to join a number of National Heritage Areas from other parts of the country in conducting visitor surveys that gauge the economic impact of tourism in this region. *The 2008 Economic Impact of Heritage Tourism Spending* surveys are a key component of a broader study that seeks to identify the far-reaching effects that heritage-based tourism and development have on local economies.



Visitors watch the turntable at Steamtown National Historic Site in downtown Scranton.

Information was gathered through the months of September and October at the following local sites: Steamtown National Historic Site, the Electric City Trolley Museum, the Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour, the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Everhart Museum, and the Lackawanna County Visitors' Center. The survey results will provide valuable

information that will guide marketing and promotional efforts, both for our heritage area and for other regional cultural tourism efforts. The survey information will help to identify popular programs, sites and attractions, as well as successful partnerships.

Similar surveys were conducted in 2003 and 2005. LHVA is one of the few heritage areas to have participated in all three surveys. A report highlighting the findings of the survey is expected in early 2009.

Three New National Heritage Areas Established

On May 8, 2008, President Bush signed into law a bill creating three new National Heritage Areas.

- **The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area**, located in upstate New York, stretches along the Niagara River from the western boundary of Wheatfield to Lake Ontario.
- **The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area** follows the route of the Old Carolina Road (Rt. 15/231) from Gettysburg, PA, to Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Albemarle County, VA.
- **The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area** encompasses a large portion of central Illinois, incorporating a number of sites where the former President traveled and lived.



These new additions raise the total number of National Heritage Areas to forty. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority received its designation from Congress as a National Heritage Area in 2001.

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/VST/INDEX.HTM>

Grants

Site Offers Free Grant Information



The Foundation Center offers a unique way for individuals, nonprofit organizations and grant makers to obtain assistance with a variety of funding issues and concerns. The Foundation Center's Webinars cover topics such as Introduction to Finding Funders, Guide to On-Line Grant-Seeker Resources, Proposal Writing, Budgeting Basics, and more.

Visit <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/training/webinars/>.