

LHVA Ambassadors' Update



INFORMATION FROM THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY SEPTEMBER 2008

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Polka Fest

Join in the fun at the Pennsylvania Polka Festival, on Saturday, September 13th, and Sunday, September 14th, at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in downtown Scranton.



Bands and Events:

Saturday, September 13

Event doors open at Noon

2:00 to 3:00 pm – John Steven's Doubleshot

4:00 to 5:00 pm – Rick Gazda Orchestra

8:00 to 9:00 pm – The East-Side Groove

Sunday, September 14

11:00 am – Polish Mass at St. Stanislaus PNC Cathedral in Scranton

Event doors open at Noon

2:00 to 3:00 pm – Tony's Polka Band

5:00 to 6:00 pm – Ed Goldberg & Odessa Klezmer Band

Both Days: Polka Fest features polka dance lessons, strolling accordion players and delicious food - pierogies, potato pancakes, kielbasa, halushki and more!

Tickets: \$6.00 in advance; \$8.00 at the door; special rates for two-day passes, students and seniors.

Info: Visit www.wvia.org for information and on-line ticket sales. Call 1-800-22WELCOME for all other ticket sales, package deals, and lodging information.

Sponsored by WVIA, LHVA, the Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and other partners.

LHVA Chair Alan Sweeney to Receive State Leadership Award

LHVA is pleased to announce that Alan Sweeney, Chair of the Board, has been named the winner of the "2008 Individual Achievement Award for Leadership" from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations (PFMHO).

A special community celebration will be held to honor Alan at the Lackawanna Historical Society's annual dinner on Wednesday, September 17th, at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton (please see box below for details). The dinner is open to the public. The Society cordially invites Alan's friends and supporters to join the celebration.

The PFMHO Leadership Award recognizes the profound impact Mr. Sweeney has had on historic preservation, education, and community and economic development in Northeastern Pennsylvania. LHVA nominated Mr. Sweeney for the honor, with the support of the Lackawanna Historical Society, the Scranton Public Library and Steamtown National Historic Site. Alan was selected from a pool of nominees submitted by organizations and individuals throughout Pennsylvania.

Mr. Sweeney has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority since 2000. He

has served as Chair of the Authority Board since 2004. A member of the Board of Trustees of the Lackawanna Historical Society since 1995, he has served as its president since 1997.

Mr. Sweeney developed many successful programs at the Society, including the Civil War commemorative activities held each April, and the restoration of the Society's headquarters at the Catlin House, a historic house museum dating from 1912. His efforts were instrumental in the restoration of the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Courthouse Square in Scranton.

Alan also has served as a board member for the Friends of the Scranton Public Library, the Mid-Valley Library, the American Cancer Society, and the Cemetery Association of Dunmore. A noted local historian and popular figure in the community, Mr. Sweeney has authored several books.

Mr. Sweeney received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Marywood University. He is the Pennsylvania District Sales Manager at Schiff's Food Service.

Mr. Sweeney will receive the PFMHO leadership award at a special luncheon to be held in Hershey, PA, on October 28, 2008.

The Public is Cordially Invited to Attend

A Community Celebration Honoring Alan Sweeney

RECIPIENT OF PFMHO'S

"2008 INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP"

Lackawanna Historical Society's Annual Dinner
Wednesday, September 17, 2008 6 pm - Cocktails, 7 pm - Dinner & Program
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton

Program: "Post Office Art in Northeastern Pennsylvania"
by David Lembeck, 2008-2009 PHC Commonwealth Speaker.

Tickets are \$35 per person.

For reservations, call the Lackawanna Historical Society at (570) 344-3841.

Popular Mini-Grant Program Returns

LHVA's Educational Mini-Grant Program is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. The initiative awards ten grants of \$500 for projects that:

1. Promote students' understanding and appreciation of the Lackawanna Valley's rich heritage and how it contributed to the nation's development
2. Develop the students' understanding of their role as caretakers of the environment, particularly in the Lackawanna River watershed.



Students from Ms. Yamin's art class at Scranton High School show LHVA Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli (center) their hexagrams as part of the 2007-2008 Educational Mini-Grant project, "I Am of Scranton."

The program is open to individual educators or collaborative teams teaching grades kindergarten through twelfth grade in the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 service area. This includes classroom teachers as well as educators at cultural, historic, and environmental organizations and sites. Projects must take place between December 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

Click on www.LHVA.org for the 2008-2009 program guidelines and application form.

Educators are encouraged to develop projects that engage the students' creativity, use a multi-disciplinary approach or involve a team of educators, and address relevant Pennsylvania academic standards.

Favorable projects will have a significant impact, whether it is a creative project that involves a large number of children or one that is a transformative experience for a smaller group.

LHVA's popular Educational Mini-Grant Program is entering its fourth year. In previous rounds, many successful projects have incorporated artists-in-residence, field trips to cultural, historic, and environmental sites, participation by students' families, or involvement of community members.



**Educational Mini-Grant
Application Deadline:
Friday, October 31, 2008,
at Noon.**

Educational Mini-Grant Program Workshop

- Date:** Wednesday, October 1st
Time: 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Where: Electric City Trolley Museum, Cliff Street, Scranton
- Other Info:** Guidelines, tips, and general information about the Mini-Grant Program will be covered. Parking is free.
- Deadline:** Registration deadline for the workshop is **Monday, September 29th**.
- Register:** Contact LHVA at (570) 963-6730 ext. 8200.

All educators interested in applying to the Educational Mini-Grant program are invited to attend the workshop. First time applicants are strongly encouraged to register.



Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

A National and State Heritage Area

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Scranton, PA 18503
Phone: (570) 963-6730
Fax: (570) 963-6732
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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Place-Based Education in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley

Annual Watershed Program Kicks Off for High School Students

“Community Connections to the Environment” is an environmental education program for students in grades nine to twelve. It focuses on connecting students to the community and engaging them in hands-on, place-based learning. Students and teachers learn about



water resources and how they are linked to ecology, geography, heritage, and human impact within the watershed. This allows them to understand more fully the often complex issues relating to watersheds. From September to May, participating schools send a five-member team of students and one teacher to field study

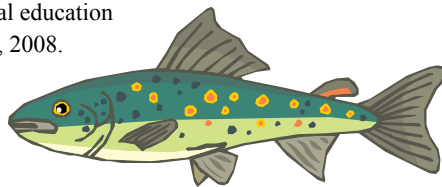
sites in the Lackawanna River watershed including the Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour, Lake Scranton Water Treatment Plant, and the

Old Forge Bore Hole. LHVA is proud to sponsor this popular, high-quality educational program. Last year, 75 students and 15 teachers participated in the program. How can your school join? Contact Alana Roberts at the Lackawanna County Conservation District at (570) 281-9495.

Teacher Workshops on Groundwater and Watersheds

NEIU 19 is offering a four-part teacher workshop series on groundwater and watersheds. Held on four Mondays in October, the Poconos-based series offers information and educational tools for teachers (kindergarten to twelfth grade) on a wide variety of water-related topics. The series is ACT 48 approved, with sixteen hours of professional education credits. Registration deadline is Friday, September 12, 2008.

For information and registration, contact Elaine at Roamingwood Sewer and Water Association at (570) 698-6162 or rswa@rswanepa.com.



Popular Nature Talk Series Begins in September

Lackawanna College Environmental Institute has announced its Fall Nature Talk Series. The public is invited to attend. The talks begin at 6:30 p.m., and are held at the beautiful Moffat Estate on Route 435 in Covington Township, PA. Admission is \$3.00 per person, and pre-registration is required. For information and registration, call the Institute at (570) 842-1506. This series is sponsored by LHVA.

Wed. Sept. 24 “Raptors Rule,” Rebecca Lesko, Endless Mountains Nature Center.

Wed. Oct. 8 “Raingardens,” Paul Bechtel, McLane Associates.

Wed. Oct. 22 “What You See Isn’t Always What You See: Camouflage & Mimicry,” Rick Koval, Naturalist.

Wed. Oct. 29 “Home Brewed Biodiesel,” Michelle Wheeler, Lackawanna College Environmental Institute.

Wed. Nov. 5 “Climate Change,” Pam Fendrock, PennFuture.

Wed. Nov. 19 “What’s Your Ecological Footprint?” Jamie Reeger, Lackawanna College Environmental Institute.

TBA Lecture by local naturalist John Serrao.



Field Trip Opportunities

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley abounds in field trip opportunities for area teachers and their students. Many cultural, historic, and environmental sites are listed below. For general information, click on www.LHVA.org, or contact the Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau at (570) 963-6363 or www.visitnepa.org.



Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary and Glass Museum

(570) 253-1185
www.dorflinger.org

Electric City Trolley Museum

(570) 963-6590
www.ectma.org

Everhart Museum

(570) 346-7186
www.everhart-museum.org

Keystone College Environmental Education Institute

(570) 945-8555
www.kceei.keystone.edu

Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour

(570) 963-6413 or 1-800-238-7245
www.thecoalminetour.com

Lackawanna College Environmental Institute

(570) 842-1506
www.lackawanna.edu

Lackawanna Historical Society

(570) 344-3841
www.lackawannahistory.org

Lackawanna River Corridor Association

(570) 347-6311
www.lrca.org

Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum & Scranton Iron Furnaces

(570) 963-4804
www.anthracitemuseum.org

Scranton Cultural Center

(570) 346-7369 or (570) 344-1111
www.scrantonculturalcenter.org

Steamtown National Historic Site

(570) 340-5200
www.nps.gov/stea

Grants Opportunities



Arts and Cultural Grants Available

The Lackawanna County Office of Arts and Culture provides services to artists and arts

organizations in the region, and it makes grants to qualified artists and

arts organizations. The grant program is now open. Project grant applications are due by October 10th. Individual artists and organizations may apply for up to \$3,000. For information and to download the application, visit <http://www.lackawannacounty.org/viewDepartment.aspx?DeptID=59> or contact Maureen McGuigan at (570) 963-6590 x102.

**Applications due
October 10th**



Researching Your PA Civil War Ancestor

Do you think you had a grandfather in the Civil War? On Wednesday, September 10th, at 6:30 p.m., join Richard Sauers, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Speaker and Historian, at the Taylor Community Library for a presentation on how to research your Civil War ancestor. Mr. Sauers will share information on how to obtain records from archives and historical organizations, and he will answer questions. The session is free. For more information and to register, contact the Taylor Community Library at (570) 562-1234.

Partner Events

LHVA is proud to sponsor a variety of community events and programs. These initiatives celebrate the Lackawanna Heritage Valley's strong cultural traditions, tell the story of the region's industrial history and current revitalization, and create a memorable experience for visitors.

New Exhibit Showcases Lackawanna Station

Steamtown National Historic Site is hosting a new exhibit, "100 Years: The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad's Scranton Passenger Station." The exhibit illustrates how this prominent Scranton landmark, now known as the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, played a key role in the lives of everyday citizens. The centennial exhibit will be on



display at Steamtown NHS through December. An abridged exhibit is on display on the first floor halls of the hotel. For information, call (570) 340-5200 or click on www.nps.gov/stea.

A Glance Back at August Events...

Unity Festival Brings Multicultural Flair to Scranton

On August 2nd, Nay Aug Park in Scranton was the site of the fourth annual Unity Festival, a multicultural celebration of diversity with entertainment, crafts, and ethnic cuisines. The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies unveiled its new traveling exhibit at the festival.

Two New PA Historical Markers Dedicated

The "Coal Miners' and Laborers' Strike of 1877" marker, at the corner Lackawanna and Washington Avenues in Scranton, commemorates a milestone event in the labor movement. The Scranton strike "paved the way for the better working conditions that we have today," explains Margo Azzarelli, a local historian. The Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces held a dedication program on August 3rd. The marker for **Rocky Glen Park**, a venerable amusement venue in Moosic, was erected on Rocky Glen Road near the site of the old park. On August 9th, the Lackawanna Historical Society held a dedication event, opened a new exhibit about the park at the Electric City Trolley Museum, and hosted a lively evening reception. The labor strike marker commemorates the hard side of working people's lives, but the Rocky Glen marker celebrates family fun!

Play Re-Creates Birth of First Aid



On August 23rd and 24th, the Borough of Jermyn celebrated Dr. Matthew Shields and his invention of first aid medical treatment in the 19th century with the performance of an original play, "Witness to Suffering: The Birth of First Aid in America." It was written by Cheryl Kashuba and Matthew Kashuba and directed and produced by Azzarelli Family Historical Productions.

Railfest 2008 a Success

Steamtown National Historic Site hosted "Lackawanna Railfest 2008" from August 29th to 31st. Excursions, tours of the Amtrak Superliner, and other activities made the event a success. Railfest had 2,334 people in attendance - thirty percent more than last year!

Pizza, Porketta Sandwiches & Pastries!

Over Labor Day weekend, visitors flocked to "La Festa Italiana" on Courthouse Square in downtown Scranton to celebrate the culture and cuisine of Italy at this popular annual festival.

