

LHVA Ambassadors' Update



INFORMATION FROM THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY

AUGUST 2007

Mini-Grant Program Now Open; Grants Workshop Offered

Announcement!

LHVA's Educational Mini-Grant Program for 2007-2008 is now open for applications. LHVA will award ten grants of \$500 each to educators in the NEIU service area. Teachers of preschool to grade twelve may apply. A proposal may be submitted by a single teacher or by a collaborative team. Projects should either (1) promote the students' understanding and appreciation of the Lackawanna Valley's rich heritage and how it contributed to the development of our nation, and/or (2) develop an understanding of the students' roles as caretakers of the environment.

The grant application deadline is Friday, October 26, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. Applications must be received by LHVA by the deadline to be considered for funding. Program guidelines and the application form are on LHVA's website, www.LHVA.org, under "Funding."

New For This Season!

Educational Mini-Grant Workshop
Mon., October 1 - 4 to 5:30 pm
Electric City Trolley Museum in Scranton
Workshop & parking are free.

Workshop will review the mini-grant program guidelines and application process. Teachers interested in applying to the mini-grant program are strongly encouraged to attend.

Info and Workshop Reservations:
LHVA at (570) 963-6730 ext. 8200 or mtomlinson@LHVA.org.

BIG NEWS!

LHVA to Move Offices to Scranton!

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is relocating our offices to historic downtown Scranton! We are confirming our plans to move in the middle of September. We are thrilled to be right in the urban hub of the Lackawanna Valley. Stay tuned for more details in the September issue of the *LHVA Ambassadors' Update!*

Heritage Explorer Train a Huge Success!



On Saturday, August 18th, the Heritage Explorer Train took nearly 300 adults and children on a family-friendly excursion to Carbondale's Pioneer Days. Each family received a

"goody bag" with an activity book, a map of the train's route, treats, and coupons. A Scavenger Hunt kept passengers busy during the ride. Each train car featured entertainers including "hobo" Bill Clark, musician

Doug Smith, juggler Rob Smith, storyteller Chris Arcangelo, banjo musician Duncan Perry, and historical characters courtesy of the "Past Players" theatrical troupe. In Carbondale, the families joined the lively Pioneer Days

celebration around Memorial Park. Afterward, the passengers re-boarded the train for the trip back to Scranton.

The Heritage Explorer Train was sponsored by LHVA in partnership with the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, City of Carbondale, Lackawanna County Library System, Lackawanna Historical



Families enjoy entertainment and costumed historical characters on the Heritage Explorer Train.

Society, and Steamtown National Historic Site. LHVA extends its appreciation to our partners and to all the dedicated volunteers who made this wonderful event happen. Thanks also to Price Chopper and

Pocono Pure Water for their generous donations.

If your community has a train station on the rail line and you are interested in bringing the Heritage Explorer Train for a special festival, contact LHVA at (570) 963-6730.

LHVA Staff in the News!

Dan Perry Named to State Preservation Board

LHVA announces that Dan Perry, Director of Cultural Conservation, has recently been appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board as a representative of the Northeast Region. This Board advises the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on preservation policy issues, and it reviews all applications for the National Register. Congratulations, Dan!

LHVA and CASS Give Joint Presentation at State Civil War Conference

Colleen Carter, Director of Public Education, and Sherman F. Wooden, President of the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies (CASS), gave a joint presentation at the conference, "Civil War Commemoration in Pennsylvania," held in August at University Park, PA. Hosted by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the conference convened historical societies, Civil War era scholars, and state agencies. It was part of a series of statewide symposia on planning the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2011. Ms. Carter and Mr. Wooden presented an overview of CASS' local history project, "The Place I Call Home: Northeast Pennsylvania's Underground Railroad History," and they discussed collaborative partnerships.

New Partner

Film Festival Celebrates Jewish Heritage

LHVA is proud to sponsor the First Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Jewish Film Festival set for Saturday, October 20 and Sunday, October, 21. Hosted by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the event is designed as a community-wide event to share the Jewish experience through a program of award-winning films. All films will be shown in the Mellow Theater at Lackawanna College. The festival's line up includes:

- "Rape of Europa" is an incredible story of how the Nazis looted or destroyed literally millions of works of art, and the heroic struggle to protect, preserve, and ultimately reunite those works with their rightful owners or their descendants.
- "West Bank Story" is one of the funniest comedies to tackle the often contentious issue of Palestinians and Israelis. It is Romeo and Juliet updated - or more accurately, a Middle Eastern version of West Side Story - transported to rival falafel stands in the West Bank.
- "From Shtetl to Swing" is an energy-packed documentary about jazz that pays homage to the origins and fusion of Jewish and African-American traditions that gave voice to a new multicultural America.
- "Souvenirs" is a charming journey of discovery and remembrance when an elderly Israeli and his filmmaker son drive to Amsterdam to observe to the 60th anniversary celebrating the end of World War II in Europe.
- "Steel Toes" is the dramatic and controversial story of a Canadian skinhead accused of a brutal hate crime murder whose court-appointed attorney happens to be Jewish.
- "The Impossible Spy" tells the story of Eli Cohen who, as an ordinary citizen, is recruited as a spy and achieves the impossible task of uncovering Syria's most important military secrets to help Israel win the Six Day War in 1967.

Info: Call (570) 961-2300 ext. 4 or visit www.NEPAJFF.org.



Lackawanna Heritage Valley
WHERE AMERICA'S STORY LIVES

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

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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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Robert C. Cordaro
Michael J. Washo

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Sarah Piccini, Intern
Stephanie Roberts, Environmental Intern



Lackawanna County Commissioners
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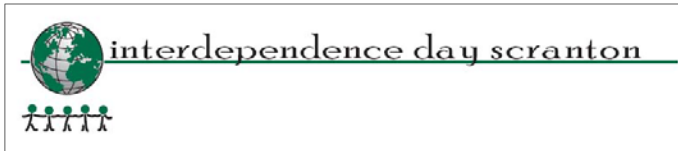
Featured Partnership

Scranton to Celebrate Interdependence Day 2007

By Jennifer Battista, Director of Communications/Special Projects, Scranton Tomorrow

This September, civic organizations and civic-minded individuals throughout the Greater Scranton Area are banding together to commemorate Interdependence Day 2007. Interdependence Day was launched on September 12, 2003. The date was deliberately chosen as a post-9/11 symbol of regeneration, as a time to reflect on the tragedy of terror – not only in the United States, but all over the world – and to ask ourselves "what next?" It is a day to recognize that we are all global, as well as local, citizens, and to act accordingly.

Businesses and civic organizations will be observing Interdependence Day throughout the month of September in their own unique ways. Several special events are planned as well.



On Friday, September 7, a very special Interdependence Day Art Installation will kick off at the Melberger Arts Center at Diversified Information Technologies on 123 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton. Students from throughout the Scranton area developed unique hexagons to represent how people are interdependent upon each other.

On Tuesday, September 11, the official Interdependence Day Scranton 2007 Reception will be held at the William Nealon Federal Courthouse in Scranton, featuring Jill Dougherty, Director of US News for CNN.

Interdependence Day was begun locally by Sondra Myers, Senior Fellow for International, Civic and Cultural Projects at the University of Scranton. Each year, a dedicated group of involved citizens plan the event. It is hosted by Scranton Tomorrow. LVHA is proud to sponsor this community event. **Info:** www.scrantontomorrow.org.



Anthracite Heritage Museum

September 2007 Events

Commemorative Program on the Avondale Disaster of 1869

Thursday, September 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton
Meet Scholar Richard G. Healey, Ph.D., of the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, and learn about his new paper and electronic books on coal history.
Reservation by Wednesday, September 5.
Call (570) 963-4804. **FREE.**

“Railroads, Cartels and Corporate Control: Aspects of Change in the Late 19th Century Anthracite Coal Industry”

Sunday, September 9 at 2 p.m.
Anthracite Heritage Museum
Illustrated lecture by Professor Richard G. Healey in commemoration of the Lattimer Massacre of 1897. Don't miss this exciting labor history program! Lecture is **FREE**, museum admission fee is charged.

“Lackawanna Stories”

September 15 & 16 at 2 p.m.
Scranton Iron Furnaces, Cedar Ave., Scranton

A living history presentation by Cheryl A. Kashuba and company on the early history of Scranton. Learn how these pioneers lived and survived. Ms. Kashuba is the author of the weekly history column in the *Scranton Times-Tribune*. Fee charged.

Regional Authors' Book Fair

Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Anthracite Heritage Museum
Local authors gather at the Museum to showcase their books. Discounts, gifts, refreshments and story-telling available. Something for the entire family!

Info for All Events: (570) 963-4804 or www.anthracitemuseum.org

Grant Opportunities

Conservation Trust Grants from the National Geographic Society

For conservation and research programs that promote the sustainable use and preservation of the earth's biological, cultural, and historical resources. Grants of up to \$20,000 each. **Info:** www.nationalgeographic.com/research/grant/rg2.html.

National Trust for Historic Preservation's "National Preservation Endowment"

Financial assistance to nonprofit organizations, public agencies, for-profit companies, and individuals involved in preservation-related projects. **Info:** www.nationaltrust.org/funding/npe05.pdf.

Google's In-Kind Advertising Services to Nonprofits

This program supports organizations that share the company's philosophy of community service in science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts. **Info:** www.google.com/grants/

Environmental Training and Technical Assistance Grants

Training and technical-assistance funds to strengthen nonprofit environmental organizations in areas including fund raising, organizational development, and planning. **Info:** www.enpsc.org.

Information courtesy of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.



Enjoy Summer at Our Local State Parks!

By Stephanie Roberts, LHVA Environmental Intern

Within Lackawanna, Pike, and Susquehanna counties there are six state parks waiting to be explored. Archbald Pothole State Park and Lackawanna State Park are both in Lackawanna County. Lackawanna State Park has five miles of hiking trails and three and a half miles of equestrian and cycling trails.

Pike County is home to Promised Land State Park, which is surrounded by nearly 12,500 acres of the Delaware State Forest and also hosts environmental education programs. Salt Springs State Park is located near Montrose in Susquehanna County, and is known for its 500-year-old hemlock trees.

Newly open to the public are Prompton State Park and Varden Conservation Area, both in Wayne County but managed by Lackawanna State Park and Promised Land State Park (respectively).

Make [online reservations](#) or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for all state park information and reservations.

Info: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/northeast.aspx>



Geocaching...geo-what??

By Stephanie Roberts, LHVA Environmental Intern



LHVA has placed three new geocaches along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

Geocaching (pronounced “geo-caching”) is an outdoor recreational activity that is growing rapidly in popularity throughout the country and the world. The idea of geocaching is similar to a treasure hunt except with a technological twist.

A ‘cacher’ uses a GPS (global positioning system) unit to find a specific location using

latitude and longitude coordinates (i.e. N 41° 29.255 W 075° 32.512). Once at the location, the cacher searches for a hidden container (i.e. ammo canister, Tupperware container, film canister) containing a log book to sign and, depending on the size of the container, a small prize of some sort. After searching out the cache, typically the user goes on the geocaching website, www.geocaching.com, and documents the visit, notes whether they found the cache or not, and lists any other comments.

There are over 150 geocache sites in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region. Now, there are three more to add to the list! LHVA has recently installed new caches along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. Geocaching is so popular in our area that one site was found by a cacher the first weekend it was posted on the website!

To find these caches (and others), go to www.geocaching.com. The website is user-friendly. Note the coordinates of a cache, its details, a map, and an encoded hint. Then use your GPS unit and start your search. Good luck!!

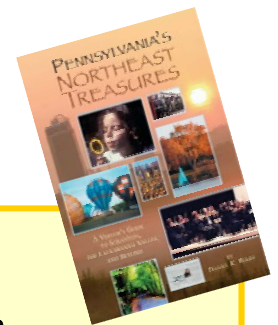
Place-Based Education

Over 2,500 Passports Distributed

The *Heritage Traveling Trunks* summer program at the Lackawanna County libraries was a huge success! The libraries gave away Passports with complementary admission to local cultural and heritage sites to 2,575 children. At this writing, 416 Passports have been presented at the sites.

Four artists presented interactive, family-friendly workshops at the libraries using dance, painting, storytelling, and music. The sessions were a great hit, and many families made a point to see all of the artists. The *Heritage Traveling Trunks* also were popular! The libraries tell us that the kids (and parents, too!) really enjoyed looking through the trunks.

Our thanks to everyone who made the program such a resounding success. What a great way to share our local history!



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

Use the guide to enjoy autumn day trips with family and friends. Available at local book stores and heritage sites. **\$19.95**