



*The Possibilities
are Endless*



The Heritage Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The image above depicts the present view from the recently restored Marie Antoinette Overlook along PA Route 6 in Wyalusing Township, Bradford County. This viewshed is one of the most treasured among the residents of and visitors to the Endless Mountains and includes the grandeur of the Susquehanna River and valley and the historic French Azilum site. A strong, cooperative partnership between Endless Mountains Heritage Region, French Azilum, Inc., Bradford County Commissioners and PennDOT resulted in the restoration of this Works Progress Administration project and its viewshed. We have participated in the Wyalusing History Trail conducted by the Greater Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce to add interpretation of the site and associated area history.

Immediately behind the history trail sign on the railing is a natural gas drilling pad where the apparatus was recently removed. Weeks before this picture was taken saw this site centered with a high drilling rig and huddled with the machines, trucks and equipment for operation. Other well sites have cropped up in other areas around this viewshed and there will certainly be more with the accompanying collection and transmission pipelines.

I was recently interviewed for an article to be published in *PennLines* magazine of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association addressing impacts and opportunities associated with Marcellus Shale and natural gas exploration and transmission. The magazine editor commented about this very viewshed in our discussion about the impacts upon scenic byways and landscapes in the region. Many people I speak with express concern about the landscapes of the Endless Mountains and our organization will be compelled to work collaboratively with others in the assessment and preservation efforts of some of our more important places.

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GOVERNOR CORBETT LAUNCHES TOURISM & HERITAGE EXPLORATION IN ENDLESS MOUNTAINS AND ON THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER NORTH BRANCH



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett visited the Endless Mountains to begin his tour of Pennsylvania's treasured outdoors on Wednesday, August 10th. With Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau (EMVB) serving as a host for the visit, Governor Corbett paddled the North Branch from Mehoopany to Tunkhannock in Wyoming County. Having lunch with regional leaders in heritage and tourism, the Governor remarked that the North Branch offered some of the most beautiful vistas and opportunities to view wildlife

in the state and the nation. He was especially impressed with the Vosburg Neck area and the Howland Preserve, with historical and natural attributes including canal features which remain intact today because of the 1886-construction of the Vosburg Tunnel. Wyoming County Commissioner Judy Mead and EMVB's Phil Swank (EMHR), Kim Barnes (NTRPDC), Jason Krise, Bob DeLuca and Claire Williams enjoyed a lunch with the Governor at Twigg's in Tunkhannock. We were able to talk with the Governor about the opportunities, challenges and impacts associated with the Marcellus Shale natural gas exploration and collection/transmission, while exploring ways we can work collaboratively with private and public sectors and enjoining the Commonwealth to support our efforts to preserve, enhance and promote our region's natural & man-made assets.



Phil Swank and Jason Krise enjoy conversation with Governor Corbett and guests at Twigg's

Those joining the Governor on this visit included Cindy Dunn, Deputy Secretary of DCNR, Rose Mapes of the Pennsylvania Tourism Office, and officials of the PA Fish & Boat Commission and DEP. EMHR provided copies of our Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail map & guide and brochures and descriptions of our organization and programs for the Governor and his associates.



Marion Sweet presents book to Governor

Later in the day, Nicholson Heritage Association played host to the Governor as he witnessed the grandeur and learned the history of the Nicholson Bridge (Tunkhannock Viaduct) from Association President and EMHR board member, Marion Sweet. Mr. Corbett seemed to be genuinely impressed by the immensity of the bridge and learned of its importance in the local and regional history. William Young's book on the Nicholson Bridge was gifted to the Governor by the Nicholson Heritage Association.

Throughout his remarks, Governor Corbett referred to the wonderful natural and heritage assets of the Endless Mountains and publicly recognized the importance of preserving these places and promoting their availability as an easy destination for visitors

to the Commonwealth. Mr. Corbett held up the state visitors guide which features a depiction of the Nicholson Bridge in the background and the EMVB visitors guide for media.

It was a wonderful opportunity to join with our friends with the Visitors Bureau in hosting the Governor's visit and it was a great way to demonstrate the resources and assets of the Endless Mountains Region and Susquehanna River North and the valuable integration of tourism, outdoor recreation and heritage. We appreciate the Governor selecting the Endless Mountains to initiate his journey along the Susquehanna and for bringing attention to the region's resources and challenges. We also very much appreciate Jean Gasper and staff of EMVB for inviting us to participate in the day's events.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUND COMMITTEE CREATED

The Bradford County Commissioners have created a new and innovative Environmental Education Grant Program and asked Phil Swank, EMHR Executive Director, to provide leadership in this initiative administered by the Bradford County Conservation District. Professionals representing state parks, rural electrification, cooperative extension, forest landowners association, rural development agency and private industry advise on program management and allocation of funds.

The Bradford County Commissioners spearheaded the education fund in 2010 using revenues derived from landfill tipping fees levied on Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling operations “drill cuttings” that are disposed of at the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority.

Our program supports local environmental education and stewardship efforts which incorporate strong partnerships, significant numbers of people served, innovation, history of success and sustainability. In our inaugural year of operation, we approved grants for education programs at Mt. Pisgah State Park, tree identification in parks, native species gardens and stream studies.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER NORTH BRANCH WATER TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

Through the commitment and efforts of our project partners, good progress is taking place in the implementation of our Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail Project—Phase II.



Water trail Coordinator David Buck worked with DCNR and Fish & Boat Commission on the design of wayfinding signage (depicted in photo) for installation at public access points on the river. Paddlers will readily identify river mile, access points as well as picnic and camping areas.

The photo at left is at the Laceyville river access area. The Borough of Laceyville in Wyoming County, PA is our first North Branch-designated River Town. Business leaders and local enthusiasts readily volunteer on work events at the access and picnic area. Volunteer Gary Stevens (a retired State Game Commission officer) supervised students of Wyalusing Valley High School in removing invasive plants, enhancing picnic area, constructing and installing benches, and planning out the new river access. Gary is also responsible for much of the work completed at State Game Lands 237 in Terry Township, Bradford County, where we re-established a river access area, removed invasive plants, constructed and installed benches, installed stormwater drainage, and developed a parking area. Related work for a new river access at Tunkhannock Borough is underway.

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DEVELOPMENT OF SENECA TRAIL UNDERWAY: NEW PARTNERSHIP FEATURES PROCTER & GAMBLE AND CHESAPEAKE ENERGY

A collaborative effort to restore an abandoned historic Pratt Truss bridge and incorporate it as an anchor facility on a bicycle/pedestrian trail in Wyoming County is underway thanks to the fundraising by local groups and major gifts provided by Procter & Gamble Company and Chesapeake Energy. With grantwriting and fund management provided by EMHR, Eaton Township Supervisors are well on their way to implement bridge restoration and trail development. Funding from DCNR and PennDOT is in place to fund the engineering studies and bridge reconstruction leading up to trail development and marketing.

The planned six-mile trail will re-connect residents in the Village of Eatonville and incorporate magnificent rural scenery along Bowman’s Creek and Miller Mountain near Tunkhannock and the Susquehanna River North Branch. EMHR plans to administer all donations and grant funds and pursue additional resources through the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program to develop trail signage, mapping and marketing products.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER NORTH BRANCH WATER TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

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The staff and volunteers of North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) have completed the river access area restoration at the historic Howland Preserve and the design and fabrication of site signage. One of EMHR's most valued partners, NBLT is incorporating the river access with riparian buffer improvements, walking trails, and parking area development with the overall management plan associated with this magnificent site on the oxbow at Vosburg Neck in Wyoming County.

EMHR is conducting this water trail development and river town signage project with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN) of the National Park Service, regional room tax grants and Procter & Gamble Corporation. EMHR is an official Gateway Agency of the Network and the designated water trail manager of the Susquehanna River North Branch. Details about the water trail and greenway development is available on our website—www.EndlessMountainsHeritage.org and CBGN website—www.BayGateways.net.



ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HOSTS SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 ANNUAL MEETING



Endless Mountains Heritage Region recently hosted the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. Directors and staff of the Partnership and representatives from Pennsylvania Departments of Community and Economic Development and Natural Resources visited our region on July 26th.

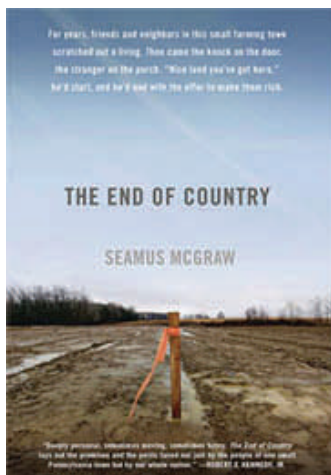
The Board of Directors conducted their annual meeting at Old Red House on the estate of the Welles family—Grovedale, near Wyalusing. After the meeting and

touring the grounds of the estate and the Wyalusing Valley Museum, members enjoyed a catered lunch and informational presentations at the Wyalusing Community building. After lunch, David Buck provided a driving tour of the Wyalusing area to highlight places such as the Wyalusing Rocks and the Marie Antoinette Overlook (pictured here). Visitors were provided tours of the Grovedale Winery and a guided paddle with David Buck of our organization and Endless Mountain Outfitters in Sugar Run.

The day marked the retirement of Richard Fitzsimmons, Jesse Ergott and John Cosgrove as North Branch representatives on the board of directors for the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. The departure of these fine individuals and capable leaders leaves a large gap in the governance of the Partnership. EMHR members having an interest in the Susquehanna River and Greenway are encouraged to consider volunteering for a role in the functions of the Partnership. Those with such an interest are encouraged to contact Phil Swank or David Buck to explore possibilities for involvement.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS OCTOBER 19TH

Seamus McGraw, author of the new book, **The End of Country**, will be our guest speaker at the 2011 annual membership meeting & dinner of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. Our meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 2011, starting at 4:30 p.m., at the Montrose Bible Conference.



The End of Country “is the compelling story about the battle for control that ensued after the discovery of the Marcellus gas deposits, a conflict pitting the forces of corporate America against a band of locals determined to extract their fair share of the windfall-but not at the cost of their values or their way of life. Many couldn't resist the offer to lease their land in exchange for the promise of untold riches”. McGraw says he is not about taking a position but, instead creating a needed dialogue for a plan for gas exploration and energy in America going forward.

McGraw is an award-winning full-time author who grew up in Wyoming County. “He grew up pitching hay and spreading manure on the same fields the gas companies are now prospecting. He still lives in the woods of northeastern Pennsylvania with his wife and four children”.

We will be providing updates for our members and supporters on key legislative and program developments, sharing news about rail-trail projects, recognizing the new Montrose Historic District, and recognizing leadership of board of directors. Plan to join us October 19th!

CIVIL WAR 150 ROAD SHOW

EMHR is teaming up with Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau to help promote and coordinate the regional hosting of the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 Road Show. In April 2011, the Commonwealth officially kicked-off its sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War. The four-year anniversary period will be observed through a series of special events, programs, exhibits, publications in a way to more personalize the American struggle for justice and equality. The Civil War Road Show takes the story of Pennsylvania's role in the great conflict to all 67 counties in the Commonwealth, onboard a 53-foot-long trailer that opens to 24 feet wide. The Road Show presents an emotionally-powerful and interactive mobile exhibit experience that gives focus on the ways the War transformed the lives of Pennsylvanians and their communities.

We will be developing county committees to submit applications for hosting, develop plans for dates and places, and host the Road Show and conduct supplemental activities in support of the commemoration. Volunteers who would like to help out in any way are encouraged to contact Phil Swank at (570) 265-1528 or Jean Gasper at (570) 836-5431. Details about the Civil War 150 are available at www.pacivilwar150.com.

HOME TEXTILE TOOL MUSEUM DEDICATES NEW BUILDING, EXHIBITS

EMHR director Phil Swank joined with former director Bob Veleker and volunteers associated with the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell on Saturday, July 30th for a celebration of the contributions of Frank Rowe and dedication of the agricultural implements exhibit housed in the refurbished barn on the grounds of the museum. The Home Textile Tool Museum is a non-profit, educational institution, dedicated to the understanding of textile production as it was in the American home in earlier times. Textile fabrication, an important part of American farm life today, as it was in the mid 1800's, is interpreted through demonstrations, displays and visitor participation. All aspects of home textile production are shown and/or demonstrated, including flax and wool spinning, plain and overshot weaving, flax growing and preparation, keeping sheep, and natural dyeing. Information about the museum, demonstrations and educational opportunities can be found at www.HomeTextileToolMuseum.org.



**2 0 1 1 M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N /
R E N E W A L F O R M**

Please place a check mark next to the membership category you choose.
Funds will be used for programs and activities of the EMHR, Inc.

Yearly Memberships:

Individual \$35 _____

Family \$50 _____

Special Donations by Individuals/Businesses:

Copper Beech \$ 1,000 _____

Silver Maple \$ 5,000 _____

Golden Oak \$10,000 _____

Business/ Non-Profit Organizations

1-10 employees \$100 _____

11-50 employees \$150 _____

51-250 employees \$250 _____

250 + employees \$500 _____

Endowment and additional gifts are accepted and greatly appreciated!

Please make checks payable to Endless Mountains Heritage Region and mail to our office at
1 Washington Street, Suite B, Towanda, PA 18848

B E N E F I T S O F M E M B E R S H I P

1. Members receive our quarterly newsletter.
2. Members have the right to vote at our Annual Dinner Meeting in October.
3. Members receive mailings for special events/workshops.

Name: _____

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E-Mail: _____