National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Steamtown National Historic Site
150 South Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503-2018

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Education News

Suzanne Rozdilski, Park Ranger

Pictured above are members of the "Project III" Educator's Team with STEA Education Development Team member Suzanne Rozdilski. (l to r), Ellen Keefer, Melba Fialko, and Nicole VanLuvender.

The Interpretation and Education Renaissance Action Plan challenges parks to: "design interpretive and education programs to serve all...embrace interpretation and education partners… and create a culture of evaluation". Three Steamtown NHS projects fit well into the new plan.

PROJECT I
In the previous nine months, local educators from public and private schools developed, pilot-tested and evaluated two new curriculum-based education programs: "Great-Grandpa's Railroad" (Grades K-1) and "Making the Railroad Run" (Grades 2-3). They used Steamtown NHS CIP Interpretive Goals and Pennsylvania State Education Curriculum Standards to create programs which immerse students in the resource. These programs can not be replicated in schools; they are designed to use the experiences at Steamtown to complement classroom studies. The educators who worked on this project included Sharon Davis (The Geneva School, Olyphant); Mary Lou Kelly and Jill Koczwara (Howard Gardner School of Discovery, Scranton) and Pat McMyne (Lakeland Elementary); and Kelly Marichak and Carolyn Powell (Moscow Elementary Center). The programs are on target to be introduced in Spring 2008.

PROJECT II
Three other educators, Melba Fialko (Clarks Summit Elementary), Ellen Keefer, (Wallenpaupack North Intermediate), and Nicole Van Luvender, (Old Forge Elementary), created an additional required module for the fourth grade "Railroads in the Local Community" program.

Support for these projects comes from the NPS Northeast Center for Education Services and the Tsongas Industrial History Center, both of Lowell, MA, and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.

PROJECT III
Steamtown NHS Education Development Team members, Suzanne Rozdilski and Bill Nalevanko, recently completed a year-long Northeast Region Evaluation Tool Project. Fifteen NPS sites participated in the project, which consisted of collecting and recording data, interpreting and evaluating the findings, and report writing. Data came from teacher and student written evaluations of the fourth grade education programs conducted in Fall, 2006.

The Interpretation and Education Renaissance Action Plan states: "We have very little scientifically valid information about the direct outcomes and impact of interpretation and education programs. Evaluation must become an integral part of program design and delivery to ensure ongoing program improvement, effectiveness, and efficiency".

The Steamtown Timetable is a semi-annual publication of Steamtown National Historic Site.

Comments? Write to:
Superintendent
Steamtown National Historic Site
150 South Washington Avenue
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www.nps.gov/stea

Park News

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The Steamtown Timetable

STEAMTOWN NHS GOES "TO THE DOGS!"

Pictured, left to right: Diane Baucher-Appel, group coordinator, and Steamtown NHS Park Ranger Bill Clark, who guided a facilities tour and train ride with the pups-in-training and their families. Ms. Baucher-Appel is also the wife of Park Ranger (Law Enforcement) Ed Appel at Delaware Water Gap NRA. NPS Photo, Bill Nalevanko

Unusual headline - or is it? On June 24, 2007, puppies were seen boarding the *"Scranton Limited"* train ride at Steamtown NHS! They were part of a project of the Seeing Eye Inc. of Morristown, NJ and the Penn State Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program. Puppies and their "humans" visiting from Northeastern Pennsylvania's 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Project included members of "Paw Partners (Pike County), "Pocono Guiding Pets" (Monroe County) and "Pawsabilities" (Luzerne County).

The mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye dogs. It encompasses puppies bred for a special destiny, loving volunteers who nurture the pups for about a year, dedicated instructors who prepare the dogs for their life's work, and blind people who seek increased mobility, dignity, self-sufficiency and self-confidence with Seeing Eye dogs as their companions and guides. The three regional puppy clubs, "Paw Partners" (Pike County), "Pocono Guiding Pups" (Monroe County) and "Pawsabilities" (Luzerne County), brought their canine charges to the Park, affording them the opportunity to acclimate to very loud sounds, such as those heard among a historic steam locomotive and railroad rolling stock. Ms. Diane Baucher-Appel hosted a public demonstration and educational program at Steamtown NHS, which was designed to educate the public about guide dogs and expose man's best friends to experiences they'll encounter as See Eye dogs.

Historic Tunkhannock Viaduct Excursion

Steamtown National Historic Site, in partnership with the Canadian Pacific Railway, conducted a sell-out excursion to the Tunkhannock Viaduct on September 9, 2007. The Park's last, regularly-scheduled excursion crossed the historic structure ran in 1992. The 40-mile roundtrip excursion followed the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad mainline from Bridge 60, and stopped atop the 240-foot high Tunkhannock Viaduct. Passengers were able to experience the spectacular view of the village of Nicholson, celebrating "Nicholson Bridge Day", and the lush surrounding countryside. Taking advantage of the superb weather, local ABC-affiliate WNEP-TV, used its news helicopter to film breathtaking scenes of the train. The excursion proved to be very popular, as guests soon began asking about plans for future trips on this section of the former DL&W mainline. And then, the sound of our Canadian National #3254 steam locomotive whistle echoed through the Endless Mountains to signal our return move to Scranton.

Canadian National #3254 locomotive trails smoke, steam and soot, as it exits the Canadian Pacific Railway's Factoryville Tunnel.

Park News

Upcoming Excursions Announced!

Perhaps the busiest season in Northeastern Pennsylvania is the fall foliage season. As nature prepares to display her most colorful outfit for the year, Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA is planning to transport visitors through some of the most beautiful fall scenery in the nearby Pocono Mountains. Nine steam-powered train trips will leave the downtown railroad yard headed for two destinations.

- ***Moscow** departures, all at 1 p.m.: October 6, 8, 13, 20, 21, 27 and November 4*
- ***Tobyhanna** departures, all at 11 a.m.: October 7, 14 and 28.*
- ***Delaware Water Gap**, departing at 7 a.m., November 3*

The *"Scranton Limited"* short train rides inside the park boundaries will continue to operate Wednesdays through Sundays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 and 2:15 p.m. through December 29, including Columbus Day, October 8. These 30-minute train rides depart from the Roundhouse boarding area and there is an additional charge of $3.00 per guest, ages 6 and older.

This year's "Holiday Express" trains to Moscow will operate on Thanksgiving weekend, November 23 and 24, as well as December 1 and 8. Tickets for these popular trains, departing from our Excursion Boarding Platform at 11 a.m., go on sale on Monday, October 1. (NOTE: The *"Scranton Limited"* short train rides will not operate on "Holiday Express" excursion dates.)

Also, remember to come out and support the Canadian Pacific's 2007 Holiday Train visit on December 1, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.! Steamtown NHS and Canadian Pacific Railway are partners in bringing awareness to the need for stocking community food banks year round. Non-perishable food items, as well as cash donations, are collected to replenish local food banks at each stop along the route.

RAILCAMP 2007 GRADUATES

Graduates of the 2007 Railcamp are pictured above. This year marks the 10th Anniversary of our partnership with the National Railway Historic al Society and the Canadian Pacific Railway to provide this educational and entertaining program to railfan teens!

AMTRAK VISITORS

Amtrak paid a special visit during Railcamp 2007. In the photo, Joe McHugh (in orange), Amtrak VP of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, and his crew, meet with Steamtown's Superintendent Kip Hagen and Public Relations/Visitor Services Chief, Mark Brennan.

Spring Park Clean-up

Roger Cleven, Supervisory Park Ranger (LE)

Steamtown NHS Administrative Officer Pat Farrell and Purchasing Agent Brenda Belotti are in "Spring Clean-Up" mode along our right-of-way near the historic Radisson at Lackawanna Station.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the "first annual" Steamtown clean-up on May 27. More than a dozen bags of trash were collected throughout the park, as well as a bucket loader full of heavy items.

It was a great afternoon to be out in the sunshine, chat with your fellow employees, and spruce up the railroad yard. Hopefully we can build on this effort next year, and maybe the weather will cooperate so we can combine a barbecue lunch with the afternoon clean-up. A special "thank you" goes to Maintenance Administrator Ron Stiltenpole for your impromptu hot dog roast!

Thanks also to Superintendent Hagen and the Division Chiefs for supporting this effort. Our work will surely be noticed by this year's visitors!

Steamtown National Historic Site was established in 1986 to interpret the role that steam railroading played in the development of the United States.

Steamtown National Historic Site
150 South Washington Avenue
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www.nps.gov/stea

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New Faces at Steamtown!

New faces at Steamtown's Ticket & Information Center include, left to right, Lindsay McGowan, Bob Kubrick, Sarah Smith and Madi Bobb.

Four new friendly faces are working the fee collection station this season. Meet Lindsay McGowan, Bob Kubrick, Sarah Smith and Madi Bobb. All are college students with a variety of experiences and with a variety of plans for the future.

Lindsay McGowan, Scranton, is pursuing a nursing degree at Marywood University, and is planning to specialize in pediatrics upon graduation.

Bob Kubrick, Clarks Summit, is working toward a Bachelor of Administration, Criminal Justice Degree at Keystone College. Bob plans to pursue a career within the National Park Service.

Sarah Smith, Gouldsboro, has volunteered at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. In fall 2004, she worked at the Steamtown Museum Store for Eastern National, Inc., and has also worked as a Fee Collector at Acadia National Park. Sarah has received a business degree, but her interest in environmental resource management has led her to additional course work in this field. Her future plans include working in environmental studies.

Madi Bobb, Scranton, is a native of Banjul, Gambia. He is also a theology educator for the Diocese of Scranton at Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, and is pursuing his Master's Degree of Theology at the University of Scranton.

Lindsay, Bob, Sarah and Madi join two veteran fee collectors:

Melissa Leonard, a resident of Archbald, earned an Associates Degree in Science Education, and a BA degree in English. Melissa is pursuing her LPN accreditation at CTC Lackawanna County and plans to work in a regional hospital upon graduation.

Kimberly Jones resides in Old Forge. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She recently accepted a position as a Therapeutic Support Staff member in local schools, and we wish her the best!

EMPLOYEE'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Steamtown Employee's Association (SEA) was reactivated in October 2006, with a renewed effort to "foster employee morale and recognition" by, and for, all Steamtown NHS staff members.

The SEA hosted an "End-of-Season" barbecue at the MOW Lunch Room on September 6, along with a raffle. Seth Corwin won the pair of tickets aboard the Tunkhannock Viaduct trip, and Norm Stinger won the pair of tickets to an upcoming Delaware Water Gap trip.

The group is planning to host a "Bake Sale" on October 10th, a "Movie Night" on November 16th and a "Holiday Luncheon" on December 12th. Watch your area bulletin boards for up-to-date postings!

"Founder's Day" Excursion

The Park operated a special excursion to Cresco and East Stroudsburg on Saturday, May 19 to celebrate Armed Forces Day.

The sold-out excursion departed the Steamtown boarding platform at 9:00 a.m., and stopped for a brief layover at Cresco. At Cresco, the Barrett Township Historical Society rededicated its station restoration project with a brief ceremony. The Society is continuing to restore the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad's Cresco Station which, when built in the 1880s, had the distinction of having the longest passenger platform along the railroad. The train continued to a noon arrival at East Stroudsburg, where it was the keynote attraction of the 2007 Armed Forces Day Railroad Spectacular, sponsored by the East Stroudsburg Railroad Tower Society. A festival near the station featured model train layouts, arts and crafts, preserved military vehicles, railroad memorabilia and numerous other activities. Members of the society also offered tours of the former tower to display the preservation work it has accomplished.

After a two-hour layover in town, the train departed for Cresco and Scranton, arriving back in Scranton at 5:30 p.m.

Steamtown National Historic Site was established October 3oth, 1986 to further public understanding and appreciation of the role steam railroading played in the development of the United States. It is the only place in the National Park System where the story of Steam Railroading, and the people who made it possible, is told. Here, locomotives and other rolling stock, artifacts, and historic buildings and structures, as well as the skills of that era, are all preserved and protected for the enjoyment and education of our visitors.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.