



The Pennsylvania Route 6 Alliance  
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## “DO 6” AWARDS WINNERS 2015

The PA Route 6 Alliance presented the following individuals and organizations with a “Do 6” award at their annual meeting on Thursday, May 14 in Carbondale. Over 50 attendees celebrated the award winners, who exemplify the mission of the PA Route 6 Alliance to protect and preserve the scenic, cultural, historical and recreational resources in the northern tier.

**HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP AWARD** – Presented to a group, person or organization that has demonstrated excellence in historic preservation, cultural preservation, interpretation, and/or education through cross-corridor thinking and interagency cooperation.

**PRESENTED TO: LET’S MOVE OUTSIDE!, Erie**

The Let’s Move Outside! Erie County Recreational Passport uses art, history and outdoor recreation to encourage people of all ages to be active and lead healthy lives. The initiative, launched in 2012, is a collaborative program of Erie Yesterday, Erie County Department of Health and VisitErie and has received support from many county organizations including key partners from the 15 trail communities in the county. Through the LMO! Program, Erie County residents and tourists alike are encouraged to walk, run or bike all 15 trails, learn some history about the trail communities and find public artworks. In 2014, Bike Erie and the Erie Art Museum expanded their Bike Rack Program to the LMO! effort. The Erie Art Museum helped lead an effort to create 40 artistic bike racks, which were installed in downtown Erie, by partnering and collaborating with community organizations. These racks not only uniquely reflect Erie’s history, but they are designed by local artists and are made right here in Erie, PA. The team unveiled two new rack designs that will be used in two LMO! trail communities North East and Corry.



**HERITAGE LEADERSHIP AWARD** – Presented to a person, business or organization for meaningful contributions and/or through partnerships, by enriching our communities through landscape initiatives or historic preservation.

**PRESENTED TO: RICHARD “DICK” SNYDER, Posthumously, Milford** Milford, Pike County and Route 6 were blessed when Richard “Dick” Snyder retired to Milford in 1985 and purchased Foster Hill Farm where he raised and bred Llamas and Alpacas, eventually serving as President of the Pennsylvania Llama and Alpaca Association. Dick was active in a number of conservation, cultural, historic preservation and civic organizations including serving on the boards of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, Pike County Conservation District, Historic Preservation Trust of Pike County, and American Readers Theatre. In 1997, Dick founded, and has since chaired the Milford Enhancement Committee, which has raised and invested more than \$6 million in improving Milford’s streetscapes and public spaces to make them safer, more attractive and more pedestrian friendly. Dick encouraged the committee to become a PA Route 6 Heritage Community.



*(Richard "Dick" Snyder)*

Dick met Sean Strub through this committee and formed a partnership to acquire and improve strategic properties in Milford and to publish Milford Magazine dedicated to highlighting the region. In 2001, they acquired the Hotel Fauchere, which had been closed for 25 years after having been operated for 124 years by the Fauchere family. After five years of historic restoration, the building reopened and was named by Conde Naste as one of the top five new hotels in the U.S. In recent years Dick was active in helping to launch the Greater Pike County Foundation. Upon his death, the Richard



Snyder Donor Advised Fund was established at the Foundation. As structured, that multi-million dollar fund will make, in perpetuity, grants available to not-for-profit organizations, including a 25% allocation to maintain and enhance the public areas of the Borough of Milford. Dick’s contributions to Milford’s slice of Route 6, in life and in death, are truly remarkable.

*Milford Enhancement Committee and Greater Pike Community Foundation on behalf of Richard “Dick” Snyder: Left to right: Davis R. Chant, Chant Realtors; Rosann Kalish, Secretary, Greater Pike Community Foundation; Kirk Mackey, Vice Chair, Greater Pike Community Foundation; Jim Pedranti, Chair, Greater Pike Community Foundation; Terri Dennison, Executive Director, PA Route 6 Alliance; Duke Schneider, Esq., Greater Pike Community Foundation. (Not pictured, Maryanne Monte, Chair, Milford Enhancement Committee)*

**HERITAGE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR** – Presented to the designated Heritage Community, who is embracing their Heritage Tourism Workplans and implementing worthwhile projects, and showing impacts and results.

**PRESENTED TO: THE BOROUGH OF CONNEAUT LAKE:**

Conneaut Lake is a shining example of how to move a major revitalization project forward. Two of the recommendations of their Heritage Tourism Work plan, developed as part of the Heritage Communities process, were downtown revitalization and lake-oriented enhancements.



*Left to right: Terri Dennison, Executive Director, PA Route 6 Alliance; Bill Eldridge, Chair, Conneaut Lake Community Development Committee (CLCDC) and Conneaut Lake Borough Council Member; Carole Waldschmidt, CLCDC; Sandy Eldridge, CLCDC; Chad Waldschmidt, Co-Chair, CLCDC.*

The Conneaut Lake Community Development Committee recognized their picturesque setting on Pennsylvania’s largest natural lake could be attractive to visitors and residents; but they needed to create a more welcoming streetscape and provide better amenities at their lake access points. By working with the Conneaut Lake Borough Council, the CLCDC actively solicited local support and were able to hire an engineer to design a multi-phase plan including streetscapes and improvement to Ice House Beach and Firemen’s Beach. Since then, they have leveraged private funds with public funds and are close to realizing their funding goals. Their work is gaining attention of private investors willing to become part of the exciting revitalization of this resort town. Recently a developer completed a half-million dollar renovation to a historical church and donated it to the Borough for offices and meeting space. Other major developers are looking at investment in the community. CLCDC and the Conneaut Lake Borough should be congratulated for having a vision, developing a plan, raising the funds and making their town a better place to live and visit.

**HERITAGE TOURISM AWARD** – Presented to the organizers of a project that furthers economic and tourism development while respecting the heritage and cultural resources of the Route 6 Corridor.

**PRESENTED TO: ENDLESS MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL,  
Wellsboro:**

The Endless Mountain Music Festival exemplifies a Heritage Tourism organization by partnering and promoting different genres of music along the Route 6 Corridor. The festival boasts a symphony orchestra and presents 16 concerts in 16 days under the artistic baton of Stephen Gunzenhauser. The Festival promotes regional thinking and cooperation while promoting the arts. The Festival is a collaborative effort of the Tioga County Visitors Bureau, several State Parks, the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Mansfield University and regional chambers of Commerce. The Festival partners with hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts to promote package deals. In 2014 5,600 individuals attended ticketed and non-ticketed events held in 8 different communities. The Arts and

Economic Prosperity Calculator III estimates that approximately \$340,000 in total dollars was spent by our organization and audiences throughout the year. Local and state tax dollar revenues are estimated at \$30,000. 2015 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Endless Mountain Music Festival.



*Left to right-Terri Dennison, Executive Director, PA Route 6 Alliance; Cynthia Long, Executive Director, Endless Mountains Music Festival; Lori Copp, Executive Director, Tioga County Visitors Bureau.*

**ARTISAN OF THE YEAR** – Presented to an artist or artisan group that exemplifies the goals of the PA Route 6 Artisan Trail program showing regional thinking and cooperation while promoting the arts along the corridor.

**PRESENTED TO: DANIEL NIEBAUER, RALPH MILLER JEWELERS AND GALLERY, Erie:**

Master Jeweler, Dan Niebauer with wife, Jan, and artisans in their employ at Ralph Miller Jewelers and Gallery, design and create beautiful works of art in jewels and metals. RJM also restores or recreates historic statues for courthouses and other structures that are being rehabilitated. Throughout the Gallery, there are works of local artists beautifully displayed. The dedication to excellence and the vitality Dan brings to the community is admirable.



*Left to right-Terri Dennison, Executive Director, PA Route 6 Alliance; Dan Niebauer, Master Jeweler and Owner of Ralph Miller Jewelers with wife Jan Niebauer, also Master Jeweler and Owner of Ralph Miller Jewelers.*

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** – Presented to a person or agency who exemplifies outstanding leadership and advances our mission through heritage development.

**PRESENTED TO: KEVIN ABRAMS, NORTHERN TIER REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, Towanda. Founding Director and Pas President of the PA Route 6 Heritage Corporation and PA Route 6 Alliance**

Since the first regional meeting to discuss what is the future of PA Route 6, Kevin Abrams has been a champion of the scenic and historic highway. Serving as head of the Steering Committee and first President of the PA Route 6 Alliance, Kevin helped lead the stakeholders through the Heritage Area process, the development of plans and strategies, creation of the PA Route 6 Artisan Trail and the PA Route 6 Heritage Communities Program. After 15 years of service, Kevin currently is the Vice President and continues to promote the importance of PA Route 6 to the economy of the northern tier.



*Left to right- Terri Dennison, Executive Director, PA Route 6 Alliance; David Brooks, President, PA Route 6 Alliance and Director, Potter County Visitors Association; Kevin Abrams, Executive Director, Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission.*