



# River Currents

Newsletter of the Lackawanna River Corridor Association

Winter 2009

Volume 16 Number 1

## When polar bears gather. . . . . . Spring is near!



Each year in late winter polar bears gather in anticipation of the break up of the pack ice along the Arctic Ocean.

Up yonder in Eskimo country, this gathering of these great arctic bruins is a harbinger of spring. This year, the LRCA is hosting our very own Polar Bear Round-Up. We're inviting everyone whose been cooped up with cabin fever to join us for a night out as the pack ice along the Lackawanna gives way to the torrents of spring.

Join us at Jilly's on Court Street in Scranton Saturday February 28th for an evening of festivities to drive the cold winter away. This will be our inaugural Polar Bear Round-Up. While we won't be doing a plunge into the river, we'll still be making a big splash along its banks! And who's to say there might not be a surprise plunge of some sort of another. You can never tell what may happen at a Polar Bear Round-Up. Especially at this one... we'll have entertainment by the Wannabees.

There'll be polar bears all over Jilly's outside on the patio and inside too. We'll have a great selection of food and an open bar from 7 to 10 pm. There'll be celebrity bartenders; a bonfire out back and there may be some brave souls ready to take a plunge! There will be lots of fun, prizes and surprises all during the evening.

Tickets for the Polar Bear Round-Up are \$20 per person. So get out there on the tundra and start rounding up your polar bear friends and then call the LRCA for your reservations at 347-6311. You can also e-mail us at [lrca@lrca.org](mailto:lrca@lrca.org) or stop by the Silkman House at 2006 North Main Avenue for more details.



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### It's your river. Preserve it and enjoy it with these special events:

- LRCA Happy Hours at the historic Silkman House.  
Enjoy happy hour festivities for \$15 per person.  
Jazz music and perhaps a guest speaker on hiking on the river.  
Winter White Out - Friday, January 30 - 6 to 9PM  
- and -  
Spring Has Sprung! - Friday, March 27 - 6 to 9PM
- LRCA Polar Bear Round-up - \$20 per person  
Saturday, February 28 - 7 to 10PM  
Food, beverages, live music, and heated tent!  
Jilly's Bar & Restaurant on Court Street
- LRCA RiverFest 2009  
Saturday, May 9. LRCA's signature event!! Get your canoe or kayak ready, purchase your "lucky" duck tickets and enjoy a fun filled day along the River!
- Upcoming events in planning.  
Enjoy the benefits of membership in the LRCA with:  
LRCA sponsored nature walks;  
Guided river walks/Wildflower walks;  
Moosic Mountain hike with experienced birding guide;  
Canoe/kayak demonstrations; and  
How to enjoy fly fishing on the river.

## Executive Director's Notes

Yes, it's cold outside this January! If it stays cold enough, perhaps the river will freeze over in a few spots.

Up in the headwaters, the ponds and lakes will be primo for some ice fishing. We will be heating things up with some winter events here at the Silkman House and over at Jilly's on Court Street. Hope you can join us, Take the Plunge! As cold as it may get over the next few months, it's comforting to know that spring will eventually arrive.

This winter is a time of transition for the LRCA. I'm pleased to welcome Mike Morin as incoming president of the LRCA Board. Mike has recently retired from the Pa Department of Community and Economic Development. We are looking forward to his active involvement in many of our community partnerships for environmental restoration and economic development along the Lackawanna.

We also look hopefully to our new President Barack Obama. His intention to focus the economic recovery stimulus on our nations infrastructure is a welcome policy move for all of us concerned with the environment. There is a long list of ready to build projects with our local sanitary authorities, new downtown riverfront development, and watershed wide conservation needs that deserve the attention of our Congress and General Assembly.

As we begin 2009, the LRCA again looks to the residents and local businesses of our watershed communities for your support and involvement. We'll be campaigning for your sponsorship of RiverFest on May 9<sup>th</sup> and for your membership in the LRCA, the premier watershed organization of northeastern Pennsylvania. We have an exciting year ahead. Please give us a call and get involved in our work, building a sustainable future for the Lackawanna Valley.

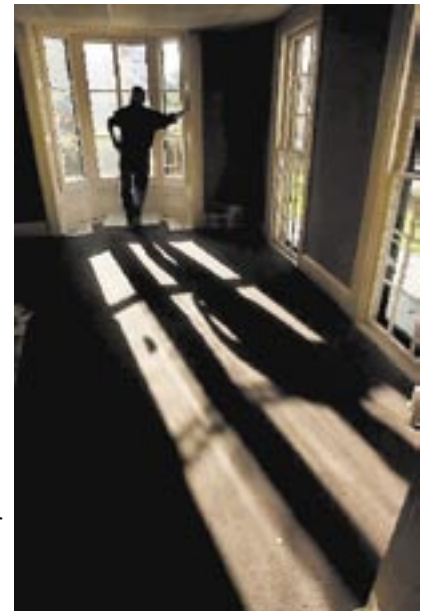


Own a piece of history ...

**The Silkman House, now LRCA's headquarters, was built in 1840 and is the second oldest building in Scranton.**

We invite you to preserve a portion of the historic Silkman House. You now have a unique opportunity to join with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) and the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy (LVC) to preserve and restore an irreplaceable part of our community's heritage. Your pledge will grant you naming rights to one of the many rooms or features of the building and grounds. In addition a plaque recognizing your contribution will be placed in the room or feature of your selection.

Stop by to view the rooms, architectural features, and landscape elements that are available for your selection. A printed brochure is available with the history of the Silkman House and descriptions of the rooms and grounds that need your help to be restored in reference to its place in history.



### LRCA Board of Directors

Michael Morin, President; Anita Lohin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Angela Lambert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Maggie O'Brien, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; Michael Hanley, Treasurer; Michelene Kennedy, Assistant Treasurer; Ruthann Martin, Secretary; Kevin Leibold, Assistant Secretary; Bernard McGurl, Executive Director

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Advisory Board: William Burke, Kathleen Cullinane, Dr. Josephine Dunn, Robert M. McLaine, Rabbi Daniel Swartz



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LRCA's mission is to involve citizens of our watershed with conservation and stewardship of the River, its tributaries and water resources. Five goals define our mission: clean up the River environment; aid in the development of the 40-mile Lackawanna River Heritage Trail; advocate for the conservation of open space and natural habitat throughout the watershed; create partnerships among government, businesses and community groups promoting conservation and recreation; develop partnerships with schools, universities, and the general public to promote environmental and conservation education to better understand our relationship with the local environment.

## Thanks to all Our New and Renewing Members!

Henry & Eunice Alexander  
Kenneth R. Anderson  
Betty & Vince Andreoli  
Harriet Andrews  
Matthew Armstrong &  
Cynthia Zukjowski  
Barbara & Leon Barnes  
Eugene Barrett  
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Dale Collins & Family  
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Janet Crowther  
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Dayle I. Dobroski  
Phileshia Dombroski  
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Trudy Gerlach  
David Gibson  
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Irving & Edythe Grossman  
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James & Cecelia Haggerty  
Andrew & Mary Hailstone  
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Dawn & Jerry Karam  
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Chester & Deilsie Kulesa  
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Zim Lawhon  
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J. Llewellyn Miller  
Ted & Justine Lengyel  
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Marigrace Loftus  
Lorraine Lupini  
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Fred & Charlotte Lyon  
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Diane & George Marinchak  
Ralph J. Marino  
William Martellaro  
Ned & Karen Martin  
Leslie & Gretchen Martin  
Robert A. Mazzoni  
Bill & Sarai McAndrew  
Eveline McCloskey  
Nancy McDonald  
Kevin McDonough  
Craig & Cynthia McKeown  
Joyce Megargle  
Elizabeth Milder-Beh  
George Mozurkewich

Patrica Nape  
Frank Naughton  
Jack Neary  
Dolly O'Boyle  
Kathleen Kelly O'Hara  
Barbara O'Malley  
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Dennis Panusky  
Stacy Pehanich  
Nick & Susan Petula  
John Piepoli  
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Thomas Preno  
Helen Pronko  
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Emily Rancier  
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Mary Sweeney & Evan Romer  
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Joe Tierney & Renee Czubowicz  
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David Wagner & Patricia Sperling  
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Edward J. Walsh  
Ann Marie Wescott  
John J. White, III  
Megan Wolfe  
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