

Volunteers to clean up areas today from former canal locks near White Haven

By **JIM DINO**

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Volunteers from the Delaware and Lehigh National Corridor will clean up two historic areas near the Lehigh River today.

The volunteers will clean brush and other debris from two locks of the former Lehigh Canal in the White Haven area.

Bob Skulsky, executive director of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, said volunteers will begin restoration of Lock 24, and will also spruce up Lock 22, which had been restored earlier.

The volunteers will meet at the Lehigh Tannery Parking lot, on the west side of bridge, at 10 a.m. They will work until about 2 p.m.

"Everyone can participate in this event sponsored by

the Delaware Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor Trail Tenders," Skulsky said.

The volunteers will do light brush clearing, building access trails and steps if needed. Only hand tools, provided by the D&L, will be used.

"The area near Lock 22 is overgrown," Skulsky said. "We will be trimming all of the small material. Later, the (state) Parks Service will be cutting trees down, and the next time we go out, June 11, we will remove those trees.

"At Lock 24, we are just beginning," Skulsky continued. "We will cut steps in the embankments that are too steep to walk. We will also be building trails to get to the locks. Eventually, the lock will get an interpretive sign, like the one Lock 22 already has."

Lunch is being provided by Whitewater Challengers

and the D&L.

"Come and learn about the Locks developed in 1838 and their history," Skulsky said.

"The locks are amazing," he said. "They were built from rock, with wood in between to support the rock. It was an engineering feat when they did it."

Skulsky explained how the locks worked.

"Barges went down the canal by gravity," he said. "Where there was not enough gravity, the barge would be trapped in the lock and they would fill the lock with water until it was elevated enough to get the barge going by gravity to the next lock."

Skulsky said the group will again work on the locks June 11. If anyone wants to participate in that event, call Skulsky at 436-3853.