

2017 Annual "DO 6" Awards

These individuals, organizations, businesses and corporations exemplify the mission of the PA Route 6 Alliance to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic, cultural, historical and recreational resources of Pennsylvania's northern tier.

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

HELENE NAWROCKI, POTTER COUNTY EDUCATION COUNCIL & BEAR MOUNTAIN HERBS

One of the original members of the PA Route 6 Steering Committee, Helene Nawrocki has been involved with the development of PA Route 6 Management Action Plans and Marketing Plans since the beginning. Since 2009, Helene has served as the Committee Chairman for the Education and Outreach Committee. As a professional nurse educator and former Executive Director of the Potter County Education Council, Helene describes her role as “nursing the health of the community”, whether it's Potter County or the whole PA Route 6 Corridor. In the past, she has facilitated brainstorming sessions for the marketing partners, led discussions at Route 6 regional meetings, and provided valuable insights. Helene has been active in several regional development projects. Currently semi-retired, she is advising the Potter County Artisan Center and helping to train future leaders while tending to her own herbal business.

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.

LOCAL HISTORY PAST-PORT, Thomas H. Kennedy Local History Roundtable

The “Local History Past-Port”, is a guide showcasing and directing people to historical societies, museums, and historical sites in Wayne, Lackawanna, and Pike Counties. The booklet offers a page on 15 museums and sites, with a description, location, hours of operation, contact information, and a photograph. Users are encouraged to visit each site to get a “Past-Port” stamp. Collect all stamps and users receive a free gift. The purpose of this project was to raise awareness of the rich and diverse local heritage and history that helped form the region. The Local History Past-Port is a project of the Thomas H. Kennedy Local History Roundtable, chaired by James Asselstine. The publication was designed and created by Joan Gillner, Executive Director of the Dorflinger Glass Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

DOWNTOWN EDINBORO ART & MUSIC FEST

Now entering its 14th year, the Downtown Edinboro Art and Music Festival is a four-day, free art and music festival that is staged at Goodell Gardens and Homestead and other community

performance venues in Edinboro. The Festival includes a juried art show, craft show, that focuses on music, active wellness, and children's activities. The Festival averages 8,400 attendees a year, drawing audiences from Erie County and the region. In recent years, the Festival has hosted a number of nationally acclaimed artists and local musicians who not only perform but often lead workshops. Jim Donovan of Rusted Root, Rachel Eddy who recently released her album "Hand on the Plow," Scott Pearson, a PA State Fiddle Champion and Warren mandolin champion, and Keith McManus, an extraordinary fiddle and banjo player as well as an accomplished Appalachian story-teller. The Festival is held annually, on the third weekend in May.

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.

WYOMING COUNTY CULTURAL CENTER AT THE DIETRICH THEATER

Originally built in 1936, the theater house went dark in the 80's. A visionary group of Tunkhannock residents lead the monumental effort to reopen and re-imagine the space. Today, the Dietrich Theater shows countless blockbuster, foreign, independent and classic films. The Theater also presents an amazing list of cultural events including four film festivals annually, live theater, concerts and workshops. The William Norris Earnshaw Gallery features the paintings, drawings, photography, hand-crafted jewelry, ceramics, sculptures and other works of regional and nationally known artists. Numerous art and cultural classes are offered in the Dorothy G. Sheldon Art Studio. One recent weekend offered health seminars, a puppet show and open-mike night in addition to gallery events and movies.

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

CHIP HARRISON, D.C.N.R.

In his role as manager of several state parks, Chip Harrison has been a great supporter and promoter of regional efforts. With two of the biggest state park attractions on the PA Route 6 Corridor, Chip has been actively involved with the development of PA Route 6 and the PA Wilds on the local level. It was Chip who first noticed astronomers camping out at Cherry Springs State Park almost two decades ago and brought it to the attention of the PA Route 6 staff and the PA Tourism Office. Along with his staff and volunteers, Chip has developed a first rate astronomy program. Since then the programs at the park have attracted both domestic and international visitors. Chip has worked with staff at PA Route 6 and the local convention and visitor bureaus to continuously improve the customer service and amenities at the parks in Potter and Tioga Counties from the rebuilding of the dam at Lyman Run State Park to the master site plan being developed for Denton Hill State Park.

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

THE CITY OF WARREN

Since completing their Heritage Community Work Plan in 2012, the city of Warren has embraced its designation and fully committed to implementing the recommendations within the plan. A major element in their plan was connecting to the surrounding outdoor recreation. With the Allegheny River being named the 2017 River of the Year, the City is working towards building access, completing a floating dock and extending trails to the its waterways. The Walkable Warren program connects residents and visitors to the city's downtown and trails by encouraging users to learn more about the history, culture and architecture while enjoying a healthy activity. After a few years of providing educational sessions on downtown development, the City moved ahead with a Strategic Plan for the downtown commercial district. The City has also posted banner highlighting their involvement in both the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor and the PA Wilds. New gateway signage will be installed this year. Warren is taking major strides to becoming a must-stop destination along the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor