



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



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### Special Event at the Spa of Norwich

By Robert A. LaMay

Help celebrate National Historic preservation Month during the afternoon on May 21, 2006. The event will take place at The Spa of Norwich located on Rte 32 in Norwich, CT. There will be a high tea and illustrated lecture – The Railroad and the Rose City. A brief history of the impact of railroads on Norwich by Laura Katz Smith, Curator of the Railroad History Archive at the Thomas Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut.

Laura's talk will begin at 3PM in the Spa's ballroom; will be followed by an elegant High Tea in the garden courtyard featuring scones, fancy cakes, pastries, and cookies. There will also be displays of railroad memorabilia and a chance to tour the 76 year old Norwich Inn.

There is no admission charge for this event, which is co-sponsored by The Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum, The Norwich Historical Society, Rose City Renaissance, and the Thomas Dodd Research Center. Seats are limited so please contact Elizabeth Brink in the Spa of Norwich Inn's executive offices as soon as possible at (860) 425-3505 or [LBrink@mptn-nsn.gov](mailto:LBrink@mptn-nsn.gov)

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### Letter Boxing Opportunities at the Museum – By Janet Atkins

Good weather has returned and with it is the opportunity to do Letter Boxing. If you know someone who already letterboxes than please clue them in about what can be found at our museum. We have numerous unique rubber stamps that were designed especially for our properties. Record your stamp and stamp your journal with trains and logos. Letterboxing information can be found at [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org) You will also find other interesting places in Eastern Connecticut to continue your search.

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May 2006



The photo above shows Murray Newton pouring hot liquid in preparing to do some pewter casting during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest. He's from Durham, CT. (RA LaMay Photo)

### Shopping at the Museum? Yes!

By Janet Atkins

The museum's Railroad Gift Shop is currently brimming with many items for your consideration. At the present time tee shirts with both Roundhouse and CERM logos are available in all sizes. There are also tee shirts with the popular 'Rhythm on the Rails' logo. Concerts are resuming at the museum so be sure you show up in your shirt showing support for this popular activity. Caps- engineer blue and white, and blue logo – two weights are available. Why not top off the look of a railroader with a kerchief? Combine them for a great children's gift? Mentioning children, have you seen the selection of whistles, pull back toys, and stickers? There is also a great children to adulthood logic game – become an engineer and get your engine on its way

out of the confusion of the rail yard. Roundhouse postcards in two designs are available. Gift certificates for admission or purchases, gift memberships or a named paver for the roundhouse floor can also be purchased in the gift shop. Please remember as a Conn. Eastern Railroad member you can get a discount on clothing!



Jean Lambert stands in front of gift shop during 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest. Please visit as we have something for any railroad fan. (RA LaMay Photo)

There is a lot of activity taking place at the museum every weekend. Track laying is on-going in order to meet one of the museum's goals which is having track completed to the roundhouse pit. Track work will be taking place in the museum in order for the restoration of the Central Vermont #4052 caboose to begin. There are a dozen 'Rhythm on the Rails' concerts planned from May 20<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please try to attend one or more. The first concert is planned for Sat. May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM. The ever popular Tara's Thistle will be returning again. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Night Photo Shoot will be 6/10/06.



A number of smithies that attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage metal Fest held May 6, 2006. Here we see various groups set-up around the turntable area. Numerous patrons visited the museum to see this event. (RA LaMay Photo)



In this photo we see some of the metal working students from the Assabet Valley Vocational Technical High School located in Massachusetts. They were part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest held 5/6/06. (RA LaMay Photo)

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Chapter, NRHS, Inc.  
PO Box 665  
Williamantic, CT 06226



The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be at Windham Community Memorial Hospital, 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, CT on

**Sunday, May. 21st @ 7:00 PM.**

Please note: The monthly business meeting will be held on Jun 4th at the same location. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

### Chapter Leadership

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Black Smith Don McKenney does his thing at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest. He's from Haddam, CT. (RA LaMay Photo)



Bill Scheer from the James Diggs Shipsmith Shop at Mystic Seaport explains to Claudia Widdiss, Associate Professor of the Arts at Eastern Conn. State University, some of the particulars of black smithing. (RA LaMay Photo)

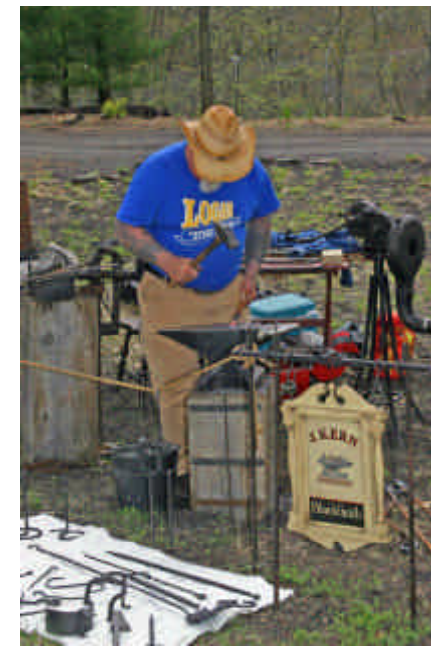
### Ghost Train Journal

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Editor	Bob LaMay cermf19@aol.com 860-228-9671

### Calendar of Events

May 21 – Membership meeting with slide show by Bob LaMay – 7PM  
 May 21 – White Water Festival and High Tea at the Spa of Norwich  
 May 27 – John Clark concert – 2:30PM  
 Jun 4 – monthly business meeting – 7PM  
 Jun 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Night Photo Shoot  
 Jun 17 – Charter Oak Bluegrass concert – 2:30PM  
 Jun 24 – The Scissorman concert – 2:30PM  
 Jun 25 – Monthly membership meeting – 7PM

Plans are in the works for a member appreciation day to take place sometime during September. Watch for more details in upcoming issues of the GTJ.



J Kearn works on some hot metal during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest. Note his work is displayed in the foreground. (RA LaMay Photo)



During another demonstration a blacksmith is seeing stars at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest (RA LaMay Photo)



Hosmer Mountain's truck poses at loading dock of the Chaplin Station during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest (RA LaMay Photo)



Another blacksmith show how to bend hot metal during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Metal Fest. (RA LaMay Photo)



Members of the work the switches that will eventually see track going to the Columbia Junction Roundhouse turntable area. Note that during the hard labor New England Central's train 608 rolls by heading south. (RA LaMay Photo)