



# D&R CANAL WATCH

Number 79

[www.canalwatch.org](http://www.canalwatch.org)

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The D&R Canal Watch  
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### Our Mission

The D&R Canal Watch is an independent, nonprofit organization working to engage the public in the protection of the environment and preservation of the heritage of the D&R Canal.

## A Letter of Thanks to the Staff of the D&R Canal State Park

How can we express our thanks to all of the members of the state park staff? It's hard to put into words, but we'll try.



Superintendent  
Patricia Kallesser

Every day of the year Patricia Kallesser, our superintendent, and her staff, naturalist Stephanie Fox, historian Vicki Chirco and the maintenance crew, work to keep our 70-mile park operating. Permits have to be issued, grass (and there's a lot of it) has to be mowed, snow must be plowed, buildings must be tended to, and questions from the public must be answered. And all of this must be done while following the myriad rules of our Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

All of this daily work keeps everyone very busy, but when a disaster strikes, it's all hands on deck. During the night of September 1, every stream in Central New Jersey overflowed onto streets and into homes. In the D&R Canal State Park, adjacent streams flooded into the canal, filled the locktender and bridgetender homes, and tore apart our towpath.

When the water finally went down and the clean-up teams from the Canal Watch could get in, the park staff members were there at our side, shoveling out the mud and washing the walls.

Patricia had to meet with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and show them the damage at sites throughout the park. She had to contact utility companies to get power back on and DOT to get damaged roads repaired. And there were meetings with officials from the DEP to figure out the next steps and how to respond to future floods.

We are grateful that our superintendent takes the time to meet with Canal Watch members to assist us with proposed

plans and to suggest ways in which we can help to improve our park.

We offer our holiday wishes as well as our thanks throughout the year to our devoted D&R Canal State Park staff!

(When you read on page six the superintendent's report to the D&R Canal Commission, you will see much more detail about the work that she does.)



Chris Ruzicka, head of the maintenance staff

## 2023 CANAL WATCH CALENDAR



**We are grateful that we have sold all 100 of the 2022 calendars, thereby providing more than \$1300 to support our D&R Canal State Park.**

**Photographers: You may start taking pictures now for the 2023 calendar. No theme this year. Take a Photo from the Towpath contest! Submit it for our 2023 Canal Calendar!**

Thanks to our contributors and supporters, the last three calendars were very successful, with all calendars selling out quickly. Funds raised from calendar sales help to finance the continued work of the D&R Canal Watch in its endeavor to restore and preserve our inland maritime history.

The 2023 calendar project is now underway, and we urge you to consider participating. Visitors to the Delaware and Raritan Canal experience beautiful views at every turn of the towpath. The Canal Watch invites you to photograph the scenic beauty of our historic waterway and send your photo(s) to us for possible inclusion in our 2023 calendar.

The canal has many places that, when captured in a photo, may encourage others to get out and explore the park by foot, bike, canoe, or kayak.

Photos will be judged by professional photographers and thirteen images will be selected.

**Entry rules for the photography contest will be as follows:**

- Entries must be received by **June 28, 2022**. The Canal Watch will submit them to the judges in July.
- Only amateur photographers may submit images to the contest.
- Photos must be sharp and in focus.
- Calendar print size is 12"x12". Original images may be submitted in landscape or portrait orientation but will be cropped square when in print.
- Photo files must be submitted in one of the following formats: jpg., tif., or eps. format, and in sRGB color space.
- Digital photo files must have the following properties: 300 dpi and 3,000 pixels on the longest side.
- Printed images will not be considered, nor will they be returned.
- **Mobile phone files may be sent; however, they must be submitted at their highest resolution.** Because the final reproduction size of the calendar is 12"x12", certain mobile files may be disqualified if they are not of the highest quality. Camera images are preferred over phone pictures.
- Qualified images should be attached and emailed to [barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com). You will be notified only



Dear Colleagues,

We have now returned, restored and secured the Griggstown dock to its pre-flood position. The rotted timbers have been replaced and the dock is now anchored to its concrete pad with stainless steel fittings. Photos of the restored dock are included.

Sincerely,

Canal Watch Volunteers

Bob Barth, Chuck Martin, Tim Roth, Wayne Petko



## Rules for Submitting Images for the 2023 Calendar (continued from page two)

if your image(s) are selected for inclusion in the calendar.

- **Each photo must be clearly identified as to the location from which it was taken and the date taken. Photos can be submitted from any year and showing any season.**
- The email must contain the photographer's name, address, phone number, and email address.
- By submitting your image(s), you agree to grant the D&R Canal Watch, a 501(c)(3) organization, the right to reproduce the photo(s) for calendar use in 2023. The D&R Canal Watch reserves the right to use the contest photo entries with entrant's name on the Canal Watch website, [www.canalwatch.org](http://www.canalwatch.org), in print, and promotional materials.

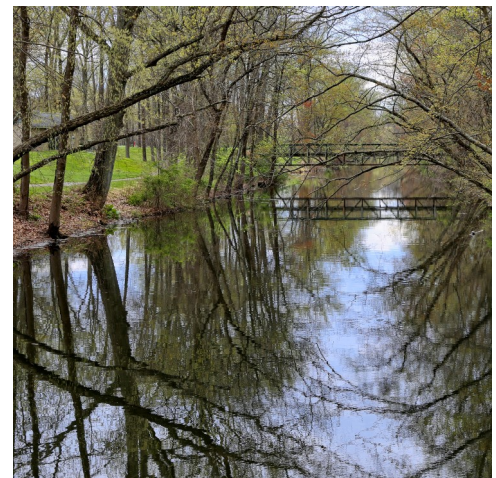
**SO START SNAPPING THOSE PIX!**

**Here are four examples from previous years:**



At left: a home along Canal Road in Griggstown, by Summer Pramer.

At right: delicate bridge crosses the canal near the Princeton Country Club, by Eric Swedlow





## The East Millstone Bridgetender's Station—the next steps

The pictures below show the station temporarily disassembled, awaiting word from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Here is an excerpt from a letter written by our architect, Bob Russell, to SHPO:



I am writing to update you on the restoration of the East Millstone Bridgetender's Station. While we were aware that the floor framing and lower portions of the Station were in poor condition, it became apparent when the contractor excavated the earth that had been placed against its SW corner that the dirt was also stabilizing the structure. The contractor applied cross bracing to prevent even more movement and called us.

I reviewed the existing conditions on site and confirmed the poor condition of the lower floor and walls and also the rotted roof rafters ends that were concealed below the temporary roofing. Even with completion of the repairs originally anticipated we are concerned about the viability of the Station surviving the future DOT relocation. Moving forward we are changing our approach to a combination of replication and restoration. The contractor is removing the bead board interior

finishes, reusable exterior siding, surviving window, and entry door. We are proposing reframing the structure and reinstallation of salvaged historic fabric. Please note that the framing is not visible on the interior. Since the roof is also being reframed, we are anticipating the installation of an appropriate wood shingle roof rather than asphalt.

Photos courtesy of Wayne Petko.



### Wednesday Work Day Crew Volunteers



Under the direction of Canal Watch trustee Bob Barth, we have begun a program called Wednesday Work Days.

Bob coordinates with Superintendent Kalleser to find out what projects need to be done to help the overworked park maintenance staff. On the first work day, December 8, the team of Chuck Martin, Wayne Petko, Tim Roth, and Bob worked at the Demott Lane pedestrian bridge, clearing flotsam left from the floods of Hurricane Ida. The team then proceeded to Griggstown and installed a tarp over the badly leaking roof of the bridgetender's station (see image).

If you would like to help on the Wednesday Work Days Crew, please email Linda Barth at [barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com).

## News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, October 20, 2021

### Commission Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported that he and Commission Engineer Damian Friebel met remotely with an engineer in private practice who represents a group of Lambertville residents concerned about the frequency and intensity of flood events in that city. Mr. Hutchison noted that they were able to explain how the Commission's regulations support non-structural responses to stormwater management and directed them to entities such as the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust, which could play a role in helping implement long-term strategies to improve flood resiliency and reduce the damage caused by flood events.

The Director related that on September 6 he met remotely with the park superintendent and the park naturalist to discuss the proposed planting plan for the northern section of the Bull's Island Recreation Area. Given the Commission's interest in ensuring that the northern portion of the island is reopened with the new loop trail, and that the former campground areas are reforested, the group discussed the possible use of monies deposited in the mitigation account created by the N.J. Turnpike Exit 6-9 widening project for the Bull's Island reforestation effort.

The Director also informed the Commission that he and the park superintendent met with representatives of Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) on October 12 to discuss potential mitigation for the visual impact of a proposed pole expansion project at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Demott Lane public access area in Franklin Township. The Demott Lane public access area is highly constrained in that it is narrow, closely bounded by the Rutgers Preparatory School and the Meadows Foundation properties. In addition, there are several historic and archaeological resources present onsite, including a Revolutionary War-era cemetery. Therefore, Commission and Park Service staff proposed that the mitigation for the proposed Demott Lane project be carried out at the 5-Mile Lock public access area, which is located approximately two miles upstream to the northwest. The 5-Mile Lock access area is in poor condition, with an undefined parking area, no ADA-accessible parking, a lack of directional or park signage and a parking and drive surface which is badly deteriorated. The parking area contains no historic or archaeological resources (the former canal house was located on the opposite embankment of the canal), so this site would seem ideal for a mitigation project to improve access for park patrons from the surrounding community.

Director Hutchison noted that on October 5 he was interviewed by Michael Rockland, Professor Emeritus of History at Rutgers University, who is researching information for his latest book, which will examine the history and nature of New Jersey's "other shore," namely the communities along the Delaware River and those of the Delaware and Raritan Canal region. Professor Rockland was primarily interested in the fate of the canal as it went through the City of Trenton.

Commissioner Lubitz inquired about the time frame associated with the reopening of the northern section of Bull's Island Recreation Area. Director Hutchison clarified that the Commission staff was working closely with the Division of Parks and Forestry to assist in the reforestation plan so that the area could be reopened as quickly as possible. Commissioner Lubitz asked whether the reopening could proceed absent the completed reforestation plan, which was the case with the day use area. Director Madden deferred to Superintendent Kalleser, who commented that hazardous tree removals arising from Tropical Storm Ida had impacted the plans, and that assembling resources to complete the replanting plans were ongoing, but that a springtime reopening ceremony was still being planned irrespective of the replanting plans.

### State Park Report

Superintendent Kalleser reported that Active Environmental was mobilized to undertake mold remediation activities at the East Millstone Bridgetender's House, the Mapleton Road park office, and the Kingston Locktender's House. She also reported that additional bids were being sought for





mold remediation at Port Mercer, an employee tenant house at Blackwell's Mills, and the Griggstown Bridge-tender's House.

The Division of Parks and Forestry met with the DEP Office of Resource Development (ORD) and the NJDOT to discuss engineering and non-engineering priority repairs to the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park multiuse trail and entrance driveway and retaining wall opposite the Commission office on the Wickecheoke Creek at Prallsville Mills. In addition, NJDOT conducted a review of the multiuse trail from the vicinity of Alexauken Creek south to Elm Street in the City of Lambertville and along the main portion of the canal to place a new topcoat finish on those parts of the trail that had been scoured away during Tropical Storm Ida.

The Superintendent reported that in early October a sexual assault occurred near the park multiuse trail in the vicinity of the Millstone Aqueduct. A sketch of suspect in the attack was disseminated on social media and placed at park entrances. Two meetings are proposed at the Kingston Locktender's House to provide park patrons with information on how to keep safe when walking in public areas.

The Superintendent noted that the Solvay Group graciously gave their time to perform cleanup activities in the area of the Millstone Aqueduct on October 13. She also reported that Park Naturalist Stephanie Fox helped organize a cleanup effort along the Delaware River from Frenchtown to Trenton on October 16. More than 200 people participated.

The Superintendent reported that the storm-related damage to the roof at the park restroom facility in Lambertville will be repaired within the next three weeks, which would coincide with the ADA-ramp repairs at the facility that are being funded with Commission mitigation monies. (Note: repairs have now been made.)

The Superintendent noted that the Cooley Tract parking area would be reopened to the public on October 23. Commissioner Lubitz inquired as to the status of the Fairview parking area. Superintendent Kalleser responded that the Fairview lot had been reopened approximately two weeks ago. Vice-Chairman Stout inquired about the estimated length of time the former railroad bridge at Prallsville Mills (pictured below) would be closed. Superintendent Kalleser indicated that the NJDOT engineer's report indicated that there was a 25 percent failure of the embankment. NJDOT was proposing a temporary repair to stabilize the slope, followed by a permanent solution, which was the subject of ongoing consultations between NJDOT and DEP/ORD. Vice-Chairman Stout asked whether the temporary solution could be effectuated within a month. Superintendent Kalleser said she was not aware of the proposed timeframe, but that she would inquire with DEP/ORD and report back. Vice-Chairman Stout noted that some park patrons were unwisely ignoring the barriers placed on the multiuse trail. The Superintendent stated that additional warning signs were being installed. She said that the park staff was redoubling efforts to educate public that 25 percent of the embankment had failed and that it was uncertain what could happen to the trail until it is repaired.



### New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Mr. Michael Sellar reported that the authority project to rehabilitate the Landing Lane spillway was being impeded by the NJDOT project to repair the adjacent bridge over the canal, and that the authority was hopeful work could commence in November but that it would depend upon the progress of the NJDOT project.

Mr. Sellar reported that the Hydrilla treatment program for the year ended on September 24 and that the program was approximately 75-80 days in duration during calendar year 2021. The program was suspended for approximately eight days due to Tropical Storm Ida. Surveys conducted by the consultant indicated that no Hydrilla had been found in the canal, but investigations for the presence of any tubers would not be conducted until the end of the month.

The project to repair the inoperative sluice gate at the South Bound Brook Lock was on schedule to begin in mid-November and was contingent upon the delivery of the new gate from the manufacturer. Tropical Storm Ida-related repairs to the multiuse trail had been performed by a NJWSA contractor in South Bound Brook between the Queens Bridge and the spillway, the downstream side of which sustained severe erosion. The contractor then moved to Six Mile Run to stabilize the bank and address washout areas at the culvert, which passes underneath Canal Road and the canal.

Mr. Sellar reported that the initial removal of vegetation debris that had fallen into the canal or had become wedged against canal bridges from Tropical Storm Ida had been completed. However, he observed it was likely that erosion would cause additional trees to fall into the canal and that these matters would be addressed as they

occurred. Mr. Sellar requested that Commissioners and stakeholders report any issues they encounter to him.

Mr. Sellar reported that dredging of accumulated sediment displaced by the storm was ongoing at the confluence of the Wickecheoke Creek and the feeder canal at Prallsville Mills. Once this project was complete, the NJWSA planned to dredge the area at the Lockatong Creek, and then remove debris in the canal in Lambertville at the Laceworks property in two to three months. He noted that dredging would continue in other areas after these priorities were addressed.

Mr. Barth complimented the work done by the contractor in the vicinity of the South Bound Brook spillway. He questioned Mr. Sellar about the size of the stone used for the topcoat of the multiuse trail, noting that it was larger than what was approved in prior projects to resurface the trail. Mr. Sellar responded that it was his understanding that the Division of Parks and Forestry was going to resurface the trail from N.J. State Highway Route No. 27 in Kingston to Landing Lane in New Brunswick and deferred to Superintendent Kalleser for additional comments. Superintendent Kalleser confirmed that the new topcoat would be a DEP project, and that discussions with NJDOT to devise a segmented approach to re-rolling the trail surface were ongoing and that the division was awaiting price quotes for the work. Mr. Barth further inquired if this project would include the “white” stone dust used in the vicinity of the Millstone and Raritan rivers. Superintendent Kalleser confirmed that it would. Mrs. Barth asked Superintendent Kalleser for additional details on the scheduling of the proposed mold remediation activities. The Superintendent repeated the proposed schedule for the work.

Commissioner Lubitz asked whether there had been any discussions with NJDOT about the integrity of NJ State Highway Route No. 29 along the feeder canal from Frenchtown to the Titusville neighborhood of Hopewell Township. Commissioner Lubitz noted that NJDOT had placed a considerable amount of riprap along the highway following Tropical Storm Ida, and that this was having an impact upon the park multiuse trail. Superintendent Kalleser responded that she was aware of individual repair projects, but that there was no overall plan. Director Hutchison noted that he had issued a General Permit No. 1 for emergency riprap installation immediately following Tropical Storm Ida, but that no new permit application had been received from NJDOT. Commissioner Lubitz expressed concern that situation on Route 29 could come to resemble that on Route 32 in Pennsylvania, and that a long-term solution to the interaction of the highway with the canal was required.

### **2022 Membership Renewals are Due Now**

**As we begin the new year, we would like to remind our members to please renew their membership. You can do so online by visiting [www.canalwatch.org](http://www.canalwatch.org) and clicking on “Join” at the top right.**

**Please wait a few seconds for the membership form to appear. When you click “Submit,” you will be taken to the payment page. If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to D&R Canal Watch and mail it to the Canal Watch at P.O. Box 2, Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553.**

**Alternately, you may use the form on the next page and mail it with your check.**



## D&R Canal Watch Memorials are a thoughtful gesture

Often when friends or family members have passed away, people ask where they can make a donation that would be meaningful to the deceased.

If your loved one enjoyed exploring the canal or just found it a peaceful sanctuary, perhaps a gift to the D&R Canal Watch would be appropriate.

All of our funding is used to enhance the park and assist the staff in purchasing necessary equipment.



**TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIVING TO THE D&R CANAL WATCH**  
Many people consider making charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Remember that the Canal Watch is a tax-exempt organization, so your contributions are tax-deductible.

## D&R Canal Watch 2022 Membership Renewal Form

Membership year: January 1 to December 31

Nonprofit Org \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
Supporter \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Business member \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check, payable to the D&R Canal Watch, to D&R Canal Watch, P.O. Box 2, Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553-0002. Dues can also be paid online at <https://canalwatch.org/join/>

For reasons of fiscal and environmental responsibility, newsletters will be posted on the Canal Watch website, [www.canalwatch.org](http://www.canalwatch.org), and emailed to members for whom we have email addresses. If you require a paper copy, please check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Volunteers are needed to lead walks/trips. Do you have computer, photography, or design skills that you are willing to use for the organization? Would you like to join the Wednesday Work Crew? May we call on you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Try me \_\_\_\_\_ (circle your skill)



**Class of 2020-2023**  
Theodore Chase (Griggstown)  
Tim Roth (Long Valley)  
Jeff McVey (Lambertville)  
Barbara Ross (Princeton)

**Class of 2019-2022**  
Linda Barth (Somerville)  
Robert Barth (Somerville)  
Michael Kaplan (Griggstown)

Ellen Kaplan (Griggstown)  
Pamela V'Combe (Trenton), activities chair

**Class of 2021-2024**  
Tom Lederer (Princeton), publicity chair  
Carl Hemmingsen, Bordentown  
Marion Munk (Piscataway)  
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)

# YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ★ AMERICAN REVOLUTION ★ EXPERIENCE!



At the  
**Princeton Battlefield State Park**  
Sunday, January 2, 2022  
Starting at 8:30 am

## SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

**Plan to arrive before 8:30 am!**

- 8:30** - Larry Kidder reviews the events leading up to January 3, 1777 (inside tent)
- 10:00** - Reenactment of the Battle of Princeton on the battlefield
- 11:30** - Wreath laying ceremony by the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution at the Colonnades-Gravesite
- 12:30** - Tours of the historic Thomas Clarke House

## REGISTER TODAY!

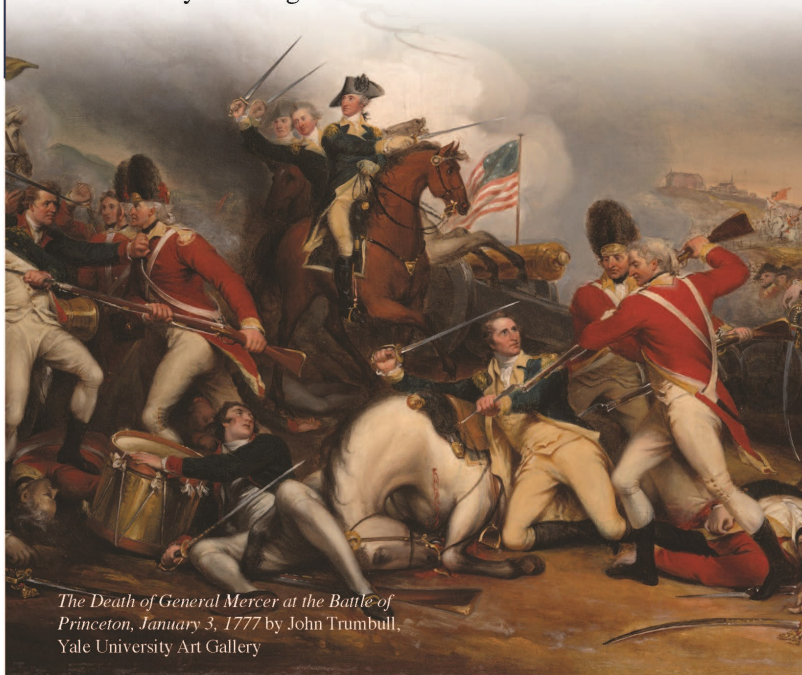
Background and registration information at [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org) or contact us at [info@pbs1777.org](mailto:info@pbs1777.org).

For tourism information including restaurants, hotels, attractions and events visit the Princeton-Mercer Convention & Visitors Bureau at [www.visitprinceton.org](http://www.visitprinceton.org).

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Underwritten with appreciated support from NJM Insurance Group, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution, The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation, Allen & Stults Co., Princeton-Mercer Convention & Visitors Bureau, Discover NJ License Plate Fund for Heritage Tourism, Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission, A gift in honor of Col. Timothy Matlack, Philadelphia's 5th Regiment of Rifles, and by donors, members and friends of the Princeton Battlefield Society.

- ★ Hear Larry Kidder, historian and author, describe the Ten Crucial Days of 1776-77 in our heated tent and then narrate the Battle of Princeton reenactment on the battlefield with the firing of cannon and muskets.
- ★ Visit and talk with British and American reenactors.
- ★ Join the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution and representatives of military units with lineage to the Battle of Princeton at a wreath laying ceremony at the Colonnade & Gravesite.
- ★ Tour the historic Thomas Clarke House where General Hugh Mercer died of his wounds suffered during the battle.
- ★ Take pictures and bring home memories of this historic event!
- ★ Enjoy the free coffee and hot chocolate on this January morning.





The D&R Canal Watch is asking for your support for our activities that protect, maintain, and promote the recreational, historical, aesthetic, and environmental qualities of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. Over the past years, the Canal Watch has:

- Led history walks along both the main canal and the feeder, pointing out historic structures and Light Rail study tours
- Led history bike rides along the main canal and star-gazing events
- Sponsored bird watching walks along the main canal and bilingual nature walks
- Sponsored lectures on topics such as “The Role of the Delaware and Raritan Canal in the Growth of Trenton's Industrial Potteries,” “The Operation of the Joint Companies and the Interrelationship of the canal with the state’s first railroad,” “The Roebling Story,” “Photography Along the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park: Treasure in Central New Jersey,” “Meet Ashbel Welch, the second chief engineer of the Delaware and Raritan Canal,” and Jim Amon on how the canal and the park changed during his tenure with the commission.
- Purchased gifts that the park budget could not provide. These include a digital camera, seven picnic tables, several benches, a laptop computer and software, a desktop computer, an LED projector, an inflatable screen for outdoor viewing of videos, a subscription to the Meetup website, a scanner, printer ink, a water testing kit, an external computer drive, lumber for canoe dock at Griggstown, folding tables and twenty chairs for Bulls Island, development of a new park website, and professional courses for the maintenance staff.
- Canal interpretive signage at locks and spillways
- Activities in 2009 marking the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. These included “Meet the Canal Authors Day” and “The D&R Canal: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,” by Richard Hunter” walks, bike rides, canoe and kayak rides, “Hands Along the Canal,” and proclamations from our legislature.
- Examination of Lock 9 to determine the feasibility of reopening the lock to navigation
- Post-flood cleaning of canal structures in Griggstown, Zarephath, and East Millstone
- Painting over graffiti in East Millstone
- Repair of shutters on the East Millstone bridgetender’s home
- Straightening and painting of the outhouse at the East Millstone bridgetender’s home
- Staffing the East Millstone bridgetender’s home during the village’s Canalfest in October
- A photographic exhibit of the homes of bridgetenders and locktenders.
- Services of an information technology consultant for the park’s computers
- Funded classes to certify maintenance staff in small motor repair, applying herbicides, etc.
- Contacted legislators and the governor’s office to keep the parks open and retain the commission
- Facilitated the mothballing of an empty bridgetender’s home by buying lumber and painting the windows.
- Installed Kaya-Arms on docks to facilitate entering and exiting kayaks
- Funding the park’s website and continued updating
- Paying the dues for the Meetup site used for announcing park activities
- **Paying for the conditions assessment and the engineering drawings for the East Millstone bridgetender’s station.**