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www.canalwatch.org

February 2023

Governor Murphy and the State Legislature Must Fund and Fix Our Parks

For many decades, the state parks in New Jersey have suffered from underfunding and a lack of staff to handle increasing visitor usage of the park.

The Fix Our Parks Campaign is calling for more maintenance and better funding to ensure that New Jersey residents and visitors have the quality of experience that they deserve when visiting our parks.

From the State Lands management Report

<https://www.fixourparksnj.org/the-report:>

“New Jersey parks face significant challenges. Staffing has decreased by 28% since 2006, leading to reduced services including seasonally staffed or closed nature centers, swim areas closing early, and delayed storm cleanup. There are now only 15 park superintendents responsible for over 50 parks. For naturalists and historians, there are now fewer than ten full-time staff across the entire system, which leads to an undervaluing of parks by the public. The ratio of park service staff to visitors is 1 to 36,000 and there is one forest service staff member for every 5,500 acres of land.

In addition, there has been a 13% increase in acquired park acreage since 2008. The combination of reduced staffing and increased lands requiring management is severely stressing the park system. Some have said that ‘collapse’ is inevitable and these trends are demoralizing the remaining staff. It is certain that the integrity of park resources has been significantly reduced.”

The historic buildings in our parks, forests, and historic sites are in sorry need of maintenance, paint, roofs, and foundation repair. Our trails are becoming cow paths and parking facilities and restrooms are degraded or nonexistent. Interpretive and ranger services are at an all-time low.

This deterioration is not to be blamed on the park employees. They are doing the best that they can with the small budgets they are given. No. The need is for the legislature to greatly increase the funding for all of our parks, forests, and state historic sites. While \$25 million in federal funds for ten Revolutionary War sites is appreciated, much, much more is needed to bring all of our parks up to the standards they deserve, or at least on a par with neighboring states.

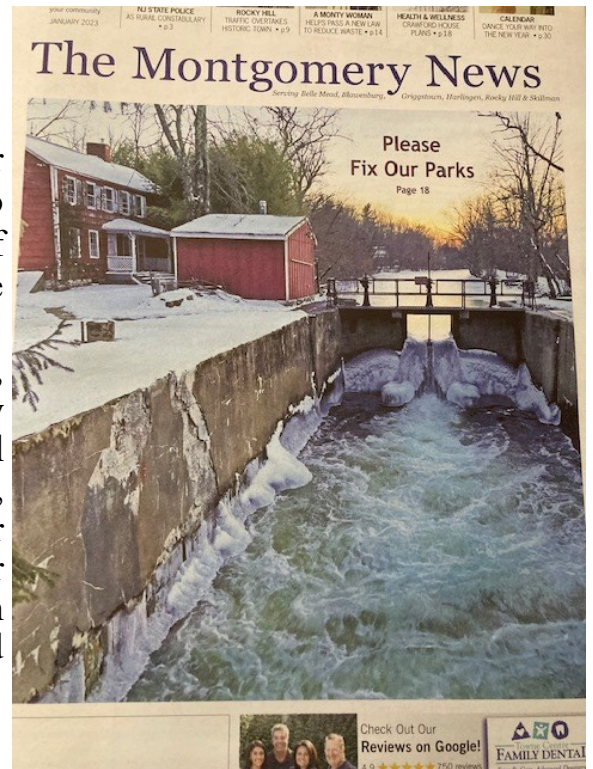
We very much appreciate having these federal funds, but much more is needed. It is not only our Revolutionary War sites that need funding. All of our state parks are in desperate



need. There is a backlog in maintenance of over \$600,000,000. In many of our parks, the size of the staff has dwindled to half of what they were in the 1990s.

The Covid years showed what a valuable asset our parks are and how underfunded they have been for so many years. The D&R State Park, for example, has half the number of employees that it had in the 1990s, and the land that the D&R now manages has almost doubled.

D&R Canal Watch, the Canal Society of New Jersey, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, and the Highlands Coalition are calling on Governor Murphy and the legislature to greatly increase funding for all parks and wildlife management areas statewide in Fiscal Year 2024. Please contact your state legislators and plead for a larger parks budget.



These images show some of the deterioration in our state parks.



Canal Photography for Annual Calendar

Please note these suggestions from our judges

Interest in taking photographs that can be submitted for inclusion in the annual D&R Canal Watch calendar has been very encouraging. The judges who view the submitted photographs and select the ones that will make up the calendar each year have put together this brief essay to offer suggestions that will hopefully increase the variety and quality of the photographs submitted.

Initial considerations:

(1) The calendar pages are 12” by 12.” In order to print an image this size from your digital camera at a resolution necessary to make a quality print (300 pixels per inch), your image needs to measure 3,600 pixels by 3,600 pixels, i.e., 300 pixels per inch times 12 inches = 3,600 pixels. You should check your smart phone for information about the number of megapixels that are in the photos taken with your camera. Most are 12 megapixels in the 4:3 format, i.e., not square as is required for the calendar, but would produce a print 13 1/3 inches by 10 inches. Currently, most smart phone cameras do not provide an image that will print a 12” by 12” image at a required print resolution of 300 ppi (pixels per inch).



(2) Plan your photos to tell a story (of course, have your camera ready while you are on the towpath for an unusual shot that will need to be taken immediately). Planning your photos to tell a story means learning something about the canal. Visit the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission website (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/drcc/>), the state park website (www.dandrcanal.com), and the D&R Canal Watch website (www.canalwatch.org). From the Commission webpage under **about the canal**, click on the map of the canal and also click on the Historic Map of the canal. The Historic Map of the canal includes Bordentown, where the canal originally began. Plan to visit some parts of the canal, both the main and feeder canals, that you have not seen and include a visit to Bordentown from which location you can walk to the beginning of the canal at Crosswicks Creek. At this location you are able to see the original wooden lock. However, check the tides for the Delaware River at Crosswicks Creek and make sure to go at low tide or you will not be able to see the original lock. You can walk about two miles of towpath from the lock at Bordentown. Excellent resources for learning more about the canal are books written by Linda Barth and Bill McKelvey.¹

(3) Since the canal is a place that you can visit often, plan to visit the canal in different light, especially early morning and at dusk: sunrise at New Brunswick², sunset on the feeder canal at Bull’s Island. Also plan visits at different seasons of the year: spring when flowers start to bloom; summer for sunrises and sunsets; fall for the change in leaf color and their reflections in the canal; and, of course winter, especially after a new snow and/or after several days and nights of below freezing weather when the canal freezes over.

4) Be aware of the structures needed to make a functioning canal: locks; bridges—both car and railroad; bridge and lock tender houses; aqueducts; culverts through which existing streams flow under the canal; spillways (if you are interested in geology, the rocks used to make spillways, such as the one you walk across on the towpath from Kingston to Carnegie Lake and the one seen by going to the towpath behind the Rutgers Preparatory School, provide excellent examples of New Jersey’s geological history, turning basins, and floodgates.³

¹Barth, Linda. *The Delaware and Raritan Canal* (NJ); *The Delaware and Raritan Canal at Work*; and *The Millstone Valley Through Time*. All are available on Amazon. The canal follows the Millstone River from Carnegie Lake until the Millstone River flows into the Raritan River near Lock 10.

McKelvey, William J. *The Delaware and Raritan Canal: A Pictorial History and Champlain to Chesapeake*.

²Getting to the canal in New Brunswick is somewhat tricky. You have to be on Route 18 heading from Route 1 toward New Brunswick and turn off before reaching the central district on the road that takes you to the Rutgers Rowing Team Dock in Boyd Park. Here you will be able to park and walk along the old double locks. Sunrise from here is spectacular!

³An excellent source to locate all these different structures along the feeder and main canals is the publication: *Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park: Historic Structures Survey* (<https://dspace.njstatelib.org/xmlui/handle/10929/48163>). Pages 9-16 list all of the structures by mileage along the canal starting from the entrance to Bull’s Island. However, the information concerning Lock 1 at Bordentown is not included in this publication.

Bearing these ideas in mind, we urge you to start shooting and send your images to Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS YEAR, EACH PHOTOGRAPHER MAY SEND NO MORE THAN 5 IMAGES, SO CHOOSE WISELY.**

Archaeological Investigations along the Delaware & Raritan Canal in Somerset County, NJ

By Jesse Walker

From 2016 to 2021, AECOM conducted Phase IB archaeological testing and archaeological monitoring along the Delaware and Raritan Canal from Kingston to East Millstone in Somerset County, NJ. The investigations were conducted in the canal prism and staging areas for a New Jersey Water Supply Authority dredging project in consultation with the NJHPO and NJDEP-Environmental Review Section of the Municipal Finance and Construction Element.

Artifacts and archaeological deposits associated with the Griggstown Basin Site (28-So-165), Van Dyke's Bridge Site (28-So-003), and Excelsior Terra-Cotta Works/Atlantic Terra-Cotta Company Site (28-So-122) were encountered. Other archaeological resources were found in the canal prism. Avoidance and protection measures were implemented, which minimized the need for extensive archaeological investigations. At 28-So-165, a possible stone feature and yard scatter were found associated with the canal basin and nearby nineteenth century Sherman House. Artifacts and features associated with a bridge tenders house were found at the Van Dyke's Bridge Site. Stone line shaft feature and wall were recorded along with domestic artifacts at the Van Dyke's Bridge Site.

Industrial related artifacts (i.e., terracotta fragments and plaster mold fragments) along with other artifact classes were found 28-So-122 (Figure 1). Excavations along the edge of the canal near the former factory encountered fragments of three terracotta blocks which contained numbers and other markings (Figure 2). The stratigraphic profile in a trench excavated across Canal Road encountered a 35-cm thick fill deposit comprised of plaster mold fragments. Canal Road follows the former alignment of the Rocky Hill Railroad and the plaster mold fill was used as railroad ballast. The railroad followed the canal and serviced the terracotta factory.

Deed research was conducted to determine landownership and land use agreements related to the factory which documented extensive land transactions and an agreement to use nearby properties. Early twentieth century artifacts associated with factory outbuildings were also recovered. Dr. Richard Veit conducted initial excavation at this factory in the 1990s.

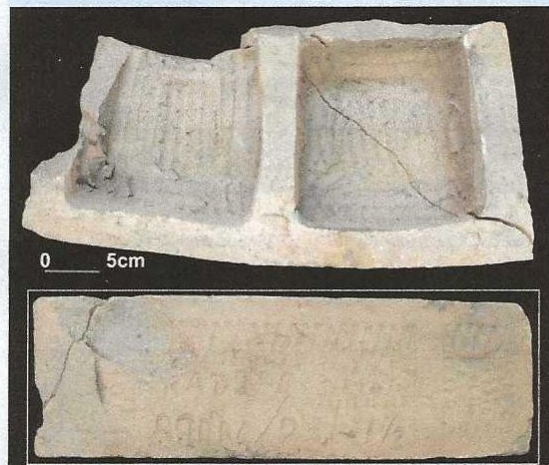


Figure 2: Terra-Cotta block (interior & exterior view) [Photograph by John Stanzeski].

archaeological resources along the canal many which are preserved on the state park property.

Technical reports for these investigations are on file with the NJHPO. The artifacts were transferred to the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park and one private property owner. The following people and agencies helped throughout the project: NJPHO, NJDEP, NJWSA, Ingrid Webber, Grace Ziesing, Jesse West-Rosenthal, T. Cregg Madrigal, Richard Roy, Meagan Ratini, Joseph Kwiatek, Nina Shinn Polizze, Amanda Filmyer, Scott Morris, Sharmila Rahman, Marc Brooks, Travis Merrit, J.B. Pelletier, Vicki Chirco, Patricia Kallessen, Chris Cartellone, and others.

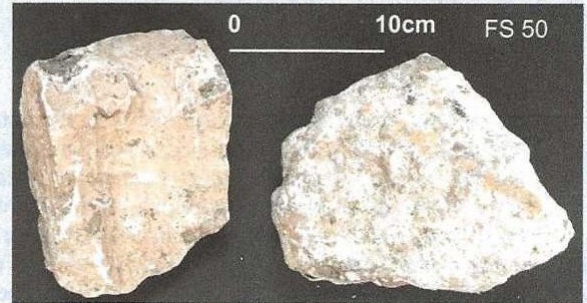


Figure 1: Plaster Mold Fragments [Photograph by John Stanzeski].

In the canal prism, timbers, wooden railroad ties, cut nails, and a horseshoe were found. On the upstream side of the Griggstown Lock, seven timbers were recovered related to historic cribbing. An historic photograph illustrates that the cribbing and timbers were part of a timber walkway used by canal boaters approaching the lock. Historical references to the timber walkway were not indicated in deeds or other historical documents suggesting the walkway was owned by the canal company and not the adjacent landowner. The timbers

had four flat faces and contained joints, treenail holes, and kerf marks (Figure 3). The investigations highlight the variety of ar-

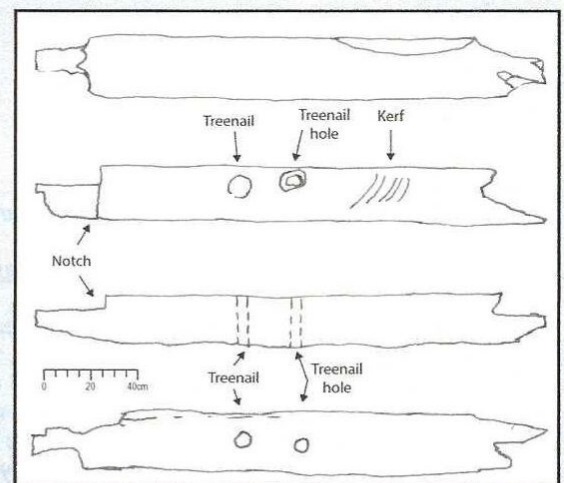


Figure 3: Timber found near Griggstown Lock [Graphic by Nina Shinn Polizze].

Thanks to the Wednesday Work Group for Its Service in 2022

The D&R Canal Watch has put over 575 hours of work time into the D&R Canal State Park. Starting with flood cleanup from Hurricane Ida on September 4, 2021 and continuing to November 2, 2022.

We helped clean out the Griggstown bridgetender's home; the Mule Barracks; and the East Millstone bridgetender's home, station, and outhouse. We helped to reopen the Demott Lane walking bridge and other small cleanup projects.

We rescued docks that had floated away and restored them to their original locations. We helped restore the walking bridge over the Millstone River at the aqueduct.

We even opened the East Millstone bridgetender's home and station for Somerset County's "Journey Through the Past."

A big thank you goes out to all who helped.

We are looking forward to reviving the Wednesday Work Crew in the spring!

From our superintendent: "What a wonderful gift to the park. Very grateful for the Wednesday Work Groups."



Thanks to our new and renewing members for 2021:

Robert and Linda Barth
Peter Boughton
Robert Graul
Gary and Marlene Heller
William and Barbara Krisak
John Loos

Craig Miller
Richard Polk
Ronald Quade

THANKS

We received a \$500 donation from the Teetsel & Jacobs Charitable Fund, by way of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. We received the same amount from this fund last year.

We thank the members and friends who have donated to the project of restoring the Griggstown bridgetender's station (see list at the right).

Canal Watch Will Pay for Park's Website Migration

When the operator of the D&R Canal State Park's website decided to retire, a new entity was found. Since the park uses the Joomla content managing system, the process of migrating the website information would incur some costs.

The Canal Watch board voted to assume these costs, much to the relief of park staff.



Michael and Lauren	Bird
William & Clare	Bohnett
Pete	Boughton
Canal Society	of New Jersey
Glenn & Helen	Davis
Yvonne	DeCarolis
Annette	Earling
Heidi	Furman
Susan D.	Goldey
Robert	Graul
Patricia Sofran & John	Herrling
Hank	Kaminski
Ms Nora	Kashinsky
Susan	Koval
Margaret	Leitz
Liberty	Historic Rail- way
Keith	McNeill
William	Meier
Craig	Miller
Sherry	Pitkofsky
Richard	Polk
John	Prieto
Ronald W.	Quade
Tim and Barbara	Roth
Kate	Smith
Ingrid	Yurchenco

News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, January 27, 2023

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Hutchison reported on the Commission staff workload for the period encompassing December 20, 2022, to January 26, 2023. In addition to the 8 projects listed on the meeting agenda*, the staff issued 18 deficient staff reports, 7 jurisdictional determinations, 9 certificates of approval, and 4 general permits.

Mr. Hutchison noted that despite the holiday season, staff organized and conducted six pre-application meetings related to proposed projects and conducted one site inspection in response to a complaint about the condition of the multiuse trail in West Windsor Township, Mercer County.

The Director reported that as of January 26, there were 28 active projects undergoing staff review, and that the number of jurisdictional determination requests pointed to a potentially busy spring.

He reported that fee collections for the preceding month totaled \$56,050, which was less than the \$68,750 collected in January 2022, but more than the \$47,150 collected in 2021. Fee collections for Fiscal Year 2023 totaled \$311,902.72, which compared favorably to the \$358,351 collected by this time last year. Therefore, Mr. Hutchison observed that with 50% of fiscal year concluded, the Commission had collected 48% of its anticipated annual appropriation amount.

With respect to significant events and meetings, the Director reported that on January 12, he and Darlene Yuhas met with Steven Jacobus, the Section Chief of the DEP DOIT Geographic Info Systems Unit. Mr. Jacobus is the program manager and Chief Pilot responsible for overseeing the integration and development of small, unmanned aircraft systems (i.e., drones) into the workflow of the DEP. The Director noted that the only aerial film footage of the Delaware and Raritan Canal in the possession of the Commission was taken from a fixed wing aircraft circa 1974; so, the Commission does not possess modern images or video of the canal in its present condition. He stated his belief that benefits of taking drone video footage of the canal were both numerous and wide-ranging. Drone footage would assist with the implementation of the Commission land use regulatory program. It would also support the Master Plan revision project, since many of the most important and interesting engineering elements of the canal, such as the stone armoring along the Delaware River and the spillway in New Brunswick, can only be appreciated by boat, or are inaccessible to the public. He noted that the taking of drone footage will accurately document the location and record the condition of the historic resources of the canal, such as the bridges, bridge and locktender houses and other structures, which may prove critical in the event that they are damaged or destroyed.

Mr. Hutchison also noted that it had been pointed out to him that a drone can be used to document the various “infalls”—the culverts, headwalls, and pipes that drain into the canal. This information can then be plotted as a GIS layer and mapped on the same GIS-based program the Commission staff was creating for the Commission’s project file database. The Director stated that mapping this information would benefit both the Commission and DEP staff as well as the regulated community. Ken Klipstein of the NJWSA volunteered to help the Commission staff to move this process forward with Mr. Jacobus. With regard to the ongoing project that Commission staffer Erica Vavrence was working on to create a new Commission GIS-based project database, the Director reported that the DEP GIS Team had a database meeting to set the parameters for the project, including a review of the data categories used in the old MS Access database. Mrs. Vavrence also completed the Intro to GIS and GIS Advanced Pro courses, and in March she will attend a GIS Mapping course. She has been manually adding project data by county/municipality for new incoming projects and will meet with the GIS Team to learn how to input bulk data to the new database. This will ultimately result in a database in which projects can be mapped as a layer, project files can be linked to projects, and Commission stream corridors and easements can be mapped as a separate GIS layer.

With respect to the Master Plan update process, the Director reported that he, Colleen Maloney, and Darlene Yuhas met to begin work on the NJ Historic Trust standard grant award packet, which must be submitted to the Trust no later than March 31, 2023. One of the required documents is a resolution from the Commission authorizing the Director to execute a grant agreement for the amount awarded for the proposed project, which the Director informed the Commissioners he would present for their approval at the February 15 meeting.

The Director noted that among the general permits he issued in January was the modification to the GP-

1 for Port Mercer Canal House in Lawrence Township, Mercer County. He noted that the permit had been modified to tie the house into the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority system, rather than construct a mounded septic system at the site.

Finally, the Director was pleased to report that the legislation appropriating the \$550,000 New Jersey Historic Trust Grant for the revision of the Commission Master Plan was passed by both Houses of the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Murphy on December 22, 2022 as P.L. 2022.

Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kalleser reported that, on January 18, there was a kick-off meeting for the Rockingham exterior refurbishment capital project. The project is being undertaken in anticipation of the 250th (semi-quincentennial) of the American Revolution and is intended to be completed by July 2023.

She reported on the success of the "First Day" hikes, held in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park at the Mapleton Preserve, Trenton, and Delaware and Hamilton townships on January 1, 2023. She noted the attendance and assistance offered by the New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors program, DEP staff, and friends' groups. The hiking events were both well-received and well-attended.

The Superintendent reported that the foot bridge that conveys the park multiuse trail over the Alexauken Creek at the aqueduct in Lambertville was reopened to the public on January 25.

The Superintendent reported that the T-wall elements needed for the repair of the former railroad trestle that conveys the multiuse trail over the Wickecheoke Creek at the Prallsville Mills were being fabricated offsite, and that while the repair schedule was dependent on the weather, it was hoped that the project could be completed in late May or early June of 2023.

Superintendent Kalleser reported that the removal of dead and dying ash trees infested by the emerald ash borer was proceeding within the park, that a section from Route 27 northward to Somerset County Route 518 (Georgetown-Franklin Turnpike) along the main canal was completed and that a section from Route 518 north to Griggstown area would be addressed thereafter.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Sellar reported that the Landing Lane Spillway repair project located on the left bank of the canal in New Brunswick, which began in mid-November, was ongoing. The Landing Lane Spillway is part of the canal's flood control system and consists of a stone masonry structure that discharges into the Raritan River. The spillway is part of the original fabric of historic appurtenant structures along the canal and dates to its original construction.

Mr. Sellar informed the Commission that the Six Mile Run culvert repair on Canal Road in Franklin Township would be bid during the first quarter of 2023, and that NJWSA expected construction would take place in the second half of the 2023 year. The project would include partial road closures, excavation of the culvert, and backfilling with a low-strength concrete over the pipe.

Mr. Sellar reported that design for the western canal embankment repair project in Stockton was nearing completion, and that a request for bids for the project would be sent out in a few months. Mr. Sellar said that the design of the proposed upper embankment repair project located from Bulls Island Recreation Area south to Prallsville Mills in Stockton would be completed shortly, and that a request for bids and associated permitting would take place in approximately one year.

Mr. Sellar reported that the work for the NJWSA sluice gate replacement project, which would replace 11 gates located at four canal locks, would be awarded in April.

Commissioner Lubitz asked Mr. Sellar if the NJWSA had received any feedback from the residents of the Lambertville regarding the NJWSA 2023 Tree Removal and Trimming plan. Mr. Sellar stated he was not aware of any comments from residents of Lambertville. Commissioner Lubitz recalled that there had been considerable comment two years ago regarding an area of new plantings along the canal in the vicinity of Coryell Street. Mr. Sellar stated that the 2020 maintenance plan involved planting of decorative grasses in the vicinity of the Finkle & Son Hardware store as an embankment maintenance project.

You may take part in the monthly commission meetings either in person or online. Visit www.nj.gov/dep/drcc and click on "Meeting Information." Then click on "Upcoming Meeting Notice." The D&RCC meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The public is allowed to comment on the proceedings. In-person meetings have resumed; they are held at Prallsville Mills on Route 29, just north of Stockton.

(continued on the next page)

Review Zone Actions—January 27, 2023

Zone B Projects

- #22-1771B 50 Atrium Drive -- Warehouse Addition (Franklin Township)
- #21-2441EE Princeton University -- 185 Nassau Street Landscaping and Site Improvements (Municipality of Princeton)
- #22-2441XX Princeton University -- Butler Interim Dining Pavilion (Municipality of Princeton)
- #19-5430 The Place at East Windsor -- Proposed Apartment Buildings (East Windsor Township)
- #21-5635A J.V.B. Wicoff Elementary School -- Phase 2 Additions and Renovations (Plainsboro Township)
- #22-5770A 63 South Middlebush Road -- Proposed Residence (Franklin Township)
- #21-5783 2001 Old Trenton Road -- Proposed Age-Restricted Development (West Windsor Township)
- #22-5944 Union Transportation Trail Extension (East Windsor Township)

Renew early: 2023 Membership

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 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 below and mail it with your check.



D&R Canal Watch 2023 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, 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 2022-2025

Linda Barth (Somerville)
Robert Barth (Somerville)

Christopher “Kip” Bateman (Branchburg)
Barbara ten Broeke (East Millstone)

Class of 2021-2024

Tom Lederer (Princeton)
Carl Hemmingsen, (Bordentown)
Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)

EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

**Saturday, March 4 -- Hunterdon County
Plein Air Plus Art Auction**

**Lambertville Historical Society presents
Lambertville En Plein Air
Saturday, March 4, 5 to 7 p.m.
Rago Arts & Auction Center, 333 Cherry Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530**

What has become THE art auction and local happening in the Lambertville/New Hope area is back and more elegant than ever in 2023.

Plein Air Plus, artistic interpretations of historic Lambertville and neighboring river towns, is an annual fundraiser by the Lambertville Historical Society, taking place at Rago Arts and Auction House on Saturday, March 4, 5 to 7 p.m. This year offers an exclusive variety of styles, media, and studio works of the surrounding area by local artists. More than 40 works of art will be featured during the Plein Air Plus event, held as a silent auction and benefitting the Lambertville Historical Society and the James Marshall House Museum.

Parking is available in the rear of the building accessed via Cherry Street. For more information about participating artists, and to preview their artwork, visit www.LambertvilleHistoricalSociety.org.

**Saturday, March 4 — Morris County
Morristown National Historical Park Celebrates
90 Years**

Morristown National Historical Park will formally kick off its 90th anniversary year at **1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 4** in its museum auditorium. The park is celebrating President Herbert Hoover’s March 2, 1933 signing of the legislation that created the park (his pen is pictured at right). **As the nation's first national historical park, Morristown occupies a unique position within the 420+ strong national park system.**

After brief opening remarks, keynote speaker Dr. Jude M. Pfister, Chief of Cultural Resources, will speak on the establishment of the park, its place in the development of today’s National Park Service and how the park can provide historical leadership for the future.

At the conclusion of the event, the public is welcome to enjoy light refreshments, including a celebratory 90th anniversary cake. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the pen used by President Hoover to create the park, an artifact rarely on display. Guests will be the first to

receive the park’s list of special programs occurring throughout the year.

A limited number of seats are available on a first come, first served, basis. The museum is located at 30 Washington Place in Morristown and will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the day of the event.

For more information about Morristown National Historical Park, please visit our website at www.nps.gov/morr.



**Sunday, March 12 -- Hunterdon County
George Arnett examines the John Honeyman
Myth at the Tewksbury Historical Society Meeting**

George W. Arnett, III, will be the guest speaker at the Tewksbury Historical Society Meeting on March 12, 1 PM, at the Lamington Presbyterian Church, 355 Lamington Road, Bedminster, 07921. The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

A former resident of Tewksbury and Elder at the Lamington Presbyterian Church, Arnett is an amateur historian and former Trustee of the New Jersey Historical Society. Born in Trenton and growing up in the Griggstown area, he always heard about John Honeyman, the alleged spy who provided information to George Washington about the arrangement of Hessian forces at Trenton. Honeyman, also a resident of Griggstown and Bedminster, was working in Trenton when the British occupied New Jersey after the loss of New York by the Revolutionary forces. His information helped Washington win the Battle of Trenton, December 1776. Honeyman is buried in the cemetery across the street from the Lamington Church.

Arnett narrated a program about Honeyman entitled “Fox Nation Untold: Patriot Revealed,” Season 3, Episode 2. The story has been considered both “myth” and “true.” Arnett will examine the facts and present the case. He and his wife now live in Florida. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be canceled. For details visit tewksburyhistory.net.



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:

- **Migration of the state park website to a new provider.**
- **Restored the Kingston canoe/kayak boat launch**
- **Paying for the conditions assessment and the engineering drawings for the East Millstone and Griggstown bridgetender stations.**
- 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
- Installed and facilitated canal interpretive signage at locks and spillways
- Activities in 2009 marking the 175th 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
- 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 maintenance of the site at the rate of \$50 per month, and professional courses for the maintenance staff.

Canal Watch Calendar of Events

To see our events for 2023, please check this issue or the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org

We have been sending the Canal Watch newsletter by email so that you can read it in **COLOR**. You also have one less item to recycle. If you would like a black-and-white paper copy, please write to Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com and she will mail a printed copy to you.



Snowshoer at Griggstown lock
Photo by Carla Olsen

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The D&R Canal Watch
P.O. Box 2
Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553
908-240-0488

www.canalwatch.org
<https://www.facebook.com/dandrcanalwatch/>
info@canalwatch.org

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.