



Abbott Marshlands Featured at Annual Meeting

Everyone is invited to the Canal Watch Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 25 at 2:00 p.m.

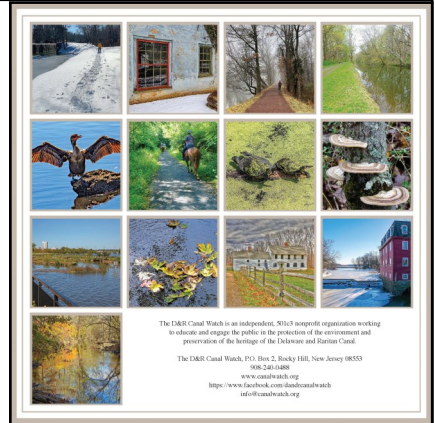
Our speaker will be Pat Coleman, president of the board of directors for Friends of Abbott Marshlands.

In an introductory presentation on the Abbott Marshlands, Pat will reveal the marshlands to be an unfolding treasure of both cultural and natural history, and a place worthy of continued research, interpretation and preservation. Pat will show us the beauty of the Abbott Marshlands.

The event will take place in the **Fellowship Hall behind the Griggstown Reformed Church**. Use the GPS address of 1065 Canal Road, Princeton (even though it is nowhere near Princeton). For information, call Linda Barth, 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com.



Your Canal Photography is Needed for the Canal Watch 2024 Calendar



- (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. 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) 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.
- (3) Remember that it's a 70-mile park. Perhaps visit a section that you have not seen before.

We urge you to start shooting and send your images by July 30 to Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS YEAR, EACH PHOTOGRAPHER MAY SEND NO MORE THAN FIVE IMAGES, SO CHOOSE WISELY.

D & R CANAL WATCH 2023 ACTIVITIES

www.canalwatch.org; www.dandrcanal.com

Program Leaders: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121, bbarth321@aol.com; Wayne Petko, 732-371-3514, wpetko02@gmail.com; Pierre Lacombe, pjlacombe25@gmail.com; Herve and Anne Barrier, 908-670-5743, hb9955@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 25: 2:00 p.m. Canal Watch Annual Meeting. Our speaker will be Pat Coleman, president of the board of directors for Friends of Abbott Marshlands. In an introductory presentation on the Abbott Marshlands, Pat will reveal the marshlands to be an unfolding treasure of both cultural and natural history, and a place worthy of continued research, interpretation and preservation. Pat is the President of the Board of Directors for *Friends for the Abbott Marshlands*.

The event will take place in the Fellowship Hall behind the Griggstown Reformed Church. Use the GPS address of 1065 Canal Road, Princeton (even though it is nowhere near Princeton). For information, call Linda Barth, 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com.

The canal dinner cruise fundraiser has been postponed until 2024 because the lock at Easton is not working.

Sunday, July 30: Canal Road Walk and Roll. 10:00-4:00. Canal Road closed from East Millstone to Butler Road. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

Sunday, August 27: Canal Road Walk and Roll. 10:00-4:00. Canal Road closed from Griggstown Causeway to Route 518 in Rocky Hill. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

George Washington may show up in Griggstown!

Saturday, September 2: 10:00 a.m. to noon. Solar observations, Lock 11, South Bound

Brook. across from the post office on Canal Road (11 Madison Street). Leader: Wayne Petko, 732-371-3514, wpetko02@gmail.com.

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday; noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Somerset County's Journey Through the Past. Canal Watch members will open the East Millstone bridgetender's home and station (and the historic outhouse, for observation only). Barbara ten Broeke, 732-930-1776; barbaratenbroeke@gmail.com



Saturday, November 11: 10:00 a.m. Towpath Walk, Demott Lane to Landing Lane, 4.2 miles roundtrip. Meet at the historic Van Wickle House off Easton Avenue at the foot of Demott Lane (GPS 1289 Easton Avenue, Somerset NJ 08873). Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121, bbarth321@aol.com.

In addition to the above activities sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch, you can see the D&R Canal State Park programs at this link: <https://www.dandrcanal.com/programs>.

THANKS...

To Carl Hemmingsen for his service on the board, representing Bordentown. Carl is stepping down to tend to family issues.

Hey Bikers!

Has your bike ever broken down while you are out riding? If you need help, just contact Brian Clissord, the Bike Guy Mobile! For an immediate problem, text him at 269-274-3883; if he's available, he'll help. To make an appointment for a repair at your home, visit <https://bikeguymobile.com/> and scroll down to "online appointments."



Thanks to the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS)

The D&R Canal Watch was overjoyed to receive the following letter from the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. Their check for \$292.50 was most appreciated.



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL MERCER COUNTY

201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410

May 2023

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS), a non-profit land-trust dedicated to conserving and enhancing the environment; organized a volunteer roadside cleanup event in conjunction with the National Clean Communities initiative and Hopewell Township. The Clean Communities Day allows volunteers to select a non-profit of their choice and donate funds based on hours worked.

With that being said, enclosed is a donation that reflects the hours worked by volunteers on behalf of your organization. Please deposit this check at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please reach out using the contact information below.

Best Regards,

Julie Troutman

Julie Troutman
CFO
jtroutman@hopewelltp.org
609-537-0234

THANKS...

To the Meadows Foundation for the post about our Wednesday Work Group:

We cannot thank the WONDERFUL Wednesday Work Crew of D&R Canal Watch enough for all of the excellent work they do maintaining the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park!

This park and its miles of beautiful towpath are truly a unique treasure. Would YOU like to join Workday Wednesdays?! Reach out to our friends at D&R Canal Watch to find out how!

News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, April 19, 2023

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported that with respect to the Master Plan update process, on March 30, he delivered the completed Master Plan grant award packet to the New Jersey Historic Trust ("Trust"). He noted that Darlene Yuhás was working with the Trust to clarify certain information relating to the Commission's federal tax identification number and other details, but that he did not anticipate any difficulties in complying with these requests.

With respect to next steps in the Master Plan process, the Director stated that the Trust would review the Commission's paperwork and send back a detailed grant agreement for review and approval. Mr. Hutchison noted that it was important to remember that the Commission's grant is one of many awarded in the nearly \$16 million grant round for 2022, and that the Trust staff need time to perform their role in the process to ensure the Commission is in compliance with the relevant grant regulations and procedures. In the meantime, the Commission staff were working to shape information that will be helpful to the Trust and presumably the Department of the Treasury for issuing a Request for Proposal for the project.

The Director stated that along with Commission engineer Joseph Ruggeri, he conducted a second site inspection on March 12 to examine whether the solar array approved in 2016 by the Commission at 967 Croton Road in the Quakertown neighborhood of Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, was in compliance with the Operations and Maintenance Manual.

Finally, the Director noted that among the general permits issued last month, he issued a General Permit No. 1 for several in-kind repairs to the Kingston Toll House. Repairs to the roof and door, which are in poor condition, would be undertaken, and they are necessary for the stabilization of the building and for security purposes. The present cedar shake roof would also be replaced with western red cedar shakes, and the rotted wooden door facing the Delaware and Raritan Canal would be removed and replaced.

Vice-Chairman Stout praised Director Hutchison and Darlene Yuhás for their work on the Master Plan update, saying he was excited to see the project getting under way.

Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lauren Rojewski stated that she was excited to attend her first official Commission meeting since she took over on April 1. She noted that the project to repair the pedestrian bridge at the Millstone Aqueduct in Plainsboro Township, Middlesex County, would begin the week of April 24. Park maintenance staff will replace boards and make safety improvements to the footbridge over the canal to the towpath.

Ms. Rojewski reported that on April 15, the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park watershed ambassador at Bulls Island Recreation Area conducted an invasive species removal event with local volunteers. Together they pulled out bamboo material and Japanese knotweed and were hoping to return to the area and conduct further removals and potentially replant the area with native species.

The Superintendent updated the Commission on preparations for the upcoming season. She noted that the Park Service would be engaged in additional seasonal staff hiring for the Bulls Island area and associated parking lots. She also noted that the park staff were on schedule to install a concessionaire staircase by May 15.

She stated that boat launch passes would be sold this year, and that the park staff were working through standard operating procedures for how that process would operate. As part of that process, she noted that the park staff would install "parking by permit only" signage at spaces to help allow access to the boat ramp for people who purchase those passes.

The Superintendent reported that portable sanitation units for the park should be delivered May 1, or the following week at the latest. She also reported on the schedule to repair the eroded portion of the multiuse trail at the former Belvidere-Delaware railroad trestle at Prallsville Mill. She noted that a meeting was scheduled for April 25 with the DEP Office of Resource Development and NJDOT to review a start date and project logistics. She also noted that later today she would be attending a meeting regarding the Washington Road bridge replacement project to discuss additional project details with NJDOT and other DEP program elements.

The Superintendent provided Commissioners with an update on the project to extend the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park in the area of Milford Borough, Hunterdon County. The 7.4-mile extension located on lands owned by the Black River and Western Railroad has been in the works for quite some time, and the Superintendent noted that park staff would be examining logistics issues and planning next steps in May.

Lastly, the State Park Service has been working with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission and tri-county Marine Rescue Association to install color-coded signage at bridge crossings, which would allow distressed boaters to better communicate their location on the river with first responders and emergency rescue dispatch teams.

Vice-Chairman Stout asked Superintendent Rojewski when the project to repair the eroded former railroad trestle bridge at Prallsville Mills would commence. The Superintendent said that they were looking to start in the near future, and that she believed they were on schedule to reopen by their target date of July 4. Mr. Stout thanked her and said that it was great news.

Commissioner Designee Madden noted that the repair of the bridge created an opportunity for the Commission and the Park Service to discuss the operational issues arising from people jumping off the bridge and swimming in the canal. She stated that at some point she would like to figure out a way to augment or redesign the bridge railings in the future, but that this would require a detailed internal discussion with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Vice-Chairman Stout observed that jumping from the bridge was a common practice, and that Ms. Madden's observations were correct.

Commissioner Lubitz inquired about the invasive species removal at Bulls Island Recreation Area, noting that he approved of the removal of invasive vegetation at the area where park patrons can view the canal wing dam in the Delaware River. He also noted that bamboo tends to sprout and send up its shoots during this time of year, and that removal would be easiest during the next three to four weeks. Commissioner Lubitz also applauded the acquisition of "Point Breeze," the former Bonaparte mansion site in Bordentown, Burlington County. Superintendent Rojewski stated that she was familiarizing herself with the site, and that the DEP would be finalizing a joint management agreement with Bordentown City to operate that area as a park. The management agreement would cover park operations, events, and other related issues. Commissioner Lubitz stated his approval of the approach and noted that the property would be a welcome addition to the area of the park south of Trenton. Superintendent Rojewski also noted that the site would be the future location of the Bordentown City Hall, and that the historic gardener's house on the property would be managed by a separate entity. Ms. Madden noted that Point Breeze was acquired pursuant to a partnership between the DEP Green Acres Program, the Delaware and Raritan Greenway Land Trust, and Bordentown City, and that the day-to-day management of the property would mostly be led by the city, with the Trust playing a role. She noted that the gardener's house was the only original building left from the Bonaparte estate, the mansion having burned down. She also noted that there would be a "soft opening" of the property on May 5, and that a new park sign would be erected at the main entrance.

Vice-Chairman Stout recognized Mr. Bill Brown, who noted the outsized role the canal plays in the Borough of Stockton. He noted that there has been an increased use of unregulated e-bikes on the multiuse trail, traveling at speeds well in excess of the DEP regulations. He noted that the multiuse trail is narrow in this area and that he had witnessed near collisions between walkers and e-bike users who have rented their bike from the vendor in Lambertville, who were not familiar with the operation of e-bikes and are confused as to what they should do when confronted by a bicyclist coming from the opposite direction. Mr. Brown stated that there were safety studies conducted when the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park was created and that risk control measures were addressed. He asked if risk control measures were being applied to the multiuse trail of what he believed was the most frequently used park in the State.

Superintendent Rojewski responded that the State Park Service was in the process of establishing an e-bike policy, which would encompass safety considerations and risk control measures, and that this policy would be released in the near future. Mr. Brown suggested that a delay in implementing new policies invites accidents based upon the two scenarios he mentioned. He further noted that he had never seen any enforcement of speed regulations on the canal multiuse trail, and that he did not think it would be possible to enforce such regulations. Ms. Madden requested that Mr. Brown email her outlining his concerns and the issues that he experienced in the park. She also suggested that any hazardous situation in the state parks system be immediately reported to the 1-877-WARNDEP toll-free telephone number, so that it is directed to law enforcement. While the State Park Police were severely understaffed, she noted that if reported, there was an opportunity for them to respond and conduct a targeted patrol. She also noted that education and social media outreach could help inform e-bike users of the existing regulations.

Vice-Chairman Stout observed that as a daily user of the park in the area between Lambertville and Frenchtown, he has often been passed without anybody saying “on your left” by an e-bike traveling at a high speed. He also noted that enforcement of any new policy will be a challenge for the DEP.

Ms. Madden noted that the DEP wants to start by educating e-bike users before resorting to law enforcement. She noted that speed limits are already adopted in the Administrative Code, but that further clarification of the policy is needed. Superintendent Rojewski concurred and observed that the situation was less about making sure there were policies in place and more about ensuring that the public was educated about how to behave on the park multiuse trail. Vice-Chairman Stout suggested that a conversation with the Lambertville e-bike vendor would be helpful and that maybe it was possible to install speed “governors” on rented e-bikes. Mr. Brown stated his view that the notion of enforcement on the canal multiuse trail was an unrealistic chimera (illusion). He believed that a sounder approach would include the erection of signs and regulations requiring cyclists to notify people that they were passing on the left.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Sellar reported that work was proceeding on the Landing Lane Spillway rehabilitation project located in New Brunswick. He noted that a date to arrange a review of the mock-up of the stonework of the depressed spillway area on the towpath by the Commission had not been set, but that the project had a tentative completion date of June.

Mr. Sellar informed the Commission that the project to rehabilitate the stone culvert, which conveys Six Mile Run underneath Canal Road, the Delaware and Raritan Canal and the towpath in Franklin Township, Somerset County would commence in the summer. He noted that the project would require the closure of Canal Road, which would be a matter of interest to the residents of Franklin Township.

Mr. Sellar informed the Commission that Phase 1 of the project to repair an approximate 1.0-mile section of the western embankment of the Delaware and Raritan Feeder Canal that separates the canal from the Delaware River and is generally located between the Prallsville Lock and the railroad bridge crossing over the canal at Brookville in Stockton Borough, was put out for public bid by NJWSA during the week of April 9. He reminded the Commission that Phase 1 of the project entailed the removal of the temporary emergency repairs implemented in 2011 and would include the removal of the plastic tarps, removal of trees and leveling of the multiuse trail. Phase 2 of the project would entail stability improvements to the embankment, but the immediate goal was to reopen the multiuse trail for recreational use.

Mr. Sellar reported that with respect to the project to replace 11 canal sluice gates in Somerset County, a notice to proceed was issued by NJWSA and that a pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor. Mr. Sellar noted that there was a several month lead time to fabricate the gates, but that in the meantime the contractor would be conducting preliminary work and using divers to take measurements and assess the site conditions.

Mr. Sellar stated that with regard to the NJWSA hydrilla management plan, the authority did not find any tubers in the canal in 2022, and that they would observe conditions in the canal this coming season. He also noted that Heather Desko, NJWSA Senior Watershed Protection Specialist, would brief the Commission on hydrilla and other subaquatic vegetation control issues at the May 17 Commission meeting.

Through the chair, Mr. Brown inquired about the details of the proposed leveling of the canal multiuse trail in conjunction with the in-kind embankment repair project. Specifically, he asked if by leveling, Mr. Sellar meant lowering the high spots or raising the low spots. Mr. Sellar stated that the project would entail both, but that the embankment would be returned to its pre-flood elevation.

Mr. Brown then requested details on the proposed embankment repairs. Mr. Sellar stated that specific engineering options were still under review, but that injection grouting was a strategy under active consideration, given the manner in which the embankment had become saturated by the 2011 flooding.

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 Borough.

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)
Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)

EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

Byram Township
225th Anniversary

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING

Greater Byram

Morris Canal History Day

Waterloo Village State Park – 525 Waterloo Road

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2023

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



"A FULL DAY OF THINGS TO SEE AND DO"

Live music, canal boat rides, canal boat exhibit, Lenape Indian Village blacksmithing, canal museum, historic trades, petting zoo and more

SPONSORED BY

Byram Township
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

New Jersey
State Park
Service

CANAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW JERSEY


New Jersey
New Jersey Department of State
Division Travel and Tourism

For more information, please visit our website: bths.us

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.



Dog on the towpath in Kingston
Photo by Summer Praner

Board of Trustees

Linda Barth, president
Charles Martin, vice president
Wayne Petko, secretary
Tom Lederer, treasurer
Robert Barth
Christopher "Kip" Bateman
Ted Chase
Jeff McVey
Marion Munk
Barbara Ross
Tim Roth
Barbara ten Broeke

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.



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:

- **Restored the Kingston canoe/kayak boat launch**
- **Paid for the conditions assessment and the engineering drawings for the East Millstone and Griggstown bridgetender stations.**
- **Working with the park, we posted signage at six locations to help visitors find their way through Trenton.**
- 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

Canal Watch Achievements (continued)

- 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.

Renew your 2023 Membership

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.



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)