



Number 93

www.canalwatch.org

April 2024

Your Canal Photography is Needed for the Canal Watch 2025 Calendar

The 2024 D&R has sold out and we are now accepting photographs for the 2025 edition.

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). Or use a regular camera.

2. Since our historic waterway is a place that you can visit often, consider visiting 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 June 30 to Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com. But since the Canal Watch office will be closed from May 5-25, we ask you to send photos before or after those dates. In your email, please provide the location and date of each image. Photos can come from any year.

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

Celebrating 50 Years!
1974—2024

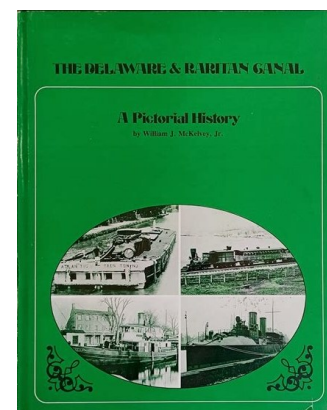


SAVE THE DATE for the Canal Watch Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 16

Sunday, June 16: 2:00 p.m. Canal Watch Annual Meeting. Capt. Bill McKelvey, canal and railroad historian, will present a slide program on the D&R Canal.

In 1976, Captain Bill wrote *The Delaware & Raritan Canal: A Pictorial History*, a photographic treasure trove of historic views of our canal. Two years later he followed that successful book with *Champlain to Chesapeake: A Canal Era Pictorial Cruise*, which included many photos of the D&R as well as the other inland waterways along the East Coast.

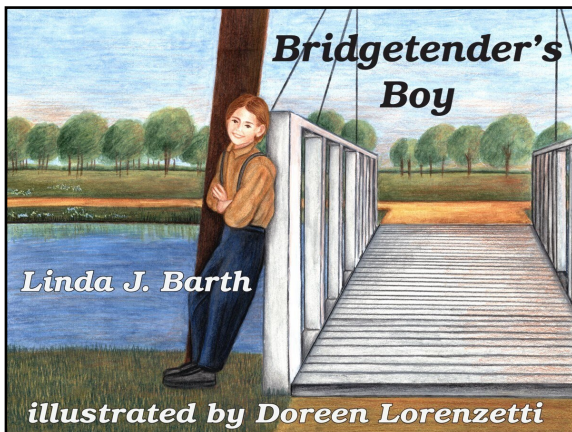
Location: Fellowship Hall behind the Griggstown Reformed Church. Use the GPS address of 1065 Canal Road, Princeton (even though it is nowhere near Princeton). For information, contact Linda Barth, 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com.



50th Anniversary Event Canal Videos and Poetry at the Acme Screening Room

At the gracious invitation of Donna Muchnicki, manager of the Acme Screening Room in Lambertville, the D&R Canal Watch hosted a successful afternoon of videos and poetry. Part of the state park's 50th anniversary celebration, the event featured four films about our historic waterway.

We began with the NJN video, "The Delaware and Raritan Canal," produced by Cliff Crawford for the bicentennial and narrated by former WOR radio host Jean Shepherd. After the showing, Judy Caccavale read her poem, "Walking with Joan," which is included in our 50th Anniversary book of D&R poems.



The second film was "Bridgetender's Boy," based on Linda Barth's picture book of the same name. Produced by Fred Frintrup, the feature shows a classroom of third graders learning about the D&R. Fred shared the story of the making of the film, which starred his daughter, Lauren Harkins. Next, Lois Harrod shared her poem, "Hold It."

The Canal Society of New Jersey provided the short, "Canals of New Jersey," which compared the D&R with the Morris Canal. Coleen Schläffer concluded the poetry section with a reading of her work, "Waterway."

The afternoon ended with the showing of a D&R film produced by Jim Amon, the first executive director of the D&R Canal Commission. This was a surprise, as very few people had ever seen this work.

Passing of Wayne Petko

The D&R Canal Watch is mourning the passing of Wayne Petko of South Bound Brook. For many years Wayne served as the secretary of our board, taking detailed and accurate minutes.

He was an active member of the Watch's Wednesday Work Group, rebuilding docks, cleaning canal buildings after floods, and removing flood debris from the Demott Lane pedestrian bridge.

Wayne belonged to the New Jersey Astronomical Association, serving as president of the NJAA in the early 2000s. He led annual solar and evening observation sessions along the canal. Wayne enjoyed star parties at Cherry Springs, PA and crafted at least six telescopes, his first created at age 16 using a book from the library. He was passionate about exploring the wonders of the cosmos.

Wayne graduated from Madison High School and went on to earn his Associate's degree from the County College of Morris. He worked as a research scientist for Sanofi in Bridgewater until his retirement in 2012.

He resided in South Bound Brook with his wife of 47 years, Margaret, and their children. Wayne enjoyed various hobbies including astronomy, hiking, biking, cooking, camping, listening to music, spending time with his grandkids, photography, woodworking, birdwatching, and reading nonfiction.

He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret, two cherished daughters, Melissa (Mark) Ellersick and Karen (Greg) Starker, four grandchildren, his twin brother Warren, and his cat Shadow.



2024 Calendar of Events

The D&R Canal Watch is happy to announce the many celebratory events that will be held throughout 2024. At each of these events we will sell our brand-new commemorative mug for a mere \$10 and our 50th anniversary poetry book for a donation of your choosing. As always, the money will be used for projects that enhance our historic D&R Canal State Park.

State Park staff is holding a canalwide **Scavenger Hunt**. Visit www.dandrcanal.com and scroll down to view and print the questions.

Sunday, June 16: 2:00 p.m. Canal Watch Annual Meeting. Capt. Bill McKelvey, canal and railroad historian, will present a slide program on the D&R Canal. In 1976, Captain Bill wrote *The Delaware & Raritan Canal: A Pictorial History*, a photographic treasure trove of historic views of our canal. Two years later he followed that successful book with *Champlain to Chesapeake: A Canal Era Pictorial Cruise*, which included many photos of the D&R as well as the other inland waterways along the East Coast.

Location: 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.

Sunday, July 28: 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! For more information, please call 732-873-1991, option 4.

Sunday, August 25: Canal Road Walk and Roll. 10:00-4:00. Canal Road closed from Griggstown Causeway to Route 518 in Rocky Hill. **Meet Gen. Washington as he prepares to march with the army to Yorktown, VA.** Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars! For more information, please call 732-873-1991, option 4.

Saturday, September 14: The D&R Canal State Park and the D&R Canal Commission will host a public event in the afternoon. Details will be provided soon.

Sunday, September 15: CANAL HOUSE CHALLENGE. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., five of the historic locktender and bridgetender homes will be open to the public. If you visit all five buildings and get your passport stamped, you will receive a prize.

We are planning **The Canal House Challenge** for the anniversary year. If it proves popular, we may make it an annual event. The five buildings are located at East Millstone, Blackwells Mills, Griggstown, Kingston, and Port Mercer. The friends groups in charge of the homes will welcome visitors and provide a tour and history of the buildings. Addresses of the five buildings will be published later this summer. Try to visit all five in one day.

Saturday-Sunday, October 12-13: 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). Linda Barth, 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com.

Sunday, November 10: 10:00 a.m. Towpath Walk, Demott Lane to Landing Lane, 4.2 miles. 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.

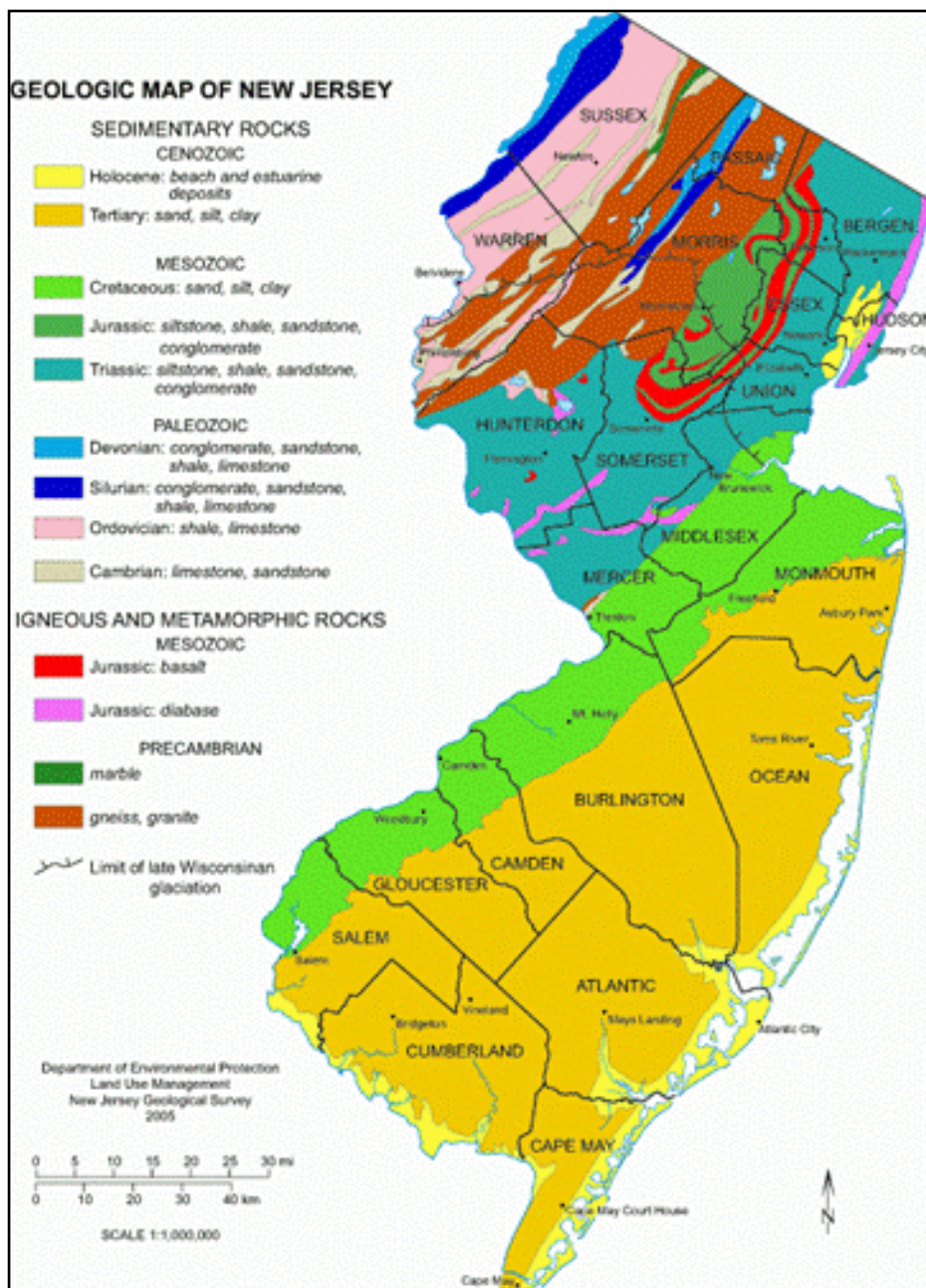
In addition to the above activities sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch, you can see the D&R Canal State Park programs at this link: <https://dandrcanal.org/programs>

Trail interpreter Pamela V'Combe has begun her series of walks for this season.

Pamela V'Combe
Trail interpreter



50th Anniversary Event Geology Hike Along the Canal



The D&R Canal Watch sponsored a geologic talk and walk at the Scudders Falls segment of the Feeder Canal on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Pierre Lacombe, a geologist who is retired from the US Geological Survey (USGS), led the field trip. Pierre gave a 15-minute talk on the geology of New Jersey with a focus on the rocks of the Scudders Falls area, followed by a one-hour walking tour.

The talk consisted of an introduction with a generalized geologic map of New Jersey (left). This was followed by a detailed geologic map of Central New Jersey, focusing on the rocks of Scudders Falls. During the short lecture, Pierre described Milankovitch Cycles that caused ice ages and interglacial warm periods of the earth. These long-term celestial cycles also cause cyclic changes in the sedimentary rocks of many parts of the United States. These cycles are particularly evident and heavily studied in the rocks of central New Jersey.

Because rocks that do not degrade over long periods of time are the only rocks that are exposed along the walking tour, Pierre showed a 20-foot rock core from the USGS rock core library. The core showed many of the various types of rock that cannot be seen in most local rock outcrops. The core included a 6-inch bed of coal-like rock, 5- to 20-inch thick beds of red, black, gray, and green strata, as well as 10- to 20-inch beds that were massive and 10- to 20-inch thick beds of finely laminated strata. Many other geologic and hydrogeologic features were shown and described.

The D&R Canal Watch would like to thank the Tim Oden, Center Director for the New Jersey Water Science of the USGS for graciously providing the core.

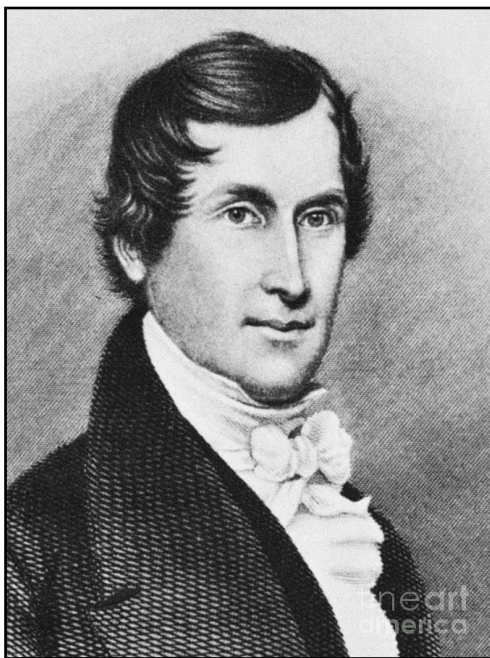
With the introductory presentation completed, the attendees asked about ten pointed questions. Maps were folded, the core was put away, and the group soon started the walking tour. The first stop described the two canals at this location: the former D&R Transportation Canal and the former Trenton Water-Power Canal. The D&R Canal, with water in it, is in fact a feeder canal to the D&R Canal from Bordentown to New Brunswick. The canal's water intake is at Bulls Island about 16 miles upstream from Scudders Falls. The former Trenton Water-Power canal is mostly filled with dirt. This power canal supplied water to water wheels and turbines to supply energy to power many of the early industries of Trenton. The Power Canal's intake is at Scudders Falls. The second stop for the 22 people on the tour was designed to see rock outcrops at the entrance of the Trenton Water-power Canal. However, with recent spring rains, the Delaware River was swollen and covered the rocks.

(continued on the next page)

The group then walked nearly ½ mile upstream to the Feeder Canal overflow release weir. On the walk, Pierre reexplained that we were walking on bedrock, but it was at depths of 10 to 30 ft. It is not exposed because it easily weathers to soils. Thus, we never see it in an outcrop. Once at the weir, those people nimble enough to descend the steep hill to get to the rock outcrop were entertained by seeing the various types of strata. Lacombe pointed out highly fractured water-bearing strata and massive strata that bore little water. He pointed out fossilized mud cracks, as well as horizontal and vertical fractures that were caused by tectonic forces. He also explained how erosion of 3 kilometers of rock from on top of today's rock outcrop released pressure and allowed fractures to open. Lacombe explained how water flows through the fractures and some of the impacts that groundwater flow has on the water resources of central New Jersey.

As spring rain started to fall, the group returned to the parking lot and went home to a cup of hot cocoa hopefully served in the mugs that Bob Barth was selling to support the D&R Canal Watch.

Canvass White—Canal Engineer and Cement Entrepreneur



Excerpt from Hudson Valley Magazine, June 18, 2013:

Ask any middle-schooler to name the important figures of the Industrial Revolution and, if she was paying attention in history class, she'll rattle off names like Eli Whitney, Robert Fulton, and Elias Howe. But even her teacher probably wouldn't include the name Canvass White. That's a serious omission, especially in these parts.

Canvass White was almost singularly responsible for the success of such 19th-century engineering feats as the Erie Canal, the U.S. Capitol, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Station, and, according to one historian, the modern incarnations of New York City and Boston.

What do those things have in common? None of them could have been built without natural cement, and White was to cement what Whitney was to cotton and Fulton was to boating. Along the way, he helped make Rosendale both the eponym for and the center of the natural cement world.

In a technical journal article titled "An Overview of the History and Economic Geology of the Natural Cement Industry at Rosendale, Ulster County, New York," authors Dietrich Werner and Kurtis C. Burmeister tell how the early years of the 19th century "sparked a number of large-

scale building projects, including the construction of regional canal networks. These canal projects required quantities of high-quality mortars unavailable in North America prior to the introduction of natural cement." Unlike other binding agents of the time, cement is able to harden under water. It is made from clay-rich dolostone or limestone, and the Hudson Valley was geologically blessed with large quantities of both.

Canvass White, more than anyone, used this resource to transform the nation and the lower Hudson Valley. As author Bill Bryson writes: "The great unsung Canvass White didn't just make New York rich; more profoundly, he helped to make America."

Cement mixer

Canvass White (1790–1834) was born in the central New York county of Oneida. In 1817, he was an engineer working on the Erie Canal; he went to England to study canal construction and learned about natural cement. He earned his own cement patent back home and began the first natural cement factory, in Chittenango, New York in 1819.

The product proved so successful that White quickly expanded operations wherever he found limestone. And the area around Rosendale proved to have the best rocks around; they were unearthed when the Delaware and Hudson Canal was being dug in 1825. Those limestone deposits were vast: 22 feet deep, three miles wide, and extending 32 square miles between High Falls and Kingston. The cement turned out to be so good, the term "Rosendale cement" became interchangeable with natural cement, like Kleenex for tissues.

(continued on the next page)

WHITE'S PATENT Hydraulick Cement.

THIS composition has recently been discovered and is found from sufficient experiment (having been *wholly* used in the construction of the stone work of the Erie Canal) to be well adapted to all the purposes for which the Roman Cement is employed. It possesses besides the quality of not *setting* immediately after it is laid, an advantage which will be duly appreciated by Mechanics.

It is put up in barrels of 5 bushels each and offered for sale at a very reasonable rate, by

Ralston & Lyman,

No. 11 South Front-street.

N. B. Purchasers are furnished with printed directions for its use.

april 12

dtf

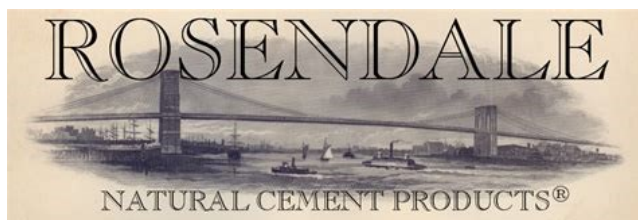
By then, the cement business was fiercely competitive. White and his partner and brother, Hugh, knew they couldn't compete from faraway Chittenango. The Whites relocated to Whiteport, near Rosendale, in 1836, "a time of considerable growth in the natural cement industry," according to Werner and Burmeister's article.

By the early 1840s, 13 companies produced 600,000 barrels of cement annually. Thanks to the Delaware and Hudson Canal, Rondout Creek, and the Hudson River, these companies were able to ship concrete and import fuel more cost-effectively than inland cement producers. Rosendale cement eventually found its way to every major port on the Atlantic Ocean and was used in just about every significant construction project of the era. For example: From 1884 to 1886, Rosendale cement from the Widow Jane Mine was carried to Liberty

Island, where it was used to build the base for the Statue of Liberty, the largest 19th-century concrete structure in the United States. Behind the granite walls of the statue's pedestal, the foundation is comprised of massive concrete walls eight to 20 feet thick and 15 feet deep.

In the final year of the 19th century, Rosendale's cement industry peaked, producing nearly ten million barrels a year. But as the new century began, builders needed even stronger cement, and a new product called Portland cement rapidly became more popular. In just a decade, from 1900 to 1910, the two products essentially exchanged market share. Natural cement production in the U.S. shrank from ten million barrels annually to one million, while Portland cement production grew from one million barrels to more than 12 million by 1910. Natural cement held on for a while as a specialty product, but in 1970, Rosendale's Century Cement Manufacturing Company, the last natural cement works in North America, closed.

All in all, it had been a good run. Thirty-four different cement companies filed a property deed prior to 1900 at the Ulster County Clerk's Office, says Gayle Grunwald of the Century House Historical Society. "This did not count unincorporated family businesses," she says, of which there were probably many. During most of the 151-year span of the natural cement industry, Rosendale produced nearly 50 percent of all the natural cement manufactured in North America. END



WHAT IS IT?

Canal terms explained

Aqueduct — a water-filled bridge that carries a canal over a road, railroad, valley, or river. The D&R Canal has three aqueducts. They carry the canal over Sullivan Way and Parkside Avenue in Trenton and over the Millstone River in Plainsboro. See pictures below.



The Millstone Aqueduct carries the canal over the Millstone River in Plainsboro, off Mapleton Road.



The canal and the railroad were carried over Parkside Avenue in Trenton by this aqueduct.

News from the C&O Canal Trust, the nonprofit partner of the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park

The C&O Park Rehabilitates Historic Structures in Georgetown

- Thanks to funding awarded in 2023, the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) will begin a rehabilitation project in Georgetown this spring. The \$12.7M investment provided by the National Park Service enable the park to mobilize construction for the Locks and Walls project focused on the lower five miles of the canal in Washington, DC. The work is expected to continue through 2025.

Towpath Resurfacing Continues in Allegany County

- The next phase of Towpath Resurfacing is underway from Paw Paw Tunnel (mile 156) o Spring Gap (mile 173). This phase of work is expected to be completed in Spring 2024. When work is active, visitors may see temporary horseback riding restrictions. Funding for this project is provided through a variety of sources, including the National Park Service, the State of Maryland's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and through individual donors to the C&O Canal Trust. To date, the Trust has helped the Park secure over \$7 million in TAP funding for Towpath Resurfacing through advocacy efforts.



Canal Quarters: Reserve Your Stay Back in Time!

- Our award-winning Canal Quarters program offers a truly unique interpretive experience, allowing visitors to spend the night in a historic lockhouse. When you stay in one of our lockhouses, you have it to yourself for the duration of your stay while you enjoy the beautiful C&O Canal National Historical Park with your family and friends. Our full amenities and hybrid lockhouses (Lockhouses 6, 10, 21, and 49) are professionally cleaned between each guest. Cleaning staff focus on high-touch surfaces such as door-knobs, light switches, furniture, and cooking implements.

We would like to emulate this program on the D&R and the park has been amenable to trying it.

Class of 2021-2024
Tom Lederer (Princeton)
Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)

Class of 2022-2025
Linda Barth (Somerville)
Robert Barth (Somerville)

Christopher "Kip" Bateman (Branchburg)
Barbara ten Broeke (East Millstone)

Class of 2023-2026
Theodore Chase (Griggstown)
Tim Roth (Long Valley)
Jeff McVey (Lambertville)
Barbara Ross (Princeton)

EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND



*What Did They Find?? Exploring the
Abraham Staats House with ...*



***Ghost Is Clear (GIC)
Paranormal at the Abraham
Staats House!***

17 von Steuben Lane, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 * 6:30PM ~ 9PM
* \$50 w Advance Registration**

Be Part of this Exclusive Fundraiser Event!

Join the Friends of Abraham Staats House and **Ghost Is Clear (GIC) Paranormal** for a night of revealing what GIC has discovered from their paranormal investigations of this historic home, c.1740. Will you be the one to discover a voice of the past? Among their explorations, GIC is the first paranormal team to investigate the Thomas Edison Lab in West Orange, NJ. Learn more: [Ghost is Clear Paranormal Investigation at FB](#)

The evening of paranormal investigation begins with a brief welcome and overview from Ghost is Clear Paranormal members. Then, we'll break into groups to explore select rooms of the house with a variety of investigative equipment. (*Feel free to bring your own to try as part of the explorations!*).

We'll gather again at the close to discuss findings and send you home with an herbal sage blessing offered to each before leaving.

Reserve your ticket(s) now! Space limited to 25 people; light refreshments offered.

Admission: \$50 per person: Pre-registered ~ At the Door: \$60
[EventBrite](#) at www.staatshouse.org By Phone: 732-369-3583

Please allow a two-week notice for accessibility and assistive services requests

Friends of Abraham Staats House, Inc.

E-mail: info@staatshouse.org Web: www.staatshouse.org

Tel: 732-369-3583 Mail: PO Box 115, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880



The Friends of Abraham Staats House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which has received grant support made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and New Jersey Historical Commission and the Borough of South Bound Brook.

News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, March 20, 2024

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported that fee collections totaled \$20,337.50 for the month, which amount was less than the \$61,071.78 collected in March 2023, and less than \$33,950 collected in March 2022. With nine months of the 2024 Fiscal Year completed, the Commission had collected \$255,012.50. Director Hutchison reported that on March 6 the NJWSA approved the excavation plans for the sanitary sewer interceptor and the foundation construction related to project DRCC #23-6005 located at 1212 Edgewood Avenue in Trenton. NJWSA approval of the plans was a condition imposed by the Commission when the project was approved at the February 21, 2024, Commission meeting. Director Hutchison reported that on March 8 the Commission staff conducted a site visit to Ely Field in Lambertville related to a project to repave the existing parking lot on the site that abuts the soon to be former Lambertville Public School.

Director Hutchison reported that the file digitization project continues to make noteworthy progress. Since the February meeting, the contents of an additional 25 file boxes were scanned, bringing the total number of boxes scanned to 59.

He reported that the expenditure for the Department of the Treasury Office of Information Technology (NJ OIT) assistance on the preparation the 2023 Commission Annual Report was about \$1,800 less than the original \$6,021 cost estimate. The Director stated that he was so satisfied with the work done by NJ OIT that Commission staff would explore opportunities in the coming months to use their expertise to update the Commission letterhead, application form, and staff report templates.

Since the 50th anniversary logo adopted for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park did not reference the Commission in any way, he noted that this oversight present an opportunity to design a Commission-specific logo for the 50th anniversary, which in turn can be used on the Commission website for anniversary-related information that would be uploaded throughout 2024.

Director Hutchison thanked the Park Service staff from the Bulls Island Recreation Area for filling the large potholes at the entrance driveway to Prallsville Mills, and for smoothing out a section of gravel by the Commission office front door that had begun to collect water.

Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rojewski reported that multiple cleanups within the park were organized and completed through the AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors program, including locations from Bulls Island Recreation Area to Trenton, Millstone and Manville. She reported that participation was robust. She stated that work was underway for Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park 50th anniversary events, and that the park website would have a list of events currently planned with partner organizations. (www.dandrcanal.com)

The superintendent reported that the Park Service followed up on a report received through the Commission of a possible spill of an unknown substance approximately 0.75 mile north of the Frenchtown Borough along the park multiuse trail. An orange substance and sheen were observed running down an embankment toward the Delaware River. A park patron contacted the WARN DEP Enforcement Hotline, and a case number was assigned to the incident. Additionally, the NJWSA was notified of the incident. The Superintendent reported that no further action was required by the State Park Service.

The superintendent reported that at end of February, the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) initiated cleanout activities for a blocked culvert along the trail in Byram Township, Hunterdon County. The cleanout activities were completed within a week, and it was the Superintendent's belief that NJDOT's actions would reduce stormwater build-up and erosion concerns in the surrounding area.

Superintendent Rojewski reported that the State Park Police were investigating incidents of vandalism and graffiti at the pedestrian bridge, which conveys the park trail over the Alexauken Creek aqueduct in Lambertville. She stated vandalism repairs and graffiti removal were underway and would be complete by the end of the week. She also noted that in early March, the Park Police received a report of antisemitic vandalism on the River Road bridge crossing in Lambertville. The Park Police initiated an investigation, and staff restored the area on March 5. They subsequently posted anti-defacement and "Area Under Surveillance" signage in an effort to deter further criminal activity. Permanent signage will be posted in the future, and the area remained under police surveillance.

Until further notice, the bridge at the Five Mile Lock public access area in Franklin Township, Somerset County, will be closed. An investigation by DEP ORD and NJWSA identified several rotted support beams on the structure. An inspection by NJDOT was also conducted, which confirmed the NJWSA's findings, and further supported the decision to close the bridge. Metal fencing was installed by NJWSA to deter park patrons from entering the area, and NJWSA, the State

Park Service, DEP ORD, and the NJDOT were coordinating a plan to repair the bridge. She noted that there was no timeline to reopen the structure.

Superintendent Rojewski reported that destabilization and separation of the canal embankment had been observed in the area downstream of the lock at Bulls Island and adjacent to the canoe/kayak launch area. NJWSA and DEP ORD were notified of the situation, and an investigation of the situation was ongoing.

Commissioner Lubitz commented on the Irish flags placed on St. Patrick's Day at the Bulls Island Recreation Area memorial that commemorates the canal workers who perished in the Cholera epidemic of 1832.

Water Authority Report

Mr. Sellar reported on the status of rehabilitation of the canal embankment in Stockton. He stated that after a delay caused by unfavorable weather conditions, the contractor had remobilized and recommenced project activities. He anticipated completion of the project in early spring and stated that NJWSA and Parks were discussing a formal reopening.

Mr. Sellar reported that the project to replace 11 sluice gates and associated operating assemblies at four locations on the Delaware and Raritan Canal in Somerset County was progressing. The new gates had been manufactured and were delivered to the NJWSA's contractor, who would in turn undertake their installation.

He reported that work to correct the leak at the so-called "Workhouse Spillway" located across Route 29 from the Mercer County Correctional Center in Hopewell Township was almost complete. The temporary bridge over the existing bridge at Fireman's Eddy, which was installed to accommodate heavy equipment, was removed, and the trail would be reopened that day.

Mr. Sellar reported that work would begin to repair damage on the "lower roadway" at Bulls Island Recreation Area caused by Tropical Storm Ida. Mr. Sellar informed the Commission that the fish ladder at the Island Farm Weir, an underwater concrete structure located downstream of the confluence of the Millstone and Raritan rivers in Franklin Township, Somerset County, and immediately abutting the Delaware and Raritan Canal, had been completed.

Mr. Sellar reported that NJWSA was moving forward with springtime maintenance along the canal, including activities such as grass mowing and weed trimming.

Vice-Chairman Stout stated his appreciation of NJWSA for addressing the Stockton embankment, and to the State Park Service for promptly addressing the storm damage at the Prallsville Mills campus which resulted in the closure of the former railroad over the Wickecheoke Creek.

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.

The D&R Canal State Park Scavenger Hunt Challenge

How well do you know the D&R Canal State Park? Let's find out! Fill-in the correct responses and rack up 50 points or more to be considered a D&R Canal State Park expert. Answer everything correctly and you are a D&R genius (80 points)! **The first 20 participants to submit their completed scavenger hunt to our [Bulls Island](#) office (2185 Daniel Bray Hwy (Route 29), Stockton) with at least 50 POINTS of correct responses will receive an item of 50th anniversary swag!**

GOOD LUCK!



Canal Watch Calendar of Events

To see our events for 2024, please check page one and three of this issue.

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.



The Red Mill in Kingston
Tim Roth

Board of Trustees

Linda Barth, president
Charles Martin, vice president
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.
- Sponsored star-gazing and solar observation 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

Canal Watch Achievements (continued)

- 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.

Renew your Membership for 2024



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 2024 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)