



Number 94

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

June 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 (yes, slides—remember them? They're historical) 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](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com).

### Your Canal Photography is Needed for the Canal Watch 2025 Calendar Last chance to send your calendar submissions 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](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com). In your email, please provide your contact information and 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.**

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Canoe Race a Huge Success

On Saturday, May 4, twenty-five racers gathered on the bank of the D&R Canal at Princeton's Turning Basin Park for the first "Half-Mule-Day Canoe Race."

Alan Lamb was the prime mover of this event, coordinating with the state park and with Princeton, securing insurance, creating the prizes, and registering the entrants.

At 9:30, Alan gave the safety briefing for those who couldn't attend the virtual version. Chuck Martin,



The start of the race

Canal Watch vice president, discussed the starting procedures. Princeton Mayor Mark Freda welcomed the racers, and Bob Barth, activities chair of the Canal Watch, spoke about the park's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, pointing out our mugs, activity schedule, and photo display.

At 10:00 a.m. Chuck sounded the airhorn and they were off! One paddleboarder chose the one-mile race and was the winner for that event. The other racers—in ICF racing kayaks, outrigger canoes, USCA racing canoes, and other types of kayaks—chose the eight-

mile round trip race to Route 1 and back.

After everyone crossed the finish line, Alan awarded the prizes (see photo right). Barbara ten Broeke and Chuck Martin recorded the finish times, assisted by Roxanne Robinson, Diana Martin, and Bob Barth. Tom Lederer, Canal Watch treasurer, biked along the towpath, photographing the racers.

Alan presented all of the participants and volunteers with a magnet (see next page) showing the anniversary logo. But only the winners in each category received the trophy.

The race was a great addition to the 50th anniversary celebration and we hope to make this an annual event.



Half-mule prizes for the Half "Mule-Day" Race

See more pictures on the next page.





Chuck and Diana Martin await the finishers.



Princeton Mayor Mark Freda chats with Chuck and Bob.



Magnet



Bob Barth welcomes the racers to the 50th Anniversary canoe race.



Final order of finish for the May 4th canoe race. ▶



Name(s)	Racer #	Category	Gender	Start Row	photo time cm	Finish Order
Brian Pincus	7	SUP	M	7	0:17:38	1
Jesse Lishchuk	10	HPK-1	M	1	1:11:44	2
Alan Lamb	13	HPK-1	M	1	1:12:01	3
Steffen Zahn	17	HPK-1	M	4	1:13:30	4
Robert Jehn	25	HPK-1	M	1	1:13:35	5
Vadim Lishchuk	3	HPK-1	M	2	1:13:55	6
Viktor Haleta	5	HPK-1	M	1	1:15:28	7
Tassana Landy, Et	16	HPK-2	mixed	2	1:15:32	8
Christopher Norb	8	HPK-2	mixed	3	1:16:45	9
Greg Lowry	14	Canoe OC-1	M	2	1:16:55	10
John Redos	9	HPK-1	M	3	1:17:10	11
Cliff Roach	2	HPK-1	M	4	1:19:44	12
Aleksey Kochetov	4	HPK-1	M	4	1:22:17	13
Bill Ruthrauff	24	HPK-1	M	4	1:24:00	14
Glenn Shaw	19	HPK-1	M	5	1:25:59	15
Steve Corbett	15	Canoe C-1	M	5	1:26:29	16
Emerson Yang	20	HPK-1	M	6	1:31:51	17
Brayton Palmer	18	Canoe C-1	M	5	1:33:23	18
Laura Lutton	12	Canoe OC-1	F	6	1:33:53	19
Erin Lamb	1	HPK-1	F	6	1:38:15	20
Bart Jackson, Rick	11	Canoe TandemRec	M	7	1:55:42	21
Alexandra Koskos	23	Kayak Canoe Rec	mixed	7	2:05:53	22
Loukia Lili	6	HPK-1	F	2	DNS	
Bradley Ethington	22	HPK-1	M	3	DNS	

## An Invitation to Join the Canal Society of New Jersey

Working collaboratively with other stakeholders, the society generates interest in the canals as historic, educational, and recreational resources. Along the way, the Canal Society’s members can enjoy programs, newsletters and events that bring to life the stories of these canals.

Our membership is a vital component of the Canal Society’s activities. As such, we are always looking to increase our membership, especially in those areas where the canals pass through. It is always exciting to learn about their history on a local level. We partner with many organizations and their media outlets, such as the D&R Canal Watch newsletter.

If you are not already a member of the Canal Society of NJ, we certainly hope you will consider joining. Annual dues are \$25 and include the “On The Level” newsletter. You may use a mail-in application (frequently distributed at canal events) or sign up on our website ([www.canalsocietynj.org](http://www.canalsocietynj.org)), which also has historical information and a search tool for our archives.

— John Prieto, CSNJ archivist

## 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](http://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 (yes, slides—remember them? They're historical) 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](mailto: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 at no charge. 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 each home 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](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com).

**Saturday, October 26: Tour de Towpath,** celebrating the 50th anniversary of the D&R Canal State Park and Canal Commission. Your chance to bike, walk, and run. Canal festival at Cadwalader Park, Trenton. Details to follow. Save the date.

**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](mailto:bbarth321@aol.com).





# WHAT IS IT?

## Canal terms explained

Our friends at Friends of the Delaware Canal ([fodc.org](http://fodc.org)) have shared an animation of how a lock works. You can view it here:

[www.fodc.org/about-the-canal/how-does-a-lock-work/](http://www.fodc.org/about-the-canal/how-does-a-lock-work/)

Scroll down on the page to see how it works if your vessel is going upstream or downstream.

**Lock** — A lock is a watertight chamber built on a canal to raise and lower vessels in areas where the elevation of the water changes. For a boat to go **up through a canal lock**, the following sequence occurs. One crew member disembarks and walks up to the lock. The lock gates are closed.

1. He or she uses a windlass to prepare the lock by turning a mechanism and opening the wickets on the downstream gates, allowing the lock to drain.

2. When the lock is empty, the lower gates can then be opened.

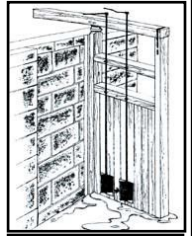
3. With the gates open, the boat can enter the lock.

4. The lower gates and bottom wickets are then closed.

5. The top wickets (dark openings in picture at right) are then opened so that the water level rises in the lock, floating the boat up to the next level.

6. The top gates can now be opened.

7. The boat is then free to exit the lock on the new, higher level. To descend the canal lock, the reverse happens. The lock is filled (if it is not already), the boat enters the lock which then drains, allowing the boat to exit on the lower level.



▲ 2 wickets at bottom of gate



Royal Canal Lock 35 near Ballynacarrigy, County



These two English narrowboats are exiting the lock. The woman in the blue sweater has just opened the gate to allow the vessels to depart the lock. She will then close the gate and close the wickets, using a windlass. Her boat will stop and pull to the side to allow her to reboard when her work is done.



When there is a long hill to ascend or descend, the canal company builds a series of locks, called a flight. This one is Caen Hill in Devizes, England.



The crew member uses a windlass (see tool at left) to ratchet the vertical black and white mechanism either up or down. This opens or closes the wickets lower in the gates.



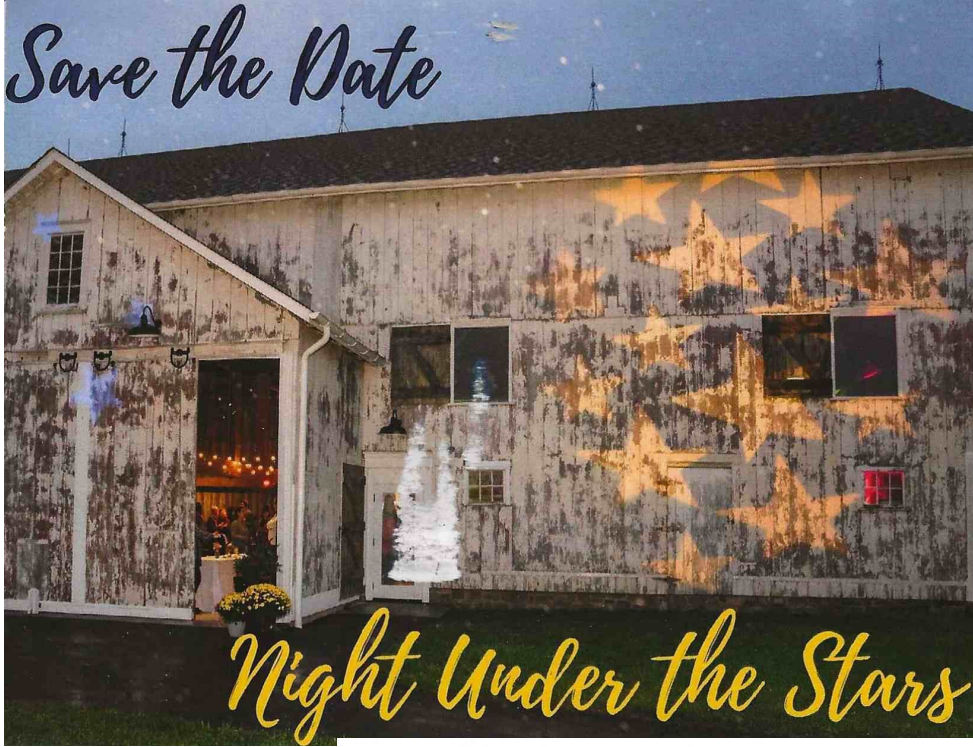


Class of 2024-2027  
Tom Lederer (Princeton)  
Joseph Ciccone (Lawrence Township)  
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)

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)



AN EVENT YOU MAY WISH  
TO ATTEND

June 22, 2024 - 4-8 pm

Supporting HSP's History Education Programs

JOIN US FOR A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER EVENING  
OF LOCAL MUSIC, FOOD, AND LIBATIONS  
AT  
UPDIKE FARMSTEAD!

THE EVENING'S MENU FEATURES COCKTAIL

STYLE HEAVY PASSED  
HORS D'OEUVRES, STATIONS,  
AND A FULL OPEN BAR.



Historical Society of Princeton

at Updike Farmstead

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Princeton, N.J.  
Permit No. 290

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Albin  
John Prieto

Amie Rukenstein

# Save the Date!

## D&R Canal State Park's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event!

October 26, 2024

Cadwalader Park – Trenton

Bike, Run, Walk – choose your distance!

Featuring free Canal Festival with food, music, games



Rukenstein





## 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](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com) and she will mail a printed copy to you.



Overlooking the Wing Dam at Bulls Island, by Summer Praner

### Board of Trustees

Linda Barth, president  
Charles Martin, vice president  
Tom Lederer, treasurer  
Robert Barth  
Christopher "Kip" Bateman  
Ted Chase  
Joseph Ciccone  
Jeff McVey  
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](http://www.canalwatch.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/dandrcanalwatch/>  
[info@canalwatch.org](mailto: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 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. These included “Meet the Canal Authors Day” and “The D&R Canal: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,” by Richard Hunter” walks, bike rides, canoe and kayak rides, “Hands Along the Canal,” and proclamations from our legislature.
- Examination of Lock 9 to determine the feasibility of reopening the lock to navigation
- Post-flood cleaning of canal structures in Griggstown, Zarephath, and East Millstone
- Painting over graffiti in East Millstone
- Repair of shutters on the East Millstone bridgetender’s home
- Straightening and painting of the outhouse at the East Millstone bridgetender’s home
- Staffing the East Millstone bridgetender’s home during the village’s Canalfest in October
- A photographic exhibit of the homes of bridgetenders and locktenders.
- Services of an information technology consultant for the park’s computers
- Funded classes to certify maintenance staff in small motor repair, applying herbicides, etc.
- Contacted legislators and the governor’s office to keep the parks open and retain the commission
- Facilitated the mothballing of an empty bridgetender’s home by buying lumber and painting the windows.
- Installed Kaya-Arms on docks to facilitate entering and exiting kayaks
- Funding the park’s website and continued updating
- Paying the dues for the Meetup site used for announcing park activities

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](http://www.canalwatch.org) and clicking on “Join” at the top right.

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

Alternately, you may use the form 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](http://www.canalwatch.org), and emailed to members for whom we have email addresses. If you require a paper copy, please check here \_\_\_\_\_.

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