



Number 95

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

August 2024



## TAKE PART IN THE FIRST ANNUAL “CANAL HOUSE CHALLENGE”

**Sunday, September 15: Join us for the 50th Anniversary**

### **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. Pick up a passport at your first stop and have it stamped. If you visit all five buildings in one day, you will receive a small prize.**

We are planning this new event for the anniversary year: On Sunday, September 15, from 10:00 to 4:00, guests will be invited to tour the homes in East Millstone, Blackwells Mills, Griggstown, Kingston, and Port Mercer (addresses below). The friends group in charge of each home will welcome visitors and provide a tour and history of the building.

Each visitor will receive a passport that will be stamped at each house. Those who visit all five will receive a small prize.



Addresses:

(left) East Millstone Bridgetender's Home, 2371 Amwell Road (Route 514). East Millstone section of Franklin Township, Somerset County

Blackwells Mills Bridgetender's Home, corner of Blackwells Mills Causeway and Canal Road, Franklin Township, Somerset County.

Griggstown Bridgetender's House, 2 Griggstown Causeway, Griggstown section of Franklin Township, Somerset County. (GPS will also accept Princeton as the town.)

Kingston Locktender's House, Route 27, at the D&R Canal, Kingston.

Port Mercer Bridgetender's Home, 4278 Quakerbridge Road, Port Mercer section of Lawrence Township.

If you have questions, please call Linda at 908-240-0488.

# Tour de Towpath

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

**Save the Date!**

October 26, 2024

Cadwalader Park – Trenton

Bike, Run, Walk – choose your distance!

Featuring free Canal Festival with food, music, games



City of Trenton, Dept.  
of Recreation, Natural  
Resources & Culture



**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. Bike to Somerset County's Colonial Park and back. Walk north from Trenton and back. Run along the feeder from Cadwalader Park to Washington Crossing and back.

The press release below is credited to the Trenton Journal:

Fifty years ago this October, New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne signed legislation to create the D&R Canal State Park, now a 70-mile linear park passing through four Central Jersey counties. To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park and the D&R Canal Commission, the nonprofit D&R Canal Watch has announced a walk-run-bike event called **Tour de Towpath**, centered at Cadwalader Park in Trenton on Saturday, October 26. Registration is now open at [www.tourdetowpath.org](http://www.tourdetowpath.org).

"The D&R Canal State Park is the second-most visited New Jersey State Park and one of the state's best outdoor recreation resources. The Tour de Towpath is the perfect way to increase awareness and celebrate the park and Canal Commission," said Linda Barth, president of D&R Canal Watch, a nonprofit group that organizes volunteer projects and raises funds for the park.

The Tour de Towpath will feature a flagship 50-mile bicycle ride to Colonial Park in Franklin Township, as well as a 20-mile cycling route to Princeton's Turning Basin Park; a non-competitive half-marathon run/walk to Washington Crossing State Park in Hopewell;

(continued on the next page)





and a 5k fun run/walk. A festival at the City of Trenton’s Cadwalader Park will greet participants upon their return with music, food, and a community village featuring local nonprofits.

“As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the D&R Canal State Park with the **Tour de Towpath** event, we honor not only the beauty and importance of the canal but also the dedication of the community and organizations that support it,” said Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora. “I encourage everyone to join us for a day of fitness, fun, and festivities as we come together to recognize this remarkable park and its impact on our region.”

All registered volunteers and participants will receive an event T-shirt. To register or donate, visit the event website as **TourdeTowpath.org**. Registration is \$50 in advance and \$60 the morning of the event; volunteer registration is free.

“We are grateful for the support of the New Jersey State Parks, the Canal Commission, the City of Trenton, and more than a dozen businesses and nonprofit groups, including our lead sponsor, Capital Health,” said Canal Watch’s Linda Barth.

“We’re thrilled to support the Tour de Towpath and help mark an important milestone for the D&R Canal State Park,” said Al Maghazehe, president and CEO of Capital Health. “Capital Health and the D&R Canal are woven into the fabric of our region, and we couldn’t be happier to be part of an event that promotes the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.”



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jeff and Rose Berger  
Harry Bittner  
Joseph Ciccone  
Susan Connelly  
Barbara Lee

Amie Rukenstein  
Rich and Tracey Schweighardt  
Warren Sobelsohn  
Henry Wierzbowski  
Jen Worringer

# D&R Canal State Park & Commission's 50th Anniversary

1974 - 2024

## CELEBRATE WITH US!

Prallsville Mill, Stockton, NJ ~ 33 Risler Street  
September 14, 2024  
2:00 - 5:00 pm



Meet and interact with the partner organizations who support and assist with the preservation and education of the natural and historic resources of the D&R Canal State Park. Become a member; Get involved!



Walk through the historic Grist & Saw Mills and learn their stories. Take in the D&R Canal State Park inspired photography of Jim Amon and Ted Settle.



Enjoy a fresh street taco from Tia's Tacos while enjoying the acoustic sounds of "The Successful Failures" including their original song "Dig Boys" inspired by the workers who built the D&R Canal.

**Mark the date & join us!**



Co-Sponsored by the Canal Society of NJ and the Delaware River Mill Society

For more details visit: [www.dandrcanal.org](http://www.dandrcanal.org)

## 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, August 25: 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! For more information, please call 732-873-1991, option 4.

**Saturday, September 14:** The D&R Canal State Park will host a public event at the Prallsville Mills in the afternoon. Prallsville Mill, Route 29, Stockton, NJ; 2:00-5:00 p.m. Join us and many of our partner organizations as we mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission and State Park with cake, music, food trucks, and photography inspired by the historic and natural resources of the canal corridor. Come walk through the historic Prallsville grist and sawmills and enjoy the acoustic sounds of “The Successful Failures.” More details can be found at: <https://dandrcanal.org/programs>. See page four.

**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. See page one.

**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).

**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. Bike to Somerset County’s Colonial Park and back. Walk north from Trenton and back. Run along the feeder from Cadwalader Park to Washington Crossing and back. See page 2.

**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).



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>



## New Jersey Corporate Tax Revenue is Funding Millions in Central NJ Park Projects

By Barbara Preston

(reprinted with permission from the *Montgomery News*, August 2024)

Montgomery and Rocky Hill will each collect a share of the \$101.7 million of corporate tax revenue earmarked for open space and park projects.

Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill into law on July 10, appropriating the funds to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The following grants were awarded locally:

Montgomery: \$700,000 for open space acquisition plus \$750,000 for an all-inclusive playground.

Rocky Hill: \$240,235 for a boardwalk so that Rocky Hill residents may walk from Crescent Avenue to Van Horne Park.

Princeton: \$700,000 for open space acquisition.

The new law appropriates \$99.3 million to be used by the DEP to provide grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units in the state to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes. The remaining \$2.4 million would be used for the DEP's associated administrative costs.

State Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis, who represents Montgomery and Rocky Hill as well as several other Central Jersey municipalities, was a primary sponsor of the legislation.

One of the interesting projects will be in Trenton, with access to the D&R Canal Towpath, which runs alongside Montgomery, Rocky Hill, and Princeton.

Trenton: \$1.4 million for the Amtico Square Skatepark Complex, to be built on the former American Biltrite Rubber Site, would include lighting, several multi-purpose game courts for bicycle polo, street soccer, tennis, basketball, and volleyball. A trail would connect to Capital City Farm and the D&R Canal Towpath.

Governor Murphy said, "The grants and loans proposed for these projects will provide opportunities for residents and visitors alike—across the Garden State—to engage in healthy activities, enjoy the outdoors, and spend quality family time together."

**Other towns in Central Jersey that will receive funding are:**

**Middlesex County:**

**Carteret, New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Monroe, Sayreville, East Brunswick, Old Bridge, Monroe, and South River.**

**Union County: Plainfield, Union Township, Elizabeth, New Providence, Plainfield, Summit, and Clark.**



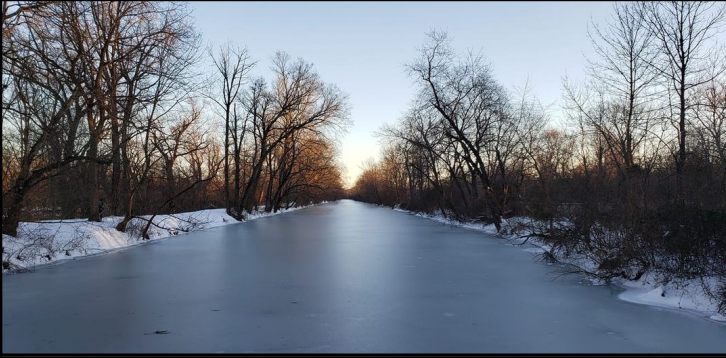
State Park sign on bridge over Route 1 in Trenton

# WHAT IS IT?

## Canal terms explained

**Canal** —A canal is a human-made waterway that connects different bodies of water or transports water for various purposes. Canals are also used to transport water for irrigation and other human uses. While the advent of more efficient forms of transportation has reduced the need for canals, they still play a vital role as conduits for transportation and fostering global

commerce. There are two types of canals: waterways and aqueducts. Waterways are the navigable parts of a body of water and can be located within a bay or open sea, can connect two or more waterbodies, or may even form networks within a city. Aqueducts are used exclusively to transport water for drinking, agriculture, and hydroelectric power.



View from end of Demott Lane, Courtesy, Shaun Daley.

The word *canal* derives from the Old French word *chanel*, which means “channel.” The oldest known canals are aqueducts built in Mesopotamia thousands of years ago. Since then, canals have played an important role in connecting cultures and facilitating commerce. The Panama Canal, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was expanded in 2016 to accommodate modern large-scale cargo ships.

Canals can be small, like New Jersey’s Delaware and Raritan Canal (pictured above left) or much wider and longer, like the Panama Canal or the Suez.

In the United States, canal building began slowly. Only 100 miles of canals had been built at the beginning of the 19th century, but before the end of the century more than 4,000 miles were open to navigation. Hauling cargo by wagon was difficult, slow, and costly, so water transport was the key to the opening up of the interior, but the way was barred by the Allegheny Mountains. To overcome this obstacle, it was necessary to go north by sea via the St.



Inside a lock on the Panama Canal. Courtesy Linda J. Barth



Corinth Canal, Greece, Courtesy Ted Chase

Lawrence River and the Great Lakes or south to the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi. A third possibility was the linking of the Great Lakes with the Hudson via the Mohawk Valley. The Erie Canal, 363 miles long with 82 locks from Albany on the Hudson to Buffalo on Lake Erie, was built by the state of New York from 1817 to 1825. Highly successful from the start, it opened up the Midwestern prairies, the produce of which could flow eastward to New York City, with manufactured goods making the return journey westward, giving New York predominance over other Atlantic Seaboard ports.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



## World Canals Conference Returns to the USA in 2025

Two hundred years after the Erie Canal's grand opening, international inland waterways experts and enthusiasts will gather in Buffalo, NY, bringing that same transformative spirit of innovation to drive the next century of service for canals everywhere. From September 21-25, 2025, the World Canals Conference will return to the USA for the first time since 2021. Buffalo and the Erie Canal provide the backdrop this time around, where attendees will dig deep into how canals around the world are using new technologies, sustainability, tourism, and heritage development to address our shared challenges and thrive.

Buffalo is a shining example of canal reinvention. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, Buffalo became a commercial and industrial powerhouse, only to see the canal's use wane in the mid-20th century and trigger a period of disuse and disrepair. Beginning in 2005, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation successfully spearheaded an era of waterfront transformation and reclamation. Today, the revitalized Canalside area (see photo below) in downtown Buffalo bustles with new energy, business, and tourism. The city's famous grain elevators have been repurposed to host live performances, events, and historical tours. Buffalo is receiving recognition for its vibrant art scene, diverse dining, outstanding outdoor recreation, treasured architecture, and dramatically transformed Canalside waterfront.

Buffalo and the Erie Canal Bicentennial create an ideal setting and moment for the World Canals Conference 2025. Built around the theme of "Sustaining our Multidimensional Waterways," WCC 2025 will bring together the leading minds in diverse fields to discuss, debate, discover, and inspire. Attendees will partake in expertly guided field sessions, gain access to exclusive tours in the days leading up to or following the conference, and witness history repeating itself with the send-off ceremony for the replica canal boat *Seneca Chief*. This traditionally built, full-size replica of the same boat that opened the Erie Canal two hundred years ago departs Buffalo for New York City, replicating the 1825 journey that became known as the Wedding of the Waters.



Sign up for updates now and be the first to hear about registration, the call for presentations, and pre-and post-tours: [www.wcc2025buffalo.com](http://www.wcc2025buffalo.com).

Photo courtesy Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor



**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)  
Laurie Reynolds (Bound Brook)  
Barbara Ross (Princeton)

**Saturday, September 7 -- Mercer County  
New Jersey's Unknown Intelligence Network  
During and After the Ten Crucial Days**

**EVENTS YOU MAY WISH  
TO ATTEND**

Russ Dutcher will speak about **New Jersey's Unknown Intelligence Network** during and after the Ten Crucial Days campaign (December 25, 1776 – January 3, 1777). The presentation will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center Museum's auditorium at Washington Crossing State Park.

The Visitor Center Museum will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. featuring The Swan Historical Foundation's Collection of 500+ Colonial and Revolutionary War artifacts.

The Visitor Center Museum can be reached from I-95 by taking the Trenton/Lambertville Exit (this is the first exit in New Jersey heading north and the last exit heading south). Continue north on Route 29 for 2 ½ miles and turn right at the first traffic light. Park Entrance will be on your left in a ½ mile. Enter the park and follow the signs to the Visitor Center Museum.

For more information call (609) 737-0623.

**They were Everywhere: Generals Anthony Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette at Monmouth**

**BATTLE of MONMOUTH. June 28, 1778.**

*A. Left wing of the British, the night before.*  
*B. Last position of the Brit.*  
*C. Disposition of the Army after he met Lee.*  
*\* The spot where they met.*  
*D. Principal Battle.*  
*E. British pos<sup>n</sup> after the action.*

**Friends of Monmouth Battlefield's - 2nd Sunday Lecture**  
**Sunday September 8, 2024 - 2:00 PM**  
 Presented by Dr. David Martin  
 President, Friends of Monmouth Battlefield  
 Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor's Center

Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

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.



The 2025 D&R Canal Watch calendar will soon be ready! The judges have again chosen stunning pictures taken by our friends and members who love the canal.

We will send out an email blast when the calendar is back from the printer and let you know how to get your copy.



Actuator downstream of Lock 10.  
Image by Robert H. Barth

### Board of Trustees

Linda Barth, president  
Charles Martin, vice president  
Ted Chase, secretary  
Tom Lederer, treasurer

Robert Barth  
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The D&R Canal Watch  
P.O. Box 2  
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[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.



## 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)