

D&R CANAL WATCH

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www.canalwatch.org

July 2008

COMING SOON!

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL

The year 2009 will mark 175 years since the opening of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. We are looking for suggestions for activities to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

The actual opening in 1834 was observed with a two-day boat trip through the canal. On board were Governor Peter Vroom, canal company officials, and other dignitaries. In 1984, for the sesquicentennial, this voyage was, in part, reenacted. Portraying the governor was his descendant, Peter Vroom, a director of the Canal Society of New Jersey.

In the photo at the right, Peter Vroom, as the governor, gestures to the crowd. Behind him are Sue Rightmire of the Griggstown Historical Society; Laura Terhune, Griggstown historian and author; William J. McKelvey, historian and author; Nancy Vroom, secretary of the Canal Society of New Jersey; Kay Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey; and Larry Pitt, canal author and historian.

HOW SHOULD WE CELEBRATE THE 175TH?

Please send your celebratory ideas to Linda Barth (908-722-7428; barths@att.net). She will pass them on to the Canal Watch board, the D&R Canal Commission, the D&R Canal State Park, and the Canal Society of New Jersey.

Photograph courtesy of the D&R Canal Commission



NEWS FROM OUR CANAL PARK AGENCIES

D&R CANAL STATE PARK

The new towpath trail between Lock 1 in Bordentown and Lock 2 in Lambertton is expected to open this month. Park users will be able to access the trail from the south at the scenic overlook on Interstate 295. From the north, the trailhead is off Lambertton Road. Just before the parking lot at the end of the road, there is another road to the left. Make a left into a small parking lot that was just created. Look for the park gate.

The stabilization of the 1800-era house in Six Mile Run has been awarded to Dave Larkin Builders of Avon, New Jersey. A contract has been awarded to Hawley Brothers, of Chesterfield, New Jersey, for the roofing project at the Griggstown bridgetender's house. It is hoped that a contract will soon be awarded for the roof of the Kingston locktender's house. Hopefully, work on these homes will begin in July or August.

The last permit has been secured for the restoration of the Mule Tenders Barracks and bids should go out this summer. A soil test will be done at the East Millstone bridgetender's home to ascertain whether the footings will support the house. If that report is positive, reconstruction will begin soon.

D&R CANAL COMMISSION

The commission staff is working on the changes to its regulations.

NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

The New Jersey Water Supply Authority reports that some water-control gates will now be electrically controlled. Work is continuing on the floodguard embankment in Stockton, and mowing was suspended because the mower was being repaired. Removal of trees and debris continues on a regular basis.

THE CANALS OF NEW JERSEY

Although the Canal Watch focuses on our own Delaware & Raritan Canal, New Jersey has many other manmade waterways that you may not have heard about.

The famous, mountain-climbing Morris Canal crossed the state, passing through Warren, Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Essex, and Hudson counties. It began in Phillipsburg and ended in Jersey City. Like the D&R, the Morris carried mainly anthracite coal from Pennsylvania.

In addition, we have numerous short canals around the state. You may have heard Richard Hunter speak at the Canal Watch meeting about the Trenton Water Power (Ewing Township and Trenton, Mercer County), which brought Delaware River water to the mills and factories in Trenton.

The Dundee Canal (Passaic County) cut off a bend in the Passaic River and allowed navigation between Newark and the Paterson Falls. It was mainly built to serve as water power for the Botany Mill Complex and other mills in Passaic.

The Raritan Power Canal is a three-mile waterway, in Bridgewater Township and Raritan Borough, Somerset County. Formerly used to supply water to the mills in Raritan Borough, it is now part of the Raritan River Greenway.

In South River and Sayreville, Middlesex County, the Washington Canal cuts off a bend in the South River.

In Allaire Village (Monmouth County) and in Historic Smithville (Burlington County) you can see short waterways that were used by the local industry.

The Point Pleasant Canal (Ocean County) and the Cape May Canal are part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.. Both give boaters a more protected route than the Atlantic Ocean.

In Salem County, the Salem Canal (Deepwater and Carneys Point) is a shortcut from the Delaware River to the Salem River at the Dupont Company's Chambers Works.

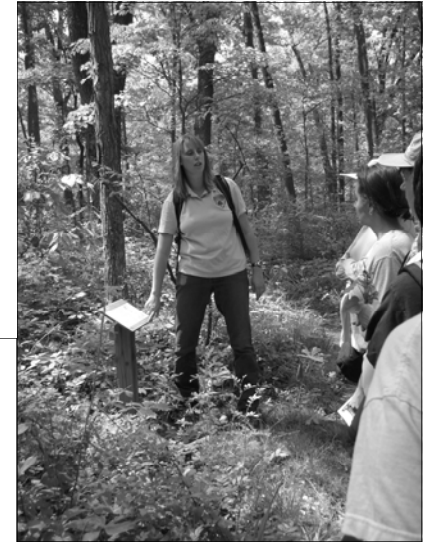
Jeffrey Hoffman, of the New Jersey Geological Survey, is creating a map showing all of the manmade waterways in the Garden State. He has discovered several very short canals in the Cape May/Wildwood area, two along the Delaware River, the Harrisville Water Power Canal in Burlington County, and many more. If you would like a copy of the map, just contact Linda Barth at 908-722-7428; barths@att.net.

SIX-MILE RUN NATURE WALK

If you were not able to join us on May 24 for our nature walk in the Six Mile Run Reservoir section of the park, you missed a fascinating day.

Park naturalist Stephanie Fox introduced the walkers to an amazing variety of trees, flowers, and animals that thrive within this preserve of upland forest and open fields.

Among the highlights in this hidden oasis: seeing a box turtle in the muddy bottom of a stream and finding jewelweed, the plant that is the antidote for poison ivy.



Park naturalist Stephanie Fox points out descriptive signage to the walkers on the Canal Watch hike in Six Mile Run Reservoir.

Photo by Robert H. Barth

WISH LIST FOR THE D&R STATE PARK

With the funds we have received from the annual 5K Run, the Canal Watch purchases items for the park. Smaller things on the list, however, might be donated **by members or local companies**. These items include:

- Software such as ArcView 3.2 (Mapping Software) and/or Updated Photoshop and Quark (graphics and layout programs)
- Oversized printer and scanner capable of doing prints, negatives, transparencies and any other types of film
- New digital camera
- Oversized dry mount machine and materials
- Updated, portable computer projector for PowerPoint programs and DVD presentations
- Kayaks, paddles and PFDs (personal floatation devices)
- Bike racks for the state vehicles (for use during summer bike patrols and tours)

If you know of a source for any of the above items, please contact Linda Barth via email at barths@att.net or by phone at 908-722-7428. Thank you so much.

CANALEDAR—Events of the D&R Canal Watch and related groups

July 19—Walk the Path to Five-Mile Lock: Enjoy a morning walk along the canal towpath with the park's historian. Meet at the Demott Lane Footbridge, off Easton Avenue at 10 am. We'll head north toward Five Mile Lock for a 3-mile round trip hike along the historic towpath. Come enjoy the park and the summer season while burning a few calories and learning a bit about the D&R's historic resources!

July 26—Kingston Loop Trail: Join park naturalist Stephanie Fox in a walk along the newly created trail system in Kingston. The trail leads through the D&R Canal State Park, Mapleton Preserve, Cook Natural Area, and Heathcote Meadow Preserve, approximately 3.5 miles along mostly dirt/gravel pathways and flat terrain. Meet at 10 am at the D&R Canal State Park's Kingston Office, 145 Mapleton Road. All ages are welcome.

August 2—Walk the Path in Lawrence Township: Enjoy a morning walk along the canal with D&R historian Vicki Chirco and visit two historic homes along the way: *The Port Mercer Canal House* and the *18th-century Brearley House*. Meet at the Port Mercer Canal House in Lawrence Township (4278 Quakerbridge Rd.) at 9:30 a.m. for a brief talk about the history of the D&R Canal and a tour of the Canal House. We'll then walk along the historic towpath to the Brearley House where the group will be treated to a tour of this restored 18th-century home. Come join us for this 2.5 mile round trip walk back in time.

August 2 Bike the Path to Zarephath: Enjoy an August morning bike ride along the canal with Maggie Charleroy. Bring your own bicycle and meet at the Community Forestry Parking Area (625 Canal Road) located in the Blackwells Mill section of Franklin Township at 10 am. We'll head north towards Zarephath for a 10-mile round-trip ride. Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D&R!

August 10—Bike the Path to Lambertville: Enjoy a morning bike ride along the Feeder Canal with Maggie Charleroy. Bring your own bicycle and meet at the Bull's Island Recreation Area (off Route 29 in Hunterdon County) at 10 a.m. Be prepared for a 15-mile loop passing through the historic towns of Stockton and Lambertville. Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D&R! **Not recommended for children under 10.**

August 17—Bluegrass Music and Ice Cream. Live music by the Six Mile Run Bluegrass Band. Homemade ice cream from Confectionately Yours. A perfect summer afternoon; 1-3 pm. **Blackwells Mills Canal House Association**; jct. of Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Road.

(continued on the back page)

D&R Canal Watch 2007-2008 Membership Renewal Form (Renewal notices for 2008-2009 will be mailed in September)

Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

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.

From now on, our newsletters will be posted on the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org. Do you wish to continue to receive the newsletter via U. S. mail? Yes ___ No ___
Volunteers are needed to lead walks/trips. Do you have computer, photography, or design skills that you are willing to use for the organization? May we call on you? Yes ___ No ___ Try me ___ (circle your skill)

CANALEDAR (continued from page three)

August 23—Walk the Path to Rockingham: Enjoy a morning walk with D&R historian Vicki Chirco along the canal to historic Rockingham! Visit two historic homes along the way: *the Kingston Canal House* and 18th-century *Rockingham*. Meet at the Kingston Canal House, off Route 27 (*approximately 4 miles north of Princeton*) at 9:30 am for a brief talk about the history of the D&R Canal. The group will then walk along the canal's historic towpath to Rockingham, where they will be treated to various special activities including an encampment of Washington's special dragoon guards and the arrival of the general himself. Rockingham will be commemorating the 225th anniversary of Washington's August arrival and residence at the site. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and join us for this 2.5 mile round trip walk back in time.

September 13—Papermania. Sale of historical documents, canal and other local photos, pamphlets, rare books, postcards, posters, and more; 10-4. **Blackwells Mills Canal House Association;** jct. of Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Road.

For more activities sponsored by the D&R Canal State Park, visit www.dandrcanal.com, click on the state park and scroll down to the Summer 2008 issue of the *Milepost*.

Celebrate the 225th Anniversary of General George Washington's residence at Rockingham in 1783. Mark your calendars now! Information on this page will be updated as we confirm times and locations of presentations. Check the website, www.rockingham.net, for details and updates. Among the celebratory events at Rockingham are:

August 23 - General Washington arrives at Rockingham

September 7 - Martha Washington presentation

September 20 - George Luck as John Witherspoon

October 18 - John Burkhalter of The Practitioners of Musick will hold a musical recital.

Visit the D&R Canal State Park
website, www.dandrcanal.com for
the latest events and activities.