

D&R CANAL WATCH

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www.canalwatch.org

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LAMBERTVILLE-NEW HOPE WINTER FESTIVAL — TWO-CANAL WALK

Put on your warm hat and mittens—it's time for the first canal walk of the year. Join the Canal Society of New Jersey and the Friends of the Delaware Canal for a guided history and nature tour along both the D&R feeder and the Delaware Canal. Meet by the caboose behind the Lambertville Station restaurant at 2 pm on **Sunday, January 25**. This popular event is part of the five-day Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. (Visit www.winterfestival.net) for more details.

The first stop on this two-mile walk will be the D&R Feeder Canal lift lock and outlet lock and learn how canal boats once crossed the river by cable ferry. We'll then follow the feeder to the bridge and walk across the Delaware River to New Hope. Susan Taylor will then guide us as we follow the Delaware Canal towpath to Lock 11 and the Locktender's House, where hot chocolate and marshmallows will be waiting. Those who wish to walk farther can visit the cable ferry inlet on the New Hope side.

CANAL WATCH INVITED TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL

The Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park has much in common with our sister waterway, the Delaware Canal, on the west side of the Delaware River. Several "loop" trails have been created, linking the two state parks through the use of bridges over the river.

On **Wednesday, March 11**, the Friends of the Delaware Canal will host "What's Happening In and Along the Canal – Flood Repairs and More." Rick Dalton, Delaware Canal State Park Manager, is one busy guy. There is (or soon will be) construction activity of one sort or another on most of the canal from Easton to Yardley. Three major towpath and prism rehabilitation projects are underway; a fourth will begin as soon as weather permits. Two of the relatively small structure repair projects are complete (!), and five more will begin this spring and summer. Rick will give a first-hand progress report on all the activity. He will share the successes, headaches, and surprises of dealing with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' largest construction project – ever. Aided by educated guesses and a crystal ball, he'll also present a completion timeline.

Beginning at 7:30 pm, the meeting will be held at The Old Library by Lake Afton, 46 West Afton Avenue, Yardley, PA. History is being made on the Delaware Canal. Come hear all about it from the man in charge.

NEWS FROM OUR CANAL PARK AGENCIES

D&R CANAL STATE PARK

The Calhoun Street Canal House capital project is 98% completed. There was a complete rehab to the interior and exterior. Any and all interested groups hoping to lease the house at 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton, can send a letter of inquiry to the attention of Superintendent Patricia Kalleser at the D&R Office in Kingston (mailing address: 145 Mapleton Road, Princeton 08540), and she will forward it to the Office of Leases. You can call the superintendent at 609-924-5705.

The theme for this year's State History Fair is transportation and the D&R will be featured.

NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

No news. It's been a quiet month.

CANALEDAR—EVENTS FOR THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Through January 31—175 Year Celebration of the D & R Canal Art Show. The Delaware River Mill Society will kick off the yearlong celebration by hosting an art show from January 19 through January 31. The show will be open to the public daily from 12 to 4 pm. This artistic look at the canal will be mounted in the historic Prallsville Mills Complex (on Route 29, just north of Stockton in Hunterdon County) and will feature contemporary artists' impressions and renderings of the waterway today. The show will include paintings, drawings, photographs and three-dimensional work inspired by the historic sites and natural beauty along the feeder and main canal. For further details and information please call the DRMS at 609-397-3586.

February 21—Visit the Port Mercer Bridge Tender's House. At one time many canal company houses dotted the landscape along the main route from Bordentown to New Brunswick. Today precious few remain. Under the care of the Lawrence Historical Society, the Port Mercer Canal House, at 4378 Quakerbridge Road in Lawrence Township (behind the Mercer Mall), has been lovingly maintained. Come to this winter open house, learn about the canal's past from the D&R Canal State Park's historian and experience the 19th century first-hand. The house will be open from 1:00-3:00 pm. **Registration is NOT required. Weather permitting.**

February 28 (Saturday). Light rail trip through the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh to Roebling. Meet at 11:00 am. Leaders: Barbara Ross and Doug McCray. Join us for a whirlwind guided tour by light rail into the 19th century between Roebling and Trenton! Meet in the parking lot of the Bordentown Light Rail station (100 W. Park Avenue at Prince Street, above the boat landing) at 11:00 am. sharp, purchase tickets, and be treated to a brief introduction before boarding the train at 11:25 for a five-minute ride south to Roebling. See cuts in the shoreline and a sunken canal boat from the era when coal-laden boats crossed the river from Bristol to the D&R Canal. Roebling's abandoned Kinkora plant and perhaps even an eagle may also be observed.

Exact times are subject to railroad schedules, so please verify nearer the time of the tour. Space is limited and pre-registration is strongly advised; call 609-924-2683 after February 15th. A second ride may be scheduled the following day, **March 1**, to accommodate the overflow. *(This program is co-sponsored by the Friends for the Marsh, Washington Crossing Audubon Society, D&R Canal Watch and the D&R Greenway Land Trust)*

March 30—Bike the Canal Feeder in Mercer County. Join the Sierra Club for an easy 14-mile bike trip along the historic towpath. Participants are asked to meet at 10 am at the Washington Crossing State Park parking area located directly off Rt 29 and adjacent to the D & R Canal path. The group will pedal from Washington Crossing State Park (Titusville) north to Lambertville and return to the start location in time for lunch. The D&R towpath is relatively flat and well-graded dirt with some occasional loose dirt and gravel. Hybrid or mountain bikes are recommended and **HELMETS ARE REQUIRED.** Bring a lunch that will stay in your car and can be retrieved upon completion of the ride. **INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELS.** This ride will be led by George & Leona Fluck. Questions? Call 609-259-3734 or email Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

April 4—18th Annual D&R Canal Watch 5K Run & 5th Annual 1-Mile Walk. The D&R Canal Watch 5K Fun Run, which begins and ends at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, has become a popular annual event attracting as many as 250 runners. The course loops through the village of Titusville and then along the D&R Canal towpath. Prizes will be awarded and t-shirts supplied to all registrants while supplies last. For full details, directions, entry form, registration information, and/or materials contact the D&R Canal Watch at (609) 777-9379 or online at www.canalwatch.org. **All proceed will benefit the park!**

April 25-26—Steamboat Rides on the Delaware River. As part of Lambertville's annual Shad Fest, visitors are invited to ride a real sternwheel steamboat, replica of local 1860 vessel. This 20-minute cruise will take passengers to the **D&R Canal outlet lock** and back to the shad fishery by the bridge in Lambertville. The steamboat will board passengers between 12:00 and 4:00 pm at Lewis Island next to the Lambertville Bridge. A fee of \$5.00 per person will be charged. Weather permitting. For further details and information please contact the Delaware River Steamboat Floating Classroom at info@steamboatclassroom.org.

(continued)

May 2—Birding the Seasons on the D&R Canal ~ BIG DAY IN MAY. What a great way to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the D&R Canal: monitoring one of the park's most precious natural resources—the birds that reside year round, those that winter here, those passing through for the breeding season and those dropping by on their way north and south in their migration. So what is a "Big Day"? It is ONE big fun day of birding with a little extra challenge. For our purpose, we plan to do an inventory of all bird species seen along the canal on ONE day. We hope to cover the entire length of the main canal, feeder and adjacent park lands. This will be quite an undertaking, so we will need volunteers to help lead field trips that day and to participate in different segments along the path. This is a time that likely will represent the greatest number of species, based on migration and breeding patterns. Please mark your calendars and plan to join the group. You need not be an expert - just a pair of eyes and the desire for a fun day are required! If this has piqued your interest, then please contact either Arlene Oley (arobirder@aol.com) or the park naturalist, Stephanie Fox (dnrnaturalist@verizon.net). For further details and information, please call the park office at (609) 924-5705.

May 2—Spirit of the Jerseys Annual History Fair. Transportation is this year's theme, with events and booths highlighting the state historic sites (including the **D & R Canal**). Washington Crossing State Park, County Road 546, Titusville, Mercer County; 11:00-5:00 (schedule TBA). Food, music, living history & re-enactments, historic games, crafts, vintage baseball and **boat rides on the D&R Canal**. Come discover and celebrate NJ's diverse and rich history! For information call (609) 737-9303 or visit www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic. NO ADMISSION FEE. REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE. *This annual event is sponsored by the NJ Division of Environmental Protection ~ Division of Parks and Forestry ~ Office of Historic Sites.*

May 9—Hands Along the Canal. All you devoted park users have an opportunity to show your support of our 175-year-old canal by taking part in this ambitious task! **Hands Along the Canal** is a bold undertaking that will attempt to have thousands of hand-holding park users lined up along the historic towpath from Landing Lane (at the Franklin/New Brunswick line) to Trenton's Cadwalader Park! Sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society and the East Coast Greenway, this show of support is scheduled to take place at 10:00 am and last for fifteen minutes. We can't accomplish this goal without your help, so those of you who love and use the D&R should make sure to mark your calendars, **pick your favorite location**, and plan to be a part of this show of support for the park! Come help celebrate the canal's 175th anniversary year by taking part in this ambitious historic effort. For more information, contact Mike and Anne Kruimer at handsalongthecanal2009@yahoo.com, 732-340-1411, or visit www.greenwaynj.org. **Let's all get out and support our D&R Canal.**

May 16—Canal Authors Extravaganza. Visit with authors of canal-related books and bring your own copy to be signed. Some books will be for sale. Authors who will be there to meet and greet are: **William J. McKelvey** (*The Delaware & Raritan Canal; Champlain to Chesapeake*); Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Paul Muldoon** (*Moy Sand and Gravel*); **Richard F. Veit**, with his father's book, *The Old Canals of New Jersey*; **Will Rivinus** (*Guide to the Delaware Canal*); **Marie Murphy Duess** (*The Delaware Canal: From Stone Coal Highway to Historic Landmark*); **Linda J. Barth** (*Bridgetender's Boy, The Delaware and Raritan Canal*); **Jeanette Muser** (*Rocky Hill, Kingston and Griggstown*); **Lee Sullivan Hill** (*Canals are Water Roads*); **Walter Choroszewski** (*Somerset County: A Celebration of Communities*); **Jessie Havens** (*Somerset County: Three Centuries of Progress*), and poet **Penelope Schott** (*Canal!*).

Lee Sullivan Hill and Linda Barth will read excerpts from their children's books throughout the day. To take you back to the 1800s, the Riverside Band will perform canal-era and blue-grass music. Visitors may watch videotapes about the D&R Canal, including the NJN production, produced by Cliff Crawford. So come join us and meet the authors who have been inspired to write about the historic D & R Canal. This FREE event is sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch and will be held at the Mule Tenders Barracks on the Griggstown Causeway from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. For further information please contact Linda Barth at 908-722-7428, 908-240-0488, or barths@att.net. *This program has been funded, in part, by a grant from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission and Friends of Somerset County Culture & Heritage, Inc.*

May 23—Bike the Path from Blackwells Mills to Griggstown. Enjoy a morning bike ride along the historic

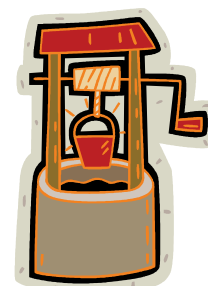
towpath with canal buff, Bob Barth. Bob will lead this 8½-mile ride and discuss canal structures and history along the way. Riders are asked to bring their own bicycle, helmet and lunch and meet at the parking lot on the Blackwells Mills Causeway at 10:00 am. Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D & R! This ride is sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch. For more information, please contact Bob Barth at 201-401-3121.

For more activities sponsored by the D&R Canal State Park, visit www.dandrcanal.com, click on the state park and then on “Programs” on the left. Scroll down to the list of events.

WISH LIST FOR OUR STATE PARK

Please check the list below to see if you can possibly donate any of the following items to the D&R Canal State Park to enhance its interpretive programs! Donations would be greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible! Contact the office at 609-924-5705 if you are able to help out.

- A color printer that is compatible with Windows 98 or higher
- Field guides
- Books on New Jersey history
- Books on canal history and technology
- Binoculars
- Insect nets
- Mounted animals for use in displays or programs



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