

WE DID IT AGAIN!

The 19th Annual D & R Canal Watch 5K Fun Run on April 3, 2010 was a huge success! In sharp contrast to last year, the day was absolutely perfect for running (the sunny, 80 degree conditions predicted didn't materialize until afternoon). The fantastic news: **306 runners and 10 walkers registered and a record 288 finished the 5K run!** Of the known finishers (five are not identified), 133 were female and 150 male. This far exceeds our previous best (2006 fifteenth anniversary) year, when 289 registered and 233 runners finished. The results are posted elsewhere on this website.

Over half (191), ran this race for the first time; at least 2 runners have participated in all 19 races and others have missed only one. The youngest male and female runners this year were Ryan Miner, age 7, and Bridget Wheeler, 8. The oldest runner was 79; three other septuagenarians (age 70, 76, and 78, all male) also finished. The oldest females to finish were both 65. While the vast majority of the registrants were from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, there were two runners each from Virginia and Florida, and one from California; all five of these runners from afar were winners in their age categories. At least two dogs traversed the course with their owners, but we didn't see any baby joggers this year. It is always gratifying to see so many families running together; a quick count of the list sorted by street address revealed 115 runners living with at least one fellow runner—a spouse or parent/ child. Our only disappointment: we ran out of T-shirts; there were no promises to same-day registrants, but we regret terribly that five pre-registrants did not receive theirs and are trying to remedy the situation.

Thanks must go to our generous sponsors, especially PSE&G. Prize and refreshments donors are also very much appreciated for their generosity – we couldn't do it without you. Sponsor and donor lists are posted on the website, and each will receive a letter of thanks.

Even though they profit from us, Aztec Graphics (for the T-shirts), Paul Leestma (race administer), and the Hopewell Valley Police should receive recognition. Washington Crossing State Park (where the race begins and ends) also deserves special mention.

The D & R Canal Watch board members who help each year to make this fundraiser a success are too numerous to list here, but Bill Valocchi, Barbara Ross, Ruth Barringer, Linda Barth, Erik Jetzt, Ellen Kaplan, Tom Lederer, and Diane Tartaglia all deserve special credit. Thank you, thank you to everyone who worked so hard that day—it is for barely three hours, but they are very intense ones.

Now we all have 264 days to recover before we do it all over again! Your devotion to this D & R Canal Watch fundraiser goes beyond praiseworthy.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Next year's race, the 20th Annual, will be held on April 2, 2011!