

D & R CANAL WATCH

Number 52

www.canalwatch.org

September 2011

THE LEGACY OF HURRICANE IRENE

On August 27-28, an unwelcome visitor came to central New Jersey. Hurricane Irene left a devastating path of damage in her wake. The storm's heavy rains caused massive flooding along the Raritan and Millstone rivers. The canal was breached just south of Lambertville on the feeder canal and at Port Mercer.

Many of the buildings along this historic waterway were filled with muddy water. By early in the week, after the water had receded, park superintendent Patricia Kalleser arranged for her maintenance staff to open and air out the buildings. She also welcomed the volunteers who gave their time and energy to power wash, clean, and disinfect the buildings in Griggstown and East Millstone. We are deeply indebted to all of these volunteers. Armed with buckets, boots, gloves, mops, and squeegees and led by Bob Barth, the volunteers included Tom Buckingham, Ted Chase, Phil George, Sue Goldey, Mea Kaemmerlen, Barbara Ross, John Samtak, Susan Samtak, Ted Settle, Barbara and Jan ten Broeke, Barbara and John Vadnais, Paul Vercelletto, and Bill Wiseman.

We are happy to share this note of thanks from our superintendent: "As I drove past the Barracks, I noticed the continued flow of volunteers inside. Again, thank you and all the canal enthusiasts who have made a monumental effort in cleaning up Griggstown and Blackwells Mills."



The water line was above the first-floor windows.
Susan Samtak is hosing the muddy sidewalk. Photo by John Samtak

More photos inside



Tom Buckingham gets ready to mop the Mule Tenders Barracks floor.



Look what our volunteers accomplished!



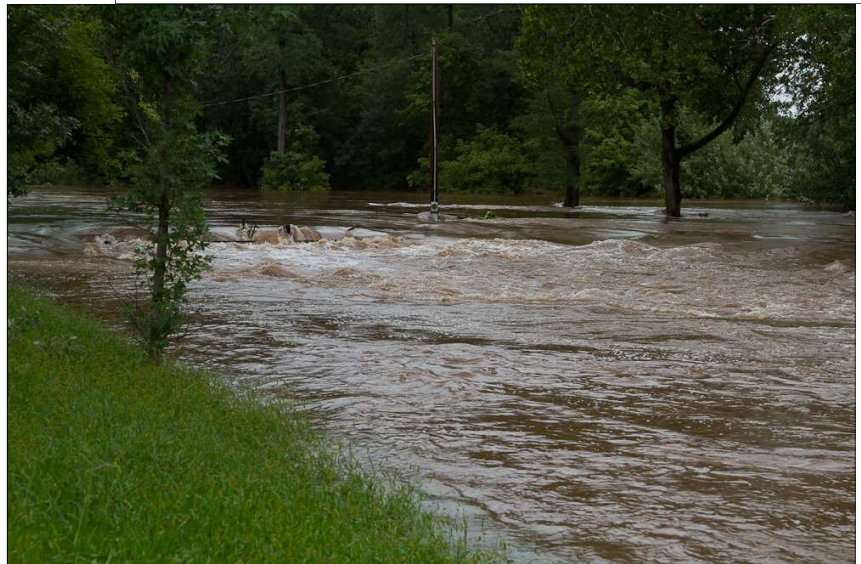
Photos: Susan Samtak



Team leader Bob Barth power washes a wall in the Mule Tenders Barracks in Griggstown.

Photo by Mea Kaemmerlen

South Bound Brook Lock 11—before and after.
Photos courtesy of Ted Settle.





Port Mercer bridgetender's house ▲
Photo courtesy of Michael Milewski

Canal Watch trustee Bob Barth
power washes a board at the Mule
Tenders Barracks.
Photo by Vicki Chirco.

Mike, the tenant at the
Blackwells Mills
bridgetender's house, waves
as the waters engulf the
building.
Photo © Vivian Bedoya



Photos courtesy of Jan and Barbara ten Broeke

Photos by Barbara and Jan ten Broeke. East Millstone, Amwell Road looking west toward the canal; Franklin Inn in the center; newly restored bridgetender's house on the left. ▶

Behold, the historic outhouse still stands! This building is being restored by the Canal Watch and master workman Ronald Thronson with help from Canal Watch trustee Bob Barth. ▼



FLOODING REPORT FROM THE NJ WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

September 2, 2011—about one week after Hurricane Irene

Canal Update

Progress continues on filling in the breach and replacing the clay liner. The breach was closed yesterday evening. Restoration of flow has been delayed to facilitate installation of clay above the invert and banks of the canal. The clay was eroded during the storm event, and it is desirable to restore the clay before flow is restored. The contractor is planning to work during the weekend repairing the clay liner and restoring the breach. Below is a picture of the breach repair. The cofferdam on the right side of the picture was installed by NJDOT for repair of the Route 29 embankment. Clay is being installed on the repaired embankment to provide an increase in impermeability of the embankment until a more long-term repair is constructed.

Stop logs at Lower Ferry Road were installed this morning. The stop logs permit operation of the canal at multiple levels, allowing water levels to be raised downcanal to ensure water availability for the water users while allowing the water level to be maintained low upcanal to make the clay installation more efficient.

Work continues on cleaning debris from the eastern end of the canal. Canal crews will work through the three-day weekend removing trees that have fallen into the canal, removing garbage that accumulated at different locations, and repairing scour.

Water levels in the eastern end have dropped and are being supplemented with diversions from Carnegie Lake. One of the four 36-inch gates is open 16 inches and provides an adequate supply of water. Canal water supply operators will be monitoring the water levels throughout the weekend and will make adjustments as necessary.

It is expected that one 15-million-gallon-per-day pump at the 10 Mile Pump Station will be ready for operation by tomorrow. The three other pumps are being cleaned and readied for operation later this weekend.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 15—The New Jersey Water Supply Authority will hold an open house to present information about the dredging of the D&R Canal from Route 27 in Kingston to Amwell Road. The open house will be held at the Franklin Township Municipal Building, Demott Lane from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. For more information, you may contact the authority at info@njwsa.org.

Sunday, October 9 – 10 am. Walk the D&R Canal from Alexander Road to Carnegie Road (5.5 miles). Meet at the basin parking lot on Alexander Road. For more information, please contact Linda Barth, 908-240-0488 or barths@att.net.

Sunday, November 20 – 10 am. Walk the D&R Canal Feeder from the Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park to the junction with the main canal at Old Rose Street (2 miles). For more information, please contact Bob Barth, 201-401-3121 or barths@att.net.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—July 13, 2011

Patricia Kalleser reported that the final walk through of the Lock 1 bridge would happen the next day. She also reported on the acquisition of the Kingwood Horseshoe Bend Road Property which connects to the Frenchtown Preserve. Ms. Kalleser just attended a pre-bid meeting with architects for the Prallsville Mills restroom project. She also thanked everyone for their support regarding the tragic event at the Bulls Island Campground.*

NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT—July 2011

Bill Bogosian of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority reported that the staff is busy with tree and debris removal from Zarephath to Griggstown. They will be moving on to the Whitehead/Cherry Street Spillway for dredging maintenance. They will be working on Bulls Island tree removal across the canal.

D&R Canal Commissioner Loos asked about the timeline for the dredging project. Mr. Bogosian said that dredging methods were being explored for this Kingston to Amwell Road 10-mile stretch of the canal.

*Editor's note: Early in the morning on June 28, a sycamore tree fell on a family's tent, killing the father and injuring the mother.

The Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org, and the listserv have become a very important means of communication, and at newsletter time the website saves the organization printing and mailing costs. We are grateful to board member Ed Sproles for volunteering to update the website. Thanks so much, Ed.

LISTSERV MANAGER DUTIES: Post messages supplied to you, answer or refer any mail that results, and keep the list of listserv members up to date (which may involve referring to membership list or phoning to get updated email addresses). This is a post-only list, so there is no need to monitor it. Maximum time spent: ½ hour a week. Barbara Ross has agreed to continue to monitor the listserv for another year but could use a backup person to help her.

This is a serious request. Please consider it seriously. You would be contributing mightily to the organization and to others' enjoyment of the canal. You may apply or find out more by contacting Linda Barth at 908-722-7428 or barths@att.net. Thanks so much.

THE DREDGING OF THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL

The New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) selected Urban Dredging Consultants, Joint Venture to do the design for the dredging of the Delaware and Raritan Canal from Route 27 in Kingston to Amwell Road in Franklin Township. The objective of the project is to remove an estimated 300,000 cubic yards of sediment from the canal to restore flow capacity. The canal serves as a source of drinking water for over a million of residents in central New Jersey and provides recreational opportunities for its numerous visitors. The dredging design will address the water supply needs for the area and take into account the surrounding cultural and natural resources.

The project includes sediment sampling and characterization, identifying staging areas, dredging and dewatering activities, sediment disposal options, and the preparation of an Environmental Information Document (EID). The anticipated project schedule is as follows: 1) Evaluation of dredging methodologies by December 2010; 2) Design work completed by July 2012; and 3) Funding in place by November 2012. Two construction periods are anticipated in 2013. NJWSA is leading a public outreach effort to provide information regarding the project to interested stakeholders and to identify local concerns. Initial meetings with officials from Somerset County, Millstone, South Brunswick, Montgomery, Hillsborough, Rocky Hill, and Franklin were completed in July. Public meetings with stakeholders including area residents, businesses, civic groups, and recreational users were held in December 2010.

If you would like to be included on the stakeholders list, please e-mail dredginginfo@njwsa.org or info@actengineers.com, subject: D&R Canal.

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To continue receiving the newsletter, send your email address to watch1989@canalwatch.org. We will send you a message when the newsletter is posted on our website, www.canalwatch.org.

D&R Canal Watch 2011-2012 Membership Renewal Form

Membership year: September 1 to August 31

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, except for the September issue, our newsletters will be posted on the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org. You will receive email notification that a new downloadable issue of the newsletter is posted in color on the website. This saves both natural resources and considerable postage costs. 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)

The D & R Canal Watch is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL WATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2010-2011

Class of 2011

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Fairfax Hutter (Princeton)

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

D&R Canal Watch
P.O. Box 2
Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553