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# D&R CANAL WATCH NEWSLETTER

A membership organization supporting the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

Number 37

May 2006

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## Stockton Ramble On Tap May 20

A-rambling we will go once again, this time in the historic community of Stockton on Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m..

Stockton's mayor and residents familiar with the borough's history will join the 3-mile walk.

Meet at Prallsville Mills, north of Stockton on Risler Road (Route 29). The ramble will follow the towpath through Stockton to Brookville and return by way of the rail trail.

Historic Stockton, the remains of the saw mill and Hiram Deats foundry at Brookville and the Prallsville Mills complex will be explored. Call 609-924-2683 for further information.

## Help Clean Up Bulls Island May 21 Volunteers are needed!

In celebration of National River Cleanup Week, the Canal Watch and the Mohawk Canoe Club will sponsor a canal and river cleanup at Bulls Island on Sunday, May 21 at 9 a.m.

Mohawk Canoe Club volunteers will collect small storm debris and trash from the edges of canal and river from the water and Canal Watch volunteers will pick up debris and trash on the trails and water's edge from land.

Land-based volunteers should wear long-sleeved shirts and pants as protection from brambles and possible poison ivy. Bags and gloves will be provided.

We will meet at the Bulls Island main parking lot at 9 a.m. Please contact Bob and Linda Barth (908-722-7428; [barths@att.net](mailto:barths@att.net)) so that we can anticipate how many are coming and so that we may contact you in the event of disastrously bad weather.

And don't forget to attend the annual meeting later in the afternoon in Lawrence to learn about the history of the area you just cleaned up and enjoy some refreshments. See below for details.

### **Volunteers needed!**

There is something for everyone! Please see last page.

## McKelvey to Keynote Annual Meeting

Canal author and historian Bill McKelvey will continue his "Rails Along the D&R" series at the Canal Watch Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. in the Lawrence Twp Municipal Building, Route 206.

This year's presentation will focus on railroads along the D&R Canal Feeder, from Trenton to Stockton.

The Belvidere-Delaware Railroad was constructed on the towpath of the feeder 1850-1856, and a replacement towpath was built along the berm side of the canal. The railroad was operated as the Bel-Del until 1876, and as the Bel-Del division of the Pennsylvania Railroad from 1876 to 1962. The line became part of the Penn-Central Railroad in 1962 and continued until it was abandoned by Conrail in 1976. Four years later the rails were taken up; since that time, the right-of-way has served as the multi-use path for the D&R Canal State Park.

Bill McKelvey joined the Canal Society of New Jersey in 1970, and has served as its vice president and as a director. The author of "The Delaware & Raritan Canal: A Pictorial History and Champlain to Chesapeake," Bill is an expert on the historic vessels of the East Coast and its inland waterways. He has led numerous Canal Society tours to Europe, and, as a devoted rail fan, has often included visits to rail sites as well as canals. Capt. Bill is president emeritus of the Friends of the NJRR & Transportation Museum; editor of "NJ Transport Heritage;" delegate to the United Railroad Historical Society; and a member of the Technical Committee of the Heritage Center commission.

Prior to McKelvey's talk, a brief annual meeting and election of new trustees will be held. Nominated for the Class of 2009 are:

- Ruth Barringer\* (Lawrence)
- Mark Hamill (Plainfield)
- Tom Lederer\* (Princeton),
- Bill Valocchi\* (Trenton)
- Barbara Westergaard\* (Princeton)

\*Incumbents.

Two additional prospective candidates have been approached. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

## Bird Walk on Canal Set for June 4

A guided bird walk along the Delaware & Raritan Canal in the vicinity of Lake Carnegie will be held 8 a.m. Sunday, June 4.

Leader Lynn Hunt has selected this 3.2-mile round-trip route for the variety of habitats – woods, open lakeshore, marsh and scrub.

Meet at Turning Basin Park parking lot on the south side of Alexander Street, Princeton, between the steel truss Stony Brook bridge and the bridge over the canal. The walk will proceed to the Millstone River aqueduct north of Harrison Street and then turn around.

We could find yellow warbler, green heron, rose-breasted grosbeak, great blue heron and white-eyed vireo. Bring your binoculars. Call 609-924-2683 for further information.

## LHS Canoe-the-Canal Day

Canoe-the-Canal Day, as well as a garden party at the Port Mercer Canal House, will be held Sunday, June 11, thanks to the Lawrence Historical Society and the Lawrence Township Recreation Department.

Take a delightful one-way 2.5-mile canoe ride beginning at the canoe launch at the foot of Cherry Tree Lane in Lawrence (one block south of Whitehead Road). The trip ends at the Port Mercer Canal House where refreshments and much more will be waiting.

To rent a canoe, call 609-844-7065 during business hours. Launching begins at 12:30 p.m. The garden party is from 1 to 4 p.m. with lemonade, cookies and homemade ice cream.

Additional information is available at the society's Web site, [www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org) or call 609-895-1728.

## South Bound Brook Ramble

On Sunday, June 18, at 10:00 a.m. the Barths will repeat their South Bound Brook ramble, upstaged last time by Revolutionary War reenactments.

We will meet at Lock 11 (across from the post office) on Canal Road and walk along the towpath upstream (0.4 mile) to the spillway. Then we stroll downstream to the Canal Crossing development and railroad bridge, newly rehabbed for pedestrians. On the way back we will visit the Dublin neighborhood. In all, the walk will cover about 2 miles including diversions. Call 908-722-7428 for additional information.

## Full Buck Moon Canal Walk

The Canal Watch will sponsor a 4-mile full moon canal walk in Lawrence Township from Port Mercer to the Route One pedestrian bridge and back on Monday, July 10, at 8:30 p.m.

We will meet at the canal bridge at Port Mercer at sunset and walk to the bridge over the highway. If weather cooperates, walkers will be able to see the Full Buck Moon rise over the towpath as they head back to Port Mercer.

One way trips are possible by prior arrangement. Rain cancels this event. Call 609-924-2683 for additional information.

## Titusville Ramble Scheduled

Titusville and Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> have been selected for the fourth Canal Watch canal community ramble.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in New Jersey's Washington Crossing State Park (the section west of Route 29). The approximately 3 mile ramble will follow the Delaware River north through the historic village of Titusville and return on the canal towpath, with possible detours. Local experts will be along to provide glimpses into Titusville's present and past as a canal community. For more information call 609-924-2683.

## Mule-Drawn Canalboat Cruise to Feature Garden State Wine and Beer

Join the D&R Canal Watch on Sunday, August 13, for an exciting cruise on the Lehigh Canal aboard the Josiah White II, leaving from Hugh Moore Park in Easton, Pa.

The \$40 ticket includes the cruise, dinner, entertainment, a donation to the Canal Watch, and the chance to sample Garden State wines and micro-brewed beers.

Be sure to sign up early so you don't get left at the dock! As an extra treat, you'll experience what it was like to actually "lock down" in a working lock. Find out how the old cannallers operated the locks!

The boat leaves at 6:00 p.m., so please plan to arrive by 5:45 p.m. If you are late, don't worry. The boat will pass the dock again around 6:15 and pick you up for the rest of the ride. Return time: around 8:30 or 9:00 p.m., depending on how quickly the mules are walking.

Invite your friends and family. Please see the accompanying flier. Call 908-722-7428 or e-mail [barths@att.net](mailto:barths@att.net) for further information

You may wish to arrive in Easton early and visit the National Canal Museum ([ncm@canals.org](mailto:ncm@canals.org); [www.canals.org](http://www.canals.org)) at 30 Centre Square; 610-559-6613; Sundays, 11 to 5; general admission (ages 3-64), \$9.50; seniors (ages 65+), \$9; children (2 and under), free. In the same building you may visit the Crayola Factory ([www.crayola.com/factory](http://www.crayola.com/factory)). Your admission price includes both Crayola and Canal Museum.

## Fifteenth 5K Fun Run a Huge Success

This year's 5K Run was wonderfully successful. One measure of this success: we ran out of everything: parking, T-shirts, bagels, water, orange juice, and run tags (rescued by run administrators here).

The sun shone brightly (in striking contrast to last year), the weather was comfortably warm, and the mood was joyful on April 1.

Two people with baby joggers (one a double one) finished, several ran with dogs, whole families ran together, a Brownie troop of 7-year-olds and their moms walked, and the ages of the runners ranged from 8 to 75.

Of the 289 who registered (including walkers), 233 finished.

By popular demand, we have gone big time and are posting the full race results (not just the winners) on the Web site this year. Next year we will include gender and ages, too.

We did exceptionally well in the sponsors and donors department; their names and logos fairly filled the back of the T-shirt, which was a yummy lime green with goldenrod and dark green inks. As usual, we had many impressive prizes to award the winners, with enough left for random drawings.

On the occasion of the 15th annual 5K run, the 13 runners who have participated in 10 or more races were recognized at the awards ceremony and received (or will soon receive) certificates and iron-on T-shirt decals.

Greg Grace and Joel Pecchioli who participated in all 15 also received bumper stickers. Emily Grace ran 14; Mark and Sharon Kieffer, 13; Raymond Martinelli, 12; Jerry Harcar, Patti Manz, Richard O'Brien, Victoria Pecchioli, Joe Ricco, and Mark Solomon all ran 11; and Alan Grover, 10. It's great to see three couples on the list! Congratulations to all!

The run would not have been successful without the many sponsors, donors, and prize donors who gave so generously. Their names also are listed on our Web site. Special thanks are due PSE&G and Clayton Block for their very generous sponsorships.



Photo: C. Crane

We need more volunteers to help with next year's race, especially prize, sponsor, and donor solicitors, and persons with word-processing skills to prepare the lists, run tag labels, and keep up with pre-registrations. On race day, we need two more behind the registration table, another refreshments person, a 1-mile walk coordinator, and parking attendants.

**2006 Sponsors:** Clayton Block Company Inc., PSE&G, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Canal Walk Associates, Janssen, Johnson & Johnson Somerset Companies, Lambertville House, Lambertville Station, Matzel & Mumford, Niece Lumber, Richard A. Weidel, Woodwinds, and Runner's World magazine.

**2006 Donors:** Headwaters Technology Innovation Group (HTI), N. T. Callaway Real Estate, Nassau Street Seafood and Produce, Princeton Courtyard by Marriott, Rider Furniture, Stockton Real Estate. Also, 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution Bank, Alma Offset Company, LMT-Mercer Group, and Lawrence Landscapes.

**2006 Prize Donors:** Bell's Tavern, Big Bear Natural Foods, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Brandon, Conduit, A Music Club, Cox's Market, Cravings, Delaware River Outfitters, Dick's Sporting Goods, Errico's Market & Deli, Jos. Finkle & Son Hardware, Foodarama, Freddie's Tavern, Hampton Inn, Harry's, Hart's Cyclery & Fitness, Hausser & Hausser Antiques, Home Depot, Inn of the Hawke, It's Nutts, Jay's Cycle, Jesters Café, Kat-Man-Du, Kopps Cycle, Knapp's Cyclery, Lawrenceville Inn, Liberty Village Premium Outlets, Little Chef Pastry Shop, Little Friend Pet Grooming, Main Street Café, Marcello's Restaurant, Market Fair, Oliver Bistro, Precious Pets, Princeton Running Company, Revere Tavern, Strangelove's Books, Villa Mannino, and Whole Earth Center.

**Drinks, Food, & Exercise:** Bagel Barn, Montgomery, PEAC's Roger Bessler, Pennington Bagel Experience, Pennington Quality Market, Wegmans Food Market.

## D & R Canal Watch 2005-06 Membership & Volunteer Opportunities Form

(Please disregard the membership part if you have renewed since 9//1/05)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

D & R Canal Watch is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Please make your checks payable to:

**D & R Canal Watch, PO Box 2, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553.**

**To volunteer, fill out all but the membership amounts line and send this form to the address above.**

Volunteers are needed to lead walks, represent the Canal Watch at events, help clean up the canal, and to provide refreshments for meetings. We need a secretary. If you can help with the 5K run (see above), fund-raising, newsletter layout, or have design skills, we would be most grateful for some of your time. Or let us know how you would like to become involved!

May we call on you? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Try me \_\_\_ (circle your skill)

D & R Canal Watch  
P. O. Box 2  
Rock Hill, NJ 08553

5/16 Board Meeting  
5/20 Stockton Ramble  
5/21 Bulls-Island Clean-up  
5/21 Annual Meeting: McKelvey  
"Rails along the D & R"  
6/4 Canal Bird Walk  
6/18 South Bound Brook Ramble  
7/10 Full Moon Canal Walk  
7/22 Titusville Ramble  
8/13 Mule-Drawn Canalboat Cruise