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D&R CANAL WATCH NEWSLETTER

A membership organization supporting the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

Number 37

www.canalwatch.org

Fall 2006

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Fall and winter walks scheduled

Don't pack those hiking shoes away quite yet.

The Canal Watch has slated a series of fall and winter walks, some with an opportunity to warm up and get a bite to eat at the end.

Sunday, Nov. 26: Canal Feeder Walk and Lunch. Meet 10 a.m. at the Washington Crossing State Park parking lot along the river just north of the Delaware River Bridge for this 4.4-mile walk. We will carpool to Belle Mountain (Valley Road) and walk back through the lovely village of Titusville to the park. An informal (Dutch treat) lunch at Faherty's Restaurant is optional at the completion of the walk, about 1 p.m. Call hike leader Bob Barth at 908-722-7428 for further information. Heavy rain will cancel the walk.

Sunday, Dec. 3: Full Moon Walk. A nearly full "Cold Moon" will light the way and reflect off the water for this 2.2-mile canal walk from Kingston to the Millstone River aqueduct. Meet 7:45 p.m. at the Kingston Canal House where the walk will begin. Cars left at the Aqueduct parking lot will shuttle walkers back to Kingston, or those who wish may walk back on their own. Cloudy skies will cancel the walk. Call 609-924-2683 for further information. To reach the starting point, those heading south on Route 27 should turn left just before the Millstone River bridge near Woodwinds and Kingston Flower Company. From Princeton, turn right off Route 27 just after the Millstone River Bridge.

Saturday, Jan. 20: Canal and Marsh from the River LINE. Historic canal and related sites will be pointed out during this rail excursion beginning at the Bordentown Light Rail station at 10:45 a.m. We will board the 10:57 a.m. train for a five minute ride south to Roebling to view, if we are lucky, cuts in the shoreline and sunken canal boats from the era when coal-

laden boats crossed the river from Bristol to the D&R Canal. We will then board a northbound train for a 17-minute ride to Trenton, and return to Bordentown on the 11:45 a.m. train. The tracks follow the path of main canal; with the help of aerial views and historic maps and photos we will see Lock 1 and sites of former Trenton industries and bridges, as well as Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh and Watson's Creek. Tickets are \$1.25 (60 cents for seniors and children) for the entire trip.

A Dutch treat lunch at a popular local eatery and a short architectural tour of 19th century Bordentown are possible after the train ride. Because train schedules can change, call 609-924-2683 to verify times. To reach the Bordentown station (100 W. Park Ave. at Prince Street above the boat landing), take I-295 Exit 57 to Route 130 East, turn left onto Farnsworth Avenue and turn left onto Park Avenue (eighth left turn). At the end of Park bear left into the station parking lot.

Saturday, Feb. 17: Lambertville walk and brunch. Meet 10 a.m. at the state park parking lot behind the Lambertville Inn. We will carpool to Stockton and walk back the 3.5 miles to Lambertville, passing the historic Holcomb-Jimison farmstead. After the walk, participants have the option of joining for lunch at the Lambertville Inn, overlooking the Delaware River. Call hike leader Bob Barth at 908-722-7428 for further information. Heavy rain will cancel the walk.

Sunday, March 3: South Bound Brook walk and lunch. Meet 10 a.m. at the parking lot for Lock 11, across from the South Bound Brook post office. We will carpool to Lock 12 and walk back about 2 miles to Lock 11. If time allows, we will also walk through the Dublin neighborhood of South Bound Brook. Participants have the option of a Dutch treat lunch at the Riverside Pub.

Fun Run is March 31 – we need help!

The Canal Watch's prime fundraiser, the 16th Annual 5K Fun Run at Washington Crossing State Park, is set for Saturday, March 31, 2007. Last year we encountered problems, but the good kind. The run was so successful that we ran out of the T-shirts that are given to each participant. That problem was solved relatively easily (we ordered more), but other issues related to the run need the help of Canal Watch members.

In particular, we need a Fun Run solicitor/ registrar to work with Barbara Ross. This volunteer must be computer-capable, willing to work hard for a three-week period and not afraid to approach people to ask for donations. Having free time during the day for follow-up calls would be helpful.

We especially need help on race day to assist with parking and registration. Next year's race may draw still more participants because there is no competing run on Sunday, as there has been in the past.

Please consider donating a few hours to this very important event for the Canal Watch. All net proceeds go directly to the Canal Park.

We greatly appreciate the help of those who regularly turn out for the event and especially thank Lynne Semmel for signing on to participate this year for the first time.

For further information, call 609-924-2683.

Canal Watch receives major donation

In 2004, the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission granted permission for Briad Corp. to construct a Wendy's restaurant between the canal and Easton Avenue in Franklin Township. As a goodwill gesture, Briad has donated \$5,000 to the Canal Watch.

The gift, according to Real Estate Project Manager James Ardizzone, should go "...toward your beautifying the D&R Canal State Park." He wished the Canal Watch success in our efforts to improve the park.

The Canal Watch thanks Briad Corp. for the generous gift. In consultation with park officials, the Canal Watch board will decide how best to use the donation.

Membership renewal time is here!

This has been another busy and productive year for the D & R Canal Watch.

Last April we held our 15th Annual 5K Fun Run and our second 1K walk. Both exceeded all expectations in terms of participation and financial returns, and we are looking forward to an even more successful run this year. With the proceeds so far the Canal Watch has purchased three picnic tables for the Kingston Lock area and display panels for the new park headquarters on Mapleton Road.

Your new events chairman, Bob Barth, has planned a full schedule of events, including towpath walks, some followed by lunch in a nearby eatery, and repeats of favorites — the Trenton train ride, full moon walks and Lynn Hunt's canal bird walk. The winter events are listed in detail in this newsletter.

Now is the time to renew your membership, and, we hope, your desire to help promote and preserve the D & R Canal State Park. A membership form and envelope is inserted in this newsletter for your convenience. If the spirit moves you to increase your contribution this year, it would be greatly appreciated.

Your support makes a huge difference to us.

Barbara Ross

State grant for Griggstown 'barracks'

The state Department of Environmental Protection announced November 1st that \$750,000 in funds have been made available for renovating what is commonly known as the mule tenders' barracks beside the canal in Griggstown.

The building, once home to a much-loved canal museum, was severely damaged by flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The rehabilitation is scheduled for completion in summer 2007.

Canal Watch listserv up and running

You can now be easily informed of canal-related events and alerts. Please send us your email address via your membership form or albatross8@verizon.net so you can be part of this exchange. It is a post-only list, so you will not be besieged by email messages.

Picnic tables now at Kingston lock

On Oct. 31, three new picnic tables were delivered to the Kingston lock area.

Purchased by the Canal Watch, the tables were constructed by the young people of the Highlands Project.

This group is a nonprofit corporation formed to provide opportunities for young people of Warren County to participate in educational service programs that benefit the citizens of the region. The corporation will provide the juvenile court system and various educational entities a program for students and youth to participate in structured and guided community service projects, coupled with environmental, cultural, and vocational educational curriculum.

The Warren Historical Learning Center is the headquarters of the Highlands Project. The center, located within Bread Lock Park, houses displays of Warren County History. These include a scale, working model of Lock 7 West or the "Bread Lock" for which the park was named. Other models include Plane 7 West in Bowerstown, N.J., the Oxford furnace, Shippen Manor, and a room devoted to the Lenapi culture. The Learning Center is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. You can learn more about this group at <http://www.highlandsproject.org/>.

LHS Events slated at Brearley House

The Lawrence Historical Society oversees the historic Brearley House, accessible by a trail off the towpath south of Port Mercer, which is open for tours on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

The society will hold the ancient rite of Hogmanay at 6 p.m. Dec. 31 at the house. With a big bonfire ablaze, visitors toss in written messages, either to burn bad experiences of the ending year or to make a wish for a good New Year. Following the ritual, hot cocoa and cookies will be served in the house.

Driving directions from the Princeton Pike are available at www.thelhs.org. In the event of uncertain weather, call 609-895-1728.

Canal Watch welcomes new trustees

William Flemer IV was for many years engaged in the family business, Princeton Nurseries, which, in its heyday was the largest tree nursery in the country. We look forward to his leading walks on the former nursery land, now the Mapleton Preserve and park headquarters. Bill is an arborist by profession and serves on the Princeton Borough Shade Tree Commission. A resident of Princeton, he went south and founded his own nursery (which stressed organic methods) but eventually returned to this area. Bill is also a serious blue-grass musician.

Mark Hamill, a construction foreman for Louis Rothberg & Son, has lived in Plainfield for 28 years with his wife, Leisa, and son, Mark Jr. Mark, who grew up in Millington, loves canals and most all historical transportation, but sprint car racing is his passion (watching, not driving). He supports animal protection groups and several historical construction clubs. Mark is our liaison with the Canal Society of New Jersey.

Marilyn Rautio, from South Bound Brook, is interested in bird-watching, gardening, music and theater. A widow with five children and four grandchildren, she has performed in local theater groups and has sung in the Masterwork Chorus, as well as her church choir. Marilyn is active with the Friends of the Abraham Staats House, along the canal in South Bound Brook, and has already proved invaluable in keeping us aware of activities along that section of the canal.

Born in Trenton, trustee nominee **Doug McCray** was raised in Burlington and with his love of history, has followed in his parents' footsteps. A broadcasting major in college, Doug worked for local Philadelphia, Trenton and Atlantic City stations in his early career. He spent three years in the Army (Ft. Monmouth and Wurzburg, Germany), traveling as much as possible on Uncle Sam's dime. Currently tour operations manager (read jack of all trades, chief cook and bottle washer) for the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial moored on the Camden waterfront, Doug lives in North Brunswick with his wife, Annemarie. Doug has a special interest in the canal's as yet undeveloped Bordentown section.

Spotlight on Trenton

Exciting projects continue to unfold in the City of Trenton. Many of these projects will reshape the banks of the Delaware and Raritan Feeder Canal as it meanders through the City.

One such project is the Broad Street Commons. On October 12, 2006, the City of Trenton Planning Board approved a twenty four unit townhouse project adjacent to the canal and in close proximity to the City's Battle Monument Park. The project will include handsome brick town homes, many with canal frontage. The units will include garage parking, three bedrooms, and two and a half bathrooms. The three-story town home units fronting on North Broad Street will include third floor dens and roof decks offering spectacular views of the battle monument.

The perimeter of the sight will have decorative brick accent pavers and fencing, period lighting and a generous number of new street trees. The development will be anchored by a new park with sitting areas and passive open spaces. For more information on this project call the City at 609 989-3610.

Last fall I reported on other city projects that impact the canal. Two of these projects, the development of Trenton's Police Academy and West Ward Police Station and the West End Shopping Center, are up and running. Both are adjacent to the Canal at Hermitage Avenue. I reported in that same article that Thomas Edison College was in the final stages of construction of a new administration building on West Hanover Street next to the historic Hanover Street bridge tender's house, which has been vacant for many years. I am happy to report that the administration building is up and running and the developer of this project, along with the City of Trenton, has secured funds to restore the bridge tender's house. In the short term the college will take on a caretakers' role, possibly using the house for conference space. Both city and state are searching for a long-term occupant that will appreciate the historic structure. Suggestions are welcomed!!

Bill Valocchi

Marsh canoe trip, Bordentown walk

Take to the water or the streets for these two trips planned by the Friends for the Marsh and the D&R Canal State Park, respectively:

On Nov. 16, the Friends, with the Outdoor Club of South Jersey, will explore Crosswicks Creek and the adjoining marsh area by canoe or kayak. For more information visit the Web site of the Outdoor Club of South Jersey, www.marsh.ocsj.org. If interested, contact George and Leona Fluck at 609-259-3734. No rentals are available.

On Nov. 18, the state park historian will conduct a two-hour walking tour of historic Bordentown, beginning at the light rail station at 10 a.m. Pre-registration for this event is necessary at 609-924-5705. Go to www.dandrcanal.com for more information.

D & R Canal Watch Board of Trustees

Co-presidents: Linda Barth (Somerville) & Barbara Westergaard (Princeton)

Vice pres. & membership: Barbara Ross (Princeton)

Treasurer & run co-coordinator: Erik Jetzt (Trenton)

Secretary: open

Run co-coordinator: Bill Valocchi

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Marilyn Rautio (South Bound Brook)

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D & R CANAL WATCH 2006-07 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Non-profit organization \$5 ___ Individual \$15 ___ Family \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other ___

Renewal ___ New membership ___

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Newsletters are sent to members via US Mail and posted on our Website www.canalwatch.org

If you provide your email address we will send you event notices, action alerts and news.

We need help with **walks - clean-ups - refreshments - Fun Run - computer stuff - Website design**

Please, may we call on you? Yes! ___ no! ___ try me! ___ (circle your skill)

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

Please send this form and your check to **D & R Canal Watch, P.O. Box 2, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553**