

Number 89

www.canalwatch.org

August 2023

Wine Sales to Benefit D&R Canal Watch

Central Jersey Exists & We have the Wines to Prove it!

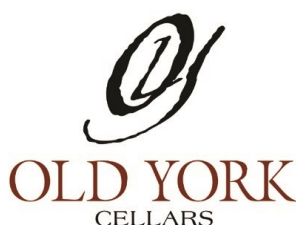
Just days after the New Jersey Assembly and Senate voted to add the Central Jersey region to the state tourism map, Old York Cellars revealed its new Central Jersey Exists series of wines.

Partnering with DiscoverCentralJersey.com, the vineyard created a special Central Jersey Exists wine collection designed to celebrate the landmark towns and beautiful scenery that makes the region so remarkable. These wines are part of the vineyard's charitable wine series. For each bottle sold, \$2 will be donated to D&R Canal and the

(continued on page two)



WINE AND BEER SALES (continued on page two)



The 2024 Canal Watch Calendar is ready

The brand new 2024 D&R Canal Watch Calendar is now available.

Supplies are limited, so order your copy now.

To purchase a copy, please contact Linda Barth at (908-240-0488)

or at barthlinda123@aol.com.

Provide your phone number and your town and she will call you to arrange for delivery.



12" x 12" -- \$20, with all proceeds going to the D&R Canal Watch to purchase items for the park.

This year marks 50 years since the state legislature created the D&R Canal State Park and the D&R Canal Commission.

It's also the 35th anniversary of the D&R Canal Watch and 190 years since the canal opened in 1834.

This year's full-color calendar features images taken by people who visit the towpath. The photographs show people walking, kayaking, and cycling. We also show two bridgetender's homes, a lock, and an actuator (check the April calendar page to learn what that is).

(continued on page two)

CALENDAR (from page one)

As usual, we have included a map and a history of the D&R Canal.

Featured this year are photograph taken by Robert H. Barth, Tom Egan, Tim Roth, Summer Pramer, and Sandra Shapiro.

WINE AND BEER SALES

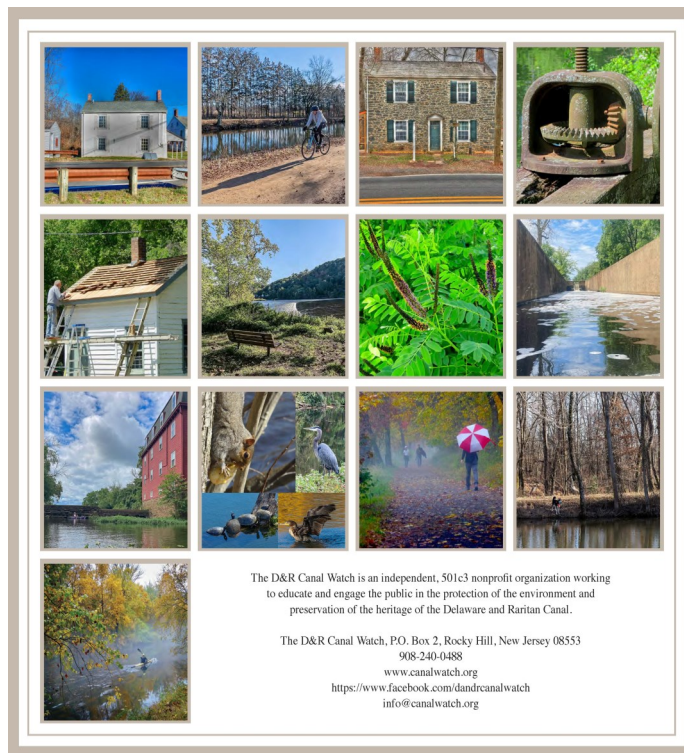
Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition (MVPC)!

You can order bottles of Central Jersey Exists (or their other wines) and pick them up at the winery OR at many other locations in the area. Just visit <https://www.oldyorkcellars.com> and click on "Shop" at the top. On the right, click on "What Exit Wines" and scroll down to the Central Jersey Collection.

The Canal Watch thanks Brad Fay and his website, **Discover Central Jersey**, for sponsoring this fundraiser.

In addition, the Ashton Brewery, at 600 Lincoln Boulevard, Middlesex, now offers **D&R Canal beer**.

D&R Canal Beer - Belgian Pale Ale (abv 5.4%). The D&R Canal is so close to the brewery that bikers and hikers can take a break and pop over to visit the brewery along their trip. This beer is intended to be the perfect accompaniment to the day. The Belgians have a long history of biking on canal paths so we made a Belgian Pale Ale. It is light, soft and refreshing with a pleasant fruitiness and mild spicy hops.



Hey Bikers!

Has your bike ever broken down while you are out riding? If you need help, just contact Brian Clissord, the Bike Guy Mobile! For an immediate problem, text him at 269-274-3883; if he's available, he'll help. To make an appointment for a repair at your home, visit <https://bikeguymobile.com/> and scroll down to "online appointments."



D & R CANAL WATCH 2023 ACTIVITIES

www.canalwatch.org; www.dandrcanal.com

Program Leaders: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121, bbarth321@aol.com; Wayne Petko, 732-371-3514, wpetko02@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 2: 10:00 a.m. to noon. Solar observations, Lock 11, South Bound

Brook. across from the post office on Canal Road (11 Madison Street). Leader: Wayne Petko, 732-371-3514, wpetko02@gmail.com.

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday; noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Somerset County's Journey Through the Past. Canal Watch members will open the East Millstone bridgetender's home and station (and the historic outhouse, for observation only). Linda Barth, 908-240-0488, barthlinda123@aol.com; Barbara ten Broeke, 732-930-1776, barbaratenbroeke@gmail.com

Saturday, November 11: 10:00 a.m. Towpath Walk, Demott Lane to Landing Lane, 4.2 miles roundtrip. Meet at the historic Van Wickle House off Easton Avenue at the foot of Demott Lane (GPS 1289 Easton Avenue, Somerset NJ 08873). Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121, bbarth321@aol.com.

In addition to the above activities sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch, you can see the D&R Canal State Park programs at this link: <https://www.dandrcanal.com/programs>.



Help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the D&R Canal State Park and the D&R Canal Commission in 2024

In 1974, most of the Delaware and Raritan Canal was declared a New Jersey state park, which, is used for canoeing, kayaking, cycling, fishing, horseback riding, birding, walking, jogging, and enjoying nature..

P.L. 1974. C 118 -- The "Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Law of 1974" designated the lands along the canal owned by the State of New Jersey as the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. The legislation also created the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission, set forth the Commission's powers, functions and duties, established the boundaries of the Commission "Review Zone." The legislation also created the present

D&R Canal Commission land use regulatory program. This concurrent resolution established a special legislative commission to study and develop a plan to protect, preserve and maintain the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

The D&R Canal Watch, a friends group that works with the state park staff, is planning a speaker series, a new book of canal poetry, and a collectible mug for the 2024 celebratory year. If you have any suggestions for other festivities, please send them to Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com.

A graded natural-surface trail along the side of the canal, which was the towpath on which mules used to tow canalboats, is now used for recreation. A series of loop trails, using bridges that cross the Delaware River, connect the D&R with the towpath in Pennsylvania's Delaware Canal State Park. About 36 miles of the main canal, and all 22 miles of the feeder canal, are still used. The park is operated and maintained by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry.

The canal is accessible from many points along its route, with small parking areas providing access at most road crossings.

News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, July 19, 2023

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison stated that fee collections totaled exactly \$25,000 for the month. While this amount was somewhat less than the \$63,425.74 collected in 2021, it was more in line with collections in 2020 (\$24,500) and 2019 (\$28,550) and much better than the \$1,300 collected in July 2022. Therefore, the Director observed that with one month of the new fiscal year completed, fee collections were off to a somewhat slow start; but not nearly as slow as one year ago.

With regard to significant events and meetings, Mr. Hutchison stated that on July 17, the new DEP Stormwater Management and Flood Hazard Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:13 took effect. The rules, better known as the Inland Flood Protection Rules, impact new or reconstructed developments and seek to confront climate-change-induced increases in the intensity of precipitation events and the resulting effects of additional stormwater runoff on stormwater management systems and flood elevations in fluvial (i.e. non-tidal) areas. The new regulations contain several key provisions:

- New Design Flood Elevation (DFE) raises fluvial flood elevation mapped by DEP by 2.0 feet;
- Require the use of new current (1900-2019) and new future year (2100) projected precipitation rather than 1900-1999 observed precipitation when calculating flood elevations;
- Requires that stormwater BMPs be designed to manage runoff for both current and future storms; and
- Removes use of Rational and Modified Rational methods for stormwater calculations.

He further stated that the new rules would potentially impact applications to the Commission in several respects. First, the 2.0-foot increase in the DFE fluvial flood elevation could potentially impact application of the 40-foot height requirement at N.J.A.C. 7:45-10.4(b) for structures in Review Zone A that are located in non-Urban canal environments. Commission staff had noticed a trend in applications for townhome developments that places proposed garages on the first floor of a proposed residence to comply with local flood ordinances. This, in turn, has raised the overall height above grade of those structures. This has occurred almost entirely within Urban canal environments in communities such as the City of Lambertville, where the 40-foot height requirement does not apply, and proposed new structures may vary according to the height of existing structures to which they have a visual relationship. The Director noted that the Commission may be called upon to approve more waivers of strict adherence from the height requirement in future applications.

Director Hutchison stated that the proposed use of new current (1900-2019) and new future year (2100) projected precipitation rather than 1900-1999 observed precipitation when calculating flood elevations will also have an impact upon the delineation of the 100-year floodplain of new projects. Since the Commission stream corridor is generally delineated based upon a 100-foot buffer from the 100-year floodplain, the Director considered it likely that Commission stream corridors would expand in the future and that more projects would be subject to the stream corridor impact review standards at N.J.A.C. 7:45-9.

He noted it was also probable that the requirement for BMPs to be designed to manage runoff for both current and future storms would increase the size of basins and other structural and non-structural stormwater management infrastructure on project sites. In situations where the project is regulated both by the Commission and the DEP, the Director observed that this difference would likely not be noticed, since the applicant will be required to meet the more stringent DEP requirements and would invariably design to comply with them. Similarly, in situations where the Commission and a municipality are both regulating a project, municipal adoption of the DEP standards would also require the applicant to meet the more stringent standard. Mr. Hutchison noted that it remained to be seen whether the comparatively small universe of projects regulated by the Commission in Zone A that created more than 800 square feet of impervious surface coverage but less than one quarter acre of impervious surface, and were not otherwise regulated by the DEP or the municipality, would ultimately be designed to meet a less stringent standard.

Finally, Director Hutchison stated that the elimination of the Rational Method and the Modified Rational Method for stormwater calculations would impact the design -- and most importantly the size -- of stormwater BMPs to address the impacts of the 2-, 10- and 100-year storm events and comply with the stormwater quantity standards at N.J.A.C. 7:45-8.6. He speculated that presumably, Chapter 5 of the Stormwater BMP Manual would be changed to align with the rule change, and since the Commission

relied upon the DEP Stormwater BMP Manual to review the design of stormwater BMPs, presumably stormwater basin designs would get larger in the future to meet this new requirement.

Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lauren Rojewski reported that, as a result of the recent heavy rains and storm impacts, the Bulls Island Recreation Area experienced minor flooding, resulting in the closure of the Inlet Trail and the Bulls Island Boat Launch. However, no significant damage had been reported. In addition, park staff reacted to the weather forecast and took preventative measures at the former Griggstown Bridgetender's House that serves as the Millstone Valley Scenic Byway Visitor Center. Specifically, staff moved equipment and goods to the second floor of the building and out of harm's way.

The superintendent reported that, as a consequence of the strain on staff resources at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, additional summer season hiring would take place.

She reported that at the Bulls Island Recreation Area seasonal staff held a Fire Safety Program on July 8. She noted that additional park program activities were under development, including cleanups, interpretive kayak trips, and walks. Superintendent Rojewski stated that hazardous tree removal work was completed in mid-July at Bulls Island Recreation Area and that park staff were fielding numerous reports of hazardous trees located on private property adjacent to State land.

The superintendent reported that park staff were installing new signs to address improper park usage and public safety concerns along the banks of the Delaware River at the Frenchtown Borough Park and Ride Lot. She noted DEP Land Management Review and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) signage applications were currently pending.

She reported that DEP staff met to discuss a proposal by South Bound Brook Borough to create a canoe/kayak access area to the Delaware and Raritan Canal on Barber Boulevard near the historic Abraham Staats House. The Park Service was reviewing the proposal and evaluating the feasibility of the idea, after which point a response would be sent to the borough.

The superintendent reported that exterior renovations to the Rockingham Historic Site in Franklin Township, Somerset County, were nearing completion and that the work was expected to be finished by the end of July.

She reported that the project to stabilize the chimney at the historic Saxtonville Tavern on State Highway Route No. 29 in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, across from Bulls Island Recreation Area, was completed by park maintenance staff, including placement of framing to support the outdoor kitchen fireplace keystone that should prevent further destabilization.

The superintendent informed the Commission that a Facebook page had been created for the Bulls Island Recreation Area, and she encouraged everyone to visit.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Michael Sellar reported that work was nearing completion on the Landing Lane Spillway rehabilitation project located in New Brunswick, Middlesex County. He noted that the project is anticipated to be finalized in two weeks. He informed the Commission that the project to rehabilitate the stone culvert, which conveys Six Mile Run underneath Canal Road, the Delaware and Raritan Canal and the park multiuse trail in Franklin Township, Somerset County, would commence within one or two weeks.

Mr. Sellar reported that a pre-construction meeting would be held within the week and then work would commence for Phase 1 of the project to repair an approximate 1.0-mile section of the western embankment of the Delaware and Raritan Feeder Canal in Stockton Borough, which separates the canal from the Delaware River and is generally located between the Prallsville Lock and the railroad bridge crossing over the canal at Brookville in Stockton Borough.

Mr. Sellar reported that the alternative solutions for the D&R Canal Water Quality Improvement Project via Cedar Grove Brook Overflow Weir Structural Improvements in Franklin Township, Somerset County, were under consideration by the NJWSA's engineers.

He informed the Commission that the NJWSA was reviewing shop drawings for the project to replace 11 canal sluice gates located at four locks in Somerset County. Following this review, manufacture of the gates would commence.

Mr. Sellar stated that NJWSA staff were working to address the impacts of seasonal severe thunderstorm damage along the Delaware and Raritan Canal, including tree removal and debris cleanup. NJWSA crews were

also cutting grass along the canal.

Mr. Sellar stated that the algal bloom in the canal that he reported on last month was a green algae and not the blue-green harmful algal bloom (HAB) caused by cyanobacteria, which was detected in the Millstone River last summer. He stated that the NJWSA would continue to monitor the water quality in the canal and the Millstone River.

Mr. Sellar stated that NJWSA staff responded to a report of a sinkhole that is associated with a culvert near Easton Avenue (Somerset County Route No. 514) in Franklin Township near the border of that municipality with South Bound Brook Borough. He said that a consultant was brought in to review the problem and propose possible responses to the issue.

Mrs. Barth asked Mr. Sellar if he knew the reason for the closure of Canal Road in Franklin Township, Somerset County, between Old Georgetown Road and Coppermine Road on Sunday, July 16. Mr. Sellar responded that the closure was unrelated to canal operations, and it was his understanding that a drainage ditch that empties into a concrete culvert along the roadway could not control the volume of water produced by the weekend rainstorm, and that as a result, the flood waters had damaged the road requiring its closure by Franklin Township.

You may take part in the monthly commission meetings either in person or online. Visit www.nj.gov/dep/drcc and click on “Meeting Information.” Then click on “Upcoming Meeting Notice.” The D&RCC meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The public is allowed to comment on the proceedings. In-person meetings have resumed; they are held at Prallsville Mills on Route 29, just north of Stockton Borough.

Battery-operated weed whacker needed for work on the D&R Canal

Dear Canal Friends,

The D&R Canal Watch would like to find a battery-operated, string weed whacker to cut weeds around the many benches along the towpath.

If you have one to donate or lend, please reply to this message. We would be most grateful.

Linda Barth
President, D&R Canal Watch
barthlinda123@aol.com

We thank **Dermot Gately** for his offer to lend a weed whacker to the Wednesday Work Crew and **Barbara ten Broeke** for her offer to bring her weed whacker and take care of some weeds around the benches along the towpath.

If anyone can **donate** one to the Canal Watch so that we could have our own, we would be very appreciative.



Class of 2020-2023

Theodore Chase (Griggstown)
Tim Roth (Long Valley)
Jeff McVey (Lambertville)
Barbara Ross (Princeton)

Class of 2022-2025

Linda Barth (Somerville)
Robert Barth (Somerville)

Christopher "Kip" Bateman (Branchburg)
Barbara ten Broeke (East Millstone)

Class of 2021-2024

Tom Lederer (Princeton)
Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)

EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

Sunday, September 17 -- Mercer County

On Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 p.m., join Morven docent and educator Dr. Joseph Wroblewski for [Annis Boudinot Stockton: The Poet and the General](#), an illustrated talk exploring Annis' background, how she achieved prominence as one of America's leading poets, her unbridled patriotism, and the interactions she, the Poet, had with George Washington, the General. Before the talk at 12:30 p.m., there will be an optional tour of Morven's first floor exhibition with Dr. Wroblewski.

The talk is offered in-person only in the museum's Stockton Education Center. Tickets are \$5 General Admission and free for Morven Members and members of the Washington Crossing American Revolution Round Table. 55 Stockton Street, Princeton; 609.924.8144, info@morven.org

★ A Family Day of Fun and American History ★

Sunday,
September 17
Noon to 4:00
Princeton
Battlefield State
Park



A Community
Program of
the Princeton
Battlefield
Society

Sponsored, in part, by NJM Insurance Group and with funds from the Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage, a partner of the New Jersey State Historical Commission



*A schedule of times
and activities will be
posted on our website
and available at
Young Patriots Day.*

**FREE GIFTS FOR ALL
REGISTERED FAMILIES**
REGISTER YOUR FAMILY AT
WWW.PBS1777.ORG
or email us at info@pbs1777.org

LEARN AND HAVE FUN
Demonstrations & drilling with
the New Jersey Grays
Talk with George Washington
and Ben Franklin
Artillery and Musket firing
Information tables by area
historical organizations and sites
Living historian demonstrations
Tours of the Thomas Clarke House
& Museum



Join us for the flag raising at Noon



Princeton Battlefield Society
P.O. Box 7645
Princeton, New Jersey 08543

Canal Watch Calendar of Events

To see our events for 2023, please check this issue or the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org

We have been sending the Canal Watch newsletter by email so that you can read it in **COLOR**. You also have one less item to recycle. If you would like a black-and-white paper copy, please write to Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com and she will mail a printed copy to you.



Fixing the roof on the Kington toll collector's house — Sandra Shapiro

Board of Trustees

Linda Barth, president
Charles Martin, vice president
Wayne Petko, secretary
Tom Lederer, treasurer
Robert Barth
Christopher "Kip" Bateman
Ted Chase
Jeff McVey
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Barbara Ross
Tim Roth
Barbara ten Broeke

The D&R Canal Watch
P.O. Box 2
Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553
908-240-0488

www.canalwatch.org
<https://www.facebook.com/dandrcanalwatch/>
info@canalwatch.org

Our Mission

The D&R Canal Watch is an independent, nonprofit organization working to engage the public in the protection of the environment and preservation of the heritage of the D&R Canal.



The D&R Canal Watch is asking for your support for our activities that protect, maintain, and promote the recreational, historical, aesthetic, and environmental qualities of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. Over the past years, the Canal Watch has:

- **Restored the Kingston canoe/kayak boat launch**
- **Paid for the conditions assessment and the engineering drawings for the East Millstone and Griggstown bridgetender stations.**
- **Working with the park, we posted signage at six locations to help visitors find their way through Trenton.**
- Led history walks along both the main canal and the feeder, pointing out historic structures and Light Rail study tours
- Led history bike rides along the main canal and star-gazing events
- Sponsored bird watching walks along the main canal and bilingual nature walks
- Installed and facilitated canal interpretive signage at locks and spillways
- Activities in 2009 marking the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. These included “Meet the Canal Authors Day” and “The D&R Canal: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,” by Richard Hunter” walks, bike rides, canoe and kayak rides, “Hands Along the Canal,” and proclamations from our legislature.
- Examination of Lock 9 to determine the feasibility of reopening the lock to navigation
- Post-flood cleaning of canal structures in Griggstown, Zarephath, and East Millstone
- Painting over graffiti in East Millstone
- Repair of shutters on the East Millstone bridgetender’s home
- Straightening and painting of the outhouse at the East Millstone bridgetender’s home
- Staffing the East Millstone bridgetender’s home during the village’s Canalfest in October
- A photographic exhibit of the homes of bridgetenders and locktenders.
- Services of an information technology consultant for the park’s computers
- Funded classes to certify maintenance staff in small motor repair, applying herbicides, etc.
- Contacted legislators and the governor’s office to keep the parks open and retain the commission
- Facilitated the mothballing of an empty bridgetender’s home by buying lumber and painting the windows.
- Installed Kaya-Arms on docks to facilitate entering and exiting kayaks
- Funding the park’s website and continued updating
- Paying the dues for the Meetup site used for announcing park activities
- Sponsored lectures on topics such as “The Role of the Delaware and Raritan Canal in the Growth of Trenton’s Industrial Potteries,” “The Operation of the Joint Companies and the Interrelationship of the canal with the state’s first railroad,” “The Roebling Story,” “Photography Along the Delaware and Raritan Canal

Canal Watch Achievements (continued)

State Park: Treasure in Central New Jersey,” “Meet Ashbel Welch, the second chief engineer of the Delaware and Raritan Canal,” and Jim Amon on how the canal and the park changed during his tenure with the commission.

- Purchased gifts that the park budget could not provide. These include a digital camera, seven picnic tables, several benches, a laptop computer and software, a desktop computer, an LED projector, an inflatable screen for outdoor viewing of videos, a subscription to the Meetup website, a scanner, printer ink, a water testing kit, an external computer drive, lumber for canoe dock at Griggstown, folding tables and twenty chairs for Bulls Island, development of a new park website and maintenance of the site at the rate of \$50 per month, and professional courses for the maintenance staff.

Renew your 2023 Membership

We would like to remind our members to please renew their membership. You can do so online by visiting www.canalwatch.org and clicking on “Join” at the top right.



Please wait a few seconds for the membership form to appear. When you click “Submit,” you will be taken to the payment page. If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to D&R Canal Watch and mail it to the Canal Watch at P.O. Box 2, Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553.

D&R Canal Watch 2023 Membership Renewal Form

Membership year: January 1 to December 31

Nonprofit Org \$10 _____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____ Organization \$40 _____
Supporter \$100 _____ Patron \$250 _____ Business member \$500 _____ Benefactor \$1000 _____

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. Dues can also be paid online at <https://canalwatch.org/join/>

For reasons of fiscal and environmental responsibility, newsletters will be posted on the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org, and emailed to members for whom we have email addresses. If you require a paper copy, please check here _____.

Volunteers are needed to lead walks/trips. Do you have computer, photography, or design skills that you are willing to use for the organization? Would you like to join the Wednesday Work Crew? May we call on you? Yes ____ No ____ Try me ____ (circle your skill)