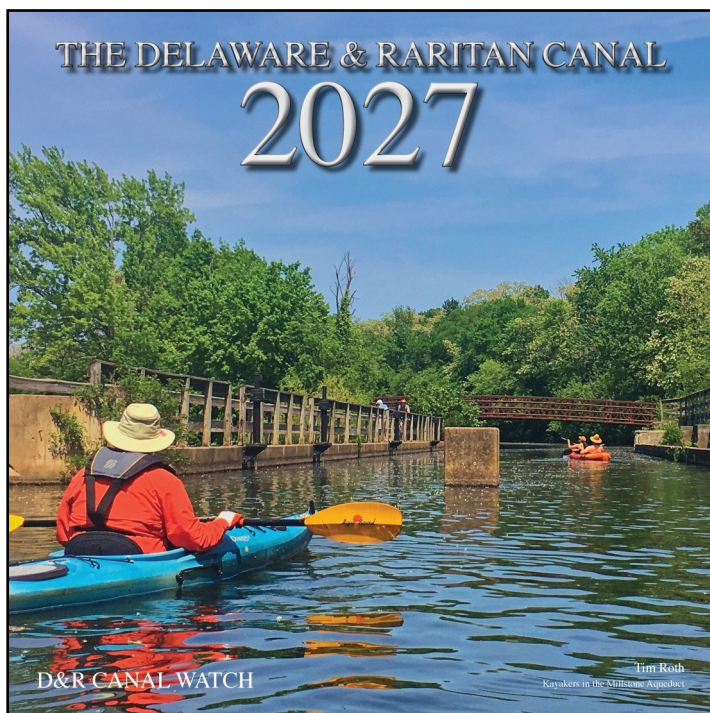




Number 106

www.canalwatch.org

August 2026



The brand new 2027 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 barthlinda123@aol.com or 908-240-0488. 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's full-color calendar features images taken by people who visit the towpath. The photographs show people kayaking and cycling, plus many beautiful scenes along our historic waterway.

This year marks 53 years since the state legislature created the D&R Canal State Park and the D&R Canal Commission. Of course, it's also the 250th anniversary of the United States of America

More Canal Watch Activities and Events for 2026

Sunday, August 30: Canal Road Walk and Roll. 10:00-4:00. Canal Road will be closed from Griggstown Causeway to Route 518 in Rocky Hill. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars! On that day, at the corner of the causeway and Canal Road, you may meet and speak with Gen. Rochambeau and others. See poster on page two.

Sunday, September 13: Canal House Challenge, 10:00-4:00. Five of the historic locktender and bridgetender homes will be open to the public. Pick up a passport at your first stop and have it stamped. If you visit all five buildings in one day, you will receive a small prize. Visitors will be invited to tour the homes in East Millstone, Blackwells Mills, Griggstown, Kingston, and Port Mercer (addresses are provided at the bottom of this page). The friends group in charge of each home will welcome visitors and provide a tour and history of the building.

Addresses for the Canal House Challenge:

- East Millstone Bridgetender's Home, 2371 Amwell Road (Route 514). East Millstone section of Franklin Township, Somerset County (park at the towpath or across from the post office)
- Blackwells Mills Bridgetender's Home, corner of Blackwells Mills Causeway and Canal Road, Franklin Township, Somerset County.
- Griggstown Bridgetender's House, 2 Griggstown Causeway, Griggstown section of Franklin Township, Somerset County. (GPS will also accept Princeton as the town.)
- Kingston Locktender's House, Route 27, at the D&R Canal, Kingston.
- Port Mercer Bridgetender's Home, 4278 Quakerbridge Road, Port Mercer section of Lawrence Township.



Franklin Township
Canal Road

WALK SOUTH & ROLL



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
10:00 AM - 4:00PM**

**Canal Road closed from
Griggstown Causeway to Route 518**

**Meet General Rochambeau August 30th - 1pm to 2pm
at the Millstone Valley Scenic Byway Visitor Center, 2
Griggstown Causeway**

**General Rochambeau will speak on the French troop movements in New Jersey,
as they marched to Yorktown. A question and answer session will follow.**

**In addition to meeting General Rochambeau, there will be a display of French
and American flags and children can make a French regiment flag.**

**The Griggstown Visitor Center, Kitchen Museum and Interpretive Garden will
be open from 10am to 4pm.**

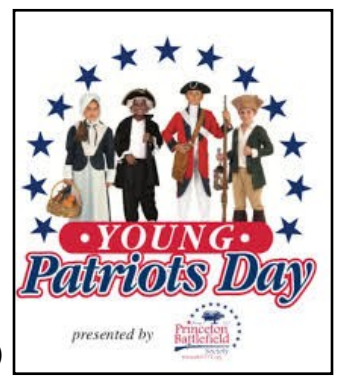
**This event is part of Franklin Township and Millstone Valley Scenic Byway's
250th Revolutionary War Celebration.**

Visit millstonevalley.org for more information

**Canal Road closed to motor vehicles. Residents within these locations will have
vehicle access to and from these areas so please proceed with caution!**

For more information: 732-873-1991, Option 4

Sunday, September 20: Young Patriots Day at Princeton Battlefield, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Young Patriots Day is an annual, interactive educational event held at Princeton Battlefield State Park in New Jersey, celebrating 18th-century American history for children and families. The 2026 event features Revolutionary War reenactments, historical figures, and hands-on colonial activities. The Canal Watch will staff a table at this event. Volunteers are welcome. Just email Linda Barth (barthlinda123@aol.com) to choose the times when you are available to help.



Saturday-Sunday, October 10-11: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday; noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday for Somerset County's Journey Through the Past.



On Saturday, meet and talk with Canal Cap'n Hummel. Performances at 11:00 and 1:00 at the East Millstone bridgetender's home. The captain will be there all day to talk with guests and answer questions.

Canal Watch members will open the East Millstone bridgetender's home and station (and the historic outhouse, for observation only). Bob Barth, 201-401-3121, bbarth321@aol.com. (To see the many other historic sites that will be open, Google "Journey Through the Past, Somerset County, NJ.")



Sunday, October 18: 10:00 a.m. Bike Ride on the Feeder Canal. Starting and ending point for this round-trip ride to be determined. **Helmet required. SAVE THE DATE.** Tim Roth, 973-222-0586, or timroth@comcast.net.



Saturday, October 24: Geology hike, 10:00 a.m. Meet at Prallsville Mills, Route 29, Stockton. During this geology walk, participants will learn about the four geologic units of the Newark Basin along the D&R Canal. Walk led by Pierre Lacombe, retired USGS geologist, pjlacombe25@gmail.com.

What's ahead for the D&R Canal State Park in the years to come?

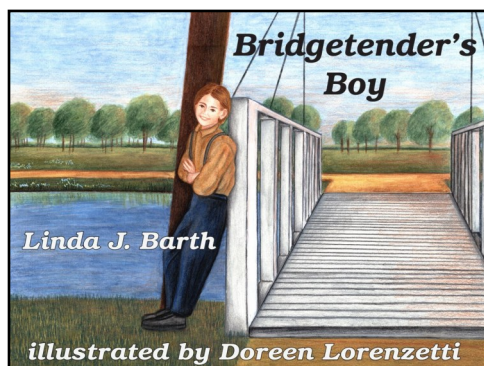
One more of the five public meetings remains to be held so that residents and other interested parties may make comments and may be asked how they use the park.

This session will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on September 8 at the Lawrence Township Library HQ Branch, Darrah Lane and Brunswick Pike (Route 1), Lawrence Township

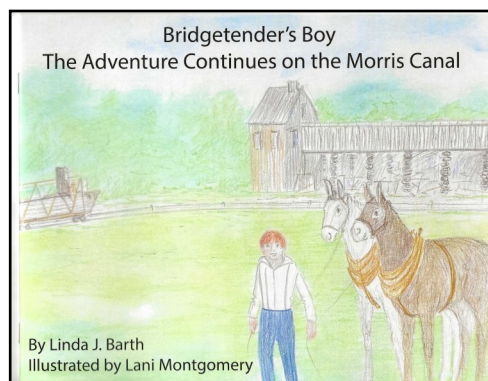
Please visit the D&R Canal Commission website by September 8 and enter your comments for the future of our beloved canal: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/drcc/master-plan-updates.shtml>. Scroll down to "Submit Your Comment."

Among the items the Canal Watch recommends are:

- A public boat ride to educate residents about the protection of our water supply and to learn about the history of this historic waterway;
- Historic buildings should be preserved and used and lifted out of the flood zone;
- Restrooms (not porta-johns);
- Proper parking for more cars;
- A canal museum;
- Trail from New Brunswick to Trenton paved with historic, granular Triassic sandstone; potholes filled on a regular basis;
- Signage in Trenton to allow people to follow both paths.
- More accessible trails
- More benches



**Two books about
New Jersey canals
and one about the
steamboat
SPLASH**



Canal author Linda Barth has reprinted the original *Bridgetender's Boy* and, with illustrator Lani Montgomery, has produced the sequel, *Bridgetender's Boy: The Adventure Continues on the Morris Canal*.

Each book sells for \$20 and copies can be ordered by contacting the author at 908-240-0488 or at barthlinda123@aol.com.

In addition, Mrs. Barth has written *Splash the Steamboat*, the tale of the vessel that for many years plied the Delaware River as a floating classroom. Her crew gave lessons to schoolchildren and summer campers, teaching about the critters in the river, the history of the D&R Canal, and water quality.

The cost is \$15 and a percentage of the price will be donated to Splash Floating Classroom. Copies can be ordered by contacting the author at 908-240-0488 or at barthlinda123@aol.com.



Weekday Walk to Titusville – 3 Miles — Friday, September 4, 2026, 10:00 - 1:00

LOCATION: River Drive Parking Lot at Washington Crossing State Park (**REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED / FREE**) Join our seasonal historian at 10:00 am for a 3-mile walk beginning at Washington Crossing State Park's riverfront parking lot that will take you north along the multi-use path into Titusville. Come prepared to share several hours with us to hear about the unique relationship between the canal and this riverside hamlet. Titusville is an excellent example of a small village that grew and thrived due to the construction of the D&R Canal and the Bel-Del Railroad. This picturesque riverside hamlet feels like a beautifully preserved "time capsule" with its many and varied historic homes; come hear their stories!

So mark your calendars and plan to join us! We will explore this historic town, walk the length of the original River Road that pre-dates Route 29, hear about what is no longer there and enjoy the views of the Delaware River and Washington Crossing State Park on this towpath and sidewalk stroll. Grab your hiking shoes, dress for the weather, bring water to stay hydrated and come enjoy this Friday morning walk with us. **Interested participants will meet at the northern end of the Washington Crossing State Park's riverfront parking area, near the towpath ramp, at 10:00 AM. (see link above and/or below).** Be prepared for a 3-mile round-trip walk lasting about 3 hours. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring water and join us for this informative round trip walk.

PLEASE NOTE: This walk will be canceled due to inclement weather, path conditions or other circumstances. Should this walk be cancelled for any reason, a notice indicating as such will be posted here. **Have a question or need further information? Call the Kingston Office at (609) 924-5705 or email drcanalprograms@dep.nj.gov**

2026 Donations to the D&R Canal Watch

Robert and Linda Barth
Michael and Lauren Bell
Elizabeth Breedlove
John Brodowski
Franta Broulik
Kenneth Carr
Theodore Chase
Bill and Mary Doran
Tom and Sandy Egan
Mark Gallagher
Nichole Hetherington
Charles Kaplan
Mike and Anne Kruimer
Sally Lane and Sam Graff
Carl Loutzenheiser
William Meier

Craig Miller
Tari Pantaleo
Julia and John Prieto
Ronald W. Quade
Distributive Tech Services, Rutgers
Ellen Terry
Sarah Verbeke
Henry Wierzbowski
Ingrid Yurchenco
and
William and Clare Bohnett, in honor
of Bob and Linda Barth and their
work to support our canal.

The total in donations so far this year
is \$8,815.

Historical Tidbit

Princeton Basin: there were actually two, both on the west side of the canal, one north and one south of Canal Street (which was later named Alexander Road). The area was well situated as it was the midpoint of the canal; the town of residence of the president of the D&R Canal Company; and this became the early headquarters of the canal as well.

The Basin eventually became a settlement of some forty or more buildings. About half of them were probably residences of families engaged in the operation of the canal and the principals of commercial enterprises. The other twenty buildings were connected with industries and businesses connected with the canal, including lumber and three coal yards, small factories specializing in building materials; as well as dealers in hay, marketable vegetables and fruits, fertilizers, quarried stone, bricks, and quite a variety of bulky or weighty freight suitable for canal transportation.

A large general store became a necessity as well as barns and sheds for mules. The

Hotel at Princeton Basin



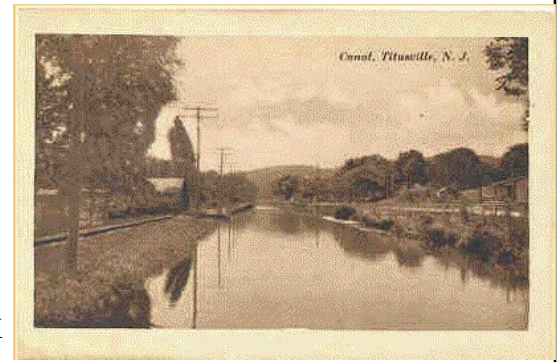
Steamboat Hotel was built and after the arrival of the railroad its name was changed to the Railroad Hotel. The Camden & Amboy Railroad built a passenger station and a freight depot at the top of the hill to the south along with a reservoir to supply water to locomotives.

Origins of the D&R Canal by Lewis B. Cuyler and Princeton Basin by Nancy Knox, both in Princeton History, Vol. 4, 1983.

**Walk along the canal to Titusville
sponsored by the D&R Canal State Park**

Friday, September 4

**Time: 10:00 a.m. Meet at the riverside parking lot at
Washington Crossing State Park**



Join our seasonal historian for a weekday morning walk beginning from the riverside parking lot at Washington Crossing State Park. The group will head north along the D&R Canal into the historic village of Titusville.. Questions? Call the state park office at 609-924-5705.

Come and join us for some fun, a little history, and exercise.



Girl with umbrella on the towpath,
by Patti Sofran

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Tim Roth, vice president
Ted Chase, secretary
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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:

- **Sponsored a number of events for the park's 50th Anniversary and created the Tour de Towpath.**
- **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.
- Sponsored star-gazing and solar observation 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

Canal Watch Achievements (continued on next page)

Canal Watch Achievements (continued from previous page)

- 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 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 Membership for 2026

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 2026 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)