

Number 58

www.canalwatch.org

April 2015

LOGO CHOSEN FOR D&R CANAL WATCH

At the March meeting the Canal Watch board chose our new logo, designed by Tara McCray, a talented graphic artist. Tara's design reflects then-and-now activities on our canal: mule-pulled boats in the background with the captain at the tiller and modern park users running, biking, hiking, and just walking the dog.

JIM AMON TO SPEAK AT CANAL WATCH ANNUAL MEETING

We are pleased to announce that Jim Amon will be the guest speaker at the Canal Watch Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 28 at 2:00 p.m. at the Griggstown Muletenders Barracks. Mr. Amon, the first and longest-serving executive director of the D&R Canal Commission, will discuss how the canal and the park changed during his tenure with the commission.

For twenty-nine years Jim Amon was the executive director of the D&R Canal Commission, planning for the canal park's future, guiding development of the park, and administering a regulatory program to protect the canal from the harmful impacts of new development.



Upon his retirement in 2005 he became the director of stewardship for the D&R Greenway Land Trust, taking responsibility for managing over one hundred nature preserves comprised of approximately 4,000 acres.

Jim lives in Lambertville with his wife, Kathleen, and their dog—really her dog—Sally. He is seriously involved in photography with exhibits in galleries throughout central New Jersey, writes on environmental issues, and gardens in his 30' x 30' back yard.

Directions: From Route 518 in Rocky Hill, follow Canal Road north for 3.1 miles. Turn left on the Griggstown Causeway, cross the canal, and park in either of the lots on the left. From Blackwells Mills, follow Canal Road south for 3.5 miles. Turn right onto the Griggstown Causeway, cross the canal, and park in either of the lots on the left. The Mule Tenders Barracks is the long building on the west side of the canal.

24th Annual 5K Run a Success

Despite drizzle, rain, wind, and a chill factor in the 40s, the 24th annual D&R Canal Watch 5K Fun Run can go down in the record books as a moderate success! The totals were down: 160 runners registered this year and 138 finished the race (compared with 263/241 last year), making the gross receipts also lower, but higher than in 2012, thanks to more sponsors and an increase in registration fees. Just think what they will be next year when the weather is improved (it has to)!

The overall winner, 19-year-old Nigel Bates of Hopewell, ran the course in 17:03.84 minutes; the overall female winner, Sophia Mavellia, age 16, of Newtown, PA, was twelfth to cross the finish line at 21:46.34. Two 9-year-old and three 10-year-old males ran; the youngest female (age 11) came in second in her age group. Four septuagenarians (2 women and 2 men) finished the race. Participating were two runners with baby joggers and at least two accompanied by their canine family members. Maintaining their perfect attendance record, Joel Pecchioli and Gregg Grace each ran for the twenty third time. Race results and lists of sponsors and donors are posted on our website, www.canalwatch.org.

Among the runners registered, 29 pairs, 2 threesomes, and 2 families of four live at the same addresses, indicating to us that at least 83 (over half) who ran this year are in the happy position of both living and running together. The majority of the runners were from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with 1 from New York. Not too surprisingly, Ewing, Lambertville, Pennington, Princeton, and Titusville in NJ and Washington Crossing and Yardley in PA were the towns with the highest numbers.

The race would not have been possible without many dedicated volunteers and generous sponsors and prize donors. We thank them! To all of the runners, whose registration fees go directly to provide much-needed support to the D&R Canal State Park, we are particularly grateful. Please run again next year!

**Save the date! The 25th annual D&R Canal Watch 5K race will be held on
Saturday, March 28, 2016.**

MANY THANKS TO OUR 2015 SPONSORS

*Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Callaway Henderson Sotheby's
International Realty
Lambertville Station
Niece Lumber
Trenton Country Club
Woodwinds
Trap Rock Industries
Lambertville House*

MANY THANKS TO OUR 2015 PRIZE DONORS

Angela Adams	J.B. Kline	The Record Collector
Linda Barth	Jay's Cycles	RWJ Fitness & Wellness Center
Bell's Tavern	Kopp's Cycle	Saker ShopRites
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports	The Last Temptation	Shear Hair Designs
Bridge Street Soap	Little Friends Grooming	Shoppe 202
Chambers Walk Café	Old Book Shop of Bordentown	Smith's Ace Hardware
Cravings	Olive & Grape	Sojourner
Cugino's Italian Specialties	Oliver - A Bistro	South Side Grille
Halter's Cycle	Patriots Crossing Bistro	Villa Vito
Heart of the Home	Pennington Golf Center	Wildflower Inn
Inn of the Hawke	Phoenix Café	
It's Nutts	Princeton Running Club	



PURCHASES FOR THE D&R CANAL STATE PARK

Over the past 25 years, the proceeds from our annual 5K Fun Run have been used to support the state park in many ways. As all park budgets have been cut, there is not always money for needed items.

The D&R Canal Watch has made many purchases for our park. Among them are:

Lumber for canoe dock at Griggstown
Pop-up projection screen for outdoor viewing of videos
An LED projector
Subscription to the Meetup website

A digital camera
Picnic tables
Benches
Computer software
Printer ink

Scanner
Water testing kit
An external computer drive

In addition, we have provided the funds allowing staff to attend courses at Rutgers in Hazardous Tree Identification, an Introduction to Small Engine Repair, and Managing Parks.

Your dues, purchase of our sales goods, and support of the 5K Fun Run have made these donations possible. Thanks for your continued support.

CANAL WATCH WALKS AND OTHER EVENTS FOR 2015

This list is a preliminary list. It will be updated and emailed as the year goes on. Be sure to send your email address to us at barthlinda123@aol.com if you are not already on our list.

Saturday, April 18 — 10:00 a.m. Hike 6.2 miles from Washington Crossing to Cadwalader Park (the meeting place) or choose the 2.4-mile walk to Scudder's Falls. Leader: Pamela V'Combe, 609-635-2783; pjvcombe@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 19 – Hike the Abbot Marshland. Details to be announced.

Saturday, May 2 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 4.5 miles from Whitehead Road to Cadwalader Park (the meeting place) or choose the 2.5-mile walk to the Trenton Battle Monument. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

Saturday, May 9 – 11:00-5:00, Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair, Monmouth Battlefield State Park

Saturday, May 23—Star-gazing along the canal. Venus, Jupiter and Saturn will be visible; the moon will set, making the sky darker. Time and place to be announced. Leader: Wayne Petko

Sunday, June 7 – 8:00 a.m. Birdwatching walk, Weston Causeway. Details to be announced. Date is tentative.

Saturday, June 13 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 5.8 miles from the Trenton Battle Monument to Port Mercer (the meeting place) or choose the 2.9-mile walk to Carnegie Road. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

Saturday, June 20 – 10:00 a.m. History Bike Ride, 10 miles. Details to be announced. Leader: Bob Barth; 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net

Sunday, June 28 – 2:00 p.m. Canal Watch Annual Meeting at the Griggstown Muletenders Barracks. Guest speaker Jim Amon will discuss how the canal changed during his 30 years with the Canal Commission.

Saturday, July 25 – Visit to the Roebling Museum for its Annual Car Show. Details to be announced.

Sunday, July 26 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 5.6 miles from Carnegie Road to Alexander Road (the meeting place) or choose the 2.9-mile walk to Port Mercer. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

Sunday, July 26 – 4:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and canal movies, Muletenders Barracks, Griggstown Causeway.

Saturday, August 8 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 5.7 miles from Alexander Road to Rocky Hill (the meeting place) or choose the 3.8-mile walk to Kingston. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

Sunday, August 16 — Canoe the canal. Meet at the canoe livery, Griggstown Causeway. Details to follow.

Saturday, September 2 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 6.6 miles from Rocky Hill to Blackwells Mills (the meeting place) or choose the 3.1-mile walk to Griggstown. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

Saturday, October 10 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 5.6 miles from Griggstown to East Millstone (the meeting place) or choose the 3.5-mile walk to Blackwells Mills. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121.

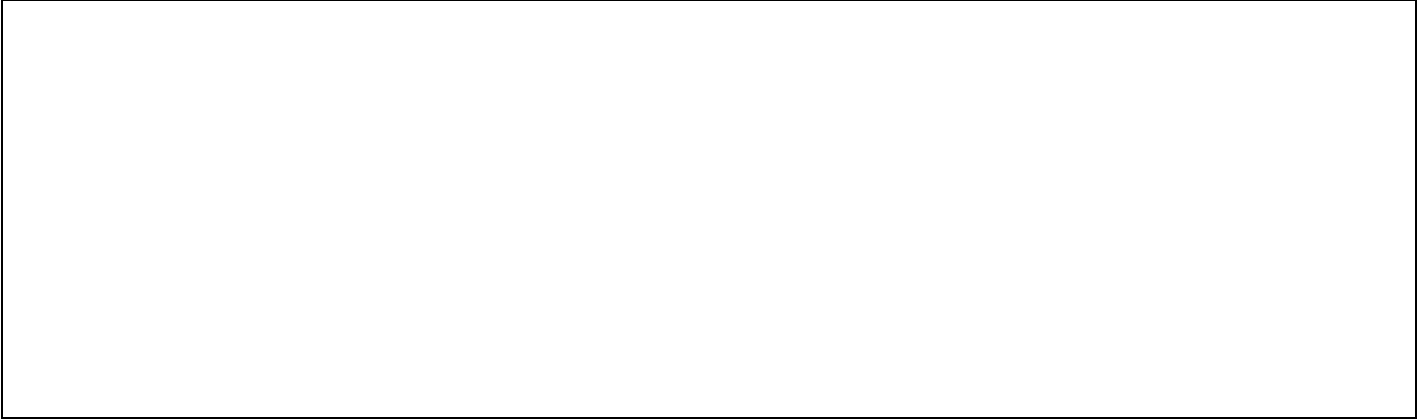
Saturday, October 17 – East Millstone Canalfest. Date to be confirmed.

Sunday, October _____ - Cruise aboard the steamboat Splash. Date to be announced.

Saturday, November 7 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 5.8 miles from East Millstone to South Bound Brook (the meeting place) or choose the 2.7-mile walk to Zarephath. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

Saturday, November 28 – 10:00 a.m. Hike 5.3 miles from Landing Lane to South Bound Brook (the meeting place) or choose the 3.7-mile walk to Five-Mile Lock. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth@att.net.

There will also be several Trenton History Walk and Towpath Clean-Up Days; dates to be announced.

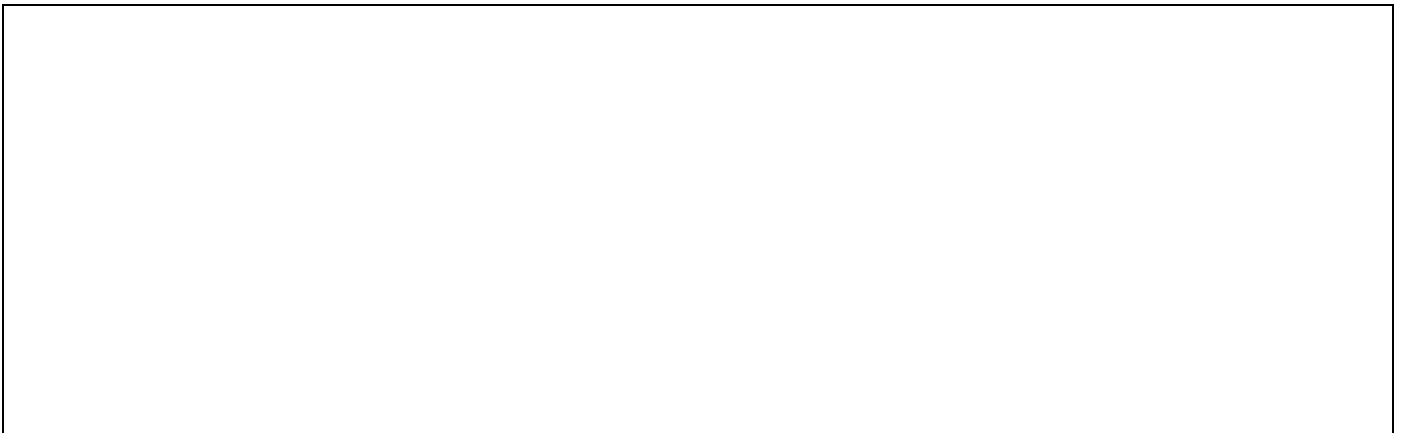


UPDATE ON BULLS ISLAND

After a falling tree caused the death of a camper at Bulls Island in 2011, the DEP decided to permanently close the campground (the only one in the canal state park). An assessment of tree health following the death of William Arias of Bound Brook determined the upper campground at Bull's Island Recreation Area is susceptible to silt buildup from repeated floods and that weakens roots of trees in the area. "Based on this examination and more frequent flooding, we determined that the prudent course is to permanently close the upper river campground area and restore it to a natural state," then-DEP official Amy Cradic said in a statement at the time.

Not only is camping now forbidden, but the public is prevented from even walking the trails on the island. Some trees have been removed, although now there are no visitors who would be endangered by falling trees.

The newest proposal is to demolish several buildings in the former campground because they are no longer needed and may become an attractive nuisance.



DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL WATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-2015

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D&R Canal Watch 2014-2015 Membership

D&R Canal Watch 2014-2015 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 fall 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.