



D&R CANAL WATCH

Number 71

www.canalwatch.org

July 2020

2021 Calendar Contest

Stay tuned for the final calendar images in the fall.

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

Board of Trustees

Linda Barth, president
Barbara Ross, vice president
Wayne Petko, secretary
Tom Lederer, treasurer
Robert Barth
Roberta Batorsky
Ted Chase
George Dawson
Carl Hemmingsen
Ellen Kaplan
Michael Kaplan
Charles Martin
Jeff McVey
Marion Munk
Ed Sproles
Jean Bruno Stremlo
Pamela V'Combe

THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 2020

By Linda Barth

The spring and summer of 2020 have been like no other time in our memory. We empathize with the many residents who could not work, pay their bills, or buy groceries for their families.

Others were more fortunate and were able to use the time of the shutdown to do yard work or household projects and help children with online learning.

At our home, the Barths began looking through decades of photographs and slides. Many pictured Canal Society of New Jersey trips to the canals of the eastern United States, Canada, and Europe. Over the years, the trips to the UK, France, and the Netherlands were arranged by Bill McKelvey. North American bus and boat tours were planned by Bob and Linda Barth. Some of our photos

were donated to other groups, many were kept, and the rest were tossed.

In 1986 the Canal Society chartered the *Kawartha Voyageur* to cruise the Trent-Severn Waterway in Ontario. ←Here you see the vessel entering the Kirkfield Lift Lock.



Our first narrowboat cruise in the UK was held in 1987. About thirty canalers operated the hireboats as we toured the Cheshire Ring, a circuit that includes parts of the Ashton, Peak Forest, Mac-

clesfield, Trent and Mersey, Bridgewater, and Rochdale canals in northwestern England. This marked the first time that most of us had operated locks, which was easy to learn.

In 1990 we again went to the UK, this time cruising on the Kennett & Avon Canal in England for a week. Then we moved to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal (Mon & Brec) in Wales. Here is our crew on our narrowboat.



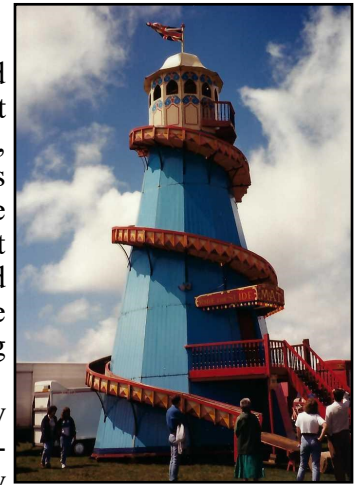
In addition to canaling for two weeks, Bill McKelvey always included side trips to steam fairs, railroads, and historic sites, such as Stonehenge or a coal mine. At one of the steam fairs, we rode the Helter-Skelter (pictured at the top right on the next page), a ride that I had never seen in the U.S. One climbs up stairs to the top and slides down on a small rug.

The symbol of the British canals is the stone arch bridge, but occasionally we encountered a lift bridge that we operated with a special key from the waterways



authority (photo left).

Our 1991 study tour of New England waterways featured about a dozen boat rides on rivers, lakes, and, of course, canals. We also rode several trolleys and excursion trains. On July 4, as we were traveling along the Connecticut River in Hartford, fireworks rained down all around our bus. They came from a barge in the river. And our gang thought that we had arranged it!!



In 1991 we had a spectacular, sunny two weeks in Ireland. Since the hoof-and-mouth disease had postponed the St. Patrick's Day festivities in March, they were held during our stay, parade and fireworks right where we had docked.

The next year's study tour of Virginia canals and navigations allowed us the chance to ride on a bateau, a vessel built and used in the South. It is propelled by walking along the gun-wales as you push against the bottom of the river with a long pole. See the



photos to understand it better. The woman in the white dress is steering.

The 2003 tour to Scotland allowed us to cross the country coast-to-coast, on the newly reopened Forth and Clyde and Union canals. The highlight is the Falkirk Wheel, pictured below. To learn how it operates, visit the link under the photo.

We have also led day trips along the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania, a cruise on the Delaware River from Philadelphia to Burlington (which I would like to run again for the Canal Watch), and weekend trips to canals in New York State.



View of Philadelphia during our Delaware River cruise

If you have a suggestions for a day trip that the Canal Watch can run, please send an email to barthlinda123@aol.com



The Falkirk Wheel. See it in motion by clicking: www.scottishcanals.co.uk/falkirk-wheel/about-the-wheel/how

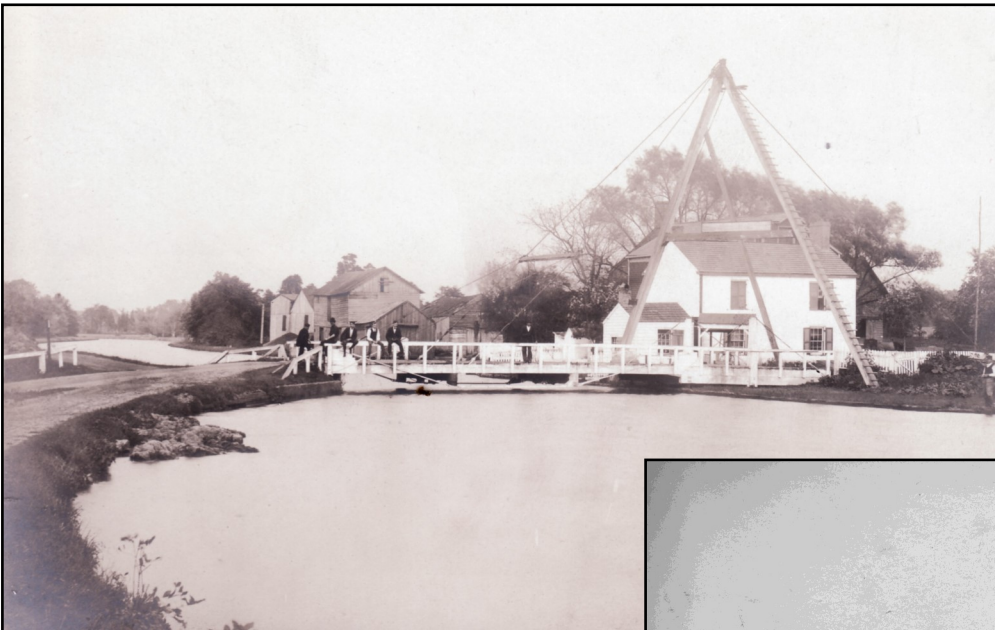
The Next Step for the East Millstone Bridgetender's Station

The partner organizations of the D&R Canal Watch have contributed toward the cost of a conditions assessment for the East Millstone bridgetender's station, which is the small structure next to the bridgetender's home.

The architectural firm of HMR, Inc. has completed the assessment. The next step will be a meeting of the D&R Canal Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, and State Parks personnel in early August to discuss the project. Then they will forward their response to the Canal Watch.

We are most grateful to our partner groups, the East Millstone Historical Society, the Canal Society of New Jersey, and the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition, for contributing toward this project. All contributions from friends and members will be gratefully accepted. Thanks to those of you who have already made contributions.

We will keep you informed about the next steps in this restoration process. Below are two historic views and a current view of the structure.



The station is the small, white building to the left of the bridgetender's home. You can see its proximity to the bridge.



CANAL WATCH ACTIVITIES FOR 2020

www.canalwatch.org

www.dandrcanal.com

AS YOU NO DOUBT KNOW, THE CANAL WATCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST HAVE BEEN POSTPONED. ALTHOUGH THE PARK IS OPEN, THE BOARD FEELS THAT IT WILL BE CHALLENGING TO SPONSOR WALKS WITH GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHEN DISTANCING IS NECESSARY.

WE INCLUDE THE ACTIVITIES HERE FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR, WITH THE REQUEST TO PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR FUTURE CHANGES:

<https://canalwatch.org/events/>

All Saturday Canal Walks begin at **10 a.m.**, unless noted. Meeting Places are designated with “(MP)” in the walk description. Contact information for Program Leaders is below. If emailing, use “**D&R Canal**” in subject header. Bob Barth, 201-401-3121, bbarth321@aol.com; Chuck Martin, cemart10@gmail.com, 908-420-8711; Jessica Hunsdon, 732-993-4505, jhunsdon@gmail.com; Pamela V’Combe, 609-635-2783; pjvcombe@gmail.com

Sunday, August 9: 10:00-4:00. Canal Road Walk and Roll. Canal Road closed from Griggstown Causeway to Route 518 in Rocky Hill. Enjoy a day along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

The Canal Road closings may be cancelled; check with Franklin Township Parks and Recreation.

Sunday, August 30: Canal Road Walk and Roll. 10:00-4:00. Canal Road closed from East Millstone to Butler Road. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

Saturday, September 12: 9:15 a.m. Light Rail Trip, Bordentown to Trenton and back. Join Pamela V’Combe for a tour by light rail into the 19th century. MP Meet at the Bordentown River Line light rail station at 9:15 a.m. (Turn left into parking lot at 100 W. Park Street at Prince Street, above the boat landing.) Purchase your tickets and receive a brief introduction before boarding the train for Trenton. The train follows the D&R Canal path from Crosswicks Creek to Trenton. See the abandoned canal, Watson’s Creek, and the Abbott Marshlands. In the City of Trenton where Route 129 is on the former route of the canal, remains of the industrial and commercial buildings can be compared with earlier photos. Participants will get an overview of places that are difficult to see any other way, but on the train. In Trenton, participants may opt for a guided walk (¾-mile round trip) to the State Street Bridge over the former canal (now the Trenton Freeway). Tickets are \$1.60 (\$.75 for seniors); **the current one-way-only provision may apply so be prepared to pay double the amounts.** Please bring exact change. Pre-registration is strongly advised. Pamela V’Combe; pjvcombe@gmail.com; 609-635-2783

Saturday, October 10: 10:00 a.m. TBD to Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Museum (MP meeting place @ Parking Lot beyond the Farm, 1605 Daniel Bray Highway (Rt. 29) Lambertville, NJ), **Hike 5.3 miles** or choose 2.6-mile walk to Fireman’s Eddy. Passing by working and closed Sourlands’ diabase quarries, we’ll see a turning basin, converted mills, a restored meadow and the Lambertville lock. Leader: Pamela V’Combe, pjvcombe@gmail.com; 609-635-2783.

Saturday, October 17: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Bilingual (English/Spanish) Nature Walk. Enjoy a casual 3.2-mile walk on the D&R Canal towpath between Lock 11 in South Bound Brook and DeMott Lane. Please meet at Canal Park in South Bound Brook, across from the post office on Canal Road at 11 Madison Street. We will enjoy conversation in English and Spanish as we identify various wildlife and vegetation. Please RSVP by email to Jessica Hunsdon at jhunsdon@gmail.com or call/text her at 732-993-4505.

Friday, November 6 – 7:00-11:00 p.m. Griggstown Star Gaze. The Canal Watch is sponsoring an astronomy star gaze on November 6, 2020 from 7-11p.m. This year will be an excellent opportunity to view the planets. Saturn with its magnificent rings and giant Jupiter will be sinking in the southwest during the early part of the evening. The red planet Mars’ close approach to the Earth this season will make it optimally placed for viewing and the distant gaseous planets Uranus and Neptune will be visible in the constellations Aries and Aquarius. Overhead we will look at the many star clusters and nebulae in the summer Milky Way. Later in

(continued on the next page)

the evening the Moon will rise in the east, displaying its distinctive craters and mountains. Please pre-register for the event by contacting Wayne Petko at wpetko02@gmail.com. Participation is limited and the event is weather dependent.

Saturday, November 14: 10:00 a.m. Whitehead Road to Ellarslie, The Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park (*MP meeting place, located in center of park*) **Hike 5.5 miles** or choose the 3-mile walk to the Trenton Battle Monument. Pass by an aqueduct along the way to twists and turns of the canal through Trenton. We will pass by the original Coalport section of Trenton and see current urban infrastructure related to the canal. Leader: Pamela V'Combe, 609-635-2783; pjvcombe@gmail.com

Saturday, December 12: 10:00 a.m. Washington Crossing to Ellarslie, The Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park (*MP meeting place, located in center of park*), **Hike 6.2 miles** or take the 3-mile hike to West Upper Ferry Road. Pass by the place where a parallel canal ran along the Delaware, historic areas by West Upper Ferry and Wilburtha Roads, and over an aqueduct. The museum is free and open until 5:00 p.m. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

D&R Canal Watch 2020 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.

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 _____.



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:

- 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
- 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 professional courses for the maintenance staff.
- 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.

Class of 2019-2020

Theodore Chase (Griggstown)
George Dawson (New Brunswick)
Jeff McVey (Lambertville)
Barbara Ross (Princeton)

Class of 2020-2021

Tom Lederer (Princeton), publicity chair
Roberta Batorsky, Bordentown
Carl Hemmingsen, Bordentown
Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)

Class of 2021-2022

Linda Barth (Somerville)
Robert Barth (Somerville)
Michael Kaplan (Griggstown)
Ellen Kaplan (Griggstown)
Pamela V'Combe (Trenton), activities chair
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)

Officers

President, Linda Barth
Vice President, Barbara Ross
Secretary, Wayne Petko
Treasurer, Tom Lederer

Elections: Later in the summer the board will choose a new date for the annual meeting. The elections will be held at that time to choose trustees for the current class of 2019-2020 to serve three-year terms, ending in 2022-2023. The election of officers will also take place at that time.

LOCAL EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, MANY EVENTS THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED HAVE NOW BEEN CANCELLED.

Morven Museum and Gardens offers History Strolls and Garden Tours

Garden Tours "What's in Bloom?" Weekly Tours Wednesdays through Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Summertime History Strolls Docent-led Tours Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:00 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

\$10; Free for Friends of Morven
Enjoy a picnic box lunch & tour Wednesday through Fridays at noon or 1:00 p.m.

\$30; \$20 for Friends of Morven
Tours limited to 12 people. All social distancing and state/local regulations will be followed. Masking is required to participate on the tour.
To register, visit www.morven.org and click on "Programs."

The gates at **The Old Barracks Museum** in Trenton have been reopened to visitors. Tickets to see this National Historic Landmark must be pre-purchased online at www.barracks.org at least one day prior to visiting. Masks are required to be worn by visitors, staff, and volunteers at all times. Visitation is limited to one group of no more than 10 people at a time to

comply with the State of New Jersey's mandate on capacity reductions. The museum will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Visitation policy and hours are subject to change; please visit www.barracks.org for the most current guidelines.

The Wheels for the Wheel car show will be held at the Red Mill Museum and Village. 56 Main Street in Clinton on Sunday, July 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Last year's car show raised a truly astonishing amount of money toward the Water Wheel Restoration Project for the Red Mill! Now we are back with a second show. Join us on July 26th for a day of family fun in the sun with 75 classic cars, raffles, and prizes!

The car show is open to all kinds of vehicles! Featuring awards for best in class and best in show, we will also offer a 50/50, raffles for numerous prizes including a flat screen TV provided by a local merchant, and other fantastic giveaways! For more information, visit <https://theredmill.org/events-2/>

