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www.canalwatch.org

February 2022

D&R Canal Watch Paddling Committee
Making Our Canal Canoe and Kayak Friendly
By Tim Roth

The D&R Canal ran 44 miles from Bordentown on the Delaware River to the Raritan River at New Brunswick and an additional 22 miles along its feeder between Bull's Island and Trenton. Except for a small section through Trenton, the rest of the canal is open for walking, running, or biking along its towpath, or paddling through its waters.



Griggstown dock under reconstruction



Griggstown dock completed

Last year, the D&R Canal Watch appointed a committee consisting of Tim Roth, Bob Barth, Pamela V'Combe, and Chuck Martin to develop the idea first proposed by Barbara Ross. The committee's original purpose was to develop paddling routes and report on vessel access points along the canal. Starting early in the season, the committee members set out with their kayaks, exploring sections of the main canal and developing 'loops,' where half the trip is along the canal and the other down adjacent rivers, such as the Raritan and Millstone. Reports were then written, documenting all aspects of these trips, from launch and portage locations, to distance and time travelled, to current conditions, levels of difficulty, and more. The eventual goal is that these reports will be developed into a publication that will be available on the Canal Watch website (www.canalwatch.org).

While this endeavor was underway, a secondary function of the paddling committee developed, and that was to be stewards of the canal. With the blessing of the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry (which



owns and manages the D&R Canal property), the committee began to maintain areas along the canal that were watercraft accessible. This includes clearing brush from launching areas, removing fallen limbs in the canals and river where passage might be blocked, or performing maintenance on the numerous docks along the way used for kayaks and canoes.

Early in September, an event occurred that would seriously challenge the paddling committee. Hurricane Ida swept through the area, bringing heavy winds and rainfall. The level of the adjacent streams rose so quickly that it overflowed the canal, nearly breaching the towpath. The result was downed trees, piles of debris being deposited along the canal, and docks being torn from their supports and floating away.

During the past few months, the paddling committee has been hard at work repairing the damage that Ida caused. In addition to fallen limbs along the towpath, a large amount of debris that had totally blocked the Demott Lane footbridge has also been removed (see photos left and below).

The biggest effort, however, has been salvaging and rebuilding the errant docks. Several have been located in the brush on the far side of the towpath or in adjacent rivers. They have since been dismantled, while saving as much of the materials as can be reused. The dock at Griggstown has been completely refurbished and installed and is ready for use. (See the photographs on page one.) This effort was greatly aided by the

work of the volunteers in our Wednesday Work Crew and the canal park maintenance staff.

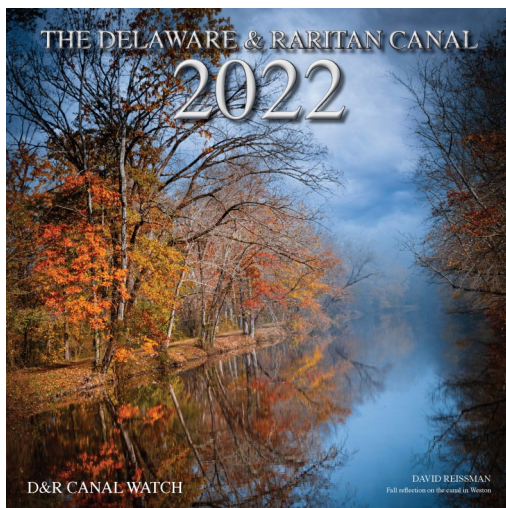
The committee is hoping it can do the same with the dock that broke loose at Kingston, which has recently been located.

The paddling committee is confident that most work will be completed in the next couple of months, so that everything will be ready for paddling season 2022. Please follow the Canal Watch's website and newsletter for further information.

If you would like to join the paddling committee, please contact Chuck Martin at cemart10@gmail.com. If you would like to join the Wednesday Work Crew, please contact Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com.



2023 CANAL WATCH CALENDAR



We are grateful that we have sold all 100 of the 2022 calendars, thereby providing nearly \$1400 to support our D&R Canal State Park.

Photographers: You may start taking pictures now for the 2023 calendar. No theme this year. Take a Photo from the Towpath contest! Submit it for our 2023 Canal Calendar!

Thanks to our contributors and supporters, the last three calendars were very successful, with all calendars selling out quickly. Funds raised from calendar sales help to finance the continued work of the D&R Canal Watch in its endeavor to restore and preserve our inland maritime history.

The 2023 calendar project is now underway, and we urge you to consider participating. Visitors to the Delaware and Raritan Canal experience beautiful views at every turn of the towpath. The Canal Watch invites you to photograph the scenic beauty of our historic waterway and send your photo(s) to us for possible inclusion in our 2023 calendar.

The canal has many places that, when captured in a photo, may encourage others to get out and explore the park by foot, bike, canoe, or kayak.

Photos will be judged by professional photographers and thirteen images will be selected.

Entry rules for the photography contest will be as follows:

- Entries must be received by **June 28, 2022**. The Canal Watch will submit them to the judges in July.
- Only amateur photographers may submit images to the contest.
- Photos must be sharp and in focus.
- Calendar print size is 12"x12". Original images may be submitted in landscape or portrait orientation but will be cropped square when in print.
- Photo files must be submitted in one of the following formats: jpg., tif., or eps. format, and in sRGB color space.
- Digital photo files must have the following properties: 300 dpi and 3,000 pixels on the longest side.
- Printed images will not be considered, nor will they be returned.
- **Mobile phone files may be sent; however, they must be submitted at their highest resolution.** Because the final reproduction size of the calendar is 12"x12", certain mobile files may be disqualified if they are not of the highest quality. Camera images are preferred over phone pictures.
- Qualified images should be attached and emailed to barthlinda123@aol.com. You will be notified only

Rules for Submitting Images for the 2023 Calendar (continued from the previous page)

if your image(s) are selected for inclusion in the calendar.

- Each photo must be clearly identified as to the location from which it was taken and the date taken. Photos can be submitted from any year and showing any season.
- The email must contain the photographer's name, address, phone number, and email address.
- By submitting your image(s), you agree to grant the D&R Canal Watch, a 501(c)(3) organization, the right to reproduce the photo(s) for calendar use in 2023. The D&R Canal Watch reserves the right to use the contest photo entries with entrant's name on the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org, in print, and promotional materials.

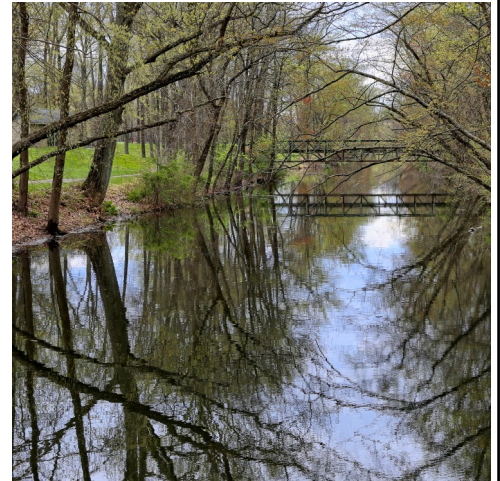
SO START SNAPPING THOSE PIX!

Here are four examples from previous years:



At left: a home along Canal Road in Griggstown, by Summer Pramer.

At right: delicate bridge crosses the canal near the Princeton Country Club, by Eric Swerdlow



Thanks to our new and renewing members for 2022, as of February 28:

Patron/Boat Builder—\$200+

Anonymous Donor
Peggy McNeill
William Meier
Craig Miller
Susan Pagano

Supporter/Locktender—\$100+

Theodore Chase
Henry Kent-Smith
John Loos
Jeffrey McVey
Chris and Jim Sturm
Diane Tartaglia

Bridgetender—\$50+

Elizabeth Breedlove
East Millstone Historical Society
Gary and Marlene Heller

Family/Muledriver—\$25+

Lauren and Michael Bird
Pepper deTuro
John Dunn

Ronald Quade
Tim Roth
Sandra Shapiro
Deborah Swayne
Ingrid Yurchenco

Individual/Muskrat Trapper—\$15+

Joan Aichele
Barbara Baxter-Rosenblum
Suzanne Gitomer
Bob Graul
Frank and Lois Higbie
Barbara Murray
Penelope Schott
Bruce Stout
Gerald Velmer
Peter Walker
Jason Windawi

The East Millstone Bridgetender's Station—the next steps

The pictures below show the station finally being reassembled! They were taken at the end of February by our superintendent, Patricia Kalleser.



News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, November 17, 2021

State Park Report

Superintendent Kalleser reported that the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Scudder Falls/Interstate Highway Route No. 95 Bridge bicycle lane was open, creating an enhanced loop trail connecting the Pennsylvania Delaware Canal State Park in Lower Makefield Township in Bucks County, with the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park in Ewing Township in Mercer County. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held. (See photos of view from the biking/walking lane.)



The Superintendent reported that the Park Service was pursuing permits from various agencies to repair damage to the canal embankment in the vicinity of Quaker Road in the Municipalities of Princeton and Lawrence Township sustained during Tropical Storm Ida.

She also reported that Tropical Storm Ida-related mold issues at three of the canal houses within the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

had been remediated, and that three more would be addressed this week including: the Port Mercer and Blackwell Mills Canal Houses and the Griggstown Visitor Center. She reported that Mr. von Zumbusch assisted with access to the Kingston Locktender's House to conduct repairs to the building's heating system.

The Superintendent reported that NJDOT and its subcontractors would assist with repairs of Tropical Storm Ida damage within the park.

Ms. Kalleser reported that Hawley Brothers Contractors was retained to undertake the stabilization project for the East Millstone Bridgetender's Station.

Vice-Chairman Stout asked for an update on the closure and repairs of former railroad bridge that forms part of the park multiuse trail at the Prallsville Mills. Superintendent Kalleser stated she would attend a follow-up meeting regarding ongoing consultations between NJDOT and DEP/Office of Resource Development (ORD).

Commissioner Lubitz asked Superintendent Kalleser for an update on the anticipated opening of the northern section of the Bulls Island Recreation Area. The Superintendent noted that reforestation plans had been sidetracked by Tropical Storm Ida cleanup activities, but that the planned reopening remained on track for the spring. Deputy Director Madden stated that there would be a ribbon cutting, likely in late spring. She noted that her staff was working to secure the needed funding to complete the reforestation project.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Mr. Sellar reported that site cleanup from the dredging project continues with mitigation tree planting. He reported that the NJWSA project to rehabilitate the Landing Lane Spillway would be delayed until the spring to allow the NJDOT project to repair the adjacent bridge over the canal to be completed. Mr. Sellar reported that the Hydrilla tuber survey for 2021 was conducted by the NJWSA's consultant, but that results were not yet available.

Mr. Sellar reported that designs for the project to restore the Six-Mile Run Culvert were submitted to the SHPO for conceptual approval, and the project would subsequently be submitted to the Commission and NJDEP Land Use for their respective approvals.

Mr. Sellar reported that the project to repair the inoperative sluice gate at the South Bound Brook Lock was on hold until delivery of the new gate from the manufacturer. (NOTE: as of early January, the new gate has been installed.)



Mr. Sellar reported that the Cedar Grove Watershed feasibility study is under review. He also noted that dredging of accumulated sediment displaced by Tropical Storm Ida was completed at the confluence of the Wickecheoke Creek and the feeder canal at Prallsville Mills. NJWSA staff planned to dredge the area at the Locketong Creek, and then remove debris in the canal in Lambertville at the “Laceworks” property in approximately two to three months. He noted that dredging would continue in other areas after these priorities were addressed.

Mrs. Barth asked if the NJDOT work at the Landing Lane Bridge would include saving the swing bridge mechanism. Mr. Sellar said he did not have any information on this topic. Director Hutchison stated that the Commission General Permit No. 1 permit issued for the project was confined to “in-kind” repair work, and that removal of the mechanism could be a violation of those permit conditions. Vice-Chairman Stout asked for an update on the Stockton embankment repairs. Mr. Sellar reminded the Commission that NJWSA Chief Engineer Darin Shaffer provided a report in recent months to the Commission, including that alternative embankment repairs were being researched by the NJWSA.

2022 Membership Renewals are Due Now

As we begin the new year, 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.

Alternately, you may use the form on the next page and mail it with your check.



Wednesday Work Day Crew Volunteers



Under the direction of Canal Watch trustee Bob Barth, we have begun a program called Wednesday Work Days.

Bob coordinates with Superintendent Kalleser to find out what projects need to be done to help the overworked park maintenance staff. On the first work day, December 8, the team of Chuck Martin, Wayne Petko, Tim Roth, and Bob worked at the Demott Lane pedestrian bridge, clearing flotsam left from the floods of Hurricane Ida. The team then proceeded to Griggstown and installed a tarp over the badly leaking roof of the bridgetender’s station (see image).

If you would like to help on the Wednesday Work Days Crew, please email Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com.

D&R Canal Watch Memorials are a thoughtful gesture

Often when friends or family members have passed away, people ask where they can make a donation that would be meaningful to the deceased.

If your loved one enjoyed exploring the canal or just found it a peaceful sanctuary, perhaps a gift to the D&R Canal Watch would be appropriate.

All of our funding is used to enhance the park and assist the staff in purchasing necessary equipment.



TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIVING TO THE D&R CANAL WATCH
Many people consider making charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Remember that the Canal Watch is a tax-exempt organization, so your contributions are tax-deductible.

D&R Canal Watch 2022 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)

Class of 2020-2023

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

Class of 2019-2022

Linda Barth (Somerville)
Robert Barth (Somerville)
Michael Kaplan (Griggstown)

Ellen Kaplan (Griggstown)
Pamela V'Combe

Class of 2021-2024

Tom Lederer (Princeton), publicity chair
Carl Hemmingsen, Bordentown
Charles Martin (Franklin Township)
Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)

EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

Slavery exhibit at Morven now includes Betsey Stockton

— The online exhibition [“Slavery at Morven”](#) now features details on the incredible life and achievements of Betsey Stockton (1798–1865). While she never lived at Morven, she was born into slavery at Constitution Hill, the home of cousin Robert Stockton. After being freed, Betsey became one of the first congregants of the First Presbyterian Church of Col-our of Princeton (today the Witherspoon Street Church) and served as a teacher for over thirty years to the African American children of Princeton. In 2021, Princeton Theological Seminary named the Center for Black Church Studies in Betsey’s honor. [Morven.org](#)

Friday-Saturday, March 4-5 -- Prallsville Mills

BEPPE GAMBETTA

w/ Special Guests Tim O’Brien & Jan Fabricius

Two shows - March 4th & 5th (Mar 5th sold out)

Beppe Gambetta is back!

The beloved acoustic guitarist and singer will be returning to Prallsville Mills after more than 18 months. He will be joined by Tim O’Brien and Jan Fabricius, who will play from their new albums while also collaborating as a trio. This comeback concert is especially intimate, with just 100 tickets sold for each of the two shows.

Note: All attendees must be vaccinated and wear masks while indoors. In accordance with Covid restrictions, food & drink will not be sold. [Prallsvillemills.org](#)

**CHOOSING TO CONQUER:
The Women Who Won the Vote**

Nancy B. Kennedy, author of

Women Win the Vote! 19 for the 19th Amendment

Saturday, March 5 at 2:00PM

Headquarters Library: 314 Route 12, Building #3, Flemington

Local author Nancy B. Kennedy brings the woman suffrage fight to life with historic and current-day photos in her talk, “Choosing to Conquer: The Women Who Won the Vote.” Drawing from her book, *Women Win the Vote! 19 for the 19th Amendment*, she blends stories of little-known state and local suffragists with those of the women who led the national fight. In this 102d year of the woman’s vote, come celebrate the three generations of women (and men!) who waged this fierce civil rights battle.

Register using our Events Calendar at [www.hclibrary.us](#) or call 908-788-1434.



Canal Watch Calendar of Events

To see our events for April and May 2022, please check the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org in March.

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.



Looking north on the canal from Amwell Road.
Photo by Eric Swerdlow

The D&R Canal Watch
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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.

Board of Trustees

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

The Delaware & Raritan Canal went from Bordentown on the Delaware River, across the narrow waist of New Jersey to New Brunswick on the Raritan River, a distance of 44 miles. Its source of water was the Delaware River at Raven Rock, 22 miles north of Trenton. From here, a navigable feeder brought water to the summit level in Trenton, 57 feet above sea level. The water then flowed south to Bordentown and northeast to New Brunswick. The canal was a fairly level one, with only 14 locks on the main canal to overcome the elevation changes of 115 feet. It was a critical factor in the 19th-century industrial and commercial development of the region through which it passed.



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.
- 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
- **Paying for the conditions assessment and the engineering drawings for the East Millstone bridgetender’s station.**