



Number 82

www.canalwatch.org

June 2022

Last call for submission of photos for the 2023 canal calendar. See page 3-4 for details.

All are invited to the Canal Watch in-person annual meeting

Please join the D&R Canal Watch at our annual meeting on Sunday, June 26 at 2:00 p.m. Due to vandalism at our usual site, the Mule Tenders Barracks, the meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Griggstown Reformed Church at 1065 Canal Road, just north of the Griggstown Causeway.

Our guest speaker will be Marc Brooks, executive director of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA), which operates the canal as a water transmission system.

The NJWSA has been very busy in recent years dredging a long stretch of the canal, managing the invasive hydrilla, and tending to the aftermath of floods. Marc will discuss these issues and the day-to-day work of the NJWSA.

The New Jersey Water Supply Authority was created in 1981. Members consist of the head of NJDEP and six public members, appointed by the governor. The public members represent the agricultural community, industrial water users, residential water users, private watershed associations, public finance and water resource management and distribution. The authority's goal is to maintain a dependable supply of water to residents of Central New Jersey and to preserve and enhance source water quality and quantity through planning, preservation and assessment and rehabilitation of critical watershed parcels.

Come and learn how the NJWSA works to serve Central New Jersey and the canal's part in moving the water of the Delaware River.

We will also have a brief business meeting and elect the new class of trustees.

GPS users: enter 1065 Canal Road, Princeton (even though it is in Griggstown, and nowhere near Princeton). The Fellowship Hall is located behind the historic church.



CANALBOAT DINNER CRUISE

AUGUST 13, 5:30-8:00 P.M.

SIGN-UP NOW WHILE SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

**Check out all of the details on
page two.**

**All profits will benefit our beloved
canal.**





D&R CANAL WATCH

Saturday, August 13, 2022 — 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CANAL WATCH FUNDRAISER:
DINNER ON THE CANAL BOAT AND A CHANCE TO “LOCK THROUGH”**

Join the D&R Canal Watch on board the *Josiah White II*, a replica canal boat on the Lehigh Canal in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Cruise along this scenic and historic waterway. Enjoy dinner as the mules, Hank and George, tow us to the Abbott Street Lock.

Experience the thrill as our vessel enters the lock and descends to the next level of the canal. Watch as the locktenders crank the machinery, as the old canallers did so long ago.

Our buffet dinner will include three entrees, salad, beverages, and dessert. Entertainment by David Matsinko, instrumentalist and singer. →



All profits will be used to benefit our beloved D&R Canal.

All of this and more for only **\$100** per person. Enjoy the unique experience of dinner on the canal.

To register on our website, visit www.canalwatch.org. Click on “Donate” and click the “Donate” button. Or, if you prefer, just send your check, payable to the D&R Canal Watch, to D&R Canal Watch, P.O. Box 2, Rocky Hill 08553 and include the form below. Reservations must be received by August 6.



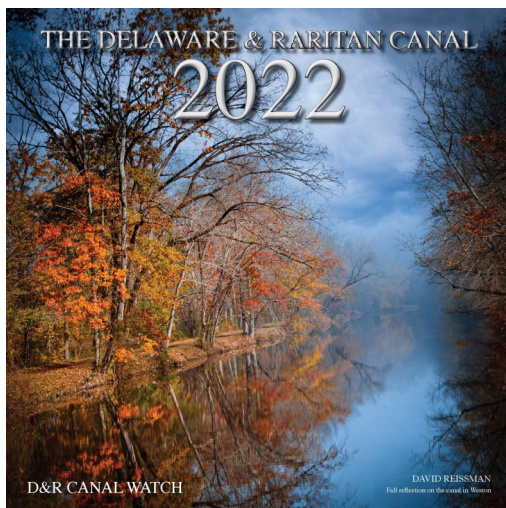
Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ # of people @ \$100 _____ Total enclosed _____

Directions will be sent to all participants. Don't miss the boat!

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!

Thanks to our most recent new and renewing members for 2022:

Peter Boughton
Dermot Gately
Gary Heller

Bob and Barbara Krisak
Ingrid Reed
Christopher Woodward

Canal Watch Activity Schedule for 2022

Saturday, June 18: 11:00 a.m. Solar observation day at Lock 11, South Bound Brook.

The Sun goes through an 11-year cycle where sunspots, flares and coronal loops fluctuate in number and size. The Sun is currently becoming much more active than it has been in recent years. We will be using special telescopes to safely view these from the park. Leader: Wayne Petko, 732-371-3524.

Saturday, June 25: 10:00 a.m. Walk: Blackwells Mills Causeway to East Millstone. 4.2 miles round trip. Meet at the Blackwells Mills Causeway. See the newly restored East Millstone bridgetender's station.

Starting with the Blackwell Mills bridgetender's gardens, we will proceed along the towpath to East Millstone. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121.

Sunday, June 26: 2:00 p.m. D&R Canal Watch annual meeting. Griggstown Reformed Church, 1065 Canal Road, Griggstown. See story on page one.

Saturday, August 13: Canal boat dinner cruise fundraiser— 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. See story on page two.

Sunday, September 18: 10:00 a.m. Hike from South Bound Brook's Lock 11 to Ten-Mile Lock and back. 4.6 miles round trip. Meet at Lock 11 in South Bound Brook, across from the post office. Leader: Wayne Petko, 732-371-3524.

Sunday, October 16 – 10:00 a.m. Hike from Blackwells Mills Causeway to East Millstone and back. 4.2 miles round trip. Meet at the Blackwells Mills Causeway. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121.

Saturday, November 26: 10:00 a.m. Hike from the Weston Causeway parking lot to East Millstone and back. 4.2 miles. Leader: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121.

Pedestrian Safety Important at Towpath Crossings

The D&R Canal Commission and the state park staff have met with the county engineers to urge them to install flashing stop signs for traffic in places where the towpath crosses a county road. Progress has been made in Mercer County, and yet, as one park user explains below, more is needed.

West Windsor resident Ankur Datta has twice written to his mayor, requesting more police presence at the towpath crossing of Alexander Road.



Date: April 19, 2022

Dear Mayor Marathe,

I am a resident of West Windsor whose family has lived in West Windsor for more than 25 years. I am writing to you today to request your assistance in making the D&R Canal pedestrian crossing at Alexander Road safer for the estimated hundreds of families and students who walk across it on a daily basis.

I have seen too many close calls of cars and trucks speeding by as pedestrians start to walk across the road, despite the crosswalk signal flashing its lights.

Could you please direct the West Windsor Police Department to do the following?

- Situate a police car manned by one or more officers at Canal Road to observe the area, deter speeding drivers, and issue fines to speeding drivers as necessary (ideally full-time but, at the very least, during the morning and evening rush hours)
- Place an in-street pedestrian crossing sign at the crosswalk (similar to those that exist on Alexander Road near Harris Road) to further deter speeding drivers

Of course, I am open to other, equally effective solutions that you may propose.

Given the heavy daily foot traffic that the D&R Canal pedestrian crossing at Alexander Road experiences from West Windsor and Princeton residents, Princeton University students, and visitors to nearby Turning Basin Park, it is imperative to make this area as safe from oncoming traffic as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Ankur K. Datta

Cc: Mayor Freda; Hillary Parker, Vice President and Secretary of Princeton University; Erin Graham, Assistant to the President of Princeton University

Mr. Datta followed-up his April letter with the one below:

Date: May 5, 2022

Subject: Re: Police Presence Requested at D&R Canal Pedestrian Crossing

Dear Mayor Marathe,

Kindly following up on my earlier message—there is still neither a regular police presence nor an in-street pedestrian crossing sign at the intersection of Alexander Road and the D&R Canal, which so many pedestrians and bicyclists cross on a daily basis.

On April 26, only a week after my earlier message, there was an accident at the intersection when a pedestrian attempted to cross and a speeding car hit another car that had abruptly slowed down—thankfully, only property was damaged and no one was seriously hurt, but I fear for similar situations going forward.

Look forward to your response and seeing you take action to keep the residents of West Windsor (and Princeton) safe from harm.

Regards,

Ankur K. Datta

P.S. — Also copying the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance, Princeton Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Friends of the Delaware Canal

We ask interested park users to contact the authorities in their own municipalities or counties to request solutions to further protect those using the towpath. Thanks so much.

The Saga of the Kingston Dock



The Saga of the Kingston Dock By Tim Roth and Chuck Martin

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the D&R Paddling Committee has been hard at work making the canal more accessible for paddlers. One project that we tackled last year was the salvaging of the Kingston dock, which had been partially submerged in the canal for a number of years. Little did we know the challenges we would encounter with this project.

Our first task was to get the dock out of the water. Using a winch attached to a vehicle, we were able to pull it out of the water and lay it horizontally on the cement base. We then reinforced the dock, replacing any rotted boards, and added cleats and a handpost to the front. Our next task was to anchor the dock to the concrete base, but before we could, Mother Nature dealt us a blow.

In late summer, two storms, Henri and Ida, raised the level of the canal to such an extent, that the dock was swept away from its base. For a few hours after Ida passed, we saw that the dock was caught under the Route 27 bridge, held there by the top few inches of its handpost. We tried to develop plans to secure and rescue the dock, but the canal water levels quickly dropped and the dock floated away before we could make any attempt. Some thorough searches of the downstream section of the canal by kayak and from the towpath shortly after the storms proved fruitless. We believed that the Kingston dock was probably broken up and lost.

(continued on the next page)

KINGSTON DOCK SAGE (continued from age 6)

It wasn't until five months later, that a member of the Canal Watch, walking along the towpath, found the dock 1.8 miles downstream, mired in a heavy thicket between the towpath and the Millstone River.

Two months later, our Canal Watch Wednesday Work Group made an attempt to rescue the dock. The five-member (all over age 60) crew first had to clear brush around it using saws and loppers. We then used all our strength and resources to haul it up the steep towpath bank by hand. Several weeks later, we returned to disassemble the dock. The D&R maintenance staff has now moved the lumber to a storage site. We intend to recycle those pieces this summer to rebuild the docks at Kingston and at Blackwell Mills.

Our new reconstruction plans involve securing these docks with stainless steel anchor bolts to their concrete base pads, which hopefully will prevent them from becoming lost again.

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 below and mail it with your check.



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)

News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, March 2022

Commission Director's Report

The D&R Canal Commission and DEP staff are working with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the City of Trenton to develop a comprehensive Trail Network Action Plan for the city. The development of a biking and pedestrian trail to connect the so-called "abandoned" section from Bordentown to Trenton has been a long-standing goal of the DRCC.

The DEP's Office of Resource Development (ORD) is working with commission staff on proposed repairs to the Prallsville railroad trestle bridge abutments, which were seriously eroded during Tropical Storm Ida on September 1.

State Park Report

Superintendent Kalleser reported that the project to restore the historic East Millstone Bridgetender's Station has been successfully completed through the combined efforts of the many partners, partnerships, State permitting agencies, the DEP/ORD and Hawley Brothers contractors. She expressed special appreciation to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission and the D&R Canal Watch for funding the assessment documents and restoration costs. She noted that park staff looks forward to discussing programming for East Millstone and reopening the station for public viewing.

Superintendent Kalleser reported that on March 15 the park hosted an AmeriCorps Watershed Cleanup with the Watershed Ambassadors and the D&R Canal Greenway in the City of Trenton. She noted that in a three-block section of the park, 10 cubic yards of trash and 200 tires from under the Calhoun Street Bridge were removed. Commissioner Palmer congratulated Superintendent Kalleser for the cleanup in the vicinity of Calhoun Street in the City of Trenton and noted that the work was much appreciated by residents of that community along the canal.

Vice-Chairman Stout noted that the Commission looked forward to the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the Inlet Trail and restore public access to the northern section of the Bull's Island Recreation Area. Commissioner Designee Madden stated that she was engaged in the process of scheduling this event.



New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Mr. Michael Sellar reported that the contractor for the NJWSA Landing Lane Spillway rehabilitation project was delayed by supply chain difficulties related to construction material acquisition, and that work on the project likely would begin next week.

He reported that further action was undertaken to complete the dredging project along the main canal, including the completion of Soil Conservation District and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permitting, the submission of a final cultural and historic resources report to the SHPO, and the submittal of documents to the DEP Municipal Finance and Construction Element.

Mr. Sellar noted that NJWSA Senior Watershed Protection Specialist Heather Desko will report on the 2022 NJWSA Hydrilla treatment plan at the April 20, 2022, Commission meeting.

The NJWSA is preparing amended schematic designs for planned repairs to the Delaware and Raritan Feeder Canal embankment from Bull's Island Recreation Area south to Prallsville Mills. He noted that additional trees were identified to be removed on the narrow strip of embankment between the canal and the Delaware River.

Mr. Sellar reported that with the completion of the South Bound Brook lock gate replacement, two of the five planned underwater inspections of canal locks could be scheduled for this spring. He reported that final design for the Six-Mile Run Culvert rehabilitation project is underway. The culvert carries Six-Mile Run under Canal Road, the canal and the towpath respectively, and is located approximately 1,000 feet south of Blackwells Mills Road in Franklin Township, Somerset County. Mr. Sellar reported that permit applications were submitted to the USACE, the Commission and the DEP Division of Land Resource Protection.

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), activities chair

Michael Kaplan (Griggstown)
Ellen Kaplan (Griggstown)

Class of 2021-2024

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

LOCAL EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

Saturday, June 4 -- Somerset County



Sit in on an **out-door concert** on Saturday, June 4th with live music by **Harper Lovey and the Waitlist.**

Harper Lovey and the Waitlist will be performing music in a variety of genres, as well as many of Harper Lovey's original songs. Be sure to bring your favorite picnic blanket or comfy lawn chair! To purchase tickets for any event or register for classes, please visit: <https://farmsteadarts.eventbrite.com/>

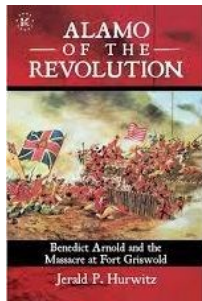
Located at 450 King George Road in Basking Ridge NJ on the grounds of the historic Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead.

Tuesday, June 14 -- Virtual
7:30 PM

Washington Crossing American Revolution Round Table
The Alamo of the Revolution

Jerald P. Hurwitz, Vice President of the Princeton Battlefield Society, will discuss his recent book which focuses on Benedict Arnold and the Massacre at Fort Griswold, Connecticut in September, 1781. For a Zoom link to the meeting, please send an email to:

wcroundtable@gmail.com



Bordentown Historical Society Garden Tour, Saturday, June 25

BHS Garden Tour

We are excited to announce that our very popular BHS Annual Garden Tour will again be held the 4th Saturday in June, the 25th, from 11am to 5pm. (inclement weather date Sunday, June 26th) Last year's record-breaking Garden Tour was a tremendous success - breaking all records for number of gardens and attendance. We had 21 charming gardens - the most ever!

This year we will have another record-breaking Tour! Tickets will be \$20 (\$18 for members) and can be purchased online (www.bordentownhistory.org) or on the day of the tour at The Friends Meetinghouse, 302 Farnsworth Ave, Bordentown. Any questions, please email us at bordentownhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call Patti Reaney 609-410-6057.





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.**

Canal Watch Calendar of Events

To see our events for 2022, please check this issue or the Canal Watch website, www.canalwatch.org



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

Board of Trustees

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Charles Martin, vice president
Wayne Petko, secretary
Tom Lederer, treasurer
Robert Barth, activities chair
Ted Chase
Carl Hemmingsen
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Jeff McVey
Marion Munk
Barbara Ross
Tim Roth
Jean Bruno Stremlo

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.