

New Jersey's Newest Trail Now Open at Bull's Island Recreation Area New Inlet Trail on Bull's Island Completed! Images by Robert H. Barth

The Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the new 1.3-mile Inlet Trail at Bull's Island Recreation Area has been opened. The trail is in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County.

Visitors can now enjoy the subtle sounds and stunning vistas of the Delaware River in one of the most scenic sections of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park.



According to the DEP's Assistant Commissioner John Cecil, "Today's opening of a new Bull's Island Recreation Area trail is yet another reason why New Jersey's parks are prime destination getaways for residents and visitors alike. Bull's Island is a great place to enjoy nature and solitude. Whether you're out for the exercise, a quiet moment of reflection, or to look for common and unique birds, this new trail at Bull's Island offers all those opportunities."

The Delaware River provides 100 million gallons of drinking water daily for over one million residents in Central New Jersey. More than 400 native trees and shrub species, as well as 250 native wildflowers, have been planted along the trail to help reforest the area with native flora.

The image on the left above shows the wing dam between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A wing dam is a man-made barrier that, unlike a conventional dam, only extends partway across a river. These structures force water into a fast-moving center channel, reducing the rate of sediment accumulation, while slowing water flow near the riverbanks.

Because this is not a dam all the way across the river, the Delaware is still one of the last free-flowing rivers in the eastern United States. Undammed for the entire 330 miles of its main stem, the free-flowing character of the upper Delaware provides exceptionally clean



water and superior ecological integrity that hosts wildlife in abundance. Mink, muskrat, beavers, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, owls, bobcats, and otters all call the river valley home.

On this page you can view two more pictures taken along the trail. To the left you can see the wing dam, which raises the level of the river water and allows it to enter the D&R Canal feeder.

Below is one of the new benches placed along the trail. The plaque features a Mark Twain quote:

“The river has great wisdom and whispers its secrets to the hearts of men.”

It was dedicated by Barbara Schlichting and Phillip Lubitz.



Canal Watch Announces Changes in Board

At the Annual Meeting on June 26, the D&R Canal Watch welcomed two new board members and bid a fond farewell to three others.

OUTGOING TRUSTEES



Michael Kaplan, who received a PhD degree in chemistry from Columbia University, worked in research at RCA Laboratories for twenty years and as a test developer at Educational Testing Service for ten years, before retiring in 1998. Born in New York City, Michael has lived for 53 years in Franklin Township, near the canal, where he and his wife have a bench dedicated to their 50th wedding anniversary.

Ellen Kaplan, born and raised in New Jersey, graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in zoology. Her first job was as a wrangler at a cattle ranch in Darlington, Idaho. Shifting gears, she returned to NYC and spent several years at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center becoming licensed as a clinical chemist and then returning to New Jersey and working in the pharmaceutical industry. Living near the D&R Canal for over 50 years and enjoying this dynamic ecosystem has been a constant source of pleasure.

Pamela V'Combe merged her personal interests in science and the outdoors, by crafting a career in environmental professions. As the Executive Director of a retreat and conference center in the Adirondacks, she participated in the state park's master planning process. Inspired, she began her Masters in City and Regional Planning at Rutgers, and became a Watershed Planner. She recently retired from the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Almost 30 years ago, she moved to West Trenton where her apartment is on the Delaware and Raritan Canal. About ten years ago, she went on her first D&R Canal Watch walk with Bob Barth, who mentored her to become a hike leader. Soon, Pamela was on the Canal Watch board. Now, she's been recruited by the D&R Canal State Park as a seasonal Trail Interpreter and looks forward to contributing to the D&R Canal State Park's 50th Anniversary programs. Her hobbies include kayaking and traveling.



INCOMING TRUSTEES



Barbara ten Broeke currently serves on the board of the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition. In 2001, Barbara ten Broeke, her husband Jan, and a few dynamic friends gathered in the keeping room of her 1763 home to form the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition (MVPC) to protect the region's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. By 2009, MVPC had secured the federal designation of a 27-mile loop of historic road along the Delaware and Raritan Canal as the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway. It was the first of MVPC's many campaigns—including several more victories—in the battle for historic preservation and wider recognition of the importance of Central NJ to the American narrative. Barbara also serves on the boards of The Meadows Foundation and the Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance.

Christopher "Kip" Bateman was a member of the New Jersey State Senate, representing District 16 from 2008 until his retirement in January 2022. Prior to being elected to the Senate, he was a member of the New Jersey State Assembly from 1994 to 2007. While in office, he served as the assistant Republican leader.

Kip earned his B.A in political science and history from Ithaca College and his J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. He is a partner at the law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis & Lehrer in Warren.



On canal's banks, a restoration effort

Developers intend to retain historical integrity of Bridge Tender's House

By Tiffani N. Garlic
FOR THE STAR-LEDGER

The small building on Amwell Road in Franklin Township is crumbling.

Its sagging, dilapidated overhang is propped up by five wooden posts. Inside the 19th-century home are five tiny rooms, a fireplace and a set of dusty stairs that lead to the second floor, where the paint is peeling off the walls.

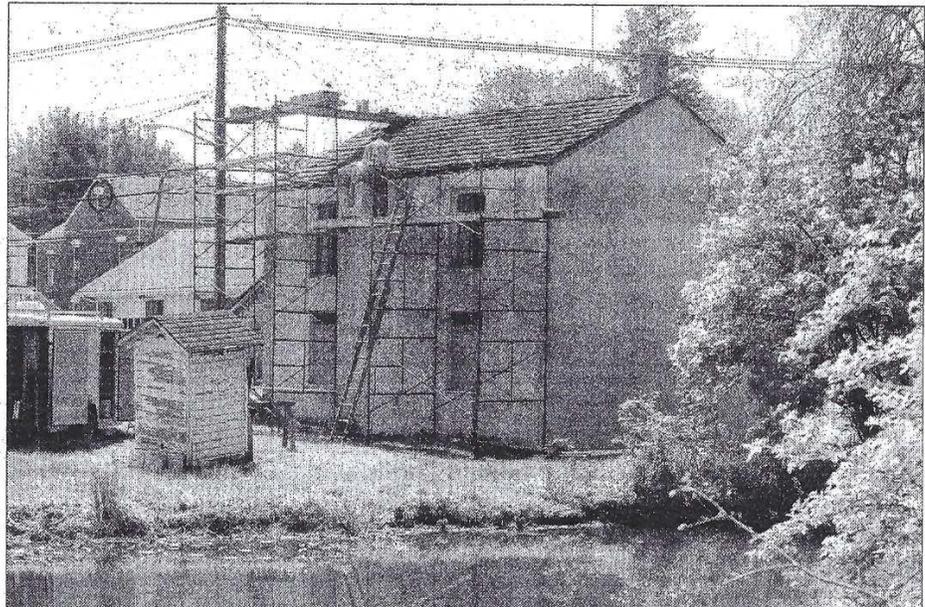
Sitting beside the Delaware and Raritan Canal since 1834, the building doesn't look like much today.

However, for nearly a century, the structure housed workers who opened the swing bridge when boats carrying coal from Pennsylvania to New York came through the waterway. Over the next couple months, the East Millstone Bridge Tender's House will be getting a makeover: new windows, floors, roof and a coat of paint.

The land is owned by the state and overseen by the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. The Premiere Development firm is renovating the home, located in the Somerset section of Franklin Township.

"As good neighbors, we feel it is our responsibility to give back to the community by helping the state and the D&R Canal Commission rebuild the structure to be as close to its original state as possible," said Michael Sommer, senior vice president of Premier Development. "It will look like a completely different place than when we first started."

Sommer said the building is "a reminder of days gone by that has unfortunately fallen into disarray" and the development firm, the parent company



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA PAIS/ FOR THE STAR-LEDGER

Workers make progress April 22 on the restoration of the 19th century Delaware and Raritan Canal's East Millstone Bridge Tender's House in Franklin Township.

of Canal Walk Associates, LLC, wants to restore it.

Tom Durborow, who is working on the renovation, said the hardest part of the job is keeping the building's historical charm.

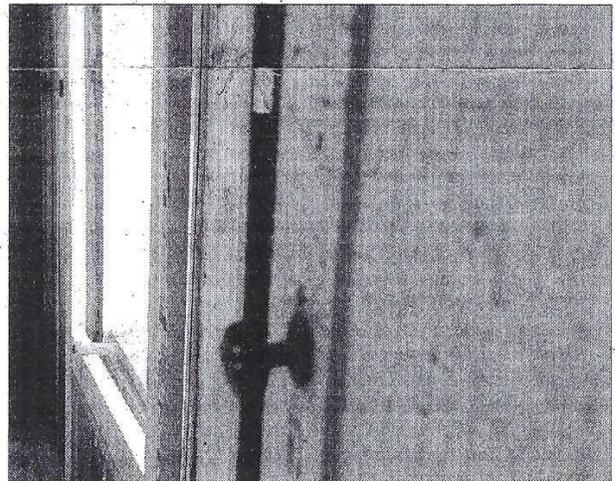
"We're trying to make sure it blends in, but keeps the old integrity while meeting modern codes," he said.

Sommer said this is the firm's first historical renovation.

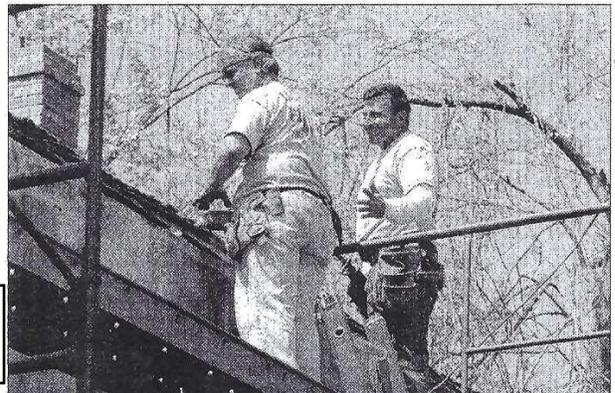
The executive director of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission, Ernest Hahn, was not sure what will happen to the building once the renovations are completed, but said the lease will go out to bid once construction is complete. He said office space for nonprofit groups and small business is a possibility.

"We want them to be occupied because once they're renovated and no one is in them, we'll lose them again," he said.

Tiffani N. Garlic is a reporter for the New Jersey Local News Service. She may be reached at (908) 243-6238 or tgarlic@njlns.com.



The East Millstone Bridge Tender's House, built in 1834, has fallen into disrepair since its use by canal workers.



Tom Durborow, right, and Rick Hayes work on restoring the roof of the bridgetender's home on April 22, 2010.

News from the D&R Canal Commission meeting, June 15, 2022

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported that the NJDOT began the tree mitigation project along the southbound lanes of Route 29 in Hopewell Township in the area generally from Trap Rock Quarry south to the so-called Harbourt House or "Canal House" at the head of the Baldpate Mountain Yellow Trail. The plantings of autumn brilliance serviceberry and flowering dogwoods and removal of uncontrolled Virginia creeper and poison ivy vines are being done as mitigation for the removals of dead and dying Ash trees along other sections of Route 29). The NJDOT project will begin where the PSE&G Moore's Station plantings left off and continue south along Route 29 to where the present stone retaining wall ends (south of milepost 14.5).

Mr. Hutchison stated that the DEP Office of Information Technology (DEP/OIT) delivered the Logitech "Connect" portable "Conference Cam" device, which will enable the Commission to conduct meetings in a hybrid format once social distancing protocols are relaxed or lifted. The device will be installed during the week of June 20.

The Director has submitted comments to the online NJDOT "Public Information Center" (PIC) for the proposed projects to replace the bridges over the Delaware and Raritan Canal at Chapel Drive ("Pillar of Fire") and at the Griggstown Causeway in Franklin Township, Somerset County. The Director observed that PIC documents supplied by NJDOT raised questions with respect to compliance with the DRCC/DEP-SHPO/NJDOT bridge memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed in 2021. In his PIC comments, he cautioned NJDOT about the proposed use of a cast in place concrete pylon for the Griggstown causeway bridge, which feature is disapproved of in the MOA He also reminded them that the MOA calls for the incorporation of a slanted top rail. He also noted that he advised NJDOT that the Griggstown causeway design does not maintain the required minimum 36" of under clearance from the bridge structure for canoeists and kayakers as stated in the MOA, and that the submitted plans do not incorporate marked crosswalks or, in the case of Griggstown, pedestrian-activated crossing beacons. The MOA also directs that sheeting shall not be used without a compelling reason, and that apparent proposed sheeting noted on the plans would need to be approved by SHPO and the NJWSA. Lastly, the Director remarked that while it is early in the process, he was concerned that the PIC video mentioned that the bridge at the Griggstown causeway over the canal would be wider and that the roadway profile would be changed by 1.2 feet. Mr. Hutchison stated that he wished to obtain additional information from NJDOT on how these design changes could impact the adjacent bridgetender's station, which he described as being in an advanced state of disrepair, and the nearby historic bridgetender's house.

The Director related that on May 25, 2022, the DEP announced that it would adopt an emergency rule expanding the areas in New Jersey that are subject to flood hazard permitting requirements. This action is likely to be issued by mid-June and will go into effect immediately upon issuance. The emergency rule advances the provisions of Executive Order No. 100 (2020), and which directed the DEP to adopt Protecting Against Climate Change ("PACT") regulations. The rules are intended to address emissions of greenhouse gases and to incorporate climate change considerations into land use permitting requirements. Since that time, the DEP promulgated changes to air permitting requirements and has been working on drafting the land use portion of the PACT rules. The land use rule proposal is scheduled to be published later in 2022.

Due to the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Ida, the DEP determined that existing flood hazard mapping does not accurately reflect current flood risks because they are based upon historic events, not more recent occurrences, and that historic rainfall data no longer provided an adequate basis for predicting future storms.

Mr. Hutchison mentioned that Commissioners Lubitz and Stout had long advocated for revisions to rainfall calculations as they impact the Commission stormwater standards, and that the proposed emergency rule may have this effect. The Director said that Commission staff would monitor the planned adoption of the emergency rule and provide updates as necessary.

Mr. Hutchison stated that Hawley Brothers General Contractors began the project to repoint the stone foundation of the Commission office on June 7. The project involves chiseling out the deteriorated areas and replacing the failed mortar and areas of missing foundation stones. They have encountered a delay in obtaining the necessary materials, but the work to remove the old mortar is proceeding quickly. When this project is complete, the Director noted that all the major physical plant-

related challenges that he encountered when he became Director in 2017 will have been addressed.

Vice-Chairman Stout noted that under Director Hutchison's leadership the Commission office building has undergone tremendous rehabilitation. He thanked the Director and the assistance from DEP colleagues.

Mr. von Zumbusch thanked Director Hutchison for providing comments to NJDOT regarding the Griggstown and Chapel Drive bridge replacement projects. He also stated that, though he found the proposed DEP emergency rule regarding flood hazard permitting requirements an improvement, it was not an adequate proposal.

Park Superintendent's Report on the State Park

Superintendent Kalleser reported a successful Memorial Day weekend within the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, and that training of seasonal summer staff had occurred during that weekend.

She reported that on June 3, the 1.3-mile loop "Inlet Trail" at the northern end of the Bull's Island Recreation Area was officially opened to the public. (See article, p. 2-3.) She expressed appreciation to all parties involved in the project, from tree and shrub planting to the installation of a bench at the tip of the island.

In addition, she reported that on June 4 a new park trail opened along Heathcote Brook at the Mapleton Preserve, and that this trail was the project of an Eagle Scout. She stated that both trails were opened in conjunction with "National Trails Day," held annually on the first Saturday in June. National Trails Day, founded by the American Hiking Society, is a day of public events aimed at advocacy and trail service.

Superintendent Kalleser reported that the surface of the park towpath trail was rolled from Landing Lane to Blackwells Mills in Franklin Township, Somerset County. She reported that the section of the trail from Blackwells Mills south to Griggstown was scheduled to be resurfaced next.

Superintendent Kalleser stated that the Park Service also submitted comments to NJDOT PIC regarding the proposed Griggstown Causeway and Chapel Drive bridge replacement projects. She observed that it appeared that, in the case of the Griggstown project, the towpath trail would remain open, but there would be a one-year closure of the two parking lots located along the Griggstown Causeway between Millstone River Road and Canal Road, and that the Millstone Valley Scenic Byway Visitor Center at Griggstown would be separated from the towpath for a one-year period.

The superintendent reported that unexpected problems had arisen with the NJDOT contract to repair the Tropical Storm Ida damage to the trail at the former Belvidere-Delaware railroad trestle bridge at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, Hunterdon County. Because of this unforeseen delay, the park trail spanning the Wickecheoke Creek would remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Vice-Chairman Stout congratulated Superintendent Kalleser on the successful opening of the two new trails in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Sellar reported that the contractor for the NJWSA Landing Lane Spillway rehabilitation project was tentatively scheduled to start the project in July; however, the contractor was still experiencing supply chain difficulties related to construction material acquisition. He reported that, as part of the closing out of the canal dredging project, repaving of Canal Road would take place in front of the drying area during the next week.

Mr. Sellar reported that the NJWSA was awaiting the approval of permit applications before they could commence the Six Mile Run culvert rehabilitation project.

He also reported that the NJWSA on June 14 hosted the Hydrilla treatment kick-off meeting, which was attended by the NJWSA water customers and DEP staff. The treatment will start the week of July 6 and would run for 60 days at a dropped concentration rate of 2 parts per billion of fluoridone.

Mr. Sellar reported that an application for the project to repair areas of the upper embankment of the canal from Bull's Island south to Prallsville Mills would tentatively be submitted for approval to Commission for review the next month. Mr. Sellar reported that NJWSA is advertising for engineering consultants for the modification of the Prallsville Mills culvert and wastegate.

Mr. Sellar reported that the NJWSA would conduct a third round of water sampling later in the month to control the invasive Chinese pond mussel (*Sinanodonta woodiana*). These invasive Asian mussels are transported to the country inside the gills of Asian carp. Their size and appetite enable them to out-compete native species for food and space and have the potential to alter river bottom conditions and harm native fish. Samples will be taken from 10-Mile Lock to Prallsville Mills and up the Wickecheoke Creek.

Vice-Chairman Stout inquired as to the status of the Stockton embankment repairs. Mr. Sellar stated that design options were being explored and reminded the Commission that the repair would be in two parts: first, a cosmetic repair to resurface the top of the embankment and, second, the structural repair. The work will be bid as two separate projects.

You may take part in the monthly commission meetings either in person or online. Visit www.nj.gov/dep/drc and click on “Meeting Information.” Then click on “Upcoming Meeting Notice.” The D&RCC meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The public is allowed to comment on the proceedings. When in-person meetings resume, they are held at Prallsville Mill on Route 29, just north of Stockton.

Canalboat Dinner Cruise Postponed Until Next Spring

We were most disappointed to have to postpone this month’s dinner cruise on the Lehigh Canal in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Hank and George, the trusty mules, were ready to tow us to the Abbott Street lock for the experience of “locking through.”

But alas, the concern about Covid-19 and its many variations made the close confines of the *Josiah White II* distressing.

We will work with our friends at the National Canal Museum/Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor to book our trip in the spring.

Please watch for news of the 2023 dinner cruise. We look forward to seeing you then for this important fundraiser.



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.

Class of 2020-2023

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

Class of 2022-2025

Linda Barth (Somerville)
Robert Barth (Somerville)

Christopher "Kip" Bateman (Branchburg)
Barbara ten Broeke (East Millstone)

Class of 2021-2024

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

EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

Thursday, August 25 -- Mercer County

Join us at Morven Museum & Garden for **Reflections on 1781 Princeton: Exploring the Road to Yorktown** with Dr. Robert Selig, a special talk scheduled for **Thursday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m.** This event will kick-off New Jersey's commemoration of George Washington and the comte de Rochambeau's march to Yorktown and the eventual conclusion of the American Revolution. In-person tickets are \$15 General Admission, \$10 for Morven Members. Virtual tickets are \$10 General Admission, \$5 for Morven Members. Doors open for in-person guests at 6:00 p.m. in the Stockton Education Center. A Zoom link will be shared the day of the program for virtual ticket holders. Q&A for both live and virtual attendees follows the lecture. Visit www.morven.org for details.



ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY AT YORKTOWN - THE ENCAMPMENT IN TRENTON, AUGUST 1781

French & American Soldiers in Camp
Injury, Disease, and Medical Care
History Talks for Adults
Scavenger Hunt for Children with Prizes (books & more)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022
10 AM - 5 PM
FREE

15 Market Street
Trenton, NJ
(across from Hughes Justice Complex)
Free Parking in Rear



1st Rhode Island Regiment Continental Infantry



Robert Selig, Historian of the Washington-Rochambeau Trail



Ned Hector Teamster & Bombardier



Le Regiment Bourbonnais French Infantry

Partnering with Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie, Lawrence Historical Society, and W3R-New Jersey



Friday, August 26, 2022, 6:30 pm
East Jersey Old Town, Indian Queen Tavern
1050 River Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Washington Rochambeau

W3R-NJ
together with The Middlesex County Division of History and Historic Preservation and The Metlar Bodine House Museum present:

Dr. Robert Selig

The March to Victory in Yorktown: The War of Independence in Raritan Landing & New Jersey 1781-1782

Seating is limited, please arrive early to ensure seating

Dr. Robert Selig is the long-time project historian for the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R), which traces the route of the march that the two armies took from Newport RI to Yorktown VA.

Dr. Selig is the world's foremost authority on the French military during the American War of Independence.

www.w3r-nj.org

William Livingston Day Tours

Travel back in time and tour Liberty Hall, colonial style, as it was for Governor William Livingston! Afterwards you'll get your very own Flat Will Livingston to take home.

Programs at 10:00, noon, and 2:00. Reservations required; to purchase tickets visit our website or call 908-527-0400. 1003 Morris Ave, Union, NJ.



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

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.



Riders on the berm trail near Kingston.
Photo by Sandra Shapiro

Board of Trustees
Linda Barth, president
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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.