



Number 74

www.canalwatch.org

January 2021

2022 CANAL WATCH CALENDAR Attention all photographers!

Once again, our D&R Canal Watch calendar was a great success. The year 2020 was very challenging for all of us, so the funds received from the sale of the calendar were particularly important at this time. Thanks go to all the photographers who submitted photos last year and for everyone who purchased the 2021 calendar.

We're beginning the process of developing a new calendar for 2022. Unlike previous years, we think that a calendar devoted to specific themes would be especially appreciated. Therefore, we are asking for submissions of images in the following categories:

1. Reflections - Think of reflections in calm or running waters, or interesting reflections in glass. We're open to your interpretation, so give it your personal touch.
2. How the canal works - The successful operation of a canal system depends upon the mechanics designed to make it work. Did you know that the oldest canal lock in existence was built in 984 AD by the Song Dynasty in China? As you traverse the towpath, look for opportunities to record what you see that makes the system tick: locktender and bridgetender homes, locks, spillways, aqueducts, culverts, and waste gates. Both artistic and documentary images will be considered for our next calendar, so give it your best shot!

Entry rules for the photography contest will be as follows:

- Entries must be received by **June 28, 2021**. 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.

(continued on the next page)

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

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.

- 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.
- Qualified images should be attached and emailed to barthlinda123@aol.com. You will be notified only 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 2022. 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:

Blackwells Mills bridge-tender's home reflected in the canal, by Todd Murphy



Reflections by Tom Egan



Gearing in South Bound Brook by Tom Egan



Prallsville guard lock, by Wayne Petko

The Next Step for the East Millstone Bridgetender's Station

On January 19, members of the D&R Canal Watch met at the East Millstone bridgetender's station with staff from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Office of Resource Development (ORD), and the D&R Canal State Park and Bob Russell from HMR Architects.



We discussed locations to which the station could be moved during the stabilization of the frame and the rehabilitation of the exterior. It cannot be moved onto the septic field. Once the exact location of the field has been determined, a location will be chosen.

The next step is for the engineering drawings to be completed and sent with the permit applications to SHPO and the D&R Canal Commission.

When the permits are approved, the ORD will put the project out to bid. The expected cost will be \$70,000. The Canal Watch will apply for a grant through the New Jersey Historic Trust. The grant requires a \$3 to \$2 match, so the Canal Watch is looking for help in raising \$28,000.

Thanks so much to the generous friends and members who contributed to the effort to raise money to pay for the engineering drawings. We reached that goal in December!

D&R Canal Watch 2021 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? May we call on you? Yes ___ No ___
Try me _____ (circle your skill)

CANAL WATCH ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

www.canalwatch.org

www.dandrcanal.com

THE CANAL WATCH ACTIVITIES FOR 2021 HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD. ALTHOUGH THE D&R CANAL STATE PARK IS OPEN, OUR BOARD FEELS THAT IT WILL BE TOO CHALLENGING TO SPONSOR WALKS WITH GROUPS OF PEOPLE.

AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES AND HOPEFULLY CONDITIONS GET SAFER, WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE BEING PLANNED. CHECK BACK WITH US LATER IN 2021 BY CLICKING:

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

News from the D&R Canal State Park and the

NEAR ZERO

it's too cold!
and the wind!
now snow with
the rattle of sleet

I can't go
on my walk
but I must
pull on layers
of everything but
courage which is
in short supply
when the truth is
I am fed up
with doing everything
alone

I meet nothing but pairs --
 cross-country skiers
 cardinals (already!) in a shrub
 beside the iced canal
 man&dog/girl&dog
even the Towpath
--half thawed/half-glazed--
is made for two
the one of me
takes the thawing way



Winter at Blackwells Mills by Todd Murphy

CAROLYN FOOTE EDELMANN
February 2000

Reports from the D&R Canal State Park and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Park Superintendent's Report

The D&R Canal State Park was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. The award of \$31,375 will allow the park to hire a consultant to prepare conditions assessment reports for nine buildings in the park. The specific buildings appear below. They are part of the Six Mile Run Recreation Area.

The consultant will be putting together the following information:

1. Identity of the site using lot & block, street address, and nomination ID numbers.
2. Architectural description of the structure or feature.
3. Description of construction type and materials.
4. Identification of character defining exterior features.
5. Condition of the structure.
6. Identification of extant historic fabric and later construction.
7. Recommendations for needed repairs, including short term stabilization where appropriate.

Phase 1 a fixed fee of: \$31,375.00

<u>Property #</u>	<u>National Registry Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Complex Quote</u>
1	David Nevius House	61 Jacques Lane	\$1,610
2	A. Voohees Farm	683 Canal Road	6,040
3	F. Blackwell House	625 Canal Road	3,629
4	J. Voorhees Farmstead	425 South Middlebush Rd	3,856
5	un-named	46 Jacques Lane	3,501
6	Polhemus Farmstead	77 Blackwells Mills Rd	5,092
7	1800's House	S. Middlebush & Blackwells Mills Rds.	1,978
8	un-named	409 South Middlebush Rd	1,978
9	Jacob or Peter Wycoff House	265 South Middlebush Rd	5,340

Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Naturalist Stephanie V. Fox reported that Superintendent Kalleser had taken a temporary transfer to Spruce Run Recreation Area, and that during this period she (Stephanie) will report on Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park issues to the Commission. Ms. Fox reported that park maintenance staff repaired damage to the pedestrian bridge that leads from the parking area to the multiuse trail at Griggstown with a temporary repair, and that they were assessing the damage in the hope of effectuating a permanent repair.

Tree work in Lambertville resumed on December 4 to remove ash trees that are or could be affected by the invasive emerald ash borer (pictured on right). On December 15th, tree removal began at the northern end of Bulls Island, and Stephanie has met with NJ Forest Service, which has offered to grade the trees to determine which can be milled for future use.

The northern section of Bulls Island may open in the spring; the tree removal has been done.



New Jersey Water Supply Authority report

Mike Sellar reported that the three-year dredging operation was finished on December 5. The dredges have been removed. Once the sediment has dried, it will be shipped to the Bridgewater superfund site from mid-January to the end of March. As of this printing, the dredge company is removing the dredges, booster pumps, and pipes. Almost 50,000 cu. yards were dredged and almost 5,000 cu. yards have already been moved. The towpath and the park in East Millstone that was used for staging will be restored in March.

On December 2nd the maintenance crew found a leak near Griggstown, between the spillway and farmer's bridge. Water was exiting at 60 gallons per minute. The team relined the embankment with clay, excavated the middle of the towpath, and installed a clay liner. They also repaired the river embankment and restored the towpath.

Mr. Sellar reported that the contract for the project to rehabilitate the canal embankment downstream of the Island Farm Weir (DRCC #19-4584C) was awarded and that work would commence in early November.



Six Mile Run culvert. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

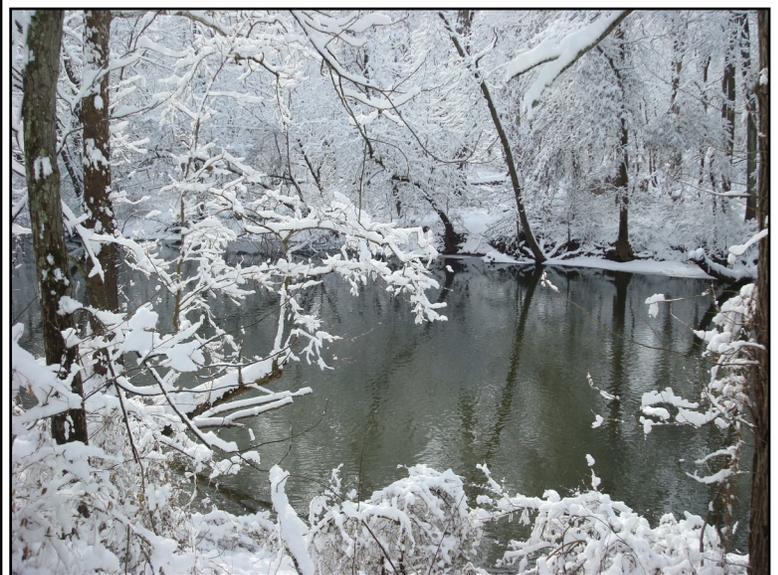
He reported that the surveys of those portions of the Delaware and Raritan Canal that had been treated for Hydrilla revealed no new plant growth. He noted that the herbicide injection was completed after a 93-day application period, which ended on September 30th. He noted that a tuber survey would now be undertaken, after which time an end-of-year assessment would be conducted. Mr. Sellar reported that the proposed project to repair the Delaware and Raritan Feeder canal embankment from Bulls Island to Prallsville Mills was in the design and permitting phase. Mr. Sellar reported that the NJWSA had undertaken a new dye test at the Six Mile Run Culvert (photo left), and the results were being examined. The Six Mile Run Culvert is located in Franklin Township, Somerset County, approximately 1,000 feet south of Blackwells Mills Road. The culvert carries the Six Mile Run stream under Canal Road, the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and the towpath. Mr. Sellar reported that the Cedar Grove Brook watershed project had been put out for bid for engineering services and that the bids were under review. Mr. Sellar reported that canal maintenance dredging was underway at the Prallsville Mills in Stockton. He stated

that that work would be completed in two weeks, and that following the completion of this work, locations downstream in Stockton could be addressed.

South of Stockton, more clay was added to the embankment at the Brookville waste gate.



RACEING ON THE FROZEN CANAL AT BLACKWELL





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

Class of 2021-2023

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

Class of 2022-2024

Tom Lederer (Princeton), publicity chair
Robertta Batorsky, Bordentown
Carl Hemmingsen, Bordentown

Marion Munk (Piscataway)
Wayne Petko (South Bound Brook)

Class of 2023-2025

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

VIRTUAL EVENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ATTEND

**Sunday, January 31 – Virtual
Travel Vicariously with the
Ocean County Historical Society**

Join Dr. Jeff Schenker and his historian friend and fellow traveler, George O'Donnell, on January 31, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. They will be our guides via Zoom to many of the fascinating Presidential sites they've visited in the United States. These super-knowledgeable history lovers will share the must-see itineraries of their many-year quest to learn more about the backgrounds of every U.S. President.

You will enjoy the East Wing of the White House as well as a private guided tour of the White House West Wing, and chuckle at the humorous anecdotes of some of the surprises they encountered in their travels elsewhere.

Jeff and George's travel odyssey will encourage you to read your brochures and pack your bags. You'll want to be prepared to visit prime historical sites in the United States the minute that the dreaded coronavirus is finally defeated.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://monmouth.zoom.us/j/91285435850>

**Sunday, February 14 — Virtual and in person
Valentine's Day Vow Renewal Ceremonies at
Absecon Lighthouse and on Zoom**

Absecon Lighthouse is hosting its annual Wedding Vow Renewal event on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14th...with a twist. Due to gathering restrictions, couples are invited to take part in a mini Vow Renewal ceremony with a non-denominational minister in the Keeper's Cottage. A maximum of two couples, in person, every half hour from 1pm to 4pm can have their vows renewed, for a total of 7 mini ceremonies for 14 total couples. Then, at 4:30pm, there will be a "Virtual Vow Renewal Ceremony" on ZOOM for those wishing to stay home. The time slots for in-person renewals are 1:00pm, 1:30pm, 2:00pm, 2:30pm, 3:00pm, 3:30pm, and 4:00pm. The cost is \$40 per couple for either an in person or virtual renewal and includes a tower climb. As this is a fundraiser, we welcome you to give from the heart and increase your donation to keep this iconic Atlantic City landmark shining. You are invited to make a reservation by call-

ing the lighthouse at 609-449-1360. A ZOOM link will be emailed to those couples participating virtually.

Thursday, February 18 — Virtual

John Fabiano presents

**A Servant Girl at Mrs. Watkins':
Molly Pitcher's Local Origin**

Who is the *real* Molly? John Fabiano, Executive Director of the Monmouth County Historical Commission, is currently researching the possibility that the woman known as Molly Pitcher may have been an Allentown, NJ servant girl who aided George Washington during the Monmouth campaign. Genealogical research, good old-fashioned detective work and curious mind have led John to a new Molly who may well have been a Patriot spy. Learn about this fascinating thesis, and how it relates to Monmouth County Historical Association's Allen House in Shrewsbury!

at 7 p.m. Register at <https://>

www.monmouthhistory.org/historically-speaking

Sunday, March 7 -- Virtual

A Great Place to Eat or Drink: Cedar Bridge

Join Ocean County Historical Society as we follow our virtual lecturer and guide, Sean McHugh, into the Pine Barrens to visit Cedar Bridge Tavern in Barnegat, NJ at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2021. A Senior Archaeologist at a cultural resource consulting firm, adjunct professor at Monmouth University, and co-director of the Archaeological Field School of Monmouth University, Mr. McHugh has over 17 years of experience in archaeology and historic preservation.

The c. 1816 Cedar Bridge Tavern was bought by the Ocean County Parks Department in 2007. The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission describes it as "a historic treasure that offers a unique window into the European experience in the N.J. Pinelands." Mr. McHugh conducted numerous archaeological investigations there in advance of the county's improvement project.

Sign up for this Zoom presentation by emailing your **name, zip code, email address** and **Cedar Bridge Tavern program** to oceancounty.history@verizon.net. We will send you the link to Zoom a few days before the event.