



# FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL CANAL NEWS

## In the Continuing Saga

*Endings, beginnings, and continuations are all part of this spring's Delaware Canal news. Fortunately, there is much to report regarding project completions thanks to our generally temperate winter.*

### High Falls Creek Culvert in Upper Black Eddy

The extensive culvert repair project is complete, and Lehigh River water has been running through the area for weeks. The towpath trail is open. The only thing that remains to be done is some masonry work on a stone wing wall. This small job will be completed later in the spring and will not affect either water flow or towpath traffic.



*Bi-State Construction removed the coffer dam north of the culvert project allowing Lehigh River water to flow south.*

### Bank Repair in Raubsville

The Park staff put a stop to an emerging hole in the towpath bank north of Mueller's Store in Raubsville.

### Leak Repairs in New Hope and Uhlerstown

Moyer and Jones Construction excavated in the area of canal wall leaks north of Lock 11 in New Hope, poured a concrete barrier, and backfilled with clay.



*Despite the snow and ice, Moyer and Jones tackled the leaks in the canal wall in New Hope.*

The Park staff dug out a section of canal bank in Uhlerstown and lined it with bentomat. Both repairs await the return of water to test their effectiveness.

### Centre Bridge Pump

The new, more efficient pump arrived in late January and then was custom-fitted to do its job supplying water to the Canal from Centre Bridge to Lock 11 in New Hope. The Park Staff will install it in the Delaware River as soon as the river level drops from its rain/spring thaw high. It's anticipated that it will be in place and gushing away by the time that you read this article.

### Airport Road Culvert in Bristol Township

The water company relocated its supply line, and Bi-State Construction has completed the corrugated metal culvert pipe replacement. The final road paving and striping will be handled by Bristol Township.

### Now on to the continuing issues:

#### Delaware Canal State Park Resource Center

DCNR has decided to construct a separate Park Office facility rather than combine office and visitor center functions in one structure in New Hope. The location of a new Park Office is under study.

In a noble attempt to offer an alternative to the demolition of the historic Chez Odette's building, DCNR has hastily, in the Friends' opinion, proposed moving the original 31X36 ft. structure to the mural plaza area next to the Locktender's House for adaptation as a visitors' center. The Friends have taken the position that the ramifications, feasibility and real cost of such a move must be determined before any action is taken. Can the historic Odette's building provide the envisioned visitor amenities such as easy access between South Main Street and the towpath, as well as a much needed group congregation area? And will the cause of preservation be served, if, by moving the building, its historic context is lost and the structure is dramatically altered in the process of transforming it into a visitors' center? The search for a reasonable solution continues.



*Odette's on her throne between the Canal and the Delaware River in New Hope.*

*(continued on page 6)*



## Friends of the Delaware Canal

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New Hope, PA 18938  
Phone & Fax: 215-862-2021  
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Internet: www.fodc.org

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### Mission

The Friends of the Delaware Canal is an independent, non-profit organization working to restore, preserve, and improve the Delaware Canal and its surroundings. Our primary goals are to ensure that the Canal is fully-watered from Easton to Bristol and the towpath trail is useable over its entire length. We embrace this mission in order to sustain a unique link to our heritage, protect beautiful and diverse natural areas, provide recreational and educational opportunities, and enable the Canal to serve as a community and economic asset.

## Park Manager's Report

It is with mixed feelings that I write this report, my last as Manager of the Delaware Canal State Park Complex. I have accepted the Manager's position at the Tuscarora/Locust Lake State Park Complex in Schuylkill County.

I have been the Manager here for over 12 years and spent 2 years as the Assistant Manager for a total of 14 years. While I have enjoyed my tenure at the Canal, it certainly has been a challenging task. A few times recently it has been described as "the hardest job in State Parks," and I don't disagree. The fact that we experienced 6 of the top 10 floods along the Delaware River during my tenure did not make it any easier.

I want to express my gratitude to the Friends of the Delaware Canal. Your support was invaluable to me while I was Manager. I want to single out Susan Taylor and thank her for her dedication and tireless work in support of the Canal.

I held my first job in State Parks at the Tuscarora Complex in 1980. I did my practicum for college at the Park, and then they hired me as a Ranger for the summer. Recently the Manager there retired, and, after some soul searching, I decided to go full circle and finish my career where it all started. I look forward to running two "typical" parks that offer camping, boating, swimming etc. I can't wait to smell the camp fires.

Good luck in all your efforts with the Canal!

*Rick Dalton*

## A Job Well Done

For 14 years, the Delaware Canal has been a big part of Rick Dalton's life, and we think that he'll admit that it's been a wild ride. As Park Manager he effectively dealt with

- A Complex comprised of two State Parks, the Delaware Canal State Park and Ralph Stover State Park, and all the additional resources that have been gathered under those Parks' umbrellas—the 90-acre Giving Pond, eleven River islands, the Nockamixon Cliffs, High Rocks, two fish ladders on the Lehigh River, and miles of River shoreline.
- A narrow 58.9-mile-long Canal that runs through two counties, 18 municipalities, and has more than 1000 neighbors.
- Fourteen legislators representing the districts through which the Canal runs.
- Federal, state, county, and local agencies that have some jurisdiction over the Canal and its operations.
- An abundance of concerned partners and stakeholders

Then to make the job ever so much more interesting came the great floods of 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2011 as well as "high water events," most of which had devastating effects on the Canal. Bringing the Canal back has been an enormous challenge from the FEMA-PEMA evaluation and funding processes to the stabilizing of the towpath trail and waterway prism. The many aspects of



*Rick van Vliet, Park Maintenance Supervisor, and Rick Dalton, Park Manager, down in Lock 11 stopping a gate leak by inserting some oakum..*

Rick's job are too numerous to list, but he always tackled his work with intelligence, dedication, perseverance, ingenuity, and a sense of fair play. To investigate and solve problems, Rick literally jumped right in. His experience in the Navy (that's where the idea of using oakum to stop leaks came from) and a slightly mischievous sense of humor served us all well.

Rick, we'll miss you.



# Calendar of Events

## Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m. Canal Clean-Up Day

*It's spring cleaning time!*

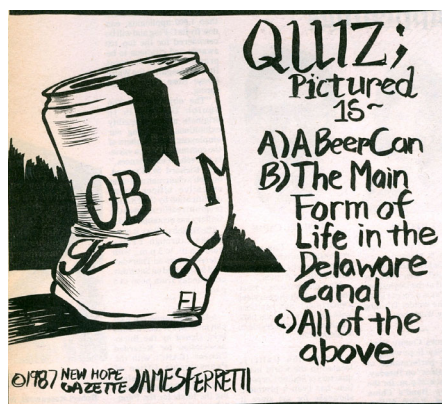
Clean-up Days have been part of the Friends' agenda ever since the organization was founded in 1982. Since the advent of the Canal Tenders and CAT programs, the logistics of our annual Easton to Bristol effort have changed, but the need to spruce up the Canal before prime visitation season always remains.

Our list of Delaware Canal Clean-Up Day Work Areas is shown on page 5. On the list are sections that will be handled by Canal Tenders and sections that will be tackled by community coordinators and organizations. Those Tenders and coordinators who have requested additional volunteer help are highlighted in yellow.

To volunteer, please review the list and choose one of the highlighted locations, then call or e-mail the Canal Tender or Coordinator to offer your assistance. Your Tender or Coordinator will let you know where to meet, what to bring, and answer any questions that you may have.

If your favorite section isn't among the highlighted areas, please don't hesitate to give the Tender or Coordinator a hand. Nearly all will be out on the towpath on Clean-Up Day. So find your work gloves and come out on April 2 to give the Canal its spring cleaning. If you have a canoe or kayak, bring it along. The trash that accumulates on the berm side of the Canal is most easily retrieved from a boat, and, sometimes, it's the only way to get to it.

As always, individual clean-up efforts are always welcome – anytime, anywhere.



*The Friends and the Canal have made a lot of progress since this cartoon was published in the New Hope Gazette in 1987.*

## Sunday, April 24, 2 p.m. In Search of Bald Eagles and More

*Meet at the Durham Lock parking area, 1407 Easton Road (Route 611), Kintnersville, PA 18930. The parking area is adjacent to the intersection of Routes 611 and 212.*

Even though we saw nary a bald eagle on last year's walk, we are going to try it again this year because we know that eagles are nesting on Lynn Island by the Canal, and there are expectations that another type of endangered species will nest on the Nockamixon Cliffs.

On this 5-mile, roundtrip walk, we'll hope to see majestic birds soaring, perching and nesting, but they won't be the only attraction. Our trip will start at the Durham lock and aqueduct where there are so many stories to share from the iron-making to Durham boats to caves occupied by Native Americans and bats. We will follow the towpath south past Trauger's Farm to the Gallows Run Aqueduct, named for either a notable resident or a failed suspenders incident, depending upon the source. At the aqueduct, both the river island and the Nockamixon Cliffs come into full view. The dramatic Cliffs rise straight up 300 feet from the Canal and Route 611. Waterfalls and wildflowers make them especially beautiful in the spring.

Our favorite nature photographer and birder Carole Mebus will accompany us on this walk and share her experiences of photo-documenting bald eagles at this location. She has captured images of eagles in flight, perched in trees, taking dips in the River, and, best of all, nesting. The photos of eaglets peeping from the nest have been highlights of the postings on the Friends' Facebook page for the past three years. We are hoping that this will be the fourth. If there are eagles and other birds to see, they will be at a distance, so bring your binoculars. Carole is a bird magnet, so we have high hopes.

Lock 20, where we will envision the mill, bridge, and other buildings that once stood on this narrow site, will be the turnaround point for the walk. On our return trek, we will take in the northbound sights.

This free walk will be held weather permitting. If in doubt, check for a message on the [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org) homepage.



*One of the great birds that we wish to see on our walk. Bring your binoculars.*

## Wednesday, May 11 7:30 p.m. Just Beyond the Canal's Banks

*The program will be held in the Old Library by Lake Afton, 46 West Afton Avenue, Yardley, PA 19067. Parking is available in the adjacent St. Andrew's Episcopal Church lot, along Penn Valley Drive, and in Buttonwood Park.*

The Delaware Canal is a 58.9-mile-long ribbon woven from fibers of nature and history.

Its tales alone can fill volumes, but the Canal becomes so much more interesting when the stories of what happened beyond the waterway's 60-foot-wide property lines are explored.

Historian Carl LaVO is on a quest to share the stories of Bucks County's lesser known places, and to that end his feature articles appear weekly in the *Courier Times* and *The Intelligencer*. At our May program, Carl will discuss three of the Delaware Canal's colorful neighbors – Chez Odette's in New Hope, Bowman's Hill in Upper Makefield Township, and the McCormick Duck Farm in Yardley. His presentation will be illustrated by historical photos.

If you are curious about

- Why the soon-to-be removed Chez Odette's is one of only twelve structures along the Delaware Canal deemed worthy of inclusion in the Canal's National Historic Landmark designation?
- How copper, a doctor, pirates, and a tower are tied to a not-too-steep hill?
- When Yardley became famous for its ducks (and the answer doesn't involve "I Brake for Duck" bumper stickers)?

This is a program that you'll want to attend.

Please join us for this informative and enlightening evening that is being presented in

*(continued)*

# Calendar of Events

partnership with the Yardley Historical Association.



*Odette's is one of the 12 structures included in the Canal's National Historic Landmark designation.*

## Sunday, May 15, 2 p.m. "What's in Those Woods?" Walk

*Meet at the Washington Crossing Historic Park entrance on Route 532 just east of the bridge over the Canal. (This is the entrance near the pond.)*

When last we ventured into the wooded parcel that is a little known piece of the Delaware Canal State Park, we were in search of fungi with mycologist and Friends' member Martie Kyde. Fungi we did see, but we also discovered a treasure trove of wildflowers. On this Sunday afternoon, we're going to head into the 28-acre woods to find what we can find and remove some litter while we're at it. Our 1-mile walk will take us south along the towpath with a left turn into a part of the Park that is seldom explored.

Join us for a walk during which we don't quite know what to expect. And please along bring a trash bag, so that we can leave this special place better than when we entered. If the weather is too rainy, we won't be walking. Please check for a go/no go message on the [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org) homepage.



*Here's what we saw the last time we ventured to the Park woods in Washington Crossing – horseback riders!*

## Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. Do the PA/NJ Canal Loop – A National Trails Day Bike Ride and Picnic

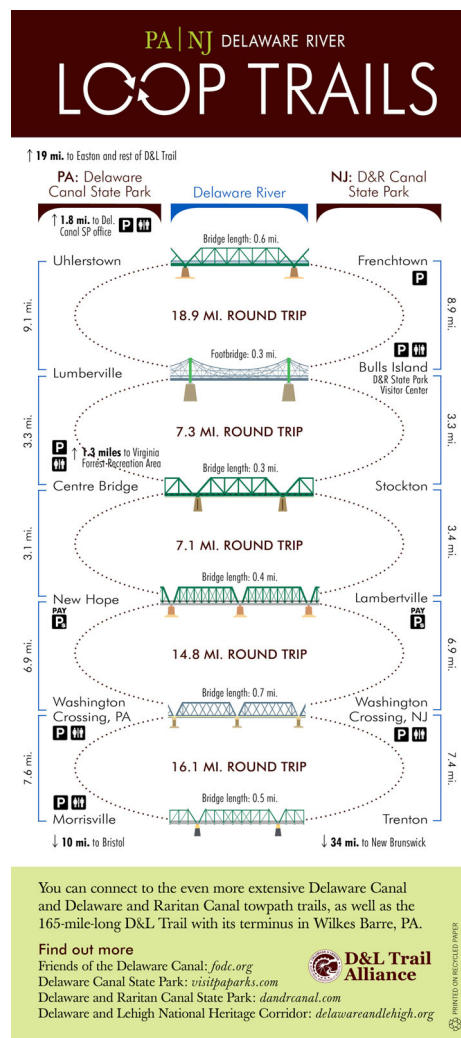
*Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, 3292 River Road (PA Route 32), New Hope, PA 18938. (1.3 miles north of Centre Bridge)*

Looping has become our tradition for National Trails Day. Once again, we'll be doing our part to officially enjoy America's vast network of recreational trails by biking on not one trail, but two. Join the Friends and the Delaware Canal State Park staff for a 9-mile bike ride on the towpath trails of both the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in New Jersey.

Bring your bike and let State Park Educator Ian Kindle lead you on a guided tour. This year the route will follow the Delaware Canal towpath south to Centre Bridge, then cross over the river bridge to connect with the D&R towpath trail in Stockton, NJ. From Stockton, bicyclists will head north to Bulls Island NJ, then cross the pedestrian bridge to Lumberville, PA. After a short side trip north on the towpath, everyone will head back to the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area. A free picnic lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert will be waiting there in the scenic canal and riverside picnic grove created by the Friends.

Note: Mountain bikes or hybrid tires are strongly encouraged, and helmets are required.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend by contacting the Friends at 215-862-2021 or [friends@fodc.org](mailto:friends@fodc.org).



*This Canal Loops rack card is our most popular publication ever. A Friends' project funded by the D&L Trail Alliance, it illustrates the six Delaware River bridges and two State Park trails that form the PA/NJ Loop Trail system. The mileage information is particularly helpful for trip planning.*

## Pooches and People

If you and your dog love walking along the towpath, please remember to

- Keep your dog on its leash. Park regulations require it, no matter how friendly your canine may be.
- Clean-up after your dog, and please carry your poop bags home with you. The Delaware Canal State Park is a carry in/carry out resource.

Let's make the Canal enjoyable for all.





# Delaware Canal Clean-Up Day Work Areas

## Saturday, April 2

The list of this year's work areas follows. The names of the Clean-Up Day Coordinators or Canal Tenders are included for each area, and contact information is given if additional workers are requested. **Help is especially needed in the highlighted areas.** Please contact your local coordinator to volunteer.

Easton to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park  
Tom Grube, Canal Tender

Williams Twp.: Wy-Hit-Tuk Park to Mueller's Store  
Carole Mebus, Canal Tender

Riegelsville/Upper Black Eddy: Mueller's Store to Indian Rock Inn  
Daniel Duffin, Canal Tender – danielduffin@verizon.net

Upper Black Eddy: Indian Rock to Berm Lane  
Pete Rosswaag & UBEHPS, Canal Tenders

Upper Black Eddy: Berm Lane to Lodi  
Janice Armstrong and Steve Schlosser – Canal Tenders

Tinicum Twp.: Lodi to Uhlerstown  
Happy & Sam Shipley, Canal Tenders

Tinicum Twp.: Uhlerstown to Lock 17  
Appalachian Mountain Club, Del Val Chapter

Tinicum Twp.: Lock 17 to Bridge 3  
Marge Copenhaver, Canal Tender

Tinicum Twp.: Bridge 3 to Bridge 2  
Peter Shaw, Canal Tender

Point Pleasant: Bridge 2 to Mountainside Inn  
Hank Goldberg, Canal Tender – 215-817-4915 – hankjoelgoldberg@gmail.com

Point Pleasant: Mountainside Inn to Lock 12  
Sally Getchell, Canal Tender

Solebury Twp.: Lock 12 to Virginia Forrest Recreation Area  
Monica Hemmers & Steve Heimann, Canal Tenders

Solebury Twp.: Virginia Forrest to Centre Bridge  
Daniel Schwager, Canal Tender

Solebury Twp.: Centre Bridge to Phillips' Mill  
Robert McEwan, Canal Tender

Solebury Twp.: Phillips' Mill to Rabbit Run  
David & Vicky Child. Canal Tenders

New Hope: Rabbit Run to Lock 9  
Pam Can, Coordinator – 215-693-1757 – can0789@aol.com

New Hope: Lock 9 to Bowman's Hill  
Ray and Sara Altieri, Canal Tenders – 215-862-9943 – sararayaltieri@aol.com

Solebury Twp./Upper Makefield Twp.: Bowman's Hill to Stoney Run Aqueduct  
Nora Schenk & Central Bucks Bicycle Club, Canal Tenders

Upper Makefield Twp.: Stoney Run Aqueduct to Mt. Eyre Road  
Gordon Heisler & Traditions Volunteers, Canal Tenders

Lower Makefield Twp./Yardley: Mt. Eyre Road to Afton Avenue  
Bob Ketler, Canal Tender – rjktlr80@msn.com

Yardley/Lower Makefield Twp.: Afton Ave. to Black Rock Road  
Keith Webb, Canal Tender – 215-295-4063 – wwwebbss@hotmail.com

Lower Makefield Twp. /Morrisville: Black Rock Road to Trenton Avenue  
Hal Long & Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club, Canal Tenders  
215-493-4962 – hlong2306@gmail.com

Morrisville: Trenton Avenue to Bridge Street  
Mayor Dave Rivella, Coordinator – 215-295-5030 – mayordaverivella@aol.com

Morrisville: Palmer Street to Bridge Street  
Louise Wile and Mike Schwartz, Canal Tenders

Morrisville: Bridge Street to the Railroad Obstruction  
Lynn Vogel and Josh Gradwohl, Canal Tenders – lvogel419@comcast.net

Falls Twp.: Railroad Obstruction to Tyburn Road  
Jerry Taylor, Coordinator – 215-493-6625 – jerry.taylor35@verizon.net

Falls Twp.: Tyburn Road to Falls Twp. Park  
Susan Taylor, Coordinator – 215-493-6625 – susanhtaylor@verizon.net

Falls Twp.: Falls Twp. Park to Mill Creek Road  
Renee Thompson, Coordinator with Boy Scout Troop 46 – working on May 7

Falls Twp./Tullytown: Mill Creek Road to Levittown Shopping Center  
Jeff Connell, Canal Tender – 732-581-9464 – Coordinatorjeffconnell@comcast.net

Bristol Twp.: Levittown Shopping Center (Sonic) to Green Lane  
Ed Armstrong & GOAL (Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown) – edarmstrong@verizon.net

Bristol Borough: Green Lane to Lagoon Park  
Brett Webber, Coordinator - 215-840-2034 – bw@bwadesign.com

Bristol Borough: Lagoon Park to Riverfront Park  
Mary Kehoe, Coordinator – 215-788-5918 – jodi.marydave@verizon.net  
Jose Acevado, Canal Tender

## In the Continuing Saga

*(continued from front page)*

### Gateway to New Hope Development

DCNR is in the process of finalizing a 35-year lease for use of the land adjacent to Gateway's 4-story hotel/event venue development. The lease will allow Gateway to encroach upon Commonwealth property for the purpose of erecting a landscape feature.

### Water Augmentation in New Hope and Point Pleasant

Planning is still in process for

- 1) The installation of an Archimedes screw pump to augment the Canal's water level from New Hope south to Bristol
- 2) Provision of water into the Canal from the Point Pleasant pump system

### Construction of a Passageway through the Conrail Embankment in Morrisville

This project continues to make its way through the vast maze of approvals and paperwork involved with dealing with railroads.

*And finally the new projects and administration news:*

### Bridge Replacements in Solebury Township

Bi-State Construction has begun work on the replacement of the Redfield Bridge.

The Upper Limeport and Phillips' Mill bridges are also slated for reconstruction this year, but right-of-way and other details are yet to be settled. The truss design for each of the bridges will be similar to the authentic camelback bridges.

### Park Manager

Rick Dalton has decided to accept a position as Manager of Tuscarora State Park. See the articles on page 2. DCNR is expediting the process of selecting a new park manager for the Delaware Canal State Park Complex. Bethany Hare, the Interim Assistant Park Manager, is currently in charge.

## In the Merry Month of May

You will be receiving your Friends of the Delaware membership renewal request for the year 2016. Please support all that we do to improve the Canal.

We welcome checks because we save on credit card fees, but also are happy to have you renew online. Just click on **Join** in the main menu and navigate to the page called **Renew Your Membership**.

## Pop-Up Planting

An idea popped into Geri Delevich's head. "Wouldn't it be great if New Hope Borough had more of those wonderful daffodis that Bucks Beautiful has planted all over the County." Geri, a former member of New Hope Borough Council, contacted the Friends and asked about the possibility of planting bulbs along the towpath. After a scouting walk, the area from the Locktender's House north to the mule pen seemed a perfect place.

Geri contacted Bucks Beautiful, a program run under the auspices of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, and Bucks Beautiful happily provided 150 daffodil bulbs. A Constant Contact request went out, and fifteen well-equipped volunteers from the Friends and the New Hope Garden Club popped up at the Locktender's House at 10 a.m. on November 17. By noon, all the bulbs were in the ground.

Now, the new sprouts are popping up, and we're looking forward to seeing the blossoms as well as the other 300,000 daffodils that Bucks Beautiful has planted along the Canal in past years.



*There are more daffodils along the towpath this spring thanks to this planting crew.*

## Welcome, New Friends

Jane Celentano

Don and Vicki Levinson

Dina Murray

Paul Servantes

Martha Sloboda

Gary Swangler

Eileen Wachtman and Joseph Hochreiter

Wild Birds Unlimited

# Our Business and Institutional Members

*Learn more about these Friends by clicking on their links at [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org).*

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Lions Cross Country Booster Club, New Hope

Logan Inn, New Hope

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Pete's Bike & Fitness Shoppe, Flemington, NJ

Porches Bed & Breakfast, New Hope

River Road Business Alliance, Erwinna

Sand Castle Winery, Erwinna

Univest National Bank & Trust Co

The UPS Store, New Hope

**Wild Birds Unlimited, Buckingham – NEW Member**

Yardley Borough

# Canal Sections in Need of Adoption

Did you ever notice that clean places stay cleaner? People both notice and respect them. The volunteers in the Friends' Canal Tenders program help the towpath and waterway get clean and stay that way. They adopt sections of the Canal and then monitor and tidy them on a periodic basis year-round. To learn more about the Canal Tenders program, click on HELP on the homepage of [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org).

## Want to be a Canal Tender?

Here are the sections of the Canal that are currently orphans.

- Uhlerstown to Lock 17 (Upper Black Eddy to Tinicum Township) – 3.8 miles
- Mountainside Inn to Lock 12 (Point Pleasant to Lumberville) – 1.3 miles
- Rabbit Run Bridge to Lock 9 (New Hope) – 1.3 miles
- Railroad Obstruction to Tyburn Road (Morrisville to Falls Township) – 1.1 miles
- Tyburn Road to Wheatsheaf Road (Falls Township) – 1.4 miles
- Wheatsheaf Road to Mill Creek Road (Falls Township) – .6 mile
- Levittown Shopping Center south to Green Lane (Bristol Township) – 1.9 miles
- Green Lane to the Bristol Lagoon (Bristol Borough) – 1 mile
- Beaver Street to Riverfront Park (Bristol Borough) – .8 mile

Please let us know if you can help to close these gaps. (The sections can be divided into smaller segments.) We're always working toward the goal of taking care of all 58.9 miles of the Canal from Easton to Bristol.



The Friends of the Delaware Canal Facebook page has over 4500 friends from all over the country. They view amazing photos of canal critters and the changing landscape every day. You can, too, by liking our page.



**Friends of the Delaware Canal, Inc.**

145 South Main Street  
New Hope, PA 18938



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## A More Common Sight

In years past, Boy Scout troops were the groups most often seen on the Delaware Canal towpath. Now many recreation organizations can be spotted out hiking, biking, and running. Some of them have expressed their appreciation for the work that the Friends do by becoming members, and we are most appreciative.

Appalachian Mountain Club – Delaware Valley Chapter  
Central Bucks Bicycle Club ( the Club is also a Canal Tender )  
Hunterdon Hiking Club  
Liberty Bell Wanderers  
Lions Cross Country Booster Club  
The Philadelphia Trail Club

In the future, we look forward to seeing canoeing and kayaking groups on the Canal.



*Trekking together on the Canal.*