

FALL 2018

The Locktender's House 145 South Main Street New Hope, PA 18938

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Board of Directors Brett Webber, President Pam Can, Vice-President Lynn Vogel, Secretary Judy Franlin, Treasurer Jeff Connell Laure Duval Joan Fullerton Bob Ketler Eileen O'Neil Lawrence Reinfeld Peter Rosswaag David Schaeffer

Executive Director Susan Taylor

Our 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.

Lazy Summer Days— Not on the Delaware Canal

Friends

of the Delaware Canal

he summer of 2018 will be remembered for its seemingly unrelenting heat and its abundant rainfall that came down in torrents or tropical showers. The rain both helped and hurt the Canal.

The water level in the southern 24-miles of the Canal did not drop, as it usually does in the summer, because the frequent rains kept the level of the Delaware River high enough to feed the Canal through the New Hope inlet located behind the former Odette's restaurant. The fish, wildlife, and visitors have been happy to have a watered Canal from Lock 8 in New Hope to the Lagoon in Historic Bristol Borough.

In the northern end of the Canal, the rain hasn't been so kind. On Saturday, August 11, a deluge (almost 3 inches in a short period of time) fell in the Williams Township area. Fry's Run dramatically overflowed its banks and sent a wall of water into the Fry's Run, aka Kleinhans, Aqueduct. The raging water completely blew off the aqueduct wall on the west side. The temporary bypass, which had been carrying the Canal's water past the already structurally unsound aqueduct, was washed away. One of the pipes was found all the way south in Riegelsville.

To prevent further damage, the Delaware Canal State Park staff diverted the water out of the Canal at the Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area between Raubsville and Riegelsville until repairs could be made. The pump at Durham



anal News

The Fry's Run Aqueduct after the August 11 flash flood. The west wall was gone and the Lehigh River poured out of the side of the remaining structure.

Lock was turned on to keep some water in the Canal south of that location.

Much to the Park's credit, the temporary bypass was put back in place very quickly, and Lehigh River water was again flowing south through the aqueduct site by August 23. The plan to replace the Fry's Run Aqueduct was in the final design phase when the flash flood occurred. Now the plans are quickly being revised to account for the additional damage.

Despite the rain, significant progress is being made on the two major construction projects on the Canal. The replacement of the Phillips' Mill Bridge, north of New Hope proper, is moving along well, with the forms for the west abutment completed and the foundation for the east abutment poured. There is still hope that this project will be completed this winter ahead of schedule.



The formwork for the west abutment of the new Phillips' Mill Bridge is ready for the concrete truck to arrive.

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OUR BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

Learn more about these Friends click on their links at www.fodc.org.

FOUNDER

Tinicum Civic Association

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Lazy Summer... cont'd



Drill rig in place on the south side of the Conrail embankment preparing to tunnel through. Photo shows the site looking down from the top of the embankment.

The contractors are finally preparing to drill the passageway through the Conrail embankment obstruction south of Morrisville. Securing access, approvals and clearances has taken a very long time, but, when the project is completed in 2019, one of the most hazardous detours along the Canal will be history. The sinkholes near the Mountainside Inn and north of Lumberville have been repaired. In the meantime, a few other sinkholes have been discovered. All are awaiting "concrete flowable fill" repairs.

The plans to install a submersible pump at Bowman's Hill to supply water to the southern end of the Canal during summer dry spells are still moving along—slowly. It's fortunate that the pump solution wasn't needed this season.

There is very good news on the Delaware Canal

State Park staffing front. A new fulltime Maintenance Repairperson 2 and a new fulltime Equipment Operator are at work.

All this persistence and care will pay off, and invigorating, crisp autumn days are bound to move things right along.

Doghouse Rescue

he Delaware Canal has doghouses, but not a single dog has ever lived in them. (Wasps and spiders are a whole different matter.)

Originally, the twenty-three lift locks on the Delaware Canal were all one-boatwide structures with miter gates at either end. The miter gates were opened and closed by mechanisms protected by small structures called "doghouses," located on the side wall adjacent to each gate. A rack bar extending from the center edge of each gate to the doghouse was moved in and out by gears connected to a crank. By turning the crank, the locktender could open and close the gates.

Each lock had four individual miter gates and four doghouses. Some of the doghouses disappeared when several locks were converted to two-boat-wide locks in the 1850's. To achieve better efficiency, the northern miter gates were replaced with drop gates, and wicket shanties took the place of doghouses.

More doghouses were lost when the Canal closed commercially. Without the need to

accommodate boats locking through, bulk heads took the place of miter gates; other gates were simply removed.

Today the only doghouses that remain on the Delaware Canal are at locks that still have two sets of miter gates. There aren't many, and most of those were in a sad state.

To the rescue came a team of the Friends' Canal Action Team volunteers ready to replace roofs, sand and paint, and sometimes completely rebuild our pieces of canal history. The plan of action was to tackle the doghouses at four locks. The two relatively new doghouses at Lock 11 in New Hope only needed a minor roof



Doghouse Rescue Step #1: Paint the Roof Boards. L-R: Elizabeth Bennett, Roger Clark, Rich Einstein.

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Doghouse Rescue cont'd



board repair and painting. The four doghouses at Lock 12 in Lumberville had their roofs replaced and painted. Lock 13 in Point Pleasant required the same work, and then came nearby Lock 14. Oddly, the roofs on two of those doghouses were in good shape and only needed painting, even though they stood on the shady berm bank.

Ed Leydon and Josh Gradwohl ponder the deteriorated doghouse at Lock 14 in Point Pleasant.

The two doghouses on the towpath side were badly deteriorated requiring lead

carpenter Josh Gradwohl to fabricate all new pieces at home. After one more carpentry and painting session, CAT's work was done. Fourteen doghouses stand ready to tell their



stories for years to come. The Friends' Canal Improvement Fund supplied the \$700 needed for materials, and the CAT members provided all the labor and expertise.

The restored doghouses at Lock 13.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO:

The Painting Crew Elizabeth Bennett Roger Clark Rich Einstein Jerry Taylor **The Carpentry & Painting Crew** Josh Gradwohl Ed Leydon Steve Saddlemire Denise Sandy Collin Stuart



Heading through Durham Township, the land of this year's Faces and Places, in the old days.

The Friends are so grateful to the Board members of the Durham Historical Society for sharing this excellent image with us. The original photo print hangs in their Society's office in the Durham Mill. Attached to the frame is the caption, "Picture of Canal at Monroe. Gift of Mrs. J. H. Felker." Monroe is a place from the past. It was a tiny Durham Township village along the Delaware River south of Riegelsville and just north of Trauger's Farm. A few houses still stand where Lehnenberg Road meets Route 611.

DISCOVER Faces & Places!

TO THE NORTH IN RIEGELSVILLE AND DURHAM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2 P.M.

If you haven't already, it's time to make your reservations for Faces & Places, the Friends' signature benefit known for its intriguing tours and exceptional parties. This year we will be heading to the most northern reaches of Bucks County. Here is a peek at some of the things that we'll see:



The Robert A. Shimer House on Riegelsville's Mansion Row





The village of Durham

A party at the historic Riegelsville Inn will end the day in style



The countryside's rolling hills

Please join us for an enlightening and entertaining day that benefits the Friends' preservation and improvement efforts.

For details and to make reservations, visit www.fodc.org and click on the Faces & Places event link on the homepage or contact the Friends at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org.

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Calendar of Events



Will Canal Walkers have to ford the overflow south of Easton this year?

JOIN CANAL WALK 2018

Nimble, flexible—that's us. This year, our 31st, we had planned to do our traditional 58.9-mile Canal Walk, but some projects have foiled us. We will be heading north and walking only 53.9 miles as we skip the Conrail passageway project in Morrisville and use the PA/NJ Loop Trail to bypass the Phillips' Mill bridge construction. Even more flexibility may be required if the towpath at the I-95 Scudder Falls Bridge project is closed when we intend to pass by. It's too early to know, but we'll keep you informed of any changes at www.fodc.org.

In any case, do join us for any or all of the segments of Canal Walk 2018. Learn about the Delaware Canal's past, present, and future and enjoy the company of good friends, new and old.

SEPTEMBER 29 Riverfront Park in Historic Bristol Borough to Falls Township Community Park 6.2 MILES

Our Canal adventure will begin at the Delaware River where canal boats waited in the basin to be towed to Philadelphia. Spot the landmark Grundy Clock Tower. Trek through industrialized Bucks County and find out how the coming of U.S. Steel changed the landscape. Marvel at the Canal as a green oasis. *Lunch Stop:* Falls Township Community Park pavilion off of Wheatsheaf Road. OCTOBER 6 Black Rock Road Picnic Area, 1.7 miles south of the town of Yardley, to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 10 MILES

Spy the ship mast that was used to unload coal boats in Yardley. Explore the outlying areas of Washington Crossing. Learn about the unique David Library of the American Revolution. Take in our country's colonial history at the Thompson-Neely House, Grist Mill, and Soldiers' Graves. *Lunch Stop:* Washington Crossing Historic Park at Route 532.

OCTOBER 13 Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938 to Point Pleasant, PA 12.7 MILES

Find out how canal boats crossed the river to get to New York. Discover the secrets of Lock 11. Delight in the quirky tapestry that is New Hope. Detour around the Phillips' Mill bridge replacement by using the PA/ NJ Canal Loop Trail. Admire the River vistas and homes in Centre Bridge. Be charmed by Lumberville. Find out whether Devil's Half Acre deserves its name. Cross the Tohickon Creek on the handsome timber aqueduct.

Lunch Stop: Dilly's at Centre Bridge.

OCTOBER 20 Bridge 2 Lane in Point Pleasant, PA 18950 (use Pipersville, PA for GPS) to the new Ringing Rocks Trailhead in Upper Black Eddy. 11 MILES

Learn how Smithtown, plows, and the famous Walking Purchase are connected. Understand how canal water is handled at the Tinicum Aqueduct. Step back in time in Uhlerstown, the "best preserved canal hamlet in America." See two authentic camelback bridges. Indulge in a treat at Homestead Store. *Lunch Stop:* Tinicum Park, Erwinna.

OCTOBER 27

The new Ringing Rocks Trailhead, 1868 River Road, Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972 to the Forks of the Delaware River Recreation Area, 210 South Delaware Avenue (Route 611), Easton, PA 18042 14 MILES

Be dwarfed by the Nockamixon Cliffs. Pass Durham—home to the famous furnace, limestone cave, and history-making boats. Spy the Roebling Bridge in Riegelsville. Tour Groundhog Lock with its unique power house. Our journey will end where cargo-laden boats made their way from the Lehigh Navigation into the Delaware Canal. *Lunch Stop:* Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area in Raubsville.

> ALL WALKS START AT 9 A.M. SHARP. Return to the starting point is accomplished by carpooling.

The walks are free, but donations to the Friends will be gratefully accepted. Becoming a member is even better!

> For more information, call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org

Calendar of Events



Historic Summerseat in Morrisville, home to this year's annual meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AND COVERED DISH DINNER TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 6 P.M.

"Summerseat" at the intersection of Hillcrest and Legion Avenues. Morrisville, PA 19067

The camaraderie, the food, the chance to find out what's happening with the Canal and the Friends are all good reasons to attend our Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner, but we have two more this year.

The event will be held at Summerseat, the historic mansion that served as George Washington's Headquarters from December 8 through 14, 1776, prior to the famous crossing. Summerseat is also the only home in America that was owned by two signers of both the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution—Robert Morris and George Clymer. We Friends will be gathering and eating within the rooms where, nearly 250 years ago, the leaders of our country's Revolution did the same thing.

The second good reason to attend is that we are returning to the tradition of having a full covered dish dinner. Last year's "just desserts" was just too sweet.

Our special guests will be **John Hallas**, Director of the Bureau of State Parks—PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, **Jason Zimmerman**, Manager of State Park Region 4, **Rick Dalton**, Assistant Regional Manager, and **Josh Swartley**, Manager of Delaware Canal State Park. Food is always the first order of business at the Annual Meeting. Our old-fashioned covered dish dinner is a bountiful spread of entrees, salads, and desserts brought by your fellow Friends, who are great cooks or know great places to buy things. Honey-baked ham and turkey will be provided, as well as plates, utensils, and beverages. *Please bring along your favorite 6-serving covered dish to share*.

After dinner, the Annual Meeting will convene upstairs in the "ballroom." We'll hear about the Friends' 2018 accomplishments and 2019 plans from Brett Webber, President of the Board of Directors. Treasurer Judy Franlin will report on the organization's financial condition. The many contributions of an exemplary Friend will be recognized, and the election of members of the Board of Directors will be conducted.

Following the business portion of the meeting, John Hallas will share his insights on the state of Pennsylvania's State Parks, especially the Delaware Canal State Park. Your questions and comments are most welcome.

The Annual Meeting is always a highlight of the year. Please come and bring a friend or two. It's a good introduction to what the Friends is all about.



A little light snow would be a lovely addition to our walk through Yardley. Not this much, but we surely wouldn't get lost with both towpath tracks and two water stripes to follow.

HIKE OUT THE OLD YEAR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 10 A.M.

Meet at the Black Rock Road Picnic Area at the intersection of the Canal and Black Rock Road in Yardley.

Oh, what to do during the week between Christmas and New Year's?

Well, take a walk along the Canal, of course, and, perhaps, have lunch, too. The Friends will be hiking out 2018 with an invigorating 5-mile, round trip walk through Yardley.

We'll start at the Black Rock Road Picnic Area, hike past the town of Yardley and end at Lock 6. Along the way, we'll see the railroad line built in 1876 just in time to take New Yorkers to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Lock 5 with its alterations stands nearby. In downtown Yardley, we'll take a short sprint up Afton Avenue to see the historic sites, and then back to the towpath to cross over the Brock Creek Aqueduct.

Soon two bridges will come into view—the Mary Yardley Footbridge, originally built to get riverfront neighbors to the Main Street trolley line, and Sommer's Bridge, which is one of the six remaining authentic camelback bridges along the Canal. At Lock 6, we'll recount some new colorful tales once told by Chester Lear, son of the locktender there.

On the way back to Black Rock Road, walkers may choose to head off into Yardley and have lunch on their own. There are lots of great choices. The other option is to burn more calories by walking directly back to the starting point. Whether done before or after having lunch, the return walk is an easy one.

"Hike Out the Old Year" will be held unless it is raining, snowing, or conditions are hazardous. If in doubt, check for a GO/NO message in the Events section of www.fodc.org.



To the North in Riegelsville and Durham

Don't forget to sign up for Faces & Places – A Celebration of the Arts and History along the Delaware Canal. See Page 3 for details.

BUILDING A LEGACY



Bill Farkas at Faces & Places in 2010 with Susan Burnham, who portrayed the writer Dorothy Parker.

Back in the 1980's, Bill Farkas was cajoled into attending a Friends of the Delaware Canal meeting by his friend and fellow Yardley Commons resident Zabel Davis. Living close by the Canal, he had taken walks and bicycle rides on it. With his introduction to the Friends, he now had a way to help it, and he has been ever since.

Through the years, Bill has participated in scores of activities—clean-ups, walks, programs, fundraisers, and, most importantly, as a member of the Friends' Board of Directors. Bill's expertise as a retired accountant for US Steel made him the natural choice for Board Treasurer, a position that he held with dedication and precision for seven years.

All good Boards are deeply concerned with the fulfillment of their mission, so in the mid-1990's, the Friends' Board began to plan for the establishment of an Endowment Fund. Its purpose would be to provide a sustainable and reliable source of additional income to support the activities of the Friends in perpetuity. Bill Farkas was one of its strongest proponents. The Endowment Fund (now the Legacy Fund) was officially established in 1998 with a \$25,000 bequest from Anna Billa of Point Pleasant. Bill created a very successful investment strategy and has been implementing it and, more recently, providing guidance since the Fund's inception. In addition, Bill has generously contributed on a regular basis, particularly when challenge opportunities were offered.

This recounting of Bill's longtime commitment leads us to his most recent momentous contribution. Bill has long envisioned contributing his house in Washington Crossing, PA to the Friends. This May he decided that the time had come to act. He donated his rancher, which is situated on

a lovely canal-side lot, to the Friends. The attractive home was put on the market and quickly sold to a couple with two young children. The proceeds from the sale are now invested within the guidelines of the Legacy Fund—just as Bill had envisioned.

"I heartily support the efforts of the Friends because in today's hectic world, I appreciate the Canal's serenity and beauty and find it a wonderful place to reconnect with our past." – William W. Farkas

Bill Farkas' legacy of commitment to the Delaware Canal and the Friends is a shining inspiration. We are so very grateful! His greatest hope is that his contributions will motivate others to demonstrate their commitment to an ever better future for the Canal and its surroundings.

To learn more about the Friends of the Delaware Canal Legacy Fund, visit www.fodc.org or call 215-862-2021.

Is Barn Red Your Color?

Sprucing up restored camelback bridges is next on the Canal Action Team's to-do list.

First up this fall will the Thompson-Neely Camelback Bridge in the northern section of Washington Crossing Historic Park.

If you can lend a hand with applying barn red stain to the Canal's iconic structures, please contact us at 215 862 2021 or friends@fodc.org

215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org.

We'll put you on the CAT contact list, and let you know via e-mail when the workdays will occur.



CAT at work on Woody's Camelback Bridge

They're Here :(

Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) has been identified in *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven) trees adjacent to the parking lot at Virginia Forrest Recreation Area north of Centre Bridge. If you are visiting the area, be on the watch for the adults and their egg masses. Feel free to go ahead and squish the adults and destroy their egg masses. When you leave, please make sure that none are hitchhiking home with you.



An adult Spotted Lanternfly is approximately 1" long and ½" wide. It isn't good at flying, but is an excellent jumper.

The Spotted Lanternfly was first encountered in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014, and now is here. It's a distinctive-looking leaf hopper native to China, India and Vietnam. In this country, the invasive insect has the potential to greatly impact the viticulture (grape), tree fruit, plant nursery, and timber industries. Autumn is the time to be particularly watchful for Spotted Lanternfly. As has been found at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, the adults prefer Tree of Heaven, another introduced invasive species, as their primary food source, mating, and egglaying location. The Spotted Lanternfly isn't very fussy, though. It will lay 30 to 50 eggs covered in a brown, mud-like substance on any smooth surface—trees, stones, cars, yard furniture, or any item stored outside.

Egg laying begins in late



Spotted Lanternfly egg masses.

September and continues through late November and early December. The egg masses pose the greatest risk for accidental transport of Spotted Lanternfly to new areas.

The Spotted Lanternfly is a "Bad Bug." Please be on the lookout and do what you must to stop its spread, especially if you like apples, peaches, grapes/wine, and hardwoods.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture encourages the public to report sightings by e-mailing **badbug@pa.gov** or calling **1-888-422-3359**.

PHOTOS Left: The Entomological Society of America / Right: news.psu.edu

"The Good Life" at the Locktender's House

N ew Hope Borough Council has contributed a piece of the Canal's more recent history to the Friends. We are so grateful to have received the metal silhouette sculpture, entitled "The Good Life," that once graced the entry gate to The Towpath House, located by the Canal on Mechanic Street in New Hope.

Thank you, New Hope Borough, for allowing us to display "The Good Life" in the Locktender's House where the public can enjoy it in the context of Lock 11 on the Delaware Canal.

The sculpture has very special significance because it was the inspiration for the Friends of the Delaware Canal logo.

Many of the initial gatherings of the Friends in the early 1980's were dinner meetings held at the Towpath House. Since nearly every canal organization uses a silhouette as its logo, the Friends' leaders thought that it would be a good idea to do likewise. How the decision was made to use "The Good Life" as a model remains a mystery, but it was a good one since the design is light-hearted, draws attention, and gets many compliments. As the plans to redevelop The Towpath House property have progressed, the sculpture was removed from the gate of the restaurant and sold to an individual. That individual generously donated it to New Hope Borough, and subsequently New Hope Borough Council voted to allow it to be displayed at the Locktender's House. The six-footlong cutout, mounted in a wooden stand, sits by the lock model in the parlor.

"The Good Life" is an appealing, ever so appropriate addition to the offerings at the Locktender's House, and we are very pleased that our visitors will be able to enjoy it thanks to the generosity of New Hope Borough.





145 South Main Street New Hope, PA 18938

Welcome, New Friends!

Brian Eisenschmied Hilary Greer Daniel Ullman

amazonsmile



CHEER! If you use Amazon for holiday shopping this year, please remember

SPREAD THE

that the Friends of the Delaware Canal is eligible to receive contributions from the AmazonSmile Foundation. Simply visit smile.amazon.com and choose Friends of the Delaware Canal as your charitable organization. For eligible purchases, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price to the Friends at no extra cost to you! You'll find the exact same low prices, choices, and convenience as at Amazon.com. It's a quick and easy way to spread holiday cheer, not only to the people on your gift list, but to the Canal, too.

HOT MUSIC / COOL LOCATION

A CONCERT AND DINNER AT THE HOME OF LINDA KENYON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 6 P.M. 3015 NORTH SUGAN ROAD, NEW HOPE, PA 18938



On a chilly November evening, come for a new brand of hot music and a scrumptious hot dinner.

As you push open Linda's big wood door, you'll find friends waiting with spirits and hors d'oeuvres and a fire glowing in the fireplace. Mix and mingle, then it will be time to find seats as the band tunes up. The Blue Wave Ramblers (*photo, left*) will perform two sets of toe-tapping music with one of Linda's famous soups served during the break. An autumnal dinner, perfectly prepared by Linda, will be ready when the music ends.

The Blue Wave Ramblers is an eclectic and somewhat unlikely band of musical brothers that skillfully combines the unique talents of members Billy Dominick on fiddle, Graham Ford on mandolin and guitar, Dave Cohen on guitar, and Dave Haneman on bass. This group of players delivers high-energy acoustic music that's

not quite bluegrass, not quite rock-n-roll, not quite New Wave—it's "bluewave." Their hometown is "on the Delaware somewhere between PA and NJ," and they've had the name "Blue Wave" for a long time. Locally, they play at the World Café, the Barnes Foundation, Caffe Galleria, Puck, and the Ship Inn. Warm up with the Ramblers, dinner, and good company! Donation: \$100 per person for the concert and dinner.

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