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 usable 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.

The Time Has Come

After being in place for 15 years, the red argillite stone surface of the Canal towpath is showing its age. The argillite is deteriorating to dust leaving behind an earthen surface punctuated with holes, ruts, and humps. On a sunny day, walking and bicycling require watchfulness. On a rainy day, be prepared for lots of mud and deep puddles. After the floods of 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2011, the red argillite surface was replaced with “stabilized turf” in the sections of towpath that were damaged by the floodwaters.

The red argillite was allowed to remain in the non-flood prone areas. Now that the argillite is failing, DCNR must step up to the problem and develop and implement a plan to bring the towpath back to a safe and visitor-friendly condition.

One Pump On, One Pump Off, One Pump to Come

On January 23 water began flowing into the Delaware Canal via a diversion from the Point Pleasant Pumping Station. The lively stream flowing down the berm bank from the big barn was a welcome sight made possible by an agreement between the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Forest Park Water Authority, owner-operator of the Point Pleasant Pump. The agreement was brokered by State Senator Chuck McIlhinney at the suggestion of Delaware Canal 21. The diversion can supply water to the Canal during the periods when the giant pump in the Delaware River is operating. The Delaware River Basin Commission has approved the agreement for a six-month test period with a possible extension of an additional six months.

The Point Pleasant Pump last supplied water to the Canal during the summer of 2000. At that time the Tohickon Aqueduct reconstruction project was running a year behind schedule and recent repair work done in Lumberville desperately needed some stabilizing.

Continued on following page >>
ONE PUMP ON, ONE PUMP OFF, ONE PUMP TO COME cont’d

From the Point Pleasant Pumping Station to the Delaware Canal water. Paul Bogen, a Friends’ member, negotiated a deal with the water authorities operating the pump at that time to supply water to the Canal. The water authorities’ “Water Wizard” mascot turned on the system on May 9. The diversion did supply water to the Canal, but not in sufficient volume to make a significant difference. The white PVC pipes from that attempt can still be seen on the Pumping Station property.

The centrifugal pump that conveys water from the River into the Canal at Centre Bridge has been out of service since the end of January. High river levels and cold temperatures have prevented the Park maintenance staff from getting down to and into the river water to determine the cause of the problem. It’s most likely that a supply pipe was dislodged while the River was filled with ice chunks and that the repair shouldn’t be too difficult. The water level in the Centre Bridge to Lock 11-New Hope section has not dropped too low because of the snow melt, rain, and runoff. In fact, the entire Canal has benefited from these sources of water.

The Friends and DCNR will be working out the final details of installing a centrifugal pump in the River at the northern section of Washington Crossing Historic Park. The distance between the River and the Canal at that location is fairly short and a power supply is available. The pump that will be utilized is one purchased by the Friends for use by the Park. Its purpose will be to supply water to the southern end of the Canal when the Delaware River drops below the level of the New Hope inlet, which often happens in late summer and early fall.

The quest for a fully watered Canal goes on.

Delaware Canal Bound

An annual field trip is a part of nearly every state canal society’s schedule of events. This year the Canal Society of New York State and the Pennsylvania Canal Society are collaborating on a spring field trip to the Delaware Canal. The trip will extend from Friday afternoon, April 27 to Sunday afternoon, April 29. The main feature will be a guided bus tour from the south end of New Hope to the Forks of the Delaware in Easton on Saturday, April 28.

Stops will be made along the way, and lunch will be served at the Homestead Store in Upper Black Eddy. After the tour, the group will have dinner at the Wyndham Philadelphia-Bucks County Hotel, and Susan Taylor, Executive Director of the Friends of the Delaware Canal, will present a program “What You Didn’t See on the Bus.”

Friends’ members are invited to join the two canal societies for this exploration.
Sharing the Towpath

Spring brings sunny days, comfortable temperatures, and great numbers of Delaware Canal State Park visitors—bicyclists, hikers, runners, walkers, birders, equestrians, scenery lovers, etc. The Canal towpath, with its many quirks, is required to accommodate everyone, making it so much more important for visitors to be aware of and courteous to each other. Here are two tips for sharing the towpath trail:

**Bicyclists:** Please signal your approach verbally or by ringing a bicycle bell. It’s easy to startle others when you’re coming up quickly and quietly. Slowing down would be nice, too.

**Walkers:** Please stay to the right on the towpath, so that others can pass by safely.

**The Delaware Canal towpath is a trail for all.**

Park Manager’s Report

The snow and ice are melting, and spring will be here soon. I am looking forward to warmer temperatures and the return of our seasonal staff to the Park. Trout season opens on March 31, and with it comes the return of eager fishermen looking forward to the first cast of the season.

We are still anticipating the beginning of several projects along the Canal this year. They are the:
- Kleinhaus Aqueduct replacement in Williams Township
- Phillips’ Mill bridge replacement in Solebury Township
- Construction of a passageway through the Conrail embankment in Falls Township
- Trail bypass along Tyburn Road, also in Falls Township

Also underway this year is a large capital project to repair, replace, and/or restore ten bridges and two sub-canal culverts within the Park. This project will be completed in three phases over the course of about three to five years. The first phase of this project will include Canal Lane in Upper Black Eddy, Smithtown Bridges 3 & 4, and a sub-canal culvert in Raubsville just north of the Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area. Right now, we have an engineering consulting firm working on the design and planning for this project. We anticipate having the three bridges and one sub-canal culvert in Phase One of this project ready for bid in November of 2018. Phase Two will include Canal Road North in Raubsville, Canal Road South in Raubsville, Berm Lane in Upper Black Eddy, and Island Road in Kintnersville. Phase Three will include the Tebola Beans Bridge in Washington Crossing, the Buckstone/David Library Bridge in Upper Makefield, the Rabbit Run sub-canal culvert just north of New Hope, and the Mechanic Street Bridge in New Hope. This large capital project will make a huge difference and will help in addressing the numerous infrastructure needs along the Canal.

Enjoy the Canal!

Josh Swartley

WHAT’S ON THE CAT TO-DO LIST?

- Repairing the roofs on lock doghouses
- Painting camelback bridges
- Installing new interpretive sign panels
- Building another Potty Barn
- Plus whatever comes along

Do you want to work on these substantial projects and enjoy working with your fellow Friends? Be a part of the Canal Action Team (CAT).

Who: Anyone who wants to and can be physically active.

When: CAT projects can be undertaken both on weekdays and weekends. Usually they take no longer than 3-4 hours.

Where: Work sites can be located anywhere from Easton to Bristol. They are determined by the urgency of the job and the location and number of available volunteers.

The Plan: If you want to be part of CAT, please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org and give us your contact info and your preferred work locations (north, central, south). When a work project is developed, an e-mail notice containing the job details is sent to all the prospective volunteers about two weeks prior. Those who can help on a particular project just respond to the e-mail and show up on the appointed day.

CAT is expert at getting things done well while still having a good time.

Be a CAT member and you can be in the doghouse, too.
There is clear evidence that many people do their parts to keep the Canal cleaner throughout the year. Please keep up the good work. Individual clean-ups are always welcome—anytime, anywhere.

**SPRING PEEPER WALK**

**DATE**: ????

**TIME**: EARLY EVENING

*Meet at the Black Rock Road Picnic Area, at the intersection of Black Rock Road and the Canal, Yardley, PA 19067*

There are unmistakable signs that spring has sprung along the Canal...the Bucks Beautiful daffodils popping up along the towpath, the return of the warblers, nesting waterfowl, and the unique and boisterous sound of spring peepers.

Last year we had our first evening walk to hear the spring peeper chorus. It was an adventure because one never can be sure where the peepers are and whether they are in the vocalizing mood. We walked; we perked up our ears; and we were rewarded. It was fun and the sound magical, so we’re going to try another pop-up walk this spring.

Spring peepers are tiny amphibians that are about 1 inch long. Well camouflaged and rarely seen, they are tan or brown in color with dark lines that form an ‘X’ on their backs. They are nocturnal creatures hiding from their many predators during the day and emerging at night to feed on ants, flies and spiders. Spring is mating time when the amorous males make a lot of noise to attract females. The Spring peeper chorus can go on each evening for a week or more.

Since peeper activity isn’t exactly predictable, we’ll set the date and time for the Spring Peeper Walk when they give us the signal. The roundtrip walk could be as long as 2.8 miles, depending upon where the peepers are hanging out. The details will be posted on the Friends of the Delaware Canal Facebook page and www fodc.org. A Constant Contract message will also be sent. To make sure that you receive the news, “like” the Friends on Facebook or send us your e-mail address, which will be added to our Constant Contact list. Come hear Spring Peepers for yourself and take in the mysteries of the Canal at night.

---

**THE “LAST LOOK” WALK**

**DATE**: SUNDAY APRIL 15, 1 P.M.

*Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, 3211 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938 (1.3 miles north of Centre Bridge)*

In recent years there has been no shortage of bridge replacement projects along the Centre Bridge/New Hope stretch of the Canal, and another is set to begin this spring. The Phillips’ Mill Bridge will be replaced in 2018 with construction of the project access road scheduled to start in late April or May.

The turnaround point for our “Last Look” Walk will be the Phillips’ Mill Bridge, so that we can view the structure that soon will be gone. The existing bridge isn’t particularly historic, but it is the last of the 1960’s era reconstructions. The local historic district that surrounds the bridge is very significant, and the consultant, who developed the new camelback-type design in concert with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources engineers, has been mindful of consequences to the district resources.

Three completed Canal bridge projects will be on view during our 5.7-mile roundtrip walk between the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area and the Phillips’ Mill Bridge. The impressive Redfield Bridge, north of Centre Bridge, is considered to be the replacement that best captures the design of the original camelback bridges.
The bulky Upper Limeport Bridge reconstruction, south of Centre Bridge, is much less successful, reflecting neither the look of the camelbacks nor the 1960’s style. Lessons were learned, and the Lower Limeport Bridge, which was replaced in 2017, illustrates the best aspects of the Redfield Bridge.

Bridges won’t be the only sights to see on the “Last Look” Walk. Stories, especially about the famous Pennsylvania Impressionist artists Edward Redfield and William Lathrop who lived in the area, abound. The lore of Hendrick Island is fascinating, and the Delaware River vistas along this stretch are particularly impressive, as are the homes.

Join us for an early spring walk through a lovely section of the Canal and learn about the structures, people and places that capture the waterway’s character—past and present.

**IN SEARCH OF BALD EAGLES AND MORE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2 P.M.**

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.)

On this 5-mile roundtrip walk, we have high hopes of spotting majestic birds. Bald eagles and another type of endangered species already have been spotted out on the River island and up on the cliffs, and the tree foliage shouldn’t be too far advanced to obscure the view.

Our favorite nature photographer and birder Carole Mebus will accompany us on the walk and share her experiences of photo-documenting bald eagles at this location. She has captured images of eagles in flight, perched on their favorite sycamore tree, taking dips in the River, and, best of all, nesting. The photos of eaglets peeping from the nest and juveniles showing off their adolescent attitude have been Facebook favorites.

If there are eagles and other birds to see, it is likely that they will be at a distance, so please bring along your binoculars. If you don’t have a pair, the State Park kindly has provided us some to lend for the outing.

Birds won’t be the only attraction on the walk. Our trip will begin at the Durham lock and aqueduct where there are so many stories to share from iron-making to Durham boats to caves occupied by Native Americans and bats. We will follow the towpath south to the Gallow’s Run Aqueduct. There the dramatic Nockamixon Cliffs come into full view. Rising straight up 300 feet, their waterfalls and wildflowers make them especially beautiful in the spring. Lock 20, where we will envision the mill and covered bridge that once stood on the site, will be our turnaround point. On our return trek, we will take in the northbound sights. *See the eagles fly with us!*
encompass both the scenic River Dike trail and the Delaware Canal towpath. Morrisville is the only town along the Delaware River in Bucks County that has a dike protecting it from flooding. The dike serves its intended purpose well and also provides a popular pedestrian pathway with impressive views of the Delaware River and the Trenton skyline.

On top of the dike, you will learn why the Falls of the Delaware is such an important location and will hear stories of Morrisville’s past beginning with its 1624 settlement as a Dutch West India Company trading post.

Descending from the dike, walkers will head to Bridge Street and see the statue of Robert Morris, for whom the town is named. Morris, America’s founding capitalist and financier of its Revolution, lived in Summerseat, the colonial era mansion on the hill, now restored and open to the public.

When the towpath is reached, the walkers will see how progress has changed the Delaware Canal and hear about life on the waterway while heading back to the Actors’ NET Theatre.

Bring your bike and let State Park Educator Katie Martens 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. It's important to know how many hot dogs to buy.

DO THE LOOP – A NATIONAL TRAILS DAY BIKE RIDE AND PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 10 A.M.
Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, 3211 River Road, 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.

SPECIAL NOTE:
The weather has been really quirky. If you are in doubt about whether or not a Friends’ event will be held, please check the list of Coming Events on the homepage of www.fodc.org. A Go/No Go message will be posted at least 4 hours prior to the start time.
### Delaware Canal Clean-Up Day Work Areas

**Saturday, April 7, 2018**

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 areas highlighted in red. Please contact your local coordinator to volunteer.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Area</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Easton to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park</strong></td>
<td>Pete Rosswaag</td>
<td>610-982-9789, <a href="mailto:rruswog@verizon.net">rruswog@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Williams Twp.: Wy-Hit-Tuk Park to Mueller’s Store</strong></td>
<td>Carole Mebus, Canal Tender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Riegelsville/Upper Black Eddy: Mueller’s Store to Indian Rock Inn</strong></td>
<td>Katie Martens, Park Educator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmartens@pa.gov">kmartens@pa.gov</a>, 610-982-0161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Black Eddy: Indian Rock to Berm Lane</strong></td>
<td>Larry Reinfield and Upper Black Eddy Rapid Response Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tinicum Twp.: Lodi to Uhlerstown</strong></td>
<td>Happy &amp; Sam Shipley, Canal Tender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tinicum Twp.: Uhlerstown to Lock 17</strong></td>
<td>Appalachian Mountain Club, Del Val Chapter and the Housewives of Rolling Hills, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tinicum Twp.: Lock 17 to Bridge 3</strong></td>
<td>Sheree Cote and Tom Lurz, Canal Tenders</td>
<td>215-297-0528, <a href="mailto:kingsisl@comcast.net">kingsisl@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Point Pleasant: Bridge 3 to Bridge 2</strong></td>
<td>Peter Shaw, Canal Tender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Point Pleasant: Bridge 2 to Mountainside Inn</strong></td>
<td>Hank Goldberg, Canal Tender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Point Pleasant: Mountainside Inn to Lock 12</strong></td>
<td>Sally and Bill Getchell, former Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solebury Twp.: Lock 12 to Virginia Forrest Recreation Area</strong></td>
<td>Monica Hemmers &amp; Steve Heimann, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solebury Twp.: Virginia Forrest to Centre Bridge</strong></td>
<td>Daniel Schwager, Canal Tender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solebury Twp.: Centre Bridge to Phillips’ Mill</strong></td>
<td>Marge Copenhaver and Aodan and Linda Peacock, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solebury Twp.: Phillips’ Mill to Rabbit Run</strong></td>
<td>Vicky &amp; David Child, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Hope: Rabbit Run to Lock 9</strong></td>
<td>Pam Can &amp; New Hope Garden Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Hope: Lock 9 to Bowman’s Hill</strong></td>
<td>Ray and Sara Altiere, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solebury Twp.: Bowman’s Hill to Stoney Run Aqueduct</strong></td>
<td>Central Bucks Bicycle Club, Nora and Randy Schenk, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Makefield Twp.: Stoney Run Aqueduct to Mt. Eyre Road</strong></td>
<td>Gordon Heisler &amp; Traditions Volunteers, Canal Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Makefield Twp./Yardley: Mt. Eyre Road to Afton Avenue</strong></td>
<td>Eileen Kileen &amp; Yardley Friends Meeting</td>
<td>609-947-4259, <a href="mailto:eileenk29@yahoo.com">eileenk29@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yardley/Lower Makefield Twp.: Afton Ave. to Black Rock Road</strong></td>
<td>Ann and Keith Webb, Canal Tenders</td>
<td>215-295-4063, <a href="mailto:wweebss@hotmail.com">wweebss@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Makefield Twp./Morrisville: Black Rock Road to Trenton Avenue</strong></td>
<td>Hal Long &amp; Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club, Canal Tenders</td>
<td>215-493-4962, <a href="mailto:hlong2306@gmail.com">hlong2306@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morrisville: Trenton Avenue to Bridge Street</strong></td>
<td>Mayor Dave Rivella, Coordinator</td>
<td>215-295-5030, <a href="mailto:mayordaverivella@aol.com">mayordaverivella@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morrisville: Bridge Street to the Railroad Obstruction</strong></td>
<td>Lynn Vogel and Josh Gradwohl, Canal Tenders</td>
<td>215-595-6114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Falls Twp.: Railroad Obstruction to Tyburn Road</strong></td>
<td>Jerry Taylor</td>
<td>215-493-6625, <a href="mailto:jerry.taylor35@verizon.net">jerry.taylor35@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Falls Twp.: Tyburn Road to Falls Twp. Park</strong></td>
<td>Susan Taylor</td>
<td>215-493-6625, <a href="mailto:susanhtaylor@verizon.net">susanhtaylor@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Falls Twp.: Falls Twp. Park to Mill Creek Road</strong></td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 46 – Renee Thompson, Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Falls Twp./Tullytown: Mill Creek Rd. to Levittown Shopping Center</strong></td>
<td>Jeff Connell, Canal Tender</td>
<td>732-581-9464, <a href="mailto:jeffconnell@comcast.net">jeffconnell@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bristol Twp.: Levittown Shopping Center (former Sonic) to Green Lane</strong></td>
<td>Ed Armstrong &amp; GOAL (Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edarmstrong@verizon.net">edarmstrong@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bristol Borough: Green Lane to Lagoon Park</strong></td>
<td>Brett Webber, Coordinator</td>
<td>215-840-2034, <a href="mailto:bw@bwadesign.com">bw@bwadesign.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bristol Borough: Lagoon Park to Riverfront Park</strong></td>
<td>Jose Acevedo, Canal Tender</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cm317@comcast.net">cm317@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome, New Friends!
Anna Maria Caldara
Thomas Fryer
Michael Solomon

Opportunities to the North and South

Dedicated Canal Tenders are taking care of 45 miles of the Delaware Canal. 13.9 miles are still in need of adoption. These miles lie on the northern and southern ends. Please consider volunteering to close these last gaps.

- **Easton**—Forks of the Delaware to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park: 2.3 miles
- **Riegelsville/Upper Black Eddy**—Mueller’s Store to Indian Rock Inn: 5.5 miles
- **Falls Township**—Conrail Obstruction to Wheatsheaf Road: 2.5 miles
- **Bristol Township/Bristol Borough**—Levittown Center to Bristol Lagoon Park: 2.8 miles
- **Bristol Borough**—Beaver Street to Riverfront Park: 0.8 mile

The sections can be divided into smaller stretches. We have a very willing volunteer for the Bristol Township area, but she wants to work with at least one other person.

Three Canal Tenders have “retired.” We heartily thank **Tom and Carol Grube**, who tended from the Forks of the Delaware to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park, and **Daniel Duffin**, who tended from Mueller’s Store to Indian Rock Inn, for all their years of hard work.

**Marge Copenhaver** retired from her section from Lock 17 to Bridge 3 in Smithtown, but has decided to get right back into tending by adopting the Centre Bridge to Phillips’ Mill section. **Linda and Aodan Peacock** have volunteered to partner with her. New Friends’ member **Thomas Fryer** has adopted the Lock 17 to Bridge 3 section.

We’re so grateful to our Canal Tenders—new, current, and retired—for helping to improve the towpath and waterway. If you would like to be part of the program, please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org

The Canal needs you!

In the Merry Month of May

You will be receiving your Friends of the Delaware membership renewal request for the year 2018.

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 **Renew Your Membership** page.

Thank You so much!