

Friends of the Delaware Canal

WINTER 2018

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

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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.

The Canal Gets Signs with Help from Our Friends

anal Vews

The Friends of the Delaware Canal are pleased to report that four interpretive sign projects will move forward this year. Two involve replacement of sign panels that are the worse for wear after 20+ years. The other two will create new and long-awaited signs that will allow visitors to better understand what took place at special sites.



More interpretive signs are on their way—all the better for visitors to read.

The Friends, Bristol Borough Council, the Grundy Foundation, Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau, and the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation have collaborated to replace the nine interpretive signs that tell the story of the Delaware Canal as it passed through Historic Bristol Borough from the Lagoon to Riverfront Park. Not only will the panels be replaced, but the content will be revised to include new information and photographs.

Eighteen wayside signs that tell the basic story of the Delaware Canal will be replaced thanks to the generosity of thirteen guests who enthusiastically contributed to their cost during the auction at October's Faces and Places benefit.

The lost town of Uhlersville and the powerhouse at Groundhog Lock in Raubsville will have their stories shared on a new three-panel kiosk sign thanks to the initiative of several local residents and a generous contribution from the Williams Township Board of Supervisors.

A wayside sign about the fascinating history of Smithtown in Tinicum Township will be created through a contribution in memory of dedicated, long-time member Tom Copenhaver.

Exciting and challenging days lie ahead as text is written, illustrations are found, and the signs are designed—all in the quest to share the Delaware Canal's rich history in the best, most understandable way.

We are so grateful to all our partners for their support of these efforts.

THE FLOWABLE FILL SOLUTION

by Tony Giacobbe, Regional Engineer, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Park Region #4 and Bilal Baqai, Civil Engineer, PA DCNR, Park Region #4

Sinkholes have been an issue in the more recent history of the Delaware Canal and an especially incessant and serious problem in 2017. Sinkholes are openings that develop in the canal prism and tend to be most prevalent in areas where the Canal is adjacent to high rock walls and their associated shallow bedrock.

The fractures in the upper strata of the bedrock serve as erosion channels or

"pipelines" for the materials, such as soil and gravel, which lie under the Canal's clay liner. The channels were revealed by the use of ground penetration radar (GPR) during DCNR's latest study to understand why sinkholes form.

Previously, DCNR's best practices included over-excavating the sinkhole, placing some bentomat (a geosynthetic clay liner), then finally packing clay

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

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THE FLOWABLE FILL SOLUTION cont'd



The area where a sinkhole had been repaired with "flowable fill" is covered with clay to restore the Canal's ability to hold water.

above the liner to canal-bed elevation. This practice did not seem effective since there were locations where this repair had been done multiple times.

To minimize costs of repairing the same areas, alternatives were considered for repairing sinkholes. "Flowable fill" was chosen as an inexpensive and effective material for the task. Flowable fill consists of Portland cement, fine aggregate, fly ash, water, and may contain other admixtures as needed (admixtures are materials that are added to the basic mix to change or improve the quality of the product). Like concrete, flowable fill cures over time, but its curing process is less restrictive. The use of flowable fill has become much more common by PennDOT for structural backfilling, pipe and bedding backfilling, and utility trench back filling, among many other uses.

The unique aspect about flowable fill is that it can flow into interstitial spaces without the need of vibrators, and once it settles and cures, it leaves a level surface. Along the Delaware Canal, it has become a much-needed solution to preventing leaks through the fractured bedrock under the Canal.

Once a sinkhole or cavity is identified, it is excavated, if needed, to identify the extent of the cavity. Flowable fill is then poured into the hole to ensure that all voids are plugged. After placement of the flowable fill, the area is lined with clay and compacted. With the restoration of the clay liner, the repair process is complete.

See it before it's gone.

Beginning in 1794, the River House accommodated rafters and boaters who tied up before making their way through the formidable Wells Falls on the Delaware River in New Hope. When the Delaware Canal opened in 1831, the River House also welcomed canal boatmen on their way south to Bristol. In the 20th century, the River House came to be Odette's, a popular cabaret and restaurant.

Preparations are well underway to move the original portion of the fieldstone River House inland to the American Legion triangle on South Main Street. The move will make way for the new Riverhouse at Odette's, a luxury boutique hotel catering to weddings, meetings, and special events.

Soon the River House that has stood between the Delaware River and the Delaware Canal for nearly two hundred years will no longer be at the site that gives it meaning. It's time to take a last look. Many purposes will be served by the new Riverhouse at Odette's complex. Sadly, historic preservation is not one of them.



NEWS: THE FRIENDS NOW HAVE 11,000 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS!

Park Manager's Report

Happy New Year! It has been a cold, snowy winter so far with much of the Canal frozen and snow on the towpath. We still have several weeks of winter to come with, I'm willing to bet, several more snow storms. It may be a good time to dust off the cross-country skis and get them ready for a trip out on the Canal.

We are anticipating the beginning of several projects along the Canal this year. They are: the Kleinhans Aqueduct replacement in Williams Township, the Phillips' Mill bridge replacement in Solebury Township, the construction of a tunnel through the Conrail embankment near Fairless Hills, and the trail bypass along Tyburn Road.

In addition, development in New Hope at Odette's is beginning to move forward. The Gateway to New Hope group is in the process of installing a temporary access road at the northern end of Odette's to provide trail access to Park visitors. They are also preparing and shoring up the oldest portion of the Odette's building so that it can be moved to its new location at the intersection of New Street and Riverwoods Drive. The move is anticipated to be within the next few months.

DCNR is in the process of developing a preliminary plan for its facilities in New Hope including the relocated Odette's building. The Department is looking at the feasibility of building a classroom space, public restrooms, and a new concession building in New Hope along with repurposing the Odette's building into a space where educational and interpretive activities can take place.

We would also like to make the towpath more accessible by installing an ADA accessible ramp from South Main Street up to the Canal.

Enjoy the Canal! Josh Swartley

WANT TO BE A CANAL TENDER?



The 'Housewives of Rolling Hills' and their helpers following their tending session out on the Canal from the Uhlerstown Covered Bridge to Lock 17 in Tinicum Township.

Canal Tenders are at work along the entire length of the Canal, and their yearround help is very much appreciated by visitors and the State Park staff. Tenders pick up litter and debris, remove any small obstructions from the towpath, make notifications concerning creeping invasive species, watch for and report significant changes or anything unusual about their section of the Canal, and submit written reports twice each year.

Two of our long-time

Tenders have retired because they've moved inland. Marge Copenhaver and Robert McEwan cared for their sections for many years and we thank them for all of their efforts and concern.

Although nearly all of the Canal is covered from Easton to Bristol, there are five sections that need adoption.

- Bristol Riverfront Park to the Lagoon (0.97 miles)
- Beaver Street to Home Depot/Levittown Shopping Center (2.91 miles)
- Wheatsheaf Road to the Conrail Obstruction (2.52 miles)
- Phillips' Mill to Centre Bridge (1.54 miles)
- Smithtown Bridge 3 to Treasure Island Lock 17 (1.01 miles)

Please let us know if you can help fill these gaps. The sections can be divided into shorter lengths to suit Canal Tender's needs.

Being a Canal Tender is an interesting and exciting volunteer opportunity. The Canal is ever-changing and Tenders get to experience it all. Please call 215-862-2021 or email friends@fodc.org for more information.

Opportunity knocks

Want to help the Friends help the Canal? Here are some of the ways that you can:

- Work with the Canal Action Team (CAT) on projects that require some heft.
- Become a Canal Tender. Several sections of the Canal need adoption.
- Be part of a Friends' committee and make things happen. The standing committees are: Advocacy; Restoration and Maintenance; Development; Education and Recreation; Finance; Fundraising; and Membership.

Check out the **Help** page at www.fodc.org to learn more and feel free to call Susan at 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org with questions or suggestions.

Thank you so much!

2018 is off to a splendid start thanks to all of you who so generously responded to the Friends' Year-End Appeal.

We asked you to help us accomplish more in the new year, and you did just that. Your contributions replenish the Canal Improvement Fund.

Calendar of Events



CANAL AND RIVER WALK

A Lambertville – New Hope Winter Festival Event

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2 P.M.

Meet by the caboose behind the Lambertville Station Restaurant 11 Bridge Street, Lambertville, NJ 08530

Join the Friends and the Delaware & Raritan Canal Watch for a guided history and nature tour along both our neighboring towpaths. This popular event is just one of the many activities to be held during the Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. www.winterfestival.net

The first stop on this two-mile walk will be the D&R Feeder Canal lift lock and outlet lock to learn how canal boats once crossed the Delaware River via a cable ferry. We'll then follow the path of the mule teams of old as we hike through Lambertville and cross the river bridge into New Hope.

Heading west, the Delaware Canal towpath will soon be found. We'll trek southward through town to Lock 11 and the Locktender's House. Hot chocolate with marshmallows and other goodies will be waiting inside. For those who want to walk and see a bit more, we'll venture a short distance south to the New Hope inlet to take in the many historic sites and the glorious vistas of the River and wing dam.

The Winter Festival Walk is free and will be held weather permitting.

FULL BLUE MOON TOWPATH TREK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 5 – 7 P.M.

Meet in the parking area by the Canal in the upper section of Washington Crossing Historic Park across Route 32 from the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. The entrance drive is at the intersection of

Aquetong Road and Route 32/River Road, two miles south of New Hope.

This winter Mother Nature has graced our nights with several glorious full moons. We're hoping to catch another, and it will be a "blue moon," no less. Join us as we experience the magic of twilight along the Canal and the spectacle of the full moon rising above the Delaware River in New Hope.



See the full moon and its reflection on the Towpath Trek.

State Park Educator Katie Martens and Susan Taylor will lead our moderatelypaced four-mile roundtrip hike. On the way north along the towpath from Bowman's Hill to Lock 11 in New Hope, we'll listen for owls and keep an eye open for other nocturnal critters.

At Well's Falls, we'll take in the grandeur of the Delaware River and watch the full "blue moon" emerge above the hills of New Jersey. As we continue northward, we'll see Locks 8, 9, 10 and the Canal outlet to the River. Waiting at Lock 11 and the Locktender's House will be hot cider, snacks, and a place to warm up before heading back to our starting point.

There is no charge for the Full Blue Moon Towpath Trek. It will be held weather permitting. It will be cancelled in the event of rain, total cloud cover, or dangerous driving conditions. Check for a Go/No Go message that will be posted by noon on January 31 on www.fodc.org.

Registration is required for this event. Please call the Friends at 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org to do so.

Please dress warmly in non-cotton layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a flashlight or headlamp, just in case.



THE WINTER FOOTWEAR WALK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 1 -3 P.M.

Meet in the parking lot across from the former Mountainside Inn in Point Pleasant. The Google Map address is 4728 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938.

The perfect snowy day walk—an event for which the Friends have long hoped. We've been foiled by no snow, too much snow, too much ice, and unplowed parking lots, but we're not giving up, especially this year.

The Delaware Canal State Park has acquired more winter footgear that can be lent at no charge to the adventurous. Ten pairs of snowshoes in assorted adult sizes and three pairs in kids' size are ready to meet the snow-covered towpath, and the Park now has fifteen pairs of micro spikes in adult sizes for icy conditions.

No matter what kind of footgear is required, including plain old boots, the Friends will be walking (or trodding) along the scenic Delaware Canal towpath between the villages of Point Pleasant and Lumberville on February 18. Park Educator Katie Martens and Susan Taylor will guide the 3-mile roundtrip hike. We might catch glimpses of bald eagles and waterfowl along the way, and there is no shortage of history about the two villages, much less the intriguing Devil's Half Acre that lies midway. Our outing will end with hot chocolate and homemade cookies.

If you would like to borrow snowshoes or micro-spikes from the Park, please reserve your footgear in advance by

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Calendar of Events

calling 215-862-2021 or e-mailing friends@fodc.org. The equipment will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. You are more than welcome to participate wearing your own footgear.

The Winter Footgear Walk is free and will be held conditions permitting. Check on the homepage of www.fodc. org for a Go/No Go message that will be posted by 8 a.m. on February 18.



Will and Susan at the 25th anniversary of the Friends' Canal Walk, which Will originated in 1987.

THE DELAWARE CANAL ACCORDING TO WILL AND SUSAN

TUESDAY, MARCH 13 7:30 P.M.

The Feinstone Conference Center at the David Library of the American Revolution 1201 River Road Washington Crossing, PA 18977

Will Rivinus first walked the entire length of the Delaware Canal in 1963. Susan Taylor did her first end-to-end in 1991. Between the two, they have accumulated 82 years worth of knowledge and tales about the waterway and its surroundings.

Traditionally one would have to participate in the Friends' annual Canal Walk to hear Will and Susan's full array of stories, but our March program offers you the opportunity both to hear them and see great photos of the Canal all without walking any farther than from the David Library parking lot to your seat in the auditorium.

The photos that you will be viewing are a compilation from the Friends' travelling Delaware Canal Show, Will's Delaware Valley University adult school program, and Susan's presentation to the Canal Society of New York State. It's a good assortment, including illustrations of how the Canal has recovered from the floods. As for the narrative, Will and Susan have so much in their heads, they've had to promise to keep it short—unless the story is particularly tantalizing.

Take this special opportunity to explore the Canal with Will and Susan.



LUNCH AND WALK SATURDAY, MARCH 24 10 A.M.

Meet at Wy-Hit-Tuk Park, a Northampton County park. The entrance is located at 575 South Delaware Drive (Route 611), Easton, PA 18042.

It's hard to beat the combination of walking along the Canal towpath as it hugs the Delaware River and having a great lunch midway. Join the Friends as we launch the spring season with a 5.75-mile, roundtrip hike.

Starting at Wy-Hit-Tuk Park, we'll glimpse its scenic "Monet" bridge and then walk northward to the Forks of the Delaware, where the Lehigh River feeds the Delaware Canal and flows into the Delaware River. We'll view the Lehigh River dam and find out why a fish ladder was built at this location. The Canal bypass, guard lock, wicket shanty, and weigh lock will all be on view, as well as the stone arch opening to the Morris Canal in New Jersey.

From the Forks, we will cross the bridge into the City of Easton and head into town for a gourmet lunch at Sette Luna.

Menu:

Caesar Salad (with or without anchovies).

A generous selection of both Sette Luna's classic and uncommon pizze: *Franco* with sausage, roasted red peppers, and red onion; *Genova* with soppressata and pepperoni; *Margherita* with San Marzano tomato, fresh mozzarella and basil; *Santorini Blanca* with feta, artichokes, and pinenuts; *Torino Blanca* with potato, pesto, and Parmigiano Reggiano. Unlimited coffee, tea, soda, or water.

Unlimited coffee, tea, soda, or water. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased.

After lunch, we'll head back to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park partaking in some homemade oatmeal and chocolate chip cookies along the way—just to keep up our energy.

Donation: \$25 per person. Reservations are required. Please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org no later than March 17. If the weather is uncooperative, we won't be walking, but we will meet at Sette Luna at noon for lunch and good conversation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR CANAL CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 7



All 58.9 miles of the Canal are ready and waiting for the Friends' annual spring cleaning. We're hoping for good weather this year.

Holding with tradition, the Canal will be divided into approximately 25 Work Areas, and volunteer coordinators will handle the logistics for each of the Areas. On-land and by-boat clean-ups are encouraged.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer either as a worker or as a community coordinator, please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org. If you know of a new group that may be able to participate, please let us know.

The Clean-Up Day Work Areas will be listed in the spring issue of *Canal News*, posted on www.fodc.org, and sent out to our e-mail contact list.

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We thank all those who demonstrated their support with membership contributions in 2017.

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145 South Main Street New Hope, PA 18938

Welcome, New Friends!

Ron Anzivino Curt Biehn Bristol Borough Business Association Barbara Bristow Brian Cassel Kamini Desai-Carroll Robin Federiconi & Daniel Popkin Brian Greene Jack Hartmann Richard Jackson Dorothy Knaus Theresa Lynn & Kenneth Plunkett Mary O'Malley Janet Margolies Nancy Martin-Gash Maureen McFadden James O'Brien Joanne & Alfred Reszka Jane Richter Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Schrader Bruce Schwendy Raymond Skaddan Kathleen Weeks Yoga Love Studio

At the Board Table

During our Annual Meeting on November 14, several actions were taken concerning the Friends' Board of Directors. Retiring, but still active, Board member Peter Sperry was honored and thanked for his many accomplishments. The membership re-elected Jeff Connell, Bob Ketler, Eileen O'Neil, Pete Rosswaag, and Brett Webber to additional two-year terms. Elected to their first terms were Laure Duval and Lawrence Reinfeld. Here's a bit about them.

Laure Duval: Having grown up in Bucks County, the Delaware Canal was always a feature in Laure Duval's life. In the summer, she could walk the towpath and canoe; in winter, with luck, ice skate. She was taught the Canal's history by her parents who were Bucks County natives and dedicated conservationists. Her father was a founding member of what is now the Heritage Conservancy and also the Solebury Historical Society. Laure hopes to carry on this family legacy of preserving beautiful Bucks County by doing what she can to get and keep the Canal in working order for future generations. Professionally, Laure was a psychiatrist and lived in New York City while she went to the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and then began to practice. In 1986, she realized that she was a country girl at heart and moved back to Bucks County. She has resided in Tinicum Township for 30 years while practicing professionally in facilities in Flemington and Clinton, NJ. Laure retired from medical practice in 2016 and is ready to take on some new and not-so-new challenges. The Delaware Canal has much to offer in that line.

Lawrence Reinfeld: Larry and his wife Liz have lived along the Delaware Canal in Bridgeton Township for the past three years and have been Bucks County residents for over 25 years. He can be found nearly every day walking along the towpath in Upper Black Eddy with his dog Zoey. An enthusiastic Friends' volunteer, Larry has participated in annual Clean-Up Days, assisted with the painting of Woody's Bridge, and is part of the Upper Black Eddy Rapid Response Team

(UBERRT), which is comprised of a small group of friends who help to replace missing mile markers along the towpath and clear fallen trees. Larry is active in other community organizations, including the Upper Black Eddy Fire Company, the BNT (Bridgeton-Nockamixon-Tinicum) Groundwater Management Committee, and was recently elected to serve as the Judge of Elections for Bridgeton Township. Larry is a retired attorney with over twenty-five years of experience in estates and trusts, and real estate and tax matters. His early retirement from the practice of law gives him time to enjoy the many recreational opportunities that the Canal has to offer.

Welcome, Laure and Larry!

At its first meeting of the new year, the Board of Directors elected its officers: Brett Webber – President Pam Can – Vice-President Lynn Vogel – Secretary Judith Franlin – Treasurer

The Board looks forward to making progress in 2018 and having some fun, too.