



FALL 2019

Friends
of the
Delaware
Canal

Canal News

The Locktender's House
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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.

From "Let It Flow" to "No Flow"

In our last newsletter, we shared the State Park goal of having water from the Lehigh River flow south in the Canal from Easton to New Hope this summer. In spite of repair and maintenance work, the Lehigh River water did, indeed, make it all the way to Centre Bridge by late September, just three miles short of the Lock 11 goal. (In fact, the Canal looked more beautiful than it has in many a year during the Friends' Canal Walks on September 28 and October 5.) This accomplishment did prove that the Canal can be watered in the northern end.



The view south from the Tinicum Aqueduct on October 5.

The late summer news about the Canal from New Hope south to Bristol Borough hasn't been as good. The water levels in the Canal were fine through spring and mid-summer, but then the Delaware River dropped quickly. The river level dropped below the level of the New Hope inlet and continues to be down. Since the entire southern end of the Canal is supplied with Delaware River water through this inlet, the Canal is water starved. (This occurs when the reading at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gauge at Trenton is "9 feet" or below.)

Now we are faced with having the entire Canal dewatered for an extended period of time because of

construction and repair projects. The Park staff began dewatering the Canal on October 7 because of restrictions related to the habits and habitat of the Eastern Redbelly Turtle, a Pennsylvania threatened species. Find out more about these turtles on page 7.

Loftus Construction has been given "notice to proceed" with the replacement of the Kleinhans (aka Fry's Run) Aqueduct at a cost of \$780,000. The aqueduct, located 6.8 miles south of Easton, failed after a local torrential downpour. Fortunately, it is the shortest aqueduct on the Delaware Canal, and many of the component parts are being pre-fabricated. The contract length is not to exceed 270 day after commencement.



The Park has maintained canal flow by running water through temporary pipes at the failed Kleinhans Aqueduct.

The repair of the bank blowout and the steel trough of the Tinicum Aqueduct was put out to bid and is currently pending the award process. The estimated amount for this repair is between \$1 and \$1.4 million with the contract length not to exceed 270 days.

Another torrential rainfall caused the berm bank north of the aqueduct to collapse, dumping the Canal's water into Tinicum Creek. The temporary solution to maintaining water flow has been to fabricate canal banks with highway Jersey barriers and lining the channel with pool liner. This project will

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OUR BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

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

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Tinicum Civic Association

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NAM Planning & Design, LLC,
Lumberville
Newtown Bicycle Shop
Penn Community Bank, Perkasio
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Acadia Mortgage, LLC, New Britain
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McCaffrey's Markets, Yardley
OMNIA Group Architects – Hatboro
Pete's Bike & Fitness Shoppe,
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The UPS Store, New Hope
Washington Crossing Insurance
Group
Wild Birds Unlimited, Buckingham
Yardley Borough
Yoga Love Studio, Yardley

From “Let It Flow” to “No Flow” *cont'd*

also address the holes in the aqueduct steel trough and the leakage through the stone walls. Unfortunately, the replacement of the steel trough with a real aqueduct structure has been postponed into the future.

The towpath in the vicinity of both the Kleinhans Aqueduct and the Tinicum Aqueduct projects will be closed to the public during the construction period.

In addition to these two major construction projects, the Park staff will take advantage of the dewatered Canal by replacing the drop gate at Locks 22/23 at the Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area in Raubsville, undertaking a variety of repairs, and removing silt bars and trees.

The Canal from New Hope to Bristol Borough will remain in its low water state while several projects are completed. The canal prism will be relined in the vicinity of Airport Road in Bristol Township preventing canal water from infiltrating into adjoining properties. The Friends plan to repair the historic Thompson-Neely Camelback bridge this winter, and the Park will be dredging and removing trees.

With all this news comes the promise by the State Park that water will be restored as soon as it can possibly be.

And through it all, please keep the vision of the Canal at its fully watered best in your head because step by step we're getting there.



The rusting trough of the Tinicum Aqueduct will be repaired.



The leaks in the stone walls of the aqueduct will be plugged.

WELCOME, DEVIN!

Cindy Adams Dunn, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary, announced the appointment of **Devin Buzard** as manager of the Delaware Canal State Park Complex on August 30. Jumping right into the partnering aspects of his new job, Devin introduced himself at the Friends of the Delaware Canal Board meeting on September 3.

Devin's experience managing some of the Commonwealth's more heavily visited parks will serve him well as he takes on the task of dealing with not only the 58.9-mile-long canal, but also the 90-acre Giving Pond, eleven river islands, a stretch of the Nockamixon Cliffs, miles of river shoreline, and the Ralph Stover State Park.

"I'm looking forward to continuing to build, sustain, and develop strong partnerships with those who know and appreciate these two parks, as well as the many community groups that support outdoor recreation and conservation in the area," said Devin about his appointment.

Beginning his career with DCNR's Bureau of State Parks in 2011, Devin worked as field training coordinator with



New Manager Devin Buzard at Lock 19 and Park Headquarters

the Park Operations and Maintenance Division in Harrisburg. In 2013, he was appointed manager of Beltzville State Park in Carbon County, overseeing a 2,972-acre park developed around the Beltzville Dam, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control project.

He was named manager of the Tobyhanna State Park Complex in Monroe and Wayne counties in 2017. Three state parks—Tobyhanna, Gouldsboro, and Big Pocono—comprise that 9,550-acre

complex. Most recently, Devin served as manager of the Gifford Pinchot State Park Complex, which included the Susquehannock and Sam Lewis state parks in York and Lancaster counties.

Before joining the Bureau of State Parks, Devin served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a military police officer, attaining the rank of corporal. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in recreation, park, and tourism management. Devin and his wife are parents to two children, ages 6 and 9.

We wish Devin all the best in his new and challenging endeavor!

The Tale of Two Tandems

Four Canal paddling adventures are sponsored by the Friends each year in partnership with the Delaware Canal State Park educators. In addition, the educators guide many other public paddles in the Giving Pond and on the Delaware River and Canal. During each session, participants may use the Park's twelve single and two tandem kayaks for a nominal fee. It's a great opportunity to find out whether kayaking is a sport for you.

This year, the Park's two tandems were looking particularly sad, and one was taking on water at a rate that led to its retirement. To replenish the Park's fleet, the Friends of the Delaware Canal purchased a 14.5-foot Manatee Deluxe Tandem Kayak from L. L. Bean and donated it to the Park. This new kayak's advantage is that it is a sit-in model that reduces the chances that its paddlers will get really wet. The new kayak has already been put to good use and christened with canal mud.

A second donation of a tandem kayak is happening this fall thanks to the generosity of Board member Judy Franlin and her husband Joe. Their downsizing means that the Park's other sad tandem can be retired, too. Thanks, Judy and Joe!

Come next paddling season, these two tandems will be ready and waiting.



Joan and Joe paddled the new orange and yellow kayak toward Lock 18 in Uhlerstown during our Pedal and Paddle event on September 15.

Calendar of Events



The traditional Annual Meeting treat – Mule Cookies!

ANNUAL MEETING AND COVERED DISH DINNER TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 6 P.M.

Phillips' Mill, 2619 River Road,
New Hope, PA 18938

Come for the food.
Come for the friendly company.
Come to find out what's happening with the Friends and the Delaware Canal State Park.
Come to see historic Phillips' Mill, the heart of art in Bucks County.

Our special guests from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be **Jason Zimmerman**, Assistant Director of the Bureau of State Parks; **Devin Buzard**, the new Manager of Delaware Canal State Park Complex; and **Bethany Hare**, Assistant Manager. They will relate what projects and issues will impact the Canal and Pennsylvania's state parks in the year ahead.

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, Brett Webber, President of the Board of Directors, will talk about the Friends' 2019 accomplishments and 2020 plans. Treasurer Larry Reinfeld will report on the organization's financial condition. The many contributions of several exemplary Friends will be recognized, and the election of Board members will be conducted.

Following the business meeting, we'll hear from our special guests. They welcome your comments and questions.

This year's event will be held at the historic Phillips' Mill. Bought by Aaron Phillips in 1756, the gristmill is now home to the Phillips' Mill Community Association, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Founded by a small group of New Hope artists, the Association continues to host an acclaimed annual juried art show, photography show, a community forum, and entertaining stage shows.

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

It would be helpful if you could let us know that you're attending. (No need to specify your covered dish.) Just call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org. Thanks!



Might we have an official greeter as we hike out the old year?

HIKE OUT THE 20-TEENS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 10 A.M.

Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, 3211 River Road (PA Route 32, New Hope, PA 18938).
(1.3 mile north of Centre Bridge.)

The 2020's are coming, but, before the new decade arrives, hike out the old year with the Friends. A leg-stretching walk along the towpath out in the crisp winter air can be a welcome activity between Christmas and New Year's. Just as appealing might be the thought of lunch along the way.

Join us for an invigorating 4-mile, roundtrip trek between the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area and the village of Lumberville.

The Recreation Area and nearby Hendrick Island are now quiet spots, but, before the 1955 flood, they were abuzz with activity. There was a gas station on River Road, and a substantial home stood between the Canal and the River. Through the years, the Lenape, the artist Edward Redfield, and a nuclear power plant all played parts in the site's story.

As we head north, we'll pass the Delaware Quarries, a thriving business that has a long history. During the canal era, stone from the quarry was loaded onto mule-drawn

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Calendar of Events

boats bound for Philadelphia and New York.

Next along the way will be the scenic Cuttalossa Creek, which in the 18th and 19th centuries was anything but. Mills and other industrial enterprises were situated along the waterway, and at its mouth sat an inn with a very colorful history, including a raid by the infamous Doane outlaws.

Our destination will be the village of Lumberville. Timber defined its past and still plays an important role. Fascinating, accomplished people found and find the village to be an excellent place to live.

Lumberville holds two lunch possibilities. Walkers may choose to have lunch on their own at either the Black Bass Hotel or the Lumberville General Store. The third option is to burn more calories by walking directly back to the Virginia Forrest Recreation area. Whether done before or after having lunch, the walk back is an easy one. (No one has ever gotten lost on the towpath.)

The hike will be held unless it's raining or snowing. If in doubt, check for a go/no go message on the www.fodc.org homepage.



See where canal boats once crossed the Delaware River on our Winter Festival Walk.

CANAL AND RIVER WALK A LAMBERTVILLE-NEW HOPE WINTER FESTIVAL EVENT SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2 P.M.

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

Join the Friends of the Delaware
Canal and the Delaware & Raritan

Canal Watch for a guided history and nature tour along both of our neighboring towpaths. This popular event is just one of the many activities held during the annual Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. For details, visit www.winterfestival.net.

The first stop on this two-mile walk will be the D&R Feeder Canal lift and outlet locks 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 toll collector's house, the canal inlet, and the spectacular vistas of the River and the wingdam.

The Winter Walk will be held weather and conditions permitting. If in doubt, check for a go/no go message on the www.fodc.org homepage.



Hoping for perfect snow this season!

POP-UPS OUR SOLUTION FOR UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER

DATES, TIMES, PLACES TBD

For two years in a row, bad weather conditions have foiled our attempts to have winter activities along the Canal. Too cold, too warm, too muddy, too wintry mixy. But, the lures of ice skating, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and brisk walking are still strong, so we're going to endeavor to have Pop-up events—again.

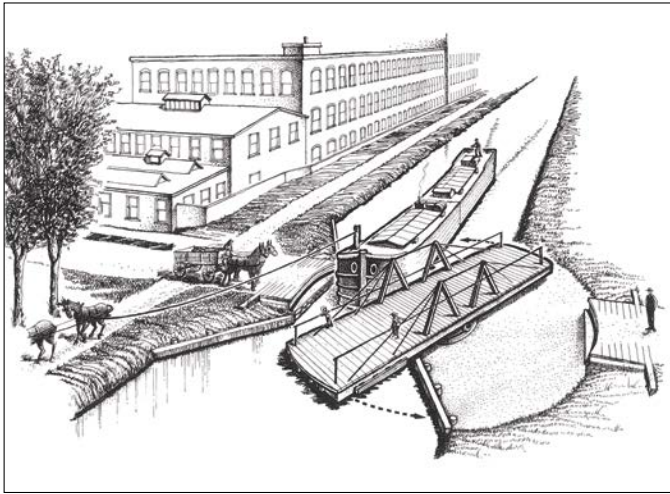
When the forecasters agree that the skies will be sunny, the temperatures above frostbite, and the winds relatively calm OR when we have a perfect snowfall, we will send out a message letting you know what we'll be doing and where/when we'll be doing it along the Canal's length.

We will be waiting for the right opportunities and will notify you of the details in three ways:

- Sending you an **e-mail**
- Adding an Event to our website at **fodc.org**
- Posting on the Friends of the Delaware Canal **Facebook page**

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WINTER FUN ALONG THE CANAL!

At Last We Know



A depiction of the Jefferson Avenue “bump bridge” by Dennis Gerhart.

It was commonly known that there were only two “bump” bridges along the Delaware Canal, and they were located in Bristol Borough by the Grundy Woolen Mill. Built between 1873 and 1876, the swing bridges served as canal crossings for the newly opened Jefferson Avenue and Washington Street.

What wasn't known was what they looked like. Aerial views and photos taken from a distance were the only available documentation. One could make out triangular structural members, but that was about it. The opportunity to solve the bump bridge mystery presented itself with the Bristol Borough interpretive sign project.

A new panel at Jefferson Avenue about the unique bridges seemed in order, but what to put on it? An inquiry to canal

authorities was sent over the internet, and a reply from Ohio promptly arrived in our Inbox. Terry Woods, past president of the Canal Society of Ohio and the American Society, maintains a forum for canallers. The bump bridge question intrigued him, so he did some of his own research and put out the question to others. In came a response from Dave Neuhardt, another Ohio canaller, who knew about “a bunch of them on the Miami & Erie Canal.” He provided a description of the mechanism, an account of how it worked, and, most importantly, a line drawing of a swing/bump bridge.

The Ohio description and the image fit what was known about the Bristol Borough bump bridges, so the information was used to create the drawing and text for the new interpretive sign.

Here is the description shown on the Bristol Borough interpretive sign:

The advantage of a bump bridge was that it swung open while being gently bumped by an oncoming canal boat. The structure was counterbalanced so that it returned to its original position after the boat had passed. No additional power was needed to operate the bridge. They could be used where the land was flat, avoiding the sloping approaches of a typical bridge.

When neighborhood children saw a canal boat coming, they would jump on the bump bridge for a ride. Too many “riders” made a canal boat captain angry because his mule team had to pull harder to make the bridge open, and it was nearly impossible for the bridge to swing closed on its own.

The two bump bridges were replaced by culvert pipes after the Canal closed for business in 1931.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The Friends and our project partners marked the culmination of a two-year-long project to update content and replace twelve interpretive signs that tell the story of the Delaware Canal in Historic Bristol Borough. These signs dot the Canal's route from the terminus at the Delaware River to the Lagoon at Jefferson Avenue:

Where the Canal Met the River • Working with the Tide • In the Basin • Fueling the Economy • Lock 1 – The Canal's First and Last • The Locktender's House at Lock 1 • The Bend before the End • Lock 2 – In the Middle • Lock 3 – At the Heart of Commerce • An Industrial Zone of Its Time • Water and Land Marks • A Different Kind of Canal Bridge

We are so grateful to the Grundy Foundation, the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau, the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, and Bristol Borough Council for helping to renew the Canal's rich history.



Ribbon Cutting Time

The Canal's Threatened Turtle

Eastern Redbelly Turtles (*Pseudemys rubriventris*) were sighted in the southern end of the Canal over 15 years ago. Soon thereafter, they were also noted in the northern end. Their existence has impacted the Canal ever since.

The Redbelly Turtle is a species of special concern in Pennsylvania and has been listed as a threatened species by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Habitat destruction, poor water quality, and competition with aggressive non-native turtle species led to the listing. Another threat to the species occurs when females cross roads to find suitable nesting areas (one more reason to keep your eyes on the road).

To protect the Redbelly Turtle population, special procedures must be followed when disturbance of their habitat is planned. In the case of the Delaware Canal, it is permissible to perform work in the Canal during the turtles' active period from April to October when they are capable of moving away from construction activity. If work is undertaken during the turtles' hibernation period between October 15 and April 15, the Canal must be



A Redbelly Turtle basking in the sun.

PHOTO: Judy Gallagher

de-watered no later than October 15, so that the turtles can find places to hibernate that are out of harm's way.

The Delaware Canal State Park staff began to dewater the Canal on October 7 to comply with the Redbelly Turtle restrictions enforced by the Fish and Boat Commission.

If the Canal's water had been drawn down after October 15, it is possible that cold-blooded turtles

hibernating in the muddy bottom of the Canal would be exposed to freezing temperatures and die a slow and painful death. It is permissible to re-water the Canal during the hibernation period. So if projects are completed before April 15, water can be re-introduced.

The Eastern Redbelly Turtle is one of Pennsylvania's largest native aquatic turtles. Found in the southeastern and southcentral regions of the Commonwealth, they live in slow rivers, reservoirs, ponds, marshes and ditches; and they spend a lot of time basking. They are described as being shy or wary. Thus it's understandable that they aren't ones to show off their red bellies.

Taking Care of the Outside

The Locktender's House at Lock 11 in New Hope is where the Friends do business and invite visitors in to learn about "Life at the Lock" on the Delaware Canal. It's a circa 1830, three-story plus attic, stucco over stone house that has been used in different ways over the years.

In 1991, the Friends' cajoled the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania into buying the house by promising to restore the building and open it to the public. Its location by the then-operating New Hope Mule Barge Ride was ideal.

The Friends raised the funds to restore the building (its interior was very 1950's), and its doors have been open since then. Of course, every old house needs maintenance and repairs, and the Friends, as good caretakers, have undertaken many.

This year it was clear that the time had come to take care of the exterior stucco damage caused by an unprecedented canal leak and paint the exterior walls, porch roof and floor. Masterfully tackling the job have been Jason Butler of Premiere Plaster and Construction and Mark Malone of MCM Painting.

Soon the Locktender's House will be back to showing off its unblemished, historically appropriate façade thanks to your support of our efforts.

Applying elastomeric masonry coating to a three story building requires skill and a bit of fearlessness.

Unfortunately, we didn't get a photo of this year's painters, so this photo, taken nine years ago, will have to do. It does have the benefit of including our Miles of Mules mule, Ben, while he still could stand in the garden.





FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL

145 South Main Street
New Hope, PA 18938

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Welcome, New Friends!

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Rachel Albright | Lesley Larson |
| Hillary Armitage | Cindy & Sean Legg |
| Mary Arndtsen | Marilyn Marquis |
| Laura Baird | Tom Merchant |
| Wayne Baldwin | Matt Murray |
| Francis Collins | Joshua Nay |
| Daphne Daniel | John Nolan |
| Meg Del Prete | Kris Reilly |
| Donna Doan | Anne Sears |
| Elissa Garofalo | Kenneth Standig |
| Doreen Gramling | Jacqueline Strigl |
| Susanne Greczyllo | Cindy Wallace |
| Karen & Michael
Hrabowski | Betsy Werley |
| Kim & Tyler Jones | Marilyn White |

Duly Recognized



Only six camelback bridges that retain their authentic structure remain along the length of the Delaware Canal.

To recognize their important places in the history of the Delaware Canal, small plaques, which display their names, significance, and mileage locations have been affixed to the bridge abutments.



Many thanks to Canal Action Team leader Josh Gradwohl (*photo, left*) for taking on the complicated fastening task!

Keep an eye out for the new signs.

Help Clear the Mile Markers



One of this year's Canal Walkers made sure that this mile marker could be seen

If you come upon one of the 59 granite mile markers along the Canal towpath and find it obscured by grass, weeds, or dirt, please clear it off, so that we all can count the miles. **Thank you!**

Mile Marker 1 is located by the Grundy Mill in Bristol Borough, and Mile Marker 58.9 is at the Forks of the Delaware in Easton.