Thanks to generous year-end contributions from our members, the Friends have been able to contract with T&T Tree Service for the removal of some of the most problematic trees along the Canal.

Ever since Hurricane Sandy, trees have been falling at much too rapid a rate. The Park staff has admirably persevered, but the removal of some of the trees requires special handling and equipment because of their sizes and locations. T&T Tree Service will have to use lift trucks to access out-of-the-way limbs and wield chainsaws while floating in kayaks. A mulberry tree leaning “drastically” over the Canal in New Hope will be removed. A big box elder will be extracted from the water in Morrisville, and a large black locust teetering over the towpath in Lower Makefield will no longer be a threat. Also, T&T will be cutting down a swath of Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven) that is growing on a 400-foot section of canal bank in New Hope, and then they will treat the stumps with herbicide so that there is no regrowth. Tree of Heaven is the

Continued on following page >>

Good Riddance

When it comes to canal problems, many seem like déjà vu. We all know about sinkholes, collapses, overflows..., but now there’s a brand new issue—broken teeth.

The feeder gate at Easton, which allows Lehigh River water to flow into the Delaware Canal, has several broken gear teeth. The lack of teeth makes it difficult to open and close the gate, therefore, the Park staff has been maintaining the gate at a half-open level resulting in a typical “winter maintenance level”.

Continued on following page >>
Good Riddance cont’d

T&T hopes to begin work soon before the ground softens (although the guys in the kayaks are probably wishing for warmer weather.) If all goes well with this project, the Friends may contract for the removal of several leaning trees near Groundhog Lock in Raubsville.

The Friends are pleased to be of help with the Canal’s tree plague. And we thank everyone who clears manageable branches off the towpath to make way for visitors.

A NEW ONE cont’d

The gear component needs to be removed and taken to a machine shop for tooth repair. To remove the component, the feeder gate must be fully opened, something that the Park staff does not want to do while there is still the threat of a winter solid freeze. (If the Canal freezes over with a full head of water in it, there is the very real possibility that the waste gates would freeze shut and heavy rain or snow would cause the Canal to overtop its banks.) As soon as the threat of frozen waste gates disappears, the gear component will be removed, sent to the repair shop, and, we hope, back in time to allow a full Canal in the spring.

In other news, heavy rain displaced the bypass channel liner at the Tinicum Aqueduct. To stop the liner from being undermined by overflowing water, the Park staff is currently diverting water out of the Canal at the waste gate by the Golden Pheasant Inn, just north of the aqueduct. The liner needs to be pulled back into place, but due to its fragility in freezing weather, the pulling needs to wait for warmer temperatures to arrive. The Fry’s Run Aqueduct replacement project in Williams Township and the Tinicum Aqueduct repair project are still on track to be put out to bid this spring. The bidding and acceptance process generally takes approximately 90 days with commencement of the work beginning shortly thereafter.

This winter’s cold, rain, high winds, and flu have put a damper on progress along the Canal, but we’ll get beyond it. Come on, Spring!

Welcome Back, George!

A Familiar Face

George Calaba has been appointed as the new Park Operations Manager for the Delaware Canal State Park Complex, which includes Ralph Stover State Park and associated resources such as the Nockamixon Cliffs and the Delaware River Island Natural Areas.

His name and face are familiar because he served as Assistant Park Manager at Delaware Canal under Rick Dalton and, up until March 1, was the Manager at Washington Crossing Historic Park.

George is a veteran of the US Navy and graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Geography. Following a brief stint as a counselor for at-risk youth, he attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and earned a Master of Science degree in Geography and Regional Planning. Since joining the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2000, he has gained invaluable knowledge and skill while working as a manager at seven state parks.

In his first e-mail to the Friends upon his return, he wrote “Looking forward to working with the Friends and doing good things for the Canal. I really enjoyed my time there under Rick and I’m excited to further the great work done thus far.”

Welcome Back, George!
Win — Win

For more than 20 years, the Friends have had the great pleasure of taking part in two local festivals. Each January, we partner with the Delaware and Raritan Canal Watch to host a Two Canal, One River walking tour during the Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. This year, through the wonders of Facebook sharing, 300 people arrived ready to explore.

In July, the Friends are invited to set up a booth at the Tinicum Arts Festival where we share information about the Canal and sell some t-shirts and hats, too. Over the years, we’ve introduced thousands of people to the Delaware Canal. Both festivals are excellent friend-making opportunities—a definite win.

Each year, after the festivals are over, we are privileged to receive generous contributions from the organizers, Twin Rivertown Projects, Inc. and the Tinicum Civic Association. With the objective of improving the community, the organizing groups share their event proceeds with non-profits working in their communities—a second win.

The Friends have benefited from our festival participation in so many ways. We’re very thankful and want to continue to be part of the fun for many years to come.

The efforts of our dedicated Canal Tenders, who take care of their sections of the waterway and towpath throughout the year, are clearly evident—trash collected, branches and debris cleared, and problems reported promptly to the State Park staff. We are so grateful for their diligence and hard work.

At the beginning of each year, we check in with all the Tenders. This year, four have decided to “retire.” We heartily thank David and Vicky Child, who tended between the Rabbit Run and Phillips’ Mill Bridges in New Hope; José Acevado, whose section was from Beaver Street to the Lagoon in Bristol Borough; and Harry Dozer, who helped care for the section of Canal from Bridge 2 to Bridge 3 in Smithtown, for their years of service.

Much of the Canal has been adopted by Tenders, but there are still some “orphan” stretches. Please consider volunteering to close these last gaps. Individuals, couples, and groups are very welcome.

- Bristol Borough: Riverfront Park to Green Lane
- Bristol Township: Green Lane to the south end of the Levittown Shopping Center
- Solebury Township: Rabbit Run Bridge to Phillips’ Mill Bridge
- Tullytown Borough/Falls Township: Levittown Shopping Center to Wheatsheaf Road

These sections can be divided into smaller stretches.

To learn more about what’s involved in being a Canal Tender, visit fodc.org and click on Help.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org.

The Canal needs you!

THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR

Kids decorate Canal Ducks at the Tinicum Arts Festival.
Nockamixon 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 and other raptors at this location. She has captured images of eagles in flight, perched on sycamore limbs, taking dips in the River, and, best of all, nesting. Her photos of eaglets peeping from the nest and later showing off their adolescent attitude are amazing.

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 has kindly provided us with some to lend.

Birds won’t be the only attraction on the walk. On our way south on the towpath, we will stop at the Durham lock and aqueduct to hear about iron-making, Durham boats, and limestone caves occupied by Native Americans and bats. As we cross the Gallows Run Aqueduct, the Nockamixon Cliffs will come into full view. Rising straight up 300 feet, their waterfalls and spring flowers make them especially beautiful.

Our turnaround point will be Lock 20, where we can envision the mill and covered bridge that once stood on the site. On our return trek, we’ll keep our eyes open for soaring wings and take in the northbound sights.

Come spotting with us and hear some stories, too.

SAIL ON A TALL SHIP
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2 – 4:30 P.M.
Board at the Bristol Wharf, 100-148 Basin Park, Bristol, PA 19007
Sailing, sailing over the Delaware green.

Is sailing aboard a tall ship on your bucket list? Would you like to see how the Delaware River shoreline looks from the water?

The Friends have just the adventure for forty of you. We have chartered
the Schooner *A. J. Meerwald*, New Jersey’s official Tall Ship, for a sail on the Delaware River starting at the new dock in Historic Bristol Borough.

As we travel south, Burlington Island, the scenic waterfront of Burlington, NJ, and the Burlington-Bristol Bridge will come into view. The crew will invite you to help hoist the *Meerwald’s* sails, if you’re up for it.

Coming about, we’ll sail along the Bristol Borough shoreline, which has often been likened to a picturesque New England village. If you thought that the buildings along Radcliffe Street are impressive from the land, wait until you see them from the water.

While we are sailing, the crew will tell us about the history of the *A. J. Meerwald*. She is a restored oyster dredging schooner. Launched in 1928, she was one of hundreds of schooners built along South Jersey’s Delaware Bay before the Great Depression. Her commercial use evolved over the years, ending in the late 1970’s with clam dredging.

Today, the *A. J. Meerwald’s* home port is Bivalve, NJ. After extensive restoration, she now is used by the Bayshore Center on board educational programs in the Delaware Bay and River and along the Atlantic Coast. She was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

Join us for this Tall Ship adventure, and then head uptown to one of the many dining destinations in Historic Bristol Borough. It’s a food mecca these days.

*Donation: $75 per person. Onboard water, soda, and snacks included.*

Please make your reservations early, by contacting the Friends at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org.

**DOING BUSINESS ON THE MORRIS CANAL**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 7:30 P.M.**

*Riegelsville Borough Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room. 615 Easton Road (Route 611), Riegelsville, PA 18077*

To get to the New York markets, a canal boatman had two choices—use the Delaware and Raritan Canal to get to the Raritan River or travel on the Morris Canal to New York Harbor.

As Delaware Canallers, we’re familiar with our nearby sister canal, the D&R, but less so with our connector canal to the north. To enlighten us about the intriguing history and technology of the Morris Canal will be Joe Macasek, President of the Canal Society of New Jersey.

The Morris Canal crossed northern New Jersey connecting New York Harbor with the Delaware River at Phillipsburg, NJ. Completed in 1831, this 102-mile-long canal overcame an elevation change of over 900 feet. To do so, water-driven inclined planes were utilized along the route.

Using photographs and documents from the Canal Society’s archives, Mr. Macasek will tell how the inclined planes operated, how tolls were collected, and the workers’ rates of pay. He will also explain why hinge boats were the vessels of choice on the Delaware Canal.

A uniquely qualified presenter, Joe Macasek is the author of *Guide to the Morris Canal in Morris County*, former President of the Roebling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology, and a member of many of the entities working on the transformation of the waterway’s route into the Morris Canal Greenway.

Come expand your canalling knowledge and bring along some friends.

**FOLLOWING THE ROUTE OF THE MORRIS CANAL**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2 P.M.**

*Meet at the Forks of the Delaware River Recreation Area. 210 South Delaware Avenue (Route 611), Easton, PA 18042*

After learning about the Morris Canal on Tuesday evening, we’re going to follow up with a walk along the waterway’s route. Our leader will be Bob Barth, an enthusiast of New Jersey’s canals and a true advocate.

Our 4.5-mile round-trip trek will begin at the Delaware Canal guard lock. From there, the massive stone arch entryway to the Morris Canal can be spied across the Delaware River in Phillipsburg, NJ.

We’ll then cross two bridges in Easton—the first over the Lehigh River, the second across the Delaware River into Phillipsburg.

Activists are making great headway in developing the Morris Canal Greenway, an initiative to preserve the canal right-of-way, mark its route, and create trails and parks. In Phillipsburg, we will experience the fruits of those efforts.

We’ll follow Main Street’s sidewalk to view the top of the stone arch entryway, then the route of the Belvidere Delaware Railroad will lead us to the sites of Port Delaware and Inclined Plane 11 West. Back on Main Street, we’ll come to Andover Iron Works and the Andover Hotel. Our turning point will be Greens Bridge, even though there is so much to explore on the Morris Canal. Next time.
We’ll be back in time for you to attend a Canal Boat Ride and Dinner on the Lehigh Canal in Easton. Benefitting the D&R Canal Watch, this event includes a mule-drawn boat ride, a three-entrée buffet, and entertainment by Roy Justice. Best of all, the boat will lock through the Abbott Street Lock. To find out more about the ride and purchase tickets, visit canalwatch.org.

**DO THE LOOP**
A National Trails Day Bike Ride and Picnic
**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 10 A.M.**
Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area 3211 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938
(1.3 miles north of Centre Bridge)

Our National Trails Day tradition continues. Once again, we’ll be doing our part to officially enjoy America’s ever-growing network of recreational trails. Join the Friends and the State Park staff for a 9-mile bike hike on the towpath trails of both the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in New Jersey.

Bring your bike and let new State Park Educator Gabie Lent lead you on a guided tour. 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 Bull’s Island, NJ, then cross the pedestrian bridge to Lumberville, PA. After a short side trip north, everyone will head back to the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area.

A picnic lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, drinks, and desserts will be waiting in the Canal and riverside picnic grove created by the Friends.

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

Please let us know if you are coming by contacting the Friends at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org.

**THE TUNNEL TREK**
**SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2 P.M.**
Meet in the parking lot of the Quality Inn 7 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067

We’re going through! The Conrail embankment in Falls Township is a peril no more. A culvert pipe still carries the Canal’s water through the embankment, but towpath users no longer have to detour around it. No resorting to the “hill climb” or rushing by the active railroad tracks.

We’ll test out both the tunnel and the new detour trail at Tyburn Road on this 3.6-mile round-trip walk. Starting near Bridge Street in Morrisville, we will head a bit north and view the last obstruction on the towpath and talk about plans for a solution. Then we’ll head south under Route 1, a place that illustrates in what low regard historic places like the Canal were held in the 1950’s. The stretch of Canal between Route 1 and Tyburn Road has much industrial and commercial activity on either side of it, yet the Canal remains a green oasis with tall trees, ducks, geese, and great blue herons.

When we reach Tyburn Road, we will use the new detour trail built by the DCNR regional construction crew—another great improvement. From there we’ll head back north.

Ten years ago, it seemed unimaginable that the Conrail embankment and Tyburn Road obstructions would be overcome—and now they’re history.

Come walk and celebrate with us.

**SUMMER SOLSTICE CRUISE**
on the Delaware River
**THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 6:30–8:30 P.M.**
Keller’s Landing. 1469 River Road, Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972

“**Oh, the summer night has a smile of light, and she sits on a sapphire throne.”**
— Barry Cornwall.

As the longest day of the year fast approaches, join us for a sunset cruise on the River Otter. This 52-foot-long pontoon boat will take us upriver and back to view a section of the River known for its spectacular sunsets and scenery.

While on board, savories, sweets, and refreshments inspired by the colors of the setting sun and the bounties of summer will be served.

Operated by the Bucks County Riverboat Company, the River Otter is fully-equipped with air conditioning and restrooms.

A donation of $50.00 per person is requested. You’ll want to make your reservations well in advance for this popular event. To do so, please visit “Events” at fodc.org or contact us at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org.

See you down by the riverside!
DELAWARE CANAL CLEAN-UP DAY WORK AREAS
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

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. Help is especially needed in areas highlighted in red. Please contact your local coordinator to volunteer.

Bristol Borough: Lagoon Park to Riverfront Park
Mary Kehoe and Dave McGlynn
jodi.marydave@verizon.net

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

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

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

Falls Twp.: Falls Twp. Park to Mill Creek Road
Boy Scout Troop 46 – Renee Thompson

Falls Twp.: Tyburn Road to Wheatsheaf Road
Susan Taylor
215-493-6625
susanhtaylor@verizon.net

Falls Twp.: Railroad Obstruction to Wheatsheaf Road
Alex Castner, Canal Tender

Morrisville: Bridge Street to the Railroad Obstruction
Lynn Vogel and Josh Gradwohl, Canal Tenders
215-595-6114
lvogel419@comcast.net
A volunteer with a boat/kayak would be welcome.

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

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

Yardley/Lower Makefield Twp.: Afton Avenue to Black Rock Road
Ann and Keith Webb, Canal Tenders:
215-295-4063
wwebbss@hotmail.com

Yardley: Woodside Road to Afton Avenue
Eileen Kileen & Yardley Friends Meeting
609-947-4259
eileenk29@gmail.com

Yardley: Mt. Eyre Road to Woodside Road
Bob Keterl, Canal Tender
267-566-2759
rkktlr80@msn.com

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

Solebury Twp.: Phillips’ Mill to Rabbit Run
Katie and Jim Wolf, Canal Tenders
wolfdoc70@comcast.net

Solebury Twp.: Centre Bridge to Phillips’ Mill
Marge Copenhaver and Aodan and Linda Peacock, Canal Tenders

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

Solebury Twp.: Lock 12 to Virginia Forrest Recreation Area
Sheree Cote and Tom Lurz, Canal Tenders

Point Pleasant: Mountainside Inn to Lock 12
Sally and Bill Getchell, Canal Tenders

Point Pleasant: Bridge 2 to Mountainside Inn
Hank Goldberg, Canal Tender

Tinicum Twp.: Lock 17 to Bridge 3
Thomas Fryer, Canal Tender

Tinicum Twp.: Uhlerstown to Lock 17 Appalachian Mountain Club, Del Val Chapter and the Housewives of Rolling Hills, Canal Tenders

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

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

Upper Black Eddy: Indian Rock to Berm Lane
Larry Reinfield and Upper Black Eddy Rapid Response Team

Riegelsville/Upper Black Eddy: Mueller’s Store to Indian Rock Inn
Mark Greaney, Canal Tender

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

Easton to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park
Pete Rosswaag
610-982-9789
ruswog@verizon.net
Welcome, New Friends!
Mark Greaney
Lynne Kemler
Michael Pietsch

SPRING RETURNS
As the warblers return to the Canal in May, you will be receiving your Friends of the Delaware Canal membership renewal request for the year 2019. Please support all that we do to improve the Canal in our ongoing quest to make it a better and more beautiful place for people (and Yellow Warblers) to return.

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

Thank You!

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS FOR COMEDY ON THE CANAL
SEE PAGE 4 INSIDE

JUST IN CASE
We are hoping against hope that when spring arrives, the weather will get less quirky, but if it doesn’t, here’s what to do. 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 fodc.org. A Go/No Go message will be posted at least 4 hours prior to the starting time.

Rest in Peace, Dennis Gerhart
Masterful illustrator of all things canal.