



WINTER 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.*

## Endings at the Beginning of 2019

Three projects that have been on the books or in progress throughout 2018 will be complete before the first daffodils start to bloom this spring.

There's light at the end of the tunnel south of Morrisville. A pedestrian passageway has been drilled through the Conrail embankment. The liner is in place, concrete wing walls on the north and south sides have been poured, and finishing touches are underway.

The completion of the passageway, preparations for which started in the fall of 2017, is a relief. The Conrail embankment was one the remaining major trail



*The Conrail embankment passageway with its wing wall formwork still in place.*

obstructions along the Canal and the most dangerous. To continue along the towpath, visitors either had to climb up, then down steep, slippery slopes or take a detour path that lay much too close to the active Amtrak and Septa tracks. The new passageway is a very welcome improvement, especially for those who use the towpath to commute to work in good weather.



*The new Phillips' Mill Bridge waiting to be red.*

Cars are already crossing the new bridge over the Canal at Phillips' Mill. The design of the replacement incorporated faux camelback trusses and can accommodate the needs of the residences that are situated between the Canal and the Delaware River. Bi-State Construction is removing the extensive temporary access road and will paint the trusses traditional barn red when the temperatures allow. All should be done three months ahead of schedule. It will be great to have this section of the towpath back in use, especially since it is part of the PA/NJ Canal Loop system.

Taking advantage of the waterless state of the Canal through this area, the State Park maintenance staff is clearing vegetation that has grown up in the Canal prism and partially blocks water flow. It is anticipated that the Centre Bridge pump will be turned back on in the spring when all the bridge work is done and the clearing accomplished. The electricity to operate the Centre Bridge pump is paid by the community group New Hope for Our Canal working under the non-profit umbrella of the Friends.

The notion of improving the detour

*Continued on following page >>*

## OUR BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

Learn more about these Friends—click on their links at [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org).

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Tinicum Civic Association

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BBB Enterprises LLC, Yardley  
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Bucks County Cottage on the Delaware, Yardley  
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Eiseman Roofing & Exterior Construction, New Britain  
First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown  
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Golden Pheasant Inn, Erwinna  
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Liberty Bell Wanderers, Philadelphia  
Lions Cross Country Booster Club, New Hope  
Logan Inn, New Hope  
McCaffrey's Markets, Yardley  
OMNIA Group Architects – Hatboro  
Pete's Bike & Fitness Shoppe, Flemington, NJ  
The UPS Store, New Hope  
Washington Crossing Insurance Group  
Wild Birds Unlimited, Buckingham  
Yardley Borough  
Yoga Love Studio, Yardley

## ENDINGS AT THE BEGINNING *cont'd*

route around the Tyburn Road towpath trail obstruction in Falls Township has been simmering ever since the Friends commissioned a plan back in the 1990's. The proposed route was simple, but the ownership issues were not. An upgrade was not pursued by DCNR, particularly since the old path was, sort of, usable. Then, in 2017, the stars aligned. PennDOT constructed an access for one of its projects that basically matched the route of the proposed towpath detour.

The idea of recycling PennDOT's access into a trail detour took hold, particularly since the Delaware Canal towpath is part of longer trail systems, such as the D&L Trail and the East Coast Greenway. Plans were prepared, and, late this fall, DCNR's regional maintenance crew grubbed, graded, and laid two layers of



The new towpath trail detour circles the Tyburn Road piers, well away from the railroad tracks. The Canal runs through a culvert pipe to the north of the piers.

stone. The new detour is now usable, but the application of the final layer of fine argillite stone will have to wait until the local quarries reopen in the spring. At the same time, fencing will be erected along the railroad property and a crossing will be marked at the intersection of the towpath and the entrance to Crescent U-Pull-It Auto Parts.

An unexpected ending was the departure of Delaware Canal State Park Manager Josh Swartley at the end of December. Josh has been promoted to the position of Assistant Regional Manager and will be responsible for the parks located centrally within Southeast PA Region 4. DCNR has received applications for the Delaware Canal State Park Manager position from managers at other locations within Pennsylvania. Interviews will take place at the end of January and hopes are that a new manager will be in place by mid-

February. In the meantime, Assistant Park Manager Bethany Hare is in charge of the Canal Park. Many thanks to Josh for always endeavoring to improve the Park and make operations run smoothly.

In other news of the continuing sort:

- The final designs for both the Kleinhans Aqueduct replacement and the Tinicum Aqueduct bank and trough repairs have been approved. It is anticipated that the two projects will be put out to bid this spring.
- The initial scoping meetings for the replacement of the Lumberville Aqueduct and the rebuilding of the stone walls at High Falls Creek in Bridgeton Township have taken place.
- The solution of filling sinkholes in the Canal prism with flowable concrete continues to work well. Unfortunately, new sinkholes keep dropping down. In

the last 3-4 months, eight sinkholes have been discovered and filled between Bridges 2 and 3 north of Point Pleasant. This section of the Canal has been notoriously problematic over the years.

- The original River House/

Odette's structure has been moved from its original site between the Canal and the River to a triangle of land at the intersection of South Main Street and Riverwoods Drive in New Hope. The move and exterior rehabilitation of the building are being done by Gateway to New Hope, the developer of the four-story hotel and event venue planned for the original Odette's site. DCNR will then acquire ownership of the building. Plans for its future use are in process.

And, of course, there are many more things going on along the Canal. Thanks to the generosity of those who contributed to the Friends' year-end appeal, we will be able to deal with the removal of, at least, some of the huge trees that have fallen into the Canal and are too much for the Park staff to handle.

And on we go!





The Mile Marker 57 installers – (l. to r.) Pete Rosswaag, Pete Sperry, Roger Keller, and Barbara Sperry.

## Whole Again

Marking the individual miles along the 58.9-mile-long Delaware Canal is a service appreciated by State Park visitors and staff alike. The history of how those miles were marked is long, complicated and reflects the generosity of donors and thousands of hours of work by volunteers.

The latest system of markers—engraved granite stones set flush with the towpath surface—had its birth back in 2002 fathered by Board member Pete Sperry. Friends’ members willingly contributed the cost of the stones and materials, often to honor friends, relatives, and pets. Volunteers under the leadership of Pete Sperry began the laborious job of installing the new stones in 2004, the same year that the first of four major Delaware River floods struck. Naturally, the flood damage drastically slowed down the mile marker project, but the volunteers kept at it, putting in markers in the sections that were unaffected. Ironically, the floods didn’t damage the stones as much as the heavy equipment used to repair the Canal did. Some of the markers were buried and broken. But the volunteers were undaunted.

This fall the last of the replacement mile markers was installed. Mile Marker 57 is in the ground, and all of the Canal’s 58.9 miles have their engraved granite markers back. When you’re out on the towpath, keep your eyes open for them. #1 is by the Grundy Mill in Bristol Borough; #58.9 is at the Forks of the Delaware in Easton.

## NEW CANAL TENDERS!



New Hope-Solebury Environmental Club members get acquainted with their section of the Canal.

Where there are more people, there is more trash, so we’re pleased to announce that two heavily used sections of the Canal now have more Canal Tenders. **David Nay** has volunteered to tend the section from Bridge Street to East Maple Avenue in Morrisville

Borough. **Melissa, Steven, and James Leiby** will be caring for the Canal from East Maple Avenue to Ferry Road also in Morrisville Borough. **The New Hope-Solebury High School Environmental Club** is covering the stretch from Lock 11 in New Hope Borough to Phillips’ Mill in Solebury Township. We thank them for helping to make the Canal a better place to visit and to live, if you’re a critter.

Three sections of the Canal remain without Tenders.

- Bristol Riverfront Park to Beaver Street in Bristol Borough
- Bristol Lagoon Park to Home Depot/Levittown Shopping Center
- Levittown Shopping Center to Wheatsheaf Road

Please let us know if you can fill one of these gaps. Being a Canal Tender is a rewarding experience in many ways. To find out more about what’s involved, visit the HELP page at [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org) or call 215-862-2021.

## Stories on the Way



Assistant Park Manager Beth Hare proves that the new interpretive sign for Groundhog Lock is ready to go.

The new three-panel interpretive sign for the Groundhog Lock aka Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area is ready to be installed this spring.

The panels tell the stories of the lost town of Uhlersville, the electric power house, and the impact of the Canal and the trolley line on the area.

Many thanks to Williams Township for making a donation to cover the cost of the sign and to local historians Beth Weaver and Ned Heindel for sharing their knowledge and resources.

# Calendar of Events



## SUPERMOON TOWPATH TREK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20  
7–9 P.M.

1631 River Road, New Hope, PA  
18938.

*Meet in the parking area by the Canal in the upper section of Washington Crossing Historic Park across River Road 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 the town of New Hope.*



The sight of a full moon rising above the Delaware River in New Hope can be alluring. So alluring that our first supermoon

walk, scheduled for February 19, filled up within 24 hours of its event posting on Facebook and fodc.org—well before *Canal News* went to the printer. Based on that show of popularity, another Supermoon Towpath Trek has been scheduled. On March 20, the third and last supermoon of 2019 will appear. Its full moon magic will be especially strong as its orbit comes within its closest distance to Earth.

Join us as we venture along the towpath at twilight to see the supermoon rise above the hills of New Jersey and the Delaware River. State Park Educator Katie Martens and Susan Taylor will lead a moderately-paced (the colder it is, the faster we go), four-mile roundtrip hike. On the way north from Bowman's Hill to

Lock 11 in New Hope, we'll listen for owls and keep our eyes open for other nocturnal critters.

At Well's Falls, we'll take in the grandeur of the Delaware River and watch the supermoon emerge. 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.

A \$5 contribution is requested for the Supermoon Towpath Trek. It will be held weather permitting. The walk will be cancelled in the event of rain, total cloud cover, or hazardous driving conditions. Check for a Go/No Go message that will be posted by noon on March 20 on [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org).

Registration is required for this event. Call the Friends at 215-862-2021 or e-mail [friends@fodc.org](mailto:friends@fodc.org) to do so.

Please bring a flashlight or headlamp, just in case.



## LUNCH AND WALK

SATURDAY, MARCH 23  
10:30 A.M.

*Meet by the Malcolm Crooks Bridge in Solebury Township's Canal Park 2520 River Road, north of Route 202, New Hope*

Two states, two canal towpaths, a river crossing, and lunch, too. Join the Friends as we launch our spring season with a 5-mile, roundtrip walk. There will be new sights, intriguing history,

and great food as we explore New Hope and Lambertville.

Starting at Canal Park in Solebury Township, we will head south on the Delaware Canal towpath to Bridge Street in the heart of New Hope. Along the way, we'll inspect the waterway clearing that the State Park has been doing and see the Borough's homes and businesses from a different perspective. Crossing the Delaware River on the pedestrian walkway is always a bit of a thrill. When we reach New Jersey's shore in Lambertville, we will head to the Delaware & Raritan Canal towpath and follow the way to Cavallo Park. There we'll head inland to lunch at the Inn of the Hawke, a 19th century Italianate mansion that is now a lively restaurant and hotel.

The Menu includes your choice of:

- Portabella Mushroom Sandwich with roasted bell peppers, roasted red onion, provolone cheese, balsamic vinaigrette
- Fish and Chips
- Whiskey Fennel Sausage with sautéed onions, mashed potatoes, and grilled asparagus
- Grilled Herb Chicken with mixed greens, water chestnuts, sesame sticks, cherry tomatoes, toasted sesame vinaigrette
- Mac & Cheese with gemelli pasta and five cheese cream sauce
- Turkey Sandwich Special

And for dessert, your choice of Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise or Mixed Berry Cobbler

Coffee, tea, and soda. Non-alcoholic beverages may be purchased.

After lunch, we'll head to the River via Union Street and then find our way to back to the Delaware Canal and Canal Park.

Donation: \$30 per person. Reservations are required. Please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail [friends@fodc.org](mailto:friends@fodc.org) no later than March 16.

If the weather is uncooperative, we won't be walking, but we will meet at the Inn of the Hawke at noon for lunch and good conversation.

*Continued on following page >>*



# Calendar of Events



## WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

THE DELAWARE CANAL IN PHOTOS – OLD AND NEW

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 3 P.M.

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

It seems especially appropriate to begin 2019 with a show of photographs of the Canal since the seemingly endless rain in 2018 didn't give us many chances to enjoy it for ourselves.

Susan Taylor, the Executive Director of the Friends, has put together a presentation that features both the Canal in the past and its many virtues today. All of the photos are ones that she has wished everyone could see.

There will be old postcard views, some then and now images to compare and contrast, and, of course, many of photographer Carole Mebus' outstanding scenic vistas and shots of nature at its best.

The Canal from Bristol Borough to the Forks of the Delaware in Easton will be on display. Susan will also include some of her favorites and "people's choices," such as the phenomenal Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron encounter.

Come and enjoy the many aspects of the Delaware Canal. (*Susan promises not to say too many "thousand words."*)



*End of the morning smiles from last year's Point Pleasant Clean-Up Day crew.*

## CANAL CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 6

All 58.9 miles of the Delaware Canal are ready for the Friends' annual spring cleaning. Stretches of the Canal that have been closed for construction projects will be back open, and we've made sure that this year's date does not coincide with the first day of trout fishing season. 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. Both 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 group (civic, school, scout...) that may be able to participate, let us know.

The Clean-Up Day Work Areas will be listed in the spring issue of *Canal News*, included in Events on [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org), posted on the Friends of the Delaware Canal Facebook page, and sent out to our e-mail contact list. Last year more than 300 volunteers helped out on Clean-Up Day. This year, let's try for 350. Many hands make light work!

**THANK YOU  
SO MUCH!**

2019 is off to a rousing start thanks to all of you who so generously responded to the Friends' Year-End Appeal. We asked you to help us to replenish the Canal Improvement Fund, and you did just that. Time to embark on some more projects.



*Wouldn't it be great to have a skating party?*

## OUR WINTER WEATHER ALTERNATIVE POP-UPS

DATES, TIMES, PLACES TBD

Last winter, bad weather foiled nearly all of our attempts to get outdoors on the Delaware Canal. So, this year, we're going to try a different tactic.

Rather than scheduling dates in advance, we are going to do Pop-Up activities.

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

We might be hiking. We might be cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or maybe something completely new.

We will be waiting for the right opportunities and will notify you with the details by sending an e-mail message and posting on [fodc.org](http://fodc.org) and our Friends of the Delaware Canal Facebook page.

Be on the lookout for winter fun along the Canal!

# FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL – 2018 MEMBERS

*We thank all those who demonstrated their support with membership contributions in 2018.*

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## Welcome, New Friends!

Sally and Bruce Blair  
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Hearthside Realtors –Doylestown  
Thora Faigle  
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Steven Shelly  
Robert Sherry  
Susan Ward–Huerkens  
Sandy Weber

### At the Board Table

*During our Annual Meeting on November 13, several actions were taken concerning the Friends' Board of Directors.*

Pam Can and Lynn Vogel were honored for their service as Board members. Both were officers—Pam, Vice-President and Lynn, Secretary. Enthusiastic about fundraising, Pam brainstormed and coordinated many an event and was a Canal Clean-Up Day community organizer. Lynn's professional experience with the NJ DEP was invaluable, and she and her husband Josh Gradwohl are outstanding Canal Tenders and CAT volunteers. The membership re-elected Judy Franlin, Joan Fullerton, and David Schaeffer to additional two-year terms. Elected to their first terms were Nancy Small and Jack Torres. Jack Donohue was elected to return to the Board after a hiatus. *Here's a bit about them.*

**Jack Donohue:** Jack and his wife Claire moved to Bucks County thirteen years ago and were fortunate to find a home on the Canal and the River in Lumberville. They soon started walking and bike riding on the towpath and, later, began cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Early on, Jack bought a used rowboat to paddle on the Canal, but it has mainly sat on its sawhorses awaiting a nice steady flow of water, and it's

still waiting. Over the years, he has walked the entire length of the Canal and would recommend it to everyone. All the diversity of Bucks County's communities and scenery is played out along the waterway. This will be Jack's second stint on the Friends' Board, which he joined about ten years ago, even serving as President for a few years. Lately, he has been looking for a way to again become involved with the activities along the Canal, and he knows that becoming more active with the Friends is the best way to do that.

**Nancy Small:** Nancy, and her husband, Roger Keller, and their black lab, Samantha live between the Delaware Canal and the Delaware River in Upper Black Eddy. Nancy has been a resident of Bridgeton Township for three years, yet has enjoyed the benefits of the Canal and its towpath for over a decade. Having lived in Vermont for 20 years, Nancy has a good appreciation for the value of outdoor recreation, preservation of natural spaces, and advocating for policies and programs that allow important historic places to be preserved. This "last towpath canal in America capable of being fully-watered and restored" is a prize that she hopes to assist in building and preserving as well. In retirement, Nancy serves on several boards, is an Auditor and the Majority Inspector for Bridgeton Township, a Master Gardener, and a regular yoga practitioner. She hopes to put her decades of professional experience in

marketing and publishing to use to benefit the Friends through engaging members in fulfilling activities and bringing the benefits of the Canal to an ever wider audience.

**Jack Torres:** Jack's earliest memories of the Canal are of family day trips to New Hope to take rides on the mule barge. After moving to Bucks County, he learned that the Canal was, indeed, more than just an attraction in New Hope. Jack resides in Erwinna, just above the Canal, and enjoys walking and biking on the towpath in what he considers to be one of the most scenic areas along the waterway's entire length. He became involved with the Friends through Canal Clean-Up Days. Since then, he has served on the Fundraising Committee, as well as the Advocacy, Restoration and Maintenance Committee, and is also a business member of the Friends. Jack is a Real Estate Agent, licensed in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and enjoys telling his clients about the Canal, the Friends, and all of the many activities that make this area a special place to live.

At its first meeting of the new year the Board of Directors elected its officers.

Brett Webber – President  
Laure Duval – Vice-President  
Jack Torres – Secretary  
Larry Reinfeld – Treasurer

The Board welcomes your questions, input and help!