

WINTER 2020

Friends
of the
Delaware
Canal

Canal News

Moving Right Along

Thank you so much for your support!

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

Phone 215-862-2021

Email friends@fodc.org

Internet www.fodc.org

Board of Directors

Brett Webber, President Laure Duval, Vice President Jack Torres, Secretary Lawrence Reinfeld, Treasurer

> Jeff Connell Jack Donohue Judith Franlin Joan Fullerton Peter Rosswaag David Schaeffer Nancy Small

Executive Director Susan Taylor

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 Friends' Annual Appeal letter asked for your help in funding the repair of the historic Thompson-Neely Camelback Bridge, and help you did. Contributions flew in, many from supporters who had never before given to the annual appeal. The \$5,000 matching challenge was met in a flash. To date, just over half of the \$78,000 cost of the bridge project has been raised.

Based on this enthusiastic response and the advantages of undertaking the bridge repair this winter, the Friends' Board of Directors voted to move forward with the work at its January meeting. The generosity of all those who contributed is very much appreciated.

Randall Myer, our experienced camelback bridge restoration expert from Lancaster County, has been given notice to proceed. By early February, the work site should be prepared and the wood on its way. Let's hope the weather cooperates.



Randy Myer is ready to get to work on the Thompson-Neely Camelback Bridge.

The project requires the placement of scaffolding in the canal prism, so that the bridge can be jacked up to allow the removal and replacement of deteriorated components. It's a process that requires much more expertise, care, and patience than simply replacing the structure. Preserving history deserves the effort.

It is anticipated that the bridge project will be well enough underway to allow a full head of water to flow through the area in mid-March, in time for the Canal to be stocked with trout.

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Since the Thompson-Neely Camelback Bridge connects two portions of the northern section of Washington Crossing Historic Park, the repair project will be on full view. Randy Myer, who does most of the work himself, is a wonder to watch, but please stay out of his way and respect the work site boundaries.

Later this year, after the new bridge members have had a chance to age, we will be asking for volunteers to apply traditional barn red stain. Get your brushes ready.

Three important steps have been taken to achieve the goal of supplying vital water to the southern end of the Canal during dry summer months.

The Friends have been working on the installation of a system that can be used to pump water out of the Delaware River and convey it into the Canal at the times when the river drops below the level of the New Hope inlet and the Canal is water-starved. The basic components are a large centrifugal pump, which the Friends purchased years ago, and piping to carry the pumped water to the Canal.

The basic components were the easy part of the project. Finding the right spot to

Continued on following page >>

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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1740 House, Lumberville BBB Enterprises, Inc., Yardley Brett Webber Architects, P.C., Erwinna Eiseman Roofing & Exterior Construction, New Britain Ellenoff, Underwood & Norman, Doylestown Hollyhedge Estate, New Hope George E. Michael & Co., New Hope NAM Planning & Design, LLC, Lumberville Newtown Bicycle Shop Penn Community Bank, Perkasie William B. Parry & Son, Ltd., Langhorne

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Moving Right Along cont'd

place the system was a major hurdle. What piece of land was available where the distance between the River and the Canal wasn't too great and the slope too high? What spot in the River is deep enough to operate a pump when the River is low? The sweet spot turned out to be at the northern end of Washington Crossing Historic Park North, which the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources now operates. All the site issues were satisfied, two state parks were working with each other, and the electrical service could be established within a pumping station that was no longer being operated, but still functional. Permissions, approvals, plans took their due time.

The steps completed within the last several months are:

- The purchase and installation of the electrical equipment needed to operate the pump. This \$11,000 project was completed by Stanley Campbell Electricians and paid by the Friends.
- The purchase and installation of the pipe that will convey the pumped water to the Canal. This work was performed by Sanders Power Equipment and funded by DCNR.
- The purchase and installation of the underground wire and fittings to power the pump. The trenching was accomplished by the State Park maintenance staff, and the \$6000 electrical materials and installation cost was paid by the Friends.

To come are the construction of a path down to the River, so that the centrifugal pump can be placed and maintained, and then the installation of the pump

and making the component parts operate. This will be done in the spring when conditions are more conducive to working in the water.

As required by DCNR, the Friends of the Delaware Canal will be obligated to pay for the electricity used to power the pump. Analysis of Delaware River level records has led to the projection that the new pump will have to be operated about two months of the year at a cost of approximately \$2500 per month.

We are looking forward to having the pump system become operational in the coming months, but are also hoping that just the right amount of rain falls over the seasons, so that use of the pump isn't needed.

When it does become necessary to turn the pump on, we hope that you'll agree that having water in the Canal is good for visitors, residents, critters, and the canal structure itself and will help out with the electrical cost of getting water in there.



Where the pump pipe meets the Canal along the towpath at the most northern end of Washington Crossing Historic

To find out what's happening with the Kleinhans and Tinicum Aqueduct projects and other undertakings, check out the Park Manager's Report by Devin Buzard on the next page. 2020 should be the year of completed projects and what could be better?



Fusing together the pieces of pipe that will carry Delaware River water into the Canal.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT

By Devin Buzard

s the new year begins, I am pleased to be able to provide my first official Park Manager's Report. A majority of my time spent so far has been dedicated to touring the Canal, and I have found that each new day over the past four months brings a new feature to discover with no end in sight. One of the most indispensable tools I have found during self-guided tours and during my daily work is a document titled The Delaware Canal Landmark and Mileage Chart, which is authored by Peter Sperry and published by the Friends of Delaware Canal. It could be argued that I would be lost without this document. It is just one example of the many great things that the Friends offer in support of the Canal, and I am grateful to have that support.

Here is an update on the multitude of construction and preventative maintenance projects that are in various states of progress:

- Kleinhan's Aqueduct (Fry's Run), awarded to Loftus Construction, is about 20% complete with the existing structure and pedestrian bridge being currently removed.
- Tinicum Aqueduct, awarded to Clearwater Construction, is still under survey and layout with the anticipated construction beginning within the next few

Both large projects are scheduled to be completed this summer.

The Department of General Services (DGS) Twelve Bridge project is moving forward with Phase 1 design nearing completion. This phase includes replacement plans for Smithtown Bridge 4, Canal Lane Bridge in Upper Black Eddy, Smithtown Bridge 3, and the Raubsville subcanal culvert. Upon finalization of the design documents, this phase can be scheduled for bidding.

A preventative maintenance project for Rodges Run sub canal culvert was awarded to Workforce Construction in mid-November. The work will begin post winter season with a deadline of May 31 to complete the project.

The replacement of the drop gate at Groundhog Lock (Lock 22/23) was sent out for solicitation on January 8 with a closing date of January 29. The goal is to have this drop gate replaced as soon as possible because the water cannot be restored north of this lock until the replacement is installed.

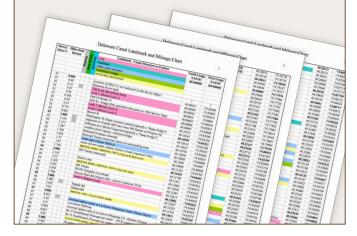
Residents and visitors to the northern section of the Canal may have noticed a reduction in mowing towards the Fall of 2019. This was due to the loss of the Park's boom mower. This mower is the only piece of equipment capable of handling the vegetative growth on the road side of the Canal and anything lower than two to three feet on the towpath side. I am now happy to report that we are anticipating the delivery of a new boom mower within the next month, which means the Spring mowing schedules should return to normal.

I am looking forward to the coming months and hopeful for the timely return of water to the Canal as these important projects are completed.

TAKE NOTE

The latest update to the Delaware Canal Landmark and Mileage Chart, Edition 6, was added to the Friends' website on January 17. You can find it by clicking on "The Canal" and then "Maps." It's an invaluable tool, and Peter Sperry deserves much credit for keeping it current. Here's the URL:

fodc.org/wp-content/uploads/DelCanLandmark-6th-191101.pdf



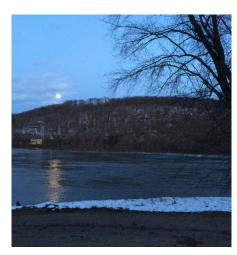
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

In years past, the Winter issue of Canal News contained a list of members who contributed to the Friends. That list will not appear this year in order to ensure the privacy of our supporters.

The response to our Year-End Appeal to fund the Thompson-Neely Camelback Bridge repairs was unprecedented. Your generous contributions help us to make great progress and are so very much appreciated. Onward and upward!



Calendar of Events



"SNOW MOON" TOWPATH TREK SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 5 TO 8 P.M.

Meet at the parking area by the Canal in the northern section of Washington Crossing Historic Park, 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA. The entrance drive is at the intersection of Aquetong Road and Route 32/River Road, two miles south of the town of New Hope.

Join us as we venture along the towpath at twilight to see the full "Snow Moon" rise above the hills of New Jersey and the Delaware River. State Park Educator Katie Martens and Susan Taylor will lead a moderatelypaced (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 Wells Falls, we'll take in the grandeur of the Delaware River and watch the full moon 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 "Snow Moon" Towpath Trek, which may be paid on the day of the event. It will be held weather permitting. It will be cancelled in the event of rain, total cloud cover, or hazardous conditions. Check for a Go/No Go message that will be posted by noon

on February 8 on www.fodc.org. Pre-registration is required: Call the Friends at 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org to reserve your spot. Attendance is limited to 30 people. Please dress warmly in non-cotton layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a flashlight or headlamp, just in case.

Why is the February full moon called the "Snow Moon?"

In ancient times, Native Americans and people across Europe used the moon to track the seasons. In a lunar calendar, names were often given to each month's full moon. February's "Snow Moon" is so named because typically the most heavy snows of winter fall that month.

The Zuni tribe in the Southwest called the February full moon the "No Snow in the Trails Moon," and the Cherokee referred to it as the "Bone Moon" because of the scarcity



The Great Blue Heron that was very interested in

CANAL TIMES More Delaware Canal Photos -Old and New TUESDAY, MARCH 10 7:30 P.M.

Riegelsville Borough Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room 615 Easton Road (Route 611) Riegelsville, PA 18977

It's become a tradition to start off a new season with a program featuring Canal photos. What better way to illustrate and remind ourselves of the waterway's many virtues.

This year Susan Taylor, Executive Director of the Friends, will present an eclectic mix of images that take in the Canal's length from Easton to Bristol.

- Exceptional nature and landscape photos taken by our members Carole Mebus and Judy Greger.
- Pictures from the Canal's past; some recently discovered.
- Records of what has been happening in and along the Canal during the past year.

For those of you who don't do Facebook, this is your opportunity to see the birds, bees, flowers and trees so well captured by Carole and Judy.

To compensate for the closing of our good neighbor, the David Library of the American Revolution and its Feinstone Conference Center, where the Friends often held programs; "Canal Times" will be presented twice. First in Riegelsville and then again on April 16 in Bristol Borough. See the following page.

Come see the photos and hear the stories with the emphasis on the photos, Susan promises.



Will it be warm enough on March 28 for the turtles in the Washington Crossing lagoon to be out sunning themselves? Photo: Judy Greger

LUNCH AND WALK SATURDAY, MARCH 28 10:30 A.M.

Meet in the large parking lot located north of the Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center, 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA. The parking lot, which is on the west side of River Road, is

Continued on following page >>

Calendar of Events

accessed by the entrance drive with the big American flag.

This year's Lunch and Walk will be a cross river adventure involving two Washington Crossings and two canals.

We'll begin our tour with a short walk up to the Delaware Canal towpath to get a good view of the adjacent lagoon. What critters will be out and about?

Then we'll head east through the village that was once Taylorsville, but now is known as Washington Crossing. By the landmark McKonkey's Tavern and Mahon Taylor House, we'll venture onto the Delaware River bridge that connects Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania with Washington Crossing, New Jersey.

In New Jersey, we'll hike a bit north on the Delaware and Raritan Canal towpath, our sister canal that nearly always has water and find out why. We will then re-cross the River bridge and head straight to the historic Washington Crossing Inn, our lunch destination.

Our Washington Crossing Inn Menu Choose from a selection of gourmet sandwiches including:

- Char-Grilled Filet Mignon ~ Topped with Sautéed Spinach & Fontina Cheese on Italian Bread
- Grilled Chicken ~ Topped with Roasted Red Peppers, Fresh Mozzarella & Basil on Focaccia
- Grilled Portobello Mushroom ~ Topped with Roasted Zucchini, Peppers, Squash, Onions & Fresh Mozzarella on Focaccia Bread

Lunch also includes a Garden Salad and Bliss Potato Salad along with coffee, tea, or soda.

After lunch, we'll walk back to the parking lot and have some homemade cookies along the way.

Donation: \$30 per person.

Reservations are required no later than March 20th. Please call

215-862-2021, email friends@fodc.org, or reserve online at www.fodc.org.

If it is snowing or raining, we won't be walking, but we will meet at the Washington Crossing Inn at noon for lunch and lively conversation.



A dry canal, handy equipment and willing workers make Clean-Up Day an easier endeavor. Blue skies would be nice, too.

CANAL CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 4 Mark Your Calendars

All 58.9 miles of the Delaware Canal are ready for the Friends' annual spring cleaning. Even though we always opt for water in the Canal, this year's lack of water in stretches can be an advantage for cleaning purposes. All the better to get to the trash that is usually underwater or out of reach. 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, office, scout...) that may be able to participate, let us

The Clean-Up Day Work Areas will be listed in the spring issue of Canal News, included in Events on 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 320 volunteers helped out with Canal Clean-Up efforts. This year, let's try for 350. Many hands make light work—and more fun.



The Molly-Polly-Chunker expedition began at the Tide Lock in Bristol Borough.

CANAL TIMES More Delaware Canal Photos -Old and New THURSDAY, APRIL 16 6 P.M.

The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library 680 Radcliffe Street Bristol, PA 19007

If your schedule didn't allow you to see the "Canal Times" photo presentation in March or Riegelsville was a little too far to drive, here's a second chance. Susan Taylor will again show an eclectic mix of images featuring the Canal's natural beauty, its history, and what happened in 2019.

This program will start earlier in the evening, so you might want to make plans to dine out at one of Bristol Borough's many restaurants before or after the show.

The Community Room at the Grundy Library has a limited capacity, so pre-registration is required. Please call the Library at 215-788-7891 or register on-line at www. grundy.library.org.

Come enjoy the many aspects of the Delaware Canal.

Another Time

These two photographs show the area around Locks 8 and 9 in New Hope in the early 1940's. Taken by Clarence R. Smith, these gems were shared with the Friends by his son, James Smith of Newtown. Thanks to the Smiths, the history of the Delaware Canal continues to be revealed!







There so many things to see in this photo, which was taken looking north from Lock 8. The River House, the predecessor to Chez Odette's, stands beside the Lock. A building of unknown use sits close to the towpath with a line of barns marching north. The closure of the Canal as a commercial operation is evident. The wicket shanty on the berm side of the Canal appears the worse for wear, and vegetation is making a stand in the lock chamber. What appears to be a work boat floats by the wicket shanty. Best of all, people are in the picture, a rarity among Delaware Canal photos, and those people are Mr. Smith's mother and brother

This photo was taken looking south from Lock 10, which was replaced by a culvert pipe in 1967.

In the foreground is a wooden walkway over the overflow. Proceeding along the towpath, the waste gate and then the toll collector's house can be seen.

The hills of New Jersey rise on the left. The drop gate for Lock 9 is up, and the lock's wicket shanty can be spied behind a high bush on the berm side. A large house stands nearby.

It's a Hit

If you want an "Along the Delaware Canal" jigsaw puzzle, please buy it now before we run out. Since December 7, we've sold all 250 puzzles that we ordered. Fortunately, the manufacturer sent us extra, so we still have some to offer to those who didn't get theirs during the holidays.

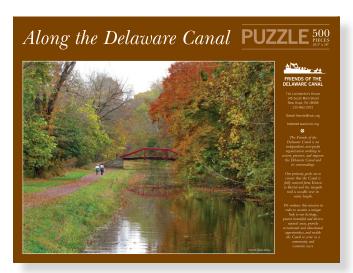
The 500-piece puzzle when pieced together is 23.5 X 18 inches and is made in Kansas City, Missouri. The cost per puzzle is \$20 plus \$1.20 PA sales tax and the proceeds benefit the Friends' improvement efforts.

The puzzles are available at:

The Locktender's House, 145 South Main Street, New Hope The Potager, 17 Bridge Street, Milford, NJ Commonplace Books, 49 South Main Street, Yardley Canal's End Antiques, 327 Mill Street, Bristol Borough

You may also contact us at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org to make arrangements.

To purchase a puzzle on-line, go to fodc.org/join-donate/jigsaw-puzzle They will also be available at Friends' events.



PUTTING TOGETHER A PUZZLE IS A GOOD WAY TO WHILE AWAY THE WINTER AND VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING!

Clean-Up Days **Past**

In the Friends' mail arrived evidence that people have been taking care of the Canal for a long time. Richard A. Rook, Jr. of Wilmington, NC sent his three Boy Scout patches along with this note.

"These patches I earned as a Scout and a Scoutmaster and are from the 1960's and the 1970's. Most years, the Boy Scouts of Bucks County would gather at the Canal for clean-up. The reason that one is red-tinted is because the patches were on my 'brag rag' (red felt coat) and got wet. I have always enjoyed the Delaware Canal both as a child and as an adult."

Thank you, Mr. Rook, for sharing your story and contributing your patches. They are great reminders of the important roles that people have played in the preservation of the Delaware Canal.



START LOOKING: Critter tracks in the snow appear on seven pages of this newsletter. Find them and let us know what kind of critter made each one. (All are native to this area.) The first person who identifies all seven correctly will win an "Along the Delaware Canal" jigsaw puzzle. E-mail your answers to friends@fodc.org. Happy searching and identifying!

At the Board Table

During our Annual Meeting on November 12 at Phillips' Mill, several actions were taken concerning the Friends' Board of Directors. The membership re-elected Jeff Connell, Laure Duval, Larry Reinfeld, Peter Rosswaag, and Brett Webber to additional two-year terms. Honored for their dedicated service as Board members were Eileen O'Neil and Bob Ketler.

Ideas and action were Eileen's fortes. Her ready smile and persuasive manner made many a discussion and undertaking much easier. Wielding a paintbrush comes naturally, be it to paint a bridge or on canvas.

Bob Ketler ended his second stint on the Board. As an engineer and construction manager, he had valuable insights to provide regarding the condition of the Canal and projects undertaken by both the

Friends and DCNR.

At its first meeting of the new year, the Board of Directos elected its

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

The Board looks forward to a productive 2020 and always welcomes your questions, input and help!

And about the Board Table itself...

When the Friends took up residence at the Locktender's House in New Hope in 1992, it had no furniture, just a LOT of bobby pins caught in the cracks of the floorboards in what was to become the Boardroom. Dorsey Reading, the craftsman and custom builder from Erwinna, was on the Board at the time. Since every



Board needs a table, Dorsey took on the project of building a new one for the Friends' new headquarters. One day, he arrived with a handsome wooden table and managed to get it up the winding stairs. The table, which accommodates 12 nicely, has graced the room ever since. Board members and myriads of others have sat around a custom Dorsey Reading table. Certainly a distinction.

Thank you, Dorsey!



145 South Main Street New Hope, PA 18938

Welcome, New Friends!

Robin and Frank Butrey The Camaratta Family John Donato Mitchell Frank George Gimmi Matthew Goldstein Ludwig Hendel Debra Hische Eric Johnson Gita Kundrod Sharon Langan Florence Lotrowski Dee Ann and Clark Martin Heather McGarry C. R. Moore Bev Okulicz Linda Ponsock



HOT JAZZ / COOL LOCATION

MUSIC, DINNER, AND GOOD COMPANY! SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6 P.M.

A CONCERT AND DINNER AT THE HOME OF LINDA KENYON 3015 NORTH SUGAN ROAD, NEW HOPE, PA 18938

Join the Friends for an evening bound to dispel the February dismals.

Behind the heavy wooden door of Linda Kenyon's stunning and intriguing home, you will find smiling faces, drinks, and hors d'oeuvres. Then, after a bit of socializing, the first of two sets of music will begin.

The Rhinoceri Trio will be returning to Hot Jazz following its superb performance in 2017. Brendan Cooney will be on keys, Gregg Mervine on percussion, and Todd Erk on bass. They'll be joined by the compelling vocalist Izzy Sazak. Their sound is a combination of jazz, classical and world music and reflects the wide-ranging musical journeys that these musicians have taken. The group gives

full sail to harmonies and contradictions, and the passage can be exhilarating.

During the break between sets, it will be time to indulge in one of Linda's famous soups, served in cups handmade by her daughter. Then back to the sounds of the Rhinoceri Trio and Izzy Sazak. An elegant dinner will follow. Prepared by Linda herself, it will be a meal that would make Juila Child proud. (Linda knows a thing or two about such things since not only is she an excellent chef, but she also portrays Julia Child in her onewoman show.) Of course, there will be decadent homemade desserts.

You won't want to miss this special evening. Donation: \$100 person.

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS, CALL 215-862-2021 OR EMAIL FRIENDS@FODC.ORG

You may reserve and pay on-line by visiting the Events page at www.fodc.org.