



FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL CANAL NEWS

Sprucing Up the Neighborhood and the Canal

The Canal runs down the middle of Smithtown, a village north of Point Pleasant. Connecting the land side to the river side of the village are three bridges. Unlike most of the Canal bridges, these three aren't named for nearby property owners, rather they are simply Bridge 3, Bridge 4, and Bridge 5. (Bridges 1 and 2 are located in Point Pleasant, and there are no numbered bridges after 5.)

During much of last year, Bridge 5 was being reconstructed by DCNR to increase the load capacity and take care of deterioration. This project inspired the Smithtown residents who use Bridge 4 to spruce up their comparatively ragged-looking structure. Brian Dougherty rallied his fellow neighbors and led the charge. He met with Rick Van Vliet, the Park Maintenance Supervisor from Easton to New Hope, and they assessed what the volunteers could accomplish and measured the bridge.

The project entailed removing the rotted roof boards and boot jacks, priming and painting the new lumber, scraping and painting the existing bridge timbers, and installing new roof blocks, roof boards, and boot jacks. The neighbors accomplished this all over the course of three weekends.

The Delaware Canal State Park provided most of the lumber, primer, and paint; and the neighbors purchased additional primer and lumber plus brushes, rollers, trays, and hardware.



*The "B4 Gang."
(L-R) Bob Jacobi,
Steve Freeman,
Susan Jacobi, Brian
Dougherty, Sandy
Freeman, and Steve
Diamond.*

These Bridge 4 neighbors contributed to the success of the project: Herman and Marcienne Mattleman, Barbara and Steve Diamond, Susan and Robert Jacobi, Sandy and Stephen Freeman, Helen and Leonard Evelev, and Brian and Joanne Dougherty. Also lending a hand one afternoon was painting contractor Gino Mercado, who was working on a job nearby.

This project exemplifies what the Canal needs in order to be at its best—everyone working together! Thank you, Bridge 4 neighbors!!

Getting Ready

The Canal is abuzz with activity. It seems that some type of work is underway almost anywhere you look. The two flood repair contractors, Tri-State Dredging and Bi-State Construction, are making good headway toward their anticipated spring completion dates. Taking advantage of suitable weather, the Bi-State masons have even been seen working on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

The State Park maintenance staff has been clearing out the prism, replacing gates, and tackling other tasks to get the Canal ready for re-watering.

Now, thanks to contributions over the past several years, the Friends are able to undertake two projects that should be done before the Lehigh River water arrives. The Friends have contracted with Bi-State Construction to repair the timber lock sills at Lock 13 in Point Pleasant, Locks 15/16 in Smithtown, and Lock 18 in Uhlerstown. R-Shell Exteriors of Lancaster, PA will replace and improve the X bracing system on Hazzard's Camelback Bridge in Upper Black Eddy.



Park Manager Rick Dalton, DCNR Engineer Gene Gelfand, and Friends' CAT coordinator Brian Dougherty examine the bowed X braces on Hazzard's Camelback Bridge.

The lock sill project is the most complicated and will cost approximately \$43,000. Some of the Canal's stone lock walls still have single courses of timber running horizontally near the base of the walls. These timber "sills" are single layers within the stone walls. The sills have rotted over time because the Canal hasn't been continuously watered, and if the problem is not addressed, the stonework above the sills will collapse. The repair will involve the removal of the deteriorated timber, pressure grouting the resulting voids, and applying facing timber to the exterior faces of the openings to suggest the original construction technique. Repairs to loose/missing masonry will be made where encountered. Bi-State hopes to start the work in late January or in February. At this stage in the flood repair project, Bi-State is quite experienced in dealing with canal masonry structures.

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Friends of the Delaware Canal

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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.

Park Manager's Report

2013 certainly was a busy year for Delaware Canal State Park. So many great things were either accomplished or are underway.

The Secretary of DCNR, Director of State Parks, and the Assistant Director of State Parks attended the Friends' Annual Dinner. They expressed how impressed they were with your organization and the genuine care you have for the Canal.

The repairs to the damage sustained by the Canal from flooding are progressing. There is work occurring from Easton to Lock 7 in Yardley that should be completed by late spring or early summer. Debris is being removed, the towpath is being rebuilt, gates replaced etc.

The removal of obstructions to the towpath from Morrisville to Bristol is in various stages of completion. The passageways under the four lanes of Route 13 in Tullytown have been completed and opened. Tunneling through the Conrail crossing south of Morrisville is designed. Consultants have presented alternatives for dealing with the Bridge Street obstruction in Morrisville, and a detour around Tyburn Road in Falls Township is designed. Pedestrian safety improvements for the Route 13 crossing at the Green Lane intersection are incorporated into

PennDOT's much larger Route 13 project. A pedestrian crossing signal on Green Lane at the towpath intersection has been funded. The sum of these projects will make traveling the Canal a safer and more enjoyable experience.

Bridge 5 in Smithtown and the Upper Limeport Bridge have been replaced. The replacement of the bridge at Phillips' Mill is in design.

A 600-foot section of the Canal in New Hope will be lined, and this project is currently out to bid. It should also be completed this spring.

The Friends have been busy with CAT team projects that included refurbishing bridges to vegetation removal in the Canal. This help has been a valuable asset to the Park.

Park staff has also been busy painting/repairing bridges, gates and other structures while the water has been out of the Canal.

All in all it has been a very positive and productive year for the Canal.

As always, I thank the Friends of the Delaware Canal for your support and hard work!

Rick Dalton

Congratulations, DCNR!

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently received confirmation that its staff is doing an exemplary job of handling flood repair projects.

DCNR Secretary Ellen Ferretti announced that DCNR has received a clean audit from the federal government related to the expenditure of \$33.6 million it received for cleanup related to three disasters between 2004 and 2006.

"Cleaning up from these disasters was a substantial, multi-DCNR bureau and multi-state agency effort and we are proud that the auditors determined this work met all federal regulations and guidelines," Ferretti said. "These projects were unplanned and performed in addition to our regular project workload. I applaud staff for their efforts to manage these projects."

The objective of the audit was to determine if DCNR correctly spent and accounted

for Federal Emergency Management Agency funds received related to Tropical Storm Ivan in September 2004; severe storms and flooding that occurred April 2, 2005; and severe storms and flooding on June 23, 2006.

The auditors for the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security reviewed more than 200 project worksheets and focused on 25 large and three small projects, most of which were completed at Delaware Canal State Park. The audit did not require any follow-up actions and is considered closed.

John Kaschak, Director of Audits for the Budget Office, congratulated DCNR on a report with no findings, saying "during his 15 years of doing audits, he could count on one hand the number of audits that have been issued without findings."

Calendar of Events

**Sunday, February 16,
2 p.m.**

The Heart of Yardley

A short walk along the Canal and tour of historic downtown Yardley

Meet at the Mary Yardley Footbridge that crosses the Canal near the intersection of Fuld and Morgan Avenues, Yardley. For map searches, enter "101 Morgan Avenue, Yardley, 19067."

The town of Yardley had two growth spurts in the 19th century. The first came when the Delaware Canal opened in 1831 and the second when the railroad line was laid in 1876. Find out how these transportation innovations transformed Yardley by coming on a 2-mile, roundtrip "towpath and town" walk.

The Friends and the Yardley Historical Association are partnering for this event. Susan Taylor will lead the first half of the walk along the towpath to Lock 5 and the railroad bridge. After a stroll along South Canal Street, where canal boat yard workers lived, Charlie Thomforde from the Yardley Historical Association will take over the tour. Stately Victorian homes will line the way into the center of town, where Yardley's colonial and canal history is still much in evidence. Hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting inside the Old Library by Lake Afton to fortify walkers for the quick trip back to the start.

The *Heart of Yardley* Walk will provide insights to why the small towns along the Delaware Canal are so well loved, and it's a good way to banish those winter blahs.

The Walk will be held unless the weather makes conditions hazardous. If in doubt, check for a go/no go message on the www.fodc.org homepage or call 215-862-2021 for a recorded message.



The railroad line looms over Lock 5 in Yardley.

**Tuesday, March 11,
7:30 p.m.**

The Delaware River – Mother of Five Canals

The program will be held in the auditorium of the Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center, 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977

A multi-day canal tour last fall inspired Bucks County author and historian Will Rivinus to create this illustrated program about the five canals that are all fed by the mighty Delaware River.

Two hundred years ago, the history of America changed as a result of development along the Delaware River. The Second American Revolution (the War of 1812) had just been won, but in that conflict England had cut off imports of coal that fueled Philadelphia and New York.

Anthracite coal, discovered in the mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania in the 1790's, had become known as "Black Diamonds." It was potentially worth fortunes to the men who could mine it and move it to the burgeoning industrial markets. The first bulk shipments of anthracite went down the Schuylkill River, then the entrepreneurs gambled that the Delaware could be more profitable.

Five canals were opened in less than twenty years – the **Lehigh** from the mines to Easton, our **Delaware** from Easton to tidewater at Bristol, the **Delaware and Raritan** from Bordentown NJ to New Brunswick, the **Morris** from Easton to New York harbor, and the **Delaware and Hudson** from the mines to Albany on the Hudson River.

The geographic obstacles were daunting; the engineering challenges huge. The construction labor was back-breaking, and the costs were astronomic, but, the rewards were immense..... until railroads, trucks, and oil doomed the canals in two generations.

Come hear the story and see the pictures!

This program is being held in partnership with the Washington Crossing Historic Park and the Friends of WCHP. If you haven't been to the Park's new visitor center, this is a perfect opportunity to see the impressive new facility and learn about two periods in our country's history – for free.

**Saturday, March 29,
11 a.m.**

Lunch and Walk

Meet at the Durham Lock parking area, 1407 Easton Road (Route 611), Kintnersville, PA 18930. The parking area is adjacent to the intersection of Routes 611 and 212.

The distance to be walked is short, but the stories are many for this year's Lunch and Walk. We'll begin at Lock 21, which sits next to an aqueduct over Cooks Creek. While there are intriguing canal tales, they form just a small part of the area's history. The British arrived in 1698 attracted by the inland iron deposits. Those deposits spurred development of substantial industries. Iron furnaces and mills thrived. Robert Durham built "Durham boats" here, now famous for their role in General Washington's river crossing in 1776. Durham Cave attracted Queen Esther and later scores of geologists. The Durham Mine was Pennsylvania's second largest bat hibernaculum.

After hearing about Durham, we will walk along the towpath to our lunch destination, the Riegelsville Inn with its warm fireplaces and river views.

Our Riegelsville Inn Menu

The Inn Salad

An Assortment of Sliders –

Crabcake slider with tartar sauce

Steak slider with horseradish cream

Pulled pork slider with cole slaw

Chocolate Tart

Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea or Soft Drinks



A last-century view of the Riegelsville Inn.

After lunch, we'll make our way back to Durham and take in whatever we may have missed along the way in the morning.

Donation - \$25 per person. Reservations are required. Please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org no later than March 21.

If it is snowing or raining, we won't be walking, but we will meet at the Riegelsville Inn at noon for lunch.

Our Annual Meeting Was Out of the Ordinary

A record turnout
Special guests from Harrisburg
Good news

All at the Audubon Barn

The Friends' 31st Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner was held on November 12 with more than 100 people in attendance at the Audubon Barn in Solebury Township. Our special guests for the evening were **Ellen Ferretti**, the Secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; **David Kemmerer**, the Director of the Bureau of State Parks; John Hallas, the Assistant Director of State Parks; and **Rick Dalton**, Delaware Canal State Park Manager.

Following the covered dish dinner, which offered an astonishing variety of wonderful food, Friends' President Judy Zipkin-Grasso opened the meeting. She presented a summary of the year's activities, including a thank-you to Steven Spatz who resigned from the presidency in September because of health issues. Peter Sperry gave a summary of the Friends' financial condition, including the news that the Board of Directors had designated that \$50,000 from the General Fund be available for canal improvement projects, especially those that facilitate the rewatering of the Canal.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Directors. Jeff Connell and Bill West, who had been appointed to the Board during 2013 were officially elected by the membership. Re-elected to additional two-year terms were Stephen Freeman, Miriam Seiden, Peter Sperry, Brett Webber, and Judy Zipkin-Grasso.

Five volunteers were recognized for their outstanding efforts.

Carole Mebus is both a diligent Canal Tender and an extraordinary nature photographer, whose images are key to our Facebook success. She received a Friends' logo fleece vest to wear this winter during her bald eagle watching expeditions.

Pearl and Chuck Mintzer were honored for their outstanding achievements with the Friends' Art Show and Sale. The Show has been a great benefit to the Friends raising awareness, support and funds.

Brian Dougherty and **Jerry Taylor** were thanked for their services as the new Canal Action Team coordinators. Each was presented with the first of the new CAT t-shirts (check out the loppers/whiskers), which each CAT volunteer will receive in the coming year.

Our honored guests were introduced. During her keynote presentation, Secretary Ferretti emphasized the exemplary partnership that the Friends and DCNR have built since the group's inception in 1982. "You have shown tremendous support not only in the form of financial patronage, but also by conducting events to raise awareness and promote park use, coordination of volunteers for work days and working with us to

prioritize areas of need for the entire canal through your advocacy efforts," said Secretary Ferretti.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was when Secretary Ferretti and Director Kemmerer surprised Friends' Board member Peter Sperry with a special award for his outstanding dedication and performance as a volunteer. Of special note were the Friends' Mile Marker project which he initiated and completed three floods, 6.4 tons of dry concrete mix, and ten years later; and his development of a searchable Landmarks and Mileage Chart with embedded geographic coordinates. Both projects are invaluable tools for all those involved with the Park.

The evening closed with hopes for continued progress and a bright future for the Canal.



Board member Peter Sperry received an award for outstanding dedication as a volunteer from Secretary Ellen Ferretti.

Hot Music/ Cool Location

*A Three Concert Series with
Dinners at the Home of
Linda Kenyon*

Saturday, February 8
**The Noah Preminger
Jazz Quartet**



Saturday, February 22
**Beppe Gambetta,
Guitarist and Vocalist**



Saturday, March 22
**Karen Gross,
Cabaret Singer**



All will be held at 6 p.m.
3015 North Sугan Road
New Hope, PA 18938

At each you'll enjoy two sets of music, wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres and a delightful dinner that would make Julia Child proud.

\$75 per person for each concert or \$200 for all three.

Make your reservations now for one or all of these very special evenings by calling 215-862-2021 or e-mailing friends@fodc.org. Please reserve early; seating is limited.

Our Business and Institutional Members

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

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The Stephan House Inn, New Hope
Tinsman Bros., Inc., Lumberville
Univest National Bank & Trust Co
The UPS Store, New Hope
Yardley Borough

Getting Ready (continued from front page)



A deteriorated timber sill in Locks 15/16 in Smithtown.

Hazzard's Bridge is one of the six remaining authentic camelback bridge structures along the Canal, and it was the first one that the Friends restored. Since 2004, the elements have taken a toll, and now the X-braces have bowed. The X-braces are structural elements under the bridge deck that prevent the bridge from swaying. Their replacement and improvement is considered to be an investment in the continued well-being of the bridge. The project includes jacking up the bridge, replacing the timber X braces with pressure-treated wood that is 4X6 rather than 4X5. The method of fitting the ends of the braces into the bridge abutments will be improved in several ways, using lessons learned during past camelback bridge restorations. The cost will be approximately \$9,000. Since the project involves installing scaffolding in the bottom of the prism, it's most preferable and economical to do the job without water in the Canal – now.

The construction buzz along the Canal is going to get louder in the coming months, followed, we hope, by the tranquil sound of flowing water.

Please keep your fingers crossed that the weather cooperates with all the work schedules.

Many Thanks!

Mary Lou and Joe Quinlan staged a benefit performance of *The God Box – A Daughter's Story* at the Bucks County Playhouse on October 18. Mary Lou's one woman performance, based on her *New York Times* bestseller, was exceptional – full of memories, laughter and tears. What talented members the Friends have. The Quinlans generously donated the proceeds from the performance to assist with the Friends' upcoming lock wall repair projects.

Josh Gradwohl demonstrated his expert carpentry once again and built a bike rail for the steps down to the Canal towpath at Bridge Street in Morrisville. This wooden channel makes it easier for bicyclists to negotiate this trail obstruction. The bike rail is a temporary aid until the time and funds come to construct a ramp.

2013 ended on an optimistic financial note thanks to all of you who generously responded to the Friends' Annual Appeal. Your gifts have gotten us off to a good start this year!

Often donors include notes with their gifts. They're always appreciated and sometimes the highlight of the day. In an Annual Appeal envelope came a small piece of paper with this quote - "*When we come together, the power of people like you and me becomes a force to be reckoned with!*" - Willie Nelson. Good inspiration for the coming year!

Friends of the Delaware Canal — 2013 Members

We thank those who demonstrated their support with membership contributions in 2013.

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 Victor and Lois Stevens
 Sheila Blische
 Susan Caton
 Domenic and Sheila Falcone
 Marie Ferrara
 David Hewitt
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 Wierbowski
 Marie McKinstry
 Francie Trager and Kim Moarefi
 Karl and Elizabeth Varnai

Friends of the Delaware Canal, Inc.

145 South Main Street
New Hope, PA 18938



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News from the Canal Tenders

Several more sections of the Canal have been adopted! We're closing on the goal of complete coverage of the entire 58.9-miles.

Hank Goldberg has stepped forward to take care of the section from Bridge 2 to Mountainside Inn in Point Pleasant.

The **Morrisville-Yardley Rotary Club**, under the leadership of Hal Long, will be tending the Black Rock Road to Palmer Street footbridge section, which encompasses both Lower Makefield Township and Morrisville Borough.

Lynn Vogel and Josh Gradwohl have switched to a more southern section and are now keeping the area between Bridge Street and the Conrail obstruction in Morrisville Borough neat and tidy.

Ruth Dorn has adopted the section from Mile Marker 6 to the Levittown Shopping Center, which starts in Falls Township and ends in Tullytown Borough.

Thank you to our new volunteers and to all the other Canal Tenders who have been at work all year long!

There are still some areas that need Canal Tenders. Please let the Friends know if you would like to adopt any part of the following sections:

- Upper Black Eddy – Berm Lane to Lock 19
- Levittown Shopping Center to Bristol Borough

Find us on Facebook 

At the Board Table

At its December meeting the Friends' Board of Directors elected its officers for 2014. Serving will be:

Brett Webber – President
Jeff Connell – Vice President
Judith Franlin – Secretary
Peter Sperry – Treasurer

As always, the Board welcomes your input and participation.

Welcome, New Friends

Janice Armstrong
Ed & Lynn Breen
Pamela Burrell & Peter Gatto
Stephen & Pam Can
Deb Christopher & Alan Thompson
Josephine Dambuleff
Pat Emanuele
Tracy Fetzer
Kurt Fuoti
Alfred & Emily Glossbrenner
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gupko
Virginia & Daniell Hamby

Maureen & Tim Hennessey
Deborah Karner
Alice Lawler
Donna Lee
Valerie Leeds
Michele McElderry
Carol Parker
Jonathan Perlstein
Collin & Becky Stuart
Jacqueline Taylor
Anita & George Williams