



# FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL CANAL NEWS

You're invited to

*Flowing*

## The Fifth Annual Friends of the Delaware Canal Art Show

*featuring the works of local artists*

**Opening Reception  
Friday, September 11  
6 to 9 p.m.**

Get a first look at this year's juried show, take the best opportunity to buy outstanding works of art, and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres.

***See the Show on*  
Saturday, September 12  
Sunday, September 13  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

The Rolling Green Barn  
at the intersection of Route 202 and Aquetong Road  
New Hope, PA 18938

Don't miss this vibrant show and the chance to acquire art created by our region's best.

The sale proceeds benefit the Friends' many efforts to improve the Delaware Canal and its surroundings.



**Scenes from our first art show in 2011.  
Please come and be part of the fifth.**



## WE CARRY ON

The Friends always "Carry On," but the regal decree to "Keep Calm" while carrying on has been a challenge since March 27. On that Friday, two Canal structures failed. In Upper Black Eddy, the stone arch culvert that carries High Falls Creek under the Canal collapsed sending the Canal's water rushing toward the Delaware River and washing away the towpath. Near the David Library of the American Revolution in Washington Crossing, a section of berm-side stone wall gave way.

Much to its credit, DCNR immediately initiated a "temporary repair" of the collapsed culvert. The Friends promised to help with the cost, and an on-line "Let's Keep Water in the Canal This Summer" fundraising campaign yielded \$5500 in donations. THANKS to all who contributed!

Bi-State Construction was making great progress on the repair. The concrete footers were in place, the custom metal arch had arrived, and a "rock vac" was being used to remove accumulated gravel from the intact sections of the culvert. Could back-filling and restoration of a water-carrying prism be far behind? Sadly, yes, it could. In June, four inches of rain fell in Northampton County sending torrents of water down the Canal and filling the job site with silt and stone. In the process of removal, it was discovered that some of the stones in a portion of the standing culvert were now missing, and stability was questionable. So now, as this article is being written, the DCNR engineers and Bi-State Construction are evaluating whether a more extensive "temporary" fix is viable and affordable. The best case scenario is that the answer will be "yes," and water will be flowing through the site in the fall. The less immediately desirable Plan C, involving the construction of a new entire or partial culvert is being pursued because it is ultimately the permanent solution to the problem.

The wall failure in Washington Crossing did not negatively affect water flow. The repair project is being put out to bid in July.

Meanwhile, the Cuttalossa Creek culvert replacement project, located south of Lumberville, also ran into problems. Drilling for the footings proved to take much longer than anticipated, and then came the rising Delaware River that inundated the construction site. The River now has dropped, the culvert structure has arrived, and, by the

*(continued on p.5)*



## Friends of the Delaware Canal

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New Hope, PA 18938  
Phone & Fax: 215-862-2021  
Email: [friends@fodc.org](mailto:friends@fodc.org)  
Internet: [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org)

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Susan Taylor

### 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

We were able to begin sending water into the Canal from the inlet gates at Easton early this spring. This was going well until the culvert that carries High Falls Creek under the Canal collapsed. This is a stone arch culvert that is one of the original Canal structures. It is located about 2 miles north of our office in Upper Black Eddy.

The section of the culvert near the towpath collapsed and took part of the towpath with it. We had decided to attempt a temporary repair as the planned replacement of the structure will take a while to get approved, funded, designed, and built. The temporary repair was to cover the collapsed section with arched steel plates and backfill including repair of the towpath.

While removing debris (rock, silt etc.) from the remaining section of the culvert, it was discovered that this section exhibited the potential for further failure (missing stones). We are currently awaiting an estimate from the contractor to extend the plates over this section of culvert.

Work has started and continues on the replacement of the culvert that carries the Cuttlossa Creek under the Canal near the Delaware Valley Quarry south of Lumberville. The contractor has had to deal with very dense stone, which made drilling for the support pilings difficult. Also a recent high river level event inundated the site.

These two areas are closed to the public and we ask that people abide by these closures.

The culvert that carries the Canal under Airport Road in Bristol Township has also collapsed, and we are working with the Township and a contractor to initiate repair to this structure.

The repairs of three bridges are in various stages of design. The Redfield Bridge should go out to bid shortly. We are working with adjacent neighbors on agreements for access at Phillips' Mill and Lower Limeport.

Along with the normal ongoing maintenance (mowing, painting, tree removal, gravel bar removal, etc.) the crew has replaced all of the lumber on the "Keystone" picnic tables and rehabbed the landscaping at the Forks of the Delaware in Easton. They have also replaced the deck on our bridge at Wy-Hit-Tuk Park.

We welcome Chuck Wood to our staff as a Semi-Skilled Laborer on our Lodi maintenance crew. Chuck is from Levittown and is a valued addition to the staff.

Our Environmental Educators continue to provide excellent programs at both the Canal and Ralph Stover State Park. They offer programs such as rock climbing, walks, and kayaking. Assisting the staff this season is our intern Marilyn Can who is a student at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a resident of New Hope. Ian, Katie and Marilyn also participated in this year's Delaware River Sojourn.

I want to thank everyone that was involved in this year's clean-up efforts. Your organization contributes greatly to upkeep of the Canal through your annual Clean-Up Day, Canal Tenders program, and Canal Action Team (CAT) projects.

I want to take a moment to mention the passing of Brian Nixon who passed away suddenly on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brian was an engineer hired to work almost exclusively on projects along the Canal. Brian began his position with the Park in March of 2014 and in that short time became a valuable asset to this organization. He is greatly missed.

*Rick Dalton*

## In Memoriam Brian Nixon

Brian Nixon, a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources engineer who was assigned to the Delaware Canal State Park, passed away on June 3.

In the fourteen months that he served as the Park's engineer, Brian rose to the many challenges. He did his research, weighed options, dealt pragmatically and fairly, and produced thorough reports. He championed the Canal, which very much needs its champions.

We will miss him.

# Calendar of Events

## Sunday, August 2 10 a.m. to noon OR 1 to 3 p.m. Paddling on the Canal

*Meet at the Black Rock Road Picnic Area at the intersection of the Canal and Black Rock Road in Yardley.*

The Canal south of Black Rock Road is especially lovely in the summer time. Trees tower over the widest of the Canal widewaters, and wildlife abounds. Herons catch fish, mallards glide and dip, turtles bask, frogs leap, and dragonflies flit. The Friends have had many walk along the towpath here, but now it's time to explore the stretch from a different vantage point – the water.

State Park educator Katie Martens will be leading two sessions of paddling on the Canal – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each leisurely adventure will head south through the widewaters area.

You may bring your own canoe or kayak and personal floatation device or you may borrow one of the equipped kayaks that the Park will have on hand. There will be 17 seats available in eleven single kayaks and three tandems.

Registration is required for this activity, and early registration is highly recommended. You may sign-up by calling 215-862-2021 or e-mailing friends@fodc.org. If you are planning to use the Park equipment, a \$10 donation per person is requested.

See you on the water at the widewaters!

*Take a  
berry  
delicious  
paddling  
trip.*



*In 1955, the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area had all the conveniences. Photo courtesy of Daniel Schwager.*

## Sunday, August 23, 2 p.m. See the Canal Projects

**A short walk to see what's happening north and south of the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area.**

*Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, 3292 River Road (PA Route 32), New Hope (1.3 miles north of Centre Bridge).*

View three Canal improvement projects, take in Delaware River vistas, and find out what Hendrick Island and the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area were like before they became part of the Delaware Canal State Park Complex. All this and more in one four-mile, round trip walk along the towpath.

Using the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area as our hub, we will first head north to the Cuttalossa Creek. Here the culvert that carries the creek water under the Canal is being replaced. With luck, the project will be in its final stages. We'll then head back, passing the picnic area that was created by the Friends. Stories and photos from the Recreation area's past will be shared, including the mysterious location of the Cake and Beer House and artist Edward Redfield's time on Hendrick Island.

Starting south, we will come to a stone wall repair project funded by the Friends using funds contributed by Solebury Township. A section of stone wall on the berm bank that allows a stream to gently flow into the Canal has been damaged over time. Moyer & Jones Construction is replacing the missing section in-kind. Again, with luck, we will be seeing the completed wall on the walk.

Farther south, stands the Redfield Bridge over the Canal, so named because it provided access to a property that Edward Redfield owned. The deteriorated Redfield Bridge is closed. A temporary access allows property owners safe crossing. Construction of the carefully designed replacement bridge is expected to begin in the fall.

We'll then return to the picnic area at Virginia Forrest for some lemonade and treats. Join us for this late summer walk and you'll be up to speed about mid-Canal activities.

Find us on Facebook 

*(continued)*

# Calendar of Events

## Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m. “Turtles and Frogs and Fish, Oh My” Aquatic Life in the Delaware Canal

*The Old Library by Lake Afton, 46 West Afton Avenue in Yardley*  
Did you ever see a Red-Bellied Turtle’s red belly? Have you wondered what kind of fish are in the Canal? Have you heard the “barumph” of a frog, but missed the real thing?

The Delaware Canal is teeming with aquatic life, but its creatures aren’t too prone to showing off. When visitors pass by on the towpath or in boats, they might see fish surface or catch glimpses of turtles and frogs before they plop back into the safe water.

Get a good look at many of the Canal’s aquatic critters at an illustrated program presented by Andrew Desko, an Environmental Education Specialist with the PA Fish and Boat Commission. You’ll learn about identifying characteristics, habits, habitats, and hear some “fish stories,” too.

This is a program that’s perfect for those who want to fully appreciate their time on the Canal.



*Stay clear of snapping turtles.*

# Flowing

## The Fifth Annual Friends of the Delaware Canal Art Show and Sale September 11, 12, 13

*See page 1 for details.*

## Sunday, September 27 10 a.m. to noon OR 1 to 3 p.m. Paddling on the Canal II

*Meet at the Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area aka Groundhog Lock, 229 South Delaware Drive (Route 611) in Raubsville.*

The air will be cooler, the yellows and reds of autumn will be appearing, and the Canal will be ready to give kayakers and canoeists a bit of a workout. Launching this paddling session at Groundhog Lock does have its advantages. There is a boat launch; no muddy banks involved. The scenery is lovely, and there are great tales to tell from the lost town of Uhlerville to the remains of the hydroelectric plant that powered the trolley line. There is noticeable current in the Canal from Easton to Raubsville, so paddlers will get a better than usual workout.

State Park educator Ian Kindle will be leading two sessions of paddling on the Canal – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each will head north from Locks 22/23.

You may bring your own canoe or kayak and personal floatation device or you may borrow one of the equipped kayaks that the Park will have on hand. There will be 17 seats available in eleven single kayaks and three tandems.

Registration is required for this activity, and early registration is highly recommended. You may sign-up by calling 215-862-2021 or e-mailing friends@fodc.org. If you are planning to use the Park equipment, a \$10 donation per person is requested.

See you at Groundhog Lock for a paddling adventure.



*Paddle up the Canal from Groundhog Lock.*

## Canal Walk 2015

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

We’re counting on the Canal not to play any tricks this year as the Friends walk all 58.9 miles of the towpath for the 28<sup>th</sup> year. We’re starting at Waterfront Park in Historic Bristol Borough on October 3 and will end up at the Forks of the Delaware in Easton on Halloween. Treats for all, especially those who have walked on all five Saturdays.

Get your legs in shape, find your most comfortable hiking shoes, and join us for one or all of this year’s walks. Yes, we are walking uphill, but it’s only a 165-foot rise over all those miles. Autumn along the Canal and River will be so vibrant that you’ll never notice.

The full Canal Walk 2015 itinerary will appear in the fall issue of *Canal News* and on-line at [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org). We hope that this is your year to join us in the challenge, the camaraderie, and the fun.



*Canal Walkers at rest.*



*The collapsed High Falls Creek Culvert.  
Photo by Hal Pschunder.*

time this newsletter has arrived, the contractor should be well on the way to bringing the site back to its currently desired condition with the towpath trail usable and the canal prism ready for water.

Another culvert problem occurred at Airport Road in Bristol Township. This metal pipe culvert will be replaced in kind, and Bristol Township will be helping with the road restoration work.

Then to make being calm even more difficult, in June, a leak developed through the wall in the side yard of the Locktender's House in New Hope. The first leak ever in 24 years. Fortunately, the leak had no effect inside the house, and the bentonite slurry that the Park used to stem the flow seems to be working.

On the bright side, *New Hope for Our Canal* in partnership with the Friends, recently began raising additional funds necessary to keep the pump at Centre Bridge running through the rest of 2015. Thanks to everyone who has and is participating in this effort!

The Canal from Easton to Lock 20 near Kintnersville remains watered, as does the lower half of the Canal from Odette's in New Hope south to the Bristol Lagoon.

The Friends always carry on – we're always planning, always implementing, always helping as friends do. We do not lose sight of what makes the Canal invaluable.



*The Cuttalossa Creek construction site.*

## At the Board Table

Appointed at the May board meeting, **Robert Ketler** begins his second stint as a member of the Friends' Board of Directors. He last served in 2001-2004.

Bob is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a longtime advocate for the Delaware Canal. As a Canal-side resident of Lower Makefield Township for 18 years, he has volunteered for the Friends as a section leader for annual Clean-Up Days and as a Canal Tender. He worked with Pete Sperry on the mile marker project at the time when the first markers were installed.

Bob's background in construction management tends to focus him on the challenges of maintaining the Canal's physical condition along with its historical context. He recognizes how unique the Canal is and appreciates how fortunate we are to have a National Historic Landmark right here in our backyard. Bob and his wife Jen often can be found walking their dog Riley or biking on the towpath.

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All the members of the Board welcome your assistance, questions, and advice. If you are interested in learning more about becoming involved in a Friends' committee or becoming a member of the Board of Directors, please contact President Brett Webber at [webber@spg3.com](mailto:webber@spg3.com).

## Welcome, New Friends

Noel C. Brown

Eiseman Roofing & Exterior Construction

Tim Farrell

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gaibler

George E. Michael & Co.

Mark Goresky

Graham Harriman

Douglas Hillman

Sarah Jane Kennedy

Scot Kirkham

Michael Lynch

Melvyn Mason

Dr. and Mrs. Peter McCue

OMNIA Group Architects

Eileen and Robert O'Neil

Alexandra Radbil

Lawrence Reinfeld

Scott Reynolds

Pat Robinson

Kimberly Segal-Morris

John W. Seifert

Pamela Thompson



## Just Ducky!

This year's Delaware Canal Festival was a rollicking success with approximately 1000 people attending in Historic Bristol Borough and 300 in Morrisville – the highest number ever in each location. The decorated boats, cardboard boats, and decorated ducks were shining examples of local creativity. The food trucks hosted by *Raising the Bar* in Bristol were a big hit, and the music was great in both places. Kayaking proved to be very popular in Morrisville. A good time was had by all, despite a little bit of rain. Our thanks to our sponsors, contributors, volunteers and participants! Funding support from the Bucks County Conference and Visitor Center and the D&L Trail Alliance was very much appreciated.



*"Picture the Canal."*



*An astronaut on the towpath?!?*



*Daniel Boone explores the wild frontier of Lagoon Park.*

## Safe Passage

Last winter's incessant freezing, thawing and salting nearly destroyed the steep exterior stairway next to the Locktender's House at Lock 11 in New Hope. All of the stucco risers were in some state of deterioration, and seven of the blue-stone treads spalled. Since the stairs provide the main access way between South Main Street and the Canal towpath and Locktender's House, the Friends undertook the \$5200 repair project. Moyer & Jones Construction spent two weeks rebuilding the cantankerous, crumbling structure, and now visitors can climb up and down safely again.



*Eric Jones and Chris Moyer at work on the Locktender's House stairs.*

## Save the Date!

# Faces & Places

### Behind the Scenes in New Hope Sunday, October 4

You are cordially invited to join the Friends of the Delaware Canal for our signature event – Faces and Places, A Celebration of Art and History along the Delaware Canal. This year we are going "Behind the Scenes in New Hope." After boarding a Bucks County trolley at the newly recreated Hotel du Village, you will be driven into the center of town for a guided walking tour. Behind the curtain, down the alley, through the iron gate, and to the back porch you will go – seeing and hearing about people and spots in New Hope that are fascinating, yet little known and seldom seen.

- Go back stage at the Bucks County Playhouse and then down to the basement to see the works of the original Parry gristmill.
- Step into the "ghost room" at the Logan Inn.
- Meet Gertrude and Adelaide, the maiden sisters who were the last Parrys to live in the family mansion.
- Explore quirky Ney Alley and then visit the handsome home that was originally a gallery built by Modernist artist Lloyd R. (Bill) Ney.
- Peek at an alluring Canal-side garden, then open the gate and go in to admire its beauty. Discover several of Bill Ney's paintings in an unexpected place.
- Join with friends, old and new, at Hotel du Village for cocktails and a sit-down dinner.

For more information or to make reservations on-line, visit [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org) and click on the link on the homepage, or call 215-862-2021 or e-mail [friends@fodc.org](mailto:friends@fodc.org).

Individual tickets are \$150 each; patron tickets are \$250 each.



# Our Business and Institutional Members

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

## Founder

Tinicum Civic Association

## Benefactor

Rockwood Wealth Management, New Hope  
Walter's Nursery, Inc., Point Pleasant

## Patron

1740 House, Lumberville  
Acadia Mortgage, LLC, New Britain  
The Boat House, Lambertville  
Brett Webber Architects, P.C., Philadelphia and Erwinna  
Ellenoff, Underwood & Norman, Doylestown  
First Savings Bank of Perkasie

### **George E. Michael & Co., New Hope—NEW Member**

Golden Pheasant Inn, Erwinna  
Newman & Company, Inc., Philadelphia  
Newtown Bicycle and Fitness  
Odell Painting, LLC, Ottsville  
The River House at Odette's, New Hope  
The Thompson Organization, Doylestown

### **Tinsman Bros., Inc., Lumberville—Increased Membership**

William B. Parry & Son, Ltd., Langhorne

## Member

Ahlum Gallery, Riegelsville  
Appalachian Mountain Club, Delaware Valley Chapter  
Borough of Morrisville  
Bucks County Cottage on the Delaware, Yardley  
Bucks County Riverboat & Trolley Companies, Upper Black Eddy  
Cramer Bakery, Yardley  
Dilly's Corner, Centre Bridge  
Edgar H. Denson, Post #79 American Legion, New Hope  
Donnelly Marketing Services Associates, LLC

### **Eiseman Roofing & Exterior Construction, New Britain—NEW Member**

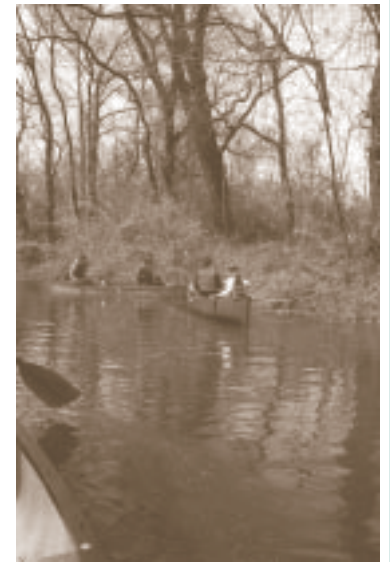
First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown  
First Savings Insurance, New Britain  
T. Foster & Co., Inc., Yardley  
Fox Chase Bank, Lahaska  
Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio, New Hope  
The Grundy Commons, Bristol  
Hobensack & Keller, Inc., New Hope  
Holly Hedge Estate, New Hope  
Homestead General Store & Coffee Roasters, Upper Black Eddy  
La Chele Medical Aesthetics, New Hope  
Leisure Craft, Warrington  
Liberty Bell Wanderers, Philadelphia  
Logan Inn, New Hope  
McCaffrey's Markets, Yardley  
Mueller's General Store & Kitchen, Easton  
NAM Planning & Design, LLC, Lumberville  
**OMNIA Group Architects, Hatboro—NEW Member**  
John Paton, Inc., Doylestown  
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Porches Bed & Breakfast, New Hope  
River Road Business Alliance, Erwinna

Sand Castle Winery, Erwinna  
Shearer Penn Corp., Trenton, NJ  
The Stephan House Inn, New Hope  
Univest National Bank & Trust Co  
The UPS Store, New Hope  
Yardley Borough

## Thank You!

On April 11 more than 325 people turned out for the Friends' annual Canal Clean-Up Day. The winning combination of community groups and Canal Tenders collected truckloads of trash and debris along the full length of the Canal. Volunteers from GOAL (Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown) pulled 55 tires out of their section!

Thanks to all the hardworking volunteers and coordinators who made the Canal so much more pleasant to visit!



*Troop 46 took to the water in Falls Township – all the better to retrieve trash.*



*Tree wrestling on Canal Clean-Up Day.*

Visit [www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org) for  
more news

**Friends of the Delaware Canal, Inc.**

145 South Main Street  
New Hope, PA 18938



Nonprofit Org.  
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## Two 9/11 Memorial Benches Repaired

The Delaware Canal State Park is a place full of memories and hope – memories of America’s past and hope for the future of a scenic waterway that thousands of people enjoy. Its beauty, historic significance, and enduring nature made the Delaware Canal a fitting site for the installation of seventeen teak benches that honor the seventeen Bucks County, Pennsylvania residents who perished on September 11, 2001 in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

The Friends coordinated a successful fundraising effort, and a bench dedication ceremony was held in October 2003. Since then, the benches, which were sited along the length of the Canal towpath, have commemorated the victims’ lives and provided spots for Park visitors to rest, reflect, and enjoy the wonders of nature.

Unfortunately, over the years, a few of the benches were lost to vandalism and floods. One lichen-laden bench has been replaced by its original donor. Others weather in place.

Recently two benches that were suffering from age and careless use were rescued by woodworker extraordinaire Josh Gradwohl. Josh volunteered to work his magic on the benches that honor Victor J. Saracini and William Robert (Bill) Godshalk. Furniture that looked like it was headed for the firewood pile was skillfully restored. The Delaware Canal State Park staff has reinstalled the benches at their locations along the towpath in Lower Makefield and Washington Crossing, and they once again offer places of rest and peace.

Thank you, Josh, for doing such a fine job!



*Before*



*After*