

D & R CANAL WATCH 2020 ACTIVITIES
www.canalwatch.org; www.dandrcanal.com

All Second Saturday Canal Walks begin at 10 AM, unless noted. Saturday Morning Meeting Places are designated as “(MP)” in the description. The terrain is flat and the walks average a 2.25 miles per hour. When contacting a program leader, use “**D&R Canal**” in subject header.

Program Leaders: Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; bbarth321@aol.com Jessica Hunsdon, 732-993-4505; Pamela V’Combe, 609-635-2783; pjvcombe@gmail.com

Saturday, January 11: 10:00 a.m. Towpath clean-up. MP at Lock 11 in South Bound Brook, across from the post office on Canal Road. Join members of the Canal Watch in their effort to keep the state park a beauty spot in central New Jersey. Leader: Bob Barth

Sunday, January 26: 2:00 p.m. Two-Canal Walk. Meet outside of the Lambertville Station restaurant, near the caboose. Join the D&R Canal Watch and the Friends of the Delaware Canal for a guided history and nature tour along both of our neighboring towpaths. This popular event is just one of the many activities held during the annual Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. For details, visit www.winterfestival.net.

The first stop of this two-mile walk will be the D&R Feeder lift and outlet locks to learn how canal boats once crossed the Delaware River via a cable ferry. We’ll then follow the path of the mule teams of old as we hike through Lambertville and cross the Delaware River bridge into New Hope.

Heading west, the Delaware Canal towpath will soon be found. We’ll trek southward through town to Lock 11 and the Locktender’s House. Hot chocolate and other goodies will be waiting inside. For those who want to walk and see a bit more, we’ll venture a short distance south to the toll collector’s house, the canal inlet, and the spectacular vistas of the Delaware River and wing dam.

The Winter Walk will be held weather and conditions permitting. If in doubt, check for a go/no go message on the www.fodc.org homepage.

Free, but donations are welcome and appreciated. Leaders: Bob Barth and Susan Taylor

Friday, _____: Paranormal Night. The historic Blackwells Mills Canal House will be open to the public for a ghost hunt! Join the professional ghost hunters from New Jersey Paranormal, learn about the house’s past, and share in the hunt! Learn how to use professional ghost-hunting equipment and feel free to bring your own. **SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST _____ PAID REGISTRANTS. RESERVE YOUR SPACE ASAP! 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$30 per person; 18 and over only.** Price includes history and tour, Ghost Hunting 101, an investigation, and light refreshments. For more information, email us at barthlinda123@aol.com.

Saturday, April 4: Towpath clearing in South Bound Brook. Meet at the Lock 11 parking lot on Canal Road (across from the post office). Bring loppers, work gloves, hand saw, and/or clippers; a rake would also help. We are going to reopen an old section of the towpath.

Saturday, April 11: Alexander Road to Rocky Hill (MP @ parking lot of Rt. 518) Hike 5.7 miles or choose the 3.8-mile walk to Kingston. Spring will be bursting as we hike along Carnegie Lake, cross the Millstone Aqueduct, and visit picturesque lock and locktender's house. Weather permitting, we may visit the Rockingham grounds, site of George Washington's final wartime headquarters. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Saturday, May 9: 10:00 a.m. History Bike Tour on the D&R Canal towpath from Kingston to Griggstown and back, 10 miles round trip. Explore the structures along the D&R Canal with Canal Watch trustee Bob Barth. Meet in the causeway parking lot in Griggstown. Bring water; helmet required. Allow three hours. Leader: Bob Barth

Saturday, May 9: Franklin Township Historical Homecoming – 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
We may be asked to staff one of the canal buildings in Franklin Township.

Saturday, May 9: Rocky Hill to Blackwells Mills Causeway (MP @ Blackwells Mills Day Use parking lot on the causeway) Hike 6.6 miles or choose the 3.1-mile walk to Griggstown. We'll see spring flowers blooming, Griggstown Lock, the Muletenders' Barracks and the bridgetender's gardens at Blackwells Mills. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Saturday, May 30: Canal boat dinner cruise fundraiser– 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner cruise on the canal boat *Josiah White II* in Easton, Pennsylvania. Join us on the mule-drawn boat and experience "locking through." Canal troubadour Roy Justice will entertain us with songs and stories. This is a fund-raiser to restore the bridgetender's station in East Millstone. \$100 per person. To sign up, visit www.canalwatch.org and on the canal dinner cruise link. Let's have some fun on the Lehigh Canal.

Sunday, June 7: NOTE: 8:00 AM Birdwatching Walk: Meet at the historic Van Wickle House off Easton Avenue at the foot of DeMott Lane (GPS 1289 Easton Avenue, Somerset NJ 08873). See and hear Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and other nesting songbirds as we walk along the D&R Canal. Leaders: Barbara and George Dawson, 732-249-2670 or email barbaradawsonwriter@yahoo.com

Sunday, June 7: D&R Canal Watch annual meeting. Muletenders Barracks, Griggstown Causeway.

Speaker to be announced

Use the GPS address of 2 Griggstown Causeway, Princeton (even though it is nowhere near Princeton.

Saturday, June 13: Blackwells Mills Causeway to Colonial Park (MP @ Colonial Park @ Parking Lot F, 156 Mettlers Road, Somerset, NJ 08873) Hike 3.2 miles. Starting with the Blackwell Mills bridgetender's gardens, we will proceed along the towpath to East Millstone, where **CanalFest 2020** will be taking place. We will visit the historic bridgetender's house and

conclude at Colonial Park after walking through the nationally recognized Rudolf W. Van der Goot Rose Garden. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Saturday, June 13: East Millstone Canalfest. Details to follow

Saturday, July 11: Zarephath to Canal Park Lock (MP @ 169 Canal Rd, South Bound Brook: across from the S. Bound Brook Post Office). **Hike 3.1 miles.** See the Pillar of Fire community grounds, Raritan River Confluence, spillways and the picturesque S. Bound Brook Lock. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Saturday, August 8: Bulls Island to Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Museum (MP@ Parking Lot beyond Farm, 1605 Daniel Bray Highway, (Rt. 29) Lambertville, NJ) **Hike 5.7 miles** or choose the 3-mile walk to Prallsville Mills. Starting where the Feeder Canal begins, we will see the Roebling Footbridge to Lumberville, pass by the 18th-century Prallsville Mills, through Stockton to the farm museum. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Saturday, September 12: Light Rail Trip, Bordentown to Trenton and back. Join Pamela V'Combe for a tour by light rail into the 19th century. Meet at the Bordentown River Line light rail station **at 9:15 a.m.** (Turn left into parking lot at [100 W. Park Street at Prince Street](#), above the boat landing.) Purchase your tickets and receive a brief introduction before boarding the train for Trenton. The train follows the D&R Canal path from Crosswicks Creek to Trenton. See the abandoned canal, Watson's Creek, and the Abbott Marshlands. In the City of Trenton where Route 129 is on the former route of the canal, remains of the industrial and commercial buildings can be compared with earlier photos. Participants will get an overview of places that are difficult to see any other way, but on the train. In Trenton, participants may opt for a guided walk ($\frac{3}{4}$ -mile round trip) to the State Street Bridge over the former canal (now the Trenton Freeway). Tickets are \$1.60 (\$.75 for seniors); **the current one-way-only provision may apply so be prepared to pay double the amounts.** Please bring exact change. Pre-registration is strongly advised.

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Saturday, October 10: Moore's Creek to Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Museum (MP @ Parking Lot beyond Farm, 1605 Daniel Bray Highway (Rt. 29) Lambertville, NJ), **Hike 5.3 miles** or choose 2.6-mile walk to Fireman's Eddy. Passing by working and closed Sourlands' diabase quarries, we'll see a turning basin, converted mills, a restored meadow and the Lambertville lock. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Friday, November 6 - Griggstown Star Gaze. The Canal Watch is sponsoring an astronomy star gaze on November 7, 2020 from 7-11p.m. This year will be an excellent opportunity to view the planets. Saturn with its magnificent rings and giant Jupiter will be sinking in the southwest during

the early part of the evening. The red planet Mars' close approach to the Earth this season will make it optimally placed for viewing and the distant gaseous planets Uranus and Neptune will be visible in the constellations Aries and Aquarius. Overhead we will look at the many star clusters and nebulae in the summer Milky Way. Later in the evening the Moon will rise in the east, displaying its distinctive craters and mountains.

Please pre-register for the event by contacting Wayne Petko at wpetko02@gmail.com. Participation is limited and the event is weather dependent.

Saturday, November 14: Whitehead Road to Ellarslie, The Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park (*MP, located in center of park*) **Hike 5.5 miles** or choose the 3-mile walk to the Trenton Battle Monument. Pass by an aqueduct along the way to twists and turns of the canal through Trenton. We will pass by the original Coalport section of Trenton and see current urban infrastructure related to the canal. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

Saturday, December 12: Washington Crossing to Ellarslie, The Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park (MP, located in center of park), **Hike 6.2 miles** or take the 3-mile hike to West Upper Ferry Road. Pass by the place where a parallel canal ran along the Delaware, historic areas by West Upper Ferry and Wilburtha Roads, and over an aqueduct. The museum is free and open until 5:00 p.m. Leader: Pamela V'Combe