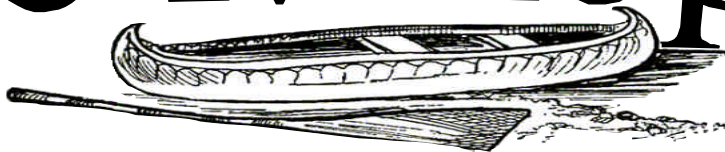


The Milepost



Quarterly Event Guide for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

Winter 2011

145 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

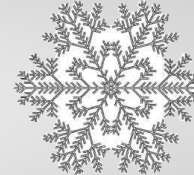
Vol. 11, Issue 1

Phone: Kingston Office (609) 924-5705 / Bull's Island Office (609) 397-2949 ~ Park Web Site: www.dandrcanal.com

FREE WINTER 2011 PROGRAMS AT THE D & R CANAL STATE PARK



Programs are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather, low registration or illness. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS unless otherwise noted.** Call the Park Office at 609-924-5705 (*Kingston Office*) to register or do so online. Visit www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html for further details and check back often for program updates, cancellation notifications and/or additions.



All programs are FREE unless otherwise specified!

Jan. 1 **Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Annual New Year's Day Open House:** This long-time tradition continues! Members of the BMCHA are inviting the public to join them as they welcome the new year. Come greet old friends and make new ones while savoring homemade refreshments. Come share in the celebration. The open house will be held at the Blackwells Mills Canal House located on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Somerset on Saturday, January 1st between 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE!

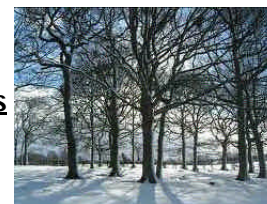
Jan. 8: **After Holidays Walk-Off:** Here's your chance to honor that New Year's Resolution to get more exercise and lose a few of those extra pounds we all put on over the holidays! Join the Park naturalist and historian for a 5-mile walk along the D&R Canal towpath. We'll meet at the Washington Crossing State Park parking lot located directly off Route 29 in Mercer County at 1:00 pm (right before the bridge over the Delaware). Start the new year off on the right foot and enjoy the beauty of the winter season. **Registration IS required.**

Jan. 22: **Winter Tree and Wildflowers:** The winter season allows us to enjoy the outdoors in a new perspective. Join the park naturalist along the trails at Six Mile Run Reservoir Site to learn how to identify trees by buds and wildflowers by their winter stems. This 2.5 mile hike will begin at 10:00 am. The group will meet at the parking lot located on Jacques Lane in Somerset. Please make sure to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring some water to drink. **Registration IS required.**

Jan. 22: **Visit the Port Mercer Canal House:** At one time many canal company houses dotted the landscape along the main route from Bordentown to New Brunswick. Today precious few remain. Under the care of the **Lawrence Historical Society**, the Port Mercer Canal House, located at 4378 Quakerbridge Road in Lawrence Township, has been lovingly maintained. Come to this winter open house, learn about the canal's past from the D&R Canal State Park's historian and experience the 19th century first-hand. The house will be open from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Registration is NOT required.

Jan. 29: **Advocating for Trees:** Join the Friends of Princeton Nursery Land for this informative slide presentation on trees and tree law by one of their members, **Rachel Roat**. Ms. Roat is an attorney with the unique practice of **Tree, Neighbor and Garden Law**. Examples of issues that may arise among property owners include trees that have grown beyond boundary lines, present hazards or block views. Her advice and mediation expertise has helped resolve issues between disputing parties with litigation as a last resort. This promises to be a useful presentation, so don't miss it. **The talk will be held at 2:00 pm in the D&R Canal State Park's Education Building located at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston.** If weather permits, there will be an after talk winter walk in the Mapleton Preserve, so dress for the weather. **Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE!**

JANUARY 2011



~ MORE FREE WINTER 2011 PROGRAMS ~

FEBRUARY 2011

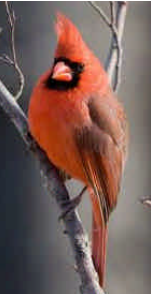
- Feb. 5: **Groundhog Day Celebration for Kids:** Let's make some guesses on what Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, has to say about this winter season. Children will enjoy an afternoon with the park naturalist learning about Groundhog Day. Participants will create their own shadow drawings, learn about how groundhogs and other NJ wildlife survive the cold winter months and go for a short walk around the park in search of any signs of spring. This program is appropriate for ages 4-8, but all ages are welcome. This program will be held at the D & R Canal's Kingston Office and begin at 1:00 pm. Registration IS required.



- Feb. 12: **Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Valentine Open House:** Members of the BMCHA are hosting this open house for all ages. Come join them at the canal house to view vintage greeting cards from private collections. Supplies will be provided for visitors to create their own cards for 2011! This afternoon program will be held at the Canal House located on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Franklin Township between 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Registration is NOT required & admission is FREE!



- Feb. 12: **The Great Backyard Bird Count:** Come and take part in a continental effort in better understanding our avian friends. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy-and it helps the birds. This year the count is going to be held from February 18 to February 21. To prepare for this annual event, come join the park naturalist at 1:00 pm in the D&R Canal State Park's Education Building located at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston for a PowerPoint presentation that will explain when, how and why the Great Backyard Bird Count works. Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE!



- Feb. 19: **Visit the Port Mercer Canal House:** At one time many canal company houses dotted the landscape along the main route from Bordentown to New Brunswick. Today precious few remain. Under the care of the **Lawrence Historical Society**, the Port Mercer Canal House, located at 4378 Quakerbridge Road in Lawrence Township, has been lovingly maintained. Come to this winter open house, learn about the canal's past from the D&R Canal State Park's historian and experience the 19th century first-hand. The house will be open from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Registration is NOT required.



- Feb. 19: **Explore the D&R Canal by Light Rail:** Repeated by popular demand! Join the **D&R Canal Watch** for a whirlwind guided tour by light rail into the 19th century between Roebling and Trenton! We will meet in the parking lot of the Bordentown Light Rail station (100 W. Park Avenue at Prince Street, above the boat landing) at 9:30 am, purchase tickets, and be treated to a brief introduction before boarding the train at 9:55 for a 5-minute ride south to Roebling to see cuts in the shoreline and sunken canal boats from the era when coal-laden boats crossed the river from Bristol to the D&R Canal. Roebling's abandoned Kinkora plant, and perhaps even an eagle may also be observed.



Then we will board a northbound train for a 15-minute ride to Trenton, and return to Bordentown, arriving at 10:55. The tracks follow the path of the D&R Canal between Crosswicks Creek and Trenton. From the west side of the train we will see passing views of the canal and the sites of former Trenton industries and bridges that lined the canal, now Route 129. On the return trip from the east side of the train we will glimpse two former Roebling plants, the Marsh, and Watson's Creek. In the City of Trenton, where Route 129 is on the former route of the canal, remnants of the industrial and commercial buildings that lined the canal can be observed and compared with earlier photos. Participants will get an overview of places that are difficult to see any other way, but anyone expecting a leisurely guided tour will be disappointed. Two-hour, either-direction tickets are \$1.50 (.70 for seniors). Please bring exact change. Parking and the tour are FREE. Registration IS strongly advised; call 609-924-2683 after February 5th. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends for the Marsh and the D&R Greenway Land Trust.



- Feb. 26: **Walk the Path to Landing Lane:** Enjoy a brisk winter afternoon walk along the canal towpath in Franklin Township with the park naturalist and historian. Participants will meet at the Demott Lane parking area (off Easton Avenue in Franklin Township) at 1:00 pm. We will head north toward Landing Lane for a 4-mile round trip tour along the historic towpath. Come enjoy the winter landscape along the canal and views of the Raritan River all while burning a few calories and learning a bit about the park's historic and natural resources! Dress for the weather! Registration IS required.