

# The Milepost



Quarterly Event Guide for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

Fall 2008

145 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

Vol. 8, Issue 4

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

## LAST PRINTED ISSUE OF THE MILEPOST!

In an effort to be cost efficient and environmentally responsible, the D&R Canal State Park will no longer print and mail our event newsletter. The Milepost will be **exclusively available as a PDF file** and downloadable from our website at: [www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html](http://www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html). The electronic version will continue to be mailed to our e-mail list members. For those who wish to receive the PDF version via email, please submit your email address to [dnrcanal@verizon.net](mailto:dnrcanal@verizon.net) and you will be added to our electronic mailing list.

## FREE FALL 2008 PROGRAMS AT THE D & R CANAL STATE PARK

Programs are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather, lack of interest 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](http://www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html) for further details and to check for program updates, cancellations and/or additions.

**All programs are FREE unless otherwise specified!**



SEPTEMBER 2008

- Sept. 6: Walk the Path in Lawrence Township:** Enjoy a morning walk along the canal with the D & R's Historian and visit two historic homes along the way - **The Port Mercer Canal House** and the **18th Century Brearley House**. The group will meet at the Port Mercer Canal House in Lawrence Township (*4278 Quakerbridge Rd.*) at 9:30 a.m. for a brief talk about the history of the D&R Canal and a tour of the Canal House. We'll then walk along the historic towpath to the Brearley House where the group will be treated to a tour of this restored 18th century home. Come join us for this 2.5 mile round trip walk back in time. **Pre-registration IS required. Weather permitting.**



- Sept. 13: Story of the D & R Canal:** As part of the South Bound Brook Historic Preservation Advisory Commission's annual **Canal Days at the Abraham Staats House**, the D & R Canal State Park's Historian will offer a PowerPoint presentation **at 1:00 pm** focusing on the history of the canal. Both historic and modern photographs will be included to illuminate the waterway's past and present life. Come join us at the Abraham Staats House located at 17 Von Stueben Lane in South Bound Brook from 10 am to 4 pm for a full day of canal fun. **Registration is NOT required.**



- Sept. 13: Paper Mania Exhibit and Sale at the Blackwells Mills Canal House:** This popular event returns to the historic canal house on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Franklin Township. Historic local photographs, memorabilia, prints, old books, postcards, posters, sheet music and more will be on sale. This weekend event will be held from 10 - 4 pm. **Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE!**

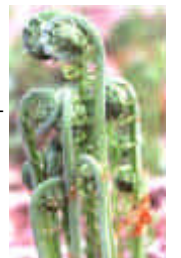


- Sept. 20: Birding at the Mapleton Preserve:** Join the **Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands** for a bird walk with **John Maret**. Mr. Maret is a fabulous birder, an active member of the Washington Crossing Audubon Society and excellent with new birders. Fall can be an excellent time for birding, as waves of warblers are passing through New Jersey during autumn migration. However, fall warblers can be challenging to identify, due to their small size and their preference for protective cover. Songs and call notes, or chips, are helpful means of identification. Learning these sounds takes a good pair of ears and lots of practice - John Maret has "educated ears" and is an excellent teacher. So plan on an early start and join this fall bird walk. Start time is 8:00 am and participants are asked to meet at the D & R Canal State Park's Kingston office located at 145 Mapleton Road.



**Call 609-683-0483 or visit [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org) for further information and directions. Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE!**

- Sept. 27: Bulls Island Natural Area Hike:** Join the D & R Canal State Park naturalist for a leisurely hike along the Bulls Island Natural Area. This State Natural Area hosts a one-mile long trail traversing through towering tulip poplar and sycamore trees, ostrich ferns, fall asters and scouring rush. Take time to get out and enjoy the changing of the seasons and learn a little about the natural world that surrounds you. The trail is flat and offers spectacular views of the historic canal and recently restored spillway. The walk is appropriate for ages 6 and up. Please wear appropriate footwear - sneakers or hiking boots are suggested. Participants are asked to meet at the Bulls Island Visitor Center at 10:00 am. **Pre-registration IS required. Weather permitting.**



OCTOBER 2008

- Oct. 4: Walk the Path in Lawrence Township:** Enjoy a morning walk along the canal with the D & R's Historian and visit two historic homes along the way - **The Port Mercer Canal House** and the **18th Century Brearley House**. The group will meet at the Port Mercer Canal House in Lawrence Township (*4278 Quakerbridge Rd.*) at 9:30 a.m. for a brief talk about the history of the D&R Canal and a tour of the Canal House. We'll then walk along the historic towpath to the Brearley House where the group will be treated to a tour of this restored 18th century home. Come join us for this 2.5 mile round trip walk back in time. **Pre-registration IS required. Weather permitting.**



- Oct. 11: Project Learning Tree Workshop For Teachers and Scout Leaders:** The park naturalist will be hosting a Project Learning Tree workshop at the Kingston office of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. This award winning professional development workshop uses forestry and the outdoors as tools for teaching a variety of subjects including science, art and English. Scout leaders will find the curriculum useful for creating unique and rewarding experiences for their troops. Participants will leave with a curriculum guide that includes over 90 lesson plans and teachers can receive 5 CEU's. This full day workshop will be held from 9:30 to 3:00. Advance registration IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED SO CALL EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.



# ~ MORE FREE FALL 2008 PROGRAMS ~

OCTOBER 2008

**Oct. 11: Fall Frolic For Children at the Blackwells Mills Canal House:** Kids bring your parents and come to the historic canal house for an afternoon of fun! There will be games to play and Halloween pumpkins to paint and "Unbeel" the Canal House Magician will be there to perform magic just for you. This family friendly event will be held at the Blackwells Mills 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 and admission is FREE!



**Oct. 16: World Water Monitoring Day Event at the Prallsville Mill Site in Stockton:** World Water Monitoring Days (WWMD), which takes place from September 18 to October 18, 2008, is a month-long international event that promotes education and stewardship of our world water resources. New Jersey teachers and students are invited to celebrate WWMD with the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ from 9:30-1:30. Staff from these agencies will be on hand to demonstrate water quality monitoring involving chemical, biological, and flow studies, as well as answer questions from and interact with the participants. Students will be able to conduct their own water quality testing for inclusion in the WWMD web site database. **For more information and registration information please contact Marc Rogoff, NJDEP, at (609) 292-1474.** Teachers, please pre-register your students and bring your own picnic lunch to this event (carry in-carry out).



**Oct. 18: Kingston Loop Trail:** Join the naturalist and historian of Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park in a walk along the newly created trail system in Kingston, NJ. The trail leads through the historic D & R Canal State Park, Mapleton Preserve (former site of Princeton Nurseries), Cook Natural Area and Middlesex County Open Space Park, Heathcote Meadow Preserve and is approximately 3.5 miles along mostly dirt/gravel pathways and is along flat terrain. The program will start at 10:00 am. Participants will meet at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park's Kingston Office located at 145 Mapleton Road. All ages are welcome. **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED. Weather permitting.**

**Oct. 25: Fall Fling at the Island:** October is here again and it's time to get Bulls Island ready for a fabulously fun **Fall Fling**. Make sure to mark your calendars and come prepared to spend a few hours at the Island on Saturday, October 25th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. We'll be offering a variety of activities for the kids including pumpkin painting, hay rides, crafts and more! Because it is the Halloween season, we invite everyone to come dressed in costume. Those who do should make sure to stop by the office and pick up a treat!!



This year we are pleased to include a special live animal presentation by Eyes of the Wild. **Mammals Mania**, one of their traveling animal presentations, promises to be an exciting 45 minute program featuring a variety of live mammals. This wildlife presentation will leave everyone with a better understanding of, and respect for, the animals that share our planet. This program will begin at 2:00 pm.

So kids bring your family to Bulls Island (*located 7 miles north of Lambertville off Route 29 in Hunterdon County*) between 1:00 - 4:00 pm for all the fun! **Admission and all activities are FREE! THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT.**

NOVEMBER 2008

**Nov 8: History Walk ~ From Nursery to Canal:** Enjoy a round-trip walk with the D & R's historian leading from the main office at Kingston to the canal towpath and the Kingston Canal House. Participants will meet at the Kingston office located at 145 Mapleton Road at 10:00 am for a leisurely 2-mile round trip walk. The group will proceed from the headquarters through a portion of the Mapleton Preserve (the former Princeton Nursery site) towards the canal towpath and the Kingston Canal House before turning back. Come enjoy a summer morning outdoors while burning a few calories and learning a bit about the historic resources of the D & R Canal State Park! **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED. Weather permitting.**



**Nov. 15: Hike the Newly Opened Trail ~ Bordertown & Duck Island:** Join the naturalist and historian of D & R Canal State Park in a walk along the newly opened trail in the area previously referred to as "the abandoned section of the canal." This 3-mile stretch is the previously inaccessible section running from Lock 1 along the Crosswicks Creek in Bordertown northward on Duck Island past Lock 2 (now buried) and ending at Lambertton Road in Trenton. The program will start at 10:00 am. Participants will meet at scenic overlook on Route 295 North. All ages are welcome. **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED.** Weather permitting. (*This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Marsh, Washington Crossing Audubon, D&R Canal Watch and the D&R Greenway Land Trust*)

**Nov. 17: Holiday Sale at the Blackwells Mills Canal House:** The holidays are just around the corner so get in the spirit and stop by the historic canal house on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in the Franklin Township section of Somerset for this annual sale. You'll find unique antique treasures, collectibles, jewelry, household items, gift suggestions, children's books and more. The house will be open from 10 - 4. **Registration is not required and admission is FREE!**



Dept. of Environmental Protection  
 NJ Division of Parks and Forestry  
 Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park  
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 Princeton, New Jersey 08540

## REMINDER: LAST PRINTED ISSUE OF THE MILEPOST!

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