

# The Milepost



Quarterly Event Guide for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

Spring 2000

145 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

Vol. 9, Issue 2

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

## FREE SPRING 2009 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!**

MARCH 2009

**Mar. 6:** Birding the Seasons on the D & R ~ Woodcock Watch: Join NJ Audubon volunteer (and Kingston resident) Arlene Oley and Park naturalist, Stephanie Fox, as they lead a dusk walk into the Mapleton Preserve in Kingston to search out the sites and sounds of the Woodcock. This unique looking bird provides a fanciful flight and sound display that will delight all that attend. Depending on the weather, the group should also hear the chirps and peeps of frogs and toads from the surrounding area. The program will begin at 6:00 pm. Participants are asked to meet at the D & R Canal Kingston Office located at 145 Mapleton Road (.2 miles from Rt. 27/Main Street). **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED. Inclement weather cancels.**



**Mar. 14:** Six Mile Run "In Anticipation of Spring" Hike: Officially Spring is only one week away but let's get together for a morning walk through the Six Mile Run Reservoir site to look for signs of the new season. This will be a **1½ hour nature walk** through the upland forest and open fields of this preserved section of land. Come explore this hidden oasis with the park naturalist and historian. **Participants are asked to meet at 10 am** at the Community Forestry office parking lot located at 625 Canal Road in Somerset. Afterwards we encourage everyone to join us at the Blackwells Mills Canal House for a bowl of homemade soup and a slice of crusty bread! (*See below*). **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED. Inclement weather cancels.**



**Mar. 14:** Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Irish Cottage Luncheon: This well-loved event is back by popular demand! Come to the historic canal house on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Franklin Township to dine on hearty soups, crusty breads, delectable desserts and catch the "lilt of Irish laughter". Food will be served from 11:30 - 2:30 **Registration is NOT required.**  
**Cost: Adults - \$8.00; Children - \$3.00**



**Mar. 30:** Bike the Canal Feeder in Mercer County: Join the **Sierra Club** for an easy 14-mile weekday bike trip on the along the historic towpath. Interested participants are asked to meet at the Washington Crossing State Park parking area located directly off Rt 29 and adjacent to the D & R Canal path. The group will pedal from Washington Crossing State Park (Titusville) north to Lambertville and return to the start location in time for lunch. The D&R towpath is relatively flat and well-graded dirt with some occasional loose dirt and gravel. Hybrid or mountain bikes are recommended but **HELMETS ARE REQUIRED.** Bring a lunch that will stay in your car and can be retrieved upon completion of the ride. **INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELS.** This ride will be lead by George & Leona Fluck and sponsored by the Sierra Club. For further information please call 609-259-3734 or email [Leona@pineypad-dlers.com](mailto:Leona@pineypad-dlers.com).



**Apr. 4:** 18th Annual D & R Canal Watch 5KRun & 3rd Annual 1-Mile Walk: The D&R Canal Watch 5K Fun Run which begins and ends at Washington Crossing State Park (Titusville, NJ) has become a popular annual event, attracting as many as 250 runners. The course loops through the village of Titusville and then along the canal towpath. Prizes will be awarded and T-shirts supplied to all registrants while supplies last. Race day registration fee of \$20 for the 5K Race and \$15 for the 1-Mile Walk, but you can save by pre-registering. Runners may get information and download an entry form from [www.canalwatch.org](http://www.canalwatch.org) or register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), or call 609 777-9379. All proceeds will benefit the park.

**Apr. 4:** Walk the Path in Lawrence Township: Enjoy a morning walk along the canal with the park 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 Quaker 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. **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED. Inclement weather cancels.**



**Apr. 18 & 19:** Watercolor Art Sale at the Blackwells Mills Canal House: The Blackwells Mills Canal House Association is pleased to welcome back Watercolorist Unlimited who will be displaying (and selling) their paintings at the historic canal house on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Franklin Township. This popular sale holds great local interest. This weekend event will be held on Saturday, April 18th from 10 - 5 pm and Sunday, April 19th from 12 - 5 pm. **Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE.**

**Apr. 18:** Bike the Path to Kingston: Enjoy a morning bike ride along the historic D & R towpath. This will be a guided 7½ mile ride highlighting the canal structures and history along the Princeton-Carnegie Lake-Kingston section. **Interested participants are asked to bring their own bicycle and helmet, and meet at Turning Basin Park in Princeton at 10:00 am.** Turning Basin Park is at the intersection of Alexander Road and the D&R. Learn about the Princeton-Kingston section and get some exercise in the bargain! This ride is sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch. **For further information please contact Bill Wiseman at 908-359-4241.**



**Apr. 18:** Hike the Recently Opened Trail ~ Bordentown & Duck Island: **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND** - 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 Bordentown northward on Duck Island past Lock 2 (now buried) and ending at Lambert 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. Inclement weather cancels.**

APRIL 2009

# ~ MORE FREE SPRING 2009 PROGRAMS ~

APRIL & MAY 2009

**Apr. 25: Arbor Day Walk:** Join Stephanie Fox, the D & R Canal State Park naturalist, at **1:00 pm** for a leisurely walk along the nursery roads in the Mapleton Preserve (*formerly Princeton Nurseries*). We will be identifying the trees and shrubs found within the property and exploring their uses through time from folk remedies to modern day supplements. The walk will begin at the D&R Canal State Park's Kingston office located at 145 Mapleton Road. **Pre-registration IS REQUIRED. Inclement weather cancels.**



**May 2: Birding The Seasons On The D & R Canal ~ BIG DAY IN MAY:** So what is a "Big Day"? It is **ONE** big fun day of birding with a little extra challenge. For our purpose, we plan to do an inventory of all bird species seen along the canal on ONE day and see what we come up with. The hope is to cover the entire length of the main canal, feeder and adjacent park lands. This will be quite an undertaking so volunteers will be needed to help lead field trips that day and to participate in different segments along the path. This is a time that likely will represent the greatest number of species based on migration and breeding patterns. Please mark your calendars and plan to join the group or volunteer as a segment leader. Volunteers do not need to be experts - just a pair of eyes and the desire for a fun day are required! **If this has piqued your interest, then please contact either Arlene Oley (arobirder@aol.com) or the park naturalist, Stephanie Fox (dnrnaturalist@verizon.net).** For further details and information please call the park office at (609) 924-5705.



**May 2: "Spirit of the Jerseys" ~ Annual History Fair:** This full afternoon of events highlighting all the state historic sites (*including the D & R Canal*) will be held at Washington Crossing State Park located off County Road 546 in Titusville, Mercer County beginning at 11:00 am (*schedule TBA*). A variety of activities will be offered including foodways, music, living history & reenactment demonstrations as well as historic games, crafts, vintage baseball and more. Come discover NJ's history and celebrate our state's rich heritage. Join the family fun at "The Crossing" from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. **NO ADMISSION FEE. RAIN OR SHINE.** For information call (609) 737-9303 or visit [www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic](http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic)



**May 9: Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Market Day:** This spring event features perennial plants and flowers from member's gardens. Attend the The Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's SUPER YARD SALE on the lawn besides the historic canal house located at the intersection of Canal and Blackwells Mills Roads in Franklin Township. Inside find baked goods and gift items. **DONATIONS FROM YOUR GARDEN, ATTIC OR KITCHEN ARE WELCOME!** To donate please call (732) 297-5548 at least two weeks in advance. Everything is for sale so bring your wallets! **The sale will begin a 10 am and continue until 4 pm.** Make sure to arrive early to assure your pick of treasures! **Registration is NOT required and admission is FREE!**



**May 9: Hands Along the Canal:** All you devoted park users have an opportunity to show your support of our 175-year old canal by taking part in this ambitious task! **Hands Along the Canal** is a bold undertaking that will attempt to line thousands of hand-holding park users along the historic towpath's main section! Sponsored by the **East Coast Greenway**, this show of support is scheduled to take place at 10:00 am. We can't accomplish this goal without your participation so those of you who love and use the D&R should make sure to mark your calendars, register to participate and plan to be a part of this show of support for the park! Come help celebrate the canal's 175th anniversary year by taking part in this ambitious historic effort. **Those wishing to participate must register for the event online at the East Coast Greenway website.** Keep checking the park website for further details and information.



**May 16: Birding the Canal in Zarephath:** Join the D & R Canal Watch and birders Barbara and George Dawson as they lead an early morning walk along the towpath in the Zarephath area. The woods and water along the towpath of this 175-year-old canal provide a home to countless bird species. Listen, too, for the chirps and peeps of frogs and toads from the surrounding area. **The program will begin at 8:00 am. Participants are asked to meet at the parking area at the intersection of Weston Canal Road and the Weston Causeway (parking available at the abandoned section of roadway accessible from Weston Canal Road).** Make sure to bring binoculars and water. **For more information, please contact Barbara Dawson at 732-887-6070. Weather permitting.**



**May 16: Canal Authors Extravaganza:** Visit with authors of canal-related books and bring your own copy to be signed. Some books will be for sale. Authors who will be there to meet and greet are: William J. McKelvey (*The Delaware & Raritan Canal: Champlain to Chesapeake*); Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon (*Moy Sand and Gravel*); Richard F. Veit, with his father's book, *The Old Canals of New Jersey*; Will Rivinus (*Guide to the Delaware Canal*); Marie Murphy Duess (*The Delaware Canal: From Stone Coal Highway to Historic Landmark*); Linda J. Barth (*Bridgetender's Boy, The Delaware and Raritan Canal*); Walter Choroszewski (*Somerset County: A Celebration of Communities*); Jeanette Muser (*Rocky Hill, Kingston and Griggstown*); Lee Sullivan Hill (*Canals are Water Roads*); Jessie Havens (*Somerset County: Three Centuries of Progress*) and poet Penelope Schott (*Canal*).



Lee Sullivan Hill and Linda Barth will read excerpts from their children's books throughout the day. As a special treat Time Traveling Minstrel, **Roy Justice** (a featured canal musician/historian in Pennsylvania and New Jersey) will be on hand to take the crowd back to the canal era through his special blend of storytelling and music. Mr. Justice combines storytelling, music, and history to present interactive (participatory) programs on a variety of subjects dealing with our Nation's past. And as if that weren't enough, visitors may watch videotapes about the D&R Canal, including the NJN production, produced by Cliff Crawford.

So come join us and meet the authors who have been inspired to write about the historic D & R Canal. **This FREE event is sponsored by the D & R Canal Watch and will be held at the Griggstown Church (located on Canal Road in Franklin Township, Somerset County) from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. For further information please call Linda Barth at either 908-722-7428 or 908-240-0488.** Registration is not required and admission is FREE!

**May 23: Birding the Canal:** The Delaware and Raritan Canal is a man-made wonder that attracts a host of breeding birds. Come and join a naturalist from the New Jersey Audubon Society to learn some history about the 175-year old canal and the host of birds that call it home. **This four-hour walk will begin at 8:00 am. Meeting location is still to be determined - call for information. This program is appropriate for children 9 and up. Interested participants are asked to contact NJ Audubon Society at (609) 897-9400 to pre-register. There is a \$15.00 registration fee.**

**May 23: Bike the Path to Griggstown:** Enjoy a morning bike ride along the historic towpath with canal expert Bob Barth. Bob will lead this 8 1/2 mile ride and explain canal structures and history along the way. **Interested participants are asked to bring their own bicycle, helmet and lunch and meet at the Blackwells Mills Causeway (where Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Road meet in Somerset, Franklin Township) at 10:00 am.** Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D & R! This ride is sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch. **For further information please contact Bob Barth at 201-401-3121.**



**May 25: Memorial Day Paddle on the D & R Canal and the Delaware River:** Join the Sierra Club for a 10-mile weekday, shuttleless paddle that begins on the D & R's feeder canal at Washington Crossing State Park and progresses north to Firemens Eddy. Participants will then portage to the Delaware River and float downriver to our start point at Washington Crossing State Park. Bring your own boat, equipment, lunch and beverages. Rentals are not available. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. **INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELS.** This ride will be lead by George & Leona Fluck and sponsored by the Sierra Club. **For further information please call 609-259-3734 or email Leona@piney-paddlers.com.**

