

16th Annual Waterloo Canal Day: Come Celebrate a Morris Canal Town!

**Saturday, June 25th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Rain date -- Sunday, June 26th**

For the fifth year the Canal Society is honored to be able to partner with the New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry and the Department of Environmental Protection to co-sponsor Waterloo Canal Day, opening our treasured Waterloo Village for the day for the public's enjoyment, *free of charge!*

Our 16th Annual Waterloo Canal Day will be held this year on Saturday, June 25th between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. In the event of heavy rain on that day, Canal Day will be held the next day on Sunday, June 26th at the same time and with the same participants. Check the schedule on the Canal Society website at canalsocietynj.org if the weather is questionable. This year we will continue to highlight the fascinating heritage of the Morris Canal and the various historic elements of Waterloo, the most intact, surviving Morris Canal town!

Canal boat captain John Hummel will once again be spinning his yarns about life laboring on the canals in the good old days and our pontoon boat and crew will be providing boat rides for the public on the village's section of the Morris Canal. Live period music will help provide the setting for reliving the canal era.

Guided Walking Tours Will Be Offered

Guided walking tours of the canal sites and the village will be offered for the public throughout the day and the Society's New Jersey Canal Museum and the carriage barn behind it will provide many exhibits and video presentations for the public's enjoyment. A Canal Society display and sales table will offer books on canal history and other items for purchase by the public and other historical groups will be exhibiting their wares.

We are very excited to be able to once again feature Smith's Store and the Rutan Cabin for public tours. The general store is the best-preserved Morris Canal store and offers a fascinating picture of a mercantile establishment of the late 19th-early 20th century segment of the canal era. We continue to add more vintage merchandise of a bygone era and anticipate including some hands-on activities such as grinding coffee beans and pitting cherries. The store is a wonderful opportunity to highlight how everyday domestic items have evolved over the century.

The 1820s Rutan Cabin, constructed of logs, has many period furnishings to illustrate the era of a rural farmstead at the time of the Morris Canal's original construction. Society guides will explain the lifeways at that period and will show the various implements that were an everyday part of living in the early 19th century. The Lenape Village will be open for Canal Day and can be visited to explore Native American lifeways long before the canal era.

Once again we will have the Blacksmith Shop open with an operating forge and demonstrations of ironworking along the Morris Canal. Also as a brand new attraction this year we anticipate having the Gristmill open for public tours. If all goes well and the Musconetcong River cooperates, we may even be able to operate the mill's waterwheel and its run of millstones! As another new attraction we will feature a photo exhibit of historic landscape views of Waterloo at the turn of the 20th century. Historically, Waterloo's landscape had a gritty industrial core surrounding the Gristmill, Blacksmith Shop and the Morris Canal. Behind and in between the residences were a cluster of agricultural buildings, extensive gardens and then expansive fields with crops under cultivation. These elements are well illustrated in this exhibit, depicting landscapes that contrast with the beautiful, bucolic setting we see at Waterloo today.

The Waterloo United Methodist Church, now in its 152nd year, will again open its doors for Canal Day, offering guided tours of its charming historic sanctuary and selling lunch and snack foods throughout the day as a fundraiser. Everyone is encouraged to patronize the church to ensure that its food concession is profitable. The church is the true *Living History* in the village, operating there since 1859.

Learn About Waterloo's Railroad and Iron Heritage

Other special exhibits will feature the Morris Canal Greenway in nearby counties and the railroad and iron heritage of Waterloo. Iron ore shipping was a major component of the Morris Canal's commerce for many years with Waterloo serving as an important point of ore transshipment. The annual Photo Contest and Exhibit will also be featured throughout the day. All photographers are eligible to enter.

Come join us for our 16th Annual Waterloo Canal Day! It's a great occasion to enjoy the serenity of Waterloo, to partake of its great history and to continue to demonstrate to the State of New Jersey how much we cherish our State Parks and especially Waterloo!

Volunteer Help Greatly Appreciated!

Many volunteers are necessary to make Waterloo Canal Day a great success! If you are able to help us on Canal Day, please contact the Society at 908-832-2888 to offer your services. We greatly appreciate your help and are confident that you will have a great day!

Membership Picnic Always a Great Treat!

Once again, the Waterloo United Methodist Church will be catering the Canal Society's annual picnic at Waterloo. The picnic will be held at 6 p.m. and will feature all you can eat portions of savory treats! The annual member picnic is a great way to relax and enjoy the company of other members after a very busy but rewarding day. This year's picnic will cost \$22 per person. Advance registrations are required and can be made by contacting the Society at 908-832-2888. We ask that reservations be made by June 21st.