

# ON THE LEVEL



## THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

### \$1.3 MILLION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO THE DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL STATE PARK

This fall the NJ Department of Environmental Protection announced that it will be investing in four projects to preserve elements of the historic Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park and to enhance recreational use. The allocations are as follows: Griggstown Mule Tender's Barracks restoration – \$700,000; Calhoun Street Bridgetender's House restoration, Trenton – \$30,000; recreational trail restoration along the D&R Canal in Princeton – \$48,000; and recreational trail restoration along the D&R Canal in Hamilton – \$550,000.

The Griggstown Mule Tender's Barracks was formerly a D&R Canal museum, operated for many years. The structure was severely impacted by flooding years ago and has sat derelict ever since. The dedicated funds will bring this structure back to useful life.

The Calhoun Street Bridgetender's House was formerly the offices of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commis-



*Historic view of the Delaware & Raritan Canal and a swing bridge at Bound Brook.*

sion and was subsequently leased out to various occupants. The dedicated funds will rehabilitate this historic house in downtown Trenton for use as a visitors' center for the D&R Canal Park and as office space.

The recreational trail development

will accommodate the many visitors who frequent the D&R Canal State Park. The Princeton area is a section of the park that experiences intensive usage by the public. The Hamilton area of the park extends between Trenton and Bordentown and has been undeveloped since the formation of the D&R Canal State Park in the 1970s. Creation of a recreational trail along the canal in this location will facilitate public access and promote use in this heretofore underutilized length of the canal park. ■

### CANAL SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF D&R CANAL STATE PARK

In May 2007 Patricia Kalleser became the new superintendent of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. The Canal Society recognizes the D&R as a crown jewel amongst preserved his-  
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## MEETINGS

**Friday – January 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** – Refreshments at 7:10

### **COAL MINING - An Industry that Gave Birth to Our Historic Canal Network**

*Morris County Cultural Center – 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township*

MIKE HETMAN

Coal was the life blood of our region's 19th-century transportation canals. In their time, canals were the most efficient means of transporting vast quantities of the bulk cargo coal to power industry and heat residences and businesses. This evening's program will discuss the sources of that coal and mining techniques that were used to ex-  
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# NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF D&R CANAL STATE PARK

(Continued from page 1)

toric canal sites in New Jersey. Not only is the canal listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, it is the second most visited State Park in New Jersey. Furthermore, it is one of the most intact (if not the most intact) 19<sup>th</sup>-century transportation canals in the US.

Patricia Kalleser is a natural for her new position. Her background has well prepared her to run this large park, which is classified by the NJ Division

of Parks and Forestry as a "one," meaning that it is considered to be one of the more complicated State Parks to manage.

Kalleser grew up in South Bound Brook in Somerset County. She attended Cook College, where she graduated with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management. She is also a certified Biology teacher, as well. Her husband is a forester.

She started her career at Parks and Forestry in 2001, initially working in South Jersey, at Fort Mott and the



Historic view of D&R Canal near State Street Lock, Trenton.

Hancock House Historic Site. Then she moved further north, to Voorhees State Park in Hunterdon County and Hacklebarney State Park in Morris County, which are jointly administered. When the position opened at the D&R Canal State Park, she went for it. "I considered it a nice challenge," Kalleser said. "I'd heard wonderful things about the staff," she added. She also pointed out that she doesn't run the park by herself. "There's also a naturalist, two historians, two customer service representatives, three maintenance supervisors, and a fantastic maintenance crew."

What about her future plans for the park? "I'd really like to see the Trenton section of the canal improved," Kalleser said. "It's being worked on by seasonal staff and volunteers from The College of New Jersey." However, she added, that there is still plenty of clean up work necessary.

She expressed her appreciation to Bob and Linda Barth for showing her around, and helping her to learn the canal's importance. "I'd like to formally say 'Thank you' to all the people who have helped: the historic groups, the friends, and canal enthusiasts. It's much appreciated." ■



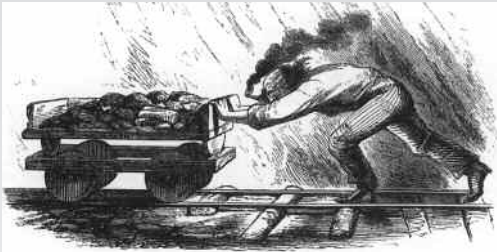
Canoeists enjoy the D&R Canal.

## MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

tract it. The speaker is an avid explorer of historic coal mines and his program will also illustrate his many adventures exploring those historic mines.

**Mike Hetman** is a self-taught enthusiast for all things relating to coal and iron mines. He has explored numerous historic mines in the region of northern New Jersey, southern New York State, and in northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition, he is a musician and is a designer of computer websites.



**Friday – March 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:10**

**NOTE: The regular meeting date has been changed due to the Easter holiday weekend!**

### Water, Clay, Coal & Kiln

#### The Role of the Delaware & Raritan Canal in the Growth of Trenton's Industrial Potteries

Morris County Cultural Center – 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township

RICHARD HUNTER

The construction of the Delaware & Raritan Canal through Trenton greatly promoted industrial development in the city, acting as a means of transporting in raw materials for manufacturing, providing anthracite coal to power industry, and providing a means of shipping out manufactured goods to markets. Tonight's program will discuss the D&R Canal and its impact on the indus-

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**For directions to the Morris County Cultural Center see page 6.**



*The canal store at Waterloo is one of the treasured features of the historic canal town.*

## UPDATE ON WATERLOO VILLAGE

### **ROOF WORK UNDERWAY AND PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN ABOUT TO BE INITIATED**

During this past fall the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection entered into a contract to have half-a-dozen of the roofs on the village's buildings replaced or extensively repaired. Many of these roofs were in an advanced state of deterioration, allowing water to damage the interiors of the historic buildings. About half of the roof work was completed when winter set in, at least temporarily shutting down the contractor.

In other state-sponsored repairs, the main comfort station was refitted with all new toilets and divider stalls. In addition, John Kraft has completed an extensive restoration and expansion of the Lenape village on Indian Island. This exhibit is now better than ever and includes many impressive new features.

In late fall the state released a request for proposals for restoration architecture firms to thoroughly examine all of the primary historic buildings at Waterloo as part of the development of a Master Plan for the village. This assessment will evaluate structural conditions, compile floor plans and will prioritize recommendations for repairs. A component of the study will include

a background history of the village and its structures.

Canal Society President Brian Morrell participated in a Master Plan bidder's walk through of 17 of the village's buildings in late October. During the walk through Brian had several opportunities to discuss the history of the Morris Canal with the bidders, the importance of Waterloo as a canal town and to describe the various canal structures and elements within the village. The walk through revealed the massive extent of the repair issues that now will have to be addressed by the State.

As a condition of the lease agreement with the State, the Waterloo Foundation for the Arts was to undertake the maintenance on these buildings to preserve them as historical assets for the residents of New Jersey. Tragically that maintenance did not occur and now a massive investment will be required to refurbish these structures. Already the State has allocated nearly \$1 million toward this effort, but that appears only to be a small down payment toward the full scope of what will be required in the near future.

A future operator for the village has yet to be found and the ultimate disposition of the remaining contents of the historic buildings remains unresolved.

### **LAST SEASON'S CANAL SOCIETY/DIVISION OF PARKS & FORESTRY CANAL HERITAGE DAYS WERE A GREAT SUCCESS!**

Following the rousing success of Waterloo Canal Day on Saturday, June 30th, the Canal Society implemented Canal Heritage Days at Waterloo two Saturdays a month during July through October. These days were the only time that the village was open to the public last season. It was a wonderful opportunity for visitors to be welcomed to Waterloo Village free of charge to learn about the canal heritage of the site while participating in guided tours of the canal features and the village's buildings, enjoying the pontoon boat ride on the canal and visiting our New Jersey Canal Museum. These Canal Heritage Days were very popular and altogether the eight days attracted 800 members of the public. This visitation, combined with Waterloo Canal Day, brought the total to 1600 people participating in the Canal Society programming at Waterloo this past season.

The Canal Society is already in discussion with the State of New Jersey regarding implementing comparable canal-related activities at Waterloo in the upcoming spring, summer and fall. The specific dates and details of this programming will be announced in the spring issue of *On the Level*. In the meantime we are seeking volunteers who would be willing to help us with these activities and programs at Waterloo during the upcoming season. Volunteers are needed to staff our museum, the village gate, and to lead canal site tours. Members willing to offer their services as guides at the Canal Museum should contact Art Bird, Museum Guide Coordinator, at 908-903-1468. General volunteers should contact Society Administrative Assistant, Phyllis Stanaback at 908-832-2888.

Canal Heritage Days are a perfect opportunity to enjoy the picturesque setting of Waterloo Village while helping to bring the Morris Canal to life for the visiting public. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

# UPDATES ON THE MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY

## MORRIS COUNTY AWARDS \$90,750 GRANT TO GREENWAY

The Morris County Open Space Trust Fund has recently reaffirmed its support of the Morris Canal Greenway by providing a \$90,750 grant to the Canal Society of New Jersey. This award is to be used to match the Society's Green Acres funding to acquire part of the head of Plane 1 West in Port Morris. Society Director Laura Szwak has been coordinating this acquisition and prepared the application to the Morris County Open Space Trust. Roxbury Township has agreed to partner with the Society by providing up to \$20,000 in soft costs toward the land purchase and is willing to become the permanent owner of the property. We thank Laura for all her efforts and Roxbury Township for its support.

## NEW SECTION OF TRAIL OPENED

On this past September 8th, 30 incoming freshmen from Centenary College in Hackettstown spent half a day volunteering to clear a new section of the Morris Canal Greenway Trail. The new alignment

extends from the western edge of Waterloo Village, westward beneath Interstate Route 80. The Canal Society has long sought to have the Morris Canal Greenway Trail within Allamuchy Mountain State Park connected with Waterloo, a concept which has now received the sanction of State Parks. We extend a big THANK YOU! to the Centenary freshmen who did a terrific job in opening up this new section of trail.

## SAXTON FALLS FEASIBILITY STUDY TO COMMENCE THIS SPRING!

As previously announced, last spring the Canal Society was awarded a \$39,000 grant by the New Jersey Historic Trust to support a management and feasibility study for the Morris Canal features within the Saxton Falls section of Allamuchy Mountain State Park. Receipt of this grant was made possible by our members, who contributed a required \$13,000 in matching funds in order for the Society to be eligible to apply for the Trust grant. The Trust grant funds



Brian Morrell and Laura Szwak hike along part of the newly cleared canal trail at Waterloo.

were appropriated by the State Legislature this past fall and we now have a grant contract in hand. We anticipate that the Saxton Falls project will get underway with our consultant, HJGA Consulting, Architecture, & Historic Preservation, Inc., as weather permits as we approach this spring. We also have been encouraging a collaborative effort to link the Saxton Falls area with Hackettstown via the Morris Canal Greenway. Warren County's Morris Canal Committee, the Warren County Planning Department, the Hackettstown Historical Society, the Hackettstown Historic Preservation Commission, and the Canal Society are all logical partners to help facilitate this connection.

## LEDGEWOOD - CANAL PLANE 2 EAST PRESERVATION WORK

The preservation work on this remarkably preserved plane is about to go out to bid. The project will require substantial masonry reconstruction at the junction of the stone-arched tailrace tunnel and the turbine pit. Also, a covered pavilion will be installed over the ground surface opening of the turbine pit to protect the overall structure from the elements. It is anticipated that the actual construction will commence in the spring.



The lock at Saxton Falls is one of the most visibly intact locks on the overall Morris Canal.

Historic view of Union Canal tunnel.



# SPRING TRIP UNION CANAL FESTIVAL

Come join us for the Canal Society's Spring Field Trip to the Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon, PA., to visit the Lebanon County Historical Society's Canal Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

The Union Canal was an early 19th-century link between Reading and Harrisburg and is renowned for its National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark tunnel, cut through solid rock. This tunnel is the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the US! Surrounding the tunnel is a 100-acre park and a scenic water-filled section of the canal. Guided boat rides pass through the 600-foot-long tunnel.

The annual Canal Festival includes numerous vendors, craft demonstrations, live musical entertainment, sheep shearing, antiques of the canal era, carriage rides, canoe rentals, and an evening barbeque dinner.

The cost of this one-day trip will be approximately \$45 per person, which includes the cost of the bus and the barbeque dinner in the evening. Lunch will be extra and on your own at the various vendor booths. Participants are encouraged to enjoy the guided boat ride through the tunnel for an extra fee of \$6 per person.

The bus will depart the Morristown area (exact location will be announced) at 9 a.m. and will return from PA. at approximately 9:30 p.m. Parties interested in reserving a space on this exciting tour should call Mark Hamill at 908-561-1250. Don't wait to make your reservation! We anticipate that this trip will fill up quickly!

## WHARTON - TRAILS GRANT AWARDED TO IMPROVE GREENWAY TRAIL

The recent National Recreational Trails Act grant round awarded the Borough of Wharton \$25,000 to help improve the trail conditions along part of the Morris Canal Greenway adjacent to and within the Borough's Hugh Force Park. Part of this effort will be to create easier access between the Morris Canal towpath and the adjacent, abandoned High Bridge Branch rail bed, thus facilitating a loop trail within the park.

## NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION EXPLORED

Anthony Pasquini, Warren County's Planning Department, Warren County's Morris Canal Committee, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, Heritage Conservancy and the Canal Society have participated in a couple of recent meetings to explore the potential for a National Heritage Area designation for the Morris Canal and the Musconetcong

River. At a December meeting representatives from the National Park Service's National Heritage Area, Eastern US Office; the National Park Service's Philadelphia Office; and the Delaware and Lehigh National

Heritage Corridor gave presentations on the National Heritage Area concept and steps necessary for such a designation to be realized. A field visit followed to Plane 9 West in Stewartsville. ■

# ANNUAL SPIRIT OF THE JERSEYS STATE HISTORY FAIR CELEBRATES NEW JERSEY'S HERITAGE

On Saturday, May 3, 2008 the New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry will sponsor its annual Spirit of the Jerseys fair at Washington Crossing State Park, in Titusville, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, as is the parking. Approximately 100 historical groups and associations from all over the state will be participating. Exhibits will feature military reenactments, historical theatre, music, museum displays and a great variety of other entertaining booths. The Canal Society will have an informational/display table and the

State is strongly encouraging us to have our pontoon boat on the canal feeder that day, offering rides to the public. Arrangements for the boat are in the process of being finalized and we hope that all of the permitting falls into place in time for the event. The Fair's activities are primarily centered around the park's visitor center/museum. Typically, thousands of people attend this popular event. The Fair will be held rain or shine. Society members are strongly encouraged to attend to celebrate our State's heritage. ■

## MEETINGS

*(Continued from page 2)*

trial development of Trenton, with a special emphasis on the city's pottery industry. Trenton factories manufactured a full range of pottery products, from fine china tea cups to sanitary pottery such as toilets and sinks. Learn about the days when the phrase "Trenton Makes, the World Takes" was in fact a reality.

**Richard Hunter, Ph.D.** is the President/Principal Archeologist of Hunter Research, a highly respected, New Jersey-based consulting firm offering a full range of cultural resource services to public and private clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern US. Richard has specific expertise in historical and industrial archeology, historical geography and historic landscape analysis. His firm has conducted many projects relating to the D&R Canal and Trenton's historic industries, including the city's famous potteries and its early steel works.



*Historic view of Trenton's pottery industry along the D&R Canal.*

### Directions to the Morris County Cultural Center

**FROM THE MORRISTOWN GREEN**, turn right onto Washington St (County Route 510, formerly NJ Route 24). Travel 3.5 miles west toward Chester. Pass the roads to the Delbarton School and Lewis Morris County Park on the left. After the curve and long white picket fence, look for a sign for the MUA on the right, pointing toward the driveway, which is marked by a street light and lighted directional sign. Make a sharp left turn and drive uphill to a Spanish-style stucco building at the top. Parking is in the lot to the left at the top of the hill. Once inside the main entrance hall of the Cultural Center, the auditorium is to the left. Restrooms are upstairs, with elevator access.

**FROM ROUTE 287 SOUTH**, take Exit 35, Madison Ave. Turn right at the top of the ramp onto Madison Ave (Route 124). Bear right at the next light onto South Street, continue straight through a series of traffic lights and around the Morristown Green. Turn right onto Washington St. (County Route 510, formerly Route 24). Continue as described above.

**FROM ROUTE 287 NORTH**, take Exit 35, South Street/Madison Ave. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto South St, continue straight through several lights and travel around the Morristown Green. Turn right onto Washington St, (County Route 510, formerly Route 24). Continue as described above.

## AN INSPIRING LABOR OF LOVE ALONG THE MORRIS CANAL IN CLIFTON

Clifton's Morris Canal Park is truly a story about the inspiration and dedication of Canal Society member, Jack Kuepfer. Jack, who is now 87, had the vision 20 years ago to transform a debris-strewn, five-acre tract of land along the Garden State Parkway into a remarkable public park. Featured within the park is a 600-foot-length of a water-filled section of the Morris Canal, surrounded by numerous gardens and picnic areas.

Jack was originally inspired to create the park as he walked along the trash-covered plot with his then young grandson back in the 1980s. He then knew that it was time to preserve a piece of the Morris Canal in his hometown of Clifton and to transform an eyesore into a public amenity. Enlisting the help of many Boy Scout troops, master gardeners from Cook College of Rutgers University, the Clifton Department of Public Works and Passaic County's Sheriff's labor assistance program, Jack set about to create the remarkable transformation that is reflected in today's Morris Canal Park.

His efforts did not go unnoticed. In 1987 the Clifton City Council dedicated the park and Jack received a "Take Pride in America Award," presented by then President Ronald Reagan on the lawn of the White House. His dedication continues to be recognized. In May 2007 Jack was awarded a \$2,500 prize as part of the 11th Annual Russ Berrie Awards, bestowed by the Russell Berrie Foundation in recognition of selfless service to one's community and fellow mankind.

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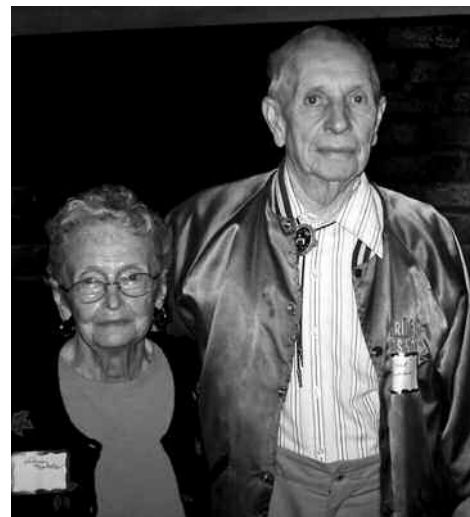
# JACK NICHOLS HONORED AS STATE PARKS 2006 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

On September 29, 2007 superintendents from all of the State Parks in northern New Jersey, regional superintendents and the Acting Director of the Division of Parks & Forestry gathered at Waterloo Village's Meeting House to participate in an annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The guests of honor were all of the Friends groups, volunteer organizations, individual volunteers and 2006 Volunteers of the Year, represented by over 100 attendees. The Canal Society was amongst the Friends groups and was recognized for its many hundreds of hours of volunteer service contributed to State Parks along the Morris Canal Greenway and within the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park.

It was a special honor for the Canal Society to be able to recognize our member Jack Nichols in Port Morris as our 2006 Volunteer of the Year. As a volunteer for approximately 40 years, Jack has preserved and maintained the site of Morris Canal Plane 1 West in Port Morris. A significant portion of the plane site is on the edge of Lake Musconetcong, within the State Park holdings. He has preserved the artifacts associated with the canal plane, has es-

tablished a small museum within his adjacent residence and always has welcomed the public for tours of this historic Morris Canal site. It is through his tireless efforts that many visible remains of the plane survive and are available for the public's enjoyment. Both Jack and his wife, Helene were able to attend the ceremony and we were proud to be able to honor them in this manner! Congratulations to both Jack and Helene!

Following the ceremony the Canal Society welcomed participants for a tour of our New Jersey Canal Museum at Waterloo. ■



Jack and Helene Nichols at the State Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

## ON THE LEVEL



### THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

PO Box 737, Morristown, New Jersey

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Canal Society Administrative Assistant, Phyllis Stanaback – 908-832-2888

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Brian Morrell  
**Vice President:** Joe Macasek  
**Treasurer:** Vacant  
**Recording Secretary:** Dennis Furbush  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Harry Rescigno  
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#### DIRECTORS

Bob Bodenstein Bill McKelvey  
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 Mark Hamill Bierce Riley  
 Joyce Hussa Richard Simon  
 Judy Keith Laura Szwak

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Treasurer:** Interim Financial Administrator  
Kate Gordon – 973-579-5523

**Membership Chairman:** Marilyn Craine  
973-667-4335 – mandrcraine@verizon.net

**Museum Director:** Bruce Tell  
609-967-0090 – peermont@verizon.net

**Museum Guide Coordinator:** Art Bird  
908-903-1468

**Refreshments:** Barbara Murray  
973-887-1680 – bjmurray57@optonline.net



Acting Director of Parks & Forestry, Jeanne Mroczko and Society President Brian Morrell at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

[www.CanalSocietyNJ.org](http://www.CanalSocietyNJ.org) – 908-722-9556 – [nj-cnal@googlegroups.com](mailto:nj-cnal@googlegroups.com)

# LABOR OF LOVE ALONG THE MORRIS CANAL

(Continued from page 6)

Now 20 years after the initial creation of Morris Canal Park, the City of Clifton held a 20th Anniversary cele-

bration last May for the park and a rededication of this outstanding achievement of Jack Keupfer's vision and tireless endeavors. Jack also cele-

brated an anniversary of his own. He has now provided 11,000 volunteer hours in the park and several hundreds of his own funds to create it and oversee its maintenance. He also recently supervised the 50th Boy Scout Eagle Project that has been implemented in the park.

In our opinion, Jack can never receive enough recognition for his labor of love – Clifton's Morris Canal Park. We wish Jack many more years of being able to nurture his creation along the Morris Canal, a truly remarkable gift to the residents of Clifton and all of New Jersey! You are truly an inspiration to us all! ■



*The Canal Society of New Jersey received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday, Jan. 18** 7:30 p.m. Membership Meeting  
*Morris County Cultural Center*
- Saturday, Mar. 15** Canal History & Technology Symposium at Easton, PA
- Friday, Mar. 28** 7:30 p.m. Membership Meeting  
*Morris County Cultural Center*
- Saturday, Apr. 5** Friends of the NJ Transportation Heritage Center Symposium
- SPRING FIELD TRIP** Saturday, May 17  
*Union Canal Festival*
- JUNE** 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterloo Canal Day  
(Date to be Announced)
- SELECT Saturdays, July – October** Waterloo Canal Heritage Days  
(Dates to be Announced)

[www.CanalSocietyNJ.org](http://www.CanalSocietyNJ.org)

[nj-cnal@googlegroups.com](mailto:nj-cnal@googlegroups.com)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Morrisstown, New Jersey 07063-0737

PO Box 737

CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

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