

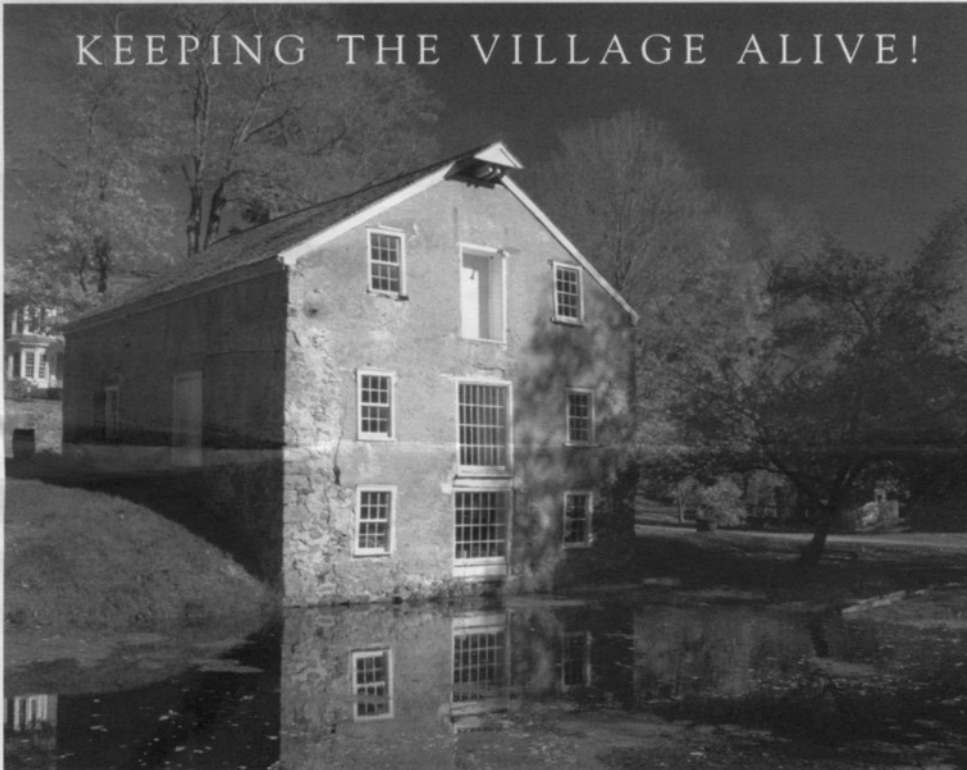
# ON THE LEVEL



## THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

### 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WATERLOO CANAL DAY: CELEBRATING THE CANAL HERITAGE OF WATERLOO!

KEEPING THE VILLAGE ALIVE!



*The Smith Store is one of the Morris Canal-related gems at Waterloo.*

## MEETINGS

**Friday – May 16, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:10**

### **Historical Tour of the New Jersey Highlands, From Andover to Waterloo**

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

KEVIN WRIGHT

The New Jersey Highlands has a rich heritage and the area from Andover to Waterloo is no exception. Tonight's presentation will feature the history of Andover, which in the 18th-century had an iron furnace operation known as the Andover Furnace. The counterpart of this iron complex was the Andover Forge, which was located on the Musconetcong River at what later became known as Waterloo.

In his presentation, Kevin will trace the history of the portion of Sussex County from Andover to Waterloo, from the early Native  
*(Continued on page 2)*

Once again Waterloo Village will come to life with the Canal Society of New Jersey's 13th Annual Waterloo Canal Day, held on Saturday, June 21st between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Last year's Canal Day was a spectacular success! This year's event promises to be even better with added attractions that highlight the fascinating heritage of the Morris Canal, which gave birth to the historic canal town of Waterloo and promoted its growth.

### **Meet a Canal Boat Captain**

History will come alive as a mule-towed boat plies the cool green waters of the historic Morris Canal. Captain John Hummel, a canal boat captain from the 1870s, will be present to greet the public and spin yarns about life laboring on the canals in the good ole days. Hummel is portrayed by renowned historian Richard Pawling, who brings the captain to life in period clothing and through first person interpretation. Music of the canal era will further enhance the performance as Pawling and his associate provide a sideshow of live music, intermingled with tales of the days of the canals.

Once again the Canal Society is honored to be able to partner with the New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry to co-sponsor Waterloo Canal Day, opening our treasured Waterloo Village for the day for the public's enjoyment, free of charge!

### **Enjoy a Leisurely Boat Ride on the Canal**

Come stroll the lanes and pathways of Waterloo and soak in the serene beauty of the Musconetcong River  
*(Continued on page 2)*

# 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WATERLOO CANAL DAY

(Continued from page 1)

Valley setting within the New Jersey Highlands. Experience the varied featured events commemorating the Morris Canal, the growing Morris Canal Greenway and the remarkable history of Waterloo Village! The Canal Society's pontoon boat, powered by an impressive mule in gleaming harness, will offer public boat rides. As the boat glides silently along the glistening waters of the canal, Canal Society guides will explain the heritage of this remarkable waterway and its importance to the economy of northern New Jersey.

The Canal Society will have its acclaimed New Jersey Canal Museum open for public tours. Society members will also offer several guided tours of the canal features within the village. A Canal Society display and sales table will offer books on canal history and other items for purchase by the public.

## Learn About the Village's Heritage on Special Walking Tours

This year the Society will also be offering guided walking tours of



Visitors to Canal Day can view the Canal Society's exhibit and sales table.

Waterloo's main street, providing an overview of the history of the varied historic buildings. As an added bonus, an architect consultant will be leading guided tours that explore the historic architecture of the village.

## Visit the Newly Restored Indian Island

As another added attraction, the newly refurbished Indian Island, will be open and available for public tours. Experience the lifeways of New Jersey's Native Americans!

And, for the first time the Society will be offering guided tours of Water-

loo's recreated historic gardens, highlighting the history of plants that were used for medicinal and other purposes. Included will be the 18th-Century perennial garden at the Meeting House, the Apothecary Garden, Jakes Cottage Garden, the 1820s Rutan Cabin Subsistence Garden and the charming formal perennial Canal Museum Garden.

## Learn About Blacksmithing at Waterloo

At one time the sound of the smith's hammer pounding the iron anvil rang across the river valley as the Waterloo blacksmith provided new shoes for canal mules and produced necessary everyday household items. On Canal Day the Waterloo blacksmith will be back in business, demonstrating his trade in front of the historic blacksmith shop. The demonstration will be courtesy of the Blacksmith Association of New Jersey.

The Society has invited Kevin Wright to provide an illustrated lecture on Waterloo's history as part of Canal Day. He has spent decades researching the rich heritage of Waterloo. We hope he will be able to join us to bring to life part of the heritage of the village.

The Waterloo United Methodist Church will once 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. Canal Society members and friends are encouraged to patronize the church to ensure that its food concession is prof-

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## MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

American trails to the first turnpike road in New Jersey. He will then weave in the story of the Morris Canal at Waterloo, the coming of the Sussex Railroad, the Smith family development of Waterloo and the construction of the engineering landmark Lackawanna Cutoff in the early 20th century. Kevin is the most knowledgeable historian of Waterloo and vicinity and this evening's presentation will be a real treat, setting the stage for our upcoming programming at Waterloo during this summer and fall.

Kevin Wright's family traces its roots back into the very early days of Sussex County, Byram Township and Waterloo. For many decades Kevin has been researching the heritage of the area and has been very active in Sussex County historical associations, including the Sussex County Historical Society. Kevin was a former employee with the Waterloo Foundation for the Arts and subsequently worked with the New Jersey State Park Service for many years. He has recently retired but remains very busy pursuing his love of history, including active participation with the Bergen County Historical Society.

**For directions to the Morris County Cultural Center see page 8.**

# UPDATES ON THE MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY

## Hackettstown

Recently the Warren County Morris Canal Committee arranged for an extensive length of the Morris Canal towpath to be cleared heading eastward from Bilby Road in Hackettstown. This outstanding section of the canal has been publicly owned for a number of years but has been inaccessible due to the thicket of dense brush covering the towpath and part of the remainder of the canal prism. Opening up this new section of canal towpath affords new opportunities for the hiking public's enjoyment and is an important step in establishing a through connection along the canal from Saxton Falls to Hackettstown.

## Allamuchy Township

The Canal Society has continued its investigation of the Mahler House property at 1260 Waterloo Road, just a short distance westerly of Saxton Falls. This house is currently owned by the New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry. Its original core is a mid-nineteenth-century Morris Canal store; however, numerous additions have been added onto it, giving the house the appearance of an early twentieth-century bungalow. The nearly 2-acre property is contiguous with an outstanding section of the Morris Canal, which contains some water, has impressive stonework supporting its banks and a towpath resting on a substantial embankment.

The Mahler House offers great potential as a future Morris Canal Greenway interpretive center and a storage and office facility for the Canal Society. The grounds provide great access to the Morris Canal Greenway Trail, which in this location is also part of the New Jersey Highlands Trail and the Liberty-Water Gap Trail. The house and the property would be an ideal trailhead for the Greenway and these other trails.

The Canal Society has conducted several investigations of the Mahler House and is excited to find that it is structurally sound and in a remarkably good state of repair.



*Present-day view of the deteriorated locktender's house at Lock 4 West.*

The Canal Society has expressed its interest in leasing the Mahler House from the State and has applied to several funders for support that would cover the cost of converting the house to a public use as an interpretive center and office.

## Saxton Falls

The Saxton Falls Project feasibility study is underway, supported by a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust and a matching component raised from Society membership. The study is being conducted by HJGA Consulting, Architecture & Historic Preservation and is examining the sites of Morris Canal Locks 4 and 5 West, the deteriorated locktender's house at Lock 4 West and the connecting towpath extending along Saxton Lake. The emphasis of the study will be on the opportunities for restoration/enhancement of the Morris Canal elements along Saxton Lake for historic interpretation and recreational purposes.

## Mount Olive Township

The site of Lock 2 West and the contiguous one-half-mile section of water-filled Morris Canal (the best-preserved section of the Morris Canal in the State) are threatened with encroachment by a proposed development of hundreds of townhouses. The canal site was part of the BASF land

swap many years ago and is partially under the control of the State through outright ownership and a weak easement that allows the property owner to encroach on the canal with development, pipelines and roadways. The Canal Society is coordinating with other preservation groups, environmentalists and the State to attempt to secure the protection of this unique site.

## Stanhope Borough

Another portion of the foot of Plane 2 West has been acquired by the State as part of the Morris Canal Greenway. The small plot of land is three-quarters of the way down the plane site and contains visible rows of the stone block sleepers that supported the plane rails. This site was cleared of debris and dense brush several years ago and converted into a mini park by then adjacent property owner Ben Austro. Ben had even fabricated an impressive interpretive sign commemorating the plane site. This property is a great addition to the Greenway in Stanhope.

The Borough also is compiling a Trails Master Plan that will designate a network of future trails throughout the town. The Morris Canal Greenway will be one of the featured trails. Society President Brian Morrell is coordinating with the task force on the Greenway portion of the trail system.

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## CANAL HERITAGE DAYS AT WATERLOO VILLAGE

Last year the Canal Society worked in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Parks & Forestry to implement Canal Heritage Days at Waterloo. These open days were held from July through October on two Saturdays during each month. On these days we had the grounds of the village open to the public and offered guided tours of the main street, the canal sites and our Canal Museum. On a limited number of the days we had our pontoon boat on site to provide public boat rides. These Heritage Days proved to be very successful and attracted 800 visitors to the village during the summer and fall.

This year the Society will be repeating this programming at Waterloo on the following dates (all Saturdays):

**July 12 & 26**

**August 9 & 30**

**September 13 & 20**

**October 11 & 25.**

On each of these days the village will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. free of charge. Our goal is to offer the public an opportunity to experience the unique canal heritage of the village, despite the closure of the site for building tours and other programs.

### **VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO HELP**

We will be offering programming similar to last year and are seeking Society members who are willing to help on these Canal Heritage Days. We need staffing for our Canal Museum, to lead tours of the village and canal sites, to help with operating our pontoon boat and to greet people at the entrance gate. Volunteers should contact Art Bird, Museum Guide Coordinator at 908-903-1468 or Phyllis Stanaback at 908-832-2888.

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

# UPDATE ON WATERLOO

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection is funding architectural analysis and preliminary documentary background research on all of the primary historic buildings at Waterloo Village. HJGA Consulting, Architecture & Historic Preservation, from Montclair, has been hired by the State to conduct the project. This study is the first time that a comprehensive examination of the site's historic architecture has been undertaken. As part of the project, structural deterioration issues at the various buildings are being inventoried and categorized in order of priority for repair. An additional product of this study will be recommendations for the future of the Village as part of a preservation plan.

HJGA will be participating in our upcoming Waterloo Canal Day, leading architectural tours of the exteriors of the village's primary historic buildings. The firm will also present a program on the architectural study's findings at a Society membership meeting this fall.

Several roofs on primary historic buildings are scheduled for replacement at the Village in the upcoming months. This repair work is part of a \$750,000 State allocation specifically for Waterloo.

The recreated Lenape village on Indian Island has been completely refurbished with State funding. The State is considering having the Lenape exhibit open for school field trips by next fall. The comfort station building also has been completely refurbished and will be available for the Society's Canal Programming this season.

The Canal Society is very grateful to be able to partner with the State to once again offer Canal Heritage Programming at Waterloo this summer and fall. Another major event of the season will be The Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival, to be held at the Village this September. This biennial event attracts many thousands of people from all over the world.

A handful of Canal Society members and other individuals have been volunteering this spring to help with some grounds maintenance at the Village, especially the garden exhibits. The Society also has helped arrange for Morris Land Conservancy to bring its Partners in Parks Program to Waterloo. This program brings groups of corporate volunteers to public parks to perform improvement projects. An initial group of 25 volunteers has already come to the Village to help with some spring cleanup of the grounds. ■

## UPDATES ON THE MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY

*(Continued from page 3)*

### **Roxbury Township**

Preservation work on the outstanding turbine chamber and tailrace of Plane 2 East in Ledgewood Canal Park is about to get underway. This project will rebuild the collapsing stone archway at the junction of the tailrace tunnel and the turbine chamber. It will re-point some of the open masonry joints in the turbine chamber, will secure the top of the turbine chamber for public safety purposes and will provide drainage control at the site. This project is costing approximately \$200,000 and is being funded by the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund, with

a matching component from Roxbury Township.

The Society's Morris Canal Greenway Committee continues to pursue acquisition of the site of the large basin at the head of Plane 1 West in Port Morris. The Society has funding for this acquisition from Green Acres and the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund.

Another targeted acquisition for the Greenway is at Shippenport, adjacent to the site of Plane 1 East. Two properties, containing a section of the Morris Canal, the site of a mill pond, part of an impressive large earthen dam, a remarkable sawmill ruin and beautiful woodland are all the subject of discussion with the property owner,



# LAST CALL

## SPRING TRIP UNION CANAL FESTIVAL

Time is running out to sign up for our bus trip to the Union Canal Festival! This one-day trip, held on Saturday, May 17, is the ideal choice for those who like canals, but can't spare the time or money for a longer trip.

For just \$45, you'll be transported by bus to Lebanon, PA, to enjoy the Festival in a beautiful, 109-acre park. Be prepared to enjoy live music, antiques, food vendors, historic crafts, a barbecue dinner, and more!

A highlight of the day is a mule-pulled boat ride on the Canal. We'll pass through the oldest transportation tunnel in the U.S. for a memorable trip through time.

(\$6.00 extra.) Call Mark Hamill NOW at (908) 561-1250 to reserve your place! Open only to CSNJ members.

Depart from Morris County Cultural Center at 9:00 a.m.  
Return to Morris County Cultural Center at 9:30 p.m.

who appears to be a willing seller. This site would be an outstanding addition to the Greenway and would complement Roxbury's current preservation efforts on the Plane 1 East site itself.

### Wharton Borough

The Borough is continuing with its plans to enhance Lock 2 East within Hugh Force Park, hopefully restoring it to be an operable lock. The Canal Society is partnering with the Borough in seeking more funding for this project. A recent grant application has been submitted by the Society to support an additional engineering study of the lock site to further explore the feasibility of restoring the buried lock to an operating condition. If successful in attracting a grant, the Society will pass through the grant to the Borough to support the lock project.

### Passaic County Planning Department and the Pompton Feeder

The Passaic County Planning Department has contacted the Canal Society with the concept of creating a trail along the site of the Morris Canal's Pompton Feeder. This project has great potential and the Society is very excited to hear that the County is expressing serious interest in the con-

cept. Although only in the initial discussion phase, we have great hopes that a Greenway trail along the Feeder can become a reality.

### Morris County Park Commission

The Canal Society is extremely pleased that the Park Commission has agreed to assist with potential land deals that have the possibility of adding to the Morris Canal Greenway in Mount Olive, Roxbury and Denville. We are very grateful to the Park Commission for their generous assistance with landowner contact and potential arrangement of acquisition deals with willing sellers. We look forward to a successful partnership with the County Park Commission.

### Denville Township

The Canal Society has been coordinating with Mayor Ted Husa in efforts to create new canal parks along the Greenway in Denville. Initial outreach has been directed toward several property owners in targeted locations along the canal site.

Attilio's Kitchen, a highly successful Italian restaurant on Diamond Spring Road in Denville, occupied the historic former Morris Canal store that had been owned and operated by the

## DONATION OF LAPTOP COMPUTER

The Society is very grateful to Dennis Furbush for recently donating a Toshiba laptop computer, which will be used to operate our new powerpoint projector. Thank you Dennis for this wonderful gift! ■

Peer family. Several months ago the restaurant and historic building were sold to a gentleman from Italy who is continuing to operate it as a fine Italian restaurant. Members of the Society have met with the new owner and are encouraged that he recognizes and appreciates the historic attributes of the former canal store and intends to preserve its historic integrity.

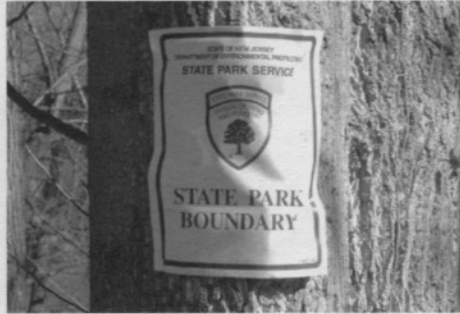
### Jersey City

A proposed park is being planned for the north side of the mouth of the Little Basin of the Morris Canal in Jersey City. This park would incorporate about a city block and would use funding from various developers, the city and the State. The Society is coordinating with the park planners to make sure that the canal heritage is incorporated within the design. ■

# WILL NEW JERSEY'S STATE PARKS SURVIVE INTACT?

It's hard to imagine that you haven't heard the uproar over Governor Corzine's proposal to severely cut the Division of Parks & Forestry's operating budget, closing nine State Parks, substantially reducing services in four additional parks and closing nearly half of our State-operated historic sites. What you may not know is how these cuts will impact our historic canal sites and quality of life if the proposed budget cuts are contained within the finalized State budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

But first, some general comments on the proposed cuts in the State Park System. It is hard to comprehend why the proposed budget cuts target State Parks. For decades the voters of New Jersey have overwhelmingly approved ballot referenda appropriating funds to acquire and improve public lands and State Parks. Public support for parks is strong and consistent! Furthermore, as every state surrounding New Jersey recognizes, parks and historic sites are vital to their respective economies since they generate tens of millions of dollars in revenue through tourism and the



ripple effect of tourist spending. New Jersey has as good, or even better, a claim to historic sites and historic firsts, however, the State has traditionally failed to recognize the potential value of these resources to the economy and has for decades underfunded our State Parks System. This practice has caused one after another of our historic sites to fall into disrepair and even ruin.

Furthermore, it has been proven that open space and park facilities are vital to both our physical and mental well-being. A larger percentage of our population is overweight than ever before, resulting in a variety of health issues that affect the cost of healthcare. Our parks and recreational facilities are

a major means for the entire population to experience outdoor recreation, exercise and sporting activities. Eliminating camping, fishing, swimming, hiking and programs for youth are not the solution to a State budget crisis, but will contribute to the health issues of an underactive public, increasing healthcare costs.

Now let's consider impacts to our historic canals. The proposed cuts call for shutting down Stephens State Park, which includes Saxton Falls with its extensive Morris Canal sites. Furthermore, staffing for Allamuchy Mountain State Park (including Waterloo Village, major sections of the Morris Canal Greenway and Cranberry Lake) and Hopatcong State Park will be severely cut by three maintenance positions and one clerical position. The fact is that the current level of staffing is insufficient to keep up with the maintenance issues in these parks. If the proposed cuts occur they will translate into less maintenance for Waterloo and the remainder of the parks containing the Morris Canal Greenway. The parks will deteriorate, there will be no bathrooms and little or no public services. It's hard to conceive how our State government could propose such a thing!

The Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park also would be dealt a severe blow. Although the D&R is the second most visited New Jersey park, it is not immune to the proposed budget cuts. Bulls Island, with its campground, office and park maintenance facility, would be closed. The park's historian and naturalist positions would be eliminated and the nature center would be closed. In fact half of the staff of this 60-mile-long park would be cut! Maintenance of the park would diminish and the site would deteriorate as a result.

As a further blow, services within Washington Crossing State Park (along the D&R Canal Park) would be reduced, depriving the public, including school groups and scout groups,

## BOATING ON THE D&R CANAL AT THE STATE HISTORY FAIR

On Saturday, May 3rd the Canal Society participated in the New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry's annual Spirit of the Jersey's Fair at Washington Crossing State Park. In addition to having an informational booth with canal exhibits and items for sale, the Society had its pontoon boat on the adjacent Delaware & Raritan Canal Feeder, giving interpreted boat rides to the public. This was the first time that we have been able to have our boat on the D&R. Although the day's threatening weather reduced the number of attendees at the fair, it was still a successful day. Unfortunately a malfunction in the control mechanism for our pon-

toon boat's electric motor ended our boat ride at only about a quarter of the way into the fair's hours of operation. The good news is that we proved that it is feasible to have a public boat ride on the D&R and that the public is interested in participating. We express our great thanks to Dick Draper, Rod Howarth and Don Seath who overcame the logistical obstacles to transport our pontoon boat to the fair, launch it into the D&R and remove it from the canal. We also extend our appreciation to the members who came to help crew the boat operation. Finally, we thank Mark Hamill and family and Joyce Hussa who handled the Society's exhibit and sales table. It was a great day celebrating our State's heritage! ■

# WHARTON CANAL DAY

## CELEBRATING A TOWN'S HERITAGE

**Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** The Borough of Wharton will once again celebrate its annual Canal Day at Hugh Force Park, along West Central Avenue. The Canal Society will be present offering a Morris Canal Greenway slide show, guided walking tours of the wonderfully preserved one-quarter-mile section of Morris Canal within the park, a mule-drawn boat ride on the canal and an exhibit and sales table.

The all-day, free event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature live music, demonstrations by the Sheriff's Department, craft tables, food vendors, displays by town organizations, a traveling educational zoo, and do-it-yourself kayaking in the canal. In the event of rain, Canal Day will be held the following day on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. ■



At Wharton Canal Day visitors will again enjoy mule-drawn boat rides along one of the most scenic water-filled sections of the Morris Canal.

from learning about what occurred in New Jersey that turned the fortunes of the Continental Army, leading to the defeat of the British. Will the public have to travel to Pennsylvania to learn about this remarkable facet of history that occurred in New Jersey?

In another impact, the proposed cuts would eliminate the Central Region Office of the Park System, which contains both the D&R Canal State Park and the northern parks containing the Morris Canal Greenway. The Central Region would probably be carved up and divided amongst the adjacent regions of the Park System.

So, what can we do to prevent this travesty? Clearly our State government must hear loud and clear that eviscerating our State Park System is completely unacceptable! It is crucial for you to let your State Legislators know where you stand on this issue. Furthermore, at the May 16th meeting of the Canal Society we will be circulating a petition for you to sign and distributing letters for each of the attendees to fill out. These letters will be sent to the Governor, clearly letting him know that his proposed budget cuts relating to the State Park System are utterly unacceptable and must not become part of the new budget! ■

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itable. The church is a true piece of Living History in the village! It has been operating in its charming white frame building since 1859. It is still very much alive and holds weekly services on Sunday mornings.

### Learn About Waterloo's Railroad and Iron Heritage

A special exhibit on the Sussex Mine Railroad and the Sussex Branch Railroad will be on hand to inform the

public about the rich railroad heritage of Waterloo, an often overlooked part of the village's history. In the mid-19th Century, mules pulled ore-laden cars from the Cooper & Hewitt iron enterprise's famous Andover Mine to the banks of the Morris Canal at Waterloo. Here the ore was transferred to canal boats and taken to the company's iron blast furnaces in Phillipsburg. The pig iron produced was then taken to Trenton where the company's rolling mills transformed it into some of the

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## CANAL PHOTO CONTEST

WATERLOO CANAL DAY, SATURDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>

Do you have photos of Waterloo Village, the Morris Canal, the D&R Canal are any of the other historic canals in New York or Pennsylvania? Bring copies to Waterloo Canal Day and enter this year's photo contest.

### CATEGORIES

Waterloo Village – New Jersey Canals  
Pennsylvania Canals – New York Canals

1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded in each category by a panel of guest judges. Photos must be submitted at the information desk by 12 noon. Judging will take place at 3:30 pm. You must pick up your photos by 5:30 pm.

**For information or questions call 973-728-0316 or 609-886-8577**

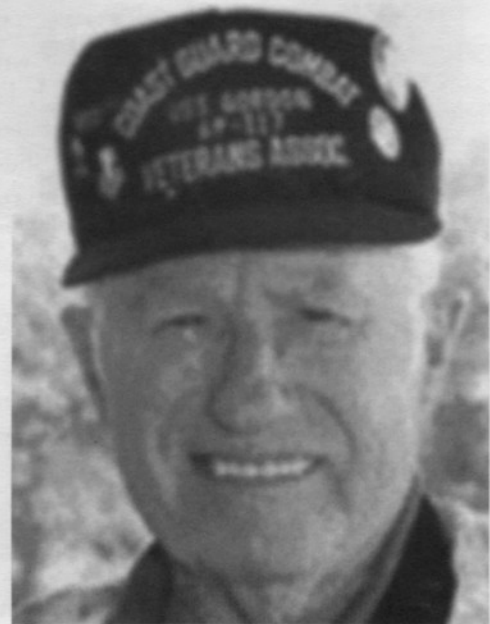
# PASSING OF JOSEPH HANNAN, A DEVOTED MEMBER OF THE CANAL SOCIETY

This past January the Canal Society lost a great friend and supporter, Joseph Hannan. Joe was born in Paterson along the banks of the former Morris Canal, launching a life-long fascination with the history of this venerable waterway. He was a thirty-year member of the Canal Society, serving on our Board for 18 years. Joe developed and presented countless lectures on the Morris Canal to groups across the state and gave several presentations at Society membership meetings. In addition to participating in many Society trips and helping at numerous special events, Joe worked extensively with Dick Titus, the last surviving Morris Canal boat captain. Joe conducted many interviews with Dick, documenting his life stories and experiences on the canal. Dick lived to be well over 100 years old. Joe also became motivated to help form a Historic Preservation Commission in Pompton Lakes when the site of

the Pompton Iron Works was threatened by an adjacent development. On a lighter side, Joe loved to play on his banjo and joined Just A Bunch of Banjos, providing several live musical presentations at various Waterloo Canal Days.

Joe served in the Coast Guard during World War II and entered a career in teaching, working for many years in the Wayne Township School District and later becoming Guidance Director at Wayne Valley High School and then St. Elizabeth's Academy in Convent Station. What most of us did not realize was that Joe was a published author of several books and many magazine articles. One of his books was used as the basis for a television pilot, filmed by Desilu Productions. Unfortunately the network did not pick up the pilot.

During more recent years Joe suffered from illness that prevented him from being active in the Canal Society. On January 7th, Joe passed away at the



Joe Hannan

age of 84. He was one of a kind and will be greatly missed. The Society extends its most sincere sympathy to his wife Margaret, his sons and daughters and many grandchildren. As a great act of kindness and generosity, his family designated the Canal Society as a recipient of donations in memory of Joe.

The following donors sent in a combined total of \$795 in memorial gifts to the Society:

Wilma Andrusin  
Michael and Mary Lynn Azurak  
Bette and Jim Beagin  
Elaine and Peter Buchsbaum  
Marie and Kenneth Cioletti  
Dick and Elyse Constantine  
Marilyn and Dick Craine  
Eugene J. Gaughan  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jelus  
Sheehan Hannan and Sky Hannan  
Gerald J. La Sala  
Ruth and David Maltman  
Edward and Joan Merecky  
Brian Morrell  
William J. Moss  
NJ Society of Certified Public Accountants  
Nancy Vroom

## 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.



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earliest high-quality railroad rails in this country. The company also produced the first structural iron beams in the U.S., installing them in the Cooper Union in New York City and the dome of the U.S. s in Washington.

The annual Canal Photo Contest will also be featured throughout the day. Any amateur photographer is eligible to enter [See inset for details].

Our 13th Annual Waterloo Canal Day is a great occasion to enjoy the serenity of Waterloo Village, steep in its history and to demonstrate to the State of New Jersey that we cherish our State Parks and that they must remain open and available for the public's enjoyment! Waterloo Canal Day is a rain-or-shine event.

## PASSING OF ROBERT C. BIRD DESCENDANT OF A LONG LINE OF MORRIS CANAL WORKERS

On April 15 Robert C. Bird passed away at the age of 75. Bob had been a member of the Canal Society since the early 1970s. During his membership he contributed a great deal to the Society both in physical labor and through loaning various historical artifacts to our New Jersey Canal Museum at Waterloo Village. Bob's father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather all worked on the Morris Canal. The Birds were well-known as tenders of the Lock in Wharton, often known as Bird's Lock. It is this lock that is the subject of engineering and archeological studies to determine whether it is feasible to re-open and restore it to a working condition within Hugh Force Park. The Society extends its sincere sympathy to the Bird family. ■

### Volunteer Help Greatly Appreciated!

It takes the cooperative effort of dozens of our members to make Waterloo Canal Day a great success. Your help is needed with this event! Please call Mark Hamill at 908-561-1250 to offer your services.

### Membership Picnic a Delectable Treat!

Once again, the Waterloo United Methodist Church will be catering the Canal Society's annual picnic at Waterloo Village on Canal Day. The picnic will be held at 6 p.m. and will be a

repeat performance of the outstanding, all-you-can-eat barbeque that we all savored last year!

The annual member picnic is a great way to relax and enjoy the company of other members after a very busy but rewarding Canal Day. This year's picnic will cost \$22 per person (same cost as last year). The menu is barbequed ribs and chicken; homemade salads (tossed, potato, and cole slaw); baked beans; rolls and butter; assorted raw vegetables; cake, brownies and cookies for dessert; and iced tea, hot tea and coffee as beverages. Advance registrations are required and can be made by contacting Canal Day Chair Mark Hamill at 908-561-1250. We ask that reservations be made by Monday, June 16th. ■

## ON THE LEVEL



### THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

PO Box 737, Morristown, New Jersey

ON THE LEVEL is published three times a year by the Canal Society of New Jersey.  
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  
**Past President:** Robert Barth

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Bob Bodenstein  
Richard Draper  
Gisela Drennan  
Mark Hamill  
Joyce Hussa  
Judy Keith  
Bill McKelvey  
Barbara Murray  
David Phraner  
Bierce Riley  
Richard Simon  
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

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

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



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908-722-9556 – nj-cnal@googlegroups.com – www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

# WONDERFUL GIFT LAUNCHES A NEW BOAT EFFORT!

Long-time Canal Society member, Bill McKelvey has contributed an extremely generous \$10,000 gift to the Society! This wonderful donation is launching a campaign to con-

struct a new canal boat for use on New Jersey's canals.

For many years the Canal Society has dreamed of having a boat that could be used to provide public tours

and interpretation on the remains of our State's historic towpath canal system. A few years ago that dream became a reality when a used pontoon boat was donated to the Society and a crew of members labored to restore it to operable condition. This vessel has proven that there is great public interest in enjoying boat rides on our historic canals. However, the pontoon boat has limitations since it can only accommodate six passengers at a time and its appearance is starkly modern.

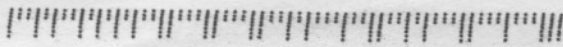
A Boat Committee, headed up by Richard Draper, has been formed to explore the options for a new boat that can accommodate more passengers and that will have a more historic appearance. The committee has now met twice and will be taking field trips to other historic canal sites that offer public boat rides. We are very excited over this new opportunity for the Canal Society and are extremely grateful to Bill McKelvey for his extraordinary gift! ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Friday, May 16</b><br>7:30 p.m. | <b>Membership Meeting</b><br><i>Morris County Cultural Center</i>  |
| <b>Saturday, May 17</b>            | <b>Spring Field Trip</b><br><i>Union Canal Festival</i>  |
| <b>Saturday, June 21</b>           | <b>13<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterloo Canal Day</b>   |
| <b>Saturday, August 23</b>         | <b>Wharton Canal Day</b>   |
| <b>Saturdays, July - October</b>   | <b>Waterloo Canal Heritage Days</b><br><i>July 12 &amp; 26</i><br><i>August 9 &amp; 30</i><br><i>September 13 &amp; 20</i><br><i>October 11 &amp; 25</i> |

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

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



0774852333 0017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Morristown, New Jersey 07063-0737

PO Box 737

CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY