

ON THE LEVEL



THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

14TH ANNUAL WATERLOO CANAL DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

The Canal Society's Annual Waterloo Canal Day, on Saturday, June 27th, was a great hit this year and attracted 825 members of the public. We were especially excited to be able to reopen Smith's Store and the Rutan Cabin for the first time since the closing of the village in December 2006. Much labor was required to clean both buildings, catalog the objects and furnishings and "restock" the store and refurnish the cabin. All of the contents of the cabin were either purchased by the Society at the Waterloo Foundation auctions or are on loan to enable the cabin to reopen. Similarly many of the contents of the Smith Store were purchased by the Society and supplement part of the Waterloo Foundation collection that was retained by the State. The end result is that we have

Right: Society interpreter Richard Cramond described Smith's Store to interested visitors. Below: The public was welcomed to the 1820s Rutan log cabin by Society interpreter Diane Cece.



now made available to the public the best preserved, most original surviving Morris Canal store! Similarly the opening of the Rutan Cabin makes



Richard Pawling portrayed canal boat captain John Hummel.

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

Friday – September 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:10

THE MORRIS CANAL AT LAKE HOPATCONG

MARTIN KANE

Lake Hopatcong was impounded by the Morris Canal & Banking Company in the 1820s to form the major water supply reservoir for the Morris Canal. Prior to the canal the lake was two smaller bodies of water, one being a forge pond for the Brooklyn or Brookland Forge located in what is now Hopatcong State Park. Canal boats once crossed the lake carrying large quantities of iron ore delivered from the Ogden Mine Railroad and transshipped onto canal boats at Nolans Point. A Feeder Canal connected the lake with the main Morris Canal in Port Morris and was a means not only of delivering water to the canal but served as a conduit for many excursion boats traveling between the Landing railroad station and the various hotels and summer camps

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accessible an 1820s log cabin. Where else can such a log cabin be visited in New Jersey? Most important of all, the reopening of these buildings is a step toward the rejuvenation of the overall village!

The public's demonstrated interest and appreciation for the Smith's Store and the Rutan Cabin are very rewarding and we hope to be able to

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WATERLOO CANAL DAY

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continue to improve these exhibits and their interpretation on an ongoing basis.

Another new addition to this year's Canal Day was the Society's traveling exhibit on New Jersey's canals. This large, room-size exhibit was installed in the village's former gift shop/snack bar building. The day also featured our pontoon boat ride on the canal, pulled by a mule, and Richard Pawling portraying canal boat captain John Hummel. Guided walking tours were provided along the main street of the village and of the canal sites, in addition to the tours of our New Jersey Canal Museum. The New Jersey Blacksmith

Association provided a blacksmith to demonstrate his craft in front of the Waterloo blacksmith shop and the shop doors were opened so that the public could glimpse inside.

Once again we welcomed the partnership of the Waterloo United Methodist Church, which opened its doors for tours, provided lunch and snack foods throughout the day for the public, and catered the Society's annual membership picnic in the evening.

Other special exhibits featured the Morris Canal Greenway, the railroad and iron heritage of Waterloo and our annual Canal Photo Contest. We also had a Civil War encampment and several historical societies exhibiting as additional attractions.



Visitors to the village carefully read interpretive signs created by the Society for many of the major buildings at Waterloo.

We greatly appreciate the dozens of Society volunteers who worked throughout the day to not only make Canal Day possible but to make it a great success! Finally, we are very grateful to be able to once again partner with the New Jersey State Park Service and DEP to co-sponsor Waterloo Canal Day, opening our treasured Waterloo Village for the day for the public's enjoyment. We especially acknowledge State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella and her staff for tirelessly working to make the village ready for the event! ■

MEETINGS

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dotting the shores of the lake. Tonight's program will discuss all of these aspects of the Morris Canal's association with Lake Hopatcong and will feature numerous historic views of the lake and canal. It also will present some new and different canal views that have recently been acquired by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum.

Marty Kane is well known to the Canal Society and has long been a driving force behind the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum. The museum is now featuring a new Morris Canal exhibit and is the recent recipient of a collection of many dozens of family photos of the Morris Canal in the Lake Hopatcong area and extending across Morris County and beyond. Marty is the author of several books on the history of Lake Hopatcong and is a well-known lecturer on numerous aspects of the history of the lake, from its use as a Morris Canal reservoir to its heyday as a major summer resort.

Friday – November 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:10

PRESERVING THE PRINCETON NURSERY, AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ALONG THE DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL

ROBERT VON ZUMBUSCH

The former location of the Princeton Nursery is a vast landscape containing many historic buildings associated with the complex and extensive plantings. The site is significant due to its association with the landmark Princeton Nursery and since it is part of the historic cultural landscape adjacent to the D&R Canal in South Bruns-

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MEMBER NEWS

We have been sorry to learn that Fred Spain has been experiencing some recent health issues and wish him a speedy recovery. Fred, his wife Janet and Bob Hofmann have been very faithful movers of the Canal Society's traveling exhibit. They have coordinated locations for the exhibit and handled all the logistics for its transportation and setup. This is no small task since the exhibit is room size with over a dozen panels that stand on the floor. The exhibit is an important part of the Society's outreach and we greatly appreciate the member coordination that has made it possible to be available for public display. ■

CANAL HERITAGE DAYS

WATERLOO VILLAGE CONTINUES TO WELCOME THE PUBLIC TO NEW JERSEY'S PREMIER MORRIS CANAL TOWN

This year's Canal Heritage Days at Waterloo have been continuing under the sponsorship of the Canal Society of New Jersey and the State Park Service during two Saturdays a month in July and August and will also be held on September 12 and 26 and October 10 and 24. So far the Heritage Days have been a great success, attracting between 800 to 900 members of the public! The crowds have ranged from the very young to the elderly. Everyone has exhibited a great interest in Waterloo's rich heritage and a deep appreciation that the Society and State are making the site available to the public.

The Heritage Days have been offering electric motor-powered pontoon boat rides on the Morris Canal; tours of the interiors of Smith's Store, the New Jersey Canal Museum and the Rutan Cabin; our traveling exhibit on New Jersey's canals; walking



Above: Our New Jersey Canal Museum continues to draw many people who are eager to learn about our historic canals. Right: Guided walking tours of the village's main street were led by Society member Joyce Hussa.



tours of the village and the canal sites; and a visit to the Lenape Village on Indian Island. All of these activities are free of charge, although free will donations are gratefully accepted. The Society has also been offering several canal-related items for sale to the public, in addition to a Waterloo tee shirt that was designed by our Vice President, Joe Macasek.

The Society's goals for the Canal Heritage Days are to help keep Waterloo alive, accessible to the public, and to continue to emphasize the unique and wonderful Morris Canal heritage present at the village. The Heritage Days are a terrific opportunity for the Society to reach large numbers of the public with interpretation about the Morris Canal and

Waterloo as an historic canal town. The village is also a remarkably beautiful and tranquil setting that further enhances the historical aspects.

We are very grateful to the State Park Service and NJDEP for allowing the Society to make these Canal Heritage Days possible and to all of our member volunteers who have generously given their time to staff the various buildings, the gate, the boat ride and the tours! As the season progresses through September and October we continue to need members to volunteer to help. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Phyllis Stanaback at 908-832-2888 to offer their services. Volunteering at the village is a great and fulfilling experience! ■



The old wooden hoist wheel remains in the loft of Smith's Store. When the canal was active merchandise could be unloaded from boats and lifted through the large doors on each level of the building.

SCHOOL GROUPS TO VISIT WATERLOO

As stated in the Update on Waterloo (page 5) the State Park Service will be reopening parts of the village in the Spring of 2010 for school field trips. There will be some part-time job openings for historic inter-

preters who will be paid a nominal hourly wage. Society members interested in positions as interpreters should contact Superintendent Helen Maurella this fall at Hopatcong State Park at 973-398-7010. ■

UPDATES ON THE MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY



Historic view of Canal Plane 1 West with Lake Musconetcong in the background.

The purpose of the Morris Canal Greenway is to preserve the surviving historic remains of the Morris Canal and its associated natural environment, to interpret canal sites to the public, and to offer recreational opportunities. The Greenway is an ongoing project of the Canal Society and is being implemented under the guidance of the Society's Morris Canal Greenway Committee.

In addition to the activities at Waterloo, Saxton Falls and at Wharton the Society has been actively working on the following projects:

Mount Olive Township

Efforts continue to acquire and preserve the site of Morris Canal Plane 3 West and the large tract of adjacent land. If preserved, these lots would become part of Allamuchy Mountain State Park. Grants are

available to preserve these properties and negotiations are ongoing to secure a purchase deal for the large parcel of land. If that deal is successful the Mount Olive Trade Zone has indicated a willingness to donate the plane site itself. Nearby, options for protecting and preserving the site of Lock 2 West and the adjacent section of water-filled canal continue under discussion.

The township is proceeding with its Trails Master Plan which we have been making sure includes the Morris Canal as a prominent feature.

Roxbury Township

The Society's efforts to acquire and preserve the site of the large basin at the head of Plane 1 West in Port Morris seem very near to success. Funding for this acquisition has been secured from Green Acres and the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund. The title search for this property remains to be completed and some property encroachment issues resolved. Roxbury Township will be the permanent owner of the site which will serve as preserved community open space and as part of the Greenway. The Society's Morris Canal Greenway Committee continues to pursue the acquisition of two properties at Shippenport adjacent to Plane 1 East. A grant application to the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund has been submitted and is pending to help fund these acquisitions.

Warren County

Society President Brian Morrell continues to participate with Heritage Conservancy and a group of Warren County residents and municipal officials in an effort to develop a management plan as part of the process of having Route 57 designated a Scenic Byway. It is hoped that such a designation will be another tool for helping to preserve the Morris Canal and an associated Greenway along the Route 57 corridor in Warren County. ■

MEETINGS

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wick Township. Preservation of this important site is a major challenge requiring an innovative partnership amongst municipal and state agencies, private groups and the former owner. The program will provide a description of the many partners and the role that they have played so far to protect the site and attract funding to continue to plan for its ongoing preservation. The effort is especially challenging since it encompasses a large number of buildings that urgently require stabilization and an ever-changing living landscape of trees and shrubs that define the site but require maintenance.

Robert von Zumbusch *has long been a champion of the D&R Canal. He is an architect who attended Columbia College and Columbia School of Architecture. After serving in the Peace Corps he relocated to New Jersey where he compiled the historic and recreation plan for the D&R Canal. This plan has been adopted by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. Robert is very much involved in both open space and historic preservation issues and is particularly interested in the preservation of corridors. He lives in the historic mill at Kingston at the outlet of Lake Carnegie and is well-known and highly respected in preservation circles.*

UPDATE ON WATERLOO

During the late spring and early summer Society volunteers made a great push to complete the cataloging of hundreds of artifacts and furniture to enable the refurnishing of the Smith's Store and Rutan Cabin so that they could be opened for interpretation on Waterloo Canal Day and the subsequent Canal Heritage Days. Much cleaning and preparation work was required. We are especially grateful for the volunteer services of Judy Keith, Diane and Larry Cece, Barbara Murray, Richard Cramond, Joyce Husa and Brian Morrell who helped complete these tasks. Norm Penney also helped by repairing the windows of the entrance ticket booths so that these buildings could be available for our use at the entrance gate. Diane Cece performed extensive work on costuming to make period clothing available to volunteer interpreters to enhance the visitors' experience. State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella and her staff provided remarkable service to get the grounds in shape and to accommodate our many needs to be able to open Waterloo for the season.

The first phase of the new, State-sponsored Master Plan for the village is still in draft form and is undergoing a careful review. When this work is completed a second phase of the Master Plan will follow and will fo-



Nicole Barbato greets the public at the entrance to the village.



The Society is especially excited to be able to reopen Smith's Store for public interpretation.

cus on the Morris Canal site and the various historic elements on the Morris County side of the Musconetcong River.

More roof repair work is scheduled for several of the village's buildings, especially the Society's New Jersey Canal Museum which is in urgent need of repair and ultimately full replacement.

Although plans for reopening Indian Island and other parts of the village for school field trips in the spring of 2010 were delayed, State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella is planning to make the village available for such field trips which may include partnering with the Canal Society to open the New Jersey Canal Museum, the Rutan Cabin and the Smith's Store starting in April 2010. We have to extend great credit to Superintendent Maurella for her initiative for undertaking this endeavor and her commitment to making Waterloo open once again on a more extensive basis! We look forward to coordinating with her to help make these field trips a reality!

The State is exploring the possibility of leasing the Meeting House to a caterer to host special events and wedding receptions at the village and



Refurnished by the Society, the Rutan cabin is open for the canal events and is being interpreted by Diane Cece.

also is looking for a special event vendor interested in operating the large performance tent.

The Society must once again extend its sincere gratitude to State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella and her staff! They have been extremely accommodating to enable our programming to proceed at Waterloo. With limited time, funds and staff she has been making progress in many ways, all of which helps to preserve and enhance Waterloo! ■

SAXTON FALLS FEASIBILITY STUDY IN FULL SWING!

The long awaited Saxton Falls area feasibility study is now underway 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. In addition to gathering historic documentation, the study is assessing the existing conditions and the feasibility of reconnecting the towpath to provide a continuous trail, the possibility of restoring at least one of the locks and opportunities for historic interpretation and recreation.

Lock 5 West at Saxton Falls was a guard lock and was filled in by the State in the 1920s as part of the dismantling of the Morris Canal. As a result its walls should remain intact and would afford a good opportunity for restoration. The adjacent section of canal bed was filled with water for many decades and served as a public swimming facility.

Lock 4 West has long been buried, although one of its downstream wing-



Present-day view of Lock 5 West (center) within the Saxton Falls section of Stephens State Park.

walls remains visible. The condition of the buried lock is unknown. Archeological investigation during the project will locate the lock's remains and will enable at least a preliminary assessment of its condition.

The adjacent locktender's house at Lock 4 West presents challenges due to its condition and the need for an

active reuse. It is one of only a handful of surviving original Morris Canal locktender's houses and as such has great historical significance.

The Saxton Falls project is being conducted by HJGA Consulting, Architecture & Historic Preservation, Inc., using a \$39,000 New Jersey Historic Trust grant that was awarded to the Canal Society. An additional \$13,000 in matching funds was raised by the Society through member donations and pledges and provides the required balance of the funding to pay for the feasibility study. The Society has long recognized the great potential of the Saxton Falls area for historic preservation, interpretation and recreation. We are anxious to see this potential begin to be realized! ■

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.



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

THE FIRST FULLY RESTORED MORRIS CANAL LOCK MAY BE ON THE HORIZON!

The Borough of Wharton's dream of opening up and potentially restoring Morris Canal Lock 2 East in Hugh Force Park recently got a huge boost! In recent years the project had received grants from Morris County and the New Jersey Historic Trust to conduct archeological exploration and engineering analysis, all part of a feasibility study to assess the potential for a full restoration of the currently buried canal lock. In mid-August an announcement was made that the lock project had been awarded a \$582,000 grant toward the lock's restoration! This funding is through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and NJDOT's Fiscal 2010 Capital Program. The grant is part of

\$19.75 million in transportation enhancement grants distributed among the state's 21 counties. This funding is intended to stimulate economic recovery at the local level by improving quality of life, creating jobs and boosting transportation infrastructure.

Wharton's grant provides a significant sum of money that can be used to match other public sources of funding. With the various funding combined, the lock restoration project should be able to move ahead and make significant progress. It appears that Wharton will have the honor of owning the first fully restored Morris Canal lock! We congratulate the project spearhead, John Manna for his determination and fundraising success! ■

This image of Lock 2 East is the Borough of Wharton's new logo.



WATERLOO CHURCH CELEBRATES A HALLMARK ANNIVERSARY!

The year 2009 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Waterloo United Methodist Church. Promoted by several prom-

inent members of the Smith family at Waterloo, the historic church was built in 1859 and became both the religious and social center of the village.

Remaining virtually unchanged the charming church continues very much to be alive and this year has been commemorating its anniversary with various special celebrations. In January an anniversary service was held, followed by a brunch in the Meeting House. This past August marked the ac-

tual anniversary of the placing of the church's cornerstone. On this occasion another special church service was held followed by a picnic, a ceremony and games for the children. A special treat on this day was a visit by Olive Davenport, a charter member of the Canal Society and the oldest surviving member of the church. In her mid-90s, Olive was able to travel from Nashville Tennessee for the occasion. Olive and her husband Bill were mainstays in the church and were very active members of the Canal Society. For many years they maintained our New Jersey Canal Museum at Waterloo and coordinated the guides.

Several members of the Canal Society have participated at the anniversary events. The Waterloo Methodist Church is a true piece of living history at Waterloo and as such is a cherished part of the village. We are honored to be able to partner with the church on Waterloo Canal Day and extend our best wishes for the next 150 years and beyond! ■



The well-preserved Waterloo United Methodist Church looks virtually as it did at the time of its 1859 construction.

ANNUAL WHARTON CANAL DAY CELEBRATES THE MORRIS CANAL

Despite having to move to the rain date of Sunday, August 23, Wharton Canal Day drew a large crowd to its various booths, exhibits and concert stages. One of the big attractions throughout the day was

the Canal Society's pontoon boat ride on the one-quarter-mile section of the canal in Hugh Force Park. This length of canal is one of the best preserved sections of the Morris Canal and very much retains the appearance

of the waterway when it was in operation.

All throughout the day the Society's boat was plying the waters of the canal, providing interpreted boat rides for an appreciative public. It is estimated that approximately 160 people went on the boat ride during the event. Concurrent with the boat rides were horse-drawn wagon rides along the canal towpath and guided walking tours of the canal site. In spite of an afternoon shower, the crowd remained in the park and continued to enjoy the various activities. It was a great day with much activity along the historic Morris Canal! ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Friday | September 18 | Membership Meeting
7:30 p.m.
<i>Morris County Cultural Center</i> |
| Friday | November 20 | Membership Meeting
7:30 p.m.
<i>Morris County Cultural Center</i> |
| Saturdays | Sept 12 & 26
Oct 10 & 24 | Waterloo Canal Heritage Days
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| Saturday | November 7 | 29th Annual Drew Symposium
<i>Roebling Chapter Society for Industrial Archeology</i> |

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CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

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