

# ON THE LEVEL



## THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

# WARREN COUNTY GREENWAY

With September here and cooler weather on the way, this might be a good time to plan a trip to Warren County to see what's new along the Morris Canal Greenway. Even if you have explored the area before, you will be surprised to find new trails to walk, old walking experiences improved and a whole new way of interpreting historic sites being tested. You will also find new parking areas and well-marked trails in other locations as well.

### Port Murray Canal Walk

Warren County has recently acquired a large tract of land south of Port Murray along the route of the Morris Canal. The land has been designated a Public Natural Resource Area and a marked Greenway trail laid out by way of woods roads and along the towpath through open farmland. The trail begins at a new, and as yet unmarked, parking area off Hoffman Road in Port Murray. From the parking area, the trail follows a dirt road marked with Gre-



Perry's Store in Port Murray still marks the spot where the Morris Canal crossed Main Street. The canal, now a driveway, passed along the right side of the building.

enway yellow blazes, through the woods and around an area pock-marked with quarry pits. This is the site of Inclined Plane 5 West.

In 1896, the Pittsburgh TerraCotta and Lumber Company built a plant here to manufacture terra-cotta tile and brick building products. The area's shale clay was extensively quarried. When the company went out of business in 1963, the property was further dug out, leaving a moonscape of pits. This operation destroyed most of the inclined plane, leaving only the turbine chamber and a section of the tail-race tunnel. This structure still stands like a Mayan temple, its massive stones  
(Continued on page 2)

## MEETINGS

**Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Education Center**  
353 East Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

**Friday – September 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** – Refreshments at 7:10

### WHERE DID ALL THE CANAL BOATS GO?

**JOE MACASEK** – *President, Canal Society of New Jersey*

**BILL MCKELVEY** – *President, United Railroad Historical Society*

For more than a hundred years boats of all shapes and sizes traveled New Jersey's towpath canals. Literally thousands of boats were employed. Where did they all go? People have studied canal history and explored the remains of canals, but few have given much attention to the boats.

In this presentation we look into who built the boats, what they cost, how they changed over the years, and will hear a few stories about where they went. Both Morris and D&R canal boats will be discussed.

In addition to this evening's presentation, CSNJ member Deb Weflerling will prepare and serve a light supper and a fine dessert. Deb's culinary skills are well known among members, so please come early to enjoy food and friendly conversation before the meeting.

(Continued on page 4)

## REMINDER

### September Membership Meeting

**Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
Haggerty Education Center**  
353 East Hanover Avenue  
Morris Township

Across from the Morris County Library  
See the CSNJ web site for directions.

# WARREN COUNTY GREENWAY

(Continued from page 1)

exposed in a steep hillside.

At the bottom of the plane site, the trail reaches a gate, then continues along the towpath berm, now Brick Yard Road. Although the road is marked private, you can follow the yellow trail marks until they turn left off the berm and into the woods. Here there is a bit of adventure until the trail regains the towpath after avoiding some private land. The best part comes last as the trail leads from a canopy of tall trees into open farmland, With the canal partially filled with water, this is one of the most scenic vistas along the Greenway.

For the time being, end your walk at Harts Road, as private property blocks the way to Port Colden.

## Florence Kuipers Park

Farther north near Hackettstown, the long-established walk through Florence Kuipers Park has been expanded and improved. A new parking area along Grand Avenue, County Route 629, near its intersection with College View Drive, provides access to acres of newly acquired state park land as well as the Greenway. For more than a mile the trail follows the canal along a massive towpath embankment stepped into a steep hillside. A connecting state park loop trail, marked in red, leads uphill through a maze of woods roads that offers walking options for the more adventurous. The Greenway trail ends at Harvey Street in Hackettstown at the site where Silas



The towpath along the hillside through what is now Florence Kuipers Park once looked out across the wide valley south of Hackettstown. The Warren Furnace can be seen on the far right and the dome of Centenary College in the distance.

Harvey first established a canal store along with a coal/lumber yard and brewery.

*If you would like to take these walks, you can download a detailed trail map, available on the CSNJ web site at [CanalSocietyNJ.org](http://CanalSocietyNJ.org). Please stay on the marked trail and avoid private property.*

## New Technology

A new program being tested at Plane 9 West will use smart-phone technology to enhance the visitor experience. Visitors will soon be able to learn more about the site by using their smart phones to scan a QR code. These small matrix-coded squares were developed as an easy way to communicate information. An app, downloaded from the Google Play or the Apple Store, will allow your phone to read the code and access the [exploremorriscanal.org](http://exploremorriscanal.org).



[org](http://exploremorriscanal.org) (EMC) website at locations along the Greenway in Warren County. Visitors will look for the EMC logo, then use their phones to access a short text about that location. A “Click Here to Learn More” option will access more information or allow the viewer to watch and listen to a video featuring Jim Lee Jr., The result will be a visitor experience that will combine interpretive signs with less-expensive and more-versatile QR codes. To some, this new approach may seem simplistic and



[exploremorriscanal.org](http://exploremorriscanal.org)



At the southern end of the new Port Murray canal walk a well marked trail follows a partially water filled section of canal across open farm land with striking views in all directions.

awkward at first. However, to a younger more technically orientated generation, this will be a natural extension of their learning expectations. With careful crafting, the website will provide the casual visitor with just the right amount of information while the intensely curious will be able to access more information than can be placed on an interpretive panel.

The program is currently being tested with hopes of having the "Explore the Morris Canal" logos and QR codes in place throughout the Port Warren Heritage Area sometime this fall. This area extends from Plane 9 West along County Rt 519 to Stryker Road and beyond all the way the NJ Rt 22. For a preview, you can use the project's URL to access the website on your computer at home. Use the "About QR codes" and "Frequently Asked Questions" tabs to learn more, then browse the sample locations to see how the program will work. Please excuse minor problems; the site is still in development. ■

# TROUBLE ON THE CANAL

## Riot at Rockaway – Aug 9, 1866

On Monday of last week, four boatmen on the Morris Canal entered several stores and the hotel at Rockaway.

They proceeded to abuse the occupants by using threatening language, refusing to pay for taken items, and defying all of Rockaway to arrest them. A warrant was quickly issued and the Constable Armitage took a posse to assist him. He found the rioters armed with clubs and stones, which they used to great effect. The Constable and several others were knocked down by a barrage, at which point Armitage obtained a gun and demanded surrender.

Upon again being denied, he shot one of the desperadoes in the gut. The man later died from the wound. Another was shot in the leg and ar-



rested. Yet another dove into the canal and escaped, while the fourth, the supposed ringleader, was arrested and taken into custody. While awaiting an official investigation, however, he was able to sneak through a window and disappear. ■

# WALKING THE MORRIS CANAL -1923

In 1923 the American Geographical Society published the first edition of its New York Walk Book. Over the years it has been a favorite with New York-New Jersey area hikers and is still published today by the NY-NY Trail Conference.

Although the Trail Conference's maps and guides set the modern standard for today's walkers,

that first edition still holds some interest for both hikers and historians.

Of interest to canal buffs is a short piece on walking the Morris Canal. The author writes "For easy walking in unusual surroundings it would be difficult to find an equal to this towpath way anywhere within reach of the city. Its merits have never been sufficiently advertised even among walkers." This was in 1923, before the canal was officially abandoned and dismantled.

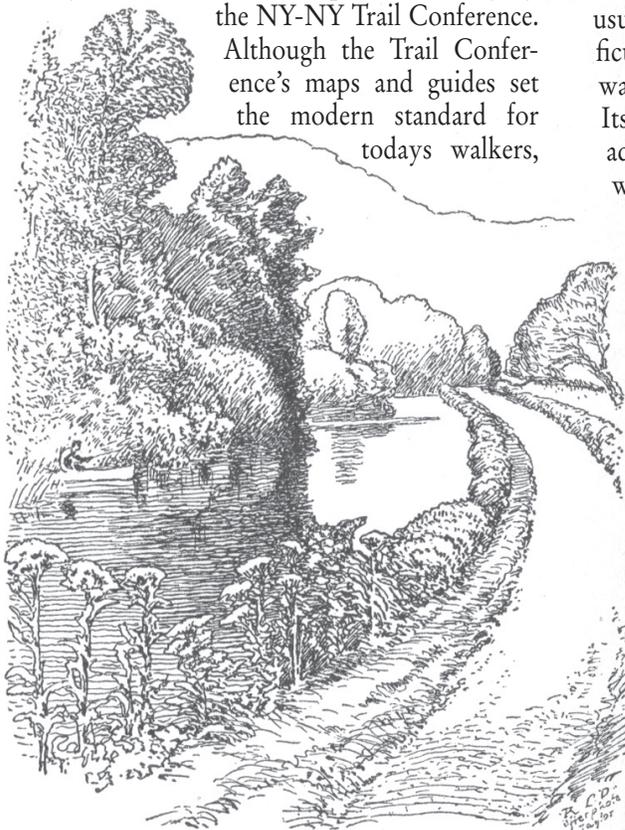
We wonder how many walkers came for the scenery only to discover the decaying remains of the old canal. Because the canal ran parallel with the railroad in so many places, the guide instructs city dwellers how to use public transportation to plan a country walk along the towpath starting in one canal town then returning to the city from another.

One such adventure described in the book is a walk from Little Falls to Boonton. The careful instructions read: "Access by the Greenwood Lake Division of the Erie Railroad from Jersey City to Little Falls (one hour, 80 cents); or by

trolley from the 130th Street Ferry to Paterson and transfer to Singac car (2 hours, 40 cents) Walking distance 4 to 15 miles. Route level with little climbing.

"From Little Falls station walk north, cross the trolley tracks and then the Passaic River. At the towpath on the north bank turn to the east to view the bridge carrying the towpath and the 'little falls.' Return to the towpath and proceed northwest across the level bed of the ancient Lake Passaic to Mountain View (4 miles from Little Falls).

*(continued on page 5)*



## We Need Help!

The Canal Society needs an organized person with moderate computer skills to help send out e-mails announcing activities and events and to keep our e-mail address lists up to date. With someone to help, we can keep our members better informed.

Please contact Joe Macasek at:  
[macgraphics1@verizon.net](mailto:macgraphics1@verizon.net)  
 973-292-2755

# MEETINGS

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**Joe Macasek** is President of the Canal Society of New Jersey, past President of the Roebling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology, Director of Communication for the Friends of Historic Speedwell, and serves on the Morris County Heritage Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in design from the Pratt Institute and is self employed as a graphic designer. He is the author of the Guide to the Morris Canal in Morris County.

**Bill McKelvey** made his mark as a historian with the publication of his photo histories of the D&R Canal and Champlain to Chesapeake after a long professional career in the insurance industry. He was a CSNJ director for many years and is especially remembered for organizing and leading a long list of foreign and domestic tours. Among his many volunteer activities he is now involved in a leadership capacity with the Liberty Historic Railway, Inc. and the United Railroad Historical Society of New Jersey.

**Friday – November 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** – Refreshments at 7:10

## THE MORRIS CANAL AND THE AGE OF INGENUITY

KEVIN W. WRIGHT

Author and historian Kevin Wright has recently completed a new book on the Morris Canal. Although we have seen many efforts to tell this long and complicated story, Kevin brings us an objective telling, set in a broad context with just the right balance between storytelling and detail. Of special interest are the plethora of quotes and anecdotes gleaned from a multitude of obscure sources that bring life to the story in the words of the people of the time. In this presentation Kevin will tell how he brought together the wide range of information that makes this book a good read.

**Kevin Wright** has been tour director at Waterloo Village, curator at the Steuben House in River Edge, and for thirty years a regional resource-interpretive specialist before retiring in 2008. Kevin has served in a leadership capacity with many historical organizations including president of the Sussex County Historical Society and the Bergen County Historical Society. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and has authored numerous books, brochures, blogs and web sites. He is currently secretary to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission.

This program is not confirmed. Look for an e-mail message or check the CSNJ web site for the latest information.

# ON THE LEVEL



## THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

PO Box 737, Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0737

ON THE LEVEL is published three times a year by the Canal Society of New Jersey.

### OFFICERS

<b>President:</b>	Joe Macasek
<b>Vice President:</b>	Rick Giles
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Judy Keith
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Dennis Furbush
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Vacant
<b>Past President:</b>	Vacant

### DIRECTORS

Bob Bodenstein	Carl Loutzenheiser
Richard Draper	Anita Norris
Rod Howarth	Bill Pegg
Steve Lauf	Rich Richter
Jim Lee	Bierce Riley

# MORRIS CANAL WALKS

Throughout the year the Passaic County Department of Planning and Economic Development will offer a series of walks to promote the Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County.

## Sunday, Sep 11 – 12:00 Noon

**Little Falls** – Meet at the Woodland Park Library and walk the Greenway route from Woodland Park to Little Falls.

## Sunday, Oct 16 – 12:00 Noon

**Wayne** – Meet at Farmingdale & Deerfield Roads in Wayne and explore the feeder lock site and river towpath.

For more information:

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

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

**Joe Macasek**

[macgraphics1@verizon.net](mailto:macgraphics1@verizon.net)

# BLOOMFIELD MORRIS CANAL HIKE

Saturday, November 5

10:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

Join Morris Canal enthusiasts Rich Rockwell and Ron Rice for a three-mile hike following the path of the Morris Canal in Bloomfield. The 3.5-hour tour starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 5th and includes a bus ride to additional sites where the canal remains intact. The hike includes Bloomfield's newest park, Morris Canal Park at Oak Tree Lane and a newly reclaimed section between Pilch Street and Watchung Avenue, the result of the efforts of local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

The tour is co-sponsored by the Bloomfield Morris Canal Greenway Committee and the Bloomfield Recreation Department. Reservations are required and a \$5 donation covers bus costs and a 20-page handout containing historic photos and color maps. To reserve a space, email [Morris-Canal@gmail.com](mailto:Morris-Canal@gmail.com).

973-292-2755 – [nj-cnal@googlegroups.com](mailto:nj-cnal@googlegroups.com) – [www.CanalSocietyNJ.org](http://www.CanalSocietyNJ.org)

# D&R CANAL 2016 WALKS & EVENTS

*These walks and events are sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch. The walks are free, but donations are welcome and appreciated. For additional information contact tour leaders:*

**Bob Barth at 201-401-3121 or [bbarth@att.net](mailto:bbarth@att.net).**  
**Pamela V'Combe at 609-635-2783 or [pjvcombe@gmail.com](mailto:pjvcombe@gmail.com)**

## **Saturday, October 1 – 10:00 a.m.**

Hike 4.8 miles on the D&R Canal towpath from Zarephath to Blackwells Mills Causeway (the meeting place) or choose the 2.7-mile walk to East Millstone. Leader Pamela V'Combe.

## **Saturday, October 15 – 10:00 a.m.**

Walk Through History. 3.8 miles on the D&R Canal towpath from Alexander Road to Kingston (the meeting place). 2-3 hours. Leader: Bob Barth.

## **Saturday, November 26 – 10:00 a.m.**

Walk Through History. 2.6 miles on the D&R Canal towpath from Port Mercer to Alexander Road (the meeting place). 2-3 hours. Leader: Bob Barth.

# 2016 INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WALKS

*October through November*

Oct 15 – **Franklin Limestone District**

Nov 5 – **Chester Furnace**

*Industrial Heritage Walks are sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission.  
For information & reservations, please e-mail: [macgraphics1@verizon.net](mailto:macgraphics1@verizon.net) or call 973-292-2755.*

# WALKING THE MORRIS CANAL

*(Continued from page 3)*

“Here the canal, the Erie and Lackawanna railroads, two highways, and the Pompton River pass through the gap in the ‘third mountain,’ between Hook Mountain and the Packanack Mountain – two ridges of 100 and 200 feet in elevation. At this point, too, comes into the canal the ‘feeder’ conveying water from the Ramapo River, 5 miles to the north. The walk along the feeder to the Ramapo, and so to Pompton Plains, is a delightful one, making a 6 mile extension.

“Continuing west the canal proper crosses the Pompton River on a very leaky bridge. Bends in the river accompany the canal for some distance west, finally turning north. The canal paralleled by the highway, continues along the north foot of Hook Mountain. The hills west of the plains begin to display themselves broadside as the canal bends and the first Plane, (No.10 East) is reached. The stations of Lincoln Park (6 miles from Little Falls) and Towaco (9 miles) are passed and 2 miles

beyond the latter the path curves around a wide bend in the canal – one of the most charming turns in this section. Then are approached the successive planes near Montville, which, with a combined rise of about 140 feet, illustrates the advantages of this kind of transport. From the upper level it is about a mile and a half to Boonton.

“Return by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad from Boonton to Hoboken ( 50 minutes, \$1.20) or to Paterson (20 or 30 minutes, 50 cents), then the trolley to 130th Street Ferry (1-1/2 hours, 35 cents).”

Although a continuous walk along the towpath is no longer possible, you still might imagine taking this walk today. NJ Transit now services all of these locations and the route is still dotted with elusive remains of the canal. Also, in the near future, the Morris Canal Greenway project will be bringing more pieces of the canal back into public venue. So, get out your hiking shoes, buy yourself a train ticket and retrace the steps of hikers past. ■

# WATERLOO 2016 SCHEDULE

## Waterloo Canal Heritage Days

10 a.m. – 4 p.m

September 17 & 24  
October 8 & 22



## CANAL SOCIETY JACKETS

This past winter the society custom ordered hooded, fleece-lined, nylon jackets with CSNJ graphics. When the jackets arrived everyone was delighted. However, just to be safe, a few extra jackets were ordered and now there are just two left, **one medium** and **one extra large**. The price is \$50.00. In addition we have one of the old style jackets in blue, sherpa-lined, but without a hood. Size 32/34. The price is \$30.00.

If interested, contact Bierce Riley at [Bierce.Riley@gmail.com](mailto:Bierce.Riley@gmail.com) or phone 973-455-0491. Please provide your name, phone number, and e-mail address, and size. Include “CSNJ” in your subject line. ■

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

We hope that you enjoy the CSNJ newsletter and look forward to receiving a your copy three times a year.

However, as of this issue, members who are more than two years behind in their dues will no long receive “On The Level.” We hope that you will consider bringing you dues up to date and getting back on the mailing list.

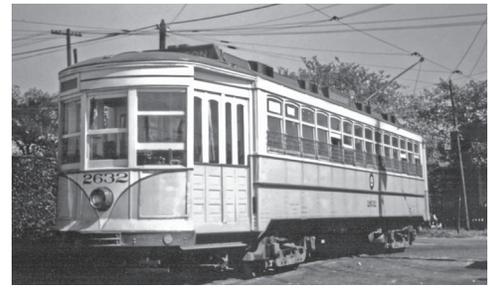
Contact: [jakeith23@verizon.net](mailto:jakeith23@verizon.net)

# THE TROLLEY RETURNS TO WHARTON

For years visitors have enjoyed walking along the water filled section of the Morris Canal in Wharton's Hugh Force Park. Recently they have watched as restoration work has brought the park's Lock 2 East back to life. Now, the United Railroad Historical Society of New Jersey, spearheaded by former CSNJ director Bill McKelvey, has proposed to bring trolley rails back to Wharton, formerly

serviced by the Morris County Traction Company line along Main Street. The plan would create a public trolley ride along the abandoned Central Railroad of New Jersey right-of-way that hugs the hillside above the canal.

Vintage trolleys, like the 1916 Public Service car now being restored by the URHS, would take riders down 3,100 feet of newly laid track. A low profile car barn would protect the equipment



from the elements and provide security. Construction and restoration costs will be funded by monies already pledged by individuals and organizations.

The CSNJ has reviewed this plan and sees the project as a great attraction that will bring additional visitors to the park. Operation of the trolley ride will not disrupt ongoing canal restoration work nor will it interfere with hikers who enjoy walking the park's towpath/railroad grade loop trail.

This spring representatives of the URHS, supported by members of the CSNJ, presented the trolley project to the Wharton Borough Council and received unanimous approval. If approval of the Morris County Park Commission is obtained this fall, construction work might begin early next year. ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday September 16** **Membership Meeting** – Canal Boats  
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum,  
 Haggerty Education Center  
 353 East Hanover Avenue  
 Morris Township, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday November 18** **Membership Meeting** – Morris Canal  
 Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays**  
 – September 17 & 24  
 – October 8 & 22
- Waterloo Canal Heritage Days**  
 Waterloo Village, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

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

**Waterloo t-shirts**  
 will be available at  
 upcoming meetings



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CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

FIRST CLASS MAIL