Once again Waterloo Village will come to life with the Canal Society of New Jersey’s 14th Annual Waterloo Canal Day, held on Saturday, June 27th between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. In the event of heavy rain on that day, Canal Day will be held the next day on Sunday, June 28th at the same time and with the same participants. This year’s Canal Day has even more attractions that highlight the fascinating heritage of the Morris Canal, which gave birth to the historic canal town of Waterloo and promoted its growth.

Canal boat captain John Hummel will once again be spinning his yarns about life laboring on the canals in the good ole days and our pontoon boat and crew will be providing mule-towed boat rides for the public on the village’s section of the Morris Canal.

Live period music will help cast the spell of the canal era.

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 Waterloo Village for the public, free of charge!

**Guided Walking Tours Will Be Offered**

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

Once again this year an architect consultant will be leading guided tours that explore the historic architecture of the village’s varied buildings and styles and will discuss some of their background history. We hope to have the Smith Store open for public tours.

(Continued on page 2)
MEETINGS
(Continued from page 1)
Many volunteers are necessary to make Waterloo Canal Day a great success! If you are able to help us on Canal Day, please contact the Society at 908-832-2888 to offer your services. We greatly appreciate your help and are confident that you will have a great day!

Membership Picnic
a Delectable Treat!

Once again, the Waterloo United Methodist Church will be catering the Canal Society’s annual picnic at Waterloo Village. The picnic will be held at 6 p.m. and will be a repeat performance of the outstanding, all-you-can-eat barbecue that we all savored for the past two years!

The annual member picnic is a great way to relax and enjoy the company of other members after a very busy but rewarding day. This year’s picnic will cost $22 per person (same cost as last year). The menu is barbequed chicken and Italian sausage/onions/peppers; homemade salads (tossed, potato, cole slaw and macaroni with egg/vegetable and tuna); rolls and butter; cake 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...
UPDATE ON WATERLOO

During the past winter the Society continued to attend several auctions of Waterloo Village items that had once been housed in the buildings and on exhibit. We were fortunate to be able to purchase a collection of artifacts and furnishings that are appropriate for exhibit in the Smith Store, the Rutan Cabin and for period craft demonstration purposes at the village. We are in the process of cataloging these items so that they can be placed on exhibit for our upcoming canal heritage programming at Waterloo. We are grateful to Judy Keith, Diane and Larry Ceece, Joyce Hussa and Brian Morrell who all helped at these auctions and loaded and transported furniture.

Society members have also been volunteering their time to assist Parks & Forestry with cataloging of the contents of the Smith Store. All of the contents of the store must be cataloged before the Society will be able to have the building open for public tours as part of Canal Day and the subsequent Canal Heritage Days. This task is not a small job since some 800 items are in the store. Society members Bruce Tell, Brian Morrell, and Judy Keith have been helping State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella with this project.

The first phase of the Master Plan for the village has been completed as a draft and the State and consultant are having discussions as part of the process to finalize the draft. A second phase of the Master Plan will follow and will focus on the Morris Canal site and the various historic elements on the Morris County side of the Musconetcong River.

Roof repair work is continuing on a few of the village’s buildings and Society volunteers have been helping to clean up some of the grounds.

The State is in the process of awarding a contract to John Kraft to operate Indian Island once again as a school field trip destination. John is considering including the Rutan Farmsite in his school field trips and will convert the former village museum gift shop into a visitor and interpretive center. The Society has entered into discussions with John to explore the possibility of partnering with him to open the Canal Museum and Smith Store for at least some school field trips and to offer canal tours. The Indian Island school field trips will be available commencing this fall.

The Society wishes to acknowledge State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella and her staff for all of their efforts toward maintaining Waterloo’s grounds and for conducting some improvements on the buildings and other structural elements. With limited time and a tight budget they have been making progress in many ways, all of which helps to preserve and enhance Waterloo. We thank them for their efforts!

VOLUNTEERS CLEAR WATERLOO PLANE

Volunteers labored to clear the weed- and fallen tree-covered Plane 4 West at Waterloo. This is one of the four best-preserved planes remaining from the overall canal and is especially impressive since it is graded into the surrounding hillside and lined with large stone retaining walls along its perimeter. It is also unusual since the old alignment of the Sussex Railroad crossed over the plane, with stone bridge abutments still standing on each side of the plane.

For many years the Waterloo Foundation kept the plane cleared of weeds and brush so that the site could be toured by the public. Since the collapse of the reconstructed mule bridge across the Musconetcong River, the plane site has not been accessible to the public and is even difficult to reach to keep the site cleared.

(Continued on page 6)
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.

**Mount Olive Township**
Society President Brian Morrell has continued to work with Mount Olive Township’s consultant who is currently developing a Trails Master Plan for the municipality. Brian has been promoting the Morris Canal Greenway as an important part of a projected trail system and led a recent hike along the canal site in Mount Olive for the consultant.

**Stanhope Borough**
Brian has recently spent considerable time working with The Land Conservancy of New Jersey regarding the Morris Canal Greenway component of the future Open Space Plan for the Borough. Much of the canal site within Stanhope is already publicly owned. With a few additional purchases of land parcels the entire Greenway in Stanhope could be protected and made available for public interpretation and recreation.

**Roxbury Township**
A recent breakthrough has greatly advanced the Society Morris Canal Greenway Committee’s efforts to acquire and preserve the site of the large basin at the head of Plane 1 West in Port Morris. Funding for this acquisition has been secured from Green Acres and the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund. Environmental assessments of the site have been completed, revealing no issues of concern. Title work and a property survey are now underway. Hopefully a closing on this property can occur within the next several months. 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 Committee continues to pursue the acquisition of two properties at Shippenport adjacent to Plane 1 East

**Wharton Borough**
The Borough is the recent recipient of a new $50,000 planning grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to help fund engineering investigations as a next step in its plans to potentially restore Lock 2 East within Hugh Force Park. Recent archeological investigation at the lock was examining its masonry walls and assessing the condition of the timber floor and foundation. Interestingly the two lock walls appear to represent different periods of construction, perhaps from the original 1820s period and the mid-nineteenth century enlargement of the canal.

**Bloomfield Township**
The State of New Jersey has recently authorized the demolition and replacement of the Berkeley Avenue bridge, the last remaining road bridge built to carry vehicular traffic over the Morris Canal when the canal was still in operation (see separate article in this issue for more details on the bridge).

**Hackettstown, Mansfield Township, Washington Township, Washington Borough and Franklin Township**
Heritage Conservancy has been leading a group of Warren County residents and municipal officials in an effort to have Route 57 designated a Scenic Byway. The DOT has determined that the roadway is eligible for listing in the program and the committee is currently working on developing a management plan as the next step in the designation process. Society President Brian Morrell is participating on this Committee, representing the Morris Canal interests, along with a representative from the Warren County Morris Canal Committee. It is hoped that a Scenic Byway designation will be another tool for helping to preserve the Morris Canal and an associated Greenway along the Route 57 corridor in Warren County.

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**Thank You Volunteers!**
We are very grateful to Fred and Janet Spain and Bob Hofmann for transporting the Society’s traveling exhibit on New Jersey’s Canals to the State History Fair at Washington Crossing State Park.

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View of the recent archeological excavation at Wharton’s Lock 2 East showing the exposed back of the south wall of the lock (left center) and the north wall in the upper right.
Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Opening of the D&R Canal

Throughout 2009, the D&R Canal Watch, the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park, the Canal Society of New Jersey, the East Coast Greenway, the Delaware River Mill Society, and other organizations will sponsor and participate in events to commemorate this hallmark anniversary on the D&R!

A “Canal Authors Extravaganza” will be held at the Mule Tenders Barracks in Griggstown, on May 16, between noon and 3 p.m. This event will feature nearly a dozen authors of books on canals and related themes. The authors will be available to sign books that visitors may bring or buy, speak to the public about their canal-related books, and read excerpts from their books. For more information, contact the Barths at barths@att.net or 908-722-7428.

On May 23 at 10 a.m., the public may participate in a “Bike Ride Along the Canal”, from Blackwells Mills to Griggstown lock and back. The cyclists will visit many historic sites along the way and should bring their own bikes and helmets.

A full calendar of these and other anniversary events is posted on the website of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park, www.dandrcanal.com. For more information, call park historian Vicki Chirco at 609-924-5705.

A Successful Day of Boating on the D&R Canal!

On Saturday, May 2 the Society participated in the Annual Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair at Washington Crossing State Park. Our large traveling exhibit on the Morris Canal and Delaware & Raritan Canal was our featured display and attracted considerable attention. The Society’s other major attraction was our pontoon boat which was offering interpretive rides on the nearby D&R Canal Feeder. The boat ride proved to be a significant success and was further enhanced by ongoing interpretive performances by Richard Pawling and a live mule that was made available by nearby Howell Living History Farm. The boat was filled all day long and a waiting line was always present. We calculate that we gave rides to approximately 200 members of the public. We acknowledge the following volunteers who made our very successful day possible: Dick Draper, Rod Howarth, Bob Barth, Doug Bradley, Bruce Tell, Bob Bodenstein, Mark Hamill, Bill McKelvey and Brian Morrell. A big THANK YOU to all of them!

A photographer from the Newark Camera Club documented the operation of the D&R Canal.

Captain Bill McKelvey has generously donated a photographic collection of historic views of the Delaware & Raritan Canal to the Canal Society of New Jersey. These images are the photographs that are reproduced in his 1970s book on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. The Society is currently cataloging and conserving this newly acquired collection and will be making it available for research purposes in the future. The Society is very grateful to Bill for this generous donation of significant material relating to the D&R Canal. Thank you Bill!

Generous Donation of D&R Canal Views

A photographer from the Newark Camera Club documented the operation of the D&R Canal.
**Canal Heritage Days at Waterloo: Volunteers Sought to Help**

Once again the Canal Society is partnering with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Parks & Forestry to sponsor Canal Heritage Days at Waterloo. These days will be held two Saturdays per month from July through October. On these days the grounds of the village will be open to the public, guided tours will be offered of the village and the canal, our New Jersey Canal Museum will be open, and on most of the dates our boat ride on the canal will be offered. In addition, we anticipate having occasional special presentations on various aspects of Waterloo’s history and related topics as well as special exhibits and craft demonstrations. The Smith Store will be open for interpretation on most, if not all, the Heritage Days and the Indian Island and the Rutan Farmsite will be available for tours on a part-time basis. The Society continues to work with the State to be able to make other buildings in the village available to the public in the near future.

This year’s Waterloo Canal Heritage Days will be held on July 11 and 25, August 8 and 29, September 12 and 26 and October 10 and 24. All of these dates are Saturdays during which 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 Waterloo, despite the closure of the site for building tours and other programs. Like the two previous years, we are counting on our membership to volunteer to help staff 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, provide interpretation in the Smith Store and potentially the Rutan Cabin, and to greet people at the entrance gate. Individuals interested in volunteering should contact Phyllis Stanaback at 908-832-2888.

Canal Heritage Days are a wonderful 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!

**Waterloo Plane**

(Continued from page 3)

In preparation for this year’s Waterloo Canal Day the Society made arrangements with Allamuchy Mountain State Park Superintendent Helen Maurella to provide boat access and a State employee to ferry a volunteer work crew and equipment over to the plane to clear it of weeds, brush and several fallen trees. Ed Freeborn and Mike Koster from Helen’s staff generously helped us with the project, not only providing the boat access, but using a chain saw to remove the tangled, fallen trees blocking the plane.

We are extremely grateful to Helen Maurella for making this possible and to her staff Mike Koster and Ed Freeborn. We also greatly appreciate the donated labor of Society members Judy Keith, Doug Bradley, Jakob and Gely Franke, Barry Woodruff, and Brian Morrell. It was an unusually warm day and the work was challenging. The result is a very open and visually apparent plane site that can now be easily viewed from the village side of the Musconetcong River.

**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.
Observations on a 40th Anniversary

In this edition of On the Level, Reflections on the Morris Canal relates the origins of the Canal Society of New Jersey. Now that we are observing our 40th Anniversary it is appropriate to review some of our history and accomplishments. The following paragraphs provide a brief biography on Clayton F. Smith, the founder of the Society.

Clayton F. Smith was just over 60 years old when he founded the Canal Society of New Jersey in 1969. He had always been interested in science, photography and the outdoors. He studied at Bowdoin College for three years until the Great Depression forced him to drop out of school. After finding employment, he managed to attend night classes and received his B.A. in Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. While working for Merck & Co. in 1936 he was the leader of the team that first manufactured vitamin C on a commercial basis. By the time of his retirement in 1974 Clayton was the assistant in the patent attorney’s department at Allied Chemical.

In addition to his enthusiasm for canals, Clayton was an avid historian of the Revolutionary War. He discovered the archeological site of the Revolutionary War encampment of the New Jersey Brigade, proving that it was in Somerset County, not in Morris County as was widely held. He was instrumental in rallying support for the inclusion of the Stark’s Brigade site in Morristown National Historic Park, thus saving this archeological site from development. Furthermore, he was an expert on Revolutionary War roads and was active in several other historical organizations.

During his ten years as the Canal Society’s first president, he established the organization on a sound footing and implemented many initiatives. One of the more important ones was the creation of the Canal Society’s New Jersey Canal Museum at Waterloo Village in 1975. For the next 31 years the Society not only created and maintained exhibits on the Morris and Delaware & Raritan canals in the museum, but also provided volunteer guides during that time period for every weekend that Waterloo Village was open to the public. Since the 2006 termination of the Waterloo Foundation for the Arts’ lease of the village, the Canal Society has had the State of New Jersey’s endorsement for continuing the museum and has had the facility open to the general public 18 times during the summer and fall of 2007 and 2008 as part of special canal heritage programming. Throughout its operation the Society’s New Jersey Canal Museum has hosted tens of thousands of school children in addition to tens of thousands of adult tourists, including many from foreign countries. Our museum has been one of our most important outreach programs and has helped generate many new members for the Society.

We look forward to the continued operation of our New Jersey Canal Museum and its enhancement as we strive toward a revitalized Waterloo Village.

State of New Jersey Authorizes Destruction of Unique Canal Bridge

As you may recall from the Winter 2009 edition of On the Level we announced that the historic Berkeley Avenue bridge in Bloomfield had been given a reprieve from proposals to demolish it and replace it with a new, straighter and more level bridge. The New Jersey Historic Sites Council had reviewed the case, voted to deny approval for demolition of the bridge and asked for further examination of traffic calming alternatives for Berkeley Avenue. Despite the action of the Council, DEP Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources, Amy Cradic overrode the Council and has authorized the demolition of the Berkeley Avenue bridge.

The Berkeley Avenue bridge is a contributing structure to the Morris Canal Historic District, listed on both the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places. Built in 1922 during the last years of the Morris Canal’s operation, it is one of two known extant road bridges built to span the canal when it was still being used for navigation. At one time hundreds of road bridges crossed over the canal, but nearly all of them were removed during the late 1920s as part of the dismantling of the Morris Canal. Instead of being demolished, the Berkeley Avenue bridge should be afforded special recognition as a unique survivor along the overall Morris Canal Historic District.

In addition, the setting of the Berkeley Avenue bridge is the prime location in Bloomfield, and perhaps in overall Essex County, for enhancement and interpretation of the Morris Canal as part of the Morris Canal Greenway initiative. The bridge is located within a green swath marking the canal site along the Second River. The geometry of the existing bridge defines the canal site and is the primary visual place marker for the former canal prism. The removal of this unique structure will compromise the overall Morris Canal Historic District and the Morris Canal Greenway. We find it in no small way remarkable and outrageous that the State of New Jersey is continuing to destroy the Morris Canal 85 years after the waterway closed and over 30 years since it was officially recognized as a designated historic district.
On Saturday, August 22nd, 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 Morris Canal guided walking tours of the wonderfully preserved one-quarter-mile section of 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 7 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 boating on the canal. In the event of rain, Canal Day will be held the following day on Sunday, August 23rd.

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**Calendar of Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Morris County Cultural Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Canal Authors Extravaganza</td>
<td>Mule Tenders Barracks, Griggstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Bike Ride Along D&amp;R Canal</td>
<td>Blackwells Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>14th Annual Waterloo Canal Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11 &amp; 25</td>
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The new entrance sign to Hugh Force Park in Wharton.

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The new entrance sign to Hugh Force Park in Wharton.

**Waterloo Reserve**

March 31-September 30

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**New Waterloo Tee-shirts**

Will be available at the May Meeting and at the 34th Annual Wharton Canal Day on August 22nd.

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**Contact Information**

Canal Society of New Jersey
PO Box 737
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0737

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**Website**

www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

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Address service requested.

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First Class Mail