MEETINGS
Morris County Cultural Center
300 Mendham Road, Morris Township

Friday – May 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:10

BALBACH SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY
IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
AN HISTORIC INDUSTRY LOCATED ON THE MORRIS CANAL

J. MARK ZDEPSKI, CPG
JMZ GEOLOGY, FLEMINGTON, NJ

This evening’s program will focus on the Balbach Smelting and Refining Company, which operated at two locations in Newark between 1851 and 1927. One of the plants was situated along the Passaic River and the Morris Canal near the Jackson Street bridge (along both sides of present-day Raymond Boulevard). Balbach first specialized in reclaiming precious metals from jewelry manufacturing “sweeps”, intact, surviving Morris Canal town!

Canal boat captain John Hummel will once again be spinning his yarns about life laboring on the canals in the good old days and our pontoon boat and crew will be providing boat rides for the public on the village’s section of the Morris Canal. Live period music will help provide the setting for reliving the canal era.

Guided Walking Tours Will Be Offered

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

We are very excited to be able to once again feature Smith’s Store and

(Continued on page 2)
a term for small-sized scrap metal. As the business grew, they engaged in smelting of non-ferrous metal ores, lead refining, electrolytic copper refining, precious metals refining, as well as nickel and nickel sulfate production. Balbach operated the first electrolytic tank-house operation in the United States, patented a revolutionary de-silverizing process, and was an innovator in the development of the water-jacketed metal reduction furnace.

In 1874, the plant along the Morris Canal covered 2-1/2 acres and employed 125 men. The original mansion site of Edward Balbach, Sr. was situated on 5.75 acres directly across from the Morris Canal and the company plant. This residential estate and its surrounding property became designated as part of the Essex County Park system in 1907 and was laid out and designed by the famous Olmstead firm into recreational facilities within Newark’s crowded Ironbound Section. After the closing of the Morris Canal and the construction of Raymond Boulevard along part of its site, the park, known as Riverbank Park, was enlarged to cover the portion of the Balbach plant that had extended between the canal and the Passaic River. With street closures it was made into the current 10.77 acre Riverbank Park, during a 1930-1931 complete redesign by the Olmstead Brothers firm. The Park was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 after nomination by an organization of dedicated private citizens who stopped Essex County from turning the site into a Minor League ballpark. Come learn about this innovative early industry along the Morris Canal and the landmark park that ultimately replaced the factory complex and the Morris Canal in the Ironbound Section of Newark.

Mark Zdepski is a geologist with JMZ Geology in Flemington, NJ. He was born in Phillipsburg and has spent most of his life in the Garden State. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Alaska. He worked on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and after 1976 pursued a career in mineral exploration in Alaska, Montana and Nevada until 1985 when he returned to New Jersey. He has worked in the environmental business ever since, focusing on soils, groundwater and clean water supply. Mark’s father was a stone-mason in the Milford and Frenchtown area and his grandfather was a quarryman at Raven Rock, along the Delaware & Raritan Canal Feeder.

The Canal Society’s Canal Day will include a sales table with historic books on the Morris Canal and other items.
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 profitable. The church is the true Living History in the village, operating there since 1859.

Learn About Waterloo's Railroad and Iron Heritage

Other special exhibits will feature the Morris Canal Greenway in nearby counties and the railroad and iron heritage of Waterloo. Iron ore shipping was a major component of the Morris Canal’s commerce for many years with Waterloo serving as an important point of ore transshipment. The annual Photo Contest and Exhibit will also be featured throughout the day. All photographers are eligible to enter.

Come join us for our 16th Annual Waterloo Canal Day! It's a great occasion to enjoy the serenity of Waterloo, to partake of its great history and to continue to demonstrate to the State of New Jersey how much we cherish our State Parks and especially Waterloo!

Volunteer Help Greatly Appreciated!

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 Always a Great Treat!

Once again, the Waterloo United Methodist Church will be catering the Canal Society’s annual picnic at Waterloo. The picnic will be held at 6 p.m. and will feature all you can eat portions of savory treats! 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. Advance registrations are required and can be made by contacting the Society at 908-832-2888. We ask that reservations be made by June 21st.

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION STILL THREATENED WITH DISSOLUTION!

Governor Christie’s Administration is continuing to recommend that the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission be abolished and that its review responsibilities be conveyed to the Department of Environmental Protection. For a short while it appeared that the Commission would be spared, but its staff has largely transferred to positions in other state agencies and the proposal may soon come before the State Legislature to consider discontinuing the existence of the Commission. The Canal Society of New Jersey continues to strongly oppose this move which has the potential for tragic results for the D&R Canal and the State Park.

The creation and operation of the Commission is a true success story over its nearly 40 years of existence and is evidenced in the fact that a million state residents cherish and enjoy recreation in the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park annually. On April 28th the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee had a public hearing at the State House to consider the operation of the D&R Canal Commission. Several members of the Commission provided testimony as did the Executive Director. Although many members of the public were present and were eager to provide testimony, time constraints prevented them from speaking. Whereas the Legislative Committee appeared to be sympathetic to the Commission’s operation, it remains unknown what its fate will be.

It is extremely important for members of the Canal Society to submit written and electronic comments to the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee and to their legislators. Statements can be faxed to the committee at 609-292-0561 or emailed to OLSAideSEN@njleg.org.
For the fifth year the Canal Society is partnering with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the State Park Service to co-sponsor Canal Heritage Days at Waterloo. These days will be held on the second and fourth Saturdays during July through October, rain or shine. 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, Smith’s Store, the Rutan Cabin, the Blacksmith Shop and the Gristmill will be open for interpretation. The Society continues to work with the State to be able to make other buildings in the village available to the public in the future.

This year’s Waterloo Canal Heritage Days will be held on July 9 and 23, August 13 and 27, September 10 and 24 and October 8 and 22. On all of these Saturdays Waterloo 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 fact that the site is closed during much of the year. We are counting on our membership to volunteer to help staff these Canal Heritage Days. Staffing is needed for our Canal Museum, to lead tours of the village and canal sites, to help with operating our pontoon boat, provide interpretation in Smith’s Store, the Rutan Cabin, the Gristmill and to greet people at the entrance gate. Individuals interested in volunteering should contact the Society at 908-832-2888.

Canal Heritage Days are a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the picturesque setting of Waterloo, while bringing the Morris Canal to life for the visiting public. During past years we have met the most interesting people on these days, including blacksmiths, a university professor whose divers have discovered a sunken Morris Canal boat in the Hudson River, a descendant of the Waterloo plane tender, and many tourists from foreign countries who are amazed at Waterloo! It is always a fun and worthwhile experience! We look forward to seeing you there!

Friends of Waterloo

The Friends of Waterloo held a Music Festival at Waterloo on May 14th and 15th as a fundraiser to generate money to continue badly needed restoration work at the village. Waterloo came alive with the sound of music once again for that weekend and crowds of enthusiasts and history buffs joined in the celebration! Canal Society members supported the event by serving as volunteer interpreters in Smith’s Store, the Rutan Cabin, the New Jersey Canal Museum and the Blacksmith Shop. The Festival was a wonderful opportunity to once again enjoy music at Waterloo while supporting restoration efforts. Information about the Music Festival can be found at the event’s website at www.waterloomusicfestival.com.
CLARENCE EICH “IKE”

It was with great sadness that the Society learned that our former Treasurer, Clarence Eich passed away on January 8th in Decatur, Georgia, where he and his wife Ellen had moved to be near one of their daughters. “Ike” served diligently for many years as our Canal Society Treasurer, managing our financial accounts, investments and insurance policies. He retired from that position in 2007 but still maintained his interest in the Society and continued to serve on the Finance Committee. We are so very grateful for his many years of service and dedication to the Society. In 2001 he was named Volunteer of the Year by the State of New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Canal Society.

Ike and Ellen had lived in Denville for many years and more recently had moved to Fellowship Village. He was born in Cleveland Ohio, graduated from Columbia College with an A.B. in 1942 and from Columbia Engineering School with a B.S. in 1943. After graduation he served in the US Navy where he tested depth charges. After the war, Ike joined Combustion Engineering where he worked as a mechanical engineer until 1962, when he went to work for Foster Wheeler Corporation in New Jersey as an assistant manager in the Contract Division Department, Equipment Division. He became Director of Operations in 1967, and was elected Division Vice President – Operations of Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation in 1973, then Vice President in 1975. In 1980 he was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of affiliate Foster Wheeler Limited (Canada). He was elected an Executive Vice President of Foster Wheeler Corporation in 1981, an office he held until his retirement in 1984. During his career he was issued a number of patents for new designs and products for power generation.

After retiring, Ike and Ellen enjoyed traveling around the world. Also, he was an avid gardener, developing several new varieties of gesneriads, and winning awards for his flowers at several local and national American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society shows.

Ike’s family very generously designated the Canal Society of New Jersey as the recipient of memorial donations from family and friends. As a result of this very kind gesture, the Society has received 15 contributions totaling $940. The Society expresses its deepest sympathy to Ellen and the rest of Ike’s family and friends and thanks all of the contributors for their thoughtful donations. Ike’s dedicated service to the Canal Society of New Jersey will long be remembered.

HELENE NICHOLS

In another great loss to the Society, Helene Nichols died on March 16 at Heath Village in Hacketts town. She was 96. Born in Michigan, she spent most of her life in Port Morris. She worked at Hercules Powder Co. for three years and then Picatinny Arsenal for 20 years before retiring. She and her husband Jack built a new home on part of the site of Morris Canal Plane 1 West in Port Morris and went to great lengths to preserve the historic remains of the canal plane. In fact they created an outdoor museum on their property and the adjacent State Park land along Lake Musconetcong. They had an indoor museum in their home with photos and canal memorabilia and were always delighted to show visitors the canal sites and remains. Both Helene and Jack were very faithful members of the Canal Society, participating in many events and meetings and were always eager to help guide at our museum at Waterloo.

The Nichols loved to square dance and were members of the Sussex Spinners and Warren Wheeler clubs for over 40 years. Helene was also a charter founder of the American Family Immigration History Center (July 17, 1998) at Ellis Island and was the recipient of the “Rosie the Riveter” award on March 22, 2003 from the Women’s Center at County College of Morris. The Society extends its heart-felt condolences to Jack and the rest of Helene’s family and friends. We will sorely miss this very active and supportive couple in the Canal Society!
Saxton Falls Studies Generate Blueprint for Morris Canal Sites

The Saxton Falls area feasibility study has been completed and has produced a thick volume planning document for the State of New Jersey which is to serve as a guide for the future preservation, restoration and interpretation 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 assessed the existing conditions and the feasibility of reconnecting the towpath to provide a continuous trail, the potential for restoring at least one of the locks, the options for preserving the historic locktender’s house at Lock 4 West and opportunities for historic interpretation and recreation.

The feasibility study was funded by a $39,000 planning grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust and by a $13,000 matching component from the Canal Society. The study recommends a phased approach to the preservation and restoration of elements of the canal sites and structures and encourages the cooperative efforts of State Parks and local and regional nonprofits to promote the development of the historic and recreational resources. This section of Allamuchy Mountain State Park is recognized by the study as having great potential for tourism and is located near major transportation networks that make it easily accessible to the public. The study emphasizes the opportunities for enhancing the interpretation of the historic resources while also interpreting the natural environment and recreational aspects.

As the next priority step the Canal Society applied for a $12,000 grant to enable design work for the stabilization of the deteriorated locktender’s house at Lock 4 West. This rare survivor of a Morris Canal locktender’s house is one of just a handful of dwellings that were built by the canal company to house operators of the adjacent canal locks. The Society has just recently learned that the New Jersey Historic Trust has recommended that our application be awarded the requested grant. It will be several months before the funds are appropriated. We are greatly honored to be the recipient of another Trust grant and for the recognition of the importance of the Morris Canal, the growing Morris Canal Greenway and the wonderful assets of Allamuchy Mountain State Park.

The Saxton Falls feasibility study and the new planning study for the Lock 4 West locktender’s house are both under the direction of HJGA Consulting, Architecture & Historic Preservation, Inc., in Cranford. The Society has long recognized the great potential of the Saxton Falls area for historic preservation, interpretation and recreation and is anxious to see this potential begin to be realized!
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 attracting growing interest amongst municipal, county and state agencies.

The Morris Canal Greenway has been attracting considerable attention lately and several grants. The New Jersey Historic Trust has just released its list of grants that have been recommended for funding in the most recent grant round. Included amongst some five dozen recommended grants are four awards totaling nearly $100,000 for Morris Canal-related sites. Three grants are for canal sites in Warren County. A $43,198 construction grant has been allocated to Warren County for preservation work on the end of the tailrace at the Jim and Mary Lee Museum at Plane 9 West. Site management grants have been recommended for the section of the canal in Lopatcong-Greenwich ($29,831) and for the Morris Canal locktender’s house at Lock 4 West in Allamuchy Mountain State Park ($12,000). This latter grant was applied for by the Canal Society and is to develop stabilization plans for the deteriorated locktender’s house. This effort is a next step in the planning for the preservation and recreational enhancement of the Saxton Lake section of the Morris Canal between Locks 4 and 5 West. A $7,500 site management grant was also allocated for the Roxbury Township Historical Society to enable the compilation of a National Register of Historic Places nomination for downtown Ledgewood. This historic community developed along the Morris Canal and retains an extensive collection of buildings relating to the canal and the canal era.

In further Greenway activity, Warren County recently signed a contract for $146,000 to compile a 25-year action plan for the development of the Morris Canal Greenway across the county. Bergen County-based Lanège Engineering and Environmental Services and Heritage Conservancy of Doylestown have been hired to assemble the action plan over the next year. The plan is being funded through a $200,000 agreement between the county, the NJ Institute of Technology and the North Jersey Transportation Authority. Existing conditions of the canal will be documented and potential canal enhancement projects will be prioritized. The plan will provide guidance on interpreting the canal as part of a greater tourism effort which will incorporate its historic features and the Route 57 Scenic Byway corridor.

Passaic County has been using a planning grant awarded through the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions to develop a master plan for the Morris Canal Greenway across its County. Many opportunities exist for creation of recreational trails along the canal towpath, along the Pompton Feeder, and in historic communities along the canal alignment. The County’s plan is quite comprehensive and has recently been presented as a draft for public comment.

Historic view of the Morris Canal with surrounding farmland and a windmill in Clifton.

(Continued from page 2)

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 board 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.

7
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Membership Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Morris County Cultural Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jun 25</td>
<td>Waterloo Canal Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jul 9</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jul 23</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>Wharton Canal Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Waterloo Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**www.CanalSocietyNJ.org**  
**nj-cnal@googlegroups.com**

---

## Wharton Canal Day

The Annual Wharton Canal Day will be held this year on Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Borough’s Hugh Force Park. The event features crafts, historic exhibits, the Canal Society’s exhibit and pontoon boat ride on the canal, guided walking tours and music. Be sure not to miss this event which celebrates the Morris Canal and its contribution to the development of the communities along its banks.

---

**Reminder to Members!**

If you have not yet paid your annual membership dues, please do so. Your support is critical to the Society’s ability to sustain its programs and preservation efforts!

---

**New**

Upcoming Meetings will be available at Waterloo Tee-shirts

---

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY 07963-0737

FIRST CLASS MAIL