

ON THE LEVEL



THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY BLOOMFIELD UPDATE

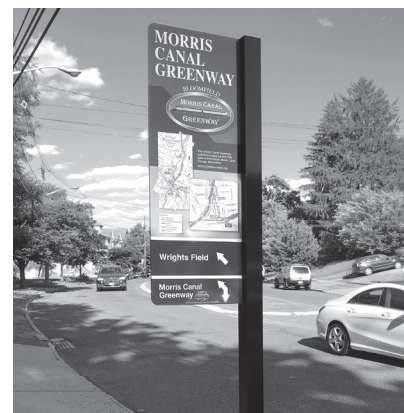
By Rich Rockwell

Progress continues on the Morris Canal Greenway in Bloomfield with new way-finding signs, a new Berkeley Avenue Bridge, work on the Collins House restoration, and the first Morris Canal mobile app.

We completed the installation of 19 way-finding signs along the path of the canal through Bloomfield. The sign design was a cooperative effort between the Bloomfield Morris Canal Greenway Committee and Joe Macasek, and was made possible by grants from Investor's Bank and the Department of Environmental Protection. We are grateful to the Bloomfield Department of Public Works and Parks for their quality job of

installing the signs. Each sign includes a map of the vicinity showing the path of the canal and a suggested walking path.

On June 14, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony of the Morris Canal Greenway at Wright's Field to roll out the way-finding signs and mobile app. The event included a tour of the Greenway at Wright's Field and a stop at the new Berkeley Avenue Bridge. The former bridge had been one of two remaining bridges in the state that were built to span the Morris Canal. Demolition of the old bridge required approval of the New Jersey Historic Sites Council. Approval was given, but with a list of stipulations, including that the new bridge maintain the look and character of the old bridge, that the Greenway trail under the bridge be preserved, that a survey of the canal through Essex County



Way-finding sign on Newark Avenue near the site of the aqueduct over Second River.

be conducted, that a historic interpretive panel be installed and that any artifacts from the bridge could be claimed for future use. It was also a *(Continued on page 2)*



BELOW: The Berkeley Avenue Bridge, seen here from the east, was the first generation steel bridge built in 1906. It was replaced with a through plate girder bridge in 1922, and demolished in 2016.

LEFT: To preserve this historic setting new Berkeley Avenue Bridge was built with cantilevered sidewalks, decorative railings and stone abutments and piers.



BLOOMFIELD GREENWAY UPDATE

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requirement that the design process include a Section 106 review in which interested parties were invited to participate. I volunteered to participate representing the Historical Society of Bloomfield and I worked with the engineers and the State Historic Preservation Office to arrive at a design that was sensitive to the older bridge. I also contributed historical photos that were used in two interpretive kiosks, one on the bridge and one under the bridge.

Farther north along the canal, we've also made considerable progress on the Collins House. With the diligence of the Morris Canal Green-



The Collins House in progress with new cedar shake shingle roof.



Architect's rendering for Phase 2, completing the exterior.



Ribbon Cutting. From left to right standing behind the Boy Scouts, Councilman Rich Rockwell, Councilman Ted Gamble, Councilman Nick Joanow, Essex County Freeholder Carlos Pomares, Mayor Michael Venezia and at the podium, Michael Scurman, Director of Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs. The Boy Scouts have been instrumental in Canal projects in Bloomfield.

way Committee, the Collins House was added to the State Register of Historic Places in May of 2017 and the National Register in July of 2017. The oldest section of the house, an East Jerse Cottage, was built around 1790 by John Collins. When the Morris Canal was built, the Canal Company bought a slice of land through the Collins property to build Inclined Plane 11 East. John's son, Isaac, a

carpenter on the Morris Canal, built an addition to the house in the 1820s. Isaac's son, John, was also a carpenter on the canal. When the restoration of the house is complete, it will be the centerpiece of the Morris Canal Greenway in Bloomfield. The Township provided funding for the first phase of restoration: stabilizing the house and reroofing. The Township has provided additional funding to proceed with the next phase: completing the exterior.

Also in June, we released our Morris Canal Greenway in Bloomfield Mobile App. The app includes an interactive map of the canal (thanks to Grubb Associates and North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority who provided GIS coordinates that were part of the Essex County survey) with suggested walking trails. The app is coordinated with the way-finding signs and includes historic photos of sites along the way. The app also includes several map-viewing options including satellite, 3-D, and fitness tracking that allows a

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MEETINGS

Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township

Friday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments at 7:00

IRON MAKING IN THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS

BEFORE AND AFTER THE MORRIS CANAL

By JOE MACASEK

George P. Macculloch knew that the Morris Canal he planned to build would be the most direct route for bring anthracite coal to the New York market. However, as a Morris County business man he know that his canal would also be the transportation system the county needed to revitalize it's iron industry. In this presentation we will see how the canal brought chances to the New Jersey iron industry and how the future didn't work out the way they thought it would.

(Continued on page 4)

NEW JERSEY CANAL MUSEUM AT WATERLOO

NEW EXHIBITS AND UPGRADES

By *Tim Roth*

Museum Director Rich Richter has been busy at our Canal Museum, adding new exhibits and making improvements that offer new experiences to museum visitors. The CSNJ museum has been at Waterloo Village for more than 40 years.

A new video unit has been added to the Morris Canal room, where viewers can watch short films about the workings of canals. Headphones allow the user to hear the audio without disturbing other museum visitors. The first video, which was produced by Rich, describes the mechanics of canal locks, and it is both educational and entertaining. More films, including an animation about inclined planes, are planned for this unit in the future. This exhibit, which replaces a leaky lock model, has been a big hit since it opened in August.

Another major update involves the model of Inclined Plane 9 West. A mainstay at the museum which was donated by Morris Canal historian James Lee Sr., it had not been functional for many years. However, through the hard work of Rich Richter and Jeff Stanton, the mechanical components were repaired, and the plane model once again works as intended. Visitors to the museum can watch the model boats travel up and



Museum Director and CSNJ board member Rich Richter and CSNJ member Jeff Stanton spent hours working on the museum's inclined plane model.

down the plane, and see the Scotch turbine spinning in its chamber. An obsolete relay in the model has caused some recent difficulty, but this has been replaced with a manual controller.

In addition to these new exhibits, the Canal Museum includes a fas-

inating collection of photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia from the Morris and Delaware & Raritan Canals. The museum is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM through the end of September. Come out to the Canal Museum and see all it has to offer! ■



The new kiosk allows museum visitors to view canal-related videos. Earphones are provided so visitors can enjoy the videos without distracting others.

ON THE LEVEL



THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

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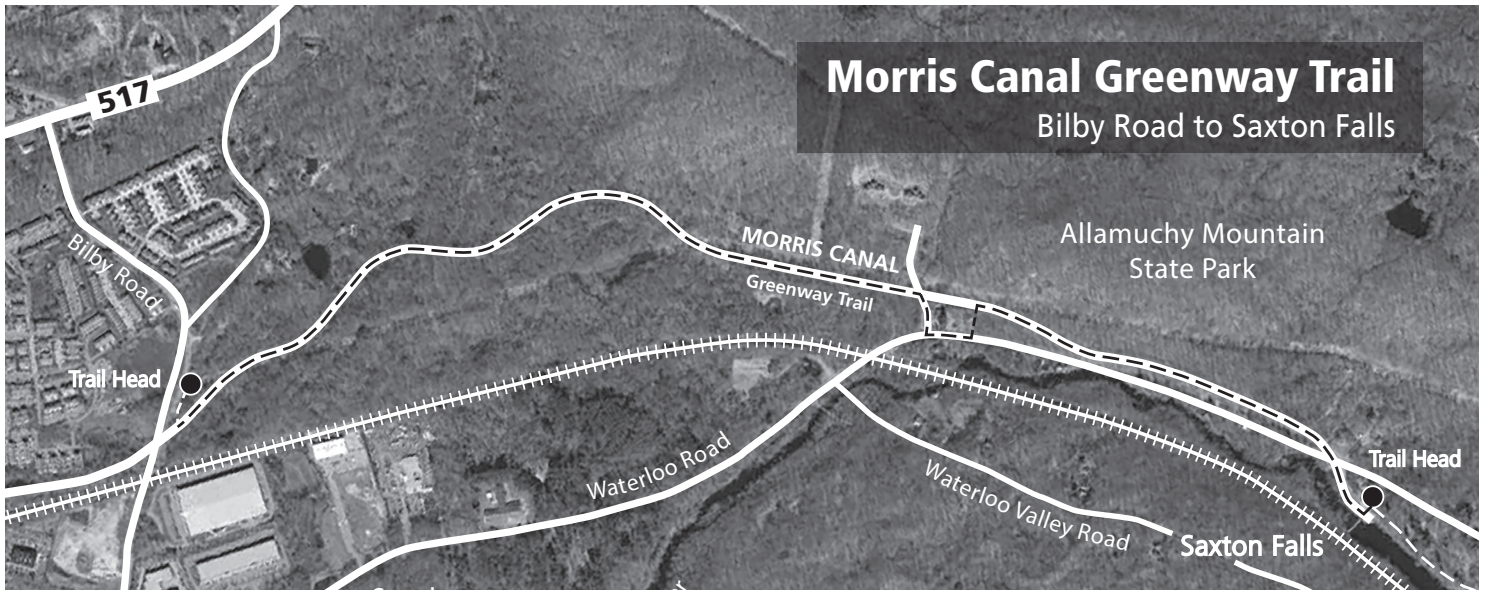
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WARREN COUNTY GREENWAY TRAIL

By *Tim Roth*

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers from the Warren County Parks Foundation, led by CSNJ board member Judy Keith, a section of Morris Canal Greenway trail has been cleared recently from Bilby Road in Hackettstown east to Saxton Falls in Allamuchy Mountain State Park. Parking is available at each trail head. This trail is part of the sec-

ond-longest level section of the Morris Canal which began at Plane 5 West in Port Murray and ran 11 miles east to Lock 5 West at Saxton Falls. Along the way you will pass the Mahler house, a former canal store, and at the east end of the trail you can explore Saxton Falls, where the canal boats were locked into the Musconetcong River. Further trail clearing east of Saxton Falls is planned for the future. ■



CANAL BOAT CREW VOLUNTEERS

Have you ever thought about joining the Canal Society's motley boat crew? Do you know what we do and how we do it? Would you like to know what it takes to be a canal boat operator? If so, your prayers are being answered! On Saturday, September 29, 2018, we will be holding a hands-on orientation of how to be a crew member of our pontoon boat.

Any member of the Canal Society of New Jersey, any prospective member, or anyone just curious is invited to join us at Waterloo Village at 10:00 AM at the entrance to the Historic Village and we'll meet for an hour or two and go over the what we do. Call Rod Howarth at (973) 366-6406 to reserve a place. ■

MEETINGS

(Continued from page 2)

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.

In addition to this evening's presentation, CSNJ member Deb Wefferling will prepare and serve a light supper and dessert. Deb's culinary skills are well known among members, so please come early to enjoy food and friendly conversation before the meeting. Food service: 7:00p.m.

Friday – November 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:00

PENNSYLVANIA COAL MINING

EXPLORING HISTORIC MINE SITES

MIKE & GREG HETMAN

Details to be announced

D&R CANAL 2018 WALKS AND 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 the tour leaders.

Bob Barth 201-401-3121 or bbarth321@aol.com
 Pamela V'Combe 609-635-2783 or pjvcombe@gmail.com
 Frank Allen 570-234-9945 or fallen1947@yahoo.com.

Sunday, September 16 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canal Walk and Roll: Canal Road will be closed between Butler Road and Blackwells Mills Road for Franklin Township's "Walk and Roll." Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

Saturday, October 13 – East Millstone Canalfest

Market Street, East Millstone. <http://franklinfoodbank.org/events>

Saturday, October 20 – 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Bilingual (English/Spanish) Nature Walk. Enjoy a casual 3-mile walk on the D&R Canal towpath between Lock 11 in South Bound Brook and Zarephath. Please meet at Canal Park in South Bound Brook, across from the post office on Canal Road at Madison Street. We will enjoy conversation in English and Spanish as we identify various wildlife and vegetation. Please RSVP by email to Jessica Hunsdon at jhunsdon@gmail.com or call/text her at 732-993-4505.

Saturday, October 27 – 10:00 a.m.

Hike 6.2 miles from Washington Crossing to Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park (the meeting place) or choose the 2.4-mile walk to Scudder's Falls. The tour will pass by Wilburtha and Upper Ferry Road and will include historic canal structures: several stop gates, a spillway, an aqueduct, and other historic features. Leader: Pamela V'Combe.

Saturday, November 17 – 10:00 a.m.

Hike 4.5 miles from Whitehead Road to Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park (the meeting place) or choose the 2.5-mile walk to the Trenton Battle Monument. Leader: Pamela V'Combe.

Saturday, December 8 – 10:00 a.m.

Hike 5.6 miles from Griggstown to East Millstone (the meeting place) or choose the 3.5-mile walk to Blackwells Mills. Leader: Pamela V'Combe.

For more information about the "WALK & ROLL" program or to register for an event please contact Linda Barth at: Barthlinda123@aol.com.

BLOOMFIELD UPDATE

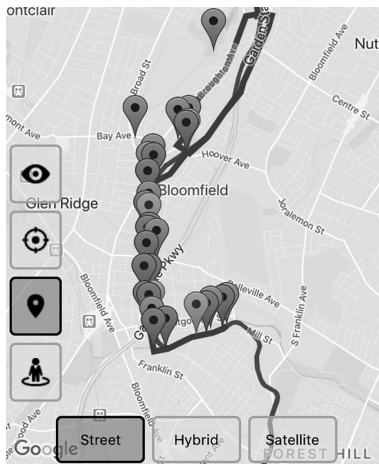
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person to track the distance walked and the calories burned.

The app was made possible by a *Meet Me at the Park* grant from the National Recreation and Park Association and Disney.

Visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bloomfieldmorriscanal/> for updates and schedules for upcoming hikes. ■

Screenshot from the mobile app showing the full route of the Morris Canal through Bloomfield with points of interest along the way.



WATERLOO

SAVE THE DATE

Waterloo Canal Heritage Days

September 8 and 22
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Canal Museum and Canal Boat Exhibit will be open every Saturday and Sunday in September.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WALKS

September through November

September 15th
Easton & Phillipsburg
Canals, Coal & Iron

October 13th
Long Pong Iron Works

October 20th
Troy Forge

November 11th
Edison Mines

Industrial Heritage Walks are sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission.

For information and reservations, please email macgraphics2@gmail.com or call 973-292-2755.

GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM

Industrial Archeology in the New York – New Jersey Area

Saturday, November 10

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rogers Locomotive Works Storage Building

32 Spruce St., Paterson NJ
Great Falls National Historical Park

This will be a full day program including lunch
\$25 per person if received by Oct. 26
or \$35 at the door

* Students with valid ID may register for \$10 at door, but does not include lunch

To Register, send your name(s) plus fee (check payable to "Roebling Chapter, SIA") to:

RCSIA Symposium, c/o Kelly Ruffel
154 Oldham Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

Roebling Chapter, SIA
<http://roblingsia.org/symposia.html>

GRIGGSTOWN BRIDGETENDER'S STATION

On the Morris Canal, bridges crossed high over the waterway to allow clearance for boats riding high in the water to pass beneath. D&R Canal, boats were larger and needed more clearance. To solve this problem, low-level swing bridges were used. These bridges allowed the easy passage of traffic over the roadways, but could be pivoted to

allow the largest boats room to pass. However, this arrangement required a bridgetender to be on duty day and night to open and close the bridge. A bridgetender station provided shelter for the man on duty at each crossing. Although all swing bridges have been removed, a few of the stations have survived.

This past New Year's Eve, a car



The Griggstown Bridgetender's Station shown here after repair work had been completed.

crashed into the Griggstown bridgetender's station, knocking it off its foundation. To save the building, and repair the damage, funds were contributed by the Canal Society of New Jersey, Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition, Griggstown Historical Society, and the D&R Canal Watch. Local carpenter John Knapp did the repair work.

This tiny, but historic, building is once again back in place reminding passersby that the D&R was once a busy commercial waterway. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Sep. 21

Program Meeting

Joe Macasek, Iron Making in the New Jersey Highlands: Before and After the Morris Canal
Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sep 22

Last Waterloo Day of the Season

Waterloo Village, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday, Nov. 16

Program Meeting

Mike and Greg Hetman, Coal Mining
Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10

Roebling Chapter Symposium

Roebling Chapter Society for Industrial Archeology

www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

nj-cnal@googlegroups.com



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CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

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