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 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)

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

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

(Continued from page 1)

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 Greenway 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 Jersy 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

(Continued on page 4)
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 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 fascinating 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!
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.

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 Wefering 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

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 second-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.
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

(Continued on page 2)

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.
**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 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Sep. 21</td>
<td>Program Meeting</td>
<td>Joe Macasek, Iron Making in the New Jersey Highlands: Before and After the Morris Canal Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sep 22</td>
<td>Last Waterloo Day of the Season</td>
<td>Waterloo Village, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov. 16</td>
<td>Program Meeting</td>
<td>Mike and Greg Hetman, Coal Mining Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 10</td>
<td>Roebling Chapter Symposium</td>
<td>Roebling Chapter Society for Industrial Archeology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---

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

---

**Canal Society Of New Jersey**

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY 07960-0737

**Address Service Requested**

PO BOX 737

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY 07960-0737

**Canal Society Of New Jersey**