

# The Milepost



Quarterly Event Guide for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

Summer 2009

145 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

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Phone: Kingston Office (609) 924-5705 / Bull's Island Office (609) 397-2949 ~ Park Web Site: [www.dandrcanal.com](http://www.dandrcanal.com)

## FREE SUMMER 2009 PROGRAMS AT THE D & R CANAL STATE PARK



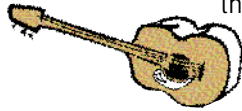
Programs are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather, lack of interest or illness. **Registration is REQUIRED for ALL PROGRAMS unless otherwise noted.** Call the Park Office at 609-924-5705 (*Kingston Office*) to register or do so online. Visit [www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html](http://www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html) for further details and to check for program updates, cancellations and/or additions. **All programs are FREE unless otherwise specified!**



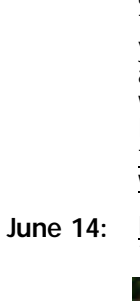
JUNE 2009

**June 10: Friends of Princeton Nursery Land's Annual Meeting & Lecture:** Come join us on **Wednesday, June 10th at 7:30 to 9:00 pm** to hear **Patricia A. Taylor**, author of many gardening books and hundreds of articles that have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *Horticulture*, and *Green Scene*. She will present a slide talk on *"Elegant, Little-Known Native Plants"* at the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands Annual Meeting. Her talk will focus on elegant but mysteriously unappreciated native plants, especially those that can survive benign neglect and the presence of munching animals. The presentation will be given in the Education Building at the D&R Canal State Park Headquarters/Mapleton Preserve, 145 Mapleton Road, Kingston. **It is free and all are welcome. Call 609-683-0483 or see [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org) for more information and directions.**

**June 13: Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Folk Concert By the Canal:** Musicman Tal and Friends returns to the historic canal house on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Franklin Township for the 12th Annual Folk Concert by the Canal. The song sheets are ready, all you need to do is bring a blanket, chair, some munchies and be prepared to enjoy a few hours relaxing by the canal. Come join the fun!  
**Registration is not required and admission is FREE!**



**June 14: Garden Party at the Port Mercer Canal House & Canoe the Canal Day:** This joint Lawrence Historical Society and Township annual event offers an afternoon of boating on the canal followed by ice-cream, music and tours at the historic canal house. Bring your own canoe or contact the Lawrence Township Recreation Department if you don't have your own. Call 609-844-7067 to reserve a canoe through the Township (\$30 for the afternoon) and join other paddlers between 1:00 - 4:00 pm for an afternoon of fun. Boating will start at Cherry Tree Lane in Lawrence Township and end at the Port Mercer Canal House where tours, music and ice-cream from the Stone Cold Creamery await. For further details please call The Lawrence Historical Society at (609) 896-0782 or visit [www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org)



**June 14: D&R Greenway's Founder's Fete:** Take a Sunday afternoon walk along the D&R Canal in Kingston in honor of the 175th anniversary of the D&R Canal and the 20th anniversary of D&R Greenway. This informative walk will be led by **Jim Amon**, a founder of D&R Greenway and the first executive director of the D&R Canal Commission, and **Sophie Glover**, author of a brand new book, *Walk The Trails In And Around Princeton*. The walk will begin at 12:30 pm and paid registrants are asked to meet in Kingston at the historic canal house. A food and wine tasting at **Eno Terra Restaurant** will be held after the walk beginning at 1:30 pm. Tickets for this fund-raising event are \$75 each. Profits from Sophie's new book benefit D&R Greenway's preservation work. **Please register at 609.924.4646.**



**June 25: Open House and Victorian Tea Party:** This Lawrence Historical Society event marking the 175th anniversary of the official opening of the D & R Canal offers a full day of open house tours at the historic Port Mercer Canal House (4278 Quaker Road ~ behind the Mercer Mall.). Join us as we open the doors of the canal bridge tender's house at 10:00 am and keep them open all day to 4:00 pm. Starting at 4:00 we will be hosting a special outdoor Victorian-style tea service. So come join us in Lawrence Township for a 19th century-style tea along the canal on the patio of the historic Port Mercer Canal House. For further details please call The Lawrence Historical Society at (609) 896-0782 or visit [www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org). **Registration is NOT required and admission is free!**



**June 26: Bike The Path to Griggstown:** Enjoy a **Friday morning bike ride** along the canal with the D & R's summer seasonal, Margaret Charleroy. Bring your own bicycle and meet at the Kingston Canal House located off Route 27 (Main Street in Kingston) at 10:00 am. Be prepared for a 10 mile ride that will go to the Griggstown Causeway and back. Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D & R! **SPACE IS LIMITED AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**



JULY 2009

**July 11: Stream Stomp:** Join the D&R Canal State Park naturalist for a Saturday afternoon introductory program that will explore the fascinating world of water critters. Stephanie Fox will explain how water life can be indicators of water quality. It will be a cool way to spend a hot summer day! Be prepared to spend a few hours in the heat and sun. This activity is appropriate for ages 4 and up. Please meet at the Kingston Canal House, located directly off Rt. 27 (Main Street), in Kingston. **This program will begin at 1:00 pm.** Contact Stephanie Fox at [dnrnaturalist@verizon.net](mailto:dnrnaturalist@verizon.net) or Karen Linder at 609-683-0483. This program is co-sponsored by Kingston Greenway Association.



**July 17: Family Night Hike:** Looking for a new adventure for your family to enjoy together. Join the naturalist, Stephanie Fox, at Bull's Island on a one mile hike along the Natural Area Trail. This trail offers views of enormous Tulip Trees, Ostrich Ferns and is home to many of NJ's wildlife creatures. This short walk will introduce to the sounds and sights of dusk including the melodious sounds of toads and the birds calling their good night sounds. Families with children of all ages are welcome to join the group at **7:00 pm at the Visitor Center on Bulls Island.**



**July 18: History Walk ~ From Nursery to Canal:** Enjoy a round-trip walk with the D & R's Historian leading from the main office at Kingston to the canal towpath and the Kingston Canal House. Participants will meet at the Kingston office located at 145 Mapleton Road at **10:00 am** for a leisurely 2-mile round trip walk. The group will proceed from the headquarters through a portion of the Mapleton Preserve (the former Princeton Nursery site) towards the canal towpath and the Kingston Canal House before turning back. Come enjoy a summer morning outdoors while burning a few calories and learning a bit about the historic resources of the D & R Canal State Park!



# ~ MORE FREE SUMMER 2009 PROGRAMS ~

JULY

**July 20 through July 24:** **Camp Critters:** **NEW FOR THIS YEAR!** The State Park naturalist will be offering a mini-summer camp for our mini-nature explorers. **Children ages 4 to 6 along with their parents** are invited to Bulls Island, located on Route 29 approximately 3-miles north of Stockton in Hunterdon County, to learn about the mystery and wonders of all of NJ's wildlife. Each day a different group of animals will be highlighted with hands-on activities, story times and crafts. **Camp hours will be from 10-12. There is NO FEE for this program, but there is LIMITED AVAILABILITY. Please call early to reserve your spot.**



**July 25:** **Bike the Path to Griggstown:** Enjoy a morning bike ride along the historic towpath with the park's summer seasonal. Your tour leader will guide the group on an 8 1/2 mile ride and explain canal structures and the waterway's history along the way. Interested participants are asked to bring their own bicycle, helmet and water and meet at the Blackwells Mills Causeway (where Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Road meet in Somerset, Franklin Township) at 10:00 am. Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D & R! **SPACE IS LIMITED AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**



**July 31:** **Kayak the Canal:** The Naturalist will be leading a kayaking tour **starting at the Bulls Island canoe launch (located 7 miles north of Lambertville off Route 29 in Hunterdon County).** The park has a limited number of kayaks available for this program, but there is a kayak concession at the site for those in need of renting a boat. This kayak trip will be along the calm waters of the historic feeder where aquatic wildlife thrives. **Please join us at 1:00 pm** to enjoy the experience of a leisurely paddle along the waters one of New Jersey's hidden treasure. **Participants are required to wear PFD's and some kayaking experience is required. Participants must be 13 year of age or older. SPACE IS LIMITED** so please make sure to call early to reserve your spot.



AUGUST 2009

**Aug. 1:** **Walk the Path in Lawrence Township:** Enjoy a morning walk along the canal with the D & R's Historian and visit two historic homes along the way - **The Port Mercer Canal House** and the **18th Century Brearley House.** The group will meet at the Port Mercer Canal House in Lawrence Township (4278 Quakerbridge Rd.) at 9:30 a.m. for a brief talk about the history of the D&R Canal and a tour of the Canal House. We'll then walk along the historic towpath to the Brearley House where the group will be treated to a tour of this restored 18th century home. Come join us for this 2.5 mile round trip walk back in time.



**Aug. 1:** **Bike the Path to Lambertville:** Enjoy a morning bike ride along the Feeder Canal with the D & R's summer seasonal. Interested participants are asked to bring their own bicycle, helmet and water and meet at the Bull's Island Recreation Area (approximately 7 miles north of Lambertville directly off Route 29 in Hunterdon County) at 10:00 a.m. Be prepared for a 15 mile loop that will pass through the historic towns of Stockton and Lambertville. Come enjoy the park, burn a few calories and learn a bit about the D&R! **Not recommended for children under 10. SPACE IS LIMITED AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

**Aug 7:** **Night Flyers:** Learn about the wildlife that awakens after dark. The naturalist of D&R will be discussing the adaptations and habits of the bats and owls of New Jersey and their importance to our ecosystem. Participants will get a chance to look through owl pellets, listen to the many varied sounds of owls and debunk the many rumors of bats. The program is suitable for all ages. This Friday evening program will be held at Bulls Island Recreational Area and begins at 6:30 pm.



**Aug. 22:** **Kayak the Canal:** The Naturalist will be leading a kayaking tour **starting at the Griggstown Day Use area.** The park has a limited number of kayaks available for this program, but there is a kayak concession at the site for those in need of renting a boat. This kayak trip will be along the calm waters of the historic D&R Canal where aquatic wildlife thrives within its warm waters. **Please join us at 10:00 am** to enjoy the experience of a leisurely paddle along the waters one of New Jersey's hidden treasure. **Participants are required to wear PFD's and some kayaking experience is required. Participants must be 13 year of age or older. SPACE IS LIMITED** so please make sure to call early to reserve your spot.



**Aug. 30:** **Bike the Feeder to the Prallsville Mill Family Fun Picnic:** Enjoy a late morning bike ride along the historic towpath with canal expert Bob Barth. Bob will lead this 15-mile ride along the feeder canal and explain canal structures and history along the way. Interested participants will gather at the Bulls Island canoe launch parking lot at 11:00 am (located approximately 7 miles north of Lambertville directly off Route 29 in Hunterdon County) and bike south three miles to the Prallsville Mill Complex where the group will break to enjoy the Delaware River Mill Society's family picnic celebration. Afterwards the group will proceed south into the historic town of Lambertville before heading back to Bulls Island. Participants must bring their own bike, helmet, water and lunch. Those who would prefer a shorter ride are invited to enjoy the picnic and then head back to Bulls Island on their own.



## Ribbon of Life ~ D & R Canal At 175:

D&R Greenway Land Trust in Princeton N.J. in partnership with the **D&R Canal Commission** and **The Delaware River Mill Society** is presenting this exciting exhibition at the Johnson Education Center located at One Preservation Place, just off Rosedale Road in Princeton. The exhibition, celebrating the **175th anniversary of the Delaware and Raritan Canal**, will include historic images selected from the archives of the D&R Canal Commission and contemporary artwork selected by the 175th Celebration Committee. **This special display opens in Princeton on May 18th and continues through August 14th before moving to the Prallsville Mills in Stockton where it will reopen on August 30th and remain on exhibition through September.**

Over 50 images collected by Jim Amon, former executive director of the D&R Canal Commission, will be included in the show. Mr. Amon had the foresight many years ago to establish this wonderful collection of images and many will be shown to the public for the very first time. Accompanying the exhibit will be a brief history of the canal and its transformation into a recreational area.

Featured sections of the exhibit will include **Along the D&R Canal - A Postcard View**, with large hand colored images of the feeder from Raven Rock to Trenton and the main-stem from Bordentown to New Brunswick. A smaller section entitled **Vessels & Voyages** will highlight some of the usual and unusual boats to navigate this waterway.

**This exhibition is open to the public in Princeton from May 18th - August 14th at the D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center located just off Rosedale Road, at One Preservation Place.** Please call 609-924-4646, Monday - Friday, 10am - 4 pm for gallery hours and further information. **This exhibition will also travel to Stockton, where it will be on view from August 30 - September 30, 2009 at the Prallsville Mills.** Please contact the Delaware River Mill Society at 609-397-3586 for hours of display and further information.

Join us at the **OPENING RECEPTION IN PRINCETON!** The public is invited the exhibition's **opening reception on June 19th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at D&R Greenway Land Trust's Johnson Education Center.** Please call 609-924-4646 to RSVP. Visit the Greenway site at [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) or call 609-924-4646 for more information.



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