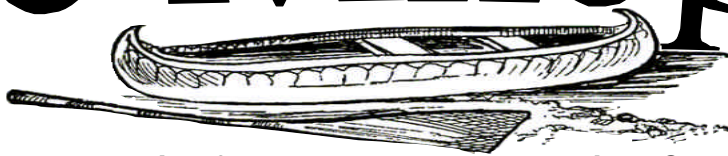


The Milepost



Quarterly Event Guide for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

Winter 2010

145 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

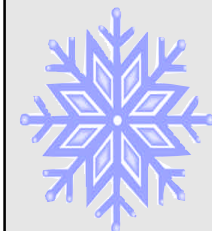
Vol. 10, Issue 1

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

FREE WINTER 2010 PROGRAMS AT THE D & R CANAL STATE PARK

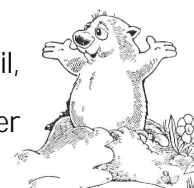
Programs are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather, lack of interest or illness. **Registration is REQUIRED for ALL PROGRAMS unless otherwise noted.** Call the Park Office at 609-924-5705 (*Kingston Office*) to register or do so online. Visit www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html for further details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

All programs are FREE unless otherwise specified!



JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2010

- Jan. 1: **Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Annual New Year's Day Open House:** This long-time tradition continues! Members of the BMCHA are inviting the public to join them as they welcome the new year. Come greet old friends and make new ones while savoring home made refreshments. Come share in the celebration. The open house will be held at the Blackwells Mills Canal House located on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Somerset on Friday, January 1st between **1:00 - 4:00 pm**. **Registration is not required and admission is FREE!**
- Jan. 2: **After Holidays Walk-Off:** Here's your chance to honor to that New Year's Resolution to get more exercise and lose a few of those extra pounds we all put on over the holidays! Join the Park naturalist for a 5-mile walk along the D & R Canal towpath. We'll meet at the Washington Crossing State Park parking lot located directly off Route 29 in Mercer County at 10:00 am (right before the bridge over the Delaware). Start the new year off on the right foot and enjoy the beauty of the winter season.
- Jan. 16: **The Study of Poology:** Animals are great at keeping hidden and sometimes all that is left of their presence are tracks and scat. A common animal sign that is often ignored or passed over because of our human tendency to look upon it as dirty, is scat or droppings. However, this is another way to identify the species that are present in an area and even determine what they are eating in that location. Come to the D & R Canal State Park office to play a game that will identify local wildlife species and then go for a hike around the park property in search of signs of wildlife. This program will be held at the park office located at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston at 1:00 pm and is appropriate for ages 6 and up.
- Jan. 23: **The Great Backyard Bird Count:** Come and take part in a continental effort in better understanding our avian friends. You will learn how to identify some of the more common winter birds in our area and make a bird feeder to take home. And, after participating in our program you will be ready to take part in the 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count! This program is appropriate for all ages and is a fun activity that the whole family can join in on. Participants are asked to meet at the D & R Canal State Park Headquarters located at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston. Start time is at 10:00 am.
- Jan. 23: **Visit the Port Mercer Canal House:** At one time many canal company houses dotted the landscape along the main route from Bordentown to New Brunswick. Today precious few remain. Under the care of the **Lawrence Historical Society** the Port Mercer Canal House, located at 4378 Quakerbridge Road in Lawrence Township, has been lovingly maintained. Come to this winter open house, learn about the canal's past from the D&R Canal State Park's historian and experience the 19th century first-hand. The house will be open from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Registration is not required.
- Jan. 30: **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. Dress for the weather and enjoy a winter's morning outdoors while burning a few calories and learning a bit about the historic resources of the D & R Canal State Park!
- Jan. 31: **Two-Canal Walk:** Join the **D&R Canal Watch** and the **Friends of the Delaware Canal** for a guided history and nature tour along both the D&R feeder and the Delaware Canal. Participants are asked to meet by the caboose behind the Lambertville Station restaurant at 2:00 pm. This popular program is part of the five-day Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. The first stop on this two-mile walk will be the D&R Feeder Canal lift lock and outlet lock to learn how canal boats once crossed the river by cable ferry. We'll then follow the feeder to the bridge and walk across the Delaware River to New Hope. Susan Taylor will then guide us as we follow the Delaware Canal towpath to Lock 11 and the Locktender's House - Hot chocolate and marshmallows will be waiting. **For more information, call 215-862-2021, visit www.fodc.org, or contact Bob Barth at 201-401-3121.**
- Feb. 6: **Kid's Groundhog Day Celebration:** Let's make some guesses on what Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, has to say about this winter season. Children will learn a little about hibernation, migration and other techniques animals use to survive the winter weather. Other activities will include a reading of "Gregory's Shadow," shadow puppets, and everyone will make a Groundhog Day craft to take home. Appropriate for ages 4 and up. The hour long program will be held at the D & R Canal's Kingston Office and begin at 10:00 am. Space will be limited so call early to reserve your spot!



~ MORE FREE WINTER 2010 PROGRAMS ~

FEBRUARY 2010

- Feb. 13: Blackwells Mills Canal House Association's Valentine Open House:** Members of the BMCHA are hosting this open house for all ages. Come join them at the canal house to view vintage greeting cards from private collections. Supplies will be provided for visitors to create their own cards for 2010! This afternoon program will be held at the Canal House located on the corner of Blackwells Mills and Canal Road in Franklin Township between 1:00 - 4:00 pm. **Registration is not required & admission is FREE!**



- Feb. 20: Visit the Port Mercer Canal House:** At one time many canal company houses dotted the landscape along the main route from Bordentown to New Brunswick. Today precious few remain. Under the care of the **Lawrence Historical Society** the Port Mercer Canal House, located at 4378 Quakerbridge Road in Lawrence Township, has been lovingly maintained. Come to this winter open house, learn about the canal's past from the D&R Canal State Park's historian and experience the 19th century first-hand. The house will be open from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. **Registration is not required.**



- Feb. 20: Kingston Bird Walk:** Join our park naturalist Stephanie Fox and Arlene Oley, NJ Audubon volunteer, as they team-up to provide a winter's bird walk from the park's Kingston headquarters located at 145 Mapleton Road. The group will walk from the park office in search of the birds that overwinter in the Kingston area. This leisurely morning bird walk will begin at **10 am** and is appropriate for all ages.



- Feb. 27: A Winter's Walk to Rockingham:** Join the D & R Canal State Park historian and naturalist for a roundtrip morning winter walk from the Mapleton Preserve to the D & R canal towpath and finally, historic Rockingham! In addition to learning about the former Princeton Nursery and the D & R Canal from the park historian and naturalist, participants will see two historic homes along the way - **The Kingston Canal House** and 18th century **Rockingham**. Attendees are asked to meet at the D & R Canal State Park office located at



145 Mapleton Road in Kingston at 10:00 am. The group will proceed from the headquarters through a portion of the former Princeton Nursery property towards the canal towpath and the Kingston Canal House. Afterward we will then walk along the canal's historic towpath to Rockingham where they will be treated to a tour of the restored 1783 headquarters of George Washington. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes and join us for this 3.5 mile round trip walk.

- Feb. 27: Explore the D & R Canal by Light Rail:** Repeated by popular demand! Join us for a whirlwind guided tour by light rail into the nineteenth century between Roebling and Trenton! We will meet in the parking lot of the Bordentown Light Rail station (100 W. Park Avenue at Prince Street, above the boat landing) at 9:00 am, purchase tickets, and be treated to a brief introduction before boarding the train at 9:25 for a 5-minute ride south to Roebling to see cuts in the shoreline and sunken canalboats from the era when coal-laden boats crossed the river from Bristol to the D & R Canal. Roebling's abandoned Kinkora plant, and perhaps even an eagle may also be observed.

Then we will board an 9:37 northbound train for a 15-minute ride to Trenton, and return to Bordentown on a 10:14 train, arriving at 10:25. The tracks follow the path of the D & R Canal between Crosswicks Creek and Trenton. From the west side of the train we will see passing views of the canal and the sites of former Trenton industries and bridges that lined the canal, now Route 129. On the return trip from the east side of the train we will glimpse two former Roebling plants, the Marsh, and Watson's Creek. Two-hour, either-direction tickets are \$1.35 (.65 for seniors). Please bring exact change. Parking and the tour are FREE. Following the formal tour, participants may stay on the train or tour parts of Bordentown and gather at a Bordentown eatery for lunch.



Meet in the parking lot of the Bordentown Light Rail station at 9:00 AM sharp. **Exact times are subject to railroad schedules, so please verify nearer the time of the tour. Space is limited and registration is strongly advised; call 609 924-2683 after February 15th.** The tour is sponsored by D & R Canal Watch and co-sponsored by the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, Friends for the Marsh and D & R Greenway Land Trust.

Expanded Trail Network at Six Mile Run:



The Six Mile Run Reservoir Site trail system has seen change and improvement this year thanks to the hard work and dedication provided by volunteers from the Six Mile Run chapter of JORBA (Jersey Off Road Biking Association). Working closely with park staff, the "two Jasons" - volunteer coordinators and co-leaders - reworked, improved and, with the help of many volunteers, blazed approximately twenty miles of multi-use trails at the Six Mile Run site. This is a considerable addition to the former trail network that offered about 6-7 miles of trails for public use.

Regular park users will notice several changes including the discontinuation of the former yellow trail, alterations to the red trail and blue trails and the addition of a new orange trail. The old yellow trail was often inaccessible and/or overly muddy due to its location in the low lying flood plain section of the run. As a result a decision was made to close that portion of the trail network. In addition the former red trail that followed the elevated forested tree line was suffering from erosion while access to the trail head from Canal Road had become a safety issue as traffic has steadily increased in the area over the years. So the red trail was reworked to avoid the eroded section and the new trail head is now located at the parking area on Jacques Lane. While the Park works to get a new trail map published for public use, JORBA volunteer Rob Blash has produced a map that users can download and print from the organization's site at www2.jorba.org.

The park staff is pleased with the outcome of this overhaul to the site's trail system and happy to have established such a good working partnership with JORBA. The work and dedication their volunteers have put in at the site has been invaluable! Thanks to their efforts, an extended trail network at Six Mile Run is now open for use to the public.