

ROEBLING CHAPTER

Society for Industrial Archeology

August 2013 – Vol. 22 No.2

PLACES WE'VE BEEN THIS YEAR

This year the Roebbling Chapter has offered a wide range of tours. By joining with Industrial Heritage Walks and with the help of dedicated RCSIA members, we have offered 16 tours so far with more planned in the second half of the year. Many of you have joined in and we've made many new friends.

In the spring we walked the Wharton & Northern and Mt. Hope Mineral Railroads in the New Jersey Highlands. We then visited Greystone Park, the New Jersey Asylum for the Insane at Morristown, for a tour of the grounds and a visit to what may be the most complete surviving example of an illuminating gas plant in the United States. In May we traveled to the Anthracite Museum in Scranton, PA. This full-day adventure included a tour of the Lackawanna Coal Mine and a visit to Eckley Miners Village. This summer



ABOVE: The Greystone Illuminating Gas plant as it appeared in the 1890s. RIGHT: At the Kings Canal Store in Ledgewood, NJ, 35 RCSIA members were weighed on the store's newly restored wagon scale. A weigh slip was issued for 4,080 pounds.



Annual Roebbling Chapter **CORN ROAST**

Saturday, September 7, 2012,

Morning Tour 10:00 am – Corn Roast starts at 2:00 pm

Join us for the Roebbling Chapter's annual corn roast, hosted once again by Gerry Weinstein and Mary Habstritt at the Engineerium in Croton-on Hudson. There will be a morning tour starting at 10:00 am. The corn roast will begin at 2:00 pm. The tour is still in the planning stages; details will be announced online.

The RCSIA Corn Roast is a tradition that dates back to years past when members gathered at Charlie Emmerich's farm in Ironia, NJ. Our host will supply the corn and members are encouraged to bring their favorite foods to fill out the feast. Meat for the grill, dishes prepared at home, salads, drinks and deserts are all welcome. Please let Gerry know by phone or e-mail what you plan to bring.

917 578 0602 or GERPRA@aol.com

RCSIA member Matt Kirstead organized a full day hydroelectric plant and village tour in Wappingers Falls, NY, and member Bob Kaplan took us to Floyd Bennett Field in Jamaica Bay, Long Island.

We have just finished the schedule for the rest of the season. For details please see the listings on pages 2 and 3. If you are not getting an e-mail notice before each event please let us know. The best way to get on the e-mail list is to fill in the **Sign up for our E-mail Newsletter** box on the home page of the RCSIA web site. ■

Continued on page 4

FOR THE LATEST ON UPCOMING EVENTS

WATCH THE ROEBLING CHAPTER WEB SITE FOR DETAILS – roebblingsia.org

UPCOMING TOURS – SUMMER & FALL 2013

If you are already on the Roebing Chapter e-mail list you will receive a tour reminder with a map and directions a week before each tour. If you plan to attend, a quick return e-mail puts you on the list. If you would like to join the e-mail list, visit the Roebing Chapter web site at roebingsia.org. Fill in the box below "Sign up for our E-mail Newsletter" in the left hand column.

Aug 17 – Upper Pequannock River Forges

Sponsored by: INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TOURS, Morris County Park Commission

Sep 8 – Pompton Feeder Canal Walking Tour, Wayne, NJ

Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County:

Sponsored by: Passaic County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Sep 15 – Butler, NJ

Sponsored by: INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TOURS, Morris County Park Commission

Oct 6 – Morris Canal Tour, Pompton Lakes, NJ

Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County:

Sponsored by: Passaic County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Oct 12 – Waterloo Valley Industrial History Waterloo, NJ

Sponsored by: INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TOURS, Morris County Park Commission

Nov 2 – Edison Mines, Ogdensburg, NJ

Sponsored by: INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TOURS, Morris County Park Commission

Nov 9 – Long Island City, NY, Degnon Terminal

Sponsored by: ROEBLING CHAPTER SIA

Upper Pequannock River Forges

Saturday, August 17 – Led by Joe Macasek and Bierce Riley. Across the northern border of Morris County stretched an iron making district that was powered by the waters of the Pequannock River. Although the area is far from the bustling iron town to the south, this powerful river made this an important area for rural industry. On this tour we will visit several sites including Clinton Furnace, Windham Forge, the Newfoundland Train Station, old turnpike roads and more as time permits. This will be a real archaeology walk. Be prepared for an adventure, wear good shoes and bring lots of imagination. We will be walking on trails, along busy roads and there will be plenty of off-trail exploration. No facilities are available.

Wayne Canal Walking Tour

Sunday, September 8 – Led by Joe Macasek. This hike will start at Riverside Park on Farmingdale Rd. at Deerfield Rd. in Wayne. On the this walk we explore the northern end of the Morris Canal's Pompton Feed in Pompton Aquatic Park and see the feeder dam, lock site and walk along the river towpath. This tour will be approximately two hours with some off-trail exploration. On-street parking is available on Farmingdale Rd. Bring water and a snack. No facilities are available.

Butler

Sunday, September 15 – Led by Bierce Riley and Joe Macasek. Butler, Morris County's best example of a company town, developed around the American Hard Rubber Company. Once dominated by a single industry, Butler continues to thrive forty years after the mill closed with adaptive reuse of the mill structures. We will start at the Butler Museum (small admission fee), which has material on Richard Butler, the American mentor of sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi; a collection of Ace combs and bowling balls; and other local memorabilia. We will walk

up the mile-long raceway to the millpond on the Pequannock River, explore the exterior of the mill, and visit the Butler Fireman, a well-preserved piece of American folk art. This tour will have plenty of walking on sidewalks but, as always, there will be some off-trail exploration.

Pompton Lakes Canal Walking Tour

Sunday, October 6 – Led by Joe Macasek. This hike will start at the Mathes Avenue Woodlands on Mathes Ave. at Riverview Rd. in Pompton Lakes. On this walk we will explore what was the old village of Pompton, site of the Ryerson forge, furnace and boat dock at the top of the canal's river towpath. We will then walk along the newly blazed Greenway trail through woodlands. This tour will take approximately three hours of moderate hiking with some off-trail exploration. On-street parking is available on Mathes Ave. Bring water and a snack and bug spray. No facilities are available.

Waterloo: Waterloo Valley Industrial History

Saturday, October 12 – Led by Joe Macasek. This scenic fall walk will start at the front gate of Waterloo Village and follow the Morris Canal southward to Saxton Falls. Along the way, we will explore the remains of several rural industries that once thrived in this picturesque river valley. After the tour, walkers will be welcome explore Waterloo Village, where they can visit a working 19th century gristmill, Smith's Canal Store, New Jersey Canal Museum, and canal boat ride. This will be a lengthy 4-hour hike over easy trails with some off-trail exploration. Come equipped with sturdy shoes, lunch and water. No facilities are available.

Edison Mines

Saturday, November 2 – Led by Joe Macasek and Bierce Riley. In the late 1890's Thomas Edison invested millions in a scheme to mine and concentrate low-grade iron ore in the hills of northern New Jersey. This was a massive undertaking involving the development of new ways to



mine, transport, and process thousands of tons of ore. Although his effort failed, the site contains the remains of every phase of his gigantic effort. While the buildings are long gone, the site is extensive and visitors will get a chance to experience every aspect of this unique undertaking. This moderate, full day walk, will involve some off-trail exploration. Come equipped with sturdy

shoes, something for lunch and a lot of imagination! Also bring bug spray. No facilities are available.

Degnon Terminal, Long Island City

Saturday, November 9 – Led by Jim Mackin. The Degnon Terminal complex was developed in 1913 in the Long Island City section of Queens. Only Bush Terminal in Brooklyn rivaled it in size. It connected to the Pennsylvania Railroad with its own fleet of steam locomotives, but is characterized by the extensive number of industrial buildings that housed such companies as Sunshine Biscuits, American Chicle Company and Union Carbide. The developer, Michael J Degnon, completed the Steinway Street Subway Tunnel, worked on five sections of New York City's subways, and built the Sunnyside Train Yards, the largest in the country. He is also associated with the B & O RR Bridge that connected Staten Island with NJ, the footings for Williamsburg Bridge, the Cape Cod Canal, dredging Dutch Kills, filling in Flushing-Corona marshes with ashes, and much else.

*The Roebling Chapter of the
Society for Industrial Archeology*



The **GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM**

INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY AND HERITAGE OF THE NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY AREA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2013
9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**The Rogers Storage Building
Behind 32 Spruce Street, Paterson, NJ**

A full-day of presentations on the industrial heritage of the Roebling Chapter region. Now being held in the Cradle of the Industrial Revolution in America near the Paterson Museum and the Great Falls National Park. Easy to reach by car, train or bus.

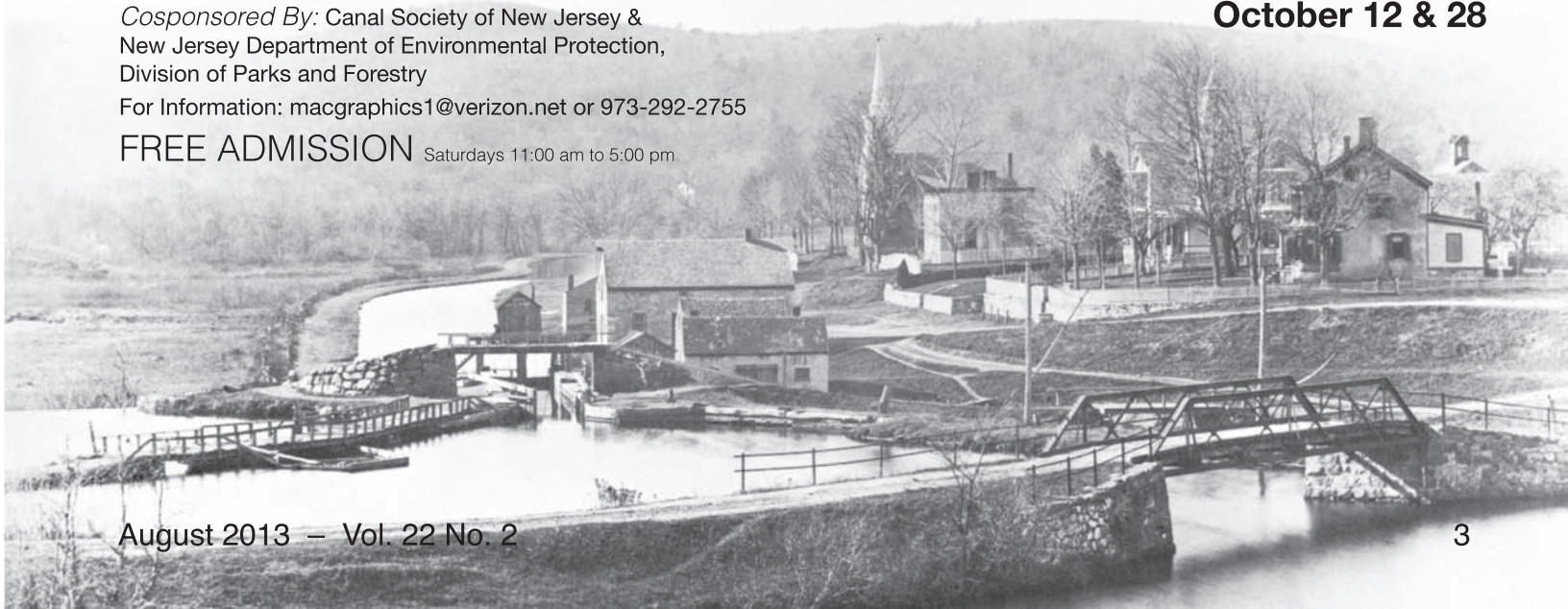
WATERLOO CANAL HERITAGE DAYS

Summer & Fall Schedule – 2013

Cosponsored By: Canal Society of New Jersey &
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,
Division of Parks and Forestry
For Information: macgraphics1@verizon.net or 973-292-2755

FREE ADMISSION Saturdays 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

July 13 & 27
August 10
September 14 & 28
October 12 & 28



GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM CALL FOR PAPERS

Please consider presenting your IA project or research at this year's fall's Great Falls Symposium. For information and detail about how to submit a paper please contact Gianfranco Archimede at garchimede@patersonnj.gov. The deadline is Oct. 15th. ■

CORN ROAST *Continued from page 1*

A grill will be available for cooking and a hotplate and microwave will be available for reheating.

Gerry and Mary's place is located along Route 9A, Albany Post Road, in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, just north of the Ar-

UPCOMING EVENTS – 2013

Summer & Fall Tours listed on page 3.

Sept 7 – **RCSIA Corn Roast & Tour**

Nov 16 – **RCIA Great Falls Symposium**

rowcrest Drive intersection. There will be a sign to help spot the driveway. If you are coming by train the Croton-Harmon station is nearby. Detailed travel directions will be posted on the RCSIA web site. ■

Roebling Chapter SIA Officers

President	Joe Macasek
Vice President	Sandy Needham
Treasurer	Kevin Pegram
Secretary	Aron Eisenpress

You can contact the Roebling Chapter by E-mail at:
RCSIAprez@aol.com

Membership is \$20.00 per year, payable to RCSIA, c/o Aron Eisenpress, 235 West End Avenue, Apt. 14-C, New York, NY 10023. A downloadable chapter membership form and general information about the SIA are available at roeblingsia.org.

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