

AT THE CONFLUENCE OF NAVIGATION HISTORY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

SCHUYLKILL NAVIGATION
1825 • BICENTENNIAL • 2025



108 MILES • 5 COUNTIES • 32 DAMS • 27 CANALS • 71 LOCKS

ALL-DAY HISTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM: **Sunday, May 18, 2025**

C. Howard Hiester Canal Center at the
Berks County Heritage Center
1102 Red Bridge Road, Reading PA 19605

To commemorate and dive deeper into the 200th anniversary of the May 1825 completion of the Schuylkill Navigation slackwater-canal system, please join us for a packed day of content surrounding the history, both good and bad, of this Industrial Revolution feat.

You'll hear success stories of preservation and restoration of Navigation infrastructure, towpath trails, and Schuylkill River water quality. The day also includes Schuylkill Valley Transportation History, Archive Sharing, "Lock Reveal" reports, and images of current conditions along the 108-mile route.

Among the invited speakers are author-researchers **Larry Whyte** (*Stream of Providence*), **Chari Towne** (*A River Again*), **Sandy Sorlien** (*Inland*), **Stuart Wells** (Girard Canal survey); Pennsylvania Canal Society President **Doug Logan**, Philadelphia Water Department historian **Adam Levine**, and activists **Kay Sykora** from the Roxborough-Manayunk Conservancy and **Mitch Martin** of the future Friends of the Schuylkill Navigation.

The beautiful Berks County Heritage Center will be open for self-guided tours of the Hiester Canal Center exhibits, Union Canal Towpath, Wertz's Covered Bridge, and the houseboat *Mildred*. Two films on the Navigation will loop in the Center. Enjoy special extended hours at the park starting 8:30 before our Confluence begins at 9:15, and during the lunch break. FOR FULL SCHEDULE, SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, SCHUYLKILL NAVIGATION RESOURCES, and "insider" canal/lock tours, visit:

<https://waterhistoryphl.org/2024/09/schuylkill-navigation-bicentennial/>

TO REGISTER, please complete information below and mail with check, **payable to American Canal Society**, to:

ACS c/o Sandy Sorlien, 82 Howland Ave, Jamestown RI 02835

Or PayPal to americancanals@gmail.com, but please also mail or email the information needed to complete the registration.

Registration is first come, first served. Space is limited to 60. **No refunds past April 15.**

CONTACT: sandysorlien@gmail.com

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Cell phone (optional): _____

Number of participants: _____ @ \$55.00 each \$ _____ (total)

Sunday May 18, 2025, 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM. Fee includes all presentations & special displays, breakfast pastries & coffee, buffet lunch, & full access to the Berks County Heritage Center.

If joining us afterwards for a "no host" 5 PM Happy Hour off site, number of attendees expected: _____