



**RESOLUTION OF THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION 2019-01:
HONORING COMMISSIONER MARY ALLESSIO LECK, Ph.D.**

WHEREAS, On October 1, 2019, the Commission Acting Chairman accepted with regret the resignation of Mary Allesio Leck, Ph.D., concluding six years of meritorious service to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission; and

WHEREAS, A noted Botanist and Rider University Biology Professor from 1970 until her retirement in 2001, Dr. Leck taught courses in general biology, field natural history, marine biology and plant biology, and is the recipient of numerous accolades for her distinguished teaching and research career; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Dr. Leck brought her extensive scientific knowledge of the plant life of the canal region to the deliberations of the Commission, providing valuable advice to her fellow Commissioners and to the Commission staff on how best to ensure the preservation and restoration of stream corridors in the Commission Review Zone; and

WHEREAS, Due to her pivotal role in promoting the significance of the Abbott Marshlands, Dr. Leck helped transform a forgotten wasteland into a recognized resource for environmental education, leading ecological studies, developing management plans, the agreement that led to the formation of the Abbott Marshlands Council, an invasive species inventory, a teachers' manual, lesson plans and the Abbott Marshlands website, all while serving to link these efforts to protect and preserve the marshlands with the mission of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission to protect the environmental, recreational and historic integrity of the so-called "abandoned" section of the Delaware and Raritan Canal; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her considerable academic credentials, Dr. Leck is a photographer whose works have graced the pages of many environment-related newsletters and webpages, the 2020 Canal Watch calendar, and have been exhibited in galleries such as the Ellarslie museum, Phillip's Mill, and the Chapin School; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Dr. Leck approached her duties on the Commission in a thoughtful and considerate manner, often personally conducting site visits at project sites, and helping to forge consensus on contentious public policy issues affecting the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park and the 450 square miles of watershed appertaining thereto; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her public contributions to the Commission's activities, Dr. Leck's open, friendly and disarming personal style won her the respect and affection of her fellow Commissioners, Commission staff, and the employees of the Division of Parks and Forestry;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission fondly thanks Mary Alessio Leck for her service to the Commission, conveys its heartfelt admiration for the important work she has done preserving the natural environment on behalf of the people of the State of New Jersey, and offers its best wishes as she continues her many academic and artistic pursuits in the years ahead.
2. That a copy of this resolution, signed by the Chairman and attested by the Secretary, be transmitted to Mary Alessio Leck.



John Loos, Vice Chairman

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission at their meeting of November 20, 2019.



John Hutchison, Secretary