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Paddlers honor lord high admiral at Delaware River Sojourn's end

D&R Greenway Land Trust was a co-sponsor of Day 7 of the Delaware River Sojourn June 26, at Abbott Marshlands, Hamilton, N.J.

Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes was recognized as the lord high admiral for the day for his leadership in creating the Tulpehaking Nature Center at Abbott Marshlands.

D&R Greenway Vice President Jay Watson capped the lord high admiral at noon. Botanist Mary Leck, Rider University professor emeritus, discussed the natural history of the marshlands as the group paddled along Crosswicks Creek. Michael Stewart, Temple University professor emeritus and archaeologist, shares insights about the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark and its 13,000-year-old Native American history.

The sojourn, co-founded by D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead, is a seven- or eight-day guided paddling trip on the wild and scenic Delaware River, the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi.

Day 7 of the sojourn begins and ends in Bordentown, N.J. Campers



Kayakers paddle downriver as part of the Delaware River Sojourn.

at Upper Black Eddy began with coffee and pastry at Giving Pond at 6:45 a.m. and then drove to the launch site.

The tradition of honoring a lady or lord admiral of the day dates back to Daniel Skinner, a logger who, in the 1760s, launched an 80-foot raft of lashed logs from the Catskills to the shore of Philadelphia 200 miles downstream. He was honored as lord high admiral of the Delaware, and that title, since 1997, has been awarded by the sojourn to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to protect the health of the Delaware River and its environs.

Formerly the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, the name Abbott Marshlands pays tribute to Charles Conrad Abbott, a 19th- and early 20th-century naturalist, archaeologist and medical doctor who lived on the bluffs near the marsh and wrote about it extensively.

The Abbott Marshlands is part of the Circuit Coalition, a vision for 750 miles of bicycle and pedestrian

trails connecting Greater Philadelphia. The William Penn Foundation has supported the work in the marsh for many years, as part of its interest in water quality in the Delaware River Watershed.



Linda Mead, left, Dave Simon and Sandy Schultz, honorary founders of the Delaware River Sojourn.