

C&O Canal Association

along the towpath...

concerned with the conservation of the natural and
historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin

Volume VII

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FALL HIKES

November 1, Saturday: Point of Rocks History and Geology Hike. . . . observe the fascinating rock formations near Point of Rocks and hear something of the history of this area. Meet 9:30 a.m. at the railroad station, Point of Rocks. Bring lunch and binoculars. Hike approximately 8 miles. Marie Grenan, Coordinator.

November 22, Saturday: Engineering History Study . . . meet at 9:30 a.m., Lock 10 parking area (near Beltway Bridge). Will hike from Lock 14 to Lock 5. Brown bag lunch on Sycamore Island. Shuttling will be arranged to return drivers to car. Nancy Long and Phil Stone Co-leaders.

Thanks to Lyman Stucker, 2811 Farm Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22302 for scheduling these hikes. If you would like to lead a hike, request a hike or learn more about some aspect of the Canal, call him at (703)549-3527.

GREAT FALLS HIKES

November 9 and 16, Sundays: Sights and Sounds of the Falls . . . meet at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Tavern. Helen Johnson, Level Walker for the Great Falls area, will show slides and lead a hike sponsored by the National Park Service. The same program will also be given Wednesdays, November 12 and 19 at 10 a.m.

NPS & C&O CANAL PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The National Park Service is preparing an "interpretive prospectus" for the Seneca to Georgetown section of the C & O Canal. This means they are now proceeding from the draft master plan for the Canal to more detailed studies of the needs of the park, region by region. They are deciding what kind of exhibits, audiovisuals, waysides, publications and personal services are needed in each section. More basically, they are asking what themes, or stories, are best interpreted at Georgetown, Great Falls, Seneca, Carderock, Glen Echo, Seven Locks, and Pennyfield. How much they should depend on ranger's personal contact with visitors and where, or should most of the histories be told with publications, or signs? What to do about the gold mines, and the lock house at Seneca? The turning basin and quarry; should they be left alone, or cleared and restored and to what degree? Should the tavern at Great Falls become "living history" (park service personnel in period costume and working along the canal), and if so what period of the canal history do they relive? Should interpretation be slanted toward the one time national visitor, or the local visitor who returns again and again? (NPS thinking seems to favor serving the national visitor)

NPS & C&O CANAL PLANNING WORKSHOPS (continued)

A study team led by Bart Young of the Denver Service Center has met with local park personnel and exhibit specialists and now is seeking recommendations from the public. A Planning Workshop meeting held October 9 had little publicity and was moderately attended. Therefore, a second meeting is planned for Thursday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Westmoreland Congregational Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Washington, D. C.

C&O Canal Association members have a great deal of varied knowledge of the canal and its history. This is an invaluable opportunity to make your views known to the Park Service before the plans are drawn. The Park Service is anxious to do a good job, but many of the planning people are new to the area and have much to learn. They are asking for our help. If you missed the October meeting, the November 13th meeting will be especially important.

"POTOMAC RIVER HISTORICAL AREA ACT"

Maryland Senators Beall and Mathias met at Great Falls, Maryland, the morning of October 10 to announce the introduction of their Senate Bill designed to protect and preserve the main stem of the Potomac River and adjacent lands from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland. Briefly, the Bill is similar in many aspects to Congressman Gude's Potomac National River Bill. The Potomac River Historical Area Act would establish a buffer zone of approximately 200 feet on each side of the river and is designed to limit "unreasonable development." The resulting Historical Area would total a maximum 43,500 acres. It is hoped that most of this land can be protected by purchase of scenic easements rather than outright purchase of property. These easements allow ownership to remain with a family and permit continued use for residential, recreational, agricultural, education and approved commercial purposes. Both Senators would appreciate receiving mail about this Bill. If you have opinions pro or con, or suggestions that might be incorporated, write to them:

Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr. or
 Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
 United States Senate
 Washington, D. C. 20510

Yogi Bear Jellystone Parks are waiting to sprout like mushrooms. Pressures of undesirable development increase with each new year, and much of the river's banks don't even have minimal zoning protection. Those of you who know the Potomac as relatively unspoiled, and who have seen the degradation of other rivers, can recognize the need for this protection. The C&O Canal Association participated in the long (over 15 years) effort to enact the C&O Canal Historical Park legislation. Congressman Gude's Potomac National River Bill has been introduced during the last three sessions of Congress. With the added push of this Senate legislation, and with continued support from the C&O Canal Association, we may not have to wait another 15 years for scenic easements. Much of the south bank of the Potomac may be under development by then. Two hundred feet (200 ft.) isn't much to preserve, but that buffer makes a profound difference to the river and its continued recreation and scenic use.

NEW ADVISORY LEVEL WALKER

Al Giraldi, 4521 Sangamore Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20016, (301-229-7948), has been appointed Advisory Level Walker "for other fauna." This means that since we have an Advisory Level Walker for Birds, Al will be happy to advise you about any other fauna questions you may have. Just don't ask him about birds!!

The next C&O Canal Historical Park Advisory Commission meeting is scheduled for November 15 at the Mather Center, NPS, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. As always, the public is welcome to attend these meetings.

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1975, MEETING: A representative of Consolidated Natural Gas Company explained planned construction of a pipe line to carry natural gas from Cove Point, Maryland, to northwest Pennsylvania and Ohio. The proposed line would cross the Canal just above Edwards Ferry (approximately 3,000 ft. upstream from Mile 31). The 40' right-of-way would be landscaped with native materials where it crosses the Canal although normally they keep the right-of-way in cultivation or grasses. The visual intrusion will be minimal.

Two Canal historical structures were discussed. A request for use of the Cushwa Brick Company warehouse by the Williamsport Youth Center was declined because the building is subject to frequent floods and is in poor condition for the proposed use. There are no funds available for restoration.

A request for restoration of the Abner Cloud house at Chain Bridge Road near Fletcher's Boat House in Washington has been submitted by the Colonial Dames of America. They have offered to contribute \$20,000 of the estimated \$170,000 cost of restoration, and in return request use of the first and second floor for their library and meeting rooms. The Park Service would then use the ground floor for a visitor contact station and rest rooms. These plans are contingent on a special appropriation of restoration funds from Congress, since priority for use of NPS restoration funds list the stabilization of aqueducts and culverts as primary.

I can't help but wonder if it would be possible for the C&O Canal Association to raise \$20,000 for the NPS and in exchange make use of the space for a museum, meeting room and library of canal history that would be open to all the public. (Every editor is entitled to a dream or two now and then!)

The Park Service is still negotiating with Potomac Fish and Games Club and White's Ferry, Inc., for land acquisition.

The Georgetown Garden Club has contributed over \$5,000 for landscaping the area around the Justice Douglas plaque at 31st Street in Georgetown. Plans call for construction of a low wall and ornamental plantings to enhance the site.

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS

Fort Frederick to Ernestville, Section 44, Mile 112.4-114.5

Jane and Harold Larsen ... Inspection hike of 5/15/75 found the towpath in good condition, nine varieties of wildflowers in bloom, and boats on Big Pool. The snapshots sent along attest to the beauty of the Big Pool scene.

A second report of a 9/7/75 visit again found towpath in good condition, and found 13 species of wildflowers in bloom, including lobelia and ageratum.

Lock 68 to Oldtown, Section 62, Mile 164.8-167.0

Bruce and Sherry Wood ... On 6/1/75, the towpath provided good walking despite puddles. Twenty birds and twelve blooming wildflowers were identified.

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LEVEL WALKER REPORTS (Continued)

Great Falls to Swains Lock, Section 7, Mile 14.3-16.6

Larry and Sue Harris ... Leading a church group of 15-year-olds on 5/18/75, the Harrises found abundant wildflowers and birds. A well-kept towpath and adjacent areas, but no canoes for rent at Great Falls.

Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek, Section 3, Mile 5-7.5

Philip J. Stone ... On his 5/11/75 hike, Mr. Stone found the towpath being resurfaced with clay and coarse gravel, sewer pollution in Cabin John Creek, and 78 other towpath users. Many bicyclists were about, making it somewhat unpleasant for hikers and suggests consideration of an alternate bermside trail for hikers.

Spring Gap to North Branch, Section 65, Mile 173.4-175.5

Leroy and Nettie Saville... A Sunday hike (4/27/75) found canal bed and towpath in good condition, a full parking area at North Branch, but still no water facilities at Spring Gap.

Lock 26 to Monocacy Aqueduct, Section 16, Mile 39.4-42.2

Anson O. Courter ... Report of 6/18/75 hike shows work underway at big culvert of Little Monocacy, but still no work started on Monocacy Aqueduct. Towpath was a bit rutted at Little Monocacy, but otherwise in good shape. Many bird species were identified.

Little Cacapon Creek to Town Creek Aqueduct, Section 60, Mile 159.7-162.3

Marvin Wilkerson ... When hiked on 4/28/75, Marvin found no problems with the towpath condition. Spring flowers were observed in profusion, the Virginia bluebells being the most spectacular.

Dam #3 to Dargan Quarry, Section 24, Mile 62.3-65.1

The Richard Wilson Family ... On 6/29/75, the towpath was found to be in excellent condition. Grant Conway, Advisory Level Walker on history, provided historical background for the Wilsons.

Snyder's Landing to Marsh Run Culvert, Section 30 and 31, Mile 76.7-81.6

Harold Cramer, Sr., and Harold Cramer, Jr. ... The 5/30/75 inspection hike found towpath ideal for hiking, but did note some erosion on canoe side at 78.9. Mosquitoes were much in evidence.

Ft. Harrison Island to White's Ferry, Section 14, Mile 33.2-35.5

Morris Green ... Walked on 9/14/75, the towpath was found to be well-mowed and maintained. A previously requested barricade had been erected around a riverside crater at 33.8. Turtle Run Hiker-Biker was found to be in good shape.

Farman's Ferry to Lock 43, Section 35, Mile 91.0-93.0

Lee Lovell ... Lee reports having walked the section both 4/10/75 and 6/4/75. The trees knocked down in early April winds had been promptly removed by NPS--a commendable effort. There was also evidence of erosion damage from the spring high water in the 92 and 93 mile part of the towpath. A profusion of wild rose blossoms in June made this walk more enjoyable.

Old RR Station to Dam #5, Section 40, Mile 105.0-106.8

George W. "Hooper" Wolfe ... Hooper reports that on several July visits he found the towpath and culverts good and satisfactory progress being made on restoration of the Dam #5 "guard lock."

LEVEL WALKER REPORTING GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for making your semi-annual reports on your Section. Please use blank pages and keep these guidelines for reference. The following information should appear at the top of your report:

<u>Section Name and Mileage</u> (Beginning and Ending Designations)	<u>Report Date</u>
<u>Level Walker's Name, Address and Telephone Number</u>	<u>Visit Dates</u>

Your report should be oriented to the following subject areas, in the order of priority listed below. If you wish to comment on something else, please feel free to do so. Every area noted below need not be covered in every report. An up-to-date report of the physical condition is valuable as often as you care to report. If no changes have occurred since your last report, a simple note to that effect would be appreciated.

1. Physical Condition: Please note deterioration, improvement, intrusions related to Canal structures, towpath condition, Canal prism (bed), culverts, etc. Any changes affecting the Canal, especially between the Canal and the river, should be noted. These changes could, among other things, include flood repair work, washouts, private construction, and routine maintenance.
2. Use: Please observe and report the degree and nature of use of Canal facilities, including the towpath, concessions, camping and picnic areas. Periods and areas of greater and lesser concentration would be useful notations.
3. Nature: Please list the flora and fauna of your Section. If you could note the time of year each was identified and when it was blooming or sighted, this would be of interest.
4. History: As time permits, any Canal and local history you can research will be useful to the Association and will be disseminated as appropriate to other interested persons and organizations.
5. Geology: Any observations you care to make in this area, either dealing with natural formations or construction materials, will be useful and likewise disseminated.

Observations 1 and 2 above should be able to be made by all Level Walkers. Advisory Level Walkers have been assigned to some aspects of 3, 4, and 5, and a listing of these is attached to each Level Walker Listing and new advisors are noted in "Along the Towpath."

Reports should be submitted each May 15 and November 15. Additional reports are welcomed. Typed reports in three copies are preferred, but any report in any format is accepted. All Level Walkers are expected to report at least semi-annually; any Level Walker who does not report at least once during an 18-month period will be considered to be no longer interested and will be replaced without prior notice.

All reports are sent to the National Park Service and the C&O Canal Advisory Commission and are summarized in "Along the Towpath."

Reports should be sent to the Chairman of the Level Walkers:

John K. Howard
10598 Jason Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Home - (301) 730-4489

Work - (301) 594-6307

Any Report is Better Than No Report!

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

LEVEL WALKERS REPORT (Continued)Roundtop Hill to Lock 53, Section 49, Mile 127.3-130.0

Ralph French ... A 3/27/75 visit has found much flood damage, but by 5/20/75, repairs had been made. Leopards Hill Hiker-Biker was found clean and in good condition. Mosquitoes were somewhat troublesome in May.

Licking Creek Aqueduct to Mile 120, Section 46, Mile 116.0-120.0

Bill Davies ... A detailed report of 5/26/75 visit shows deterioration of Licking Creek Aqueduct. Licking Creek Hiker-Biker was well-maintained. Towpath badly rutted for about 200 feet at 117.7 and another 100 feet at 118.2. Sporadic ruts were present through 119.2. Millstone Point Campground was clean, but in need of mowing.

Lock 39 to Snyder's Landing, Section 29, Mile 74.0-76.7

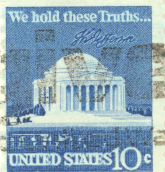
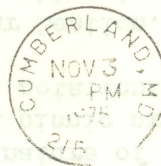
Eugene B. Maddox ... Mr. Maddox walked his Section on the Fourth of July, and found the towpath in generally good condition. A number of suggestions for minor maintenance have been forwarded to NPS.

On the back of this page is a copy of the Level Walker Reporting Guidelines.

LEVEL WALKERS: PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

These are guidelines for filing your report. The report itself should be submitted each May 15 and November 15. Copies of these reports are sent to the National Park Service, the C&O Canal Advisory Commission, and are digested for our membership in "Along the Towpath." All reports are sent to John K. Howard, Chairman of the Level Walkers, 10598 Jason Court, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

ALONG THE TOWPATH
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