

C&O Canal Association

along the towpath...

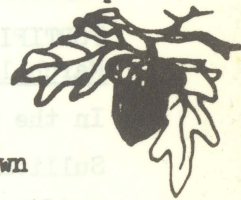
concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin

Volume VIII

February 1976

Number 1

Editor: Barbara Yeaman, 104 Valley Road, Brookmont, Md. 20016



LEVEL WALKERS MEETING:

Level Walker Chairman, John Howard has scheduled a meeting at the Glen Echo Town Hall for Monday evening, March 15, 1976 at 8 p.m. Superintendent Failor will outline (and illustrate with slides) the NPS stabilization program past, present and future. He will also discuss the clean-up plans for the Georgetown canal area.

* SENATE HEARINGS * POTOMAC RIVER LEGISLATION:

With Congressman Gude's retirement from the House of Representatives this year, it may be our last chance to enact legislation to protect the south bank of the Potomac River. Congressman Gude plans to introduce a revised draft of his Potomac National River Bill in February, but in the meanwhile the Senate has agreed to consider a similar bill drafted by Senators Beall and Mathias, S.2561.

Hearings have been scheduled by the Senate Interior Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation for February 24th, and we understand that the Committee hopes to pass some kind of Potomac River legislation this Bicentennial Year.

S.2561, entitled "The Potomac River Historical Area Act", is co-sponsored by Senators Jackson, Stone, and Johnston, important members of the Senate Interior Committee. This is the first time a Congressional Committee has agreed to hold public hearings on Potomac River legislation, so it is vital that conservationists and backers of the C & O Canal make their views known.

Unless the south shore of the Potomac can be protected from future Yogi Bear Jellystone Parks NOW, both the canal and the river will face a bleak future.

It is urgent that members of the C & O Canal Association attend the hearing in person and, if possible, submit a written statement for the hearing record. The hearing will be at 10:00 a.m. in Room 3110 of the Dirksen Office Building, Feb. 24, 1976.

For copies of the bill write: Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee
Room 3106
Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

If possible, we will send you more particulars prior to the hearing.

WINTER HIKE:



NATURE HIKE

February 7, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.: Meet at the Conococheague Creek Aqueduct at Williamsport, Md. with a brown bag lunch. Hike from the aqueduct to Four Locks (approx. 9 miles) with Al Giralddi. A shorter hike is possible, depending on the weather. Car shuttles will be arranged. Come and observe, discuss and enjoy the wonders of the winter canal environment with this knowledgeable biologist from the Smithsonian. Call Al at (301) 229-7948 if you have questions.

FORTIFICATION HISTORY HIKE

March 14, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.: Meet at Lock 33 (Harpers Ferry) with a brown bag lunch. In the morning we will be in the C & O Canal Park area exploring Fort Duncan and Sullivan Battery. After lunch we will walk to Maryland Heights. This is an area of fascinating historical interest, and we are fortunate that John Frye, C & O Canal Commission member from Washington County, will be our leader. Call Mr. Frye, (301) 432-8878, if there are questions.

HONOR TO JUSTICE WM. O. DOUGLAS

The day after his retirement from the U. S. Supreme Court, Justice Douglas was asked how he would like to be remembered. He answered, "I hope to be remembered as someone who made the Earth a little more beautiful."

On December 1, 1975, Senator Jackson, Ch. of the Senate Interior Committee, Sen. Magnuson, and Sen. Eagleton introduced the following legislation in the U. S. Senate:

S. 27-42 A BILL to dedicate the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park to Justice William O. Douglas in grateful recognition of his contributions to the people of the United States.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, as described in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y-410y-6), is hereby dedicated to Justice William O. Douglas in grateful recognition of his long and outstanding service to the people of the United States as a teacher, writer, jurist, and naturalist. The Secretary of the Interior shall have the words "Dedicated to Justice William O. Douglas" prominently displayed on all existing and future signs bearing the name "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park" or any abbreviation thereof, and shall take such other appropriate actions as may be necessary to call to the attention of the public the fact that such park has been so dedicated.

Sec. 2. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act."

A letter from the C & O Canal Association supporting this legislation was submitted to Congress with the Bill on Dec. 1, 1975. Although the Bill is presently being "held hostage" by another Senator, the legislation is expected to pass before our Annual Hike in April and our hike will be in celebration of this honor to Justice Douglas.



BIRDS ALONG THE C&O CANAL:

Level Walker Mrs. Marilyn C. DeLoach has compiled this very complete list of birds known to frequent the entire length of the canal. The list can be carried in your pocket as you hike and has space for recording any sightings. Perhaps you can add some birds not listed. I sighted several Golden Eye ducks last month in the Hancock area.

Common Loon	Screech Owl
Pied Billed Grebe	Barred Owl
Great Blue Heron	Whip Poor Will
Green Heron	Chimney Swift
Little Blue Heron	Flicker
American Egret	Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow Crowned Night Heron	Red bellied Woodpecker
Least Bittern	Red Headed Woodpecker
Whistling Swan	Yellow bellied Sapsucker
Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker
Black Duck	Eastern Kingbird
Blue Winged Teal	Great Crested Flycatcher
American Widgeon	Alder Flycatcher
Wood Duck	Phoebe
Ring Necked Duck	Yellow Bellied Flycatcher
Canvasback	Acadian Flycatcher
Bufflehead	Pewee
Ruddy Duck	Tree Swallow
Hooded Merganser	Bank Swallow
Common Merganser	Rough Winged Swallow
Turkey Vulture	Barn Swallow
Black Vulture	Purple Martin
Sharp Shinned hawk	Blue Jay
Red tailed Hawk	Common Crow
Red Shouldered Hawk	Fish Crow
Broad Winged Hawk	Carolina Chickadee
Sparrow Hawk	Tufted Titmouse
Bobwhite	White Breasted Nuthatch
Pheasant	Brown Creeper
Wild Turkey	House Wren
Coot	Winter Wren
Killdeer	Carolina Wren
Spotted Sandpiper	Long Billed Marsh Wren
Greater Yellowlegs	Mockingbird
Great Black Backed Gull	Catbird
Herring Gull	Brown Thrasher
Ring Billed Gull	Robin
Common Tern	Wood Thrush
Black Tern	Swainson's Thrush
Mourning Dove	Veery
Rock Dove	Bluebird
Yellow Billed Cuckoo	
Black Billed Cuckoo	
Ruby Throated Hummingbird	
Belted Kingfisher	

_____ Blue Gray Gnatcatcher
 _____ Golden Crowned Kinglet
 _____ Ruby Crowned Kinglet
 _____ Cedar Waxwing
 _____ Starling
 _____ White Eyed Vireo
 _____ Yellow Throated Vireo
 _____ Red Eyed Vireo
 _____ Warbling Vireo
 _____ Blue Headed Vireo
 _____ Black and White Warbler
 _____ Prothonotary Warbler
 _____ Worm Eating Warbler
 _____ Parula Warbler
 _____ Yellow Warbler
 _____ Black Throated Blue Warbler
 _____ Myrtle Warbler
 _____ Blackpoll
 _____ Prairie Warbler
 _____ Northern Waterthrush
 _____ Louisiana Waterthrush
 _____ Kentucky Warbler
 _____ Yellowthroat
 _____ Yellow Breasted Chat
 _____ Hooded Warbler
 _____ Canada Warbler

_____ American Redstart
 _____ House Sparrow
 _____ Eastern Meadowlark
 _____ Red Winged Blackbird
 _____ Brewer's Blackbird
 _____ Baltimore Oriole
 _____ Rusty Blackbird
 _____ Common Grackle
 _____ Cowbird
 _____ Scarlet Tanager
 _____ Cardinal
 _____ Rose Breasted Grosbeak
 _____ Indigo Bunting
 _____ Evening Grosbeak
 _____ Purple Finch
 _____ American Goldfinch
 _____ Towhee
 _____ Junco
 _____ Chipping Sparrow
 _____ Field Sparrow
 _____ White Throated Sparrow
 _____ Swamp Sparrow
 _____ Song Sparrow



AUDUBON NATURE HIKE

February 28, Saturday, 2 p.m.: Meet at Great Falls Tavern Hospitality Room.

Helen Johnson will conduct a 2 hour walk and slide show.

ANNUAL HIKE PLANS

Watch for details about the hike now tentatively planned for April 24. Ed Wesely, Hike Chairman, Ken Rollins, Nancy Long and myself have been scouting possible sites in the Hancock - Paw Paw area. This year's hike will be in celebration of the dedication of the C & O Canal National Historical Park to Justice Douglas (this legislation is now pending in Congress), and we hope to have a big turnout to honor him. If you can help circulate publicity flyers in your area, please let me know and I can mail some to you. I particularly need help from Williamsport west.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ALONG THE C&O CANAL:

Level Walker Marilyn DeLoach also submitted this very useful list of emergency phone numbers and contacts in case of any emergency while on the canal. This would also be a useful pocket list to carry while hiking.

DAY - Call District Office or Headquarters at Antietam Battlefield Visitors Center (8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.) 301/432-5124

NIGHT - Call the nearest Park Ranger as listed below or emergency number 301/432-5125.

Fletcher's Boathouse, Georgetown Area 202/244-0461
Sycamore Store at McArthur Boulevard and Walhounding Road Public Phone
Lock Six Public Phone
Glen Echo, Maryland Rescue Squad Emergency Number 911
Cabin John Rescue Squad Emergency Number 911

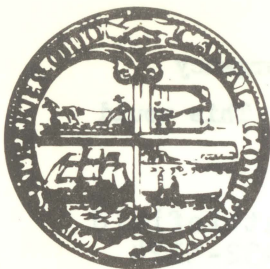
They specialize in river rescues
Lock 10 Public Phone
Old Anglers In (lower parking lot) Public Phone
Great Falls Tavern or Cromelin House 301/299-3613
Swains Lock 301/299-9006 and Public Phone

Phone at concession stand in Seneca, Maryland
Phone at Old Stone House in house parent's house Seneca, Maryland
Phone in the little grocery store at White's Ferry
Phone in the picnic area at Monocacy Aqueduct
Phone in grocery store at Point of Rocks, Maryland
Phone at the stores in Brunswick, Maryland
Medical help in Brunswick.
Phone in grocery store at Sandy Hook, Md. next to the C & O Canal.
Phone at Kiwanis Youth Hostel in Sandy, Hook, Maryland
Visitors Center in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 304/535-6371
Park Service Visitors Center, Antietam, Maryland 301/432-2136
Phone in house next to Lock 38 going up the hill.
Phone in grocery store in the village of Antietam Village, Md.
Medical help in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.
Phone at Barron's Store at Snyder's Landing
Public phone at Cedar Grove Mill or Charle's Mille
Phones and medical help in the town of Williamsport, Maryland
Park Service, Fort Frederick State Park 301/842-2504
Phone at Caton's Store in Big Pool, Maryland
Park Service Center, Hancock, Maryland 301/678-5463
Medical help in Hancock, Maryland
Phone in house adjacent to Lock 56.
Phone in grocery store in Little Orleans, Maryland
Phone at grocery store in Oldtown, Maryland
Phone at grocery store near Spring Gap, Maryland
Phone at house parent's house at North Branch Youth Hostel. Lock 74.
Medical help in Cumberland, Maryland

YOU COULD PROBABLY GET HELP HERE

Thompson's Boat House in Washington, D.C.
Jack's Boat House in Washington, D.C.
Kretzer's Grocery store, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Arlines Snak Bar, Sharpsburg, Maryland
Griffith's Drive-In, Sharpsburg, Maryland
Tony's Grocery Store, Dam #4 Area
Caton's Store, Big Pool, Maryland
Texaco Station, Oldtown, Maryland
Oldtown Exxon, Oldtown, Maryland
Millstone Exxon, Spring Gap, Maryland

PARK POLICE 202/426-6600
FOR 24 HOUR PERIOD PARK RANGERS ARE ON DUTY CALL 301/432-5125
EMERGENCY from 8AM to 5PM call 301/432-5125



LEVEL WALKER REPORTS:

Old Boat Incline to Lock 5, Section 2, Mile 2.3-5.0

Mrs. Marilyn C. DeLoach...Mrs. DeLoach reports heavy usage on a beautiful day in Indian Summer: hikers, bikers, and joggers. This area still in good condition after Eloise.

Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek, Section 3, Mile 5.0-7.5

Philip J. Stone...The rebuilding of the area has progressed commendably and although part of the area is still officially closed it is in good shape, even for bicycling.

Lock 14 to Cropley, Section 5, Mile 9.4-12.3

Bob Greenberg...Except for a few ruts, the towpath is in good condition. (Unlike other areas of the canal that are close to D. C., it was not badly damaged by the most recent hurricane). Considering its heavy use by both hikers and bikers, the area remains remarkably clean.

Swains Lock to Pennyfield Lock, Section 8, Mile 16.6-19.6

Joan Paull...This entire section, and a bit further on, is in such poor shape that the Park system has put up a sign at Swains Lock warning of hazardous conditions the next five miles. The section is passable for walking but not for cycling. (And Swains Boat House will be open in good weather, but call 299-9006 to check).

Tenfoot Island to Sycamore Landing, Section 11, Mile 25.0-27.2

Alan and Becky Hedin...After visits in September and October the Hedin's report both the towpath and Horsepen Branch Hiker Biker to be in excellent condition. Although alone on the towpath in September, they saw bird watchers, joggers, bikers, and fisherman on their October visit.

Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry, Section 12, Mile 27.2-30.8

Virgil Smirnow...The towpath is "moist" but passable for both foot and bike traffic. However, cyclists should watch for heavy grade trap rock that is being used as a filler in rutted areas. The Hiker-Biker at Chisel Branch is in good order.

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

Anson O. Courter...The towpath condition is generally excellent; an excellent job has been done on the repair of the Little Monocacy Aqueduct but the Monocacy Aqueduct is still awaiting attention; and Lock 27 is also in need of restoration. And a hopeful ecological note: the area from Lock 27 to the Pepco plant, once filled with fly ash and coal silt but cleaned up after Agnes, still looks good.

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Monocacy Aqueduct to Noland Ferry, Section 17, Mile 42.2-44.6

Robert and Terry Ledley.....During several walks in July, August, and September, the Ledleys found the section in good condition other than too infrequent mowing of the picnic area at Noland's Ferry. In August they noted work being done on the Monocacy Aqueduct, but checking again in late September after the area had been flooded, they noted no progress on its restoration. They also report that the Indian Flats camping area had been flooded and was covered with mud.

Point of Rocks to Cotoctin Aqueduct, Section 19, Mile 48.2-51.5

Lyman Stucker...The area is in good repair and happily, repair work at Cotoctin Aqueduct is under way.

Harpers Ferry to Dam No. 3, Section 23, Mile 60.7-62.3

Fred Nolte... After hiking with his family, Mr. Nolte reports the area is in good condition and the bridge over the area of the tow-path broken by Agnes has been repaired.

Dam No. 3 to Dargan Quarry, Section 24, Mile 62.3-65.1

The Richard A. Wilson family...On two outings (including the day of the JFK 50 mile hike, which Mr. Wilson completed), the family reports that the towpath is still in excellent condition in spite of the heavy September rains.

Dam No. 3 to Dargan Quarry to Mt. Lock, Section 24 and 25, Mile 62.3-67.0

Dot and Jack Geary...The Gearys report the towpath to be in good condition. They also point out these two levels have everything: a dam brick lockhouse, boat ramp, dry dock, limestone kiln/quarry, HBO, cave, and even a haunted house (above Lock 36).

Dargan Quarry to Mt. Lock, Section 25, Mile 65.1-67.0

The J. Randolph Wilson family...The tow path is in good condition. Recommended for hikers are an old furnace at 65.1 and a small mine at 65.2.

Sheperdstown to Lock 39, Section 28, Mile 72.8-74.0

John C. Frye...Two recent periods of high water did no damage to this section. The section is in good shape but historic property recently purchased by the NPS nearby needs immediate work.

Snyder's Landing to Lock 40 and Lock 40 to MarshRun Culvert, Sections 30 and 31, Mile 76.7-81.6

Harold Cramer, Sr. and Harold Cramer, Jr....The Cramers report that the condition of the towpath is good for biking and excellent for hiking. However, they do mention areas that need maintenance quickly to prevent damage from high water.

Marsh Run Culvert to Dam No. 4, Section 32, Mile 81.6-84.4

K. M. Robinson family...The Robinsons report generally good conditions except just below dam No. 4 where damage occurred during the September flood. For cyclists, the path is passable but slow.

Lock 43 to Falling Waters and Falling Waters to Williamsport,
Sections 36 and 37, Mile 93-99.3

Ellen N. Holway and Sylvia M. Geller...

This combined report indicates the area is well patrolled and well taken care of by the NPS. They suggest that the now empty Lockhouse 43 (and perhaps other lockhouses) be converted into youth hostels. On one trip, at very low water, they noted several places in the river where rocks appeared to be piled in vaguely V-shaped formation causing the water to flow through a narrow funnel. These turned out to be man-made and that fish traps were set below the funnel from as far back as the Indians and through the depression years.

Dam No. 5 to Lock 47, Section 41, Mile 106.8-108.6

Charles Morrison...There has been no noticeable damage to the canal bed, towpath, or structures in this section as a consequence of the late summer rainfalls and river stages. Mr. Morrison also notes with satisfaction that the NPS has acquired some of the properties that bordered the towpath in this area, and just beyond this section, near Lock 49, the NPS deserves a "WELL DONE" for its restoration of the old mule barn.

Lock 47 to McCoys Ferry, Section 42, Mile 108.6-110.4

A. K. McGraw...visits in all months, April through October, show this area heavily used, especially at McCoy's Ferry. No damage was noted from the recent high waters, and a fine job has been done on the restoration of the Mule barn at Four Locks.

Lock 47 to McCoys Ferry, Section 42, Mile 108.6-110.4

Stanley C. Love...Everything quite clean in this area. Mr. Love reports construction within the stockade at Fort Frederick, and along the way had a chat with U. S. Congressman Fisher who is a regular user and avid supporter of the Canal.

McCoys Ferry to Ft. Frederick, Section 43, Mile 110.4-112.4

Scott P. Nesmith...Mr. Nesmith walked this section on September 14, and notes it was prior to a flooding in October that may have caused some damage. In September the towpath and mileage markers were in very good condition. This section of the towpath is popular with both hikers and bikers, especially from the Fort Frederick end.

Ernestville to Licking Creek Aqueduct, Section 45, Mile 114.5-116.0

John Beck...Mr. Beck reports the towpath to be in fair condition, and muddy after rain.

Sideling Hill Aqueduct to Little Orleans, Section 52, Mile 136.6-140.9

Don Ramsey...A visit in August was confined to the stretch between Little Orleans and Lock 57. Fifteen-mile Creek Aqueduct stabilization has just begun with crushed stone placed under tables at Fifteen-mile Creek drive-in campground. However, the towpath was closed between Fifteen-mile Creek and Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct which is also undergoing stabilization.

Lock 59 to Lock 60, Section 54, Mile 146.6-149.7

Doris M. Bailey and Dorothy A. Johnson...Everything was in good order on a warm, beautiful day in November. The pastoral scene included dairy herds pasturing nearby and a "lost" farm horse that was encountered on the towpath, undoubtedly wending its way home.

Green Ridge Station to Lock 61, Section 56, Mile 151.2-153.1

Jeremy F. Parker...The section is in pretty good shape, even after Eloise, and the towpath was clear of trash.

Lock 61 to Lock 63, Section 57, Mile 153.1-154.5

Joe and Rose Marie Flynn and family...The Flynn's report general maintenance of the area could be improved and parts of the towpath messy for users after rain.

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

Edith and Marvin Wilkerson...The Wilkersons report the towpath to be in good condition. However, there were no fresh beaver signs, something they usually observe.

Lock 68 to Oldtown (Lock 71), Section 62, Mile 164.8-167.0

Bruce and Sherry Wood...Cycling during the Potomac trip with Congressman Gilbert Gude, the Woods report that mud holes were filled in with gravel, making walking difficult at the present time.

Kellys Road Culvert to Spring Gap, Section 64, Mile 170.8-173.4

Bernice, Melonie, and Mike Sesler...Visiting the section in November, 1975, the Seslers found the towpath to be in good condition but found Kellys Culvert beginning to deteriorate and in need of minor repairs.

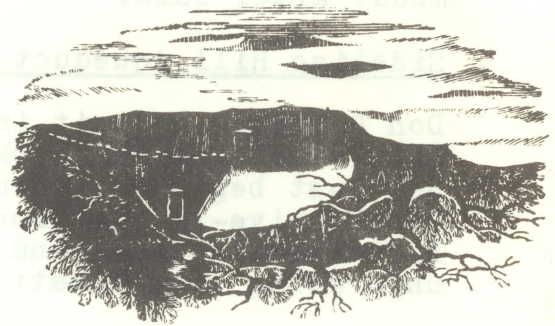
Spring Gap to North Branch (Lock 74), Section 75, Mile 173.4-175.5

Leroy and Nettie Saville...The Savilles write that the section is in very good condition. Nonetheless, Lock 74 could use maintenance and the area could use a general pick-up of trash.

WINTER HIKE SCHEDULE

Issue: this
Inside

Mr. John C. Frye
Gapland, Maryland 21736



Brookmont, Md. 20016
104 Valley Road
C&O Canal Association
"ALONG THE TOWPATH"



1976 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Our Treasurer, Doug Greene, does not send bills for membership dues. If you wish to continue your membership, and continue to receive "Along the Towpath", please fill out this form, and mail it together with your check made out to the C & O Canal Association, to:

Mr. Douglas Greene
10317 Brunswick Ave.
Silver Spring, Md. 20902

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Membership: Regular (\$5.00) _____ Patron (\$10.00) _____ Other \$ _____