



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

President: Bonnie Troxell, 612 Montgomery Ave., Cumberland, Md. 21502

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FALL HIKE - OCTOBER 23, 1976 - WHITE'S FERRY TO MONOCACY AQUEDUCT

Level Walker Beverly Rhodes will lead a fall hike along her level, White's Ferry to Lock 26, and beyond to the Monocacy Aqueduct. She has asked Kit Franklin to be a co-leader and describe the history of the many Indian people who lived in the Potomac Valley long before the European settlers arrived. For several years Kit has been doing graduate work in archeology at The American University, and is now writing her Masters Thesis based on a dig she and Alan have been exploring on an island in the Potomac near the White's Ferry - Monocacy area. She knows more about Indian history in this middle Potomac region than she could ever tell you in one day. Come and be prepared for a fascinating walk.

Meet at 9 a.m. at White's Ferry, Saturday, Oct. 23. Bring lunch and fair weather. Cars will shuttle back from the Monocacy Aqueduct after the 7 mile hike. For more information, call Beverly Rhodes, 202-363-8187.

WINTER HIKE SCHEDULE

Lyman Stucker plans to schedule a winter hike during January and an additional early spring hike late February or early March. More information in the next newsletter.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The next Executive Board meeting will be held at 10 a.m., November 11 in Williamsport. Any interested member is welcome to attend board meetings. One important topic for discussion will be plans for the next Annual Reunion Hike in the spring of 1977.

STATUS OF DOUGLAS' BILL

The legislation that proposed dedication of the C & O Canal Park to Justice William O. Douglas went down in the rush of business during the last week of this Congressional session. A compromise measure failed, but hopefully further action will be taken next year. One of the compromise measures asked that the canal towpath be called the Justice Wm. O. Douglas Trail. The Douglas Trail could be so designated by the Park Service without Congressional action, but we would like to see Congressional recognition of Douglas' lifetime efforts toward conservation as well as preservation of the C & O Canal.



LEVEL WALKER REPORTS:

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS ARE EXPECTED TWICE A YEAR AND SHOULD BE SENT TO
CHAIRMAN: John K. Howard, 10598 Jason Court, Columbia, MD 21044
301-730-4489 (home) or 301-594-4681 (office)

Level walker reports are used by National Park Service and the C & O Canal Advisory Commission. If possible, three copies of each report should be sent so a copy can be sent to each of the above without delay. Summaries published in "Along The Towpath" are sometimes delayed because of receipt date/publishing date timing.

Level Walkers are required to be dues-paying members of the C & O Canal Association and to submit one written report, however brief, within eighteen consecutive months.

Please contact the Level Walker Chairman to:

- a) volunteer to act as level walker
- b) request a change in levels
- c) resign as a level walker

Section 6, 12.3 Cropley to Great Falls (Lock 20)...Helen L. Johnston and Elizabeth Bushnell continue their weekly visits. Restoration of the towpath appears completed and the area had its usual heavy usage. For the first six months of the year 86 kinds of birds had been seen and 117 kinds of wildflowers identified.

Section 7, 14.3 Great Falls to Swains's Lock...John Anderson found both canal and towpath in good condition and heavily used on a warm and sunny Saturday in June.

Section 9, 19.6 Pennyfield Lock to Seneca...William Clague reports that restoration work along this section may be imminent. The towpath is in good to fair condition even though "hazardous towpath" signs are still up in several places.

Section 10, 22.8 Seneca Aqueduct to Tenfoot Island...Russell E. Baker and Joseph Paull found the towpath in excellent condition and extensively used on a visit in August.

Section 11, 25.0 Tenfoot Island to Sycamore Landing...Alan and Becky Hedin report the section to be in good condition.

Section 13, 30.8 Edwards Ferry to Ft. Harrison Island...Napier Shelton reports condition of towpath good. More cyclists than hikers noted and prominent avian species included osprey, red-shouldered hawk, little blue heron, two ring neck pheasants, and one Concorde. (Yes, the Concorde was noisy).

Section 15, 35.5 White's Ferry to Lock 26...Woody and Barty Kennedy, hiking with 40 members of the Wanderbird's Hiking Club in May, observed abundant animal and bird life, many types of wildflowers and plants, and an improved canal bed. The towpath still needs repairs, however, and can be muddy after a rain.

Section 16, 39.4 Lock 26 to Monocacy Aqueduct...Repairs have begun on the Monocacy Aqueduct. The towpath was in good shape on the occasion of hikes both in May and September. They reported meeting friendly hikers and bikers and even friendlier bull mastiff pups.

Section 17, 42.2 Monocacy Aqueduct to Noland's Ferry...Robert and Terry Ledley report in part: "This section of the towpath is presumably being bypassed temporarily because of the construction on the Monocacy Aqueduct. There are signs at either end describing the 6½ mile detour via Noland's Ferry Road, Route 28, and Monocacy Aqueduct Road. There is no observance of this detour. Hikers, bikers, and horseback riders are continuing along the path and crossing the aqueduct in the lower canal bed."

Section 19, 48.2 Point of Rocks to Catoctin Aqueduct...Lyman Stucker made a round trip circuit on a bird watcher's field day in May. The towpath was in good shape.

Sections 30 and 31, 76.7 Snyder's Landing to Marsh Run Culvert... Art Cramer, Sr. reports blue chip stone laid down by NPS sometimes provides an uncomfortable surface but in general these sections provide fine hiking and biking.

Section 35, 91.0 Foremans Ferry to Lock 43...L. B. Lovell reports both section 34 and 35 in good condition for walking.

Section 40, 105.0 Old RR Station to Dam 5...Hooper Wolfe reports extensive repairs at Dam 5.

Section 44, 112.4 Fort Frederick to Ernestville...On a hike on Memorial Day Jane and Harold Larsen found a muddy towpath with many waterholes but on a later hike found the towpath in very good condition: "unusually clean, tranquil, and beautiful in this section as always."

Section 46, 116.0 Licking Creek Aqueduct to Mile 120...Thomas W. Stevenson reports the towpath in generally good condition although some rough spots might cause problems for cyclists. A deer was sighted at Licking Creek between the Canal and the river.

Section 47, 120.0, Mile 120 to Hancock...Lane S. Hart, IV found the reconstruction work in this area almost completed with the towpath in good condition.

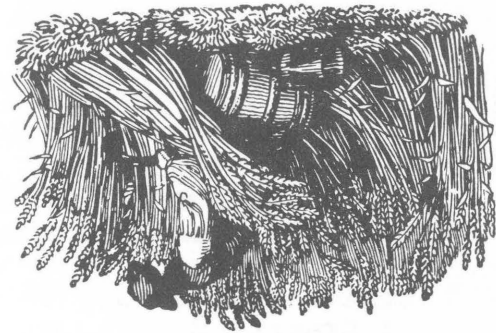
Section 55, 149.7 Lock 60 to Green Ridge...On a walk in April Hazel Taylor and Bonnie Newman found themselves alone on the canal but the towpath in good condition.

Section 59, 156.3 Paw Paw to Culvert Opposite Little Cacapon... Robert Stevenson found this stretch in good condition. He found an old cemetery at about mile 157 and several copperheads while looking for #212 culvert. Along the way chanced on boy scouts, father and son combination and a group of U. S. Naval midshipman with canoes.

Section 62, 164.8 Lock 68 to Oldtown (Lock 71)...Bruce and Sherry Wood found this section watered, stocked with game fish, and loaded with fisherman. The towpath was in excellent condition, and many types of flora and fauna were observed.

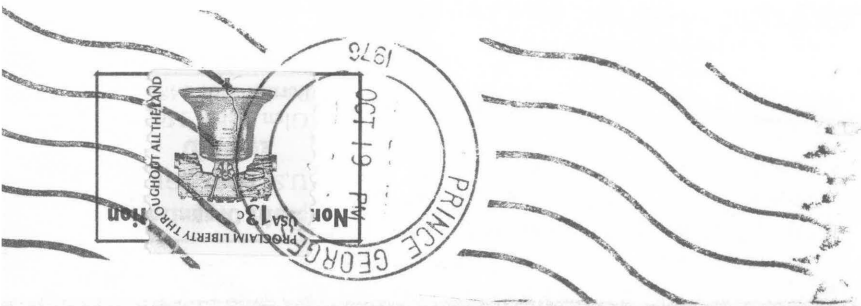
Section 65, 173.4 Spring Gap to North Branch...Leroy and Nettie Saville found the area in good condition and well used. In one spot they saw 20 turtles sunning themselves on dead trees in the Canal.

Inside this issue:
Level Walker Reports
Fall Hike - Whites Ferry to Monocacy
The Saturday
Oct. 23rd!



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Special Notice

OCTOBER FLOOD

Damage resulting from this latest Potomac flood needs to be appraised. John Howard, Level Walker Chairman, asks that all Level Walkers make an effort to check damage on their levels and report as soon as possible. Information will be digested and circulated in the next "Along The Towpath". I have heard that the new foot bridge at Catoctin Creek is completely gone and that there was severe erosion on both sides of the creek.

NEW CANAL BARGE

The "Canal Clipper" was launched last week just above Chain Bridge. Two cranes unceremoniously hoisted her up over the trees at the berm side of the canal where she had been parked for final assembly. Working in unison they slowly lowered her into the water as several spectators cheered. She looks pretty good for a concrete barge, and will look even better with passengers aboard when the pair of Texas mules begin pulling her from Lock 3 to Fletchers and back.

"GUIDE TO ENGINEERING AND GEOLOGY OF THE C&O CANAL" IS NEARING COMPLETION

Bill and Gerry Davies would like C&O members to know that their guide, which they have been working on for 4 or 5 years is not dead, and hopefully will be published and ready for a New York Times book review sometime next year.