



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

Level Walker Chairman: John Howard, 10598 Jason Ct., Columbia, Md. 21043

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Editor: Blanca Poteat

R.D. #1 Dickerson, Maryland

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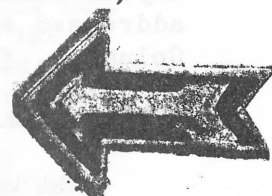
WASHINGTON'S WATER SUPPLY WORKSHOPS

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) have scheduled fifteen public workshops in different parts of the Potomac Basin this summer. These meetings will consist of a brief introduction to the issues of water supply, followed by a discussion of local concerns. Representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, ICPRB, and COG will be present at each meeting. Local groups have been contacted as co-sponsors or participants. The primary purpose of the meetings is to inform citizens of the Washington Area's water supply situation and possible ways to augment the supply.

The C & O Canal Association will be co-sponsoring a workshop with Citizens for a Better Montgomery County and the Potomac Valley League on Monday, July 18 at 7:30 pm in the Council Hearing Room of the Montgomery County Office Building in Rockville, Maryland. Questionnaires will be available at the meeting dealing with the alternatives studied by the Corps in the North East Water Supply Study of 1975. These include: Water conservation, upstream dams, local impoundments and reservoirs, additional use of the Potomac estuary, use of treated wastewater, and new sources of groundwater.

ICPRB publishes the Potomac Basin Reporter and Potomac Issues, available free of charge. Contact the Commission at 4350 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014, 301-652-5758.

REMEMBER: Monday, July 18, 7:30 pm, Rockville, Maryland
Metropolitan Washington Water Supply Workshop

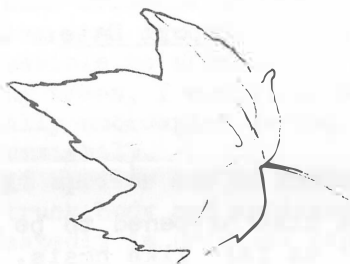


FALL HIKE

SEPTEMBER 17, 1977

10:00 am

Lyman Stucker will lead a hike from Lock 38 at Shepherdstown. Hikers will walk upstream to Snyder's Landing, where there will be a stop for lunch before the return to Lock 38. Bring your own lunch and water for this 7 mile round trip in this area classified as remote in the NPS General Plan.



From Beverly Rhodes:

The June 4 Hike was delightful. The weather was perfect. We had 25 people out. Ralph Donnelly gave a very nice one-hour talk about the fort, in the visitor center, including a movie about the history of Fort Frederick, made by the State of Maryland. About 11:00 we started out on the towpath, walked to Licking Creek Aqueduct, had a leisurely lunch, and walked back to the fort. Then those of us who could stay went into the fort itself and looked around. They have built two of the three original barracks on the old foundations and restored one to the same conditions as when in use. The other is used for an interpretive exhibit on the history and building of the fort. We looked at these, and talked to the college students on duty in period costumes. They exhibited the six pound cannon which is an example of those actually used. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

on every fine summer evening. A continual chorus for several days in the early spring probably signalled the mating season.

In May several hundred large fish, shadowed by several hundred smaller ones, were observed heading ~~upstream~~ upstream at Widewater. At the time the water level was so low that the large fish would actually flop up on the rocks out of the water momentarily. One observer speculated that the large fish were herring on their way upstream to spawn and the smaller ones were predators waiting to take the roe.

Beaver--only one at a time--have been seen in recent months ~~x~~ in the river and in the canal near the tavern as well as at Widewater. Whether re-watering of the canal will disturb him (her?) remains to be seen.

Other animals observed during this season include rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, muskrat, ~~skinks~~, and several kinds of snakes. Raccoon tracks appear whenever the path is softened by rain. Occasionally deer tracks are seen. Both deer and fox have been reported.~~k~~

Efforts to make a photographic record of natural history observations have continued this year, especially in black and white. A sizeable collection of color slides has already been made and is in use each month in connection with "Sights and Sounds of the Seasons" walks.

1. Mowing at the entrance to the park was delayed this year until after the early spring flowers had faded. The field of flowers in this ~~xxx~~^{area} was favorably commented on by some participants in nature walks.

2. Woodland trails have been cleared during this spring and are also better ~~xxx~~ marked. Still needed is a guide or map so that the colored blazes can be interpreted by the casual hiker who may have no idea of where a particular trail goes. Such a guide or map could be on a single page.

The ~~xxx~~ trail maintenance work facilitates nature walks in the woods. Certain wild flowers and birds, of course, can only be observed in that habitat.

Level Walker's Report

136.56 to 140.77, Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct to Little Orleans
Don Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. 20012 589-9208

May 25, 1977
visit May 21, 1977

1. Physical Condition.

a. Old campground just downstream from Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct (adjacent to this level) now contains 10-15 truckloads of dirt/rock fill. It is not clear whether this relates to the aqueduct stabilization project, but I think not, since the project did not involve excavation to my knowledge. In any case the piles of fill are unsightly and unhistoric--and have for the moment obviated any potential use of this old campground as a canoe camp or horse camp (discussed in previous level walker's report).

b. New marker on Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct is spelled Sidling.

c. Estimated 150 railroad ties are in canal about 137.9 mile. Railroad has removed track at Little Orleans, and removal of spikes has progressed to Pearre. As noted in last report, railroad should remove the ties (which presumably were left following construction or repair) from canal bed. This is the railroad's responsibility and should be done now while their crews are in the area--"last chance", I think. Park Service should require this of the railroad on a moral and possibly legal basis. Problem probably exists along much of the length of the park. Same goes for any other debris, originating from the RR.

d. Much evidence of tree cutting along towpath. As I argued at level walkers' meeting same day, hazard is not from falling trees but falling limbs--virtually impossible to eliminate. Considering the hazard to workmen and the cost of felling trees, I would recommend cutting be discontinued. Other points: park is virtually unoccupied during storms when trees fall; stumps and sawdust are somewhat unsightly.

e. At upriver end of Fifteemile Creek Aqueduct, berm side (adjacent to this level), truck body and appliance shell are still unsightly. This has been mentioned repeatedly in previous reports.

2. Usage. No towpath users seen, unusual for a summer Saturday. Two bike campers from Washington encamped at Indigo Neck Hiker-Biker. Little Orleans drive-in campground full; boat ramp parking also full. Walk-in group camp occupied by 3 troops of scouts. This camp should have tables, fireplaces. Storekeeper Schoenadel says former problem of scouts monopolizing several stalls in the drive-in camp area has been virtually eliminated, perhaps by rangers (ranger was on duty at time of visit) or sign (I believe new) identifying walk-in camp.

Occupant of group camp (Scoutmaster, Troop 937, Bel Air, Md.) complains his vehicles were ticketed for parking in a no-parking zone (3 vehicles at \$25 each) on Friday night, while vehicles which blocked their access to the regular parking area (boat ramp parking area), for which the troop had a reservation, were given only "courtesy tickets". Ranger is said to have explained that blocking the road is not a violation. This is a strange sort of justice.

3. Natural. Woodchuck, fish in canal (!), family of ducks in swamp below Lock 57, snake on towpath.

Robert H. Stevenson
26718 Haney Avenue
Damascus, Maryland 20750
(301) 253-3429 home (202) 426-3024 work

report date 6/8/77
visit date 4-5/77

1. Physical condition Lock 61 in same condition as reported in towpath guide fair to good. The rock etc. from the cleaning up of the downstream (north) tunnel portal and gorge is being dumped at mile 153.28 where the footpath crosses towpath to access road at Merten Ave. Canal prism in this area appeared to be dry and really showing evidence of the prolonged dry spell. Towpath very smooth and firm apparently from weight of the dump-trucks hauling from the gorge. Gate from an old waste weir or flume gate in the canal prism at about 153.7. Culvert #210 in section 296 in extremely poor condition - wing walls almost completely destroyed. Cap on top gone and rubble ~~showing~~ showing in the culvert ditch. Some water in canal prism near lock 62, lots of sliders (turtles) and copious numbers of chipmunks/rabbits and three mallards flushed in the ~~Twin~~ Hollow area. Sorrel Ridge Hiker/biker in good condition. Lock 62 in fair condition as were Lock 63 ¹/₃ Lock 64 ²/₃, and Lock 66. All show signs of aging, neglect and lack of general upkeep. Some water from the gorge area was flowing through 66 and 64 ²/₃.

Work on the gorge area progressing nicely - had to check from trail above as the gorge is now a closed area. Gorge appears to be about ²/₃ *wooden* completed - trucks/front loaders etc were sitting in the gorge. Towpath in place for only a short distance - materials to build the wooden towpath are stored in vicinity of Locks 66 and 64 ²/₃. This is an especially interesting area particularly the Erie Canal model waste weir.

Crossed over the tunnel trail, steep from north portal area to crest. Trail in fair condition, rocky (shale) and slick in places - big pine tree down at marker 12/13 which obscures or blocks part of the trail. Trail down to South portal in good condition. South portal to Mile 156.3 in good clean condition - area around Superintendent's house in good condition. Water supply near trading post not turned on. Waste weir around Purslane Run and Hiker/biker in excellent condition. Purslane culvert and #212, culvert at Fairplay in acceptable condition. Grass had been mowed on towpath to Level 59. Towpath in good condition except for bikers (roots and rocks in several places). No change in condition of prism or evidence of change in debris accumulation etc.

2. Use Canoe campers (several young families) at Sorrel Ridge Hiker/biker-knew little or nothing of the river or what was ahead of them. Several trucks (campers) were at 153.08 where debris pile from gorge is in place. Two young couples camped at Superintendent's house on Saturday night. About five cars were parked in the parking lot. Some canoe traffic on the river above the Paw Paw bridge. Met only bikers on Level 59 - five downstream and four going up - one of whom was a young man equipped for a long trip. I camped overnight at Purslane Run with my two daughters and had a peaceful and pleasant time. No evidence of use since last trash collection (I don't know NPS schedule for cleaning up.)

Note Lock house foundation is intact at Sorrel Ridge. has several openings (doors and windows). I wonder if there is any possibility a floor could be poured, etc., a roof placed on it and have a permanent shelter (as on the Appalachian trail). This might apply whenever a substantial foundation exists.

In some of the levels more closely akin to Washington bulletin boards are much more informative - maps - here's where you are etc. - these are lacking in the upstream areas.

I will walk these levels again in the fall when the tunnel is reopened.

PAW PAW TUNNEL



According to the C & O Canal headquarters the Paw Paw Tunnel will remain closed for repairs until late September or early October. In the meantime hikers are routed over the hill by road.

C & O CANAL ASSOCIATIONFinancial Report for the Year 1976

Balance on Hand December 31, 1975

\$2,039.55

Receipts:

Memberships	\$1,576.00
Sale of extra membership badges	4.00
Sale of Shoulder Patches	32.00
1976 Happy Hour profit	27.40
Hike Liability Insurance refund	<u>6.00</u>



Total Receipts

1,645.40

Total of 1975 Balance and Receipts

3,684.95

Expenses:

"Along the Towpath" - October 1975	84.20
"Along the Towpath" - Four 1976 Editions	549.30
Cash advance to Editor (all newsletter and brochure costs have been reimbursed)	125.00
Watch Chairman Expenses (Ed Wesely)	(284.27)
Alert notices on Senate Bill	\$35.91
Phone calls	31.71
Attorney fees	181.65
Maryland Conservation Council	35.00
Reunion Liability Insurance	45.00
5,000 Membership Brochures	266.49
Level Walker Chairman costs	23.08
Badge Chairman costs	22.83
Treasurer's costs (12 months to June 76)	45.56
Brunswick Recreation Services	15.00
Memorial plant	<u>12.18</u>

Total Expenses

1,472.91

Balance on Hand - 31 December 1976

2,212.04

Checkbook Balance:

Actual as of 12/27/76	
Plus two checks not yet cashed #229	\$143.25
#230	<u>31.71</u>
	174.96



2,212.04

174.96
2,387.00

Bank Statement: 12/31/76

2,387.00

208 information: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is now working on a plan to clean up the region's rivers and streams, as part of a two-year federally funded program authorized by Section 208 of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments.

At the April 29 C & O Canal Association meeting representatives from COG presented a slide show about regional water needs, problems, and possible solutions. To obtain first hand information, contact Ellen Fried at COG, 202-223-6800 extension 395.

The Commission met in April at NPS Headquarters to discuss the following matters:

- archaeological digs and restoration at Lockhouses 25 & 75
- CETA maintenance crews in Allegany and Washington Counties
- youth programs along the canal
- suggested inventory of flora and fauna
- General Plan of NPS with 32 sections in 5 zones or use categories
- hunting problems along the canal
- acquisition of McMahon's Mill

For further information contact commission members:

Donald Frush, Chairman

Constance Morella, Vice Chairman

External Relations

Rockwood H. Foster, Chairman
Kenneth S. Rollins
Bonnie Troxell
Edwin F. Wesely Jr.
Silas F. Starry

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James B. Coulter, Chairman
Nancy C. Long
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Lorenzo W. Jacobs, Jr.
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Special Projects

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John D. Millar
Constance Morella
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Publicity

Dayton C. Casto, Jr., Chairman
James H. Gilford
Rockwood H. Foster
William R. Failor, ex officio

Legislation

Silas F. Starry, Chairman
James B. Coulter
Constance Morella
John C. Frye



MINUTES of the C & O Canal Association Board Meeting April 24, 1977

Bonnie Troxell called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm on April 24, 1977, at the Glen Echo Town Hall. Also present were Nancy Long, Alan Hedin, Bill Davies, Ed Wesely, John Howard, Carl Linden, Lyman Stucker, M.E. Johns, John Chandler, Beverly Rhodes, and Merle Van Horne.

Several notices from the Corps of Engineers on projects affecting the C & O Canal were read and discussed briefly.

Ed Wesely reported on the annual hike status. Merle Van Horne discussed plans for train travel to the hike.

The Board decided to place \$2000 of Association funds in a savings account. Nominations for the Board were discussed.

Nancy Long suggested we invite Bill Failor to meet with the Association on a regular basis to discuss canal matters. It was decided to hold a level walkers meeting on May 21 at 10 am at Hancock, Md., to discuss improved reporting and an expanded role for the level walkers. This would be followed by a Board meeting with Failor on June 11 at 10 am at his office near Sharpsburg.

MINUTES of the C & O Canal Association General Membership Meeting

Bonnie Troxell called the meeting to order at 8pm on April 29, 1977, at the Isaac Walton League Farm in Poolesville, Md.

Doug Greene indicated a balance on hand of \$2212.04 as of December 31, 1976.

The new treasurer, M.E. Johns, and new Towpath editor, Blanca Poteat, were introduced.

John Chandler gave a report on the budget for 1977.

Bill Davies was appointed to the resolution committee.

Ed Wesely reported on hike plans. He also discussed the Sugarloaf Regional Trails program.

Nancy Long reported on the recent C & O Canal Advisory Commission meeting. An enhanced role for the C & O Canal Association was discussed.

~~Ken Rollins~~

Ken Rollins was introduced as the Association historian.

Barbara Yeaman moved that we vote life membership for the

Ken Rollins was introduced as the Association historian.

Barbara Yeaman moved that we vote life membership for the nine hikers who completed the original 1954 hike and selected supporting people. Passed.

It was suggested that the Association investigate a commemorative stamp or postmark for 150 year anniversary of the canal.

It was moved and passed that officers' terms be reduced from three years to one year effective in 1978.

Nancy Long reported the nominating committee recommendation that all board members whose terms are expiring be re-elected except Lynn DeHart who be replaced by Gilbert Gude. The recommendations were accepted by vote of the membership present.

C & O PARK EVENTS during July - 301-299-3613 for information

- **Free Canoe Lessons:** one hour lessons dealing with basic canoeing techniques and safety, all equipment provided, no reservations needed. Sponsored by the Canoe Cruisers Association, Fletcher's Boat House, and the National Park Service.
Tuesdays: Fletcher's Boat House
Thursdays: Swain's Lock Boat House
- Along the Towpath:** a one hour walk along the towpath with discussion of the canal and local history, including the Civil War period.
Sunday July 17, Great Falls Tavern, 2:00 pm
- Aqueduct and Incline Plane:** a two hour walking tour and discussion of the canal's operation, milling and aqueducts in the Georgetown area.
Saturday July 16 and July 30, Foundry Visitor Center 10:00am
30th Street in Georgetown
- Seneca Walk:** one hour walk along the canal, discussion of the stone quarry, aqueduct, locks, and Civil War operations.
Saturday July 23, 2:00 pm behind Seneca Lockhouse, Riley's Lock Road
- Catfish and Caution:** a short fishing excursion to learn about some catfish haunts, baits, river hazards in the Great Falls area. Bring fishing gear and Md. or Va. fishing license if over 16.
Saturday July 23, Great Falls Tavern, 6:30 pm
- Medicinal Herbs:** identification, collection, preparation, and application of medicinal plants in the Great Falls region.
Saturday July 16, Great Falls Tavern, 2:00 pm
- Ghostly Tales on the Canal Clipper:** supernatural stories aboard the Canal Clipper through an 1890's living history program. Bring your own ghost story.
Sundays, July 17 & 31, and Wednesday, July 27
call 301-299-3613 for tickets
- Mather Gorge Hike:** a four hour hike along Billy Goat Trail below Great Falls. Bring a canteen of water and wear hiking boots.
Friday, July 22, Great Falls Tavern 9:00 am
- Port O' Georgetown:** 1½ hour walk along the canal and through historic Georgetown.
Sunday July 24, Foundry Visitor Center, 10:00 am
- The Sights and Sounds of Summer:** through slides and a walk the story of the natural surroundings of the park environment, two hours.
Wednesday July 27 & Saturday July 30 (first and last Wednesday and Saturday of each month)
Great Falls Tavern, 10:00 am
- Look and See:** 1½ hour environmental awareness walk for children in the Great Falls area.
Wednesday July 27, Great Falls Tavern, 10:30 am
- Lockhouse by Moonlight:** a midnight campfire to discover what life was like for locktenders and boatmen on the Canal. Bring a cup, marshmallows, and a musical instrument.
Friday July 29, Lock 8 parking area off George Washington Memorial Parkway (Maryland) near Cabin John, 12:00 midnight
- Weeds of Wrath:** identify poisonous plants sprouting in the wilderness and in cultivated plots in the Great Falls region.
Sunday July 31, Great Falls Tavern, 2:00 pm

Clippers Along the C & O Canal - The Washington Post recently printed an article by Michael Kernan about a canaler named William Clipper. Based on tapes made by Ed Wesely, it told of Clipper's boyhood near Seneca, his work on the canal grain boats from the age of 14, a mule named Old Jerry that pulled the work scow from Key Bridge to Great Falls until they retired him at age 30. Bill Clipper died in 1972 at age 89, but his family gathers four generations together from time to time and recalls their roots along the towpath.



JUNE 18, 1977 BOARD MEETING

At the recent Board meeting at the office of Bill Faylor, C & O Park Superintendant, items under discussion included:

- Lockhouse 7
- the footbridge below Lock 15
- storage building at Oldtown

More detailed information will be included in the next newsletter.

Hiking the canal

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS will publish five new trail guides in the near future.

Included will be a bike trail along the canal towpath and a river canoe trail, both from Point of Rocks to the Edward's Ferry area. For more information call Gail Rothrock at the Trails Office, 301-926-4510.

THE CANAL CLIPPER

Two hour rides by mule-drawn barge on the Canal, with a living history program combining music and dialogue to recreate life on a 19th century canal boat.

Lock 3 on the canal at 30th Street in Georgetown

Sundays and Wednesdays: 12:30 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays: 11 am, 1:30 pm, 4 pm

Tickets at the Visitor Center: Adults \$2

Children under 12 \$1

MEMBERSHIP

Over 50 new members have joined the Association this spring, many during the reunion hike.

WELCOME!

For membership information, contact chairman

Beverly Rhodes

4955 Butterworth Place NW

Washington D.C. 20016

202-363-8187

CONCERTS ON THE CANAL Sunday afternoons 12 to 5 pm through August 14
Foundry Visitor Center
30th Street in Georgetown

Mr. William Davies
125 West Greenway Blvd.
Falls Church, Va.
22046



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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TIMES VALUE PLEASED EXCHANGED

"ALONG THE TOWPATH"
C & O Canal Association
P.O. Box 66
Glen Echo, Md. 20768

"IT IS A REFUGE, A PLACE OF RETREAT, A LONG
STRETCH OF QUIET AND PEACE AT THE CAPITOL'S
BACK DOOR....."

Several hundred people, including a
quorum from the Supreme Court, gathered at
Lock 3 to witness the unveiling of a sculpture
by Wendy Ross, and to celebrate the dedication
of the C & O Canal and towpath to Justice
William O. Douglas.

It was a clear, hot May 17, unlike the
cold day in March 1954 when Douglas began the
hike from Cumberland to Washington to demon-
strate the need for the Canal's preservation.

Seventeen years later the Canal was
designated as a National Historical Park. It
took much longer to protect the 185 miles than
to walk it.

At the dedication Justice Douglas thanked
everyone for their support. They joined him in
appreciation of his perseverance in the cause
of this 'long stretch of quiet and peace.....'

