

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

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ANNUAL HIKE 1978



On Saturday, April 29, about 600 people met at Paw Paw to hike to Oldtown, the 24th Annual Justice Douglas Reunion Hike of the C & O Canal Association. The dinner at the Paw Paw, West Virginia, Fire Department was enjoyed by 230, which required immense effort by the Ladies Auxiliary, since the seating capacity is usually 150!

Resolutions presented by Ken Rollins to the Board Meeting on July 13, 1978:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Standing/Sitting Committee on the 24th Annual Justice Douglas Reunion Hike of the C & O Canal Association....

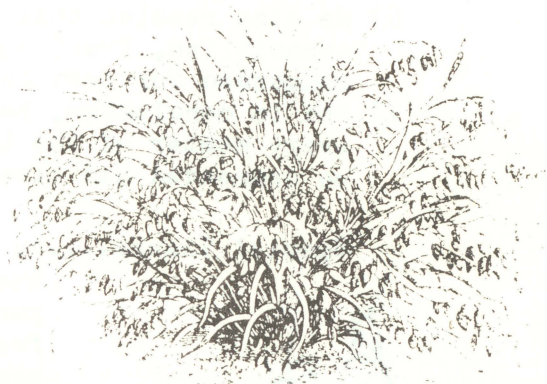
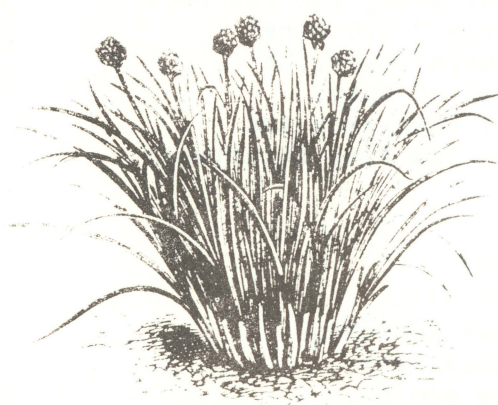
Be it resolved that the members of the C & O Canal Association Board of Directors hereby resolve by acclamation that

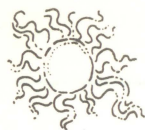
- 1) Our profound thanks to the U.S. Park Service for its dedicated and effective service to all of the members and guests of the C & O Canal Association.
- 2) Our profound thanks to the Sheriffs of Allegany County.
- 3) Our especial thanks to each of the good people of Paw Paw for their welcome to us as we converged beyond the one-lane bridge.
- 4) We therefore, by this resolution, commend and applaud Her Honor Shirley Gross, Mayor of Paw Paw.
- 5) In similar vein, we salute Mr. And Mrs. Pawley for their attention to our needs as we converged on this garden spot along the Potomac.
- 6) We also resolve that the retiring officers of the C & O Canal Association, President Bonnie Troxell and her associates, be commended for services above and beyond the call of duty.
- 7) And in conclusion, be it resolved beyond recall that each and every member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Paw Paw Fire Department be commended and given our personal thanks.

Special Thanks....to William Whalen, Director of
the National Park Service for his
participation and after dinner address,
from which the following points have
been selected for members who could
not be present....



- First and foremost, Mr. Whalen expressed appreciation for the long and foresighted effort of Justice William O. Douglas to preserve and protect the C & O Canal and towpath.
- The National Park Service has requested Congress to appropriate \$7.5 million for 1979 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to complete acquisition within park boundaries set in 1971.
- A great distinction of the C & O Canal is the community-government relationship that continues to grow and serve as the backbone of the concentrated effort to protect and further develop this important natural, historical and recreational resource.
- "One of our major concerns for the park and its future is the prevention of further deterioration and decay. We are dedicated to preserving the atmosphere of past times and enduring natural beauty and safeguarding historic remains and natural features."
- The Park Service has begun a major program of resource preservation and stabilization. "The canal is a vast educational resource from which our society can learn a great deal about living in harmony with our environment. Its historic structures tend to remind us of the continuity of culture."
- Interior Secretary Andrus has set as highest priority the protection of 92 million acres of parkland in Alaska. When Yellowstone Park was established a century ago, it too seemed remote from the population and difficult to visit. The fragile environment in Alaska should be preserved while it is still remote from the our population and its impact.
- "The future of the C & O Canal National Historical Park depends on the continued interest of citizens like yourselves. The support of interested citizens is invaluable to the National Park Service in our effort to protect our nation's park values and to provide for the recreational needs of our people." Whalen called upon help to preserve the park without threatening its historical and environmental integrity. He cited concern over the effects of potential overuse of the park. "We have a responsibility to assure that our parks remain unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."
- Mr. Whalen expressed his intention to participate in next year's 25th Annual Hike of the entire towpath as his schedule will permit.





NEW LEVEL WALKER CHAIRMAN



Lyman Stucker
2811 Farm Road
Alexandria
Virginia 22302

Please forward all your reports to
Lyman, as well as changes of address,
suggestions, etc.

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS

Oldtown 164.8-167.0

Bruce Wood walked this section on the day of the Annual Hike. The towpath is in excellent condition. He noticed signs of beaver in the area. Culvert 216 was inspected carefully for signs of further erosion. Lockhouse 68 was open but filthy and strewn with debris.

Fort Frederick 112.4-114.5

Jane and Harold Larsen report that this section also is in excellent shape. They encountered more than the usual number of towpath users. Blooming plants are a bit late this year, but many birds were in evidence. There was much activity at Fort Frederick.

Swain's Lock to Pennyfield Lock 16.6-19.6

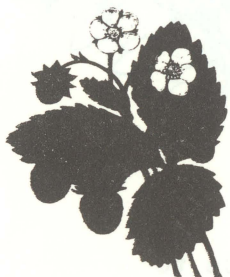
Joan Paull rented a bicycle at Swain's to get the 'feel' of the towpath, which was in excellent shape at the end of May. She noted that about a thousand feet down canal from the foot bridge to the filtration plant there is a section of about two hundred feet along the canal side of the towpath that is beginning to break away from the path. The overflow rock section of the towpath about two hundred feet up canal from Swain's has grown in width in the last three years and may need some work.

In the picnic area there were about twenty people, and along the towpath there were 16 canoeists, 19 bicyclists, 14 hikers, 4 dogs, and 8 fishermen. Also phlox, wild garlic, and small daisies. And she collected a full leaf bag of trash.

There appears to be a parking problem at Swain's Lock Road. And milepost 18 was nowhere to be seen.

Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry 27.2-30.8

Charles and Florence Otstot hiked this section on May 28, and report several thousand dead carp, mostly 18-24 inches, in canal pools. These were likely washed into the canal during spring flooding and were trapped as the water drained into a culvert at Mile 29.35. There was only one turkey vulture to scavenge. Other creatures noted were squirrels, a rabbit, brown thrush, cardinals, field sparrows, turtles, butterflies, and only a few mosquitoes. Also about fifty bicyclists, twelve hikers, some of whom were picnicing at Chisel Branch, one horse and rider, evidence of other horses, and more than twenty fisher folk.



At Edwards Ferry the reconstruction of the lockhouse appears to be going well, but other construction seems behind schedule. At the parking area a sign warned of resurfacing May 13 but the area was still dirt and potholes. Also a sign on the path downstream from Edwards Ferry warning of culvert reconstruction. The stonework at the canal exit for Goose Creek River Lock is in very bad repair. Also needing attention: a wash at about Mile 28.4 needs at least two truckloads of fill, a wash at Mile 29.3 needs a load, and the chemical toilet should be pulled out of the debris in Lock 25. The Chisel Branch Hiker-Biker was clean, but the pump and grill were inoperative, and there seems to be a need for additional picnic tables.

Snyder's Landing to Lock 40 76.7-79.4

Harold A. Cramer Sr. reports this level in excellent condition. Several sections of the towpath between miles 77 and 79 have been resurfaced with a clay and gravel mixture, which may alleviate the recurring erosion problems here. At mile 78.9 and 79.1 there are some rutted, uneven places. Milepost 78 has been uprooted and was propped against a tree at our visit, April 30.

Lock 40 to Marsh Run Culvert 79.4-81.6

Harold A. Cramer Jr. and William Cramer walked this level also on April 30 and report it in good condition. In the Horseshoe Bend area (80.0-80.7) recent high water seems to have added to and rearranged the debris accumulated since Hurricane Agnes between the towpath and the river. Work has been done to the bridge over the canal leading to the Taylor's Landing boat ramp (81.0). The bridge is several inches higher than the adjoining road surface, but concrete has been added to make the approach smoother.

Brookmont to Cabin John 5-7.5

Philip Stone walked this level on April 30 and found the towpath in good to excellent condition. Water depth in the canal was in the 18-24 inch range from Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek, although there was still a delta obstructing navigation at the mouth of a small stream entering the canal just upstream from the Sycamore Island bridge.

The screen of trees between the berm side of the canal and the George Washington Memorial Parkway becomes taller and thicker each year, providing a fairly good visual and auditory barrier

which reduces the impact of parkway traffic. The litter problem was minimal, which is surprising in view of the heavy use. Masses of wild blue phlox and golden ragwort made especially nice displays and many paw paw trees along the towpath were in flower. I heard or saw a dozen species of birds in the mid-afternoon, a small fraction of what might have been found in early morning.

The 279 recreational users observed in two hours on a mild Sunday afternoon in late April compare with 228 on May 1, 1977, and 311 on October 30, 1977. The number of fishermen increased sharply, and there were a violinist and a guitarist practicing on the canal bank.

Little Cacapon River to Town Creek 159.6-162.3



On a visit April 13, Marvin Wilkerson was pleased to observe the result of the Town Creek aqueduct stabilization work. The aluminum railings look obtrusive at present but may look less so as they age. Town Creek Hiker-Biker is okay with the pump operational, though the porta-pottie could be emptied.

The recent resurfacing of parts of the towpath was packed down enough so that it is not so laborious for hikers, though on this cool April weekday there was only one long distance hiker and a NPS work truck.

Edith noted about ten varieties of spring flowers in bloom although spring was lagging. A few turtles were out sunning, and there were some interesting signs of beaver.

Wood's Lock to Monocacy Aqueduct

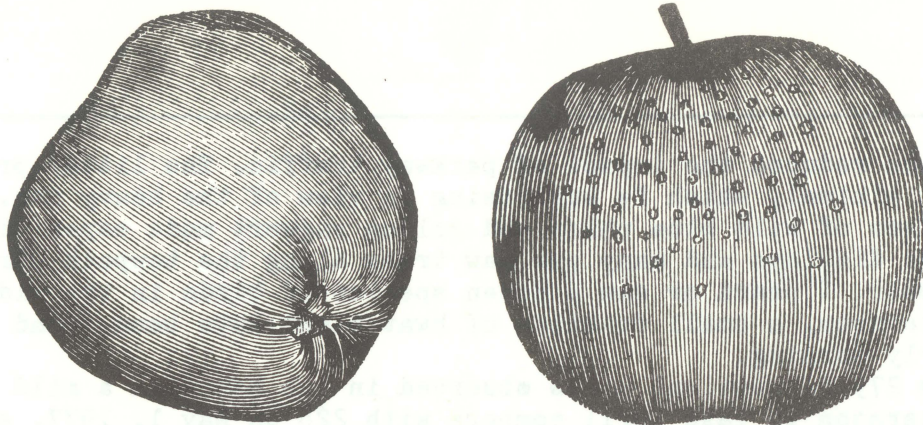
When Frances and Anson Courter walked this section on April 2, they noted that the frame on the Aqueduct holding stone from additional slipping is ugly but working, and passable on foot with care, and by bicycle if the bike is carried.

The picnic area on the Maryland berm side has been badly treated, including fifty pieces of trash and filthy latrines.

The towpath was generally in good condition. Seep water between Lock 27 and Pepco looked acidic but there were fish. More trash than usual. Just north of Lock 27 the drain bottom is tilted a bit more than last fall, but there was no noticeable additional breakup. The Lockhouse is apparently being repaired.

At the Pepco plant there was less drain than usual from cooling water. The stream of water is not sufficient to keep shallow water in all of the prism bed. A fingerling got its gills full of mud swimming in the shallow water. There was enough water for the sun and gold fish farther down.

There was little left of the lilacs once at Lock 27. There was wort, squirrel corn, jill-over-the-ground. Also kingfisher, mallard and wood ducks, canvas back and maybe ruddy ducks on the river, whitethroats and tree sparrows, pewees, turkey vultures, common crows, jays, robins, Carolina wrens, titmice, chickadees, downy and hairy woodpeckers, redbellied woodpecker, red shoulder hawk, cardinals, nuthatches, but no bluebirds.



THE CANAL - APPLE FESTIVAL

Hancock, Maryland

Sunday, September 10, 1978

Ole Canallers Banquet Hancock High School
5:30-6:30 Social Hour
6:30 Turkey Dinner

Local canallers will be present to comment
on slides taken from glass prints of the
working canal.

Friday, September 15

6-11:00 pm
Displays & games at The Grange Community Show
Hancock Intermediate School
Indian Village along Tonoloway Creek
Redmen Conococheague Tribe #84
Tribe of Pocohantas

Saturday, September 16

Crafts & country music 10:00 am Town center
Annual Canal-Apple Parade 11:00 am
Concert at Park bandstand 3:00 pm
Square dancing, country auction, free trolley
rides and wagon rides, crafts demonstrations,
play "Life Along the Canal", refreshments
Spaghetti Dinner Hancock High School
4:00 - 8:00 pm Hancock PTSA
Dances in the evening

PROJECT CLEARWATER

August 19, 1978

The Catoctin Soil Conservation District and the
Frederick District have arranged a conservation
field day during which a 245 acre farm in Frederick
County will be transformed into a model of soil and
water conservation. The practices to be installed
are representative of those needed on farms in the
state and the nation to control nonpoint pollution
by controlling agricultural runoff, thereby conserving
soil and contributing to the effort to clean up our
rivers and streams.

The Warren Roelkey farm
Knoxville, Maryland
accessible from Route 340

For information contact the Catoctin Soil Conservation District office
Frederick, Maryland 301-663-9111

1979 Reunion Hike Planning

Hike Chairmen:

Bruce Wood
201 I Street SW Apt. 524
Washington D.C.
20024 202-554-5238

Ken Rollins
113 Valley Road
Washington D.C.
20016 301-229-1513

Next spring's hike will cover the entire length of the canal towpath in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the 1954 hike. There will be meetings of the Reunion Hike committee, and ideas and assistance from anyone who is interested will be welcomed and encouraged. Please contact the chairmen.

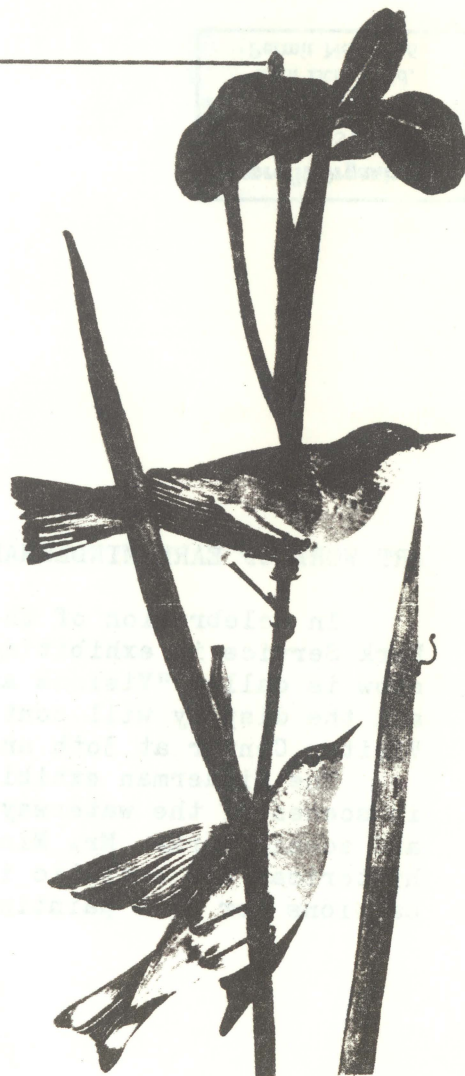
FALL HIKES

Saturday September 9 10:00 am

Historical Walk - Explore the old village site.
Meet at Licking Creek Aqueduct, access from
Interstate 70 via the Indian Springs Exit
Walking distance - 6 miles
Leader - Jim Bryant

Sunday November 5

John Frye will again conduct a walk on the
Grant Conway trail to the Civil War fortifications
on Maryland Heights.
Details later.



Great Falls Public Information Meeting concerning the first of the Park development concept plans to be undertaken. The first meeting was poorly attended, but there will be a second one:

July 26

7:30 pm

Westmoreland Church
Mass. and Western Aves. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Mr. John Faye
Glen Echo
Maryland
21736



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



ART WORK OF EARL MINDERMAN

In celebration of the sesquicentennial of the C & O Canal, the National Park Service is exhibiting the paintings of local artist Earl Minderman. The show is called "Visions and Vistas - Today and Yesterday on the C&O Canal" and the display will continue through July at the park's Georgetown Canal Visitor Center at 30th and Thomas Jefferson Streets, 9-5 daily.

The Minderman exhibit reflects the history associated with the Canal in scenes of the waterway in its heyday, landmarks now vanished or altered, and scenic works. Mr. Minderman's medium is watercolor. To add to the historical and artistic interest of his works, he has provided detailed captions for each painting.

