

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 XVI

OCTOBER 1984

NUMBER 4

Improved

NEW NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE FOR 1985 ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

The Nominations Committee of the C&O Canal Association has never been inundated with letters from members eager to assume any of the elected posts in the Association, and, consequently, has never been faced with the task of paring down to manageable size an unwieldy list of prospective candidates. Rather, the committee has shouldered the considerable burden of producing a single candidate for each position to be filled. Fortunately, Association nominations committees—although sometimes through arm-twisting and cajolery—have never had to confront the membership on election day with a vacant position which no one was willing to assume.

After the Nominations Committee offers its candidates at the election meeting, members in attendance may make nominations from the floor, but this method of providing candidates has almost never been exploited, perhaps because prospective contenders at the meeting feel, although mistakenly, that they couldn't possibly compete with the candidates selected by a wise and august Nominations Committee. Recently, however, some members have expostulated concerning the perceived difficulty of becoming a nominee, and, proceeding on the assumption that there are members interested in serving in Association elected positions not identifiable by either the traditional nominations committee process or the one of accepting nominations from the floor, the Association is instituting an additional procedure by which prospective candidates may call attention to themselves or to each other.

There is a nominations form in this issue of Along the Towpath which is to be sent to the Nominations Committee after entering the name of a candidate and that of the office to which he or she is nominated. The committee will send a questionnaire to each person whose nomination is received by November 15, 1984, asking if he or she consents to serve if elected, and, if so, requesting a brief biography and statement of what he or she would like to do for and with the Association. Each person satisfactorily completing the questionnaire becomes a candidate for the office to which he or she was nominated. The information on the questionnaire is to be published in the issue of Along the Towpath immediately preceding the election meeting. (For the last three years, the election meeting has been held in late February.)

Would you like to edit the newsletter? The editor of the Association's newsletter is not an officer of the Association, nor is he or she a member of the Board. Nevertheless, Along the Towpath, as the publication has been called for the last sixteen years, is the Association's publication of record, can be the first basis on which non-members and prospective members evaluate the Association, and regularly intrudes into the mailboxes of members. It brings news

of Association events, the vicissitudes in the life of a national park, and the actions of others which affect Association members and park officials. It is the Association's largest single sequacious expenditure. Since what the newsletter contains and how information is presented is determined principally by its editor, surely competition for the job of editor is as important as it is for the elected positions.

The appointed position of Membership Chairperson is also a post for which interested members should be encouraged to apply.

Accordingly, to facilitate the identification of members interested in the appointed positions in the Association, there is also a location on the nominations form in this newsletter for them to call attention to themselves.

1984 CANAL HERITAGE WALK DETAILS

from Anne Murphy

The Association's 1984 Canal Heritage Walk will begin at 10AM on October 27, 1984 on the towpath at Fort Frederick (mile 112.4) and will proceed upstream to Lock 51 (mile 122.6), covering a distance of about ten miles. The Heritage Walk is an interpretive hike, and interpreters of park history and geology are expected to be present at Fort Frederick, Licking Creek aqueduct (just stabilized) and Millstone point. Camping will be available on October 26, 1984 at Fort Frederick. Drivers should park at Fort Frederick; transportation will be provided after the hike by volunteers from Lock 51 to the Fort. Participants desiring to eat lunch should bring their lunches with them. The hike will be followed by a social hour with cash bar in Williamsport, and then by a dinner, also in Williamsport, for those making reservations in advance.



Hikers should park in the lot on the right of the fork in the road just inside the entrance to Fort Frederick State Park. A militia demonstration at the fort will begin at 9:15AM, through the courtesy of the Fort Frederick garrison of the Maryland Forces. Coffee and pastry will be available for those who arrive early.

The National Park Service will provide experts who can discuss the Licking Creek aqueduct stabilization project and the significance of the civil war encampment at Millstone point. Association Vice President Bill Davies will also be present to discourse on geological features.

The hike will end at Lock 51, where hikers will be returned to Fort Frederick by volunteer drivers. If you are a driver willing to help operate the hikers' shuttle, and can arrive at Fort Frederick by 9AM, please dispatch forthwith the appropriate form included in this issue of Along the Towpath.

A social hour with cash bar is scheduled for the volunteer firehouse in Williamsport at 5PM (reservations not relevant), with dinner (prepared by Leiter's caterers) in the same location at 6PM (advance reservations required). The cost of the dinner is \$8 per person. A reservation form for dinner is included in this issue of Along the Towpath.

Camping in Fort Frederick, a Maryland state park, will cost \$3, payable to the Maryland Park Service upon arrival in camp. Please note that the camping area is between the canal and the river and is not the site of parking on hike day.

Remember, this hike provides a good opportunity to invite non-members of the Association to join with Association members in an activity which is at the nucleus of affiliation with the Association: hiking. Furthermore, those unfamiliar

with the park will appreciate interpretations of historical features, both cultural and natural. The dinner is open to non-members making reservations in advance. For further information about this hike, call Hike Committee chairman Arthur Korff (301-933-4353). See you on the 27th!

Directions to Fort Frederick: Fort Frederick State Park is located near Big Pool, Md., approximately 70 miles from the junction of Interstates 495 and 270, about ten miles east of Hancock and 15 miles west of I-81. The park entrance is on Md. 56 about 1.5 miles south of the Big Pool/Indian Springs exit of I-70. The entrance is clearly marked.

A Great Public Outcry

FECKLESS LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

from Bob Greenspun

A subcommittee in the US House of Representatives reviewed, during 1983 and 1984, "the Department of the Interior's efforts to halt or delay new parkland purchases," and, in June 1984, published a report(1) on its efforts. This tendentious report makes it clear that the subcommittee regards the recent reluctance of the Department of the Interior to acquire new parkland as nothing less than a threat to "irreplaceable national treasures." The report provides background information on parkland acquisition, and discussions of "administration attempts to curb land acquisition" and the ill effects of land acquisition delays. Some of the discussion is summarized and excerpted below.

Before about 1960, national parks were established from lands already in the public domain and from contributions of lands. Since that time, the Congress has additionally authorized new national parks and additions to old ones which "require the purchase of what had been mainly private lands before the units could be opened to the public." To provide adequate funding for these purchases, the legislature established the Land and Water Conservation Fund(LWCF) in 1965, currently authorized at \$900 million per year through 1989, with 40% of this amount designated for federal land acquisition. In nineteen years the Park Service has used about \$2 billion of these moneys to procure parkland. Such purchases, like all federal land purchases, are subject to law(2) requiring an agency to offer no less than an amount equal to the "fair market" value of the land, to pay most of the costs of transfer of title, and to pay the moving expenses of the owner.



In addition to the purchase of lands—known as "acquisition in fee"—Congress has also authorized the use of "scenic easements:" arrangements by which the Park Service does not own the land, the owner cannot develop it (preserving the view), and the public does not have access to it. The Park Service, in 1979 (and again in 1983), required each park unit manager to prepare a "land protection plan," which was to "fully consider" alternatives to fee acquisition.

Beginning in 1981, the Department of the Interior attempted to postpone the acquisition of additional parkland despite the authorization of expenditures by Congress and the available moneys in the LWCF. It also explored the possibility of divesting itself of several national parks. The divestiture attempt failed owing to "a great public outcry," and a Park Service study of alternatives to fee acquisition concluded that the NPS "should acquire in fee most tracts to carry out Congressional mandates...." Nevertheless, the Interior Department subsequently restricted the number of new condemnation cases it would prosecute, required that nonprofit organizations disclose private financial agreements made in the process of securing authorized parkland, withdrew from the Park Service the authority to make new land purchases, and, in 1983, required the following process (according to the NPS) to approve a land purchase for an amount over "the appraised value:"

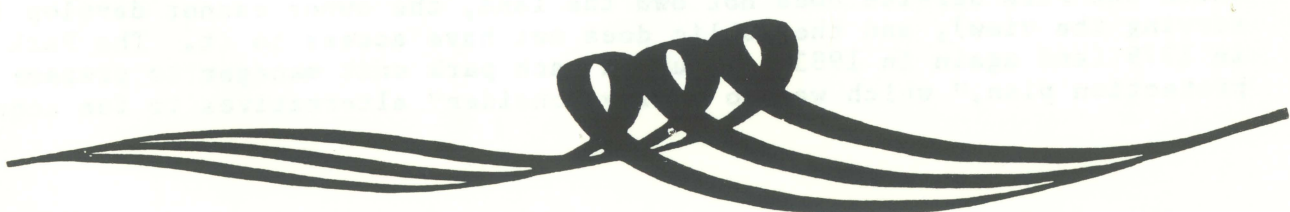
[A] letter [of justification] must be cleared by the following National Park Service officers: The Associate Director, Park Planning and Special Studies; the Chief, Office of Congressional Liaison; the Deputy Director; the Director. At the departmental level, ...by the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, the Office of Congressional Liaison, the Budget Office.../and/ the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Budget and Administration.

As a result of these policies, according to the report, the NPS purchased fewer acres of land in 1981 (18,000 acres), 1982 (18,000) acres and 1983 (13,000 acres) than in any other year since 1966 (the second year of the LWCF). In those three years, the Park Service obligated 81%, 51% and 62%, respectively, of its acquisition funds. ("The historical average had been 75%.") "...few new acquisitions were being processed despite many requests by property owners ...to sell their land...and despite many documented threats to the natural and cultural resources of the parks." Furthermore, delay in spending acquisition funds "thwarts" the purpose of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. One of the sites with documented threats to park resources is Antietam Battlefield, where a two-story house was built in 1983 on a private holding within the park; another is Harpers Ferry NHP, where the owner of three tracts under scenic easement clear-cut the trees and erected a house in violation of the terms of the easement; a third is Manassas Battlefield, where a junkyard was established in the center of a private tract. In the C&O Canal Park, as of April 30, 1984, of the \$356,000 available for land acquisition in FY1984, \$3,700 (slightly over 1%) had been obligated.

Although blaming the "administration" for the hardships and unrecoverable losses caused and incurred by its refusal to acquire new parkland with authorized acquisition funds, the report concludes by suggesting that "the body of law that created and guided" the National Park System, and "the professional cadre of personnel in the NPS who have nursed and protected it for over a century," will very likely continue to "weather" changing attitudes and continue to protect our national treasures.

1. Land Acquisition Policy and Program of the National Park Service, A report prepared by the staff of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the US House of Representatives, 98th Congress, second session, Committee Print No. 7, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, June 1984.

2. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.



NEW PARK SERVICE VISITOR CENTER OPENS IN FORMER WESTERN MARYLAND
RAILROAD STATION AT CANAL TERMINUS IN CUMBERLAND

The interior of the former Western Maryland railroad station at the canal terminus in Cumberland has been remodeled by the Western Maryland Station Center, Inc., which will rent space in the refurbished historic building to various organizations. The C&O Canal NHP has rented nearly 500 square feet in the southwest corner of the building for use as a visitor center. The nearest visitor center to Cumberland has been the one in Hancock.

The center was to have opened in September 1984, and, on weekends during October 1984 (except for the 20th), will be open from 10AM to 4PM and will feature special programs.

On October 6 and 7 Canal Park Superintendent Dick Stanton will present an illustrated lecture on his canoe trip during the summer of 1984 down the Potomac. The Superintendent will lecture at 11AM and 3PM.

On October 13 and 14 people who lived or worked on, or who were familiar with, the canal will be present, sharing their memories of their experiences and their memorabilia. A black-and-white film, Down the Potomac, produced by the old film company of Thomas Edison, will be shown on the hour.

On October 21 the Keystone Grass musical group will perform in the bluegrass, gospel and country styles from noon until 1:45PM. The Hillside Ramblers will follow from 2:45PM until 4PM.

On October 27 and 28, park chief mule driver Edie Roudebush will bring Kit and Katey, two of the mules towing the barges at Georgetown and Great Falls, to the visitor center. In addition, the musicians from the Great Falls Tavern will perform popular music of the 1870s on the hour.

All programs are free of charge. For further information, including the regular hours and a description of the permanent displays, call 301-739-4200 or 301-678-5463.



The former Western Maryland railroad station at the canal terminus in Cumberland is now a retail and office complex.

NOTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION BOARD'S MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 1984

The Board decided that if the dinner after the 1984 Heritage Walk should cost the Association more than \$8 per person, subscribers would be charged only that amount, with the deficit "absorbed by the Association as part of its effort to attract new members...." As is usually the case, receipts for drinks sold at the social hour before dinner are expected to exceed expenditures.

The President has appointed an Annual Meeting Planning Committee; the Association's annual general membership meeting has been held in February since 1982. Members interested in addressing aspects of the annual meeting may write to committee chairman Brad Haigh at the Association address.

In an attempt to determine the appropriate repository for the Association's "reserve funds," the Board voted to consult an attorney on the question of whether there is a maximum rate of interest on deposits permitted to a non-profit organization before making a decision.

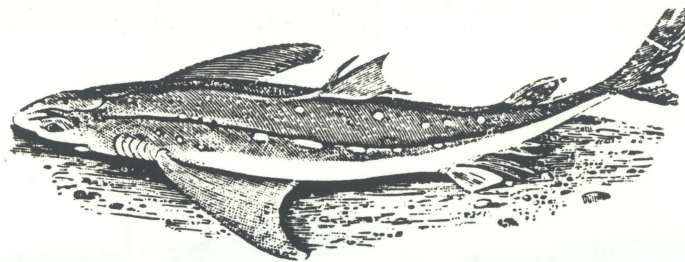
Treasurer John Chandler is currently the custodian of the Douglas memorabilia given to the Association.

The Board did not come to a decision on the designs of proposed new Association badges or accompanying decorations to be awarded to whole-canal hikers on the three Association-sponsored whole-canal hikes.

The Board discussed the matter of a permanent telephone number for the Association but took no action on it.

The next Board meeting will be held on Dec. 2, 1984, time and place to be determined. All members are welcome at Board meetings. To receive notification of the location of, and the agenda at, this meeting, write to President Wood at the Association address.

from Arthur Korff



Along the Towpath is published in January, April, July and October by the C&O Canal Association, a nonprofit organization, P. O. Box 66, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0066.

Editor is Robert Greenspun, 413 W. Windsor Ave., Alexandria, VA 22302, to whom correspondence and contributions should be addressed. The editor welcomes communication with the readership. Requests for publication of advertising should be sent to the Board of Directors at the Association address.

Production and Distribution Assistants for this issue are Rita Hirrlinger and Emmie Woodward.

Association officers for the 1984-1985 year are:

President: Bruce Wood, 5703 40th Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781

First Vice President: Bill Davies, 125 W. Greenway Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22046

2nd VP & Level Walker Chmn: Lyman Stucker, 2811 Farm Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302

Secretary: Arthur Korff, 3705 Calvert Place, Kensington, MD 20895

Treasurer: John Chandler, 6718 Persimmon Tree Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817

Information Officer: Karen Gray, 825 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037

Association Dues: One year \$8, patron \$15.

Membership includes subscription to Along the Towpath.

VIP Corner

By Joan Paull

The Volunteers in the Park program (or VIP's as the National Park system calls us) has had a very successful year! Our efforts to assist with interpretive programs, maintenance, historical documentation, and other assigned work have allowed the park to free rangers for other assignments or move along projects underway.

The Alexandria Aqueduct project proved to the park and the members of the C & O Canal Association that there was a need for volunteers and that we could get the job done. Hopefully, our commitment to this concept will continue for the coming year.

Our efforts to camouflage the "social" trails at Great Falls may have helped to save some lives by keeping the public away from dangerous and unprotected areas along the river.

Thanks to: Dave Johnson, Bob Woodall, John Chandler, Sally and Jim Larson, Sarah and Jennifer Kurtz, Jennifer LeMaster, Rita Hirrlinger, Michelle Carsrud, and Ranger Donna Donaldson.

The clearing of brush, weeds, and unwanted trees at O'Brien's Basin has made it easier for the interpretive program given by park rangers to see the configuration of the basin as talks are given as to how the Antietam Iron Works used the canal.

Thanks to: Rita Hirrlinger, Ed Vernon, Dave Johnson, Bejay Myers, Sue Ann Sullivan, Bob Pennington, Mi mi Eller, Laura Malich, Rangers Rick Erisman and Roland Hamilton.

Our covering the Concerts on the Canal every other Sunday for the last two summers has given the park a high visibility. It is hard to believe that many people still do not know that the canal is a National Historic Park, or that park property is being used for public programs.

Thanks to : Al Stanley and Bruce Wood

Near Harper's Ferry is an old canal house which was storing remains of old lock houses and other structures important to the canal. Lee Struble, park Curator, was concerned that fire, vandalism, or deterioration would cause the park to lose these items. However, all of these have been moved to her place at Ferry Hill.

Thanks to: Lou Dobbs, Bejay Myers, Lee Struble, and Larry in maintenance.

Additional help has been given to Lee at Ferry Hill by cleaning and cataloging canal documents. These are then placed in permanent storage. The iron pieces that were brushed and waxed will be able to be stored for about fifteen years without additional hand care.

Thanks to: Sue Ann Sullivan, Cathryn Finch, Bejay Myers, Marge Fox, and Betty Bushell.

The two new trails at the Carderock parking lot will allow people easier access to the towpath. Also, erosion had caused a steep bank to erode. Eight log steps were put in. After the park put in new timbers for the pivot bridge at Great Falls, and the railing along the lock, these were painted and will last for several years.

Thanks to: Bob Woodall

Locks 51 and 52 will have an easier time with intrusion of vegetation. Many hours were spent with these upper canal locks to help prevent faster deterioration.

Thanks to: Kent and Marcia Minichiello and their "lock crews".

TREASURER'S PROJECTED BUDGET FOR CY1984

Treasurer Chandler submitted the following projected budget to the Board, which approved it at its meeting of August 19, 1984:

<u>Estimated Receipts</u>	<u>\$13,290</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditures</u>	<u>\$13,040</u>
Membership dues	2,400	Newsletter	2,200
Annual meeting	468	Annual meeting	412
Spring hike	9,362	Spring hike	8,853
Heritage walk	600	Heritage walk	600
Interest	400	Volunteer & NPS support	100
Miscellaneous	60	Level walkers	50
		Contributions	200
		Stationery	175
		Membership brochures	150
		Misc. postage	175
		Other	125
<u>Estimated Surplus: \$250</u>			
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Balance, January 1, 1984		\$8,802	
Est. surplus, CY 1984		250	
Est. balance, December 31, 1984		<u>\$9,052</u>	



President's Column

Another Washington summer is over and we can look forward to becoming more active on the Canal. More volunteer work, the Heritage hike, and Level Walker Hikes are planned for the autumn. I hope each of you can participate in one or more of our activities.

Repair work on the Canal Towpath is proceeding, making for a very walkable and bikeable pathway once again. The Maintenance force of the National Park Service is to be commended for their fine work in this regard, as well as for the devotion they commit to stabilization and reconstruction of deteriorated structures.

Our own volunteer force has been active, though not so productive as the Park Service, if only because of our limited ability to work on the canal as well as our livelihoods.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a notice from the Nominating Committee, asking for your recommendations of people to run for five Board positions and six Officer positions that will be elected in February. I hope you will take some time to think of those fellow members whom you believe would be valuable assets to your Association's leadership.

You will also find in this issue information about the October 27 Heritage Hike, which should prove very interesting, with Canal and Militia activities during the day and an interesting slide presentation by Dick Stanton in the evening. The weather should be nice by that time, so y'all come!

Bruce W. Wood

Book Review

A Beginner's Guide to Wildflowers of the C&O Towpath, Edwin M Martin, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1984. 56 pp. + plates. \$8.95

from Helen L Johnston

The format of this guide is attractive and easy for an amateur to follow. The brief descriptions of each species are clear and include items of interest to many: specifically, the country of origin of introduced species and the past or present uses of plants for food or other purposes. Most of the photographs are good to excellent, but the use of enlarged images for some and not for others—with no explanation—may confuse the beginner. (For example, see the hairy beardtongue and the Virginia bluebell, numbers 97 and 102.) Also the identification below the pictures is not always consistent with that in the index and in the text. (An example is the plant identified as "dogtooth violet" in the picture, "adder's tongue" in the index, and "dog-tooth violet, yellow adder's tongue, trout lily" in the text.)

The author does not claim that his book is a comprehensive guide. Instead he lists 120 species "that he saw in bloom...at eight selected points between Georgetown and Cumberland...covered at approximately one-month intervals from April to October 1982." One wonders if he deliberately omitted such showy trees and shrubs as redbud, dogwood, bladder nut, persimmon, osage orange, sassafras, pawpaw, fringe tree and shadbush. He includes, on the other hand, blackberry, multiflora rose, elderberry and buttonbush.

Some other omissions that are hard to explain include saxifrages, bluets, golden alexander and wild geranium. Among later bloomers omitted are butterfly pea, ruellia and ironweed. All of these can be readily seen without straying from the towpath.

The guide (4½" by 8½") does not fit conveniently into a pocket or knapsack along with other guides an amateur naturalist may be addicted to carrying. Moreover, the cover of my copy is starting to come unglued although it has been carried very little.

At \$8.95 the book is costly compared to either of the other guides frequently used by wildflower enthusiasts along the canal: Roger T Peterson and Margaret McKenny's A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern and North-Central North America, and Lawrence Newcomb's Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Both of these other guides have keys that an interested amateur can follow easily, they would not leave a wildflower enthusiast frustrated as often by the omission of the particular flower he is observing, they cover flowering plants elsewhere in the C&O Park and adjoining areas as well as those along the towpath, and they are sturdy volumes of a convenient size for pocket or backpack.



Evonymus,
Clusius, 1601

(Helen L Johnston is a frequent lecturer on wildflowers for the C&O Canal NHP.)

C&O CANAL PARK AND STATE OF MARYLAND AGREE ON ENDANGERED PLANT REPORTING

The Park Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have executed a memorandum of understanding by which the Park Service will provide "new or updated information on rare, threatened and endangered species, sensitive or exemplary natural communities, and other significant natural features" to the state's Heritage Program. The Heritage Program, in turn, will deposit these reports in its databank of such information, and will analyze the data in this repository from time to time.

BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN CANAL PARK AND MEXICO FARMS INDUSTRIAL PARK

As part of its expansion plans, the industrial park at Mexico Farms (near Cumberland) had intended to install a new sewage treatment system approximately 120 feet from the canal. After a meeting with the Park Service and the Maryland Historical Trust, at which the Park Service determined that a buffer zone of at least 300 feet would be required to shield adequately the park from the proposed development, an Allegany County planner said he did not foresee any difficulty in expanding the buffer zone to 300 feet.

ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING NOTES ARE MISSING

Readers accustomed to confronting the subtleties and details of Park politics, policies and operations from accounts of the Advisory Commission meetings usually appearing in these pages, will be disappointed that no notes from the minutes of the May 1984 meeting are to be found in this issue of Along the Towpath. The reason is that Along the Towpath had not yet, as of press time, received a copy of the minutes of that meeting. Either the minutes have not yet been typed, or Along the Towpath's name was, presumably inadvertently, removed from the mailing list, or, perhaps, the minutes went astray in the mails. The significance of such an event extends beyond the mere absence of the knowledge gleaned from an examination of the Advisory Commission's deliberations. Rather, it is to be found in the observation that, without an Association reporter to ferret out relevant and stimulating information, we are, and will remain, dependent on the Park Service for what we know about the Park.

In times of close cooperation between the Association and the Park Service, when the two groups agree on policy and program, there is probably nothing amiss in such an arrangement. If, however, the Association and the NPS ever found themselves at odds in matters which profoundly affected the park, it requires little imagination to understand how poorly the Association would be served by depending on the adversary for information.



SHORT ITEMS

The Park Service was to have proposed to the Advisory Commission in September 1984 a \$200,000 plan to close the break in the towpath at Widewater.

Harvey Sorenson has been promoted to Chief Ranger at the Harpers Ferry NHP. His position as Piedmont District Ranger has been filled by Dwight Stinson, formerly of Harpers Ferry.

Superintendent Stanton's illustrated lecture on his canoe trip down the Potomac visiting the works of the Potowmack Company is, in his words, "a smash hit," with almost twenty bookings by July 1984. This is the presentation to be given at the new Cumberland visitor center on Oct. 6 and 7, and at the dinner after the Association's Heritage Walk on Oct. 27, 1984.

CANAL TOWPATH UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 3, 1984

From the National Park Service

Cumberland to MP 154.9: Towpath intermittently good and less than satisfactory when wet.

MP 136 to MP 127.3: Top surface damaged. Work 85% completed.

MP 122 to MP 120: Top surface damaged; work in progress.

MP 106.9: Has been repaired.

MP 106.8: Has been repaired.

MP 106 to Williamsport (MP 100): Reasonably good shape; 95% completed.

MP 93 to MP 88.9: Small washouts upstream of Lock 43; in process of removing mud from towpath. Towpath in fair condition.

MP 88.9 (Lock 41) to Dam #4 (MP 85.6): Extremely muddy when wet. Safe biking not possible; work in progress.

MP 76.7 (Snyder's Landing) to MP 64: Reasonably good shape, some muc.

MP 64 to Weaverton (MP 58): Towpath from Dam #3 to Route 340 in good condition.

MP 58 (Weaverton) to MP 55: Large potholes repaired; fair condition.

MP 51.5 to MP 48.9 (Lock 28): Large potholes repaired; fair condition.

MP 48.9 to MP 48.2 (Pt. of Rocks): Large potholes repaired; good condition.

MP 48.2 to MP 44.6 (Nolands Ferry): Rutted and muddy when wet; fair condition.

MP 44.6 to MP 42.2: Gets better when dry; fair condition.

MP 42.2 to MP 23.3: Rutted and muddy when wet; fair condition.

MP 23.3 (Seneca) to Great Falls (MP 14.3): Fair condition, mostly to rough grade.

MP 14.3 to Swains Lock: Relatively smooth, fair condition.

Swains Lock to MP 18: Base down, relatively good condition.

MP 14.3 to Lock 10: Good condition when dry.

Lock 10 to Lock 5: Rough graded; fair condition; rough for biking.

Lock 7 to Lock 5: Relatively smooth towpath.

Lock 5 to Georgetown: Satisfactory.

BIKING: The Park recommends visitors not plan bike trips on the towpath between Antietam Creek (MP 69.3) & Lock 5.

HIKING: The towpath is open from Cumberland to Washington and can be walked; HOWEVER, CAUTION IS ADVISED.

HIKER-BIKERS: Many hiker-biker campgrounds between Dam 5 and Lock 5 are silted and when wet cannot be accommodated.

WATER: The Park is unable to get vehicles into hiker-bikers at various points & cannot guarantee water due to inability to test on schedule. Carry reserve supplies.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL OR WRITE: C&O CANAL NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK P O BOX 4 CHARLESTON MD 21782

LEVEL WALKER NOTES

The Level Walkers have lost two members with the passing of Walt Keefer and Constant Southworth. "Walt" was "walker" on Sect. 48 near Hancock. Constant Southworth was one of those on the memorable 1954 walk and for many years he was a Level Walker. We were fortunate to have had both men with us.

We do not have many Level Walker reports in this issue which is typical after the heat of summer and vacations; however, we hope to have a deluge of reports soon.

The two newest Level Walkers are Ted Human and William Kugler. Ted will be near Harpers Ferry and Bill near Georgetown. Probably the updated roster will be in the next issue.

We have received an interesting letter from Amira and Erdal Ünver. They are touring Turkey but do miss the Canal and the Association.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming walks:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 10:00 A.M. - Antietam(69.3) to Dargan(64.9) and return! We will delve into Civil War history here. Bring light lunch. After the walk we will stop at Red Byrd.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 10:00 A.M. - Meet at Great Falls Tavern. Weather permitting, we will see Widewater and Billy Goat in their Winter garb. Return to the Tavern for a hot cup of coffee.

Everyone welcome!!!

Leyman

FY84 C&O CANAL NHP PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

As the year neared its end, the C&O Canal Park reported on Aug. 29, 1984 that most of its stabilization, maintenance and repair projects were complete or were nearly so, under the capable management of Dale Sipes. The projects and their status are indicated below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost(dollars)</u>	<u>Percent Complete</u>
Licking Creek aqueduct stabilization	250,000	85
Harpers Ferry Road wall repair	255,000	22
Stabilization and replacement of wooden footbridges	14,000	100
Lock 12 repairs	12,000	85
Desilting of various stream beds and section of canal prism	67,000	95
Dredging of the Potomac at Fletcher's boathouse	60,000	0
Repair of eight wasteweirs	50,100	90
Repair of twenty roofs	59,400	99
Stabilization of four locks	44,500	92
Rehabilitation of Ferry Hill water supply	12,000	100

Level Walker ReportsSect. 28 - Shepherdstown to Lock 39 - John Frye - June 1984

Conditions near perfect. Towpath has been repaired from February flood damage. Lock 39 has been recently repointed. Both lock areas were recently mowed and were clean.

Sections 30 and 31 - Snyder's Landing to Marsh Run Calvert - Harold Cramer, Sr. and Harold Cramer, Jr. - August 1984

The walk was early morning following heavy rains. Some muddy spots existed vicinity mile markers 77 and 81. The remainder of the towpath was well drained. A good job has been done with building up and resurfacing the towpath vicinity 78.9.

There were a number of large dead trees down on the towpath which probably indicates recent high winds. One large sycamore tree near the boat ramp at Snyder's Landing has broken off and is down. There was much washed up debris in the canal which indicates recent rushing water in the canal.

Sect. 44 - Fort Frederick to Ernestville - Mr. & Mrs. Harold Larsen - July 1984

Today we were "hosts" for the Level Walkers' hike. It was fun to have 20 people with us. Those who have never been on this level now know: it's one of the loveliest, most tranquil sections of the canal.

Because of recent rains, we encountered mud and standing water in a few places. But sides of towpath had been mowed and path was neat, clean, inviting. Hardly any trash or brush to remove. There appears to be more water in Big Pool than at time of last walk (Feb.). Does this mean the sinkholes have been repaired?

The bass season attracted fisherfolk: four boats, each with at least three people, on Big Pool. At m.114, railroad trestle needs paint; stones at E end of trestle still bulging and in danger of collapse. Can NPS nudge RR people about this?

HAHN PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Persons interested in Tom Hahn's publications on the C&O Canal will want to note that C&O Canal Boatmen, Canal Boat Children, George Washington's Canal and Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Towpath Guide will not be reprinted when current stocks are depleted. A new edition, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal: Pathway to the Nation's Capital, is to be published by Scarview Press(NJ), which will combine Boatmen, Life on the C&O Canal and parts of GW's Canal and the Guide, with some new photographs and some drawings from C&O Canal: An Illustrated History. Section 1 of the Guide (Georgetown to Seneca) will remain in print as will the combined Guide, whose third edition is now available.

Anyone with comments on, or corrections to, the Guide, especially whole-canal hikers of 1984 who still have the experience relatively fresh in mind, is invited to send them to Tom at P. O. Box 310, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Dates of Association-sponsored volunteer programs are underlined. The dates of other Association-sponsored events are enclosed in boxes.

- October 6-7, 1984 - New NPS Cumberland visitor center open 10AM-4PM, with special programs at 11AM and 3PM. More information elsewhere in this newsletter.
- October 12-November 2, 1984 - Exhibit of paintings of BG Hails at Capricorn Gallery in Bethesda. Hails writes that "the canal, its locks and buildings are favorite subjects for me."
- October 13-14, 1984 - Cumberland visitor center open 10AM-4PM; special program on the hour. More information inside.
- October 21, 1984 - Cumberland visitor center open with musical performances all day. More information inside.
- October 21-23, 1984 - Three day cruise on a barge from Syracuse, NY to wineries. \$318 double occupancy. More information from Mid-Lakes Navigation Co., P.O. Box 61, Skaneateles, NY 13152, phone 315-685-8500.
- October 27, 1984 - Association-sponsored Canal Heritage Walk, 10AM, Fort Frederick, with interpretation by experts and drinks and dinner afterward. Details in this newsletter.
- October 27-28, 1984 - New Cumberland visitor center program with mule driver from Great Falls and mules. More information inside.
- November 10, 1984 - Association-sponsored volunteer programs removing fencing at Lock 10. For more information, call volunteer coordinator
- December 1, 1984 - Joan Paull, 301-384-8584.
- December 1, 1984 - Advisory Commission meeting. The public is welcome at these meetings. For details of time, location and agenda write to the C&O Canal Park, PO Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.
- December 2, 1984 - Association Board meeting, time, location and agenda to be determined. For details write to President Wood at the Association address. All members are welcome.
- December 8, 1984 - Level Walkers hike, 10AM, Antietam to Dargan. See LW notes in this newsletter.
- January 5, 1985 - Level Walkers hike, 10AM, Great Falls Tavern. See LW notes in this newsletter.
- February 1985 - Association annual general membership meeting including elections of officers. Details in next newsletter.
- March 1985 - Advisory Commission meeting is usually held in March.
- April 1985 - Association-sponsored 31st annual Justice Douglas ^{hike} More information in coming newsletters.



HERITAGE HIKE CARPOOL DRIVERS REGISTRATION FORM

I will help shuttle hikers on October 27, 1984 between Lock 51 and Fort Frederick after the Heritage Walk, and will arrive at Ft. Frederick by 9AM that day with a "Pool Car" sign inside my windshield.

My car will comfortably carry _____ passengers.

Name: _____ Phone No. () _____

Mail this form before October 21, 1984 to Dave Johnson, 9211 Wadsworth Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817.

RESERVATION FORM FOR DINNER AFTER THE HERITAGE WALK ON OCTOBER 27, 1984

Dinner will be in the Williamsport Fire House at 6:00 PM on October 27. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS AND CHECKS ARE REQUIRED. Make your check payable to C&O Canal Association in the amount of \$8.00 per person which is the cost of dinner including tax and tip.

Your Name: _____ Number in your party _____

MAIL THIS TO JOHN CHANDLER, TREASURER; C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION; P.O. BOX 66; GLEN ECHO, MD 20812. BEFORE OCTOBER 21.

No tickets will be sent; your name will be held at the door.

NOMINATIONS FORM FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE 1985-1986 YEAR
AND FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN ASSOCIATION APPOINTED POSITIONS

To the 1985 Nominations Committee

I nominate _____
(Name and mailing address)

for the elected position of

____ President
____ First Vice President
____ Second VP & Level
____ Walker Chairperson

____ Secretary
____ Treasurer
____ Information Officer
____ Board Member

I request that _____
(Name and mailing address)

be considered for the appointed position of

____ Newsletter Editor

____ Membership Chairperson

Mail this form by Nov. 15, 1984 to Anne Murphy, Chairwoman, Nominations Committee, 3705 Calvert Place, Kensington, MD 20895. Persons nominated will receive a questionnaire and further instructions from the committee.

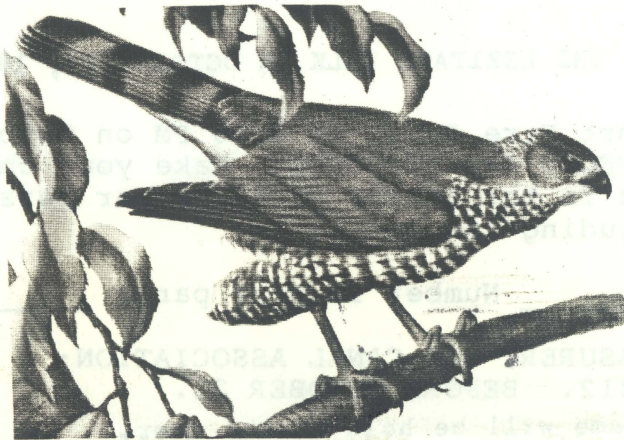
Feel free to photocopy this form to make additional nominations, or submit the information requested on a piece of paper.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S 1985 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Would you like to become more involved with the operation of the Association but aren't quite sure how to get started? Do you know an Association member who you think would make an excellent Board member because he or she would be willing to devote time, energy and enthusiasm to helping the Association grow? Do you have definite ideas about the direction you'd like to help steer the Association, but feel uncertain about how to proceed?

If any of these descriptions fit you, the Nominations Committee would like to hear from you. Five Board members and the six Association officers will be elected by the membership at the annual meeting (probably in February). If you are interested in either of the two appointed positions, or know of a member who might be, the committee would also like to be informed.

(See the story on p. 1 and the form on p. 15.)



COOPER'S HAWK

C&O Canal Association
P. O. Box 66
Glen Echo, MD 20812-0066

Table of Contents

New nominations procedure for 1985	1
1984 Heritage walk details . . .	2
Feeless land acquisition program of the NPS	3
New NPS visitor center in Cumberland	5
Board meeting minutes	6
VIP corner	7
Projected budget	8
President's column	8
Book review	9
Park news	10
Update on towpath condition . . .	11
Level walker notes	12
Park projects status report . . .	12
Level walker reports	13
Hahn publications update	13
Calendar of events	14
Three reservations forms	15

FIRST CLASS MAIL

John C. Frye

Gapland MD

21736