



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 XXIX

JUNE 1997

NUMBER 2

## THE HIKING, BIKING, AND CANOEING ISSUE

### ALL ABOARD FOR THE HERITAGE HIKE



Thomas Kozar's print of Point of Rocks Station

Join Conductor Michael Ditkoff as he conducts the October 25 Heritage Hike from Point of Rocks to Monocacy Aqueduct, a round trip of about 12 miles. Food stores in Point of Rocks sell food and drink so you can stock up before beginning the hike. Bus service will be available for those who want to hike one way. Meet at the Point of Rocks Station at 9:15 AM. At 9:30, he will present an interesting program on the canal and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad -

*See where the railroad engraved on the station's exterior the high water marks—from two previous floods.*

*Hear the story about the railroad and canal company locked in litigation over who was going to build westward*

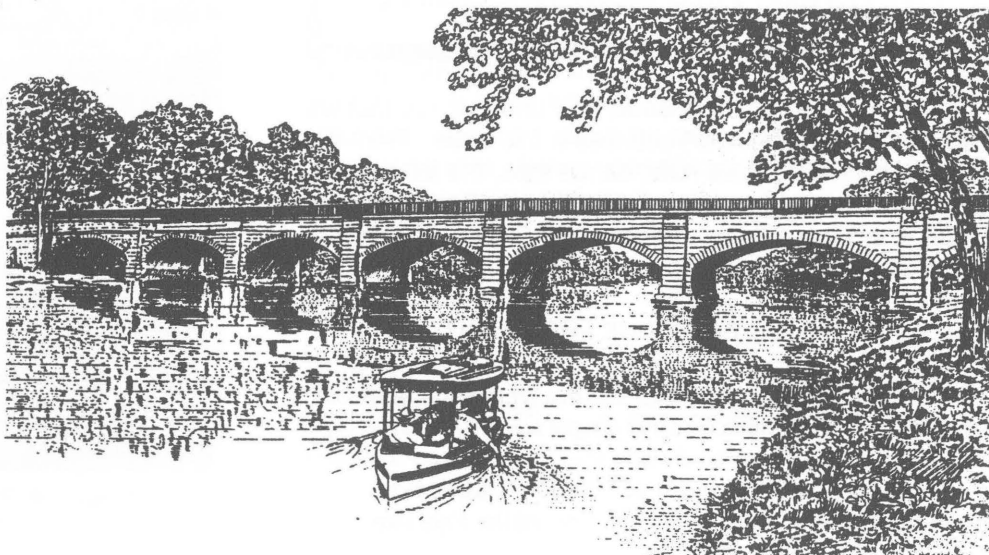
*See railroad signals in operation. (This is a refresher for those who attended the signal discussion at Weverton on the last Heritage Hike.)*

*Learn why "Rocks" has two railroad mileposts.*

*Learn about Old Main Line and Metropolitan Subdivisions railroad operations.*

A rail/trail guide, covering significant railroad and canal mileposts along the hike, will be given to participants. The guide covers Monocacy Aqueduct to Brunswick even though this hike is only half the distance. The other section will eventually be covered in the "Continuing Canal Hike" series.

Activities at the Aqueduct are not confirmed at press time and will be printed in the September issue.



Thomas Kozar's print of the Monocacy Aqueduct  
Contributors may receive a print. See page 10

## HERITAGE HIKE - continued

The evening banquet will be held at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 110033 River Road, Potomac, MD. The church is near the intersection of River and Falls Roads, across from the shopping center on River Road. Happy Hour will be from 4 - 6 followed by buffet dinner at 6. The banquet speaker, Conductor Ditkoff, will continue the history of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad after its merger with the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in 1963. The first 140 years were covered at last year's Heritage Hike banquet. A registration form will be included in the next issue of *ALONG THE TOWPATH*.

The tentative timetable is:

	a.m.
9:15	Assemble at Point of Rocks Station
9:30	Interpretive talk about the station, canal, and railroad operations
10:10	Hikers and first bus trip leave for Monocacy Aqueduct.
11:00	Second bus trip leaves Point of Rocks for Monocacy Aqueduct.
	p.m.
12:30	Hikers arrive Monocacy Aqueduct.
2:00	Hikers and first bus leave Aqueduct for Point of Rocks
3:00	Second bus trip leaves Aqueduct
4:30	Hikers arrive Point of Rocks
4 - 6	Happy Hour at St. Francis Episcopal Church
6:00	Buffet dinner
7:15	Banquet Speech on "The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad - the next 35 years"

ALL ABOARD -- Michael Ditkoff

### Mark Your Calendar Now

1997 Heritage Hike, Saturday, October 25,

From the headline of this issue, one understands that we attempt to highlight COCA activities in this issue. From the recent Justice Douglas Hike, canoe trips, the fall bike trip and fall Heritage Hike, to mention a few, COCA offers many ways to enjoy our Canal. Read what President Gary has to say about it....

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Back in 1989 this Yankee was looking for a flatter area than northern Pennsylvania and the Finger Lakes region of New York for bicycle touring. By chance, I discovered the C&O Canal with its level towpath and frequent campsites. The rest, as they say, is history. I can't count the days I've spent

bicycling, hiking, canoeing and camping between Cumberland and Georgetown, but they have been some of the best days of my life. I've always been interested in nature, history and man's engineering marvels and I've since filled my mind with the Canal's richness of each, but it was recreation that drew me to the Canal.

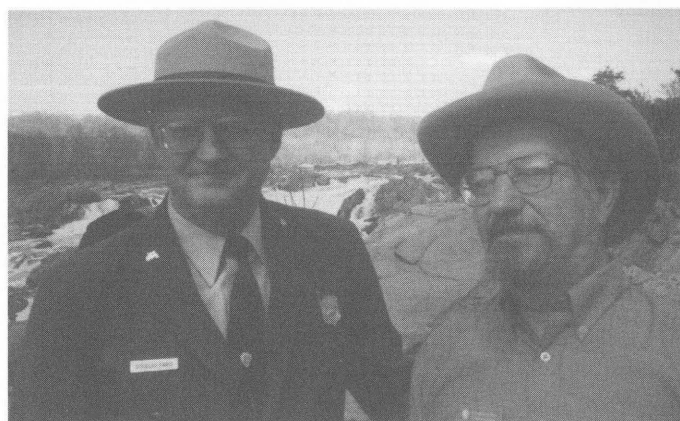
Exploring the communities along the way was another aspect of finding the Canal. Towns, mostly unknown to me but some of which I'd driven through with barely a passing glance, were now oases on a long trek, eagerly anticipated as I pedaled or plodded along. One-time strangers became warm friends, with scarcely a town where I can't make a phone call for help if needed, and if I've planned my trip wisely, there'll be a festival to add to my enjoyment.

I've climbed into my tent on nights so sweltering that I could barely sleep and I've awakened to scrape frost before I could pack my tent. I've seen the coming of spring, the fullness of summer, the splendor of fall and the desolation of winter. I've pedaled through driving rain and mud, and I've hiked on snow and ice. I've even been in the Paw Paw Tunnel in fog so dense you couldn't see the end from a hundred feet inside. Each change in weather and season presents a new canal and you owe it to yourself to see them all.

The moral of the story is, of course, that no matter what else the Canal offers, and it offers so much, it gives us wide-ranging recreational opportunities. Walk an easy mile, pedal a brisk sixty or paddle what you will. Wile away an hour or backpack for a week. Lose yourself in the array of natural wonders or in reveries of Civil War battles. Enjoy solitude or the camaraderie of many. Best, do them all.

If you need incentive, join us on any of the many Association outings; hikes, bike or canoe trips and weekend festivals. We can always use company at our booth and you'll find that each experience opens you to more. See you along the towpath!

-- Gary M. Petrichick



Gary and Superintendent Faris at Olmsted Island Bridge opening.

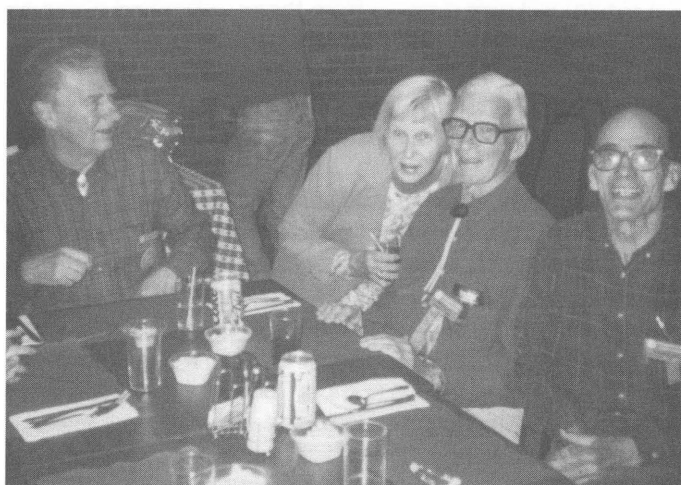
Photo Hal Larsen

## IN THIS ISSUE.....

<u>Article</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Page</u>
All Aboard for the Heritage Hike	1	Memorial Service Held for Nelson Giffith	13
Notes From the President	2	Directory	11
43RD Annual Douglas Hike	3	Calendar	12
Through Bike Trip Set for October	4	Sierra Club Sponsors Hikes	13
First Hike of the Continuing Hike Series	4	C&O Canal VIP Program	13
Continuing Hike Series	4	C&O Volunterr Projects	13
On the Level	5	Book Reviews	14
The Assn. Welcomes New Members	7	Corrections	15
Acknowledgment of Contributions	8	e-mail Messages	15
Project at Monocacy Begins	9	Nature Notes	16
Monocacy Prints	10		

### THE 43RD ANNUAL DOUGLAS HIKE

The 43rd annual Justice William O. Douglas Reunion Hike took place on April 19. The March route extended from Cohill Station at mile 130.72 to Hancock. About 100 hikers were out on a fine spring day. Walking conditions were near perfect, and nearly everyone completed the journey in record time. As the only reported casualty, Chris Hahn's huge dog Bear, well named for his enormous size and uncanny resemblance to his woodland namesake, just couldn't make it. This cumbersome beast, overcome by fatigue, flopped down in the shade and refused to budge any further. Sonny DeForge, moved to compassion by this ferocious-looking creature's piteous cries, conveyed the animal to his air-conditioned car to complete the journey in comfort. Since Bear must weigh several hundred pounds, it remains a mystery how this conveyance was carried out. Further details will be reported in *ALONG THE TOWPATH* as additional information becomes available.



John Chandler, Sue Ann Sullivan, Earl McFarland and Bill Speck at Happy Hour. Note Sonny DeForge in the background.

Photo Hal Larsen

A banquet followed at the Hancock American Legion, which the lodge's ladies and gentlemen served with their usual elegance. After the meal, Carl Linden made a few remarks about the efforts to secure funding to restore the Monocacy Aqueduct. Ralph Donnelly followed up with an interesting talk concerning Hancock and its history, offering a splendid presentation on this place that he knows well owing to his long residence there. This small river town played an important role as a way station on the Canal and trading center for its rural hinterland. Today Hancock is perhaps best known for Weaver's Restaurant, but also for its motel accommodations. Some Association members spent the night there. Ever eager to learn more about local customs and mores, a few hardy souls selected a well-worn hostelry locally known as a good place for a short stay (for whatever reason), and thus they became acquainted with the exciting local life at this level. Other less adventurous members took themselves to the Econolodge, which is to Hancock what the Ritz is to Paris. Their stay there was less exciting but perhaps more restful.

Sonny DeForge was as usual masterful in organizing this event. Everything fell into place--bus transportation, the hike itself, and the happy hour and meal afterward with the interesting talks. Sonny does this so well that we will surely ask him for repeat performances.

-- Hal Larsen



## THROUGH BIKE TRIP SET FOR OCTOBER

So you wanted to, but didn't get to participate in last year's aborted bike trip from Cumberland to Georgetown! Well, here is the trip you have been waiting for all along, and it calls for doing only 30 miles a day (average), with a capable and genial guide, beautiful October weather, and the companionship of other members of our Association.

Here's the plan: we will again take advantage of the Columbus Day weekend to enable those who are still gainfully employed to participate for all or part of the time without missing a lot of work. That means gathering in Cumberland by mid-morning on Saturday, October 11 and winding up in Georgetown on Thursday, October 16. You will need to arrange your own transportation, and people in the same area could find creative ways of so doing. We will stay at Hiker/Bikers along the way and do some cooking, so camp gear needs to be included. If you want to stay at motels or Bed and Breakfasts, you should plan to make reservations in advance. (See the Food and Lodging Guide.)

Mark this down now, and call me if you have questions. More information about this trip will appear in the next Issue of *Along the Towpath*.

- - Tom Perry (301) 223-7010.

---

## FIRST HIKE OF THE CONTINUING HIKE SERIES

A group of ten people gathered in the parking lot at the Dargan Bend Recreation Area (mile 64.9) on Sunday, March 2 under threatening skies for the first of a series of short walks that will allow people, over time, to walk the entire length of the Canal in easy segments. Covering segments of the Towpath that are rarely, if ever, included in the April Douglas Reunion Hike and October Fall Heritage Hike, the length of these hikes will depend on the desires and walking ability of those who show up to make them. In its informality and flexible character, this walk was perhaps typical of what can be expected from future "Continuing Hike Series" walks.

During the walk downstream the group identified structures in Tom Hahn's TOWPATH GUIDE with comments on birds, plants and geology being provided by some of the knowledgeable walkers. At lock 34 (mile 61.6) part of the group chose to return to the starting point. (The ability of walkers to walk only as long as they wish or have time for is one of the advantages of these round-trip walks.) During the return walk this group took a side trip from the towpath near lock 36, making their way up a steep, narrow valley to find an historic quarry associated with the Antietam iron furnace a few miles away.

Continuing to Harpers Ferry (mile 60.7), the remainder

stopped in the town for lunch and a visit to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park book store before walking back along the towpath to their vehicles at Dargan Bend. Aside from a couple of periods of light showers, the weather held and neither umbrellas nor ponchos were needed.

- - Karen Gray

---

## CONTINUING HIKE SERIES

These small circuit hikes are designed to explore the Canal. In conjunction with the Reunion and Heritage hikes we expect to complete the entire 184.5 miles of the Canal over 3 to 5 years. Come join us.

Because the 1997 Heritage hike will be between Point of Rocks and the Monacacy Aqueduct we have changed the location for the September Hike.

**Sunday September 7, 10:00 AM:** Violettes Lock toward Great Falls. We may reach Swains Lock. This section is filled with many birds and animals and contains some impressive cliffs. Parts of the Towpath were severely damaged by flood waters in 1996. To reach Violettes Lock from Potomac, MD, follow River Road west about 6 to 8 miles to a left on Violettes Lock Road.

**Saturday December 6, 10:00 AM:** Frostbite Hike from Violettes Lock to the Cutting Mill above Seneca. The Smithsonian Castle came through the Cutting Mill in pieces.

1998 hikes are in the planning stages. We will do the five miles between Point of Rocks and Brunswick completing a 25 mile section between Monacacy and Harpers Ferry. A Spring Flower hike is probable. Additional hikes are planned between Little Orleans and the Paw-Paw Tunnel.

**Contest.** We need a better name for this series of hikes. Please submit suggestions to Pat White. Later this year the committee (Rachel Stewart, Mike Ditkoff, Karen Gray, and Pat White) will pick a name from those submitted. Prize to be announced.

We are also interested in ideas for keeping track of mileage completed toward the entire 184.5 miles.

We are actively seeking additional hike leaders. Please volunteer if you are knowledgeable about a section of the canal or are simply willing to lead a walk.

**Ride sharing:** If you need a ride or are willing to drive someone else, call Pat White at least a week before the hike. Leave name, phone number, location, and if you want a ride or are willing to drive someone else. She will attempt to match drivers and riders but neither the C&O Canal Association nor Pat accept any responsibility or risk.

-- Pat White (301-977-5628)



## ***On the Level***

**Keith D. Kridenoff  
1997 2<sup>nd</sup> VP & Level  
Walker Chair**

Spring is almost here and now is a great time to get out and see how the canal has survived this (fortunately) mild winter. If anyone needs any more reporting sheets I have revised them and can mail or send them via e-mail. If Mother Nature cooperates we will have a more successful year than 1996. Thanks to the Internet we have signed on several new level walkers. Modern technology is wonderful. Also if you have the opportunity, please visit our Website (<http://www.cyberrealm.net/canal>); I think you will find it interesting and very professionally done. The increased activity and interest in the level walker program (as attested by the new level walkers below) is a great sign. Let's keep up the good work and make this our best year yet. As always if you are interested in becoming a level walker, please contact me at the many venues of communication below and I will be happy to accommodate you!

**1725 Red Oak Road  
Baltimore MD 21234-3707  
(410) 661-6130  
[kela@bellatlantic.net](mailto:kela@bellatlantic.net)**

### **WELCOME NEW LEVEL WALKERS!**

1 - Rachel Stewart  
2 - Laura Gilliam  
9 - Mike Schuchat  
Carter Skinner  
11 - Kumar Vaswani  
17 - Cheryl Hoover  
18 - John & Patty Hawley  
26 - Bob & Joan Fisher  
35 - Dave & Audrey Engstrom  
36 - Mr. & Mrs. Harry Davis  
42 - Katrina Hedlesky  
45 - Blair & Nancy Bower  
Joe Kochenderfer

49 - Bill & Sue McAllister  
52 - Craig Zane & Ginny Garretson  
53 - Steven Hill  
56 - Pat White  
58 - Alan & Kit Franklin  
64 - Mary Ann Moen  
63,64,65,66 & 67 Jim Preston

**And Thanks to the following for taking on an extra level!**

10 - John & Valerie Wheeler  
24 - Karen Gray  
48 - Bill Hibbard

---

**The following reports were received by the May 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. The next deadline is August 5<sup>th</sup>.**

---

3 - 5 to 7.5

Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek

James Wilson (4/25/26/27)

Towpath very clean with lock 6 break repaired. Wildflowers along level still in profusion.

5 - 9.4 to 12.3

Lock 14 to Cropley

Sam Moore (1/23)

Towpath was remarkably clean and prism was still dewatered with nothing unusual to report.

6 - 12.3 to 14.3

Cropley to Lock 20 Great Falls

Harry Bridges (3/11,4/8)

Temporary repairs still at mile 12.3 Water level still low in Widewater area. Gates at Lock 15 and 16 need replacing.(3/11)  
Mile marker 14 still missing. Bridges to falls overlook now

reopened. Water still low through Widewater.(4/8)

7 - 14.3 to 16.6

Lock 20 Great Falls to Lock 21 Swains

Mark Page (3/9)

Very little trash to be picked up with signs of heavy equipment use on towpath. Water level was down to a trickle.

8 - 16.6 to 19.6

Lock 21 Swains to Lock 22 Pennyfields

Maggie & Paul Davis (2/19,3/18)

Filled one bag of trash in each parking lot at either end of level. Road from Pennyfield parking lot to canal still soggy but much work has been done since last visit. Canal prism has been thoroughly cleaned and towpath resurfaced along entire level. Kudos to the park service. (2/19) Work crews working on towpath with heavy equipment. Tree down at mile 19.1 on towpath side of canal. (3/18)

## On The Level - continued

9 - 19.6 to 22.8

Lock 22 Pennyfields to Seneca Aqueduct

Michael Schuchat (3/8) Jeff Brown (5/2)

Two steel drums just west of Blockhouse Point. Water level in canal very low but Potomac running high and swift. Three large blocks from top of retaining wall near Blockhouse point have fallen but it looks like repairs are under way. (3/8) Towpath extensively repaired and stone wall at mile 20.2 lost stones from top. They have been removed from the towpath for later repair. (5/2)

12 - 27.2 to 30.8

Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry

Stephen Pollock (1/21)

Ferry was closed due to ice on the river. Tree across towpath 1.65 miles upstream of Sycamore Landing. Towpath was muddy in some places and frozen in others but otherwise in good shape.

13 - 30.8 to 33

Edwards Ferry to Milepost 33

Bert Grose (1/25)

Three walkers who followed me along my walk picked up the trash I had thrown up from the bank for nearly two miles.

14 - 33 to 35.5

Harrison Island to Whites Ferry

Herbert Madison (2/20)

In addition to 4 bags of trash I also removed a stepladder, tire and a plastic bucket. Erosion of towpath at mile 38.1 still evident. Marble Quarry HBO had been cleaned up nicely.

19 - 48.2 to 51.5

Point of Rocks to Catoctin Creek Aqueduct

Jack & Pat Cook (4/10)

Large amount of trash picked up between mile 51 and 51.5. Two trees tipped over at 51.3 and 51.4 need filling in. Lockhouse sign missing.

20 - 51.5 to 55

Catoctin Creek Aqueduct to Lock 30 Brunswick

Mario & Anne Abbate (4/24)

Large mudholes near mile 53 have been filled in. Old trailers being removed by NPS at mile 53.85. (finally!) Much beaver activity at Little Catoctin Creek.

22 - 58 to 60.7

Lock 31 Weverton to Lock 33 Harpers Ferry

Joe Ruth (1/23)

Towpath restored after last years flooding. A little rough below Lock 33 but still passable.

24 - 62.3 to 65.1

Dam 3 to Dargan Quarry

Ron Howard (4/8) Karen M. Gray (2/2,3/2,4/5)

Very little trash in canal prism, most was flood debris between towpath and river. Also found several pieces of sheet metal to be

later picked up by NPS personnel. (4/8) Very little garbage on this well used level. Towpath in good condition with signs of recent repairs.

28 - 72.8 to 74

Lock 38 to Lock 39

Sonny DeForge (2/5)

A few rough patches in towpath but otherwise in good shape. Most trash was high in branches of trees from flooding.

31 - 79.4 to 81.6

Lock 40 to Marsh Run Culvert

Debbie & Paul Kistler (Thursday)

No tables or outhouse at Horseshoe Bend HBO. Much flood debris all along level with ugly railing in prism below Mondell.. Still very little wildlife here as opposed to other years. Could be from development on W. Virginia side.

32 - 81.62 to 84.4

Marsh Run Culvert to Dam 4

Bill Wentzel (3/27)

Towpath at Dam 4 still detoured. Big Woods HBO in pristine condition and ready for season. Spring ground cover is coming to life. Spent most of time on level clearing branch debris.

37 - 99.44 to 99.3

Falling Waters to Lock 44

Ellen Holway & company (4/19)

Collected 8 bags of trash. Hole in prism over lowest culvert. Very detailed list of flora & fauna included.

38 - 99.3 to 102.3

Lock 44 to High Rock Quarry

Dave Brown (4/27)

Towpath was in very good condition with signs of resurfacing. Repairs to lock 44 seem to be moving along with about 20 percent complete. Two houses damaged by 1996 floods have been razed and removed.

40 - 104.9 to 106.8

Nestle RR Piers to Dam 5

Bill Hibbard (4/3)

Usual collection of plastic and beer bottles mostly near fishing areas. Many spring wildflowers in full bloom.

41 - 106.8 to 108.6

Dam 5 to Four Locks

B. K. Lunde (3/8)

Outhouse was present at Dam 5 but not at Four Locks. The towpath itself was in good shape with some fallen stone at Dam 5 inlet lock.

42 - 108.6 to 110.4

Lock 47 to Culvert 142

John Ziegler (4/5)

Joined nine other volunteers to clean up McCoys Ferry and ready it for summer use. Towpath in good shape as well as campsites. Only exception was Four Locks picnic area which was still

## ON THE LEVEL - continued

covered with silt. Parking area at McCoys Ferry between canal and railroad still a magnet for trash.

43 - 110.4 to 112.4

McCoys Ferry to Fort Frederick

Karen M. Gray (4/20)

Towpath was mostly clean with just occasional cans and bottles in brush. Several campers were at boat ramp with one improvised (?) campsite. Two culverts above mile 111 continue to deteriorate with depressions getting larger each time. Signs of beaver activity in a recently cleared area. This along with signs of turtles and ducks is the most animal life in this area in a long time.

44 - 112.4 to 114.5

Fort Frederick to Ernstville

Marlin Heintzelman (2/19) Jane & Hal Larsen (4/20)

Towpath in good shape with signs of recent trimming and cutting all along. (2/19) Heaviest human usage ever seen but very little trash. Towpath in excellent condition with recent signs of beaver cuttings. (4/20)

48 - 124.1 to 127.4

Hancock to Roundtop Cement Mill

Bill Hibbard (4/15)

Collected four bags of trash and three buckets. Towpath in very good condition along this level.

## The Association welcomes the following new members

(Since 2/1/97):

APPLYN, MIKE & CATHY	Arlington VA
BARBELLA, NICHOLAS	Vienna VA
BARTEIS, GUY	Reston VA
BERNARD, PATRICK	Bowie MD
BODMER, DONALD	Sharpsburg MD
BONK, RICHARD D	Erin NY
BRASHEARS, LORI	New Market MD
BRICKEL, STEPHEN	Arlington VA
BURY, CURTISS M	Shepherdstown WV
COFFELT, MARCIA	Lovettsville VA
DE GURSE, JOHN L	Shepherdstown WV
DOUGLASS, JAMES	Arlington VA
DUDGEON, RUTH A	Washington DC
ELSEY, SALLY & GEORGE	Washington DC
ENTERLINE, PAUL G	Georgetown DE
FENTON, GLORIA & JOHN	Bethesda MD
FIELD, JON & LINDA	Mt Airy MD
GOLD, HARVEY & ROBERTA	Falls Church VA
GOLD, GERARD G	Bethesda MD
HARSHMAN, SR., M/M ROBERT L	
	Hagerstown MD
HATCHETT, STEVEN L.	Bel Air MD
HAVRE DE GRACE, SUSQUEHANNA MUSEUM	
	Havre De Grace MD

JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL

HOLCOMBE, WILLIAM O

HOOVER, CHERYL

JESSER, IV, FREDERICK A

KATZ, ROSAMOND

KOZAR, TOM

KROLL, ROBERT & EDITH

QUINN, WILLIAM T

REYNOLDS JR, WALLACE

RODGERS, NELSON

ROTELLI, THOMAS

ROWE, BILL & PAT

RUFFIN, ALLEN F

SCHOENADEL, WILLIAM J

SERLING-STURM, JUDITH

SHERIDAN, BARBARA

SLAYMAN, WILLIAM O

SLICK, FRED

SPINNLER, MIKE

STAVAR, IRENE R

STEINER, STEPHEN P

STEMBEL, OREN

STILLMAN, HORACE

STRIETER, GAIL M

SULLIVAN, DICK

SULLIVAN, WILLIAM L

TANNO, DARRELL

TRUDEL, ARTHUR & ANNE

TRUNGAL, JR., JOSEPH F

VAN DYKE, BARBARA

VARLEY FAMILY, THE JOHN W

WAGNER, JUDY

WAGNER JR, RICHARD L

WAITE, EDWIN & ELAINE

WAKSBERG, MARK

WALSER, ROB & ALLISON

WANGE JR, DR RON

WARSHAUER, ANN L

WEAVER, JAMES R

WEINSTEIN, KENNETH & LIBBY

WEISEMANN, JANE

WESTON, MARGARET A

WILLIAMS, MARY ELLEN

WILSON, FRANK W.

WINICK, M/M ALEXANDER

WOO, HONG

WOOD, LINDA

WYETH, GEORGE

YU, LEEPO C

ZETTLER, JEAN

Winchester VA

Annandale VA

Frederick MD

Shepherdstown WV

Washington DC

Gaithersburg MD

Silver Spring MD

Washington DC

Kearneysville WV

Butler PA

Woodbridge VA

Annandale VA

Middletown MD

Little Orleans MD

Bethesda MD

La Plata MD

Bethesda MD

Keedysville MD

Hagerstown MD

Bethesda MD

Baltimore MD

Silver Spring MD

Sharpsburg MD

Clarksville MD

Annandale VA

Baltimore MD

Bethesda MD

Potomac MD

Washington DC

Glenn Dale MD

Vienna VA

Falls Church VA

Mclean VA

Arlington VA

Gaithersburg MD

Frederick MD

Bethesda MD

Falls Church VA

Springfield VA

Potomac MD

Brunswick MD

Bethesda MD

North Potomac MD

Beallsville MD

Bethesda MD

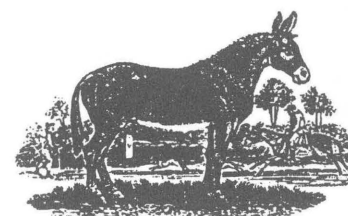
Adelphia MD

Reston VA

Chevy Chase MD

Bethesda MD

Falls Church VA



The Mule

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

With appreciation, the C&O Canal Association acknowledges the following persons who have contributed to the C&O Canal Fund (C), the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund (M), or the Davies Fund (D) since the last edition of *Along the Towpath*.

Alan J. & Jeanne WALLS	CMD	Mr. & Mrs. John R. COOK	M
John B. & Ruth P. DOAK	C	Mark L. DOCTERMAN	C
John FONDERSMITH	CM	Mr. & Mrs. Richard e. JONES	M
Mildred B. HEIMER	CMD	David E. LEPKOWSKI	M
Elizabeth D. HILLENBRAND	CM	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene C. WEINBACH	M
Chesley D. LOONEY	C	Mr. & Mrs. Richard DUBIN	C
James and Mary Ann MOEN	D	James R. ALDEN	CMD
Elizabeth SCOTT	M	Eugene W. BERGMAN	CM
Judith R. DINSMORE & Alvin D. HOWELL	C	Elizabeth M. DUNLOP	C
Eduardo M. CUNNINGHAM	CMD	Alan D. FRANKLIN	M
Geraldine H. DAVIES	CMD	John D. HAWLEY	C
Shirley K. HAIGH	CMD	George T. KELLER	CMD
Carolyn W. JOHNSON	M	Harry LeVINE Jr.	D
David N. WHITCOMBE	M	Mr. & Mrs. Blair T. BOWER	M
Phyllis ELLIOTT	D	Ruth Stone BARBEE	M
Thomas B. HALL	M	Joyce M. BLOOM	C
Bettyjane MYERS	M	David & Audrey ENGSTROM	M
Lesley B. McFARLAND	M	Marlin & Marta HEINTZELMAN	M
Steven G. McCULLY	M	Thomas & Linda PERRY	M
Robert B. WOODALL	M	Barbara ROBINSON	C
John P. MURRAY	CM	Shirley J. STRONG	M
Joseph A. & Joan Z. ROMEO	C	Harold A. & Jane T. LARSEN	CMD
Gantt & Korliss MILLER	CM	Mr. & Mrs. David MacDONALD	CM
Sherwood SMITH	C	Mr. & Mrs. Dwight MASON	CM
Nolan & Joan JONES	C	Richard J. CLEMENT	C
Mr. & Mrs. Barry MacKINTOSH	M	Michael D. COREN	M
Carrol E. MORGAN	C	Harry G. & Phyllis G. DAVIS	M
Albert RUBERG	M	John FRAGALE	CMD
Mrs. Lee C. STRUBLE	C	Peter SAWAYA	M
William L. TAMMARO	M	Ronald BERG	C
Michael & Gloria WERTH	C	John KIMBALL	M
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert B. BERKOWITZ	C	Christine CERNIGLIA	M
Arthur BRUESTLE	M	Harry T. BRIDGES	M
Benjamin F. ALLEN	C	Karen M. GRAY	M
Mr. & Mrs. Claude A. BASSLER	C	Susan M. McALLISTER	M
John H. CHANDLER	M	Sandra VAN FOSSEN & Kirk DAVIDSON	C
Mr. & Mrs. James A. CROCKER	M	Donald R. JURAN	M
Morton & Ester FOXE	CM	Doris O. & Robert KAHN	C
Thad L. HECHT	M	Nancy C. LONG	M
William L. HEMPHILL	C	Dennis McCANN	M
Mr. & Mrs. George M. HOMEWOOD	M	Larry D. & Sue Ann ANDERSON	CMD
Mr. & Mrs. John B. HOWARD	C	John F. BARR	CM
Irene B. HURLEY	M	Nathaniel P. BREED Jr.	C
Richard G. KIRK, Sr.	CM	Ralph & Adele DONNELLY	CM
Allan & Nanci LINK	M	Mary GRAVALOS	M
Richard POREMSKI	M	Charles Michael HIGH	CM
William T. QUINN	M	Naomi Pekmezian	M
Frank SANDERS	M	Robert B. & Marianne K. SMYTHE	C
Ruth A. SEXTON	C	Maureen WILLIAMS	CM
William A. WHALEN	M	Robert T. & Toulia P. BOCKTING	CM
		Henrietta L. EASTMAN	C
		Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. UGELOW	C
		Mr. & Mrs. John F. WEEKS	C
		Dawn E. BEAUMONT	C
		Percy MADEIRA	C
		Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. MANUEL	CM
		Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. MARTH	M
		Leslie A. MEIL	C



## CONTRIBUTORS - continued

Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. NICOLSON	M
Shirley A. PAULL	M
Robert Joel REYNOLDS	M
Lois Joel SCHIFFER	C
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas W. SHARP	M
Jean Anderson WEBB	CM
Charles W. & Kathleen ALMAND	M
Ken ROLLINS	M
Sandra S. CAMPBELL	M
Mark D. & Doniphan P. HOWLAND	C
Tom PECK	C
J. Richard & Martha PINE	C
Ronald W. WILSON	M

### PROJECT AT MONOCACY AQUEDUCT BEGINS

Engineers and divers have begun work at the Monocacy Aqueduct with the ultimate aim of determining its exact structural condition above and below water. Once completed the work will provide the basis for making reliable estimates of the cost of essential repairs of the Aqueduct. Canal Park Superintendent Doug Faris commissioned the project and Bob Kapsch, civil engineer and special assistant to the NPS Director, oversees operations. Bob is advised by a committee of Park Service specialists and members of the American Society of Civil Engineers who have volunteered their services for the project.

Bob Kapsch says the project entails: removal of the mass of debris that piled up against the upstream side of the Aqueduct during last year's floods and freshets, underwater examination of the Aqueduct's piers, evaluation of the condition of the Aqueduct throughout its structure, and prospective installation of a system for ongoing monitoring of the Aqueduct's structure.

In May the Army Corps of Engineers cleared the debris from the Aqueduct. The Corps used a floating crane to remove an entangled mass of logs, trees and limbs, old tires, etc. which came down the Monocacy in the flood and lodged against the Aqueduct. The debris impeded access to the structure's piers on its upstream side. On June 9th Bureau of Reclamation divers returned to the Aqueduct to complete the underwater examination of the Aqueduct's piers which they initiated before last year's floods. They first flush away the silt clinging to the piers to get an unobstructed view of their condition. Each pier is closely examined for voids and any other signs of deterioration. This task takes about a week to complete. Next, engineers will investigate and evaluate the overall condition of the Aqueduct. Finally, the installation of a monitoring system on the Aqueduct is now under consideration. Under the plan a variety of unobtrusive measuring devices, sensors,

and gauges provide comprehensive data on the structure's condition on an on-going basis. While data will be obtainable on site, capability for electronic transmission of all data to computers at remote locations is also contemplated.

### BERNIE DENNIS HEADS UP ASCE'S AQUEDUCT MONITORING PROGRAM

The aqueduct monitoring program is being developed by the National Capital Section of the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) at the initiative of Bernie Dennis. Bernie is well known to Association members. He is recent President of the ASCE National Capital Section and is a member of its History & Heritage Committee. Among those working on the program with Bernie are Curtis Barrett, the Section's current President, and Neal FitzSimon, Bruce Mattheiss, and Steve Pennington of the Monocacy Subcommittee of the History & Heritage Committee.

The comprehensiveness of the monitoring plan is made apparent by a mere listing of its elements. It includes the following:

1. Environmental Data
  - a. air temperature
  - b. structure surface temperature
  - c. rainfall/snowfall
  - d. river stage elevations
  - e. cross section of subsurface geology
2. Site Condition Data
  - a. basic structure geometry
  - b. approach topography
  - c. river channel cross sections
3. Structure Condition Data
4. Structure Performance Data
  - a. strain measurements on steel frame ("harness")
  - b. horizontal and vertical alignment data
  - c. extensometer across prism and arch spans
  - d. crack and joint movement data
  - e. pressure cells for hydraulic pressure
  - f. tilt sensors to detect overturning

The complete monitoring plan including accompanying engineering drawings is being submitted to the NPS for its approval and go ahead. The ASCE's national organization earlier this year awarded the National Capital Section a \$3,100 grant for developing the monitoring plan.

The ASCE's National Capital Section is the C&O Canal Association's key partner in the Uphold the Monocacy Aqueduct drive. Not only has the Section contributed to the

## PROJECT AT MONOCACY BEGINS - continued

Monocacy Fund but its members are providing first class expertise and active pro-bono support to the Aqueduct effort. As noted above ASCE engineers are members of Bob Kapsch's NPS advisory committee on the Aqueduct. Among them is Mike Howlett of the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society, an old friend of our Association. The ASCE National Capital Section also draws upon expertise in other ASCE chapters. For example, Dr. Thomas Boothby of Penn State University, a leading American expert on stone arch bridges, is taking a strong interest in the Aqueduct and also is assisting in developing the plan for the monitoring system.

We in the Association applaud Bernie Dennis and his ASCE colleagues for their innovative and foresightful activity in support of the Aqueduct's cause. With such friends and allies on our side the battle for the Aqueduct will be won!

- - Carl Linden

### MONOCACY AQUEDUCT PRINTS FREE TO MONOCACY FUND DONORS

Association member and Artist Tom Kozar has donated a splendid pen and ink drawing of the Monocacy Aqueduct (See front page of this issue.) to the Association to assist the Uphold the Monocacy Aqueduct fund drive. Recently serving as Artist in Residence at the C&O Canal, Tom has generously given the Association two hundred of his limited edition of three hundred prints of the drawing. Contributors of \$50 or more to the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund will receive one of these numbered prints. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF THESE FINE AQUEDUCT PRINTS, YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION SOON BEFORE THE SUPPLY IS EXHAUSTED.** This is an opportunity that you should not miss!

Tom is well known for his high skill in artful draftsmanship in rendering realistic pen and ink drawings with a sharp eye for revealing detail. Tom is attentive to historical accuracy and this classic scene shows the Aqueduct in its pristine majesty. All seven of its arches are captured in their full harmony of line, curve, and proportion. For a moment an unknowing viewer might think it is Washington's Memorial Bridge revealing its splendor.

The Aqueduct print is eminently suitable for matting and framing as is. However, if you would like, Tom Kozar can color, matt and frame the drawing for you. Tom nicely blends tinting, matting and framing and has a variety of combinations from which you can choose. Such work is done at extra cost, of course, but Tom does it exquisitely. A visit to Tom's studio outside of Gaithersburg is, indeed, worth the trip. In addition to classic Canal scenes Tom has done a variety of classic drawings of historical sites and familiar landmarks of the Washington region. Tom's art is

versatile including painting, graphic design, photography, and sculpture as well as drawing. For example, he has received commissions to do bronzes of Harry Truman and John Kennedy for the Truman and Kennedy Libraries respectively. His address is Thomas C. Kozar, 22214 Creekview Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20882. His phone is (301) 921-6345 and Fax is (301) 869-6813.

The Association owes Tom Kozar a debt of gratitude for his artistic inspiration and his unexpected and generous gift. Many thanks, Tom!

### MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR NELSON GRIFFITH

On Sat, May 10, we held a ceremony in memory of NPS employee Nelson "Griff" Griffith at Lock 5 at 11:00 a.m. (See last issue.). His immediate family and other friends and relatives from Luray came up for the ceremony. Park staff were, also, present. The Superintendent lead the ceremony. A dogwood tree was planted in his honor and a plaque was placed at the base of the tree.

Following the event, the Friends of the Great Falls Tavern dedicated two urns (located outside the front entrance of the Tavern) in Griff's memory. The Friends provided a nice luncheon for the family, friends and relatives in the Tavern.

Readings at Lock 5 were offered by Mr. Fletcher (from Fletchers Boathouse), Donna Donaldson (she used to work on the canal and is now the Chief of Interpretation at National Capitol Parks Central), Carl Linden, and a member of the clergy from Mrs. Griffith's church. I don't recall her name, but she read for the family. It was all very touching! On a personal note, Griff was a special man. When you talked to him, his crystal blue eyes would sparkle and a warm grin would spread across his face. He was genuine. I was fortunate to get to know him and work closely with him during the Volunteer Flood Recovery Projects. I miss him terribly. Thanks for including him in your newsletter!

- - Nancy Brown, NPS



Memorial Plaque in Honor of Griff. Photo --Hal Larsen

*Along the Towpath* is published in March, June, September, and December by the :

C & O Canal Association  
P.O. Box 366  
Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366

Articles for publication should be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please mail articles to:

Robert C. Perry  
Editor, *Along the Towpath*  
12713 Knightsbridge Drive  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192  
e-mail: cocasn@erols.com

Membership in the C & O Canal Association is open to all persons with an interest in the C & O Canal, the C & O Canal Historic Park, and the Potomac River Basin. Annual membership dues are \$15 individual, \$20 family, and \$25 patron, and are assessed on a calendar-year basis. Dues should be mailed to the C & O Canal Association at the above address. A newsletter subscription is included with membership. The Association is a non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax deductible.

The C&O Canal Association maintains a home page on the WWW at <http://www.cyberrealm.net/canal>. The COCA Webmaster is Olivia Casasanovis. COCA also maintains a telephone for information and inquiries. Please direct calls to (301) 983-0825.

#### C & O CANAL ASSOCIATION 1997-1998 Association Officers

##### President:

Gary M. Petrichick petrichick@aol.com  
716-268-5187

36 Willets Ave.  
Belmont, NY 14 813

##### First Vice President:

Thomas L. Perry  
301-223-7010

116 S. Conococheague St.  
Williamsport, MD 21795

##### Second VP & Level Walker Chairperson:

Keith Kridenoff kela@bellatlantic.net  
410-661-6130

1725 Red Oak Road  
Baltimore, MD 21234

##### Secretary

Rachel L. Stewart  
703-237-4727

5914 Washington Street  
Arlington, VA 22205

##### Treasurer

David M. Johnson  
301-530-7473

9211 Wadsworth Dr.  
Bethesda, MD 20817

##### Information Officer

Kate Mulligan  
202-484-3590

1301 Delaware Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Board of Directors: (Terms expire in 2000) Christine Cerniglia, Carl Linden, Mary A. Moen, James Preston, Ken Rollins (Terms expire in 1999) Charles Ayres, Harold Larsen, Nancy Long, Robert Perry, Patricia White (Terms expire in 1998) William J. Evans, Karen M. Gray/KMGrayPhD@compuserve.com, Fred I. Mopsik/mopsikj@pop.erols.com, Ralph Donnelly, Peggy Weber.

##### Committees (Contact at the COCA telephone number or write to COCA))

Archives  
Canal Restoration/Monocacy Aqueduct  
Environmental  
Level Walkers  
Membership  
Programs  
VIPs

Hal Larsen  
Carl Linden  
Ralph Donnelly /Fred Mopsik  
Keith Kridenoff  
Rita Bauman  
Sonny DeForge/Ken Rollins  
John Lindt

##### Editorial Staff

Editor: Robert C. Perry cocasn@erols.com  
703-590-5568

##### Associate Editors

Carl A. Linden  
Jane D. Perry  
Ken Rollins

#### DIRECTORY C & O CANAL NHP TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND PERSONNEL

##### C & O CANAL NHP HQTRS

Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent  
Chief Ranger  
Admin Officer  
Asst Ch. Ranger & Chief, Visitor Protection Branch  
Chief, Natural Resource Mgmt Branch  
Chief, Cultural Resource Mgmt Branch  
Chief, Interpretation Branch  
Chief of Maintenance  
Volunteer Coordinator

301-739-4200  
Douglas Faris  
Kevin Brandt  
Keith Whisenant  
Ken Brodie  
Kevin Fitzgerald  
Patrick Toops  
Vacant  
Gordon Gay  
Bob Hartman  
Nancy Brown

##### PALISADES DISTRICT

11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD 20854  
301-413-0024

District Ranger  
Supv Ranger - Fee Collection  
District Interpreter

Tom Nash  
Terry Barbot  
Vacant

##### GEORGETOWN VISITORS CENTER

1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, Washington, D.C.  
Park Ranger - Subdistrict Interpretation

202-653-5844  
Kathy Kupper

##### GREAT FALLS TAVERN VISITORS CENTER

Great Falls Tavern Information  
Park Ranger

301-299-3613  
Vacant

The Palisades District begins at Milepost 0 (Tidlock) and continues to Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River).

##### WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT

301-739-4200 x237  
District Ranger

Mark Spier

Western Subdistrict

Rick Erisman  
Matt Stoffolano  
John Bailey  
George DeLancey  
Luis Krug  
Bill Orlando  
Martin Gallery  
301-678-5463

Central Subdistrict

Eastern Subdistrict

District Interpreter

##### WILLIAMSPORT VISITORS CENTER

205 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795  
Park Ranger

301-582-0813  
Donna Swauger

##### HANCOCK VISITORS CENTER

301-678-5463  
326 East Main Street Hancock, Maryland 21750  
Park Ranger

Sherilyn Seyler

##### CUMBERLAND VISITORS CENTER

301-722-8226  
Western Maryland Station, Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
Park Ranger

Rita Knox

The Western Maryland District begins at Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River) and ends at the Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Milepost 184.5.

##### OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Georgetown Boat Operation 202-653-5844  
Abner Cloud House 202-472-2679  
Fletcher's Boat House (Concessionaire) 202-244-0461  
Canal Clipper, Great Falls Tavern 301-299-2026  
Swains Lock (Concessionaire) 301-299-9006

## 1997 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monthly	Wed, Sat	<i>Sights and Sounds of the Seasons</i> nature walks are scheduled four times monthly on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday. Meet in Great Falls Tavern at 10 a.m. to begin with a brief slide show. Hikes are led by Park Service Volunteers Betty Bushell, Betty Henson, and Helen Johnston.
Jun 21	Sat	Canoe from Violettes Lock to Great Falls. Ideal introduction to canoeing -great for old-timers, too. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934.
Jul 13	Sun	Potluck dinner with Friends of the Tavern and the C&O Canal Association (6:00 p.m.).
Jul 26	Sat	Canoe the River from Brunswick to Monocacy landing. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934.
Aug 3	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 p.m.
Aug 16-23	Sat-Sat	Montgomery County Fair--the Montgomery County Historical Society, C&O Canal Association, and other preservation groups share a booth. Contact COCA Coordinator--Nancy Long, (301) 320-2330, for information.
Aug 23-24	Sat-Sun	Williamsport C&O Canal Days. Contact Tom Perry (301) 223-7010.
Sep 6	Sat	VIP Workday. Details later.
Sep 7	Sun	Happy Birthday Montgomery County - Co-hosted by Montgomery County Historical Society. Contact Ellen Holway (301) 738-7894.
Sep 7	Sun	Continuing Hike Series: 10:00 AM: Violettes Lock toward Great Falls.
Sep 13	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting.
Sep 13-14	Sat-Sun	Hancock Canal - Canal Apple Days. Contact John Popenoe (301) 678-6379.
Sep 20-21	Sat-Sun	Annual overnight Paw Paw bends canoe trip. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934.
Sep 20-21	Sat-Sun	Sharpsburg Heritage Festival
Sep 27-28	Sat-Sun	Cumberland Canal Boat Festival. Contact John Millar (301) 729-3136.
Sep 28	Sun	Board Meeting, Tom and Linda Perry's, 116 Conococheague St., Williamsport, 1:00 p.m.
Oct 4	Sat	VIP Workday. Details later.
Oct 4-5	Sat-Sun	Brunswick Railroad Days
Oct 11-16	Sat-Thr	Through-bike trip -- Cumberland to Georgetown led by Tom Perry. Details later.
Oct 25	Sat	Annual Heritage Hike. Point of Rocks to Monocacy Aqueduct. See details page 1.
Nov 1	Sat	VIP Workday. Details later.
Dec 6	Sat	VIP Workday. Details later.
Dec 6	Sat	Continuing Hike Series: 10:00 AM-- Annual <b>FROSTBITE HIKE</b> from Violets Lock to the Cutting Mill above Seneca. Contact Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934 or Sonny DeForge(301) 530-8830.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - continued

Dec 7	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 P.M.
Dec 13	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting.
Dec 14	Sun	Holiday Sing-Along at the Great Falls Tavern, 1:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share.

1998

Mar 8	Sat	C&O Canal Association Annual Meeting.
-------	-----	---------------------------------------

### SIERRA CLUB SPONSORS HIKES ALONG THE TOWPATH

The following submissions were received from the Sierra Club of MWROP:

Saturday 12 July 1997. "An American Beauty" Tour '97 (ABT) continues with a 13 mile hike from Fort Frederick to Williamsport. Contact Robert Lovisa (301) 593-5360 (rlovisa@explorer.com) or William Fout (703) 684-5951/(BillFout@juno.com) by 5:00 pm Friday 11 July for details.

Saturday 2 August 1997. ABT continues with a 15 mile hike from Williamsport to Dam 4. Sponsored by the Sierra Club MWROP. Contact Robert Lovisa (301) 593-5360 (rlovisa@explorer.com) or William Fout (703) 684-5951/(BillFout@juno.com) by 5:00 pm Friday 1 August for details.

Saturday 23 August 1997. ABT continues with a 15 mile hike from Dam 4 to Antietam Creek. Sponsored by the Sierra Club MWROP. Contact Robert Lovisa (301) 593-5360 (rlovisa@explorer.com) or William Fout (703) 684-5951/(BillFout@juno.com) by 5:00 pm Friday 22 August for details.

Saturday 13 September 1997. ABT continues with a 15 mile hike from Antietam Creek to Brunswick. Sponsored by the Sierra Club MWROP. Contact Robert Lovisa (301) 593-5360 (rlovisa@explorer.com) or William Fout (703) 684-5951/(BillFout@juno.com) by 5:00 pm Friday 12 September for details.

### C&O CANAL VOLUNTEER IN PARKS (VIP) PROGRAM

C&O Canal Association members can join others on the first Saturday of most months for VIP WORKDAYS as listed in the Calendar of Events. Projects are scheduled along the entire length of the Canal. You may join the group most convenient to you. If you would like to participate, please contact the Volunteer Office (301) 714-2233 and speak with

Ranger Nancy Brown, or call John Lindt at (301) 469-6381. Nancy or John will register you and provide details of the project of your choice. Nancy would like to hear from you a week in advance so that the NPS staff can prepare supplies and equipment accordingly and notify you of last minute changes. These arrangements are slightly different than before in that members have a greater choice of VIP projects and the work period is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

-- John Lindt

### C&O CANAL VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

To volunteer, please contact the NPS Volunteer Office (301-714-2233) to sign up and receive the details of the projects and directions to the project site.

**7/12 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

GREAT FALLS

Remove silt & debris from culvert #21.

DAM #5

Remove trash & debris from towpath.

MILLER SAWMILL

Towpath repair.

**8/2 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

GREAT FALLS

Remove trash & debris from culvert #21.

DAM #5

Remove trash & debris from towpath.

TAYLORS LANDING

Remove trash and debris from canal prism and river.

**9/6 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

GREAT FALLS

Remove silt & debris from culvert #21.

LITTLE TONOLOWAY PICNIC AREA

Remove trash and debris. Landscape area, seed, and mulch.

MILLER SAWMILL

Towpath repair.

-- Nancy Brown, NPS

## BOOK REVIEWS

**TOWNS ALONG THE TOWPATH**, by Kate Mulligan. 128 pp. Index. Published by Wakefield Press, 1337. \$14.

Kate Mulligan, who is the C & O Canal Association's information officer, has written a very useful guidebook to the principal towns that one passes while traversing the Canal Park. This is important, because while many books are available that describe the canal itself, from the historic structures to the flora and fauna, there has been very little published about the communities that lie along its route, and in which the Towpath traveler will inevitably find himself. Although the stranger may regard these towns as merely a source of groceries, a bed and a meal, or a tank of gas, they are an integral part of the total canal story, and should be known as much as the aqueducts and locks in order to fully appreciate what the Canal is about.

The Canal was not built so that we could hike and camp and look at its birdies. It was built for commerce and business and western expansion. The towns that it passed were the points of origin and destination for the goods and commodities that were carried, and were in many cases the homes of the canallers. These towns predated the building of the canal and each has an interesting history of its own.

**TOWNS ALONG THE TOWPATH** contains chapters about all of the primary municipalities on the canal - Cumberland, Hancock, Williamsport, Shepherdstown, and Brunswick. They cover local history, points of interest, museums, festivals and accommodations. In addition to the towns mentioned above, there are sections on the Paw Paw Tunnel, Monocacy Aqueduct, Poolesville, Seneca, Great Falls and Glen Echo. Most chapters include a list of sources for further reading or for obtaining additional information.

This book, used in conjunction with a good Park guide, should be invaluable in planning a visit to the canal, whether for an extended hiking or bicycling trip, or a day or weekend motor excursion.

- - Dave Johnson

Note: Kate Mulligan's book is available to COCA members at a cost of \$12.00 plus \$3.00 postage (MD residents add 60 cents sales tax). See the Directory for the address.

High, Mike. **The C & O Canal Companion**. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. 269p. illus., maps. \$15.45 paper. Mike is an Association member.

In guidebook fashion, High's book opens with an overview of the history of the region, the river, and the

canal. Only when he describes how this particular canal operated and explains the difference between prism and berm, and what stop lock, waste weir, and flume did, does it become a companion. Those pages are valuable to anyone even mildly interested in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Towpath.

The other 180 pages are pure guidebook--one for the cyclist. A few bits of advice are tossed to the canoeist and kayaker but other users of the towpath get no attention.

"The C & O Canal Companion" has much the same page size as Hahn's "Towpath Guide to the C & O Canal" (now in its 13th edition - 1996). It has typeface a few points larger than Hahn's book so gets less text to the page. The difference between a guidebook for the hiker and for the cyclist is apparent when one compares the description of the ten miles between Catoctin Aqueduct and Lock 34 opposite Harpers Ferry. High uses 14 pages of text and reports on 23 points of interest. Hahn uses 21 pages of text to mention 60 items for which to look or stop.

Compiled more recently, "The...Companion" mentions items that escaped any revision Hahn has made since his original compilation in 1981. For instance, High includes a subdivision near milepost 178.3, Mexico Farms, and explains its name; Hahn does not. High is more informative on the industries that once stood and, occasionally still do stand, by the Canal. He may also give a few more details of Civil War history than Hahn does.

High, Mulligan in "Towns Along the C & O Canal," and the C&O Canal Association in "Guide to Food and Lodging Along the Towpath" offer information on lodging and, occasionally, restaurants and groceries. High's places tend to be pricier than the others and also may be at a greater distance from the towpath (Leesburg, for instance).

Johns Hopkins Press editors have let a few errors escape them, the most serious being the statement (p.78) in a discussion of the Seneca Aqueduct and Lock 24 that "a half mile **upstream** (downstream, CL) you'll find Violette's Lock". The author omits the fact that at Dam 4 and Big Slackwater a walker can remain on the towpath, though cyclists and horseback riders may not. He describes only the detour the bicyclist must take.

"The C & O Canal Companion" is, on the whole, a worth-while purchase for those interested in the Canal and Towpath. It is a necessary one only for the cyclist.

- - Paula M. Strain

## BOOK REVIEWS - continued

### CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF THE POTOMAC

*Cultural Landscapes of the Potomac: An Overview.* Karen T. Zachary. 1997. 94 pages. Available from the Accokeek Foundation, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, Maryland 20607. \$12.50, including postage and handling. Telephone: (301) 283-2113.

Beginning at the Fairfax Stone in the West Virginia highlands, the Potomac River flows 385 miles before it merges with the Chesapeake Bay. C & O Canal Association members are most familiar with the section of the Potomac River between Georgetown and Cumberland, a little more than half the total distance. However, our concern with the Potomac Valley should encompass the entire length of the river. Karen Zachary's *Cultural Landscapes of the Potomac* provides a summary overview of the entire length of the river's landscape. Zachary begins with a brief description of the natural determinants of the landscape before turning to cultural determinants, including agriculture, industry, transportation and urban development. There is a brief section on the C & O Canal. A sentence on the C & O Canal Association would have been welcome. Maps, diagrams and drawings from a variety of sources add understanding.

The 79 pages of text and illustration provide an overview that should encourage further exploration, both intellectual and on the ground (and water). A bibliography, additional sources and a selected list of organizations involved with the Potomac region are also included.

-- John Fondersmith

John represents the C & O Canal Association on the Board of the Accokeek Foundation.

### CORRECTION

To Editor:

On page 13 (of the last issue), you referred to the old trolley barn at Cushwa Basin. This is not the correct term for this building. A trolley barn was or still is in some cities a building where trolleys/streetcars are kept inside for maintenance or storage. The building in question at Williamsport was a power generating station for the Hagerstown Railway, an electric trolley line built in the latter part of the 1800's to provide electrical power for its trolleys. In fact, the tracks for the line never even reached Cushwa Basin; they ended at the intersection of Potomac and Conococheague Streets. The Hagerstown Railway later merged and became part of a larger electric railway

named the Hagerstown and Frederick Railroad. The line to Williamsport was abandoned in 1946-47.

For some years, the park had referred to the building as a trolley barn. However, the park's Cultural Landscape Report on Williamsport now correctly identifies the building as a power generation station and not as a trolley barn.

-- Blair Williamson, NPS

### e-mail Messages of Note

1) Washington Post columnist Kevin McManus called to say that he must cancel his walking trip of the C&O Canal because of serious illness. He enjoyed talking with association members and want them to know why they have not heard from him again. He hopes to make the trip next year.

Kevin wrote a wonderful Weekend cover story about the canal and our association several years ago. We'll be thinking about him and looking forward to the return of his column. Kate Mulligan

2) Mr. John S Thomson (301) 656-3630 is the editor of the SYCAMORE ISLANDER newsletter as well as a member in good standing of COCA since at least '79 and the COCA Board of Directors. As you may know, the Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington DC and the Montgomery Sycamore Island Club host introductory canoe lessons every Tuesday and Thursday evening starting May 13 and running through mid-September. I am not sure whether it is at Fletchers. Mr. Thomson has the information and a telephone number for additional information, membership and/or reservations. I think our members would be well served to hear about the lessons and perhaps increase the participation in Ken Rollins' canoe trips. William Bauman.



## NATURE NOTES - Spring 1997

Take a step on the towpath on an early spring morning. Listen to a cardinal's whistle. Feel the breeze from the river. If at first it seems chilly, just wait a bit. Soon the sun will warm the breezes.

Smell the sweet, moist earth. See the pale pink of spring beauties and the umbrellas of May apples at the Towpath's edge. Find the fern fiddleheads just starting to uncoil into full-sized fronds for the summer.

Take a side trail and feel the soft earth underfoot. Watch for purple, white or yellow violets, rue anemone, cut-leaf and slender toothwort, saxifrage and--if you're lucky--the purple and white blossoms of showy orchis. Lift the hood of Jack-in-the-pulpit and find Jack, himself. Smile quietly at a patch of tiny, four-petalled bluets.

See the great blue herons that haunt the pools at Widewater and Carderock. Watch pairs of Canada Geese shepherding their downy goslings along the Potomac. See the beaver scrambling slowly up the rocks on the Canal berm. Count big and little turtles as they sun themselves on old logs stretching into the Canal. Find tiny, darting tadpoles like swimming seeds in shallow pools.

Watch winter turn to spring, and spring to summer--a sight denied to bicyclists, joggers, and earnest hikers as they hurry by.

Composite check list compiled by "Sights and Sounds of the Seasons" walkers so far this year in the area chiefly from Angler's Inn to Swain's Lock including Goldmine Tract and Bear Island:

## WILDFLOWERS

Golden alexander, rue anemone, arbutus, Va. bluebell, bluet, bedstraw(s), buttercup (aborted, early), Chickweed (common, field, star), Common cinquefoil, Dandelion (Common, dwarf) Dutchman's breeches, Gill-over-the-ground, Ginger, Jack-in-the-pulpit, May apple, Miami mist, Moss phlox, Black mustard, Garlic mustard, Red dead nettle, Showy orchis, Blue phlox, Wild pink, Golden ragwort, Saxifrage, Speedwell, Spiderwort, Spring beauty, Squaw root, Star of Bethlehem, Toothwort (Cut-leaf and Slender), Sessile trillium, Violet (Blue, yellow, white), Va. waterleaf, Yellow wood sorrel. (Skunk cabbage started blooming in November; continued in spring.)

## TREES AND SHRUBS:

Spice bush, dogwood, pawpaw, redbud, tulip tree, Amur honeysuckle, Viburnum (?).

## FERNS:

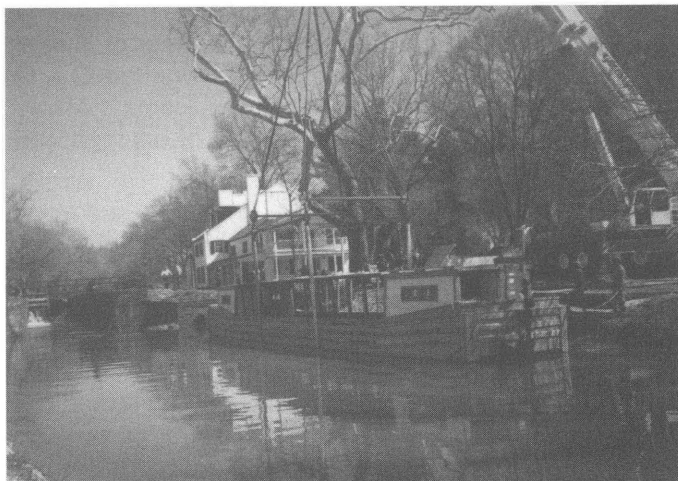
Christmas, New York, Polypody, Leather woodfern, etc.

## BIRDS SEEN OR HEARD:

Canada goose, mallard, Black and Turkey vultures, Bald eagle, Hawks (probably red-shouldered and red-tailed), Great blue heron, Mourning dove, Woodpeckers (Downy, Red-bellied, Pileated), Swallows (?), Common crow, Grackles, Tufted titmouse, Chickadee, Brown creeper, Carolina wren, Bluebird, Warblers (Prothonotary, Parula, ???), Robin, House sparrow...and others not identified.

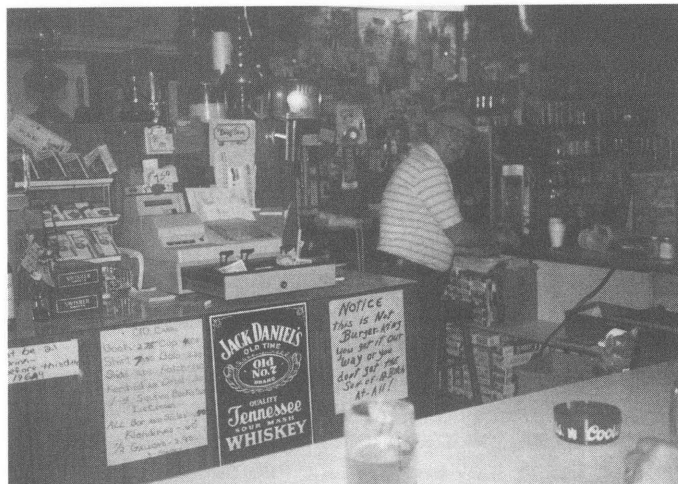
NOTE: "Sights and Sounds of the Seasons" walks take place on first and last Wednesday and Saturday each month, starting at 10 a.m. with a brief slide show at Great Falls Tavern. Leaders: Betty Henson, Betty Bushell, Helen Johnston.

-- Helen Johnston



April 3, 1997-- The Canal Clipper is safely returned to her berth.

Photo - Dave Johnson



While you're hiking, biking, and canoeing, don't forget to stop at Bill's and say hello. See you there or Along the Towpath--RCP