

# ALONG THE TOWPATH

A quarterly publication of the  
**Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Association**

Concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin.

VOLUME XL

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Number 4

## Annual Meeting in March - Thru-Hike in April

### Annual Meeting Scheduled for March 7

By Dorothea Malsbary, Programs Committee Chair

The 2009 annual meeting of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association will be held at 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, March 7, at the American Legion Hall, 400 South Conococheague Street, Williamsport, Maryland. The meeting will include the election of officers for the coming year and five members of the Board of Directors. In addition, four amendments to the bylaws will be presented to the membership for approval at the meeting. Statements from the candidates for election and text of the proposed amendments appear on pages 14 and 15. A "meet the candidates" hour will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Legion hall to allow an opportunity to become acquainted with the nominees before the meeting.

Two optional activities will be provided in the morning, both starting at 10:30 a.m. The "mule house" will be open with a docent on hand to describe the use of the building when the canal was operational. This building is the last house on the right, on Potomac St., just before entering Cushwa Basin and National Park Service property.

The lockhouse at Lock 44 will also be open. NPS Ranger Curt Gaul will be available to interpret the site to visitors. You may bring a lunch or patronize one of the restaurants in the Williamsport area, then come to the Legion Hall to meet the candidates and to attend the meeting. After the meeting, Happy Hour will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30. The after-dinner presentation will feature Matthew Dodd, a lively and educational entertainer. He'll share stories and music about American history featuring "canal days."

To make reservations for the dinner, please use the form inserted in this newsletter. The price for the dinner is \$15 and there will be a cash bar. It is not necessary to register for the morning programs. We look forward to seeing you, to hear about the year past and make plans for the new one.

### 2009 Thru-Hike News

By Barbara Sheridan, Thru-Hike Chair

Preparations are well underway for the 2009 Thru-Hike of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. This hike will be the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Justice Douglas' 1954 trek to save the Canal. The Thru-Hike is a tradition that began on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Douglas' famous hike and has been repeated every five years since.

The 2009 hike is being planned for the last two weeks of April. We will hike the entire length of the Canal from Cumberland, Maryland to Georgetown. The daily hiking distance will be between nine and fifteen miles. We will camp each night except for the mid-hike weekend. Some participants plan to make their own arrangements to stay in motels along

the way (instead of camping out with the group). All meals will be provided, either in camp or by various organizations in local communities along the way. Participants' gear (tents, sleeping bags, clothing, etc.) will be transported between campsites for them. All hikers will be expected to share in the work details and chores during the actual hike and will have daily assigned tasks such as meal preparation, camp set-up and tear-down, loading/unloading the gear van or whatever else is necessary in support of this event.



Ken Rollins. 1920 - 2008, Piper Alicia Julienne, in an Art Photo by Tom Kozar (See Across the Berm, p. 18)

Continued on p. 2.



## NEWS AND REPORTS

### President's Report

In lieu of a report, I'll reprint much of a letter from the Appalachian Mountain Club in support of a legislative revision that affects us folks who volunteer for nonprofit groups. Under current law we may claim a tax deduction of \$0.14 per mile for driving to/from Level Walker and/or VIP work trips, Board meetings, and the like, when certain criteria are met. That rate has not changed in eleven years. The IRS recently increased the rate for businesses to \$0.585 per mile. IRS is permitted to make that change for businesses, but not for nonprofits; only Congress can do that.

Here's the AMC letter:

"As you know, volunteers are essential to implementing the mission of ... non-profits. Volunteering these days can be a problem if it involves a significant amount of driving our personal cars. Unfortunately, current federal tax law allows a charitable mileage deduction of only 14 cents per mile, and this has created a barrier that is preventing many people from volunteering as much as they would like. I am writing today to ask you to give your strong support to the Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere [FIVE] Act of 2008 (S. 3429) and other related bills.

"[Introduced by Senators Schumer (D-NY) and Ensign (R-NV)], the Act addresses the adverse impacts on volunteers of ... the current discriminatory tax policy towards nonprofits by (1) setting the charitable volunteer rate at 70% of the standard business mileage rate, as adjusted by the IRS, in effect raising the charitable mileage deduction from 14 cents to almost 41 cents; and (2) making this change permanent, rather than requiring annual legislation.

"The IRS needs an act of Congress to change the charity worker reimbursement rate. In June, the IRS increased the mileage rate for business use from 50.5 cents per mile to 58.5 cents. It does not need legislation to do so.

"Schumer's proposal gives the IRS the authority to raise the rate for charities proportionately whenever the business rate is raised.

".... A version of this bill is now being considered by the Ways and Means Committee. Now is the time to contact our Senators and Representatives to urge them to support this important legislation."

The GIVE Act has been supported by many nonprofits throughout the country. Just google the bill's name for a sampling; this morning's search yielded 617 results. I urge you all to contact your senators and representatives by phone, fax, email, and urge their support for the legislation. AND send a letter to your local newspaper editor urging support of the legislation.

- Rachel Stewart



We hope to offer the same flexible arrangements as the 2004 Through-Hike. This would allow members to sign up for the full two weeks or just the first or second week of the hike, if preferred. We are currently in the process of pricing out the options that will be available.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of planning and work involved in organizing an event of this scope and size. Although formal registration has not yet begun, priority will be given to those members who have participated in the planning process from the beginning and also to individuals who have been members of the C&O Canal Association for at least one year. Overall participation will be limited to fifty hikers.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 hike or are willing to provide support in some way, please send your name and address to the C&O Canal Association, P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-0366. If you prefer, you may email your name and address to Patricia White at [hikemaster@candocanal.org](mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org). You will then receive a registration form and additional information in the very near future.



Douglas & Fellow Hikers on their Way - March 20-28, 1954



The "Nine Immortals" - Douglas and his Thru-Hikers  
Photos above by Abbie Rowe, courtesy NPS



## Karen Gray Given Volunteer of the Year Award

Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt presented association member, Karen Gray the park's Volunteer-of-the-Year Award on September 11. A Volunteer-in-the-Park, Karen generously devotes her impressive energy and talent to a variety of park projects. Over the past year she was instrumental in the 2008 publication of the pamphlet, "Granaries at White's Ferry and Monocacy Village." C&OCA, Heritage Montgomery and Maryland Heritage Area Authority contributed funds for producing the pamphlet.

Karen has also worked tirelessly on the republication of NPS Historian Harlan Unrau's *Historic Resource Study of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal* originally published in 1976. Unrau's history is the definitive source on the C&O Canal and contains a wealth of information. Karen worked with a team of dedicated volunteers to edit and convert Unrau's history into an easily accessible electronic document for use on line. Furthermore, because of Karen's editorial efforts, the Park Service was able to republish Unrau's multi-volume history in a single volume. The republished work was printed in September 2007 and is available on request. The work is also available on the NPS History website.

Karen is also working on converting numerous park reports into formats that will be posted on the NPS History webpage. In addition, Karen serves as a librarian at the C&O Canal Headquarters Library, organizing and developing its holdings. Karen also has been working on the organization and scanning of historic photographs to help preserve this valuable collection in the park's library. Our thanks go to Karen for all her hard work and dedication to the C&O Canal NHP.

- NPS sources



Kevin Brandt presenting the Volunteer of the Year Award to Karen Gray  
- NPS Photo

## Carlstrom Named Deputy Superintendent

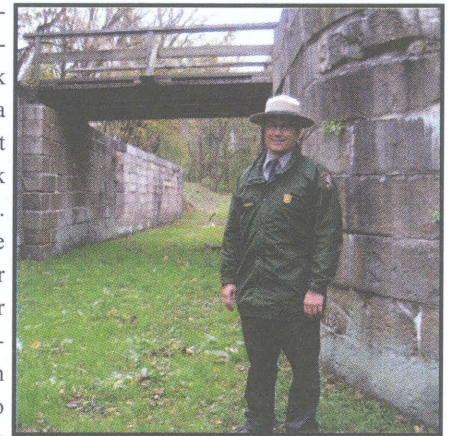
Brian Carlstrom was selected as the Deputy Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, entering his new position on September 14, 2008. He replaces Bob Hartman, who recently retired after a thirty year career in the National Park Service.

"Brian is an outstanding leader who works closely with the park staff, making solid decisions based on a wealth of in-depth knowledge," said Superintendent Kevin Brandt.

"I look forward to working with everyone, the employees, volunteers, partners, and neighbors, who care so much about this great park," Carlstrom said.

Carlstrom previously was chief of resource management at the C&O Canal NHP. He also was Acting Deputy Superintendent at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and Acting Superintendent at Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming.

Carlstrom has twenty years experience in the National Park Service. He began his career at the G.W. Memorial Parkway in Virginia as a seasonal laborer and worked as a seasonal ranger at National Capital Parks East. He earned his career status with the United States Park Police as administrative assistant at District 3 in Rock Creek Park. He served as a resources manager at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. He was a natural resource planner at the Denver Service Center and later as a senior systems analyst for the Intermountain Region. He returned to field work in the parks as chief of resources management at Prince William Forest Park.

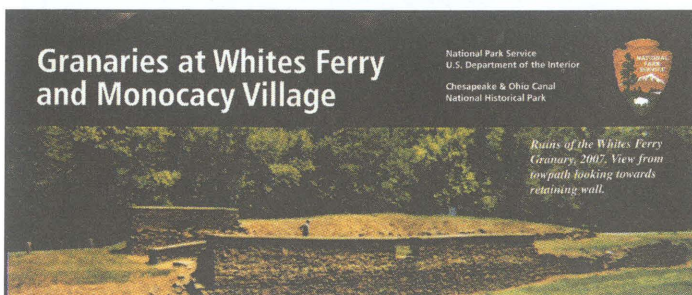


Brian inspecting Lock 29 (Catocin Lock) at Lander

Carlstrom won a Congressional Fellowship and worked for the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, and then in the Director's Office of Legislative and Congressional affairs. He is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Program of the USDA Graduate School.

Carlstrom has a bachelor's degree (1989) in parks and recreation from George Mason University and took graduate course work there in environmental sciences and public policy. Brian and his wife, Laura, have three teenage children at home and one in college. They reside in Middletown, Maryland. They enjoy a variety of outdoor activities and can often be found out walking along the towpath.

- NPS





## Towpath Breach Challenges the C&O Canal National Historical Park

Rains associated with Tropical Storm Hanna triggered a major breach in the towpath between Old Anglers Inn and Widewater near Potomac, Maryland. On October 4, the C&O Canal Park NHP and C&O Canal Trust held a public forum led by Kevin Brandt, Superintendent, C&O Canal NHP, and Matthew Logan, president of the trust, to discuss the damage and the recovery effort. Among those present were Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Senator Ben Cardin. Superintendent Brandt said that it is estimated that analysis, fund-raising, and construction are expected to take two to three years and to cost two to three million dollars. It is critical that everyone contact their representatives to let them know how important it is that the repairs be funded. The Canal Trust is leading efforts to raise funds for the repair.

The breach through the canal embankment, precipitated by Hanna's torrential downpour, is shown in the photo on the top left as seen from the berm side of the canal prism. The photo on the top right is a view of the breach produced by the Potomac flood in January 1996 about two hundred yards downstream from the Hanna breach. Both breaches cut deeply into the foundation of the embankment on the riverside. The photo below left is a view looking up from the Potomac riverside into the Hanna breach. The canal embankment wall at this point rises some forty feet above the level of the river. Visible in the photo on the lower right are stones scattered by the force of the water that penetrated and broke open the embankment wall.

- NPS sources



The Hanna Breach as seen from the towpath bypass  
Photo by Ned Preston



The Breach opened by the flood in Jan. 1996  
Photo by David Lepkowsky



The Hanna Breach as seen from below  
Photo by editor



Debris & embankment stones scattered below the breach  
Photo by editor



## A Reflection on the Breach Near Old Angler's

*"Expect the unexpected."*

Hanna's punch did not come from a swollen river flooding into the canal but struck from above in a torrential downpour. Hanna was out of wind but not out of water. Ironically, she found the weak spot in the canal embankment *between* two earlier breaches close by – one caused by the 1972 Agnes hurricane and the other by the flooding in '96. The embankment was reinforced at the two previous breaks to prevent recurrences at those points.

The maintenance crew was forewarned of trouble at the breach site a few days before Hanna hit. Bike patrollers noticed cracks in the towpath indicating that a leak was undercutting the embankment. Immediately, the crew began draining the canal to head off a break. Hanna arrived too soon and her rains filled the canal prism faster than it could be drained. Under this merciless onslaught the leak kept growing and finally blew out the canal wall. Mother Nature at times foils the best-laid plans.

The late Bill Davies, a long-time association member who walked with Douglas, used to warn us that all floods are different in their origin, dynamics and effects. So it was with Hanna. A geologist and a leading expert on floods for the Geological Survey, Bill said that with floods, "Expect the unexpected."

- Editor

*"From little potholes great breaches grow."*



One of several small potholes on the canal floor next to breach.  
Photo by editor

## Feast or Famine? VIP Projects and Volunteers

In September, VIP activities consisted of the installation of four small signs in the Cumberland area of the park. Two VIP members, two bike patrol members from Cumberland and the volunteer coordinator for the park did the work. It was a slim project and slimmer group of volunteers. In October, a project to move a truckload of top soil, some seeding and vegetation work brought out fifteen eager volunteers only to have the project postponed due to bad weather – the first time in four years this has happened.

Two projects were scheduled for November - the painting of the Mercer canal boat at Great Falls and a top soil project at Rileys Lock. Unfortunately, both of these projects were cancelled due to poor weather conditions. As of now, the VIP program is dormant for the winter, but planning has begun. Please mark your calendars for:

March 14, painting the Georgetown canal boat.

April 4, Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.

April date TBD to get topsoil and grass seed in at Rileys.

May 9, Invasive plant removal, Great Falls to Georgetown.

We anticipate a busy year, if planning for addressing needs of the park enough to become active projects.

Skip Magee and I thank everyone who contributed to our efforts this year. We hope a new year will bring renewed energy and enthusiasm in support of our great park.

**How to get involved** – let Jim Heins or Skip Magee know of your interest in and willingness to help with any of the projects that are scheduled to date. By email – vip@candocanal.org, or jheins57@verizon.net or call 301-949-3518.

- Jim Heins, VIP coordinator



## Environmental Update

As previously reported, the period for public comments on the scope of the National Park Service's planned draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Georgetown University boathouse project closed on January 18; however, NPS has not yet issued a draft EIS.

Odors from the Potomac Interceptor sewer line remain a problem for downriver areas of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Interested agencies and parties continue to confer on planned abatement structures, two of which would be within the canal park. At the August meeting, the NPS and the Commission of Fine Arts tentatively agreed upon design changes to the structure at Fletchers Cove (Site 1995). The Commission approved the design at its November 20 board meeting.

Storm water runoff promoted by development is the fastest-growing source of pollution for the Potomac River basin, according to a Potomac Conservancy report available at [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org). Related to the runoff problem are proposals to strengthen the Forest Conservation Law of Montgomery County, Md. The changes are contained in Bill 37-07. Amendments to that bill are sponsored by Councilmember Marc Elrich. The County is considering ways to coordinate the FCL amendments with new legislation on trees in properties of less than 40,000 square feet.

- Ned Preston



*History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.* **Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 BCE), *Pro Publio Sestio***

## The Irish Contractor Michael Byrne

The builders' stone in the middle of the Monocacy Aqueduct lists as contractors, M. Byrne, W. Byrne, and S. Lothrop. M. Byrne is Michael Byrne. His name appears on at least thirteen other contracts during the construction of the C&O Canal from 1832 to 1850. Initially we find him in partnership with W. Byrne and/or other people. His involvement in the canal's construction is equaled by no other contractor. He became even more important to me when I came across a statement about the Byrnes by the important 19<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania engineer James Worrall. In his *Memoirs*, when writing about his first job as a young, apprentice engineer on the C&O in 1833, he states:

A grand work was going on in full blast. The heaviest contractors in the United States had it—the great old “Byrne & Co.”—pronounced Burns & Co.—Michael and William Byrne. Locks, aqueducts, culverts, heavy excavations.

For a number of years I have sought information on Michael Byrne and the following is what I have discovered.

Michael was born ca. 1790 in Ireland. We know nothing about his youth, but based on a statement in his death notice, he likely emigrated to the United States about 1817. Michael emerges as a contractor in 1824 and 1825 when the company of “William and Michael Byrne and Paul Provest” have contracts on Pennsylvania's Union Canal that was being built between the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers.

On August 7, 1830, the company of “Byrne and LeBaron” took over the abandoned contract to build the massive Monocacy aqueduct. However, it is uncertain what happens to LeBaron, as S. Lothrop is the third contractor on the Monocacy builder's stone as indicated above.

Two years later in 1832, the contract for lock 41 and Guard Lock #5 was given to “Michael Byrne & Co.” At the same time, contracts for sixteen sections of the canal trunk; culverts 120, 129, and 135; locks 43 and 44; the Conococheague Aqueduct; and Dam 5 were all given to the “William & Michael Byrne & Paul Provest” company. This is the same partnership that had worked on the Union Canal.

In 1833 the firm of Byrne, Lathrop & Provest was contracted to build lock 45 up to the water line. (The name Lathrop here is likely a variant spelling of the “Lothrop” name on the Monocacy builders' stone.) The canal company intended to complete Lock 45 later with a separate contract, but in 1836, when the contractor who won that contract defaulted on it, the firm of “Michael Byrne & Co.” took it over and completed the lock.

Subsequently all other names disappear from the company name, which appears simply as “Michael Byrne & Co.” Under this name Michael takes on contracts in 1835 for lock 49 and the river locks at Edwards Ferry; in 1836 for locks 46 and 48 – 50, and in 1837 locks 60–66.

In July of 1850, after the contractors who were to complete the last work necessary to open the canal from Cumberland defaulted, Michael Byrne contracted to finish the job for \$3,000 cash and \$21,000 in bonds.

At some point Michael made his home in Frederick and shows up in some of the town's records. For example, in 1838, he is named as one of the managers for a ball, and in 1852 and 1853 he is named as a director of the Mutual Insurance Company.

On November 29, 1834, Michael was elected to the Commit-

tee of Correspondence at a meeting of the citizens of Frederick County that included Francis Thomas, Esq. (who would serve as C&O Canal Company president from June 1839 to April 1841). The committee was established:

to correspond with similar committees elsewhere about, and to deliberate on, the subject that will concern the convention at Baltimore assembling on Dec. 8th — i.e. to deliberate on the expediency and best means of providing for the future prosecution of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

In 1852 Michael was elected as a director of the C&O Canal Company (but I have not yet been able to determine how many years he served in that capacity).

On September 14, 1855, Frederick's renowned diarist, Jacob Englebrecht, noted that “Mr. Michael Byrne just now left the shop and he told us that he weighed 335 pounds. He is very large.”

Michael died on March 28, 1859 and on March 30, in the Deaths section of the Frederick paper, the following appeared:

On Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> instant, Mr. Michael Byrne, a native of King's county, Ireland, but a resident of Pennsylvania and Maryland for the last forty-two years, died in the 69<sup>th</sup> year of his age. The sterling qualities of head and heart, exemplified in his intercourse with all who knew him, justly endeared him to a large circle of admiring friends. His funeral will take place this morning at 11 o'clock, from his residence in East Second Street, to which his friends are respectfully invited.

Michael is buried in the historic cemetery of St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Frederick. Nearby are the graves of his wife, Rebecca, and his mother, Margaret, who had been born in Tullamore, Ireland and died in 1842.

And what of William Byrne? I have no definite knowledge of William or his relationship to Michael. However, in 1838, after William disappears from the Byrne company name and contracts on the C&O, a William Byrne appears as a contractor on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. He is instrumental in bringing the first Catholic priests to the area and in efforts to quell Irish factional fighting known locally as the “Irish Rebellion.” It is easy to imagine that Michael and William were brothers and that for some reason William headed west after 1835 when the structures on the C&O with which he was involved would have been completed.

Resources:

The *Memoirs* of Colonel James Worrall were published in 1887 by James Parker, Jr.. While rare, this document can be accessed at the Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Mo.

For information on the Byrnes' involvement in the Union Canal see the “Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania Papers, A. Charles Graff, President, 1825–45,” an index for which is online at [www.phmc.state.pa.us/BAH/DAM/mg/ys/m174ys3Pt1.pdf](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/BAH/DAM/mg/ys/m174ys3Pt1.pdf). Also see *The Two Canals of Lebanon County* by Dean M. Aungst, Vol. XIV, 1966, No. 1, The Lebanon County Historical Society, p. 34.

For information on Byrnes' activity in Frederick, see *The Diary of Jacob Engelbrecht*, The Historical Society of Frederick County, Inc.; and *Abstracts of Marriages and Deaths...1831–1840* by Tilden Moore. These are available at the library in Frederick.

The Byrnes contracts on the C&O can be found in the *Historic Resource Study: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal* by Harlan D. Unrau (DOI, NPS: 2007. Available free in pdf format at [www.nps.gov/history/history/park\\_histories/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/park_histories/index.htm))





*Monocacy Aqueduct Center Stone on which Michael Byrne's name appears*

## Continuing Hikes 2009

Continuing Hikes are the Association's casual hikes designed to acquaint hikers with the canal and each other. The group is usually small, 8 to 12 people; and the round trip distance is usually six to eight miles. For every hike, bring water and lunch or a snack and dress for the weather. We hike rain or shine, but hikes are shorter in bad weather. The entire schedule is in the Calendar of Events. Please contact me for travel directions or additional information.

Weather permitting there will be two return options for the January 25 hike downstream from Violettes Lock. The easy option will be to return along the towpath, five miles round trip. The more strenuous option will be to cross Muddy Branch on the berm side of the canal and follow the trails of Blockhouse Point Regional Park up the hill to several overlooks before descending back to canal level and Violettes Lock Road. This route is about six and a half miles and considerably harder with significant elevation change and rough footing.

On February 28 we will climb Maryland Heights. This is a very strenuous hike. Hikers should drive to the Harpers Ferry Visitors Center on US 340, take the free shuttle bus to the historic district and walk east on Shenandoah Street to the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers where the footbridge to Maryland begins. We will meet at the footbridge, then cross the river, walk up the canal about half a mile and then take the trails to the top of Maryland Heights. Total round trip distance is six miles.

The March 29 hike will be relatively easy. We will meet in Little Orleans at Bill's Place, a local institution, then walk through the road culvert under the Western Maryland RR and head downstream on the canal. If feasible we will return by the railroad right-of-way. Distance will depend on weather and hikers. May 24 will be another easy hike along the towpath starting at Noland's Ferry and heading upstream toward Point of Rocks. After a long summer break the hikes resume on October 24 at Spring Gap about 10 miles east of

Cumberland. This will be another easy towpath hike with fall color beginning to appear.

The final hike will be November 22 at McMahon's Mill downstream from Williamsport. We will start at the upstream end of Big Slackwater, walk between the river and the cliffs for about a mile before reaching Locks 41 and 42 and the resumption of the canal.

- Pat White (301-977-5628 or hikemaster@candocanal.org)

## Thru-Bikers Contribute to the C&O Park

Again this year the C&OCA thru-bikers group did their part in supporting worthwhile projects on the canal. The bikers contributed \$925 dollars toward the restoration of the Catoctin Aqueduct which is still a bit shy of the matching funds needed so that work can begin on rebuilding this fine canal structure which the old canallers called "the beautiful aqueduct." The thru-bikers also did not neglect the lesser but real towpath needs. They chipped in another \$200 bucks to pay for a sign directing hikers and bikers to the Western Maryland Rail Trail at Pearre (pronounced a bit like "gay Par-ree"). Pearre is at the western terminus of the rail trail. A similar sign is already located at Big Pool which is the eastern terminus. Our own Jim Heins is working with John Noel of the C&O park staff to see that the new sign is properly placed. Our thru-bikers agree that these little touches assisting the canal traveler need to be given due attention.

- Tom Perry

## CONTRIBUTORS TO ASSOCIATION FUNDS

The C&O Canal Association acknowledges with appreciation the contributors to its funds since the last report in *Along the Towpath*. Donations received after 11/ 15/ 08, will be acknowledged in a future issue. Donation options include the C&O Canal Fund (a fund for current projects and programs in the canal park); the Davies Legal Defense Fund; and the Big Slackwater Fund (for repair of 1.4 miles of towpath so hikers and cyclists are not forced to take a five mile detour on narrow county roads. Donations for the Catoctin Aqueduct go to the Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund, Inc.. Donations are not subject to overhead fees. The whole amount goes to the designated purpose. The association is all volunteer and has no paid staff.

## Thanks to Our Contributors

### Donations made in memory of Ken Rollins

Mary Rose Placania  
Samuel and Grace Tucker  
Ned and Leni Preston

### Donations made to Association Funds

The Charles Delmar Foundation  
Mary D. Hawley  
Michael & Linda Marmar  
David Lawrence Scally



## The Fall 2008 Thru Bike Ride

### The C&O Canal Towpath Thru-Bike Ride

by Pat Hopson

The annual C&O Canal Towpath ride went international this year, with our first participant from abroad - Birthe Olsen, a friend of other participants. Birthe came from Denmark to America specifically to do the towpath ride, and she was a delightful addition. We had 4 other newbies and fifteen veterans, for a total of twenty participants, led by our longtime outstanding leader, Tom Perry. We were very lucky to have four sweeps this year, all members of the C&O bike patrol - veterans Norman Liebow and Jim Heins and newbies Ron Burger and Don Titus. As usual, about half the group camped, and half stayed in motels.

We rode the entire 184.5-mile Towpath from Cumberland to



Pam Lantz and John Betting cruise near Brunswick.

Photo by Pat Hopson

Georgetown in six days, October 13-18, at a leisurely pace with ample time for exploring the many canal features along the way. Among the highlights were the trip through the Paw Paw Tunnel, eating lunch at Bill's Place in Little Orleans, visiting Fort Frederick State Park, exploring the cave just downstream from Dam 4, and hauling our bicycles up the spiral staircase to the bridge into Harpers Ferry. Every-

one was glad to let our sag wagon driver, Bill Trippel, carry their gear on that day. We stopped at three of the inlet dams and heard explanations of their functions. We sampled ripe paw paws a couple of time; some people thought they were too sweet; others liked them.

We enjoyed hospitality from several people along the way, including Paul and Evelyne Schlotterbeck, who served us lunch at the Western Maryland Sportsmen's Club on Day Four, and Tom and Linda Perry, who invited us for an evening get-together and Linda's delicious gingerbread cake with lemon sauce on Day Three. It is always a highlight of the trip to experience their wonderful hospitality and to see and hear Tom play his pipe organ, a huge one with over 700 pipes, which Tom has continued to add on to over the years. At Whites Ferry we were served a tasty and filling picnic supper provided by Heidi Gardner, Tom's daughter. Heidi and her son Levi, age six, rode with us on the final day, with Levi on a bike extender behind Heidi. At Fletcher's Cove Tom presented Levi with a certificate of completion for biking the entire Towpath, over two years - a feat that I'm sure very few six-year-olds have accomplished.

On our last day there were more interesting places than we had time to stop at, but we worked in as many as we could. We noted that the Jarboe store ruins at Edwards Ferry are being demolished, presumably because they have become hazardous over the years. We

stopped at Seneca, and Tom explained that it is the only combination aqueduct and inlet lock on the Canal. We visited the falls overlook at Great Falls, which was jammed with people on a beautiful fall day. We observed the break in the Towpath just above the Old Anglers bridge; a portion of the towpath had collapsed on September 6, caused by the very heavy rains from Tropical Storm Hanna. Kudos to the Park Service, which has very quickly built a dike around the break, so that the continuity of the towpath is not affected there. But the timeline and funding for the permanent repairs are uncertain. And then it was on to Georgetown, where many of the group were to take a shuttle back to Cumberland, while others met friends or family for transportation home.

As we do each year, we contributed to a Canal-related project. Part of our funds will go to erect a towpath sign near the western end of the Western Maryland Rail Trail, at Pearre, to direct bikers to that trail (it will complement the sign at the eastern end). The other part will go to the Catocin Aqueduct Restoration Fund.



The Cycling Contingent

Front Row, L to R: Norman Liebow, Don Titus, Barbara Trippel, Jon Wilson, Birthe Olsen, Lesley Sorkowitz, Tom Perry, Donna Sloppy, Pat Hopson. Back Row: Cliff Noyes, Jim Williamson, John Betting, Jim Heins, Paul Leatherman, Pam Lantz, Denny Sloppy, Ron Burger, and Frnak Wodarczyk. Photo by Ross Willard. Framing courtesy of the Catocin railroad bridge.

### Why not join the C&O Canal Association today?

The C&O Canal Association was prologue to the creation of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Founded by Justice William O. Douglas and his fellow hikers to promote the C&O Canal as a national historical park, the association organized the popular annual hikes that "walked" and "talked" the C&O Canal Park into being. Preservation and protection of this unique national historical park is our abiding purpose. We support all efforts to restore, repair and improve the many canal structures essential to its continuity, integrity and very survival. We oppose any encroachments on its special character as a national historical park. If you would like to join us go to [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org) and click "membership" to apply.

*Along the Towpath*



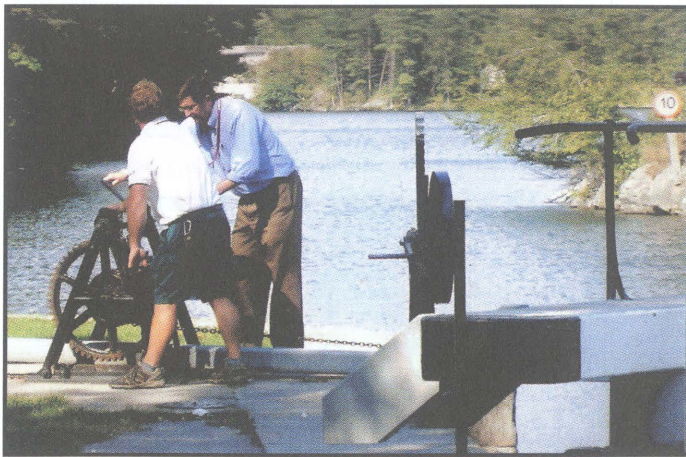
## WORLD CANALS CONFERENCE

### AT KINGSTON, ONTARIO

by Dave Johnson

The annual World Canals Conference (WCC) was held in September at Kingston, Ontario. This year's conference was hosted by Parks Canada and the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. The theme was "Managing Canal Corridors in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." During the week, delegates visited sites along the Rideau Canal from Kingston to Ottawa, and on the Trent-Severn Waterway at Peterborough. The conference was very well planned, the speakers were interesting, and support, from field trips to meals, was smoothly and efficiently managed.

The Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is 202 km (125 miles) long, connecting Kingston, on Lake Ontario, with Ottawa. Only about nineteen kilometers of the route is in man-made canal cuts. The remainder consists of slackwater channels in natural rivers and lakes. It was built between 1826 and 1832 under the supervision of Lt. Col. John By, Royal Engineers, to provide a secure waterway for troops and military supplies between the Great Lakes and Montreal. This route bypasses the upper St. Lawrence River, the vulnerable boundary with the aggressive neighbor to the south whose expansionist motives and unimaginable weapons of mass destruction were believed aimed at the conquest of Canada. Boats from Kingston ascend the Cataraqui River, through fourteen locks, to the summit level in



Lockmaster and delegate crank open a lock gate at Jones Falls

Photo by Dave Johnson

Upper Rideau Lake, an elevation change of fifty meters. They then descend through the lakes and down the Rideau River, where thirty-one locks lower them eighty-three meters to the capital. The final, spectacular eight-lock staircase delivers them into the Ottawa River for the trip down to the St. Lawrence and Montreal. The Rideau Canal never had a towpath. It was designed from the beginning for steam and wind-powered vessels.

The Rideau Canal is the oldest continuously operating canal in North America. As the years went by, and it became apparent that no

Yankee armada was about to come steaming across Lake Ontario, the canal became an artery of trade. That commerce eventually gave way to the railways and the St. Lawrence Seaway. As the Rideau became increasingly popular avenue for recreational boating, operation and maintenance were transferred from the Ministry of Transport to Parks Canada. It is open to navigation from May to mid-October. The locks can handle boats up to ninety feet long and twenty-six feet wide.

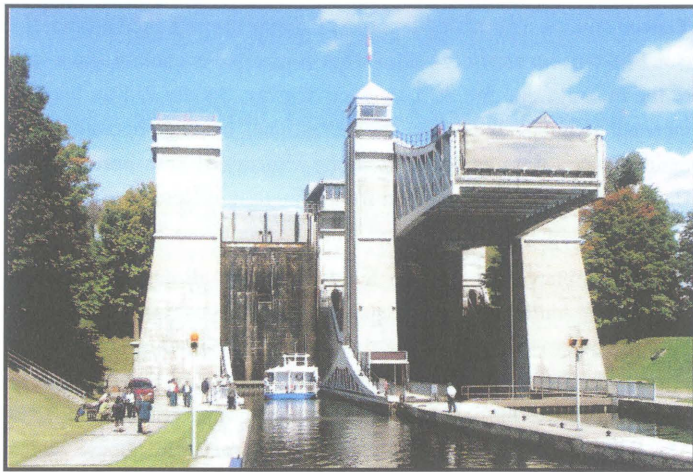
The conference began on Sunday with an all-day excursion to Ottawa. We toured the city, passing many of the government buildings on Parliament Hill, crossed the river into Gatineau, Quebec, and then returned to Ottawa to visit the eight-lock flight connecting the canal to the river below. On the return trip to Kingston, the coaches stopped at Merrickville to visit the locks there and the largest blockhouse on the canal.

Monday morning marked the opening of the formal portion of the conference, with welcomes from the mayor of Kingston and from Chief Whiteduck of the Algonquins of Pikwakānagān, an address by the chief executive of Parks Canada, and an overview of the Kingston fortifications and Rideau Canal. The afternoon field trip took us, first, to Fort Henry, constructed in the 1840s as the primary installation of the extensive fortifications built to defend the entrance to the canal and the British naval dockyard at Kingston. We then traveled to Kingston Mills. This is the location of the first four locks on the canal, which raised it from the level of Lake Ontario onto the Canadian Shield. It is also the site of one of four blockhouses built for defense along the canal. In the evening, the delegates boarded the *Island Star* for a three-hour dinner cruise on Lake Ontario and among the Thousand Islands.

The Tuesday and Wednesday morning programs opened with general plenary sessions, followed by concurrent panel discussions on a variety of topics relevant to the theme of the conference. With three concurrent sessions each hour, delegates had the opportunity to attend the panels of greatest interest to them. Among the sessions that this writer attended were a presentation on the restoration of the Erie Canal flight of locks at Lockport, N. Y., by our friend Dennis McMullan (who has been a consultant on the Monocacy, Catoctin and Conococheague Aqueducts); talks on European canal marketing by Tim Coghlan, who runs a canal marina in England, and Anna Meyer, business development manager for Göta Kanal, and adaptive re-use, where Tom Grasso described the efforts to reopen a section of the old Erie Canal through Rochester. This format makes it possible to present many speakers, but it forces the delegates to make hard choices and miss some talks that they would like to have attended.

The afternoon field trips carried us deep into Rideau territory. Tuesday's took us to Westport and Spy Rock Lookout, where one gets a fine view of the village and lakes below. From there, we went on to Perth and the terminus of the Tay Canal, a short canal privately built in 1834 to link the town to the Rideau. The afternoon ended with a visit to Smiths Falls, one of the larger towns on the canal. Here we had one of the most interesting stops, a tour of the shop where lock gates are constructed and repaired. Wednesday afternoon found us at Jones





The Peterborough Hydraulic Lift Lock: Trent Severn Waterway

Photo by Dave Johnson

Falls, one of the most picturesque lock stations on the whole canal. There are four locks, including three in flight, a working blacksmith shop, and a “defensible” lockmaster’s house (built like a small block-house, with embrasures for rifles.) The great, 62-foot-high stone arch dam holding back the waters of Sand Lake is 350 feet from end to end. From Jones Falls, we boarded the *General Brock III* and cruised through Sand Lake, Davis Lock, and Opinicon Lake to Chaffey’s Lock. (Adjacent to the lock is the historic Opinicon Hotel, dating from the 1870s, which was the site of the memorable third WCC in 1990. Five delegates to that conference were back this year.)

In the evening, we returned to Fort Henry for a reception and banquet. Following refreshments on the parade ground, we proceeded into the fort for a roast turkey dinner served by “soldiers” in nineteenth-century uniforms. It was an excellent meal, but the acoustics in the stone and brick bombproof casemates made conversation difficult.

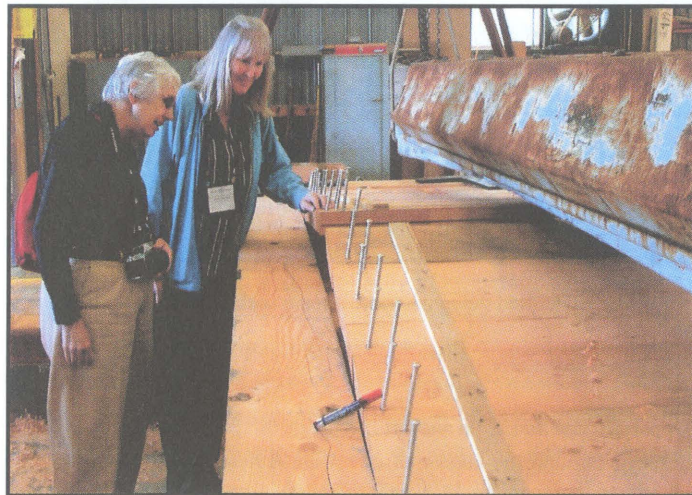
The conference officially ended at the dinner, but a post-conference tour to the Trent-Severn Waterway on Thursday took a coach full of delegates to the famous hydraulic liftlock at Peterborough. Like the Rideau, the Trent-Severn combines canals, canalized rivers and lakes to forge a water route through the wilderness. It connects Trenton, on Lake Ontario, to the Georgian Bay on Lake Huron, bypassing Niagara, Lake Erie and the Detroit River. Unlike the Rideau, the Trent-Severn took nearly ninety years to complete, not being finished for its full distance until 1920. What makes it unique are the two hydraulic lift locks, at Peterborough and Kirkfield, the only such structures in North America. (They are similar to the 1877 prototype at Anderton, England, and the four at La Louvière, Belgium.) Arriving at Peterborough, we transferred from coach to boat. We enjoyed another turkey dinner as we cruised up the canal, through the conventional lock at Ashburnham, and arrived at the hydraulic lock. The Peterborough lift, completed in 1904, is the world’s highest (twenty meters), and the first/only one built of unreinforced concrete. It took only a few minutes to be raised to the upper reach. After returning to the lower level and leaving the boat, we were given a full tour of the structure, from the bottom of the pits, underneath the cais-

sons, to the control tower at the top.

Before leaving Peterborough, we visited the Canadian Canoe Museum, which houses the world’s largest collection of canoes and kayaks. The exhibits trace the development of the birchbark canoe and its importance to Canadian history from the Mi’kmaq, through the *voyageurs*, to modern times. Our final stop was at Serpent Mounds Park, where we met members of the Hiawatha First Nation and visited the 2,000 year-old burial mounds.

Over 220 people attended the conference, including more than forty from the United States, and about 140 from Canada. (Half of the Canadian total were Parks Canada personnel.) Other countries represented included the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Serbia and Sweden. The C & O Canal Association was represented by Carl Linden, Leif Linden, Lynn and Sonny DeForge, Rod Mackler and Susan Vanhaften, Barbara Sheridan, Pat White, and Dave Johnson.

The World Canals Conference is a forum for advocates, historians and managers of canals and waterways worldwide, dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of these resources through the exchange of information, education and increased public awareness of their value. This was the twenty-first annual event in the series, which began in 1988. It has grown from a symposium on historic canal parks to encompass modern and operating waterways as well. It provides an opportunity for volunteers and members of historic societies to meet and network with their counterparts in similar organizations and with professional park and waterway managers. North American sponsors host the conferences in even-numbered years and Europeans in the odd years. The C&O Canal Association and the National Park Service co-hosted the fifth conference in 1992.



The Rideau workshop: Pat & Barbara see how lock gates are made

Photo by Dave Johnson

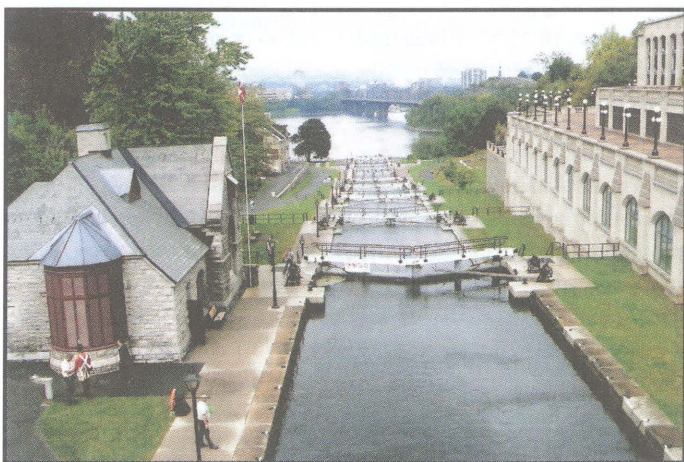
The WCC Steering Committee met during the conference. This committee, composed of chairpersons of past conferences, was for-



mally organized in 1997 to select sponsors and sites for future WCCs. At this year's meeting it was decided to incorporate the steering committee into Inland Waterways International. IWI was founded in 1996 by members of the Inland Waterways Association (UK), and has grown to include waterway authorities, societies, museums and individuals in seventeen countries. Its aims include encouraging the proper management, protection, improvement and creation of waterways, cooperation between nations and organizations, and education on their economic, recreational and environmental importance. IWI has been a strong supporter of the WCC, and there is substantial cross-membership between IWI leadership and the steering committee. The current president of IWI is Dave Ballinger, retired director of operations of the Rideau Canal and active in the WCC since 1990. The immediate past-president is Tom Grasso, president of the Canal Society of New York State and chair of the 2000 WCC held in Rochester. We are confident this affiliation will be beneficial to both organizations.

The next World Canals Conference will be held at Zrenjanin in the Serbian province of Vojvodina in September 2009. Zrenjanin is in a central location in the Danube-Tisa-Danube canal network, one of the biggest waterways projects in Europe. It is a unique hydro-engineering system for navigation, flood control, water supply, tourism, fishing and hunting. In 2010, the conference will return to Rochester, New York, and feature the Erie Canal.

The American Canal Society also held its annual meeting during the conference. Among matters discussed were recent developments on waterways in Texas, Wisconsin, and Illinois; progress on the Wabash & Erie Canal Center at Delphi, Indiana; and the proposed thirty-storey hotel/condominium to be built next to the Welland Canal at Port Dalhousie, Ontario. All of the incumbent officers were re-elected for another term: president – Dave Barber, Hopedale, Mass.; vice-presidents – Bill Gerber, N. Chelmsford, Mass., and Mike Morthorst, Cincinnati, Ohio; treasurer – Charles Derr, Freemansburg, Pa.; and secretary – Dave Johnson, Bethesda, Md.



The Rideau Canal flight of locks leading down to the Ottawa River  
Photo by Dave Johnson

## Remembering the Spong Tragedy

In the evening of September 10, 1916, a C&O Canal freighter captained by Samuel Spong passed through Tidelock on the Georgetown waterfront and was towed to a riverside wharf at the back of the Capital Traction Company where its load of coal would be delivered the next morning. About 6 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup>, as Captain Spong and his older son Tommy were removing the hatches, Mrs. Spong was preparing breakfast in the cabin where three younger children were still sleeping.

Extending from the wall where the boat was tied up was a pipe with an elbow designed to vent steam from the plant and divert it downward onto the river. Tragically, however, on this occasion when steam was vented, the elbow blew off and the scalding steam filled the cabin of the boat. Mrs. Spong survived, although hospitalized for many weeks, but the three children — John, 13; Samuel Willard, 11; and Sara, 6 — all died that day as a result of their burns.

This September 13th, at 11 a.m., as part of Sharpsburg's annual festival, the C&O Canal National Historical Park and the C&O Canal Association conducted a memorial at the Spong family graves in Mountain View Cemetery on the north side of the town. The event was featured on the cover of this year's festival program.

At the gravesite, Curt Gaul, the interpretive ranger at Williamsport, told the story of the tragedy to the group that gathered for the event. Among those attending were thirteen Spong family descendants. A large basket of brightly-colored flowers was provided by the Association for the occasion and the park provided large pictures of Captain Spong and the children that had been taken about a year before the tragedy.

- Karen Gray



The Spong Family today



## ON THE LEVEL by Level Walker Chair Bill McAllister

In view of the Hurricane Hanna breach near Old Angler's Inn, level walkers should remember to be on guard for leaks. Sometimes running water may be audible in the vicinity of a leak. Sometimes a whirlpool appears on the surface where there is a leak. Sometimes a leak may be noticeable on the riverside of an embankment. Sometimes cracks may show up on the towpath where leakage is undercutting the embankment. Shortly before Hurricane Hanna hit, the bike patrol noticed cracks in the towpath. Park maintenance began draining the canal but their effort was overwhelmed by Hanna's torrents. Over the years, association members have found leaks which were reported to an appreciative canal staff. As you walk your levels be alert for the signs of leaks and include them in your report or report them directly to the Park Service using their phone number on the report form.

*Level #1 Tidelock to Incline Plane; John Barnett reports* 8/9 Section looked good. 8/17 Fairly heavy with walkers, joggers and bikers. Tidelock and Aqueduct in pretty good shape. 8/23 At the entrance to the parking lot at Rock Creek Parkway and Virginia Ave, one of the trash receptacles was so overloaded that there was litter on the ground around it. I cleaned up around it and took some trash out of it and put it in another receptacle. Good deed for the day. One biker, passing by, said "Bless your heart." 8/31 Fairly heavy with walkers, joggers and bikers. 9/7 Lots of bikers. Some dog walkers and a lot of walkers - particularly in the Lock #4 area which, I think, was partly young women selling women's' apparel and accessories. They displayed their wares on the towpath and fence right at the lock. 9/14 Traffic was light. Hot and humid. 9/20 In my view there was a preview of what to expect if GU is allowed to build a boathouse (and party house?) in the C&O park. GU was holding some sort of celebration at Thompsons Boathouse yesterday (20th). A large tent had been erected. Refreshments' and food were served up against Tidelock. Hundreds of non-boaters were milling around with drinks galore and generally getting in the way of the boaters. 9/28 Tidelock in pretty good shape. I tried throwing some of the beach timber back into the river. Maybe some of it will go out to sea and not return on the incoming tide. 10/4 Some leaves turning and lots of ducks. 10/12 The tour boat was loaded to capacity today. Turning away potential riders. This is the best 'Indian Summer' I've seen in years!! Half a dozen folks stopped to thank me for doing what I do. Nice. 10/18 Tidelock and Aqueduct were in great shape with little trash about. 10/26 A manhole cover was removed from its place on the towpath around halfway up the grade to Canal Road/M Street. It posed a hazard. 11/1 Light traffic; bikes; walkers. Some fall colors but mostly just dull.

*Level #1 Tidelock to Incline Plane; Mike Flanigan & Mary Jo Cittadino report:* 7/30 We have removed ads tacked to the trees, especially on C&O at 29th Street, and removed ads stuck into the grass verges in the same area.

*Level #3 Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek; Marcus Boorstin reports:* 8/23 There was lots of plant life in Lock 5 and the guard lock. The water level was quite low. 10/12 The water level on all the level of the canal has been low, and in several places there was a distinct smell of sewage.

*Level #4 Cabin John Creek to Lock 14; Carolyn Reeder reports:* 9/7 We walked part of my level today to check on storm damage. The towpath surface was in very good shape after 5 to 6 inches of rain from Hurricane Hanna! *Larry Heflin reports:* 8/20 Walnuts begin to

fall. Poison Ivy at entrance gate and trash bag area at Lock 10.

*Level #5 Lock 14 to Bridge at Cropley; Jan and Jim Heins report:* 8/8/ A great number of hikers and bikers. Very busy. Three fishermen. No dogs off leash although many on leash. *Susan Zweighaft reports:* 8/17 There was damage to a sign at the West End, Section B of the Billy Goat trail. The towpath was generally quite free of debris.

*Level #6 Bridge at Cropley to Great Falls Tavern; Harry Bridges reports:* 8/9 Hundreds of hikers and joggers. Dozens of bikers. Of all the bikers who passed me, only one gave an audible signal. I was almost hit three times by them. Many were going too fast through congested areas. 10/12 One beautiful bunch of lavender flowers just downriver from Lock 17 across the canal. *Steve Eastham reports:* 8/10 Fifty plus bikers on canal, a few fishermen, one stand up surf-boarder. There was one family with an elderly person in a wheel chair that they pushed along the canal.

*Level #9 Pennyfield Lock (22) to Seneca Aqueduct; John McGraw reports:* 8/25 Towpath in excellent condition. Grass and weeds freshly mowed on both sides. Low water level between Violettes's and Pennyfield. The river is also low. Stonewall Jackson would have no trouble getting across. *Steve Eastham reports:* 9/16 Fourteen through bikers riding entire canal. A number of kayakers on river.

*Level #10 Seneca Aqueduct to Milepost 25; Mason White reports:* 8/24 The towpath was very hard and dusty. The mud holes I saw last month are long gone. It was a good outing today in spite of the humidity and dust. 10/15 Very little trash found on or along walking surface. As always, most found around the fishing spot on the west side of the aqueduct.

*Level #11 Milepost 25 to Sycamore Landing; Marv and Sandy Kahn report:* 8/10 There is a new park regulation sign on the towpath at the parking lot entrance. There is an Emerald Ash Borer test trap at the parking lot entrance to the towpath. The main bloomers were phlox and Jerusalem artichokes. *Mason White reports* 8/17 The plant life remains thick but continues to shrivel or droop. Of course, the weather has been dry for some weeks. 9/13 I counted three vehicles from Maryland and one from Idaho. 10/30 The towpath was badly littered with limbs, pieces of limbs and other wood debris. I removed all. Wonderful fall colors.

*Level #12 Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry; Pat Hopson and Carol Ivory* assisted by fellow Sierra Club members: Ray Abercrombie, Connie Chubb, Janet Kegg, Margaret Neuse, Susan Sewell,



Sankar Sitaraman, and Frank Wodarczyk – 9 people total. We met some NPS contract staff near Sycamore Landing who were clearing overgrown weeds. At the Chisel Branch Hiker-Biker we talked to a bicyclist who had camped there the previous night; he said he was biking all the way to Pittsburgh.

*Level #15 Whites Ferry to Woods Lock (26); George Wyeth reports:* 10/12 There was virtually no trash. Beautiful day and saw a variety of wildlife although nothing exotic -- muskrat, turtles, a hawk, a ground-hog.

*Level #19 Point of Rocks to Catoctin Aqueduct; Marlow Madeoy reports:* 8/23 Since the area hadn't received any rainfall in weeks, the conditions along the towpath were entirely boned-dry. Trail dusts were coated on the vegetation.

*Level #20 Catoctin Aqueduct to Lock 30; Olivia Evans reports:* 9/7 Starting to see the signs of autumn with a few red leaves on the towpath. Otherwise green and lush. Relatively few people out on this level. I guess people don't like that part by the water treatment plant, but the Catoctin Aqueduct makes up for that.

*Level #21 Lock 30 to Lock 31; Doug Zveare reports:* 10/19 Approximately one more week to peak colors. Thorny type growth on both the towpath and berm sides make trash collecting somewhat painful. Two park visitors thanked me for my efforts and two others stopped to ask questions about the park. I suspect I looked somewhat official with my C&O Canal Association Level Walker vest. **Olivia Evans reports:** 9/1 I ran out one direction and walked back. Towpath looked good. I didn't see anything unusual. Beginning to see a few leaves fall and a red leaf every now and again (sigh).

*Level #22 Lock 31 to Lock 33; Lisa Angstadt reports:* 8/10 For the first time in this area, I believe we came face-to-face with a pair of minks! Small, dark brown creatures that came running right up the towpath towards us. Had our two dogs along for the walk, so the minks veered off towards the canal and must have sprayed in defense of themselves—what a smell!!!

*Level #26 Lock 37 to Antietam Aqueduct; Karen and Jack Forster report:* 8/9 Eighty-five bikers a record for us (one with baby trailer, one a park ranger, one had dog in basket).

*Level #27 Antietam Aqueduct to Shepherdstown Lock (38); Carol Galaty and Gil Hill report:* 9/22 There was almost no trash. The Park Service does an amazing job here. We saw a Park Service person stop her NPS van on the road along side the canal, stop get out and pick up one piece of trash, get back into the van and drive on.

*Level #32 Marsh Run Culvert to Dam 4; Kathy and Dave Peterson report:* 8/10 We ourselves collected only one small bag, but we picked up a large bag from a group of hikers who were packing it out.

*Level #33 Dam 4 to McMahon's Mill; Karen Gray reports:* 8/17 A muskrat ran across the path just about 10 feet in front of me at one point. He disappeared down the bank and into the river.

*Level #35 Opequon Jct. Hiker-Biker to Lock 43; Stephen Williams reports:* 10/30 It was a thrill to focus binoculars on and watch a deer with large antlers cross with ease a wide section of Big Slack Water (twice!). At about mile 92.25. I saw a cheerful wood sign which read: CANDOC MIDPOINT < WASHINGTON CITY 92.25 mi. CUMBERLAND > You're halfway there!

*Level #37 Falling Waters to Lock 44; Kevin Shaner reports:* 10/11 Towpath in excellent shape, dry and level. There were no dips or places where puddles had formed.

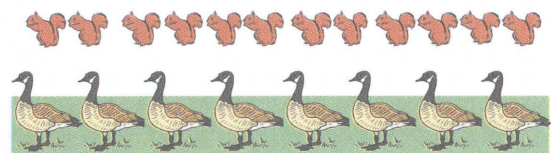
*Level #43 McCoy's Ferry to Fort Frederick; Karen Gray reports:* 11/1 When I took on this level in 1977, there was a long section of the canal from Big Pool down (probably about 1/5th of a mile long) that had been cleared and planted with grass. This was part of the work done in the Fort Frederick area in connection with the 1976 Bicentennial of the country. Over the years the prism has slowly been reclaimed by first wild grasses and bushes and then small trees. I noticed on this walk that I could no longer detect the 1976 cleared area at all.

*Level #48 Hancock to Round Top Cement Mill; Phillip Clemans reports:* 8/3 Towpath was in great shape. A few mud puddles and horse apples proved no problem to evade. At the cement factory, I observed a pair of what I will say were Prothonotary Warblers. At 126.2 one bird was observed at close quarters for a couple of minutes. My research leads me to call it a white breasted nut hatch.

*Level #52 Sideling Hill Aqueduct to 15 Mile Creek Aqueduct; Roger Winter reports:* 9/8 Downed tree blocking the towpath at marker 137. I reported to Visitors center in Hancock who called maintenance while I was there. 10/20 Foggy, 28 degrees, initially. Quickly warmed up to be sunny and gorgeous. Beavers were active.

*Level #62 Lock 68 to Oldtown; Bob and Joan Mischler report:* 9/2 The general conditions along that stretch are excellent. I did a somewhat major cleanup between miles 161 and 162, picking up a lot of large branches that had fallen on the path and cutting back a good deal of vegetation.

*Level #68 Evitts Creek Aqueduct to Wiley Ford Bridge; Bob and Joan Mischler report:* 11/5 Eight Canada geese, at least 12 squirrels, a few remaining NY aster and a few colorful trees but fading fast.





## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Under the bylaws of the C&O Canal Association, elections are held at the annual meeting. Association officers are elected to serve a term of one year. Five directors are elected to serve three-year terms. In addition, a nominating committee is chosen at the annual meeting to nominate one candidate for each office to be filled the following year. Additional nominations from the floor are permitted. Members assembled at the 2008 annual meeting selected a nominating committee chaired by John Wheeler and including members Dave Johnson, Sonny DeForge, Jim Heins, George Lewis and Tom Perry. The committee nominates the following candidates for 2009.

### OFFICERS

#### President:

**Rachel Stewart**, Arlington, Va.

It is an honor to be nominated for the office of President of the Association. I've been a member since 1984 and have served both as Secretary and as a Director. The Canal is an important part of my life. Though I live in Arlington, Virginia, I grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland. With my dad, I fished in the Canal as a kid; as a fearless young adult, I climbed the rocks at Great Falls and Carderock; my children tried to teach me to skate backwards at Widewater. In time I came to realize that there is a watchdog for the Canal, to protect it from degradation and encroachment. I hope to help it continue bringing pleasure to others as well as being a monument to the Nation's commercial aspiration and engineering skill.

#### First Vice President:

**Dward A. Moore, Jr.**, Brunswick, Md.

I have enjoyed serving on the Board of the C&O Canal Association for over six years. I would consider it an honor to continue serving as an officer for the Association for another year. I have lived in Brunswick for over twenty years. There is much to be done to help our beloved canal and towpath. All of us who enjoy the canal and its towpath must continue to support the canal and demonstrate to the C&O Canal National Historical Park and the National Park Service just how important the park is to everybody.

#### Second Vice President & Level Walker Chairman:

**Bill McAllister**, Lanham, Md.

My wife and I discovered the C&O Canal Association at the Brunswick city campground. An association banner was planted in the ground by the boat ramp left there by members paddling down river to the Monocacy. We looked up "C&O Canal Association" in the phone book, obtained information on the association, and then joined. We first participated in a hike and a dinner at the Hancock Legion. The Level Walker Chair signed us on as walkers. The big push for the Monocacy Aqueduct restoration was on. We purchased an aqueduct print as a donation. We have walked our level regularly and have participated in hikes and canoe trips. For the past two years I have served as Level Walker chairman and will continue to do so if re-elected.

#### Recording Secretary:

**Bill Holdsworth**, Rockville, Md.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve as secretary of the association, an organization that plays a vital role in supporting one of the nation's historic treasures. I have been an association member for the past eleven years. I have served as secretary for the past three years. I participated in the 2004 Douglas thru-hike (my second

thru-hike) and organized the shuttle for those hikers not camping. I look forward to doing the thru-hike again in April. I am Program Manager in the Finance Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

#### Treasurer:

**William D. Bauman**, Winchester, Va.

I have been a member of the Association for over 20 years and have served on the Board of Directors. I am the Volunteer Coordinator, for the C & O Canal's Lockhouse 75, which is open every weekend from Memorial Day through Sept 30 and for special events when requested. I have also transcribed many documents for the C&O Canal NHP, several of which were recently edited and included in the *History of the C & O Canal*, by Harlan D. Unrau. For the past two years I have maintained the Association's accounts in a clear and accurate manner. I will be happy to serve another year, if elected.

#### Information Officer:

**Adrienne Gude**, Washington, DC

Adrienne Gude lives in Washington with her children Alexandra and Teddy. For the past three years Adrienne has worked as a legislative aide at the Montgomery County Council. Her work includes legislation to protect champion trees, legislation to preserve the existing scenic views around the C&O Canal National Park, and proposed legislative amendments to strengthen the county's Forest Conservation Law. Previously, Adrienne worked for the Glen Echo Park Partnership as the Education Program Manager and Development Manager. She has extensive experience in public relations work. Adrienne's father, Gilbert Gude, instilled in her a love for the C&O Canal and the surrounding park. She has fond memories of a lifetime of attending events organized by the C&O Canal Association.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### For three-year terms

**Carl Linden**: Bethesda, Md.

I have served the association as president three times over the years (1972-74, 1994-95 & 2006), as board member a number of times and now as editor of *Along the Towpath*. In my half century as an association member I have gained perspective on the association's remarkable career as a volunteer civic organization going back to its role in bringing the C&O Canal National Historical Park into existence and now to its task of seeing the park preserved and protected. Hopefully, my long view can prove helpful in our board's deliberations. As an association we all have come to know the canal and river intimately. We need to make sure our voice is heard on the issues that bear critically on the present and future of our unique national historical park and its Potomac riverscape.

**Dorothea M. Malsbary**, Hedgesville, WV.

Joined the association in 2001 and am completing a first term on the board. Retired from the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service in 2003 to start a new career in historic preservation. Member of historic preservation organizations in Maryland and West Virginia and with my husband, am a trail overseer for a section of the Tuscarora Trail through the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. For the past two years I have served as the chair of the association's Program Committee and will continue to be available to organize hikes and programs for the Douglas and Heritage Hikes. I have attended several World Canal Conferences. Would like to further the association's focus on recreation and history as well as community service.

*Along the Towpath*



**Marlow Madeoy:** Ashburn, Va.

I live in Ashburn, VA. I have been a longstanding member of the C&O Canal Association. I joined in 1987 and knew the C&O Canal well since 1975. I have interest in the historical and environmental aspects of the canal as well as the passion for walking along the towpath. In 2003 I became a level walker between Point-of-Rocks and Catoctin Aqueduct. In 2007 I initiated the geology hike outings for the Association. My goal in serving on the board is to exhibit my leadership ability to the Association and to the citizens who live in surrounding communities along the 185 miles. If I am reelected, I will work to assure that our organization will carry on its legacy and continuity.

**Don Harrison:** Potomac, Md.

I grew up in Montgomery County and have lived in Potomac since 1978. The C&O Canal has always been a part of my life walking the towpath with my parents, as a boy scout, and today with my family. I have been member of the C&O Canal Association since 2002 and have attended the Association's annual meetings and other functions. I'm a member of the Friends of the Historic Great Falls Tavern and have been president since 2002. I'm on the Board of Directors of the C&O Canal Trust and serve as Vice-Chair of the Board. During the past few years, I, like others, have a great concern about the C&O Canal Park. Budget cuts have resulted in the reduction of park staff, which has affected service, interpretive programs, and maintenance of the canal and buildings. There are dedicated volunteers along the length of the canal, but they can only do so much. Budget cuts need to be restored along with financial funding from partnership organizations in order for the NPS to continue to serve the public and maintain this unique park.

**Lisa Hendrick:** Martinsburg, WV.

I have lived in Martinsburg all my life. I enjoy history and the outdoors. I am very familiar with the sections of the canal from Brunswick to Williamsport and am learning more about the other sections. I enjoy hiking and biking on the towpath. I discovered and joined the association over five years ago. I gave a membership to a friend whose grandfather was a lockkeeper and whose mother lived in the lockhouse to age eighteen when a flood destroyed it. I take part in all association activities. I have previously worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Harpers Ferry. Currently I work for General Dynamics in Frederick. I miss no opportunity to tell people about the C&O Canal and all that it offers to people of all ages.

### Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

The following four proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the C & O Canal Association will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting on March 7, 2009. This notice constitutes the required publication of the proposed amendments. (*Brackets indicate words in the current bylaw that are proposed to be deleted. Words underlined in bold are proposed additions.*) A two-thirds majority of members voting is required for adoption. The Bylaws Committee recommend a vote in favor of each of the proposed changes.

**1.** To amend Article II, Section 2 by striking out "a" and inserting "one" in the second sentence: "At each Annual Meeting a Nominating Committee of six members nominated from the floor shall be elected by a plurality vote, a tie for sixth place being decided by lot. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate [a] one candidate for each of the offices to be filled at the next Annual Meeting. The call to the Annual Meeting shall identify all candidates and provide a short

**2.** To amend Article VI, Section 7 by deleting words in the first sentence, as follows: "A Legal Advisory Committee of one or more members who are both members of this Association and attorneys [admitted to practice law in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia or the District of Columbia] shall be appointed by the President at the April Board meeting each year. Upon request, it shall advise the Association on legal issues of concern to it. It may call on other members of the Association who are experts in the fields of accounting, insurance, scientific issues and other areas for advice and assistance as necessary."

(*This amendment allows retired lawyers to serve on the Legal Advisory Committee.*)

**3.** To insert after Article VI, Section 2, a new section reading as follows: "**A Bylaws Committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the President at the April meeting of the Board. It shall be the duty of this committee to review all proposed amendments to these Bylaws to ensure that they are not in conflict with any provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, other articles of the Bylaws, or any other regulations to which the Association may be subject. The committee shall report its recommendation on each proposed amendment to the Board of Directors, which may recommend approval or disapproval of the amendment by the membership of the Association.**"

**4.** To insert after Article VI, Section 11, a new section reading as follows: "**A Special Projects Committee of at least five members shall be appointed by the President at the April meeting of the Board. It shall be the duty of this committee to undertake projects of interest to the Association, and to advise the Board of Directors of recommended actions or positions that the Association should take on such issues.**"

(*Amendments 3 and 4 describe committees created since the current Bylaws were adopted.*)



Serial Hikers at the Elizabeth Mill Lock, Goose Creek Navigation - Nov. 23 From the left: Tom & Linda Lightfoot, Phil Travers (tallest), Rachel Stewart, Pat White, Marion Robertson (kneeling), Laura Gilliam, Skip McGee, and Neil Gilliam (not related to Laura).

### Serial Hike Along the Old Goose Creek Navigation

The day was sparkling and just right for hiking. Our route was about a five and a half mile round trip on the Goose Creek Trail to the Potomac and back. Our hiking group, ten strong, started from the parking lot across from the Goose Creek Golf Club and crossed a closed bridge near Rte 7 on to the Goose Creek Trail. Along the way we looked at the ruins of locks and dams of the old navigation. Hike leader, Pat White recounted the history of the navigation. We stopped for lunch by the creek's outlet on the Potomac River. A large log on the Potomac shore provided scenic seating for our repast. Pat's oatmeal cookies were a treat. It was a fine day for a good walk with good company!

- Photo and text by the editor



*This article is dedicated to the memory of Ken Rollins and his devotion to the C&O Canal, both past and present. Ken also had a keen interest in the history of the Civil War.*

### THE GETTYSBURG CROSSINGS

The canal was under siege to varying degrees for the entire war, ranging from occasional guerilla sniping to major crossings by both Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Gen. Joseph Hooker's and, after June 28, Gen. George Gordon Meade's Army of the Potomac. Following the rout of the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville in early May 1863, Lee decided it was time for another invasion of the north. Departing Fredericksburg on June 3 with 75,000 men, Lee's army headed toward Pennsylvania. It soon covered a front stretching from Seneca to Cumberland, virtually the entire canal. The Confederates considered the canal an important asset to the Federal Army and each crossing was accompanied by some damage to the waterway.

By June 10, John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers were across the Potomac in the vicinity of Muddy Branch (mi. 20.0). The following day they attacked Company I, 6th Michigan Cavalry, camped near the Seneca Aqueduct. After killing four men and capturing seventeen along with twenty one horses and five mules, they re-crossed the river at Muddy Branch.

On June 15, three Confederate brigades of Gen. Richard S. Ewell's corps under Maj. Gen. R.E. Rodes crossed at Williamsport and attempted to destroy the Conococheague Creek Aqueduct. The balance of Gen. Ewell's troops crossed at Botelers Ford (mi. 71.4) to occupy Sharpsburg and Hagerstown. Federals retreating from Winchester crossed the river at Harpers Ferry and Hancock.

Col. Elijah White's Confederates crossed at the Catoctin Creek Aqueduct (mi. 51.5) on the 17th to attack a Federal company at Point of Rocks, destroying three wagons, eighteen rail cars and cutting the telegraph wires before falling back into Virginia with a number of prisoners and horses. On the same day Gen. John D. Imboden's cavalry entered Cumberland with orders to destroy both the B&O RR and the C&O Canal. The canal was breached below Lock No. 67 (mi. 161.76) and between Locks No. 71 (Oldtown) and 72 (mi. 174.4, and some lock gates were damaged, but the canal was repaired in ten working days.

Some of Lee's army crossed on June 17 at Falling Waters (mi. 94.4) on a pontoon bridge that was later destroyed by Federal cavalry and the balance of his troops crossed on the 18th at Botelers Ford below Sharpsburg. The bulk of the Army of the Potomac, which had been in pursuit of Lee's forces, crossed into Maryland at Edwards Ferry (mi. 30.8) on two pontoon bridges transported up the canal from Washington. The Union I, III and XI Corps crossed on June 25 followed by the II, V, and XII Corps on the 26th and the VI Corps on the 27th.

J.E.B. Stewart's cavalry crossed at both Rowsers Ford (below

Dam #2) and Edwards Ferry on the night of June 27-28. At Rowsers Ford a canal boat was turned to bridge the canal. The gates of Lock No. 23 and Inlet Lock 2 were destroyed, and the canal was breached in several locations draining this section of the canal. One account claims "Stuart had nine of the canal boats burned both above and below the Seneca Aqueduct, including one in its trunk that damaged the wooden railing." A second account has Stuart capturing forty-two vessels which he ordered burned, but after learning that most were family owned and the boatman's only means of earning a living, relented and agreed to merely drain the canal.

Following the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg, Lee's wagon train carrying wounded and supplies reached Williamsport on July 6th. There was considerable skirmishing between Buford's Federal cavalry and Imboden's southern forces, including the noted "Wagoner's Battle" where the southern wagon crews were pressed into service to defend the train. The train successfully crossed into Virginia by the morning of the 9th.

Lee's army worked its way to Falling Waters (mi. 94.4) by the 7th. They found the Potomac at flood stage and their pontoon bridge destroyed. His engineers commenced building new pontoons from destroyed canal boats and warehouses. Starting on the 10th, small contingents began crossing in canal boats, but the bulk of Gen. James Longstreet's and Gen. A.P. Hill's forces crossed the Potomac on the night of July 13-14 on the pontoon bridge which was then cut loose to thwart Federal pursuit. Gen. Ewell's troops crossed at Williamsport. This was the last major crossing of the Potomac in the Gettysburg campaign.

The events leading up to, during (such as troops fording the river stark naked carrying their clothes on their heads to keep them dry), and following the crossings, are fascinating reading and there are many excellent books available. One of my favorites is *The Gettysburg Campaign*, by Edwin B. Coddington. Other sources for the above material were: *History of the C&O Canal*, Harlan D. Unrau; *The Civil War in Maryland*, Daniel Carroll Toomey; *A guide to Civil War Sites in Maryland*, Susan Cooke Soderberg; and *The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863*, NHP mss., Jack Sanderson.



*Along the Towpath*



## “Pal of the World” - and one of our “Immortal Nine”

by Ed Wesely

When Grant Conway passed away in June 1976, the C&O Canal lost a wonderful friend and the Potomac Valley one of its finest conservationists and storytellers. To be enthralled by Grant's tales of river boatmen and canallers was a special treat, as it was to serve on the first C&O Canal Commission with him, as I did from 1971 to 1976.

Even now I recall the Canal Association's first reprise of Justice Douglas' historic 1954 hike, which happened in the spring of 1974 after a kick-off banquet in Cumberland. At that dinner Grant recalled how muddy detours and snowy winds had beset the Douglas party of March 1954, as it drummed up opposition to a “scenic parkway” that would have buried the canal and hundreds of acres of Potomac bottomland. We learned, too, of rousing songfests and hijinks.

The elevation of Douglas and his band of through-hikers to a special niche in canal lore (as the “immortal nine”) was apt recompense for their blistered feet and conservationist zeal – and was due, in part, to Grant's witness as their companion and chronicler.

The following vignette is drawn from a eulogy I prepared about Grant for the C&O Canal Advisory Commission, printed in the Congressional Record in September 1976, when Congressman Gilbert Gude appended it to his own tribute.

### Tribute to Grant Conway

I think in addition to Grant Conway's many good works there was with him a unique style. He reminded me of a free verse poem by Carl Sandburg, with long looping prose that was more than prose when Grant got warmed up. He entertained a really unique menagerie of characters and places, ranging from Squirrely Lambert, who'd sold moonshine whiskey beneath the Monocacy Aqueduct, to secret strawberry patches near Harpers Ferry, to forgotten boundary stones along the C&O Canal. The latter Grant would discover and mark and lose and then find again.

Carl Sandburg wrote:

*‘I got a zoo, I got a menagerie inside my ribs.  
I am the keeper of the zoo. I am a pal of the world.’*

Being “pal of the world” was an elixir that anointed each of Grant's stories, in which serious themes like the Douglas hike got their due but never the upper hand. It tickled Grant that dogging the heels of Douglas and his band of naturalists and writers was a man no one had invited, Jack Pearmain, who just showed up and began walking in sport coat and street shoes; who slept on a pool table at the Cardinal Club wrapped in the American flag; and whose diet of seaweed pills carried

him all 184 miles to a niche with the ‘immortal nine.’

The adventures of Dick Stanton [friend and former canal superintendent] at the Hawaiian Club were chronicled by Grant, as were the deeds of people like Edith and Maud, and Yankee Sullivan, the prizefighter, who fought with bare knuckles on a bank of the Potomac near Harpers Ferry in the 1840's. Of Squirrely Lambert Grant loved to tell how, when fined by a Frederick court for selling moonshine whiskey, Squirrely paid the fee by raising the price of his product.

A distinguished artist who painted the Monocacy Aqueduct a few years ago called it an “American Parthenon.” That Squirrely, with cats, chickens and moonshine whiskey lived for years within the aqueduct's shadow was the kind of zany twist that Grant relished. The world before him was crowded with such incongruities and to weave them into unique stories was his delight.

Apace with this gift was Grant's high regard for the world of nature – as he had known it as a kid in Oregon, and here along the C&O Canal and Appalachian Trail. Many were the impromptu bridges to High Island [near Grant's home in Brookmont] that bit the dust when Grant walked by, for this place above all others he was determined to reserve for the wild flowers and animals.

The world was as it was. The same winds that reached along the Potomac into the shanty of Squirrely Lambert carried the sounds and sweet smells of spring and the old life of the river. And not a particle was beneath Grant Conway's notice. “Grant treasured eccentricity” his wife Ione said last week. And I'd comment that by weaving it into stories, however goofy, he often bestowed on Maud and Squirrely and Edith and many others a dignity they never realized

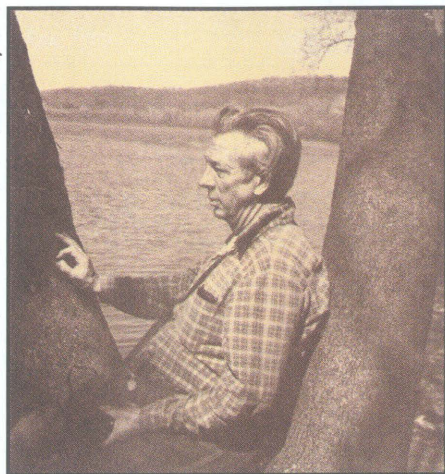
they had.

In a zany poem about the “Musings of a Police Reporter...” Carl Sandburg wrote:

*You have led a hundred secret lives but you are marked  
by only one thumb...You go around the world and fight  
in a thousand wars...but when you come back home,  
the print of the one thumb your mother gave you is the  
same print of the thumb you had in the old  
home....Somewhere is a Great God of thumbs who can  
tell the inside story of this.”*

Grant, had he known these lines, would have cherished and repeated them. He was, from first to last, an agent to whom the “Great God of Thumbs” confided reams of “inside” stories.

It was my especial good fortune to share in Grant's tales, and to be awed by his untiring work on behalf of our beloved canal and river



Grant Conway reclining on a Silver Maple  
by the towpath just above Harpers Ferry  
Photo by Robert L. Farr



# ACROSS THE BERM

*'Ken'*



Ken as a World War II Army Signal Corps  
Photographer

From top left clockwise: 1. Ken at the stern. 2. Loaded down on Paw Paw Bends. 3. Lining down the flume at Pennyfield Lock. 4. Canal Clan: (1. to r.) Ed Miller, Piper Alicia Julienne, Sup. Doug Faris, Ken Rollins 5. "This is why we call it the 'Frostbite Hike.'" 6. "Ready? Let's go! 7. Piper leads the way to the river. 8. "In case you didn't know, this is what a mule looks like." 9. "All for one and one for all." Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & center by Dave Lepkowsky, Photo 5 by Pat White, Photo 6 by Carl Linden, Photo 9 by "Big Foot" Tourigny.



## ACROSS THE BERM (continued)

*So hold the channel, Captain, 'til we meet those gone before,  
At the everlasting snubbing post, along some happy shore.*

- Charles Matlock Hummer

*Farewell to the mountains high cover'd with snow,  
Farewell to the straths and green valleys below,  
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods,  
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.*

- Robert Burns

### Kenneth Stewart Rollins

Ken Rollins, a member of the C & O Canal Association for half a century who twice served as president, passed the last lock on October 13, 2008. He was eighty-eight years old. Ken was active in the association to the end, having attended Projects Committee and Board of Directors meetings just a week before he died.

He joined the association when new members were admitted by invitation. He recalled that in about 1959 he heard about the upcoming reunion hike and decided to attend. He set up his tent near where the original 1954 hikers were camping, and was invited to come over and enjoy their campfire. They introduced him to Justice Douglas, who welcomed him into membership.

Ken became active in the association's efforts to make the canal a national park, and served his first term as president in 1970. That was the year that Congress finally passed the bill creating the C & O National Historical Park (which was signed in January 1971.) The annual one-day reunion hikes had been going on since the beginning, but many members had been talking about going "all the way" again. Justice Douglas always said "We'll do it again when we get a successful park bill." Since lead time was needed to prepare, Ken decided to hold the through-hike on the twentieth anniversary in 1974. He participated in all seven of the association's full-distance hikes from 1974 through 2004.

Ken was elected president again in 2000, and served for three terms. During that time, he emphasized the need for members to serve on association committees and projects. In one of his newsletter columns, he wrote "I will probably be remembered as the president who was always calling for volunteers, but here I go again."

In addition to his two tours as president, Ken served as vice-president and treasurer. When not serving as an officer, he was an almost perennial member of the board of directors. He was a charter member of the Level Walkers. He served on many committees, including Programs, Internal Audit, Monocacy and Special Projects. He represented Montgomery County on the C & O Canal NHP Commission from 1976 to 1981.

In March 2005, the association gave Ken its highest commendation, the William O. Douglas Award. The citation noted "his life-long devotion to the C & O Canal and the Potomac River, and the inspiration he has given to many in cherishing these treasures of our Nation."

He was especially proud of his Scottish heritage, tracing descent from Douglas, Stewart and McQueen. He was an active member of the Clan Douglas Society, and frequently wore the Douglas tartan to C & O events. He was also active in the Izaak Walton League and National Rifle Association. Another of his passions was sailing, and he kept a boat on the Potomac River.

Ken was born in Atmore, Alabama, in 1920. He entered the army in 1944 and was assigned as a Signal Corps photographer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Following his discharge in 1946, he enrolled in the University of Alabama. He graduated with a B.S. in Commerce and Business Administration in 1950. He came to Washington and worked for the General Accounting Office, retiring in 1980. He resided in Brookmont until after his retirement. He subsequently moved to Ladysmith (Ruther Glen), Virginia. He lived at Kensington Park Assisted Living in Kensington, Maryland, during the last four years.

He was the epitome of a Southern gentleman, always courteous and ready to listen to others. When he spoke, people listened, because what he had to say was carefully thought out and made sense. He was a strong supporter of the park's General Plan and its guidelines for the development and use of the canal, and he always stressed the importance of "Historical" in the name of the park. He claimed to be "generally conservative" in regard to development of the park, but was "willing to compromise historical purity" in the interest of sustainability or continuity.

In one of the many pieces he prepared for the newsletter, he wrote about certain lessons he had learned: "One is to be careful what you leave behind — someone may come along and reconstruct you. Another is to be proud of your dreams — others will be glad to assume and share them." He has left behind a legacy for us to carry on and strive to assume his dreams.

— Dave Johnson



## Remembering Ken Rollins 1920 - 2008

### *Anne and Mario Abbate*

Ken Rollins! I can't believe it! He was one of those tough, ageless men who would go on forever. So many of our memories of our C&O Canal days revolve around Ken: riding in that disreputable, hand-built van; admiring his shapely leg in his kilt (and as a Scotswoman I'm an expert); his kindness in having dinner with us when the two of you came to Boulder — I could go on... (from a note of condolence sent to the editor)

### *Alicia Julianne Bradford*

I have very fond memories of playing for the C&O Canal Association and of Ken. It was always one of the most enjoyable piping jobs that I did while a student at the University of Maryland. It was sometimes a challenge making sure I was in the right place at the right time. Ken was so helpful in getting me to the right places on the canal. I felt warmly welcomed. Ken was a big part of that. His warmth, enthusiasm and generosity I have not forgotten.

### *Don Juran*

Ken had a great sense of humor. Eight days into the 1994 thru-hike, he and I crossed paths in the Western Maryland Sports Club. I mentioned how much I appreciated the Laundromat in Williamsport the day before--now I no longer had to worry about my socks walking away on their own. "I know just what you mean," concurred Ken. "I wore the same pair of jeans all last week. Took 'em off, haven't seen them since."

### *Karen Gray*

Ken was one of those who goes back to the earliest memories many of us have of our experience with the canal and so, like the canal itself, he simply seems immortal in a way. I find myself thinking of Ken on so many hikes and at banquets and other events— his warmth, his quiet, humble but strong demeanor. Certainly he is one of the most memorable of the Association leaders in my experience. I will certainly miss him!

### *Jane Larsen*

"Be prepared" was Ken's marching song, said Carl Linden at the memorial service. He gave some examples: how Ken suddenly appeared out of the dark, fire extinguisher in hand, and put out a gas fire threatening to envelop the camp cook; how he promptly provided a wet and shivering damsel who fell out of her canoe with a full set of dry clothes; how he held forth a tumbler of brandy to warm up a paddler soaked and chilled to the bone in a river squall — all these salvational supplies coming out of his beat-up magic van. But, Ken also balanced "be prepared" with another mantra: "It'll all work out." This he said when others around him were on the verge of losing their heads over some calamity: like a bus not showing up to take them to the post-hike happy hour and banquet. Ken showed up with his van, a make-do shuttle ready to go. Ken also once used a battered VW Beetle to carry people to the after-hike soiree. It would now and again break down. He'd say "don't worry," jump out, fix it, come back and drive on. Should we say Ken was an "incurable optimist?" or just a resourceful Scot and Scout?

### *Carl Linden*

Ken Rollins was a champion of the C&O Canal and a warm-hearted friend of his fellow canallers. Ken's quiet voice ever reminded us of the story of Douglas and his fellow hikers saving the C&O from highwaymen, how they went out in force on the towpath year after year until the C&O Canal National Historical Park came into being. For Ken knowing this saga deepens our appreciation of the treasure that is the C&O Canal Park. For Ken the C&O story was part of our nation's history reaching back to George Washington's vision of a waterway to the Ohio. The C&O project mirrored the new nation's bold venture westward. For Ken C&O history was no relic of the past, but a history that continues into the present day calling on us to preserve and protect it. Garbed in elegant kilt at Association banquets, Ken liked to raise toasts to William O. Douglas. He recalled how the Justice started the great hike of '54 to the strains of "Scotland the Brave" piped by Gene Castleberry in full regalia. The C&O Canal Association will observe this Douglas ritual once again in the Thru-Hike next April. Above all, Ken wanted people to go out and discover the canal and its Potomac riverscape for themselves; to see it, feel it, know it, and thus come to love it. He walked the towpath's 185 miles three and a half times. He was the moving spirit of innumerable Association canal and river trips. Ken now has 'crossed the berm' with a generation of other remarkable friends and leaders who held the C&O and the Potomac in deep affection and did noble work in keeping these treasures for us and our posterity to enjoy and cherish. Ken, tried and true, will be remembered well and long for his warm friendship and devotion.

### *Nancy Long*

Ken Rollins was one of my Association colleagues and friends for over 40 years. In August 1975, Ken, Barbara Yeaman, Ed Wesely and I were invited to join then-Congressman Gilbert Gude with 25 others to travel the length of the Potomac River from the Fairfax Stone to Point Lookout. This was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. One of the support vehicles was Ken's reliable, famous, and inventively outfitted, white van which for this trip proudly wore the inscription "Point Lookout or Bust" in large red letters on both sides. More recently Ken acquired the Bronco, a stout



gray, sort-of-utility vehicle that sat rather high off the road. I could not board this lofty gray eminence without assistance. So thoughtful-problem-solver Ken acquired a footstool so I could hoist myself into place. Thanks to Ken's generosity and helpfulness to a non-driver (me), I was often a passenger in Ken's vehicles. Ken was intelligent, witty, intellectually curious, and inventive, as well as friendly and convivial, resolute in pursuit of a just cause, generous, and always willing to help solve a problem. May we understand his legacy and follow his example.

### **Bob & Jane Perry**

We have lost a friend...

*The Character of Canal Characters has crossed the berm.  
From him of our beloved canal...many have learned  
A Gentleman, Advocate, Confidant, and most trusted Friend.  
One who was loved and respected to the end.*

'Til we meet again, Ken, Thanks for the memories.

### **Gary Petrichick**

We've lost a very dear friend, and the solace for me is the knowledge that we all do our best to carry on his legacy! Ken, my first contact with the Association, drew me into the history of the canal and of the Association, and now he's a part of it!

### **Barbara Sheridan**

I learned so much from Ken over the years. He taught me about things like:

- Hiking
- Camping
- Canoeing
- the history of the canal
- care of blisters
- Justice Douglas
- building fires in wet conditions

I now have to learn the hardest lesson of all from Ken...how to miss him.



*Piper Norman Weaver leads procession at the memorial ceremonies held for Ken Rollins in Brookmont, Md on Nov. 9. Celeste Rollins, Ken's daughter, and singers Abbie Endicott and Don Juran follow.*

### **Ed Wesely**

I was Ken's neighbor for many years, as well as a companion on canoe trips and canal hikes, most memorably on the famous 1975 Gude trip from the Fairfax Stone to Point Lookout, where we spent days tramping on cross-ties and over abandoned box cars of the Western Maryland Railway.

I recall, too, the many times we'd cram gear and provisions for canal trips and hikes-often enough to sustain a Lewis and Clark expedition-into Ken's vintage Dodge van.

On those forays Ken was our steady hand, dispensing vintage bourbon and good stories at day's end, with invariable good humor. His abiding concern for the canal and river valley, and his good deeds, seem to me beautifully reflected in lines of the poet Emily Dickenson:

*"How many cast a nameless Pod  
Upon the nearest Breeze-  
Unconscious of the Scarlet Freight-  
It bear to Other Eyes"*

### **Barbara Yeaman**

I first met Ken in 1972 when he drove me home after one of the weekend C&O Canal hikes. We talked (well, he talked and I listened) for the 2-hour drive, and he taught me who and what the Association was (including some great tales about Justice Douglas and the first through hike).

But after I moved to my Pennsylvania "farm" in 1983 I came to know another side of Ken. He took to my 100-year-old farmhouse like a duck to water. During the first of many visits he inspected all the doors, opened every window, checked the house, woodshed and barn for antique hinges, square nails and other ancient hardware and replaced all the window sash-cords. Ken erected a fence (that still stands) around the barnyard so our two baby goats would be safe. He spent three visits scraping layers of paint off an elegant old door we found in the barn. When it was complete, we replaced the glass and he hung it in place at the front of the house. I never touch the doorknob without picturing Ken hunched over the sawhorses lovingly scraping off the paint. Today, his kindness, and gentlemanly ways seem from a different time. His elegant dress and trim mustache always set him apart from others with more relaxed demeanor. I regret that I could not play my Celtic harp for Ken Rollins when dressed in his beloved tartans.





## ACROSS THE BERM (continued)

### Blair T. and Nancy A. Bower

Blair and Nancy Bower, who were members of the C&O Canal Association for forty-two years, both passed away this past summer. They moved to the Washington area in 1965 and attended the Douglas reunion hike the following year. They met Justice Douglas and promptly joined the Association. Blair was an active participant on the annual hikes for many years. He claimed to have beaten Justice Douglas to the lunch stop one year, no mean achievement. He solo hiked the towpath from Cumberland to Washington in 1974 in a week and a day at the grueling pace of 23 miles a day. Thus he matched the Douglas "immortal nine" who did it in eight days in 1954. They, however, had enjoyed a relaxing boat ride on the *Canal Clipper* the last five miles into D.C. with a band playing and libations served on board whereas Blair slogged these last five miles on foot as well. Blair thus was in a position to maintain that he held an edge over them all. As we all know these are no small matters in the hiking clan. Be that as it may, Blair seldom missed the Association's annual meeting, where he regularly was the first to move that nominations be closed.

Along with Tom Richards, Blair was instrumental in preparing Bill Davies' manuscript *Geology and Engineering Structures of the C&O Canal* for publication by the Association in 1999. In 2002, Blair was elected to the association's board of directors and served two terms. With his health in decline he withdrew his nomination for a third term last winter. He died on August 27, at the age of 82. His wife, Nancy, passed away but ten days later. They were very close and always appeared at association gatherings together.

Blair was a civil engineer specializing in water resources. He worked for Resources for the Future, and, later, as a consultant to government agencies and non-profits, including the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration and the World Wildlife Federation. He held degrees from the University of Washington, the University of California-Berkeley, and Harvard. He was the author of eleven books on water, air and environmental quality.. One of them entitled, *Managing Water Quality: Economics, Technologies, Institutions* (1968) written with Allen V. Kneese, has become a standard text in the field. Blair was a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He was a life member of the American Geophysical Union and the Water Environment Federation. Locally, he was a past member of the Environmental Improvement Commission of Arlington, the Maryland Water Sciences Advisory board and an *ad hoc* planning group for the National Research Council. For the last, he reviewed an Army Corps of Engineers study of the water needs of the Washington area. His opinions were well-formed and set forth with clarity. He spoke with the authority of knowledge in the wide-ranging subject matter of his field of expertise. Blair was a man of parts. While content to let her husband take the limelight, Nancy for her part was a person of grace and quiet intelligence.

- Dave Johnson





## C&OCA 2009 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	DAY	EVENT (visit <a href="http://www.candocanal.org">www.candocanal.org</a> for updated event info.)
Jan. 1, 2009	Thurs.	Two New Year's Day Hikes, both at 10:30 a.m. <u>East</u> : Meet at Brunswick Commuter Lot. (mile 55). Contact Marlow Madeoy (703 723 6884 ) or <a href="mailto:nancymadeoy@aol.com">nancymadeoy@aol.com</a> ) <u>West</u> : Meet at NPS' Cumberland Visitor Center (mile 184.6) by the mule statue. Contact Mary Huebner (301 777 0545)
Jan. 23	Fri.	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission meeting , 9:30 a.m. Held at Park Headquarters, training room on second level, 1850 Dual Highway, Hagerstown.
Jan. 25	Sun.	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 a.m. Violette's Lock (mile 22). Meet at Violette's Lock. Contact Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> ).
Feb. 1	Sun.	Board meeting at Williamsport Memorial Library, 1 p.m.
Feb. 28	Sat.	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 a.m., Maryland Heights, mile 60.7. Park at Harpers Ferry Visitors Center, take shuttle bus to Harpers Ferry, meet at footbridge at confluence of the Potomac and the Shenandoah Rivers on the WV side. Contact Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> ).
Mar. 7	Sat.	Annual Meeting at Williamsport American Legion Hall (see article on p. 1 and reservation form enclosed in this issue.)
Mar. 14	Sat.	VIP work party, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Painting the Georgetown Canal Boat. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> )
Mar. 14	Sat.	Geology Hike, 11:00 a.m. Great Falls area. Meet at the NPS Great Falls Visitors Center. Contact Marlow Madeoy (703 723 6884 or <a href="mailto:nancymadeoy@aol.com">nancymadeoy@aol.com</a> ).
Mar. 29	Sun.	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 a.m. Fifteen Mile Creek (mile 141) downstream. Meet at Bill's place in Little Orleans. Contact Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> ).
Apr. 4	Sat.	Annual Potomac Watershed Clean Up, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
Apr. 5	Sun.	Board Meeting at Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., 1 p.m.
Apr. 17	Fri.	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Location TBD.
Apr. 19 to May 2	Sun. to Sat. (Two weeks)	Thru-Hike of the C&O Canal towpath, starting in Cumberland, MD and ending in Washington, DC. Reservations required. Contact Barbara Sheridan at (301 752 5436 or <a href="mailto:membership@candocanal.org">membership@candocanal.org</a> or Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> )
Apr. TBD	Sun.	Spring wildflower walk led by Peter Whitney, chair of the Nature Committee, 10 a.m. Contact Marion Robertson (301 657 8992 or <a href="mailto:marobertson@mac.com">marobertson@mac.com</a> ). To be held in conjunction with the Thru-Hike.
May 2	Sat.	Annual Douglas Memorial Hike and Dinner. Hikers will have three different length options with bus transportation provided. Hikers will join the Thru-Hikers on their final segment from Great Falls to Mile Marker "0" in DC and the evening program will be the banquet for the Thru-Hike. Details to be published in the March newsletter.
May 9	Sat.	VIP Work Party, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Invasive plant project. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
May 16 & 17	Sat. & Sun.	Two one-day canoe trips on the Monocacy River. Contact Bill Burton ( <a href="mailto:billburton@earthlink.net">billburton@earthlink.net</a> or 703 801 0963). Reservations required.
May 23-25	Sat-Mon.	Bike trip, location TBD. No sag wagon provided. Contact Tom Perry (301 223 7010). Reservations required.
May 24	Sun.	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 a.m. Noland's Ferry (mile 44.5), hike upstream. Contact Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> ).
June 6	Sat	President's Day at Little Orleans. Breakfast at 8:30 with hike to follow. Details and reservation form to be in March newsletter.



**EVENTS, CONTINUED (visit [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org) for updated event info)**

June 6	Sat.	Potomac River Family Festival, Brunswick, MD
June 7	Sun.	Board meeting at Williamsport Memorial Library, 1 p.m.
June 13	Sat.	One-day canoe trip at Violette's Lock (Lock 23). For information on this introduction to canoeing, contact ca-
June 20	Sat.	VIP Work Party, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. details TBD. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
June 27 & 28	Sat. & Sun.	Heritage Tour Days, Monocacy Aqueduct.
July 17	Fri.	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Location TBD.
July 18	Sat.	Canoe trip, Brunswick to Monocacy. Contact Bill Burton ( <a href="mailto:billburton@earthlink.net">billburton@earthlink.net</a> or 703 801 0963). Reserva-
July 25	Sat.	VIP Work Party 9 a.m. to 12 noon, details TBD. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
Aug. 2	Sun.	Board Meeting at Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., 1 p.m.
Aug 22	Sat.	VIP Work Party, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, details TBD. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
Sep. 13	Sun.	Happy Birthday Montgomery County, Beall Dawson House, Rockville, MD
Sep. 19	Sat.	VIP Work Party, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. details TBD. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
Sep. 20-28	Sun-Mon.	World Canals Conference, Belgrade, Serbia on the rivers Sava and Danube. For more information, see <a href="http://www.worldcanalsconference.org">www.worldcanalsconference.org</a>
Oct. 4	Sun.	Board Meeting at the home of Tom and Linda Perry in Williamsport, 1 p.m.
Oct. 7-12	Wed - Mon.	Through bike ride, Cumberland to Georgetown. No sag wagon provided. Contact Tom Perry (301 223 7010) Reservations required.
Oct. 16	Fri.	Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Location TBD.
Oct. 17	Sat.	"Life and Death on the Canal." Contact Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center (301 767 3714).
Oct. 24	Sat.	VIP Work Party, time and details TBD. Contact Jim Heins (301 949 3518 or <a href="mailto:vip@candocanal.org">vip@candocanal.org</a> ).
Oct. 24	Sat.	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 a.m. Spring Gap downstream (mi. 173). Meet at Spring Gap. Contact Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> ).
Nov. 7	Sat.	Annual Heritage Hike and evening dinner & program, Antietam vicinity. Hikes of varying lengths will be available. Details to be in September newsletter.
Nov. 14	Sat.	Geology Hike. Details TBD. Contact Marlow Madeoy (703 723 6884 or <a href="mailto:nancymadeoy@aol.com">nancymadeoy@aol.com</a> ).
Nov. 22	Sun.	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 a.m. McMahon's Mill (mile 88) upstream. Meet at McMahon's Mill. Contact Pat White (301 977 5628 or <a href="mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org">hikemaster@candocanal.org</a> ).
Dec. 5	Sat.	Frostbite Hike, 10:30 a.m. Meet at Great Falls Tavern and walk to five fine viewing points along the canal and river gorge. Lunch in Potomac (not the river) Contact Carl Linden (301 229 2398 or <a href="mailto:clinden@gwu.edu">clinden@gwu.edu</a> ).
Dec. 6	Sun.	Board Meeting at Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., 1 p.m.
Dec. 31	Thurs.	New Year's Eve Hike. Details TBD
Jan. 1	Fri.	New Year's Day Hike. Details TBD

A signed Waiver & Release form is required for many of these events that are organized by C&OCA. The event leaders will provide the forms to participants at the time of the activity. Waivers may be previewed at [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org) or contact the event leader. Hikes require proper footwear.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Richard P. Cember, Takoma Park, MD  
Alex Dahl, Arlington, VA  
Norman C. Delaney, Corpus Christi, TX  
Cory & Julie Ferguson, Martinsburg, WV  
Christine Gretschel Genner, Potomac, MD  
Robert Graul, Scotch Plains, NJ  
John Harris, Poolesville, MD  
Carolyn Hickerson & Lisa Rivera, Ellicott City, MD  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Holden, Fairfax, VA  
Kuriacose & Teresa Joseph, Gaithersburg, MD  
Brenda Kinder, Jefferson, MD  
Penny & James Langland, Thief River Falls, MN  
Leif Linden, Charlottesville, VA  
Marilyn Magnus, Barnet, VT  
Robert B. Norris, Washington, DC  
Walter Petzold, Rockville, MD  
Victor Rezendes, Cumberland, MD  
Bob Robinson, Vienna, VA  
Judith Shanks, Washington, DC  
Karen M. Smith, Bethesda, MD  
Karen Snarr-Bailer, Ronks, PA  
Darlene Switalski, Brunswick, MD  
Ian & Martha Volner, Washington, DC  
Edwin F. Wesely, Milanville, PA  
Gary S. Whittington, Hagerstown, MD  
Vera Weist, College Park, MD

Note: Among our new members above are a Texan, a Vermonter, a Minnesotan, and a *Jerseyan*. If the latter designation seems doubtful, the Random House Dictionary of the English Language says this is a correct designation for someone who hails from New Jersey. Be that as it may, it is worth pointing out that we have on our rolls a sizeable contingent of devoted members from all parts of the country far from the vicinity of the C&O Canal. From its beginning, the C&O Canal Association, it should be remembered, is a national organization just as the C&O Canal National Historical Park is a national park.

### 2009 Membership Renewal Information

Annual membership in the C&O Canal Association (C&OCA) runs from January 1 through December 31 each year, so now is the time to renew your membership for 2009. A renewal form is enclosed in this issue for your convenience.

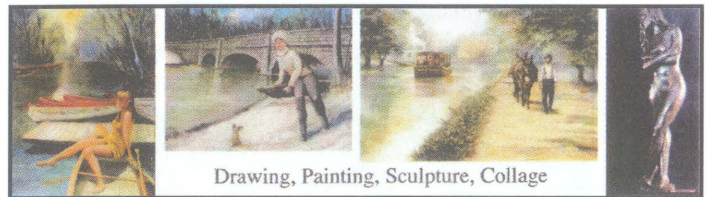
If you have recently joined C&OCA or have renewed in the past for multiple years, please check the label on this newsletter for your actual expiration date.

Your continued membership and support are vital to assuring that this valuable resource will be here in the future for all to enjoy. Remember, C&OCA is a non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions to association funds are tax deductible.

Barbara Sheridan  
Membership Coordinator

### Tom Kozar's Art Work Showing in Hagerstown

Our artist in residence for the C&O Canal is having a retrospective of his art work at the **Benjamin Art Gallery** in Hagerstown through January 5. The gallery is located at 1303 Pennsylvania Avenue and is open from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily (ph 301 797 4775). Tom works in a variety of genres—drawing, painting, photography, digital, collage and sculpture. Many of his C&O Canal works both originals and prints are on display. His pen-and-inks drawings are found around the world as fine art and commissioned pieces. The Association is especially familiar with the untinted and tinted pen-and-inks of the Monocacy and Catoctin Aqueducts among his many classic canal scenes. The show provides a great opportunity to see the gamut of Tom's variegated artistry. More information can be found on Tom's website, [tomkozar.com](http://tomkozar.com) and the gallery's site, [www.benjaminartgallery.com](http://www.benjaminartgallery.com).



Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Collage

### Definitive Canal History Available *Gratis*

One of the two primary works on the C&O Canal is free by accessing National Park Service histories on the computer or on public library computers linked to the internet. The *Historic Resource Study: Chesapeake & Ohio Canal* by retired NPS Historian Harlan D. Unrau, is available with other NPS histories at: [www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/choh/unrau\\_hrs.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/choh/unrau_hrs.pdf). It can be used online or downloaded onto a personal computer. In pdf format, the work is searchable — a very useful characteristic in a work of 850 pages without an index. The work consists of twelve monographs on subjects such as the canal's engineers, the canal in the civil war, lock-tenders and boatmen, boats and navigation, and the economic impact of the canal. The site also includes important documents on various NPS properties. The main index is at: [www.nps.gov/history/history/park\\_histories/index.htm#c](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/park_histories/index.htm#c). If you have questions about the work or the history site, contact Karen Gray at the C&O Canal National Historical Park's headquarters library most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 301-714-2220.

### Talkin' Trash

As the holidays near, remember to recycle whatever you can and pick up trash even if it's not yours. Making our planet, towns and homes trash free is not only smart but helps the economy. Less trash means better appearance, fewer clogged drains, fewer dead creatures in our rivers and streams. If the Potomac is cleaner and healthier, we get Saturdays off from doing unnecessary cleanup projects. Encourage your friends to do likewise. All of us will benefit.

- Jim Heins

Holiday greeting cards featuring a winter view of the Great Falls Tavern are available from the Friends of the Historic Great Falls Tavern. For information see the news section at [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org).



## Corrections Department

In the September issue of *Along the Towpath* we published Ann Lochstampfor's poem on "Nell," the mule (p. 11). Sad to say a line was dropped. It was no less than the key line of the poem, the moment of close encounter between Nell and the poet. This is the tenth line: *"Her eyes in that instant whispered my name."* The poem is very worth reading in its complete form. The photo of Nell is Ann's and is in color. Our poet is a volunteer mule walker in the canal park.



Nell with Ann, Volunteer Mule Walker  
Photo by Cathy Cooper

### Nell

*In a summer season when soft was the sun,  
To the canal close by the river I'd come.  
I sat on a stone by the side of the lock  
And watched rolling waters rush through gate  
To fall, then form, a new flow below.  
In deep, drifting thoughts, a discovery I made.  
A mysterious mule emerged from the mist —  
In a rusty, red coat of radiant hue.  
I knew, without knowing, that Nell was her name.  
Her eyes, in that instant, whispered my name,  
The breeze beckoned us both and bore us away  
To travel the towpath that soft summer day.*

- by Ann Lochstampfor

### Molly

*"Good Golly, Miss Molly, I said to the mule.  
"It would be a folly to act such a fool."  
But Molly just stood there and stared straight ahead.*

*"Good Golly, Miss Molly," said I to that mule.  
"You know you must follow the rule."  
But Molly as still as a statue did stand.*

*"Your Ma is a mare and your Dad's a donkey.  
And that is an awesome pedigree.  
Your ears are so long and can face front or back.  
Your feet are so small, you can walk on a crack.  
Now listen to me cause I am the boss."  
But Molly remained in a world I had lost.*

*I wanted to jump up and down and to curse  
And to think of a way to scare her at worse.  
But Molly was glued to the towpath that day.*

*Along came a stranger who tipped his black hat.  
To Molly or me, we could not agree.  
But Molly took notice, of him, not of me.*

*To his offer of help, I made this reply.  
"I know a thing or two about mules, don't I?"*

*He spoke to her gently and tickled her chin.  
Molly then gave him a wide-toothed grin.*

*"You're my Dear Darling Molly," I heard him say.  
And watched in amazement as he led her away.  
"GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY," was all I could say.*

- by Ann Lochstampfor



Molly



## C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK Telephone Numbers and Personnel

### C&O CANAL National Historical Park Headquarters 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, Md. 21740

Reception Desk	301-739-4200	Sue Edlund
Superintendent	301-714-2202	Kevin Brandt
Deputy Superintendent	301-714-2200	Brian Carlstrom
Asst. Superintendent	301-714-2203	Sharon Cleary
Secretary	301-714-2201	Annette Martin
Chief Ranger	301-714-2222	Bradley Clawson
Admin Officer	301-714-2204	Jeannie Denk
Chief, Natural and Cultural Resource Management	301-714-2210	Sam Tamburro*
Chief, Interpretation	301-714-2214	Bill Justice
Natural Resources	301-714-2224	P. Scott Bell
Public Affairs Assistant	301-745-5804	Vacant
Special Use Permits	301-745-5817	John Hitchcock
Chief of Maintenance	301-714-2239	Bradley Hofe
Partnerships Coordinator	301-714-2238	John Noel
Volunteer Coordinator	301-714-2233	Daniel Filer
Engineer	301-745-5818	Dan Copenhaver
Historian	301-714-2211	Sam Tamburro

Palisades District, Milepost 0 (Tidelock) to Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River)

#### Palisades District

11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, Md. 20854	
District Ranger	301-767-3720 Joshua Cunningham
Fee Collection Supervisor	301-299-3603 Paul Johnson

**Georgetown Visitor Center** 202-653-5190  
1057 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007  
Supv. Park Ranger, Interpretation Alyssa Baltrus

**Great Falls Tavern Visitor Ctr.** 301-767-3714  
11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, Md. 20854  
Supv. Park Ranger, Interpretation 301-767-3702 Alyssa Baltrus

Western Maryland District, Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River) to Milepost 184.5 (Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Md.):

#### Western Maryland District

District Ranger	301-714-2236	Jules Huelskamp*
Cumberland Subdistrict	301-722-0543	
Hancock Sub district	301-678-5463	
Ferry Hill Subdistrict	301-714-2206	

**Williamsport Visitor Center** 301-582-0813  
205 West Potomac St., Williamsport, Md. 21795  
Supv. Park Ranger, Interpretation Curt Gaul

**Hancock Visitor Center** 301-678-5463  
326 East Main St., Hancock, Md. 21750  
Supv. Park Ranger, Interpretation Curt Gaul

**Cumberland Visitor Center** 301-722-8226  
Western Maryland station, Cumberland, Md. 21502  
Park Ranger, Interpretation Rita Knox

\* = Acting

#### OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

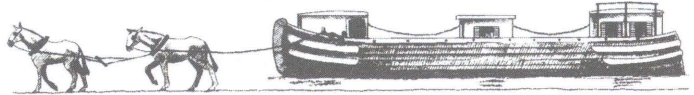
Georgetown Boat Operation	202-653-5190
Great Falls Boat Operation	301-767-3714
Boat House at Fletcher's Cove (concessionaire)	202-244-0461
Carderock and Marsden Reservations	301-767-3731

**24-HOUR EMERGENCY**  
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**Along the Towpath** is published in March, June, September, and December by the C&O Canal Association (C&OCA), P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366. Material for consideration may be submitted to the Editor at that address, for receipt by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Electronic submission is preferred: [editor@candocanal.org](mailto:editor@candocanal.org).

**Editor:** Carl Linden

**Associate Editors:** Dave Johnson, Don Juran, Ned Preston, Nancy Long, and Helen Shaw



## C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION

Membership in C&OCA is open to all persons with an interest in the C&O Canal, the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and the Potomac River Basin. Annual membership dues are \$15 individual, \$20 family, and \$25 patron, assessed on a calendar-year basis, and include subscription to the newsletter. Dues should be mailed to the C&O Canal Association, P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366. C&OCA is a non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by writing to C&OCA at the address above or calling 301-983-0825. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.

C&OCA maintains a home page at <http://www.candocanal.org>. The webmaster is Matthew James Teigen ([webmaster@candocanal.org](mailto:webmaster@candocanal.org)). C&OCA also maintains a telephone number for information and inquiries: 301-983-0825.

#### 2008 Association Officers

**President:** Rachel L. Stewart, 5914 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22205, 703/237-4727, [president@candocanal.org](mailto:president@candocanal.org)

**First Vice President:** Dward Moore, 403 Walnut St., Brunswick, MD 21716, 301/834-6007, [firstvp@candocanal.org](mailto:firstvp@candocanal.org)

**Second Vice President & Level Walker Chairman:** Bill McAllister, 5500 Cordona St., Lanham, MD 20706, 301/577-4757, [levelwalker@candocanal.org](mailto:levelwalker@candocanal.org)

**Secretary:** Bill Holdsworth, 10 Radburn Ct., Rockville, MD 20850-2740, 301/762-9376, [w.holdsworth@att.net](mailto:w.holdsworth@att.net)

**Treasurer:** William Bauman, 1086 Adams Rd., Winchester, VA 22603, 540/888-1425, [treasurer@candocanal.org](mailto:treasurer@candocanal.org)

**Information Officer:** Adrienne Gude, 4000 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Apt. 1222, Washington, DC 20016-5114, 202/244-4882, [agudelewis@hotmail.com](mailto:agudelewis@hotmail.com)

**Board of Directors:** (terms expire in 2011): Jim Heins, George Lewis, Merritt "Skip" Magee, John Wheeler, Francis Zumbrun; (terms expire in 2010): Bill Burton, Ron Howard, David M. Johnson, Thomas L. Perry, Marion Robertson; (terms expire in 2009): Stephen Eastham, Bill Hibbard, Nancy Long, Marlow Madeoy, Dorothea Malsbary.

**Committees** (contact at the C&OCA mailing address/tel. no. above):

Archives, Molly Schuchat; Environmental, Fred Mopsik; Festivals, Rita Bauman; Level Walkers, Bill McAllister; Membership Coordinator, Barbara Sheridan; Nature, Peter Whitney; Projects, Carl Linden; Programs, Dorothea Malsbary; Sales, Bill Hibbard; Volunteers In the Park (VIP), Jim Heins; Youth, Val Wheeler.

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# Along The Towpath

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Association



## *Please Note*

Inserted into this issue are two forms; for membership renewal and for dinner reservations for the Annual Meeting. Membership renewal information is on page 25. Information on the annual membership meeting (March 7) and on the Douglas Through Hike (April 18—May 2) can be found on page 1.

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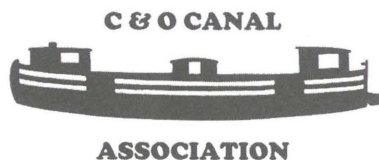
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