

# ALONG THE TOWPATH

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL ASSOCIATION

*An independent, non-profit, all-volunteer citizens association established in 1954 supporting the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin.*

Volume LV

December 2023

Number 4

## Jim Heins Recognized with DAR Community Service Award

By Kay Titus

Jim Heins was recognized with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Community Service Award for his service to the community and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The award was presented by Teresa Telesco, Chapter Chair of Community Service Awards, from the Potomac Hundred Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). The presentation took place at the Abner Cloud House located on the C&O Canal at Fletcher's Cove on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

The award is given to a person recommended by a DAR member for service to the community that is voluntary. Jim more than qualified for this award and our DAR Chapter was honored to propose him for it.

Letters of recommendation came from Linda Aguirre, President of Colonial Dames of America, Chapter III, citing Jim's work with his Volunteers in Parks (VIP) group clearing an area for historical research along the canal. A description of Jim's efforts to maintain park benches, picnic tables, fencing, as well as the organized trash removal was provided by Emily Tyner-Hewitt, volunteer manager for the C&O Canal NHP, along with a letter praising his work for many years within the park. His contributions are enormous in scope and too numerous to fully list.

The recommendations were many and the praise is well deserved and was humbly received, as anyone who knows Jim expects.

Jim's son, Wally, and his family were in attendance. His daughter, Cindy could not attend as she was also receiving an award that day, a lovely anniversary dinner out with her husband. Besides Teresa Telesco, DAR participants included Leticia Worrell, Potomac Hundred Chapter Regent, and chapter members. Colonial Dames President, Linda Aguirre

was present for the event. The C&O Canal NHP was represented by Christiana Hanson, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Volunteer Operations, and Emily Tyner-Hewitt, Volunteer Manager. All joined in the celebration of Jim's huge efforts to make the C&O Canal NHP a better place for all. See Page 2 for the National Park Service description of Jim's contributions.

*The C&O Canal Association heartily congratulates Jim for this prestigious and well-deserved award!*



*Jim receives his award from Teresa Telesco, Chapter Chair of Community Service Awards – Photo by Kay Titus*

# Description of Jim Heins' Volunteer Service at the C&O Canal National Historical Park

*This description of Jim's service to the C&O Canal NHP provides an overview of his dedication and innovation, and also highlights the efforts of the great group of volunteers who work with him.*

Jim Heins is the C&O Canal Association (C&OCA) Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Team Coordinator. In that capacity, he plans, organizes, and leads several volunteer projects each year in the park. There are two branches to the team. The "Bench Bunch" is a group of 13 volunteers who sign up for the manual labor that involves slinging 60-pound bags of concrete and moving 200-pound benches. In Fiscal Year/Calendar Year 2022, the C&OCA VIP team Bench Bunch completed 14 bench installations between Miles 8 and 138 of the park. The team spent 185 hours on this very labor-intensive project.

In their "spare time," the Bench Bunch also repairs picnic tables, removes vegetation from park structures, and supports trash clean-ups. Jim's team spent 45 hours repairing 14 picnic tables between Miles 8 and 125 of the park. A handful of them participated in a bulletin board revitalization project that involved cleaning, repairing, and replacing inserts for 64 bulletin boards across the park.

The second branch of Jim's team are the Swains Stewards. The stewards are a group of nine volunteers who have adopted the Swains day-use and campground area. The stewards volunteer multiple times per year to maintain the popular area by doing campground and day use maintenance and beautification. That group of volunteers contributed 55 hours

to cleaning out fire rings, painting picnic tables, collecting trash, and removing invasive plants in a very popular and highly visited area of the park.

A major project that was planned and coordinated by Jim Heins and completed by the C&OCA VIP Team was rebuilding the picket fence at Rileys Lock. It was a time-consuming project that involved hand shaping 140 pickets. Jim Heins secured supplies to replace 80 feet of fencing including 17 posts, stringers, and enough wood to make and shape 140 pickets. Considerable sawing and sanding were done, and the team spent hours hauling, handling, and working in the carpentry shop during the project. The old fence was demolished, new posts were installed, and then the fence was rebuilt. All told, six volunteers contributed 129 hours of service to rebuild the picket fence.

Jim Heins also coordinates the annual C&O Canal Association canal and riverside trash clean-up. In FY22, the clean-up engaged 144 volunteers in 431 hours of service to collect and remove 126 bags of trash, 42 bags of recyclable material, 850 pounds of debris, and 24 tires from the park.

Jim Heins is the coordinator of all the above-mentioned projects. Without Jim, this tremendous amount of work that benefits park resources and visitors would not have happened.

Emily Tyner-Hewitt  
C&O Canal NHP Volunteer Manager

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## The Association Welcomes New Members

*Charlene Bloedorn*

*Kamile Kay*

*Christina K. Williams*

*Paul Crapol*

*Carly McNeilly & Robert Williamson*

*Neil Wittmer*

*Karen Dansby*

*Alexander Schenck*

*Randy Wood*

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### **Membership Renewal Reminder –**

*Please use the enclosed renewal form to process your membership renewal for 2024 if you haven't already. Alternatively, you can get a form by going to [candocanal.org/membership/](http://candocanal.org/membership/) or scanning the QR code to the right, where you can click on the **Renew for 2024** button and renew on-line or download the 2024 renewal form pdf. If you are unsure of your membership status, check the "Membership Expires" date just above your name on the mailing address for this issue of **Along the Towpath**. If it says, "Membership Expires Dec-2023" then your membership renewal is due. Please contact the Membership Chair at [membership@candocanal.org](mailto:membership@candocanal.org) if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your continued support of our organization!*



# Donors to Association Funds

*August 1 to October 31, 2023*

**C&O Canal Association Donation Policy.** The Association is grateful for the generous support provided by donors over the years. If a donor specifies one of the special purpose funds listed below, we add the donation to that fund. We will use the money in accordance with the goals of the fund. We don't use those funds for administrative costs.

If a donor doesn't specify a fund, we add that donation to the general fund, which can be used for any purpose, including the Association's administrative costs.

## **A – Nancy C. Long Aqueduct Fund**

– Supports restoration and preservation of the 11 aqueducts on the C&O Canal. The fund was established with a generous donation made by C&O Canal advocate Nancy Long.

## **C – The Cumberland Repair and Maintenance Fund**

– Donations specifically identified for repair and maintenance of the historic canal boat replica in Cumberland.

## **D – Davies Legal Fund**

– Supports the Association's involvement in activities such as the opposition to the transfer of public land to any individual or enterprise for private use.

## **G – General Fund**

– General funds that are used for any purpose.

## **R – Ken Rollins C&O Canal Fund**

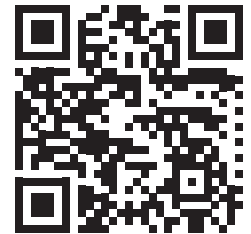
– Supports current projects and programs in and for the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

## **S – Rachel Stewart Swains Lock Area Fund**

– Funds improvements around Swains Lock as they are identified in conjunction with the National Park Service.

## **Donating Funds**

Scan the QR code with a mobile device or visit [www.candocanal.org/contributions/](http://www.candocanal.org/contributions/) for further information about Association funds or to contribute now.



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### **General Donations**

*Anonymous Donor – A*  
*Anonymous Donor – C*  
*Anonymous Donor – G*  
*Anonymous Donor – R*  
*Marney Bruce – G*  
*Katrina Craddock – R*  
*Barbara J. Freeman – G*

*William James – R*  
*Anthony Laing – C*  
*Nicholas Lincoln – R*  
*Katherine & Raphael Semmes*  
*– A, C, D, G, R, S*  
*Dennis & Donna Sloppy – A*  
*Mark C. Stover – C*  
*Arthur E. Wise – R*

### **In Memory of Dick Robison**

*Steve Brown – S*

### **In Memory of Prem Sarin**

*Heather Bertotti Sarin*  
*& Neil Sarin – G*

### **In Memory of Pamela Lantz**

*Deborah K. Poole – R*  
*Jon Wilson – S*

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## Help the Association – Make Payments Online

The Association website makes it easy to pay online using your credit card. Processing online payments is more secure and easier for our volunteers. You can renew your membership, purchase event meals or bus tickets, or make donations. We use PayPal to process our payments, but you don't need a PayPal membership. You can use your credit or debit card. *Note – PayPal will encourage you to sign up. That is unnecessary. You can deselect the button "Save info and create your PayPal account."*

# Notice of 2024 C&O Canal Association Annual Meeting

By Steven Dean

## Announcement of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the membership of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024 in Beallsville, Md. Details of the meeting location and arrangements are in the sidebar of this article. The meeting will be for the purpose of electing officers for 2024, electing a nominating committee for 2025, receiving reports of officers and committees, and any other business that may properly come before it. Two proposals to amend the bylaws have been submitted and are summarized on Page 7. All members of the Association in good standing are invited to attend. This notice constitutes the call for the meeting, pursuant to articles II.2, III.1, and IX of the bylaws.

## Nominations for Officers and Directors

Officers, except directors, are elected at each annual meeting to serve a term of one year. In addition, five directors are elected at each annual meeting to serve a term of three years. The nominating committee, chosen at the preceding annual meeting, will present a slate of candidates. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting. Members attending the 2023 annual meeting elected Steven Dean (Chair), Joel Cohen, Bill Holdsworth, Tony Laing, Jonnie Lefebure and Barbara Sheridan to form the 2024 nominating committee. The committee has nominated the following candidates for election in 2024.

## 2024 C&O Canal Association Annual Meeting

The annual meeting returns to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) in Beallsville, in 2024. This venue is central to most annual meeting attendees and is a hospitable location with a large meeting room. Annual meeting events start at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 1:00 p.m., followed by a happy hour and dinner.

11:30 a.m. – **Meet the Candidates.** This is an informal time to meet the candidates and mingle with other Association members. Many members consider it a great time to reconnect, talk about projects, swap canal stories, see old timers, meet new people and ask questions. A lunch is available for \$10 and will be served at noon. The lunch must be reserved in advance – visit the registration website at the below link or view the enclosed registration form for details.

1:00 p.m. – **Annual Meeting.** The meeting will be called to order to conduct Association business, including proposed bylaws amendments, committee reports and the 2024 election.

3:30 p.m. – **Happy Hour.** Beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks will be available for persons who purchased dinner.

4:30 p.m. – **Dinner.** Dinner will be available for \$30 with a choice of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. The dinner must be reserved in advance – visit the registration website at the below link or use the enclosed registration form.

### Meal Registration

*Attendees can register with the form enclosed in this newsletter or register on-line at [www.candocanal.org/](http://www.candocanal.org/) annual meeting. Open the camera app on your phone or pad. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification over the QR code to open the Annual Meeting link.*



[candocanal.org/  
events/annual24/](http://candocanal.org/events/annual24/)

### Directions

*The UMCVFD is located at 19801 Beallsville Road.*

*Open the camera app on your phone or pad. Hold your device so the QR code to the right appears in view.*

*Tap the notification over the QR code to open Google Maps. Within the app select **Directions** to enable navigation guidance.*



### **Bill Holdsworth – President**

I am honored to be nominated for the presidency of the C&O Canal Association, an organization that plays a vital role in maintaining one of the nation's historic treasures. I have 17 years' experience on the board, including six years as president and another six as secretary. I serve as the chair of the Finance Committee, act as webmaster for the Association website and coordinate the broadcast emails. I look forward to the challenge of serving the organization as the president for a one-year term. I am a retired federal employee.

### **Arthur Tsien – First Vice President**

As a longstanding outdoors and parks enthusiast, I learned about the C&O Canal soon after moving to the Washington, D.C. area in 1980. Over the years, I have walked and biked the Towpath and explored many of the Canal's wonderful historic and natural features. The Canal is my favorite local outdoor spot. I try to visit somewhere on the Canal at least once every several weeks. By my count, I had 45 visits in 2022.

I am a mostly retired lawyer and have been an Association member since 2002. I am currently a member of the Board of Directors and serve as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee. I am a Level Walker with three assigned levels. I have also participated in Association walks, a canoe trip, clean-ups, and work sessions. I live in Chevy Chase, Maryland with my spouse, Judy McGuire.

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as the Association's First Vice President. If elected, I will try to help the Association advance its mission and improve its operations. Thank you for reading.

### **Barbara Sheridan – Second Vice President**

I have been a member of the C&O Canal Association for over 25 years and have served previously on the board as a director, as first vice president, and as president. I have chaired two thru-hikes (2004 and 2009) and was the membership chair for 15 years. I am also currently serving on the programs committee. I was born in Washington, D. C. and have lived in the area all my life. My first awareness of the canal was an aerial view of it from a streetcar while on the way to Glen Echo Amusement Park as a child. The streetcars are long gone, as is the amusement park, but the canal lives on for all to enjoy! If elected as first vice president, I will work with the Association to help preserve and protect this valuable resource for future generations.

### **Jane Hanna – Secretary**

I have served as an Association director for the past four years and I worked on the 2021 World Canals Conference. I am retired from the National Park Service, where I worked at the Harpers Ferry Center writing and designing interpretive media. I currently serve as a level walker on Level 14.

### **Paul Lubell – Treasurer**

Thank you for considering me for reelection as treasurer of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Association. Since the 1990s, I have been treasurer at a series of non-profit organizations. This includes the International Society of Parametric Analysts (ISPA) 1996-2000, Thrivent Baltimore County Chapter (2003-2007), Columbia Volksmarch Club (2013-present), and St Paul Lutheran Church-Catonsville (2020-present). Their annual budgets ranged from the low thousands to amounts in excess of \$1,000,000. Additionally, as chairman of the finance board at St Paul (2004-2007), I was responsible for setting up the church's account charging structure.

I have an MBA in finance (1965) and have a very strong interest in investments. I have a small tax practice so am able to prepare our 990-EZ forms that are required by the Internal Revenue Service. My son has been kind enough to give me a 2019 version of Quickbooks so reports will be able to be prepared using the same software that the Association has been using many years. This increases the comparability of prior year to current year data. Many of you know me by now. Please continue to ask questions whenever something concerning our finances is not clear. I promise you a prompt and candid response.

### **Steven Dean – Information Officer**

I have been a member of the Association for over 15 years and have served as the level walker chair for 13 years and as the editor/producer of *Along the Towpath* for 11 years. I also coordinated the all-volunteer effort to restore and republish the *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Official National Park Handbook*, which saved the NPS funds and also raised funds for the Association. I support the Association and the C&O Canal NHP any way I can with digital media and photography support and take a particular interest in the documentation of C&O Canal culverts. If elected as information officer I will assist the Association and the park by supporting Association's and NPS mission and activities.

### **Tiffany Ahalt – Director**

My name is Tiffany Ahalt and I am currently serving my second and final year as the C&O Canal Association's president. Once again, I have appreciated fellow board and committee member commitments to the Association and their overall love for the park. I am currently the director of sales and community engagement at Visit Hagerstown/Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau. I have over 20 years of experience in the tourism industry and not-for-profit community, focusing on historic preservation and scenic byways. As a Rotarian, I have served in many roles, including club president and assistant governor for District 7620. With a passion for volunteering, I strive to inspire member engagement and sustainable practices for nonprofit organizations

# Notice of Proposed Bylaws Amendments

By Arthur Tsien and the Bylaws Committee

Two proposed amendments to the Association's Bylaws will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Article X of the Bylaws provides: "These Bylaws may be amended at a meeting of the membership of the Association by a two-thirds vote, provided that the text of the amendment has been submitted in writing with the call to the meeting." Publication of this notice satisfies that requirement.

The Board of Directors recommends the adoption of both of the following proposed amendments. Complete Bylaws can be found at <https://candocanal.org/bylaws/>.

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## Nominations for Officers and Directors (Continued)

that I serve. Located just a few miles from the C&O Canal, I reside in Jefferson, Md. with my husband, two sons, an old grumpy cat, and Abbie the dog, my hiking buddy.

### Trent Carbaugh – Director

I grew up on the Potomac River and C&O Canal and fished it with my grandfather and my father, as well as spending many happy hours when I was young walking the towpath and traveling by boat on the river with my parents and younger brother. I am looking for a meaningful way to give back for some of the joy and solace that the canal has given me over the years.

I have been a level walker for a year and spend much of my free time on the river or in the park. I have experience in the historic restoration business as a historian for Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as an archaeological field technician, and have extensive experience climbing, hiking and paddling. Currently, I am the director of education and co-owner of Birds of a Feather School which uses fine arts and interpretive history to enrich the lives of autistic adults and those suffering with memory disorders. I am also a volunteer at Little Antietam Creek Inc., an archaeological teaching nonprofit in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

### Paul Petkus – Director

The C&O Canal is my favorite weekend destination in this area. I enjoy hiking, bike riding, and taking photographs along the towpath. I've been visiting it regularly since 2005. I have a background in information technology, but I also enjoy observing and learning about nature. The towpath is a great place for that. I've learned about the flora and fauna in the park through participation in nature walks organized by the C&O Canal Association. I've also learned by participation in nature surveys. Two of the surveys to which I contributed from outings in the park were for the Maryland

## Proposed Amendment No. 1 Reduction in Size of Board of Directors

### MOTION:

1. Amend Articles II and IV of the Bylaws to read as follows, with deleted language in strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~) and new language in *bold italics*:

#### "ARTICLE II – Officers"

"Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a ~~First Vice-President~~, a ~~Second Vice-President~~, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an ~~Information Officer~~ and fifteen *nine* Directors.

Amphibian and Reptile Atlas and the Maryland Biodiversity Project. Additionally, I've participated in butterfly surveys in Howard County. I've learned enough from the experts in those surveys to lead annual nature walks along the canal focusing on butterflies. I sought out a way to formally help the park after assisting three stranded bicycle riders during one outing. As a result, I started volunteering as a level walker in 2009. I've also participated in activities such as the removal of garlic mustard. I hope to use my background and experience to additionally help the park through board membership.

### Dick Stoner – Director

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on the Association's board. If elected, I will try to help the Association enhance its operations and advance its mission. I've been a member of the C & O Canal Association for most of the past two decades and have been more involved since the Big Slackwater project was started in 2012. It passes behind our family's 108 acre farm at Milepost 87. I have been a level walker on Level 33 since the project was completed and the new path opened between the Dam 4 boat ramp and McMahon's Mill.

I grew up also in Bethesda, Md. and remember ice skating on the canal before it was a national park. As a child participating in the annual spring hike on a section near Sharpsburg, I shook hands with Justice William Douglas, who was elderly but still came out for at least part of the hike in the years between 1970-75 after which he retired from the Supreme Court of the United States. With my four siblings and their families, we like to hike or bike along various sections of the towpath. I hope to help this park continue to be improved and open to more and more people each year. I have experience in finance and corporate management and small business management, which may or may not be helpful in this role. I volunteered on several days in during the 2021 World Canals Conference and met many board members during that time.

These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.”

“Section 2. 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. ***The presiding officer at the Annual Meeting shall select a provisional chair for the nominating committee. When the committee meets, they can ratify or change that selection.*** It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate 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 biography and statement of qualifications for each. Additional nominations from the floor of candidates for officer shall be permitted.”

“Section 3. The officers, except the Directors, shall be elected by ballot to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and installed. ***Five Three*** of the Directors shall be elected by ballot by a plurality vote to serve for a term of three years or until their successors are elected, any tie for ***fifth third*** place being decided by lot. In cases where there are no more candidates nominated for a position than can be elected to it, the ballot may be dispensed with by unanimous consent. The terms of all officers shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected, except that the term of a Treasurer-elect shall begin thirty days later and the term of a President-elect shall begin thirty days later unless waived by unanimous agreement of the Executive Committee.”

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“ARTICLE IV – The Board of Directors”

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“Section 4. A quorum of the Board shall be ***ten six*** of its members.”

2. Add the following transitional provision at the end of the Bylaws (new language in ***bold italics***):

***“Transitional Provision for Implementation of the Reduction in the Size of the Board of Directors***

***“This amendment is effective as of the election that will take place at the March 2025 Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors is empowered to manage the transition to a smaller Board, which could take up to four years. No incumbent shall be turned out of office as a result of this change in the Bylaws. Incumbents may serve until the end of their term. If vacancies arise, the Board can choose not to fill them to speed the transition. During the transition period, a quorum of the Board shall be half (rounded down) of the then-authorized positions or six, whichever is greater.”***

#### **Discussion:**

This proposal would reduce the overall size of the Board from 21 to 13, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and nine Directors. The size reduction would take place as terms expire and possible vacancies occur. No incumbents would be forced out of office. The quorum would be reduced accordingly. If adopted, the changes would go into effect as of the March 2025 Annual Meeting election.

This proposal was submitted by Director (and former President) Bill Holdsworth. As Mr. Holdsworth explained:

“The primary goal of my proposal is to reduce the size of the Board of Directors. Every year the nominating committee has to work hard (too hard) to find candidates for all of the positions. The Second Vice President position became a bit redundant when we removed its Level Walker responsibilities years ago. The media world has changed dramatically since the Information Officer position was originally created.”

The Board of Directors recommends a **FOR** vote on this motion, in favor of adoption of the proposed Bylaws amendment.

#### **Proposed Amendment, No. 2 Expulsion of Members and Removal of Officers from Office**

#### **MOTION:**

Amend Article IV of the Bylaws by adding at the end new Section 5 to read as follows (new language in ***bold italics***):

“ARTICLE IV – The Board of Directors”

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***“Section 5. For good cause, the Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote, expel an individual from membership or remove an officer from office. The Board shall provide written notice of the basis for its proposed action and a reasonable opportunity to be heard before taking any such action.”***

#### **Discussion:**

This amendment was drafted by the Bylaws Committee in response to discussion by the Board of Directors. If adopted, this discretionary authority for the Board to take action would take effect immediately.

The Board of Directors recommends a **FOR** vote on this motion, in favor of adoption of the proposed Bylaws amendment.

# Profiles Along the Canal: Father Patrick Francis Healy, S.J.

By Rod Mackler

As one walks or bikes down the towpath toward Georgetown, the first glimpse of the historic section of Washington is the clock tower of Healy Hall at Georgetown University. Who was Father Patrick Francis Healy, the namesake for this landmark?

Father Healy was a prominent president of Georgetown University, serving from 1873 to 1882. He was known as “the second founder” of the university, after Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore. Carroll’s statue sits in front of Healy Hall. Among Healy’s accomplishments was the construction of the building that bears his name.

Patrick Healy was born in 1834, in Macon, Georgia, the son of an Irish immigrant, Michael Morris Healy, and Mary Eliza Smith, one of Healy’s 49 slaves. Eliza was one-eighth Black, that is, an “octo-roon,” making Patrick and his siblings one-sixteenth Black. Under the one-drop rule, they were considered Black.

Since interracial marriage was illegal in Georgia at that time, Michael and Eliza Healy formed a common-law relationship, but they were apparently faithful to each other and had ten children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. They were strict Catholics — three of Patrick’s sisters became nuns, two of his brothers, priests.

Schooling for Blacks was illegal in Georgia, so Michael Healy sent his children north to be educated, with basic education at Quaker schools in New York, then at the College of Holy Cross in Massachusetts. After graduating from Holy Cross in 1850, Patrick Healy entered the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit Order. Though the Jesuits knew his background, no one questioned his race or the fact that he was born out of wedlock (which technically would have required an exception from Rome).

Healy spent his clerical career as an academic. He taught for a while at Holy Cross, then studied theology and philosophy at Georgetown. Impressed with his skills in philosophy, his Jesuit superiors sent him for further study to Rome, to

Paris, and to the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), where he was ordained a priest, learned Latin, French, Italian, and German, and received a PhD in 1865.

During his life, Healy defined himself as White. In the 1870 and 1880 censuses, for instance, he is declared “white,” and on an 1885 passport application, he described his complexion as “light.” His Jesuit superiors were aware of his mixed race heritage, but his colleagues and students generally were not.

In the latter half of the twentieth century and into the present one, however, Georgetown University embraced Healy’s Black heritage, and celebrated Healy as the first Black Jesuit priest, the first American Black to earn a PhD, and the first Black president of a predominantly White university. Most recently, the university also apologized for its racist past, particularly for the sale, in 1838, of its 272 enslaved men, women, and children to Louisiana plantations. It changed the names of two campus buildings to remove the names of individuals associated with that sale, renaming one building for the first slave whose name appeared on the 1838 bill of sale.

Healy began his tenure teaching at Georgetown as chair of the philosophy department in 1866, when the school was recovering from the Civil War. He became president of the university in 1873. His goal was to make Georgetown into a first class university. He added science to the generally liberal arts curriculum, strengthened the professional schools (law and medicine), and embarked on an expansion of the school’s physical facilities. The centerpiece of his construction program was what became Healy Hall, built in a combination of neo-Romanesque and High Victorian Gothic style, in contrast to the Federalist style prevailing in Georgetown and the neoclassical style of most new public buildings in Washington at the time. The building gave the university the space for most of its programs — classrooms, offices, dormitories, labs, and library — but plunged the school deeply into debt.



*Tower of Healy Hall – Photo by Rod Mackler*



*Father Patrick Francis Healy – Library of Congress*





Healy Hall, Georgetown University – Photo by Rod Mackler

Healy Hall is built of blue-gray sandstone, quarried from the aptly named College Quarry at Seneca, near the C&O Canal towpath, just to the west of Bull Run, which crosses under the towpath through Culvert 35. The stones were likely dressed in the stone cutting mill at Seneca, then transported down the C&O Canal to Georgetown.

To help retire the debt, Father Healy reestablished the alumni association and made wealthy alumnus William Wilson Corcoran its president. He embarked on a fund-raising trip to the west coast, sailing to the isthmus of Panama, and returning overland through the Midwest and New York. His exertions were not sufficient, and the school had to lay off staff and sell many of its real estate holdings.

In poor health, Father Healy retired in 1882 and went to live with his brother James, the bishop of Portland, Maine. The two brothers traveled extensively in Europe, visiting Catholic institutions in France, Spain, Italy, and Belgium. He served briefly as a parish priest in Rhode Island and New York, then returned to Georgetown, where he spent his final years. He died at Georgetown in January 1910. Father Patrick Francis Healy is buried in the

center of the Jesuit Cemetery in the center of the Georgetown University campus. The stone is a bit hard to find, amid a sea of similar markers, all in Latin.

His tombstone reads:

**IHS**

**P. PATRITIUS F. HEALY, S.J.**

**Natus 27 Feb. 1834**

**Ingressus 17 Sept. 1850**

**Obiit 10 Jan. 1910**

**R.I.P.**

Translation for tombstone:

**JESUS CHRIST**

*[from the Greek monogram]*

**FATHER PATRICK F. HEALY,  
SOCIETY OF JESUS**

*[Jesuit]*

**Born 27 February 1834**

**Entered 17 September 1850**

*[Entered the Society of Jesus]*

**Died 10 January 1910**

**Rest in Peace**

*[Requiescat In Pace in Latin]*



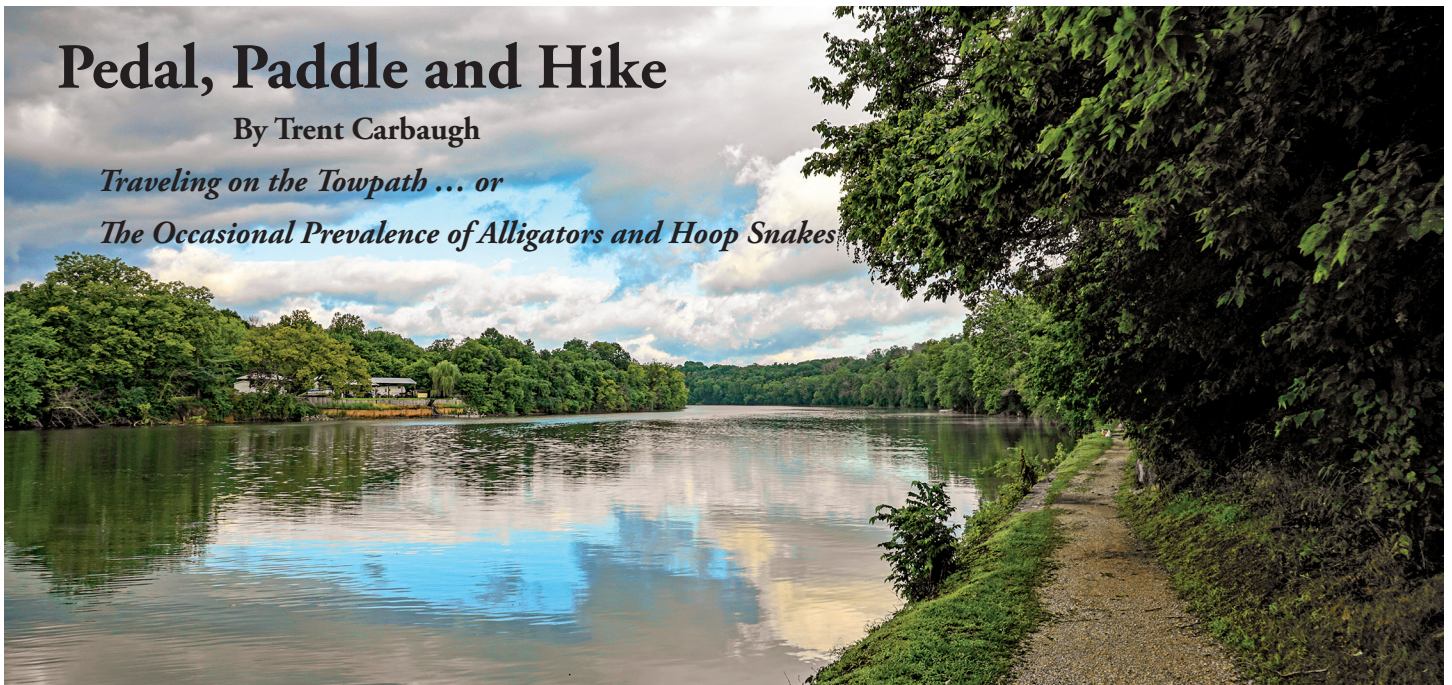
Tombstone for  
Father Patrick Francis Healy  
– Photo by Rod Mackler

# Pedal, Paddle and Hike

By Trent Carbaugh

*Traveling on the Towpath ... or*

*The Occasional Prevalence of Alligators and Hoop Snakes*



*Looking upriver from McMahon's Mill – Photos by Trent Carbaugh*

The C&O Canal National Historic Park is many things and the folks who visit the park do so for different reasons. The areas around access points see many walkers out for a day or for a pleasant evening stroll. In many areas these same access points are used by fisherpeople to get to the Potomac River or, in some places, to fish in the watered sections of the canal. At various points there are boat ramps to launch everything from powerboats to paddle boards into the river. Nowadays, bicycling is one of the most common activities in the park and the natural beauty and historic importance of the towpath, not mention the camping infrastructure available, makes the place attractive for the bicycle touring crowd.

Usually, I like to talk to people in the park; politeness and good manners are one of the pillars of civilization, and you can always learn something or conversely get thoroughly baffled. Both are states of mind that I fully appreciate.

Learning is always a good thing, and bafflement makes me think, (sometimes not nice thoughts) plus it gives me rich fodder for stories like this.

One of those confusing, at least to me, things about talking to people on the towpath is that some of them have no idea what it is. I think some of these folks honestly believe that the canal was built to look old and rustic just to provide them with an interesting place to ride their bikes or have a nice walk. When you mention to them about the history, their eyes glaze over, and you can tell there is just no desire to know anything about the past. But sometimes you get some really good questions, or my personal favorite, some really strange questions.

Having inherited a wicked streak of mischievous story telling from my grandfather, as well as being heavily



*Lock 50 at Four Locks showing the "wait shanty" used by lock tenders when waiting for boats.*



*A view from the towpath in Hancock on a magnificent early fall day.*



*One of my favorite places, Dam 5. It's a beautiful place, great fishing, and my preferred place to test new lenses. I'm very happy with the lens and you can't beat the view.*

influenced by my hero Bugs Bunny, sometimes I just can't help but tell a story. My grandfather's stories included a wild snallygaster biting his finger off and a giant flounder that tried to eat my grandmother, plus many more improbable tales, and as a child I believed all of them. I still do believe some of them; he was missing a finger.

*For an informative and entertaining account of folklore and mysterious creatures including hoop snakes and snallygasters, review Trent Carbaugh's feature Things That Go Bump in the Lock House in the December 2021 Along the Towpath.*

I usually only indulge in this questionable pursuit when an opening is given; such as the time I stopped to talk with two fellows looking at the water-filled canal prism with great interest. After exchanging pleasantries, I learned that the two fellows were from New England and that they were really

enjoying the park; then one of them asked me "This is the South, right?" I replied "Yes, technically, but about as far north as you can get and still be in the south." Then he asked me "Well, where are all the alligators?" Realizing that this was a rare golden opportunity, I kept a straight face and spun a tale, or tail if you prefer. I told them that the alligators only come out in the late afternoon when the sun warmed up the towpath. I also informed them that because of local conditions the alligators didn't get very big but that there were a lot of them and if you had to get by them to ride over their tails rather than their heads to avoid being bitten. I also did warn them about choosing a hiker/biker carefully as well, don't camp close to water because of the 'gators and the nocturnal hoop snakes. "Are you serious?" I was asked. "Of course not, the Potomac is too far north for alligators and hoop snakes are mythical" I replied. We had a good laugh, I chuckled to



*A pile of unused cut limestone blocks along the towpath.*



*"Gator" den? Any volunteers for investigation?*



*Just some turtles, always a good thing.*

myself all that day remembering the brief confused look on their faces. By the way, there really is a breeding population of introduced alligators in far Southern Maryland. So, keep your eyes open just in case they decide to migrate.

Hoop snakes are another good tale as their tracks are everywhere and look surprisingly like bicycle tire tracks. I've gotten a lot of mileage out of this one when talking to Boy Scouts on the towpath. Hoop snake tales have made it past just my joking too; a certain leader of Association dragonfly walks often points out hoop snake tracks to participants.

If you're not familiar, hoop snakes are one of those great Western Maryland creatures of folklore. It's large snake, with a poisonous spike on its tail tip, that is able to hold its own tail in its mouth, form a hoop, and then roll at great speed in pursuit of hapless travelers. Of course, knowing snakes as

I do, why would a snake go after a human in such a manner? And the big question; how does the snake continues to roll and hit you with its tail spike? It must be remembered that the poison, by all accounts, is strong enough to kill a full-grown oak tree instantly in one stab, so you have to ask yourself, if the snake hits a bump and accidentally stabs itself in the mouth, what happens to the snake?

Upon meeting some folks, the "bafflement effect" kicks in swiftly and without warning. Once as I was riding between Town Creek and Paw Paw my disk brakes got a workout as I went around a slight curve and had to stop quickly to avoid three bikes on kickstands blocking the towpath. Said bikes were ridden by two very attractive young women and an elegant, full of himself, older fellow. All were dressed in what they thought was the height of bicycling fashion, had a picnic



*A rock that appears to be an ancient "PacMan" mystery sculpture that only appears in the canal prism during particular weather conditions.*



*Hiker/biker camping in late summer.*



*Lock 72 is picturesque in all the right ways.*

basket, and were drinking wine out of glass goblets. Though I was a bit irritated by the situation, I politely suggested that they might not want to just stop in the middle of the towpath and that drinking alcohol was not allowed in the park, the girls just tittered coyly and offered me a glass of wine. I declined, warned them again that they were a traffic hazard and went on my merry way, scratching my head and mumbling under my breath.

Over the years I have run into belligerent ghost hunters, amateur film makers with horror movie props, super aggressive bicyclists, militant birders; the list goes on. Most of the time, fortunately, I run into nice interesting folks and sometimes I'm lucky enough to share a campfire with a like-minded fellow wanderer. As is most often the case I'll be camping by myself and the occasional raccoon or two stops by for a quick chat, I don't speak fluent raccoon, but they usually get their point across: "give us food." No matter how much they beg, never, ever feed the little hooligans, there is a reason they wear a bandit's mask.

Next time you're out in the park, take the time to talk to someone, go down to the riverbank and admire the beautiful Potomac, and enjoy a little history. As it gets colder and you will probably not be getting out on the towpath as much, I have added some of my favorite photographs of random places in the park for your enjoyment.



*Many travelers never notice the intricate infrastructure, such as this culvert that is under the canal.*



*The remains of Dam 6.*



*Creosote (wood preservative) dipping tank at Lock 66.*



*The green canal at Eviitt's Creek Hiker/Biker. It's a great place to see turtles and herons.*



*The Potomac River at Weverton.*

# The 2023 C&O Canal Through-Ride or 170 Miles of Adventure

By Debbie Poole & Denny Sloppy

## Denny Sloppy Reports:

On Friday, October 6, 2023, 12 happy bikers gathered at the mule statue in front of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Station and C&O Canal National Historical Park Visitor Center. The sky was gray and a chance of rain was in the forecast for our six-day ride. However, the only real rain we experienced was on Friday evening into early Saturday morning and we didn't have to bike in the rain. Most fans of the C&O Canal are aware of the book *184 Miles of Adventure* published by the Boy Scouts of America. Every year, when we do this bike ride, we do have a new adventure.

This year we decided to shorten the ride by spending extra time in Harpers Ferry, biking only 12 miles on Day Five and then finishing up at Great Falls on Day Six. This decision was mostly to avoid a long shuttle ride up the Potomac from White's Ferry to Point of Rocks and then down the other side to Leesburg for our Tuesday night lodging. Instead, we would meet our shuttle at Point of Rocks and shuttle to Leesburg from there. We appreciate our fellow association member, Tom Knoerzer, for providing our shuttle services. He provided the shuttle from Point of Rocks to Leesburg and back free of charge. Tom also brought half the group to Cumberland from Great Falls the day before the ride started and half the group back to Cumberland at the end of the ride.

Nick Lincoln drove to Cumberland from Florida early and took a bike ride up the Great Allegheny Passage Trail and took a train ride to Frostburg behind the Number 1309 Steam Engine. On Thursday evening those of us in Cumberland met at Uncle Jack's Pizzeria and Pub for dinner and were joined by friends John Betting and Diane Seery.

Prior to the ride, Debbie Poole purchased a decorative metal bicycle to which she attached a sign "C&O Bikers 2023" which accompanied us down the canal. The little bike found its way into many of our photographs. As mentioned earlier, we didn't have to bike in the rain but, after the Friday night rain, we had more than our share of mud on Saturday. Starting our ride at the Paw Paw tunnel on Saturday morning, we were passed by many bikers moving much faster than us and covered head to toe in mud. They were part of

a partnership of *Ride Allegheny* and *Operation Second Chance* doing a fundraiser for veterans. They numbered over 100 and started Saturday morning in Cumberland and were on their way to Hagerstown for lodging Saturday evening before finishing their 4-day ride from Pittsburgh to Calvea Farm near Poolesville.

Through many years of doing this annual bike ride as a group we've formed some traditions. Steve Brown did a little survey of what he calls "Denny's Dozen" cyclists and found that we claimed to have done 149 C&O Canal Through-Rides. I have personally done 21, but Jon Wilson and Paul Leatherman have probably done more than that. Some of our traditional restaurant stops include: the *Schoolhouse Kitchen* in Oldtown; *Bill's Place* in Little Orleans; *The Rabbit Hole* in Harper's Ferry; *Beans in the Belfry* in Brunswick; and *Del Rio* in Leesburg, Va.

Some memorable moments for me from this year's ride were having Tom and Linda Perry join us in Williamsport at Tony's Pizza & Italian Restaurant for dinner. Tom was one of

the founding members of this annual bike ride and organized and led the ride for many years. Going back through the archives of past issues of our newsletter, I found an article in December 1993 by Kathy Carroll and I give you this quote where Tom Perry joined them at Little Orleans on their second day: "Tom Perry joined us (which was very fortunate for our group, as you will see later.) So did Alan Mead. Alan led the Canal Association's first bike trip in April of 1991." Tom was involved in that October 1993 Association ride but I also read that Tom had been leading Boy Scouts and church groups on canal bike rides as far back as 1970. On many past Association bike rides, Tom and Linda welcomed the bikers into their home after dinner for dessert and hot apple cider. Then we'd have a business meeting in their "Great Room" where Tom would also play tunes for us on his pipe organ. It was an honor to have Tom and Linda join us. Also joining us at Tony's were friends Melody Miles, Bonnie Leatherman and Ken Johnson.

Adventures always have surprises and I'll summarize a few. On reaching Leesburg we had a surprise. Our son, Daniel, from Minneapolis had arrived at the hotel before us.



Entering the Paw Paw Tunnel on Day 2. Jon Wilson leads, followed by Janine Joyce, Michael Joyce, Deb Poole and Paul Leatherman. Photo by Steve Brown.

Daniel biked the GAP Trail with many of us in the past, and we were thrilled to have him join us for part of the C&O ride. As a family, my dad, Daniel, Donna, and I rode the entire canal in 2000 in just three days, and it remains a fond memory. Dan had arrived at our daughter's home in Hershey, Pa. earlier in the week for a wedding. He rented a car and drove to Leesburg with the bike my dad had ridden in 2000. The next morning, we learned that Sheryl Etelson, (who rode with us last year), would meet us at Point of Rocks. At Seneca Aqueduct we got another pleasant surprise when Norman Liebow showed up with Krispy Kreme doughnuts.



*Leaving Cumberland in order: Steve Brown, Michael Joyce, Donna Sloppy, Deb Poole, Janine Joyce, Nick Lincoln, Paul Leatherman, Jon Wilson and Art Wise. Photo by John Betting.*

Backing up here a bit, we had one other part-time rider when Patrick Pope biked up from Williamsport, met us along the trail and then biked back to Williamsport with us. We also had some help from friends (Trail Angels) along the way when situations arose. Mike and Kathy Merchant took one rider from Paw Paw to Hancock. Linda Perry, Ken Johnson, and Bonnie Leatherman helped us get from our hotel in Williamsport to dinner and back. And although we call this an unsupported ride, the last few years we used Sunshine Luggage Shuttle to carry bags for those who want this service. Although owner, Angela Bonnell, doesn't take bikes and bikers, her sub-contractor on the C&O, Rose Harris, is able to help sometimes. This year Rose's friend, Jason, was filling in for Rose and was able to take one rider from Williamsport to Harper's Ferry along with our luggage. Many thanks to all who helped out.

We always marvel at the natural beauty we experience as we ride along the canal and Potomac River. We also reflect on the vision our forefathers had to build such a canal and the hard labor that was put in by thousands of workers digging much of the canal with hand tools.

Each year to help preserve the park's beauty and history we collect a minimum donation of \$25 to register for the

ride. This year we collected \$375 for the various C&O Canal Association funds. We let each person choose the fund they want to contribute to.

### **Debbie Poole Reports:**

Each year when I sign up for the Association ride, I am always prepared for an ADVENTURE or an element of the unknown. Sometimes the canal adventure involves the weather, sometimes simple logistics (being ready when we are to ride), and sometimes the adventures involve other people. However, the adventure for the C&O ride begins on the day one



*At Tony's Pizza in Williamsport (l-r): Michael Joyce, Art Wise, Steve Brown, Paul Leatherman, Bonnie Leatherman, Katrina Craddock, Jon Wilson, Nick Lincoln, Ken Johnson, Debbie Poole, Donna Sloppy, Denny Sloppy, Tom Perry, Linda Perry, Mark Hornick, Janine Joyce. Photo by Melody Miles.*

commits to riding. There is preparation, mentally, physically and, for some, spiritually when we pray for strength, good weather, safe journeys, and another wonderful memory. To ride the C&O is a commitment worth taking. Adventure involves going places you've not gone before, it may involve spending time with people you do not know, but doing it anyhow, even though, you may not know how things will turn out. A person willing to go on an adventure is willing to take a risk.

As Denny mentioned, many of us have ridden the through-ride many years, and a small core group of riders have travelled the length of the C&O many times together. While the scenery often remains the same, what changes is the adventure and many of the people. I remember my first few rides with Tom Perry who was the leader. He rode ahead of the group (and in these younger years) I often joined him. We simply rode, looked at deer, woods, mushrooms, birds, the many turtles on logs and blue herons found in the canal or on the trail. Nature is simply one of my favorite parts of this trip. This year I met a rider, while I was taking photos, who shared with me his photos of an eagle. And on this ride, a deer rushed across the trail, down over the embankment, and we stopped to watch it swim across the river. In the "older days" under Tom Perry, many of us camped. We camped in

all kinds of weather, took all our luggage, and went a few days without showers, popping popcorn, drinking hot cocoa, and having so many experiences and laughs.

Sharing on this journey began early in Cumberland, where we were treated to free pizza, salads, chicken wings, French fries, beverages, and popcorn balls. We shared together from the generosity of others. It was a beautiful night to sit outside and get to know each other. Some of us shared rooms together for the trip and that itself is an adventure.



At Cumberland (l-r): Debbie Poole, Donna Sloppy, Steve Brown, Katrina Craddock, Mark Hornick, Janine Joyce, Michael Joyce, Jon Wilson, Nick Lincoln, Paul Leatherman and Art Wise. Photo by Denny Sloppy.

As our group left Cumberland, we were greeted with experiencing the excitement of the Western Maryland Scenic railroad chugging into Cumberland. The gray overcast sky was the perfect backdrop for the locomotive steam and the beautiful train engine and cars. Cameras flew out as many of us took several beautiful photos. On the way out of Cumberland, we stopped to also see the canal mile marker, and about one mile down the canal, we stopped at an old Western Maryland Railway bridge that crossed over the towpath. Here we took a rail trail over the Potomac River that leads to the Knobley Tunnel and into Carpendale, W.Va.

I could only imagine what the new people to the ride thought about the number of stops made in the first five miles. They were probably thinking this is going to be a very long 170-mile ride. However, as everyone learns, on this ride the key is to slow down, enjoy the ride, the fresh air, the sights and most importantly, the quiet and peacefulness from cell phones or media distractions. We continued to pedal into Paw Paw, where many of us stayed in cabins and several went back to Cumberland.

Throughout the ride our sweep, Art Wise, was busy on the mud days, helping a few damsels in distress due to minor mud and

bicycle tire events. Art is an experienced rider who is willing to ride and assist our group ensuring no rider ever gets left behind. He is there to provide not only encouragement, but offer knowledge, guidance and assist with any “emergency” involving our riders. We’ve even seen our sweeps and other riders offer help to others on the trail riding outside of our group. We so appreciated Art and other sweeps over the years!

Our leader, Denny, is instrumental in having the ride go smoothly. At the beginning of each ride, Denny provides



Lock 70 in Oldtown. Photo by Denny Sloppy.



Above – Norman Liebow with Krispy Kreme delivery – Photo by Debbie Poole

Below – Deb Poole taking a picture of mushrooms between Cumberland and Paw Paw – Photo by Steve Brown.



all riders information about safety and rules while riding the C&O. Examples of his leadership on this ride included: managing shuttles, food stops, luggage pick-ups/drop-offs, money, and assisting others with new or revised lodging pick-ups. From the time the ride ends, Denny is already thinking about the next year; planning ride dates and getting information out to others. We all thank Denny for his time and commitment to these rides and the safety of all.

For anyone that is thinking, wow, this sounds like a great ride – it is! It really is an adventure. We make the ride accommodating for all age groups and riding levels. This is a 6-day adventure, not a 2-day race to the end. Yes, you must prepare, but if you’ve ever wanted to do the entire C&O ride this is the group to go with! You’ll have time to ride, stop and take photos, learn history about the area and other rides, and really at the end of the day, you will simply be glad you came. The dates for the 2024 ride are October 11 to 16. Each year we age, and we are not promised tomorrow, however, it is up to each of us to enjoy life each day, and be the best we can be for ourselves and others. I leave you with one thought: *RIDE ON and be willing to BE ADVENTUROUS.*



# Volunteers in Parks

By Jim Heins, VIP Coordinator

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## Your VIPs Stand Tall

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A great group of volunteers produced a large amount of improvements to our beautiful park this year.

To paraphrase Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Into the "Potomac River" valley rode the twenty-six*. Our hats are off to twenty-six volunteers, many of whom helped with multiple projects.

The year began with the purchase of forty some boards which then had to be cut to size, primed and painted. At different times during the year these boards were then used to build 12 picnic tables.

The picket fence at Rileys Lockhouse, built by the VIPs last fall, had to be primed (all 137 pickets and 17 posts) and

then followed up at another time by giving the fence a final coat of paint.

The bench bunch ultimately installed an additional seven benches, bringing the total addition of 94 benches in the park. Woven throughout the summer into this busy schedule were a number of cleanups held at Swains Lock, where we are the stewards. In addition, one day was spent removing garlic mustard at Brunswick.

All-in-all, these VIP stalwarts spent 15 days doing manual labor for the park. Their reward each project day was being able to stand back, afterward, and admire a job well done which was clearly an improvement to the park.

Thank you, one and all, from your association ... and especially from me.



*Thanks to the efforts of the Bench Bunch, park visitors can take a break at some beautiful locations along the canal, including (left) Lock 56 in Pearre and (right) Big Pool. Photos by Steven Dean*



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## President's Report

By Tiffany Ahalt

By the time you receive this message, the holidays will be upon us. Family gatherings, holiday events, and lists are being checked not once but twice. As you make your list, take time to renew your annual membership to support our mission. Look for your renewal form in this newsletter or go online to renew through the Association's website, [candocanal.org](http://candocanal.org).

Need a gift for the person who has everything? Give the gift of membership to a family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker. It is the gift that keeps on giving. You already know what a gift our newsletter is with many agreeing it is one of the top benefits associated with being a member of COCA.

Don't forget to "buy local" in the many canal towns from Georgetown to Cumberland. Consider books on local history and birding, gift certificates for dining, or sample

packs of locally produced craft beverages. I promise you affordable and unique gift options await.

As we reflect on 2023, please join me in thanking our many committee and board members who invested many hours to plan and lead programs, prepare our newsletter, make much-needed repairs within the park, and represent the Association on various levels. You are appreciated and valued.

Looking ahead we plan to announce a few new programs for 2024 and information about a large restoration project in Cumberland.

*Once again, it has been an honor to serve as your president. Best wishes for and safe, healthy, and enjoyable holiday season!*

*Tiffany Ahalt*

# On the Level

By Steven Dean

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## August to October 2023 Level Walker Activity

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*This report primarily covers level walker activity for August through October. Any reports for activity performed on November 1 or later will be in the March 2024 Along the Towpath.*

*The Level Walker program is a long-term Association volunteer activity and is the oldest volunteer program on the park. Level walkers periodically visit their levels and assess conditions, pick up trash and perform light trail clean-up. Many level walkers are long-term volunteers. Level walkers must be members in the C&O Canal Association, comply with NPS regulations and submit level walk reports at least once a year to remain active level walkers.*

*Findings in this report are typical for late summer and fall level walks. Most level walkers enjoy their fall level walks. In many places less trash is found, which is encouraging. A disturbing trend is an increased level of graffiti on the park.*

*Thanks to all who participate in our volunteer program! As a team, your efforts make a significant contribution to the park. For information about the Level Walker program, please email [lw@candocanal.org](mailto:lw@candocanal.org).*

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**Levels 3 and 4 Lock 5 to Lock 14: Allyson Miller reports Aug. 14; and Sept. 19, 23 and 27:** Mowing was in progress from Lock 5 to past Lock 14 in August. All lock houses were mowed. The Lock 7 lock mechanism is covered in vines. I should be able to clear these in the fall/winter (after the snakes and poison ivy are less of a problem). There was lots of puddling and ruts all along Level 3 and just a few on level 4. Water was in the prism from Lock 5 to Lock due to recent heavy rains. The violent thunderstorm that wreaked havoc in Glen Echo and Bethesda in early July did a lot of damage just upstream of Lock 7. Several large sycamores and other trees were downed. All trees and debris had been removed from the towpath. Two large trees were uprooted, damaging the towpath in two places. The D.C. Water work site at Cabin John Creek was cleared of work material and workers were spreading hay over the site (possibly over grass seed). There is still debris in the prism from the work site, including the collapsed prism wall above the Cabin John Creek culvert and several timber rafts that flowed into the prism. There was a major improvement to note at Lock 5. The neighborhood trail from the Brookmont neighborhood goes over Clara Barton Parkway and has a double spiral down to the lock 5 area. The trail at the end of the spiral staircase was severely eroded for years. This eroded and muddy trail was repaired with gravel and a composite material. Wildflowers spotted in September include common elephants-foot, wing stem and goldenrod. I picked up trash around Locks 7, 8 and 10, which included a bucket

of Heineken bottles (the most common beer I find!), along with other beer and soda cans, and plastics. A young girl was collecting Paw Paws and gave me one. It was the largest one I've ever had - delicious! I noted that the map case at Mile 7.6 has been spray-painted on the inside of the case.

**Level 4 Cabin John Creek to Lock 14: Larry Heflin reports August through October:** The towpath was monitored over numerous walks, through all conditions. No significant issues were reported during this period.

**Level 5 Lock 14 to Bridge at Cropley: Jude and Mary Fran Franklin report Sept. 16:** The towpath was clean and in good condition with a few puddles. The towpath detour west of Carderock to Brickyard Road was observed. Billy Goat Trail C was open. There was little to no water from Mile Marker 10 to beltway and the canal was filled with trees, plants, and other growth. Bikers approaching from rear frequently did not give a warning signal. Parking at Carderock was heavy, with a lot of construction equipment in the second parking lot west of the picnic area, and it was also very heavy at Cropley Bridge. **Mindy Ginsburg reports Oct. 8:** The work on the level continues. The towpath has been diverted, sending walkers, runners, and cyclists up away from the canal towards a new path alongside MacArthur Boulevard. After the path diversion ends and towpath users are reunited with the original towpath and canal all looks mostly as before. Marsden Tract campsites were clean despite what looked like heavy use from recently departed families. One campsite was still occupied and in use. **Jim Heins reports Oct. 19:** It was a beautiful day with a temperature around 68 and sunny with little breeze. Virtually, no trash, and only a half dozen bikers and a couple of walkers. Towpath conditions were fine; grass on either side was not very high and it looked nice. The prism is another story.

**Level 9 Lock 22 to Seneca Aqueduct: Louis Robbins reports Sept. 15:** It was a beautiful fall day with light traffic and the towpath was clean. I talked to a contractor who was placing new surface on the towpath. Work from Seneca to just south of Pennyfield was completed. They were working south of Pennyfield, with material supply from the south. Many trees were marked for removal along the level. The waste weir gate north of Lock 22 has a stone gabion with sandbags on top blocking flow. It appears to be acting as a sediment filter.

**Level 10 Seneca Aqueduct to Milepost 25: Judith Walton reports Sept. 3:** I walked with Flora, the Wonder Dog. It was very hot and there were only a few walkers and bikers. The towpath was in good shape. Some potholes in the Seneca parking area have been filled but there are still many uneven surfaces. **Katherine Andrie reports Sept. 22:** My dog Daisy

joined me for the walk. The towpath was clean and in good condition. I tossed aside some larger limbs off the towpath. There were numerous bikers and most warned me of their approach. There was an abundance of jewelweed in the canal prism.

*Level 11 Milepost 25 to Sycamore Landing:* **Rinze and Sue Roosma report Sept. 14:** It was a very nice afternoon on the towpath with temperatures in the mid 70s. It was relatively quiet despite the nice autumn-like weather. The water level in the canal for the first two miles from Swains Lock has been very low for the whole year, causing the vegetation to overtake what was previously the canal bed with only a very small stream of water moving through. When we came through on this day a crew had just started the resurfacing of the towpath starting at Pennyfield. Hopefully this will take care of the damage that is on the towpath in this section. The most remarkable observation of the day was the number of hummingbirds that were flying around. There were five tents on the Swains Lock campground; the tables were in good condition.

*Level 12 Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry:* **Pat Hopson, with Carol Ivory, Ron Wise and Frank Wodarczyk, reports Aug. 19:** We split up into two teams. Frank and Pat met at Sycamore Landing, and Frank walked the entire level. He found very little trash except for fishing trash left at two fisher person's sites. Pat cleaned up at Sycamore Landing, then drove around to Edwards Ferry and eventually met up with the other three. Carol and Ron met at Edwards Ferry and scoured the riverside upstream and down. There was very little trash at the two parking areas and along the towpath. The biggest stash of trash was found by Carol, who then called others to come help: it was an area just downstream from the Goose River Locks. It looked like the area had been used for numerous parties. The towpath was in good shape. Flaking away of red brick at the back of the downstream wall inside the Jarboe store is progressing. The Goose Creek River Locks continue to deteriorate. We encountered three bicyclists who were training for a combined GAP/C&O Canal ride, and a group of kayakers, including a woman who was picking trash out of the river.

*Level 15 Whites Ferry to Lock 26:* **Jon Wolz reports Aug. 1, Sept. 1, and Oct. 5:** The towpath is in excellent condition on this level. The Marble Quarry campsite is in good condition. Jim Heins and the bench bunch recently installed a bench next to the towpath. The Whites Ford sign remains in poor condition and is hard to read. The Native American fish weir near Mason Island is visible from the towpath at Mile 38.5. Numerous deer were noted in September. Some were splashing in the river and one standing on top of the fish weir at Mile 38.5. There were also deer along the bank at White's Ford and a large buck in the towpath at Milepost 36. There was no activity at Whites Ferry, but in September and October it was noted that heavy equipment was in a corner of the

parking lot. It appears this may be the equipment used at the Edwards Ferry bridge project.

*Level 16 Lock 26 to Monocacy Aqueduct:* **Jon Wolz reports Aug. 14, Sept. 15, and Oct. 12:** The water in the prism appears to have recovered in August and the stones and rocks in the prism below Lock 27 were underwater. I could not detect any water leaking. Undergrowth was cleared around the culverts on the level in September. Work was underway in September to remove debris from the Monocacy Aqueduct arches. A long chain was tie to a log and the chain was then pulled on the bank by a Bobcat. In October it was noted that the trees and weeds growing on the inside and outside walls of the Monocacy Aqueduct were removed. The aqueduct looked outstanding.

*Level 17 Monocacy Aqueduct to Nolands Ferry:* **Earl Porter reports Aug. 30 (with Ed Boddinger), Sept. 30 (with Ed and Betsy Boddinger), and Oct. 25 (with Ed Boddinger):** The Monocacy Aqueduct was partially blocked during the August walk, and it was evident in September that debris removal had occurred. It was completely open in October. The granary ruins at the Monocacy basin remain in poor condition. Trash levels were high on all walks and the bag containers were frequently empty.

*Level 18 Nolands Ferry to Point of Rocks:* **Jane Hanna reports Oct. 21:** The towpath was busy with pedestrians, two horses and numerous cyclists, including a man on a penny-farthing high front wheel bicycle. There was a pile of trash at the Calico Rocks hiker-biker camp. The towpath was in good condition. **Bob Carpenter reports Oct. 30:** It was a fall day on the towpath, with autumn colors, falling leaves and squirrels preparing for winter. There was very little trash on the towpath, a bit more at Nolands Ferry, with most of the trash collected at the Point of Rocks parking lot and boat ramp. The fenced area at Kanawha Spring at Mile 47.57 has gaps and is a safety risk for people to access the dangerous spring area.

*Level 19 Point of Rocks to Catoclin Aqueduct:* **Steve and Debby Jones report June 20:** We cleaned up around the Catoclin Aqueduct and boat ramp area. The towpath was in good condition, and we removed small sticks. Trees are growing in Lock 28 and there is plant growth in Lock 29. There is extensive English ivy growth on trees in the area. Bird sightings included yellow billed cuckoo, northern parula and indigo bunting. *Steve and Debby are new level walkers, and we welcome them to the team.* **Don Peterson, with Karlen Keto, reports Sept. 22:** The towpath was clean, and it was a beautiful day. There were many bikers on the level. **Louis Robbins reports Oct. 11:** Structures were in generally good condition. Lock 28 has a significant amount of vegetation. The Catoclin Aqueduct was in beautiful condition and the area around it well maintained. The area would benefit from a picnic table. There was construction on piers of overhead U.S. Route 15 bridge with proper protection for towpath users.

*Level 22 Lock 31 to Lock 33: Karlen Keto reports Sept. 15 and Oct. 2 (with Don Peterson):* Trash was light along the towpath in September and numerous cyclists were out. I enjoyed a conversation with two cyclists who were retirees. They love the canal/towpath and use it frequently. The current highway detours in the in the area caused frustration for them, but they accepted the delays just so they could continue to cycle the towpath. In October, everything appeared to be in fine shape! There was a small amount of trash. Cormorants were at their usual station at Harpers Ferry. One great blue heron pranced at the river's edge close to the towpath. No turtles were seen. We took a lunch break in Harpers Ferry.

*Level 24 Dam 3 to Dargan Bend: Craig Roberts reports October:* During October 10 walks were conducted from October 10 to 30. There was quite a bit of trash in the prism and down by the river, which improved over numerous walks. During one walk a huge turtle was crawling along the prism over logs. The towpath was in good condition, but bikers are speeding by, not signaling and startling me often. *We welcome Craig back after a few years break from level walking. He level walks Levels 24 and 25 with his Anatolian Shepherd Great Pyrenees mix dog Hazel.*

*Level 25 Dargan Bend to Lock 37: Craig Roberts reports October:* Nine walks were conducted from October 9 to 31. There was typically a large amount of trash on the level. Dargan boat ramp construction was going well, and the parking lot remains open. It was great weather on a holiday weekend and there were many through bikers. There was much trash at the Dargan Bend parking lot, and it looked like it had been there awhile. I found a large bright birthday helium balloon. Those balloons can land anywhere and pose a problem.

*Level 27 Antietam Aqueduct to Lock 38: Ben, Jennifer, Holly, and Zoe Helwig report Sept. 9:* It was a hot day – too hot to bring the dog, but it was good day for a Paw Paw season walk. Graffiti was noted in Lock 38. The towpath was busy, especially for bikers. There was a large trash dump by the Antietam Aqueduct parking area. The Antietam campground was clean, and 20 tents were noted.

*Level 34 McMahons Mill to Opequon Jct. HBO: Trent Carbaugh reports Aug. 23:* The towpath was in very good shape. I cut back some multi-flora rose stems and some low-hanging limbs. The McMahons Mill area was in very good shape. There was significant weed growth in Locks 41 and 42. A little water was flowing out of Culvert 118 ½, but weed growth was too significant to allow a good look. It was very green, and numerous squirrels were out of both the gray and fox varieties.

*Level 41 Dam 5 to Four Locks: Mike Anderson reports Sept. 26:* It was overcast and misty day and I pretty much had the towpath to myself. The towpath was in fantastic shape. The prism had a large amount of storm debris in it. Conditions were good around Dam 5.

*Level 43 Four Locks to McCoys Ferry: Jack Ebersole reports Aug. 3:* The towpath was dry and in good shape. The North Mountain Hiker Biker Camp was not in use, but someone had left an almost full bag of charcoal. It was too heavy to carry out and I left it to be used by next campers. Lock 50 has ongoing issues – the waysides are in poor condition; trees are growing in the lock and the lock tender shanty is in poor condition. Two large ailanthus trees are growing right behind the far wall of the stop lock at McCoys Ferry. Their roots may eventually push that wall out.

*Level 44 Fort Frederick to Ernstville: Jim Biasco reports Oct. 1:* The towpath is in good condition although it is still the older surface, with roots and spots that puddle. Trash was light on the level, as usual. Turkeys were observed in the Fort Frederick area.

*Level 46 Licking Creek Aqueduct to Little Pool: Rick and Wendy Duke report Aug. 27:* Many water plants were present in the prism where watered. Trash was light and the towpath was in good condition. Long-standing erosion on the river side of the prism by culverts 160 and 170 was noted.

*Levels 47 and 48 Little Pool to Round Top Cement Mill: Phillip M. Clemans reports Oct. 3:* The day was quite busy with serious bikers, including a group from Buffalo riding from Pittsburgh to Washington. I also encountered a group of U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1983 members riding biked from Washington State to Georgetown. I enjoyed a hospitable visit to the C&O Canal Bike Shop in Hancock. Damage, including shot-up signage, was noted at White Rock Hiker-Biker Camp. *(Note: This damage was caused during an illegal intrusion on September 4 by UTV riders who disturbed campers, damaged park property and discharged firearms. Anyone with information about this incident should call the NPS-wide Tip Line at 888-653-0009.)* The towpath surface was in great condition during this walk. There was graffiti at Devils Eyebrow that appeared to be made with chalk. Human presence was intense so there were few wildlife sightings.

*Level 49 Round Top Cement Mill to Lock 53: Paul Petkus reports Oct. 15:* It was a pleasant autumn day for an outing in the park. No change was detected in the condition of the structures in the area. Two benches have been added to the level. The leaves on the trees were beginning to get their fall colors. The overall condition of the towpath was good with some light rutting in a couple of areas. There are now two Habitat Restoration sections along the level. One is at Mile 128.1. It seems to be there to protect ostrich ferns. Another one was added at Mile 129.

*Level 53 15 Mile Creek Aqueduct to Lock 59: John Wiggins and Kathleen Morairty report Sept. 20 and 21:* We walked on two beautiful almost fall days with perfect weather, very little trash and not too many park users. The towpath on the whole level is looking better than it did on our previous walks.

Locks 58 and 59 were overgrown with summer growth, but we didn't note any structural issues.

*Level 54 Lock 59 to Lock 60: Paul Petkus reports Sept. 16 and Oct. 28:* It was a sunny and pleasant day for the September walk. Many park visitors were in the area taking advantage of the good weather. The surface of the towpath has been patched in areas where large puddles typically formed. No evidence of spotted lantern flies was found in the area. No issues were noted that required immediate attention. The berm arch of Culvert 206 looked good, but the towpath arch was too overgrown to observe. Plants in bloom included asters such as white wood aster, goldenrods, sunflowers, fall phlox, wing stem, orange jewelweed, red clover, white snakeroot, white turtle head, mist flower, New York iron weed, water mint, Japanese honeysuckle, smart weed, and beefsteak plant. In October no significant changes were noted to structures along the level and nothing was noted that required immediate attention. The towpath was in generally good condition, with some puddles and light ruts in places. I removed light obstructions from the towpath. Leaves had fallen off a lot of the trees and covered the towpath there. In some places, the leaves still on the trees provided beautiful autumn color.

*Level 55 Lock 60 to Culvert 208: Paul Petkus reports Oct. 28:* It was an unseasonably warm autumn day. Many of the bicyclists that I saw seemed to be enjoying the park rather than being on long distance treks. I saw some traveling in one direction and then returning in the opposite direction. The towpath was in good condition overall. No changes were detected in any of the structures. Fall foliage was past peak on the level. Leaves have fallen off of most of the trees, but not all of them. There still were a couple of colorful areas to enjoy. Turtles and frogs were frequently seen. Gnats were the only downside to the outing. Most of the leaves have fallen off of the trees along the towpath. Dryad's saddle was growing on one tree. A red Virginia creeper vine was growing in the lock. Aster remained in bloom. I saw a river otter in the prism while walking upstream. A lone Japanese honeysuckle plant still had flowers. Near Lock 60, isolated yellow wood sorrel and violet plants had blooms. I didn't see any spotted lanternflies along Level 55.

*Level 58 Lock 63 1/3 to Tunnel Parking Area: Arthur Tsien reports Aug. 2 and Sept. 9:* The August walk was my first walk of the level in 2023. I was very curious whether the NPS repair project was likely to finish on schedule. I walked the accessible parts of the towpath, including the tunnel itself, the Tunnel Hill Trail, and the bypass trail. The only construction worker I saw was one driving a pickup on the towpath. I heard very sporadic, distant sounds of heavy construction equipment. There was still equipment in the parking lot, at the upstream tunnel portal, and at the height-of-land on the Tunnel Hill Trail. This is less activity than what I saw on my last visit, but the work was still in progress. None of the camp

sites at the Paw Paw campground were in use. All picnic tables, fire rings and grills were in good condition. One boarded up door at the canal superintendent's house was pried partially open. As noted before, the house needs substantial repair to address longstanding neglect. I returned in September to check out the new boardwalk at the downstream end of the tunnel now that the towpath was open to through traffic. The boardwalk looks great! Several hazardous deep potholes inside the tunnel have been fixed. Thanks go to the National Park Service!

*Levels 59 and 60 Tunnel Parking Area to Town Creek Aqueduct: Trent Carbaugh reports Oct. 6:* The towpath was in good condition with a little mud in spots. Some small limbs were removed, and multi-flora rose skin rippers were trimmed. All structures looked about the same as the last level walk, and the Town Creek Aqueduct was very pretty, as usual. I ran into three fisher-persons and numerous bikers, some of whom were less than pleasant. Water was low in all areas that are usually watered.

*Level 67 Mexico Farms to Evitts Creek Aqueduct: Sue Rudd, with Anne SanGiovanni, reports July through September:* Numerous walks were conducted with dog Rusty. Overall, the canal is in good condition on this level, though the towpath is rutty and will benefit from resurfacing. I've noticed that there is a section between Brehm Road going to Evitts Creek that is now devoid of water. I know there are many sections of the canal without water, but this is new for this area. Weeds are just starting to grow so it hasn't been empty long. There were very dense forest conditions this summer. Love the canopy! It was cool even on a hot, humid day. I saw a very young blue heron learning how to feed himself!

*Level 68 Evitts Creek Aqueduct to Wiley Ford Bridge: Travis Medcalf reports Oct. 5 and Oct. 11:* There was no trash downstream of Offut Street. Graffiti observed there before was cleaned up. The towpath was in great condition. Thanks go to the folks in the Candoc area who clean up, cut grass, and trim weeds. Squirrels were playing, fall wildflowers were blooming and the prism was full of everything but water. Cattails, shrubs trees, and a grass carpet are dominant in the prism. Water flowed freely through the Evitts Creek Aqueduct. The towpath was in good condition.

*Level 69 Wiley Ford Bridge to Cumberland Terminus: Travis Medcalf reports Oct. 5:* The towpath was in great shape, but this area is still waiting for the planned resurfacing. There was increased trash at the Western Maryland Railway Bridge and the Wiley Ford Bridge. The spillway at Mile 183.5 has noticeable erosion under it. The prism varies from water and duckweed to trees, shrubs, cattails, and bushes.

*Roving Level Walker: Mark Stover reports August through October:* Mark walks various parts of the entire canal on a regular basis. Downed trees and other issues are frequently reported.

# Across the Berm

By Steven Dean

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## Bert Lustig

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Robert (Bert) Lustig died in June 2023. Bert grew up in Plainfield, N.J., graduated from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa. and received a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Maryland in 1972.

Bert moved to Berkeley Springs, W.Va. after graduation. He was a civic activist, fisherman, paddler, gardener, and environmentalist. He was an accomplished woodworker and his work appeared in numerous woodworking publications and received multiple awards from the state of West Virginia and other venues. Bert and his wife Patricia Graybeal owned

and operated Berkeley Springs Books in downtown Berkeley Springs for 10 years.

Bert was a long-time member of the C&O Canal Association and a former co-chairperson of the Western Maryland Rail Trail Supporters. As a rail trail supporter, he advocated the continued extension of the rail trail. He was fascinated with industrial and transportation history and believed preservation of the remaining transportation monuments should be a priority.

Bert served as a director of the C&O Canal Association from 2018 to 2021. He served as a level walker on Level 46, from the Licking Creek Aqueduct to Little Pool, for several years with his wife Patricia.

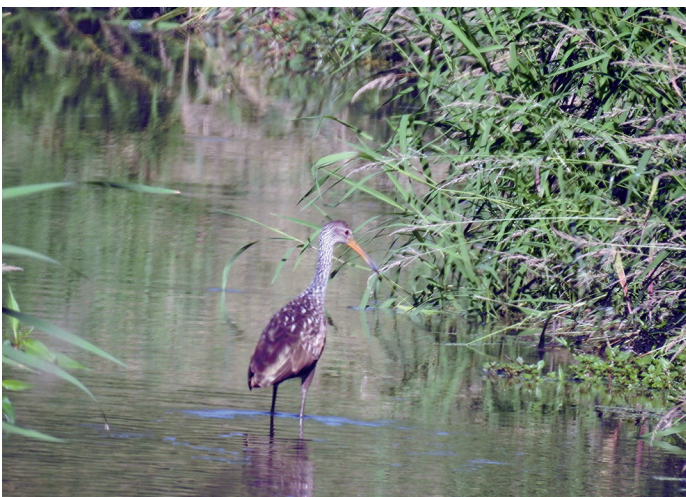
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## Yet Another Rare Bird Visits the Canal

By Kurt Schwarz

A limpkin was found just north of Pennyfield Lock on August 19, 2023. Limpkins are a year-round resident of Florida, and also inhabit Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Islands, and through much of South America. While it is not migratory, they are sometimes found further north, though nobody really knows why. According to the Maryland Biodiversity Project, prior to this, limpkins had only been recorded in Howard, Frederick, and Washington Counties. So, the limpkin is new species for Montgomery County. As of mid-afternoon on August 19, forty people had logged reports of the limpkin into eBird, the on-line database of bird occurrence and abundance. The limpkin persisted into September, with the last report on September 11.

The limpkin is the fifth rarity this author has seen on the canal since 2021. The first was the painted bunting at Great Falls, which delighted many in January 2021 and was described in the March 2021 *Along the Towpath*. A few weeks later, evening grosbeaks were found at Riley's Lock. In September of that year, a wood stork was at observed Pennyfield. Finally, the mottled duck appeared in December in the Carderock area and lingered into January 2022. This sighting was reported in the March 2022 *Along the Towpath*. To add to the rarities on the canal, a roseate spoonbill has been seen off and on around Riley's Lock this year in August, but has not been seen by this author.



*The limpkin wading – Photos by Kurt Schwarz*



*A closer view of the limpkin.*

# 2023 Heritage Hike

By Bill Holdsworth

*The Association welcomed guests to Cumberland on October 21 for a delightful fall hike followed by a delicious dinner catered by D'Atri's restaurant at the Allegany Museum. After dinner, Jim Shea, author of Get Up and Ride, regaled the audience with his adventures biking from Pittsburgh to Georgetown with his brother-in-law. After the program Jim, accompanied by his mother Phyllis Shea performed his new song, Waiting My Turn. In the song a boatman describes his life in the waning days of the C&O Canal in the early 1900s.*



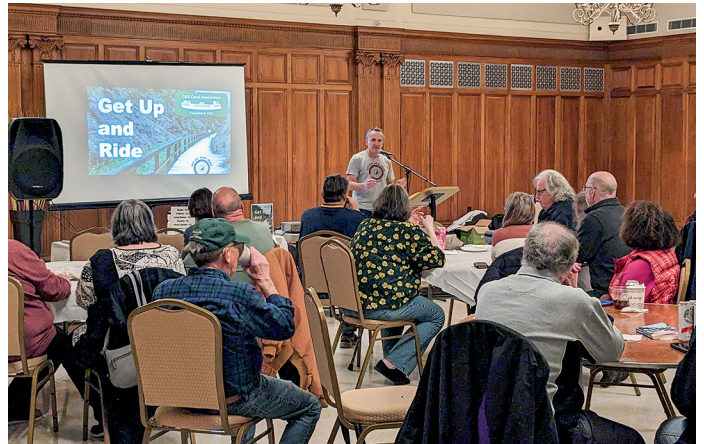
*The shuttle van dropped off hikers on Brehm Road to start their 5.6-mile journey back to Cumberland – Photos by Bill Holdsworth*



*A group of hikers pause for lunch by the former Western Maryland Railway bridge at Mile 182.2.*



*D'Atri's Restaurant catered the banquet.*



*A former courtroom on the second floor of the Allegany Museum was the venue for the banquet.*



*Jim Shea, recounts his adventures riding from Pittsburgh to Georgetown.*



*Jim Shea, accompanied by his mother Phyllis Shea, performed his new song, Waiting My Turn.*

# 2023 President's Lunch

By Barbara Sheridan

You already know that this year's President's Lunch was held at Bill's Place in Little Orleans, Md. on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. What you may not know (unless you are an old-timer like me) is that this annual event was started 20 years ago and has always been held at Bill's.

In 2003, the event was called *Salute to the Association Presidents* and included a program honoring the first president, Lewis W. Schollenberger. The program was followed by a short hike. Since this was a breakfast event, many participants arrived the night before and camped out. Although the menu was listed by the organizer, Jim Preston, he was quick to point out that it was subject to change. His quote in the newsletter was, "Remember this is Bill's, we get it his way or no way."

Camping out the night before disappeared as an option after several years in a row of rainy chilly nights. The program honoring just one past president has evolved to now celebrating all presidents both past and present. Recently, the breakfast became a lunch event but that's okay ... you now order from the menu so you can get it "your way."

There were 20 attendees at this year's lunch, including three past presidents. A short hike was led after lunch by Pat

White on the American Discovery Trail, which shares the C&O Canal towpath in this area.

Yes, it has changed over the years but three things are certain. One – It will always be at Bill's. Two – we will have a meal and enjoy camaraderie with other members. Three – there will be the opportunity for a short hike or visit to an interesting canal-related site nearby.

We hope you will join us next year!



Past presidents Barbara Sheridan, Tom Perry and Chris Cerniglia at Bill's Place – Photo by Denny Sloppy

# Tree Walk at Rileys Lock

By Paul Petkus

Marnie Bruce led a nature walk focusing on tree identification on Saturday, October 14th. The weather forecast wasn't favorable, and rain was predicted, but the weather cooperated.

The walk started at Rileys Lock. We went upstream from there. After we crossed the Seneca Aqueduct, we made a side trip to the vicinity of the stonecutting mill. Marnie knows a lot about the history of the canal in the area. In addition to learning about the trees, we also learned a lot about the history of the mill and quarry. Afterwards, we returned to the towpath and continued further upstream to explore the fauna and flora.

Trees identified during the walk included American persimmon, sycamore, walnut, Paw Paw, aithlantis, butternut hickory, red maple, river birch, red bud, sassafras, ash, tulip tree,

hackberry, black locust, willow oak, red oak, white oak, pin oak and black willow.

One of the fun facts discussed about trees was that some of the early settlers to the region were able to live in the hollowed area of very large Sycamore trees. She also pointed out that American persimmon trees have two genders, male and female.

The female needs to get pollen from the male to produce fruit and seeds. A helpful pointer is that red maple always has something red on it throughout the year, making identifying it easier. At this time the leaves were red. At other times the leaf stems are red. Hackberry trees are hosts to hackberry emperor, tawny emperor, snout, and mourning cloak butterflies. Paw Paw is the host tree to zebra swallowtail butterflies. No invasive spotted lanternflies were on any of the ailanthus trees we checked.



Marnie Bruce meets walkers at Rileys Lock – Photo by Paul Petkus



# Continuing Hikes for 2024

By Pat White

My vision for the 2024 Continuing Hikes is to investigate the dams and locks that provided the water and access to the canal from the Potomac River. Attendees should dress for the weather, bring water and lunch or a snack, and be prepared to walk four to eight miles round trip. Hikes are rain or shine. We will cancel when winter weather makes driving hazardous. Cancellations will be posted on the Association website and as a voice mail on my phone. Contact me for further information at [hikemaster@candocanal.org](mailto:hikemaster@candocanal.org) or 301-977-5628.

In January we will meet at Lock 6 (Mile 5.4) and check out both Feeder Dam 1 and the related inlet lock. Our February hike will start at Dam 5 (Mile 106.8) and feature a tour of the dam and inlet locks, as well as Four Locks. In March we meet at Cohill Station (Mile 130.7) and hike upstream to Dam 6. We will break for the summer and resume in September, when we meet at Dargan Bend (Mile 64.9) and hike to Dam 3. We will meet at Rileys Lock (Mile 22.8) in November and check out Dam 2 and the inlet lock at Violettes Lock.

# Nature Hikes for 2024

By Steven Dean

The Association will again host nature walks in 2024. At the present time, planned activities include opportunities to view birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Other walks may be added to the program, so continue to follow the calendar and our website.

In April, Kurt Schwarz will lead a walk in Rileys Lock area, with an emphasis on migrating warblers. A target will be the lovely prothonotary warbler, which nests on the watered section of the canal northwest of the lock. Waterfowl are also possible on the river. Kurt will lead a second walk at Sycamore Landing in September. Participants will walk the canal and adjacent fields to observe migrating warblers, thrushes, sparrows, and waterfowl.

Steven Dean will lead dragonfly and damselfly (odonate) walks at Oldtown in June and at Dickerson in July.

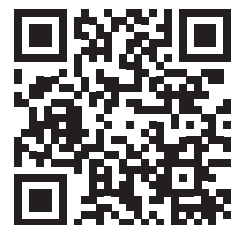
On both odonate walks viewers will observe a wide variety of colorful dragonfly and damselfly species engaged in mating, egg laying, eating and other fascinating activities.

Paul Petkus will lead a butterfly walk at Carderock in late June. Participants will walk along the towpath to look for butterflies on blooming flowers, including small butterflies such as the least skipper, large butterflies such as zebra swallowtails and tiger swallowtails, and butterflies of all sizes in between.

Walk participants should dress for the weather and walks of up to three hours, and bring water, snacks and their favorite nature guide. Binoculars are helpful and photography is encouraged on all nature walks. Insect repellent is discouraged on the dragonfly and butterfly walks.

## ***Important Information About Association Events –***

- » *Liability waivers are required for many Association activities.*
- » *Hikes require proper footwear. Paddling, hiking and biking participants are responsible for their own equipment, food and water.*
- » *Reservations and/or advance fees are required for some events. Reservations must be received prior to the listed closing date. Advance fees are non-refundable after the reservation closing date.*
- » *Participants must arrive on-time for outdoor event start times. Outdoor events are usually rain or shine, however in extreme cases may be canceled for weather travel conditions or other reasons. Check [www.candocanal.org/calendar/](http://www.candocanal.org/calendar/) (use QR code at right), contact the event host for updates, or visit Facebook @ [candocanal.org](http://candocanal.org).*
- » *Participants are expected to comply with any local health or safety related rules in effect at the time of the event.*
- » *The Association cannot accommodate requests for variations from established event agendas, transportation and arrangements, including requests for alternate pick-up or drop-off locations.*



# C&O Canal Association

## Calendar of Events – 2024

C&OCA Business
C&OCA Hike and Dinner or Other Event
C&OCA Paddle Trip
C&OCA Nature Walk
C&OCA Hike
C&OCA Bike Trip
Jan. 28, Sun. <b>Continuing Hike Series</b> , 10:30 a.m. at Lock 6. Hikers will visit Feeder Dam 1 and Inlet Lock 1. Contact: Pat White – hikemaster@candocanal.org or 301-997-5628
Feb. 4, Sun., <b>Board Meeting</b> , 1 p.m. via Zoom Check calendar at www.candocanal.org for details or changes.
Feb. 24, Sat. <b>Continuing Hike Series</b> , 10:30 a.m. at Dam 5. Hikers will visit Feeder Dam 5, inlet locks and Four Locks. Contact: Pat White – hikemaster@candocanal.org or 301-997-5628
March 23, Sat., <b>C&amp;O Canal Association Annual Meeting</b> Upper Montgomery County Fire Department 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville, Md. 11:30 a.m. – Meet the Candidates; 1 p.m. – Annual meeting; 3:30 p.m. – Happy hour; 4:30 p.m. – Dinner. Reservations required for lunch and dinner. Details on page 4 and a reservation form is enclosed.
March 31, Sun. <b>Continuing Hike Series</b> , 10:30 a.m. at Cohill Station. Hikers will visit Feeder Dam 6 and inlet locks. Contact: Pat White – hikemaster@candocanal.org or 301-997-5628
April 14, Sun., <b>Board Meeting</b> , 1 p.m. Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave.
April 27, Sat., <b>Douglas Hike and Dinner</b> . Details will be published in the March <i>Along the Towpath</i> . Contact: Jonnie Lefebure – programs@candocanal.org.
April 27, Sat. <b>Nature Walk – Birds</b> , 8:00 a.m. at Rileys Lock. Contact: Kurt Schwarz – krschwa1@verizon.net or 443-538-2370
June 1, Sat. <b>Presidents Lunch</b> . Bill's Place, Little Orleans, Md. Details will be published in the March <i>Along the Towpath</i> . Contact: Jonnie Lefebure – programs@candocanal.org.
June 2, Sun., <b>Board Meeting</b> , 1 p.m. Williamsport Town Hall, 2 North Conococheague St.
June 22, Sat., <b>Nature Walk – Dragonflies</b> , 9:00 a.m. at Oldtown Contact: Steven Dean – editor@candocanal.org.

June 29, Sat., <b>Nature Walk – Butterflies</b> , 10:00 a.m. at Carderock Contact: Paul Petkus – papetkus@yahoo.com or txt 773-450-6039
July 20, Sat. <b>Paddle Trip</b> . Brunswick to Monocacy Aqueduct 4-5 hour paddle trip. Reservations by July 10 are required. For information and reservations, contact Tony Laing, canoemaster@candocanal.org or 301-980-8932.
July 20, Sat., <b>Nature Walk – Dragonflies</b> , 9:00 a.m. at Dickerson Contact: Steven Dean – editor@candocanal.org.
Aug. 4 Sun., <b>Board Meeting</b> , 1 p.m. via Zoom Check calendar at www.candocanal.org for details or changes.
Aug. 23-25, Fri.-Sun. <b>Paddle Trip</b> . Paw Paw Bends Area Potomac River from Paw Paw, W.Va. to Little Orleans, Md. Trip includes two nights camping. Reservations are required. For information and reservations, contact Barbara Sheridan, canoemaster@candocanal.org or 301-752-5436.
Sept. 14, Sat. <b>Nature Walk – Birds</b> , 8:00 a.m. at Sycamore Landing Contact: Kurt Schwarz – krschwa1@verizon.net or 443-538-2370
Sept. 29, Sun. <b>Continuing Hike Series</b> , 10:30 a.m. at Dargan Bend. Hikers will visit Feeder Dam 3, Inlet Locks, and a dry dock. Contact: Pat White – hikemaster@candocanal.org or 301-997-5628
Oct. 6, Sun., <b>Board Meeting</b> , 1 p.m. at Williamsport Check calendar at www.candocanal.org for details.
Oct. 11-16, Fri.-Wed., <b>Through Bike Ride</b> . Cumberland to Georgetown. No sag wagon. Reservations required. Limited number of riders. We ride 30 to 40 miles per day for six days. Participants must be willing to accept instruction from ride leaders before and during the trip, and must come equipped with recommended bicycles and have clothing for warm, cold, and rainy weather. Contact: Denny Sloppy – dennysloppy@yahoo.com or 814-577-5877.
Oct. 26, Sat., <b>Heritage Hike and Dinner</b> , Details will be published in the September <i>Along the Towpath</i> . Contact: Jonnie Lefebure – programs@candocanal.org.
Nov. 19, Sun. <b>Continuing Hike Series</b> , 10:30 a.m. at Rileys Lock. Hikers will visit Feeder Dam 2 and inlet locks at Violettes Lock. Contact: Pat White – hikemaster@candocanal.org or 301-997-5628
Dec. 1, Sun. <b>Board Meeting</b> , 1 p.m. Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave.
Additional details about events will be included in the <i>Along the Towpath</i> issue before the event. Contact programs@candocanal.org for questions.

## C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

### Personnel and Contact Information

#### C&O Canal National Historical Park Headquarters

142 W. Potomac St., Williamsport, Md. 21795

Superintendent	301-714-2202	Tina Cappetta
Deputy Superintendent	301-714-2200	John Noel
Superintendent's Assistant	301-491-3374	Erin Cowan
Chief Ranger	301-714-2222	Ed Wenschhof
Chief of Business Mgmt.	301-714-2204	Ben Helwig
Chief of Resource Mgmt.	301-714-2225	Andrew Landsman
Chief of Maintenance	301-714-2211	Jim Yelton
Chief of Interpretation, Education and Volunteers	301-714-2238	Christiana Hanson
Partnerships Coordinator	301-714-2218	Anthony Bates
Volunteer Coordinator	301-491-7309	Emily Tyner-Hewitt
Cultural Resources Manager/Historian	301-491-2236	Justin Ebersole
Safety Office	301-745-5804	John Adams

#### Palisades District

Mile 0 (Tidelock) to Mile 42.19 (Monocacy River)

Interpretive Supervisor	301-767-3702	Vacant
District Ranger Law Enforcement	301-491-6279	Joshua Cunningham
Supervisory Recreation Fee Specialist	301-331-7193	Evan Costanza
Georgetown Partnerships Coordinator	240-291-8466	Shaun Lehmann

#### Western Maryland District

Mile 42.19 (Monocacy River) to Mile 184.5 (Cumberland)

Interpretive Supervisor	240-625-2931	Joshua Nolen
District Ranger Law Enforcement	301-722-0543	
Cumberland Subdistrict	301-722-0543	
Hancock Subdistrict	301-678-5463	
Ferry Hill Subdistrict	301-714-2206	

#### Visiting the Park

The C&O Canal NHP is open 365 days a year, but may be closed at times due to weather conditions, towpath issues or repairs. Park visitor centers are located at Georgetown, Great Falls, Brunswick, Williamsport, Hancock and Cumberland. They may be closed seasonally or due to staffing limitations.

[www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/index.htm)

(QR Code at right) provides information about park facilities, towpath local closures, NPS events, canal boat programs, visitor centers, camping and other visit related information. The park phone number is 301-739-4200.



*Check park status before visiting.*

#### Other Useful Contacts

Canal Quarters Program – [www.canaltrust.org/programs/canal-quarters/](http://www.canaltrust.org/programs/canal-quarters/)

Canal Towns – [www.canaltrust.org/programs/canal-towns/](http://www.canaltrust.org/programs/canal-towns/)

#### 24-HOUR EMERGENCY:

911 or 866-677-6677

#### REPORT SAFETY HAZARDS OR TOWPATH ISSUES:

HAZARDS CHO\_Hazards@nps.gov

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ISSN 2575-9876

*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

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*Content included in this issue consists of material related to:*

*Association business – 51%, history/education – 8%; nature/environment – 18% volunteer/project activity – 21%, NPS/park information – 2%*

## 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: \$25 individual, \$35 family, and \$50 patron, assessed on a calendar-year basis, and include subscription to the newsletter. Dues should be mailed to the C&O Canal Association or paid on-line. 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 contacting the C&OCA at the address above or emailing [inquiries@candocanal.org](mailto:inquiries@candocanal.org). 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 web page at [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org). The webmaster is [website@candocanal.org](mailto:website@candocanal.org). Inquiries can be directed to the Association at [inquiries@candocanal.org](mailto:inquiries@candocanal.org).

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*Culvert 231 is at Mile 173.8, just above Spring Gap. It is a 12-foot span culvert and carries Collier Run under the canal. Like many Western Maryland culverts, it is brick lined. Around 84,250 bricks were used in its construction. Above – towpath arch. Below – berm arch. Photos by Steven Dean*



### ALONG THE TOWPATH

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*Check us out on social media!*

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