

## VIP report for Annual Meeting of the Association - March 26, 2022

During the past year, the VIPs have:

1. Continued as Stewards at Swains Campground and Day Use area. 4 cleanups were held.
2. Held 2 Garlic Mustard pulls, one at Carderock and one at Swains.
3. Completed two vegetation removal projects, one at Rileys Lock and one at the Goose Creek River Lock, both of which were a bit demanding. Thanks to Jon Wolz for pointing out the need at Goose Creek.
4. Started a program to repair picnic tables throughout the park. Sites were visited and repairs made from Nolands Ferry to Antietam campground.
5. Refurbished 55 bulletin boards from Georgetown to Cumberland, requiring massive coordination and support.
6. Installed 16 more benches between Lock 5 and Lock 75 that brings our total new benches installed to 73 throughout the park.
7. Responded to a request to help with an active project at Fletchers Cove in early December in improving accuracy of local history (reported on by Rod Mackler). Our VIPs worked on clearing the area of a suspected former mill, to expose remaining foundation sections.

And finally,

We supported the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup last April with 8 sites. We are broadening our efforts this year. We are working with Alice Ferguson on their cleanup but since they are no longer supporting our efforts, we are establishing our own canal cleanup to be held Sat. April 9. We are calling it the ***C&O Canal and Potomac Riverside Cleanup***. We have broadened our outreach and have sites from Fletchers Cove to Dam 5. We hope to offer more sites next year but that is contingent on getting more support from members of our association. We need to identify sites convenient to access points that are not now covered and need someone to be the site leader at each site. Currently, association members cover 5 of the sites. We have independent leaders at Fletchers, American Legion Bridge, Rileys Lock and Edwards Ferry. Pennyfield and Dam 5 are covered by park staff. It would be really nice if members of our association could assume more responsibility. Of 110 volunteers to help clean up this year, 5 are members.

The Association is providing trash bags and gloves with our name and logo on them. It should be a good cleanup.

I again express my appreciation to the following for their dedication, enthusiasm and considerable time and effort in making these projects happen:

Jim Biasco, Mike Bucci, Dave Long, Rod Mackler, Craig Roberts, Dave Shumaker, Jim Tomlin and Doug Zveare.

Submitted by

Jim Heins, VIP coordinator