FALL '16/WINTER '17 ISSUE NO. 18



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# TRUST KICKS OFF 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The C&O Canal Trust will celebrate a major milestone in 2017 — our tenth anniversary! In February, 2007, the founding board members of the Trust signed our first Friends Agreement with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, establishing us as the official nonprofit partner of the Park. Over the past ten years, the Trust has established an impressive track record of service to the Canal, including raising over \$400,000 to fund Park projects including Canal Classrooms and Towpath Forever.

Each year since our founding, we have hosted Canal Pride Day events and sponsored Eagle Scout projects aimed at preserving and beautifying the Park. We have launched our award-winning Canal Quarters program, offering six lockhouses to the public for overnights stays, with a seventh in progress (see page 5). We have built a "plan your visit" website that features 40 Canal Discoveries, helping visitors discover hidden gems throughout the Park, and we have helped facilitate the nine-town Canal Towns Partnership. We also work in partnership with like-minded groups such as the Friends of Fletchers Cove, the C&O Canal Association, and the Friends of the Historic Great Falls Tavern, to advance our common goal of stewarding the Park for future generations.

The next issue of *The Canal Quarterly* will highlight the work the C&O Canal Trust has done with your help over the past 10 years, and our website will celebrate our anniversary all year long! Visit us at **www.CanalTrust.org**.



Eagle Scout candidate Solomon Fenton led a group of volunteers on the replacement of the stairs leading to the canal at Marsden Tract. The Trust has supported Park projects like this one for 10 years.

## PROJECT EXPLORES AFRICAN AMERICAN STORY Diverse CCC History to be interpreted at Lockhouse 10



An African American CCC crew repairs a 1940 towpath break between locks 9 and 10.

The stories of the African Americans who served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) along the canal will soon be brought to light, thanks to a new initiative by the C&O Canal Trust and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The partnership recently received money from the National Park Service's Civil War to Civil Rights initiative, aimed at increasing the diversity of the Service's stories.

The funds are being used to conduct research into the stories of the Canal's African American CCC workers. Staff will then develop and install new interpretive materials into Lockhouse 10 in Cabin John, which already tells the story of the CCC. The plan is to add historic photos and audio/visual elements, and possibly develop a mobile app with an augmented reality component, to allow visitors to learn more about this time period.

"One of the interesting parts of canal history that is not very well known is the involvement of African American workers on the CCC crews along the canal from 1938-1942," explained Blyth McManus, historian for the project. "The New Deal worked to include African Americans in the recovery process, and all of the African American

continued on page 3

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# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

November 15 is the day our nation annually celebrates National Philanthropy Day. This may sound like a Hallmark holiday, but it's far more than that. It recognizes the role that charitable giving has played in forming our society. At the C&O Canal Trust, it's the day we celebrate the donors who make possible the work we do to preserve and protect the C&O Canal.

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This year, we celebrated in a special way by recognizing Mike Mitchell, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Trust. Mike received the Distinguished Volunteer Award from the Western Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Anybody who knows Mike is aware of his generosity and selflessness in serving as our lead volunteer. Please read more about Mike's contributions to the Trust and his award on page 4.

We also recently recognized Mark Stover with the William O. Douglas Stewardship Award at Park After Dark. Through his company, Quality Systems & Products, LLC, he's been a loyal and generous supporter of the Trust, funding key programs like Canal Pride, Park After Dark, the Eagle Scout Fund, and volunteer recognition events. Bud and Dell Cline, the winners of the Canal Pride Volunteer Award, and REI, the winner of the Centennial Award, are also featured on page 4.

And finally, during this special month of gratitude, we wish to thank and recognize you for your support! If you gave during our fiscal year 2016, find your name along with our thanks on the pages that follow.

You may not realize that without generous donors, there would be no Trust. This is not an exaggeration. The vast majority of our funding, and the funding we provide to the Park, is the result of generosity from people who love the Park. As we prepare to celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2017, I want to say thanks for being on the team and for continuing to support our efforts to preserve the C&O Canal!

lotin Zanotti

Robin Zanotti, Trust President

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2 The C&O Canal Trust is the official non-profit partner of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Its mission is to work in partnership with the National Park Service to protect, restore, and promote this national treasure.

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## AFRICAN AMERICAN CCC

continued from page 1

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The beds in Lockhouse 10 are U.S. Quartermaster Corps M1905 beds that were located through a former CCC member. The trunk belonged to Dr. William Knott, a CCC surgeon and doctor from Washington D.C. who served in the 305th Company of the CCC in Cowans Gaps, PA.

workers in Maryland were assigned to the camps along the canal."

The camps were located in Cabin John near the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and at Carderock near where the pavilion now stands.

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The canal benefitted from CCC crews due to good timing – the land had just been acquired by the Federal Government in 1938 after the 1936 flood had decimated the alreadydamaged canal and surrounding communities. The New Deal was swinging into action, and the canal had shovel-ready projects ready to go. Their work included clearing silt from the canal and restoring the towpath from Georgetown to mile marker 22 at Seneca. "Unfortunately, most of the work these gentlemen did has been washed away with time and not much remains. But what does remain are their stories, passed down from generation to generation," McManus said. "We are looking for the families of these great men to come forward and share the stories of their ancestors with us."

Because of privacy laws, Park staff is unable to obtain the CCC rolls from the United States Archives and can only obtain information about specific workers with permission from the workers themselves or from their next of kin. If you know of a CCC veteran who worked along the canal, please email Blyth McManus at blyth\_mcmanus@nps.gov.

## **GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED**

The C&O Canal Trust wishes to thank the following organizations for their recent grants:

- Community Foundation of Frederick County: \$4,300 in support of a 2017 Canal Pride project in Brunswick
- France-Merrick Foundation: \$20,000 in support of the Swains Lockhouse rehabilitation
- Mars Foundation: \$5,000 in support of general operations
- Maryland Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program: \$7,250 in support of Plan Your Visit website and mobile app
- M&T Charitable Foundation: \$5,000 in support of 2017 Canal Pride
- REI: \$10,000 in support of 2017 Canal Pride

We are so grateful for this support, without which we would not be able to accomplish our mission to support the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

# CANAL DRAINED FROM LOCK 5 TO GEORGETOWN

This fall, the C&O Canal National Historical Park drained the watered canal section from Lock 5 (Towpath Mile 5) to Georgetown (Towpath Mile 0). The draining allows the reconstruction of Lock 3 and the rehabilitation of Lock 4 in Georgetown to begin. The section of the canal immediately upstream and downstream of the project will be without water until the summer of 2018. To allow continued use of the canal during the construction, the Park will explore the design and construction for a low dike near the Foundry Branch Culvert (Towpath Mile 1.48). The dike would enable the park to re-water the section of the canal between Lock 5 and Foundry Branch Culvert.

Once the Lock 3 and Lock 4 project is completed in 2018, reproduction canal boats will once again be able to travel along the waterway. Work is being completed by Clark Construction under contract with the National Park Service. Park staff are available to monitor the activity and respond to any fish entrapment that may occur. The Park will provide updates on the project as appropriate at https://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/ georgetownvisitorcenter.htm.

## \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR-END GIVING

As you close out your year, please remember to make a gift to support the C&O Canal Trust and the work we do to help maintain and preserve our Park. Help us ensure that this natural resource in our backyard will provide future generations the exercise, adventure, peace, and solace it provides all of us today.

We welcome gifts of any amount, but anyone donating \$184.50 or more will receive a 184.5 mile car magnet as a thank you! Love the Park?

Help the Trust!

## PARK AFTER DARK A HUGE SUCCESS!

Over 300 guests gathered on Saturday, September 17, at Historic Great Falls Tavern in Potomac, MD for the Sixth Annual Park After Dark fundraiser (A). Over \$130,000 was raised to support both the work of the C&O Canal Trust and the Swains Lockhouse rehabilitation at Lock 21 in Potomac.

The event celebrated the Centennial of the National Park Service with music by the River Run Band, delicious food from Corcoran Caterers, a visit from Eva the Canal Mule, and birthday cake donated by Whole Foods (B). Several volunteers also modeled historic Park Service uniforms providing a living timeline of park history (C).

> We presented three awards to friends of the Trust during the event. Bud and Dell Cline received the Canal Pride Volunteer Service Award for their hundreds

of hours of service to the Park (D). Mark Stover was awarded the William O. Douglas Stewardship Award for his generous philanthropy to help preserve the Park (E). The Centennial Award was presented to REI and accepted by Ray Dinterman, Retail Director REI Mid-Atlantic (F). The winners are pictured below with Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt and Trust Chairman Mike Mitchell.

Photos of the event are available on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CanalFriends.









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# BOARD CHAIRMAN MIKE MITCHELL HONORED



Trust Board Chairman Mike Mitchell was honored with the Distinguished Volunteer Award from the Western Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. This award honors the advocates, leaders, and mentors whose passion for their causes inspires philanthropic action and community involvement.

Mitchell received the award on November 15 as part of National Philanthropy

Day festivities, which celebrate the charitable work that impacts communities across the United States.

"Mike is an energetic, committed, inspiring, and generous volunteer," Trust President Robin Zanotti said. "As the chairman of the C&O Canal Trust's Board, he leads by example and applies himself wholeheartedly to raising funds that benefit the Park."

Mitchell joined the Board of Directors in 2012 and immediately established himself as a leader, both philanthropically and as the Chair of the Program Committee. He took over the position of Board Chair from M.J. Veverka in October 2014. Under his leadership, the Trust has seen significant growth. He has led the team in forging new partnerships, increasing the donor base, expanding the Board of Directors, and making several significant hires. He also volunteers his time at a variety of Park and Trust events, and his Park photography can be frequently seen in the pages of the Trust's materials and website.

"Mike is an unrelenting advocate for our mission, attracting support in a variety of venues," Zanotti said. "We are grateful for his leadership, dedication, and generosity!"

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## SWAINS PLANS ADDRESS FLOOD WATER DANGERS

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Swains Lockhouse, currently being rehabilitated to become the seventh Canal Quarters residence, sits in a picturesque location along the Potomac River. The river provides stunning views, but can also cause great destruction when the waters rise.

Because the river bed is narrow and steep, many canal lockhouses, including Swains, were built on floodplains. During the Canal era, major floods caused extensive damage and interrupted the flow of commerce. Ultimately it was water damage after a flood in 1924 that closed the canal as a commercial enterprise for good.

Swains Lockhouse withstood major hits from all the big storms, but it didn't escape unscathed. In fact, Swains basement is completely filled with silt from running floodwaters.

When the Trust, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), started planning the rehabilitation of Swains Lockhouse, the possibility of a future flood couldn't be ignored. Rebecca Cybularz, historical architect for the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center, designed the Swains rehab with many flood sensitive features built in.

"Swains Lockhouse has withstood some of the toughest weather and conditions Mother Nature could unleash," said Cybularz. "It's only fair that we help the historic building withstand these conditions for the next 100 years of its life." First floor construction at Swains will consist of many flood resistant materials including:

- click-together vinyl flooring (it looks historic but can be removed when it floods!)
- closed-cell foam insulation at interior walls
- removable wood wainscoting
- screened cellular
  PVC crawlspace vent
- pressure-treated
- wood framing timbers and sheathing

Electrical outlets and switches on the first floor will all be located above the flood zone, which is up to three feet above the interior finished floor (per Federal Emergency Management Agency standards). Mini split HVAC units will be hung on the wall near the ceiling—out of the flood zone. Outside

## Help Us Save Swains Lockhouse!

We are still raising money to fund the rehabilitation of Swains Lockhouse. The flood provisions discussed above are just a few of the many fixes needed to turn Swains into a Canal Quarters Lockhouse. You can learn more about the project and donate at **www.CanalTrust.org/swains**.



Lockhouse 6, downstream of Swains Lockhouse, was surrounded by flood waters during the 1936 flood.

the lockhouse, special care will be taken to create positive drainage, which will divert water from the foundation as high water recedes.

If history is an indicator, big floods are few and far between on the Potomac, but they do occur. Next time the water rises, Swains Lockhouse will be ready!

## STAFFERS CELEBRATE FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Two Trust staff members were recently honored for their five years of service to the organization. Becky Curtis is the Trust's Director of Programs and Partnerships. She oversees all of the Trust's programs, including the

> day-to-day operations of the Canal Quarters and Canal Pride programs and coordination with the Canal Towns Partnership. During her time with the Trust, she has expanded reservations in the Canal Quarters lockhouses and increased participation in our Canal Pride Days events. She works closely with the Park Service to identify maintenance and preservation opportunities with which the Trust can assist. Currently, Becky is leading the rehabilitation of Swains Lockhouse. She lives

in Shepherdstown, WV, and enjoys hiking the towpath.

Jane Neff is the Trust's Office Administrator. In this role, she is responsible for the dayto-day functioning of the office, including overseeing all of our financial and technoloy needs. Jane maintains our donor database, pays all of our bills, keeps us on budget, and coordinates our yearly audit. She is also the voice you often hear answering the phone when you call our offices. Jane lives in Boonsboro, MD, and enjoys biking the canal and gardening in her spare time.

We thank both Becky and Jane for their hard work over the past five years. Their dedication has helped the Trust to achieve the many milestones we highlight on page 1 of this issue.

Left to right: Trust President Robin Zanotti, Jane Neff, Becky Curtis, and Trust Chairman Mike Mitchell.

# 2015-2016 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The Board of Directors and the staff of the C&O Canal Trust wish to thank all of our donors who have generously supported our work during the last fiscal year.

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The following Honor Roll of Donors reflects giving between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. Every attempt has been made to ensure this list is complete.

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CANAL VISIONARIES \$10,000 and up

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\* Individual donors who have given a gift of \$1,000 or more are members of the William O. Douglas Society, our leadership giving society for the C&O Canal Trust.

<sup>†</sup> Individuals who have made provision in their wills for the C&O Canal Trust are members of the Potowmack Society.

### CANAL TRAVELLERS \$2,500 - \$4,999

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If we have excluded you in error, please contact Patricia Barber, Director of Development, at barber@canaltrust.org or 301-745-8880.

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The beautiful photographs included with our Honor Roll of Donors are winning photographs from our monthly Photo Contest. Visit

http://www.canaltrust.org/photocontest for more details.

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In honor of Patricia Barber Lynda DeWitt Frannie Taylor In honor of Linda Collyer Phillip Collyer In honor of the Conway Family Katherine Wunder Lunceford In honor of Janet Cornelius Ellen Ericson In honor of John and Mary Fondersmith Stephanie locavelli In honor of Eagle Scout Capt. Geoffrey R. Guinnup (US Army) David Robert Guinnup In honor of John Guttmann Claude and Nancy Keener Charitable Fund In honor of Nate, Tori, and Taylor, who have grown up loving the canal and the pretty white lockhouse as much as their parents. Traci Hoffman In honor of Marathon Charity Cooperation (MMC)Nicholas Panebianco In honor of Henry Mastroni Henry Roger and Sharon Marlene Mastroni In honor of Mike Mitchell Robert and Ann Pelham Cullen Kettner and Dana Griswold David Lyles Cliff and Deborah White In honor of Bernie Patlen's 90th birthday Kristal Levine In honor of Wendy Putnam Jonathan Putnum In honor of Mildred Rowan Lea Whitfield In honor of Bert Swain Hedrick Belin and Mary Bisell Potomac Conservancy

### BENCHES

In memory of John M. Hartz Mile 7.5 - Cabin John between Locks 7 & 8 by his friends and family In memory of John Q. Rounsaville, Jr. Mile 12.4 - Widewater by his friends and family In memory of Dr. Jaswinder S. Sidhu Mile 14.1 - Trail to Great Falls Overlook by his friends and family In honor of Brookmont Civic League

Mile 5.4 - Brookmont by Barbara Boyle Torrey In honor of Dr. Peter Bross Mile 8.8 - Lock 10 by Victoria Gray

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