



THE CANAL QUARTERLY

WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

SWAINS LOCKHOUSE TO OPEN AFTER REHAB

After three years of fundraising, planning, and construction, the doors to the newly-rehabilitated Swains Lockhouse will swing open to guests this summer. This lockhouse, located at a popular entrance point to the C&O Canal National Historical Park at Lock 21 in Potomac, will join the C&O Canal Trust's award-winning Canal Quarters program as the seventh lockhouse available to guests for overnight stays. The public can visit the lockhouse during an open house Saturday, June 29 from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Funded by both public and private dollars, construction work was completed by a contracting firm which removed the circa-2000 fixtures from the house. Workers installed a vapor barrier and insulation

before updating the plumbing and electricity and adding drywall, flooring, and a new roof. An ADA-accessible bathroom and Murphy bed were installed on the first floor, making Swains the first lockhouse in the Canal Quarters program to be ADA-accessible.

Now that construction is complete, we are filling the space with antique furnishings. Volunteer Robert Mertz, who has assisted the Trust in furnishing all of the lockhouses, has scoured antiques stores for the perfect pieces. The house will interpret 1916, the year the National Park Service was formed and the date when the C&O Canal was beginning to transition from a working canal to a recreational space. The Park Service's interpretation rangers have developed content that will teach visitors about life in



PHOTO COURTESY C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Construction wraps up at Swains Lockhouse at Lock 21 in Potomac, MD. The lockhouse is being rehabilitated and will join the Canal Quarters program, where it will be open for overnight stays.

1916, including scrapbooks and interactive exhibits. Photos and stories of the Swain family, after whom the lockhouse is named, will also be featured.

The Swain family's history is intertwined with the canal's. Members of the family helped to build the canal in the nineteenth century,

"Swains" continues on page 4

Saturday, June 29
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

SWAINS
OPEN
HOUSE

11700 Swains Lock Rd.
Potomac, MD 20854

Be one of the first to tour the newly-rehabbed Swains Lockhouse! *Part of Heritage Montgomery's Heritage Days.*

CANAL TOWPATH RESURFACING UNDERWAY

Third year of funding sought from state government



PHOTO BY C&O CANAL TRUST

The new towpath surface is crushed stone dust, the same material that is used on the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP).

Visitors accessing the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) at Edwards Ferry (Mile 30.8) will find a smooth surface running to Whites Ferry (Mile 35.5) – the first five miles of the towpath to be resurfaced as part of the Park's proposed multi-year, 80-mile towpath resurfacing project.

It's a far cry from the old clay and gravel surface that required hikers and cyclists to negotiate long stretches of muddy, treacherous ruts waiting to catch the tires of unsuspecting bikers, and the rocks and tree

roots capable of sending hikers sprawling. By the end of 2019, the Park plans to resurface another 17 miles from Brunswick (Mile 54) to Packhorse Ford (Mile 71.4) near the Shepherdstown Bridge. Another 16 miles (from Mile 42.2 near the Monocacy Aqueduct to Brunswick) will be resurfaced in 2020.

Two funding packages totalling \$4.05 million are supporting this work, a joint commitment from the Federal

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you have had the chance to enjoy the warmer weather on the C&O Canal! The C&O Canal Trust Board of Directors and staff have been gearing up for this special time of year and invite you to join us in the Park. Personally, I'm glad to have my bike rack back on my car and have already enjoyed a few rides on the towpath. I hope you will enjoy your favorite activity in the Park, with far less rainfall than last year (we can hope!).

We are thrilled that a years-long project will come to fruition this summer when we open the newly-rehabbed Swains Lockhouse as part of the Canal Quarters program. We can't wait to show off our hard work. Join us for our open house on Saturday, June 29 — tour the home, learn about the Swain family, and "experience" life in 1916.

Many Park lovers are curious about how we fared during the partial government shutdown. Details are provided in an article in this newsletter (page 3) but I want to add a couple of thoughts. While we at the Trust were able to carry on with our work, it was difficult knowing that our National Park Service colleagues were not. It's

great to have everyone back. During the shutdown, many people reached out to us and volunteered to help us with Park maintenance needs. These projects were tackled during our Canal Pride events.

We are proud to expand our staff capacity to aid the Park and enhance the visitor experience through partnerships. We will soon have three grant-funded interns from partners Chesapeake Bay Trust, Montgomery County, and AmeriCorps. These organizations are assisting our mission through programs that include environmental workshops (see page 4), a Conservation Jobs Corps to introduce teenagers to career options in the National Park Service (see page 5), and economic development in Western Maryland.

Thank you for your part in making our work possible through your generous support and volunteerism. We couldn't do it without you.



Robin Zanotti, Trust President

Leave a legacy for tomorrow by Making a Bequest to the C&O Canal Trust

Making a bequest that benefits the C&O Canal National Historical Park could be the most important charitable gift you ever make. By naming the C&O Canal Trust in your will, you will become a member of the Patowmack Society, creating a legacy for the future that helps ensure that generations to come will have the opportunity to love and nurture this extraordinary natural and historical resource.



"The C&O Canal National Historical Park has been an important part of my family's life for the past 30 years. To help assure that the Park is preserved for future generations, I am dedicating a bequest to the C&O Canal Trust."

— Ambassador Sandy Vogelgesang, Patowmack Society Founding Member

Contact Director of Development Patricia Barber at 301-745-8880 or barber@canaltrust.org for more information.

300 VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN CANAL PRIDE

Each year, the C&O Canal Trust welcomes spring with our annual Canal Pride Days. These public events draw hundreds of volunteers from the community and allow Canal lovers to help ready the Park for the busy season by tackling a variety of preservation and maintenance projects.

Events this year were held in Great Falls, Williamsport, and the Paw Paw Campground. Volunteers assisted with removing graffiti, trash, and invasive plant species; improving campgrounds and picnic areas; planting grass seed; and repainting historic structures.

Celebrating their twelfth year, Canal Pride Days are the Park's largest public volunteer events. "Our public Canal Pride Days events bring the community together to care for their local national park," C&O Canal Trust President Robin Zanotti explained. "Volunteers are able to get their hands

dirty in a way that benefits the C&O Canal and its 5 million visitors."

This year's Canal Pride projects helped to mitigate damage and the maintenance backlog that arose during the shutdown. "We are still dealing with significant damage in the Park from multiple flood events in 2018 that needs to be addressed," said the Trust's Director of Programs and Partnerships, Becky Curtis. "The need for volunteer assistance this spring was substantial, and we were thrilled that the community came out to join us and show their love for the C&O Canal."

We want to express our most sincere appreciation to our Canal Pride Days sponsors: REI, Guest Services, Inc., David and Page Dekker, M&T Bank, Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern, FedEx Ground, Minkoff Development Corporation, Younger Toyota, Clark Construction, and Keller Stonebraker Insurance.

Again this year, the C&O Canal Trust held an artwork contest

for Canal Pride. Artist Jordan Mansaray's winning design, shown below, was featured on this year's Canal Pride Days shirts worn by volunteers.

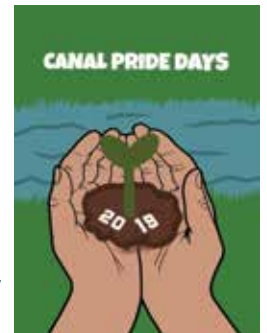
Our Canal Pride work doesn't end with these public events, however. We welcome corporate and community groups for private events all year. These groups take on a variety of projects to beautify and preserve spots up and down the Park. If your group would like to volunteer for a Canal Pride event, visit our website at www.canaltrust.org/pridedays.



PHOTO BY SIMON BARBER



PHOTO BY SIMON BARBER



ART BY JORDAN MANSARAY

SHUTTLE AROUND WASHOUT PLANNED

The Canal Towns Partnership will be sponsoring a free shuttle to transport hikers and bikers around the towpath washout at Culvert 82 near Brunswick. The historic culvert collapsed during one of last summer's floods, leaving a breach in the towpath. High-speed traffic and a railroad crossing make bypassing the washout via roads unsafe, and although the Park has plans to install a bridge over the breach, the frequent rains and high water continue to delay this project.

The free shuttle is expected to run from Memorial Day weekend until Independence Day weekend. Visit www.CanalTrust.org/shuttle for details.

TRUST AIDS SHUTDOWN RECOVERY

As the calendar flipped from 2018 to 2019, over 800,000 federal employees were furloughed, including our colleagues at the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The staff of the C&O Canal Trust continued to work during the government shutdown, albeit from home, carrying on as best we could without our partners in the Park Service. (We work in the same building as the Park Service, which was inaccessible during the shutdown.)

When the government reopened, the Trust worked in partnership with Park staff to assess damage done to the C&O Canal during the month-long closure and to identify maintenance needs. For a Park still dealing with flood damage from last

year's frequent heavy rains, the list of projects suited to the capacity and skills of community volunteers was long and varied. These projects became the core of the work completed during our Canal Pride Days events this spring.

The C&O Canal was fortunate that it did not experience the malicious and lasting damage that many of the National Parks in the western part of the country experienced. This illustrates how beloved the C&O Canal National Historical Park is to the nearly 5 million people who use it each year. It is truly your neighborhood park, and we thank you for helping to care for it while our National Park Service colleagues could not.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS GATHER SPEED

Thanks to a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the C&O Canal Trust now has a Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) member focused on developing and advancing new conservation-based programming. The CCC program prepares young adults for “green” careers by placing them in nonprofit organizations that support the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Trust’s first CCC intern, Cheyenne Sebold, has been working to engage the community in promoting, restoring, and protecting the natural resources of the C&O Canal, and, by extension, the Chesapeake Bay.

The C&O Canal boasts some of the most diverse natural resources in the region. It is home to hundreds of native plant and animal species and provides natural vegetation that protects water quality along the streams that flow into the Bay.

Sebold created several community engagement and education initiatives for

the Trust, including a series of workshops that educated community members about key environmental issues and taught them a few simple steps they could take to increase their environmental stewardship.

Sebold hopes that her work will help citizens make an impact not only within the C&O

Canal National Historical Park, but also in their own communities. By implementing stewardship practices at home, individuals can also help mitigate environmental threats facing the Park. Her workshops this spring included identifying invasive plants, building vermicomposting bins, making native bee houses, and assembling and installing rain barrels.

“Even though these activities may not directly impact the Park,” Sebold explained, “the indirect impacts can result in increased preservation efforts, the promotion of native species around the Park, and, ultimately, broader community involvement in protecting the C&O Canal and its natural resources.”

Sebold’s CCC term will end in August, but her work will be continued by a new Corps member, who will also offer community education events, as well as incorporate more job-related conservation training into the Conservation Jobs Corps program (see page 5 for more on this program).



PHOTO BY SIMON BARBER

Cheyenne Sebold pauses during Canal Pride Days.

“Swains” continued from page 1

before operating shipping boats. They then took over as lock tenders living at Lockhouse 21 until the canal closed to boat traffic in 1924. They reinvented themselves at that time, opening a concession stand to rent boats and offer tours to visitors. The family lived at the lockhouse until 2006.

On the left exterior corner of Swains Lockhouse are three high-water markers from past floods. With that in mind, we have incorporated multiple features aimed at minimizing damage to the newly-rehabbed structure during future flooding events. The house has pressure-treated subflooring and joists, and we’ve installed Click-n-Go floating flooring, which is easy to remove if necessary. All wall framing uses pressure-treated wood for moisture resistance, and perimeter walls use closed cell spray foam insulation as a vapor barrier. All new electrical components are 36” above grade to provide some protection from flooding, the rear window in the living room has been raised six inches to place it above floodwaters, and landscape grading will promote positive drainage.

When it opens at the end of June, Swains Lockhouse will join the six other lockhouses already in the Canal Quarters program, available for guests to stay overnight. Each lockhouse sleeps 8 people and is furnished to depict a different period of the canal’s history.

Visit www.CanalTrust.org/Swains for more information, including stories from the Swain family and photographs from the rehab.



Book your stay at Swains Lockhouse: www.CanalQuarters.org

STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS IN PARKS

What's it like to work in a national park?
What different job opportunities exist?
Would it be a good fit for me?

A group of teenagers from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the National Park Service are exploring those questions as participants in a new Canal For All program developed by the C&O Canal Trust.

Working in partnership with Maryland State Parks and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, the Trust is managing a dozen high school students, first as volunteers during the spring semester and then as paid members of a Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) crew that will work on a variety of conservation, historic preservation, and Park maintenance projects this summer.

The Trust will also provide opportunities for the students to hear from Park staff about career opportunities in the National Park Service, what skills they will need, and what steps they should take to become fully-fledged members of the "green and gray".

The new program builds on the Canal For All pilot initiative launched by the Trust in 2017 to give young people from diverse demographic groups the opportunity to "play, learn, serve, and work" in the Park.

The goal of the CJC program is to inspire young people with career options they may not have previously considered, as well as to promote a lifetime of healthy outdoor recreation and interaction with nature.

"During the first outing, we had the students in the canal in hip waders, pulling logs out of the water," said Becky Curtis,



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

Members of Montgomery County, Maryland's TeenWorks program have been working as members of the Conservation Jobs Corps in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Director of Programs and Partnerships, who developed the program. "I noticed one young man intently studying the ecosystem living under the bark of the log, and I knew he was hooked. Moments like that are why we run these programs."

STAFF CHANGES



Rod Newton joined the Trust in January as our Program and Volunteer Coordinator, bringing 20 years of experience organizing volunteers, coordinating logistics,

and managing risk in diverse outdoor settings. Rod's background also includes historic building restoration and general construction. He replaces Josh Whitman, who had been with the Trust for 2 years.



Ellen Kinzer joined the Trust in April as our Communications and Development Associate. Originally from the Midwest, she previously served as a digital media

specialist for Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, an archivist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a seasonal ranger at Fort Frederick State Park. She replaces Melanie Draper, who had been with the Trust for 5 year.

A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP

Just 21 percent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) is in Montgomery County, but the 39 miles from Fletchers Cove to the Monocacy Aqueduct account for close to 40 percent of all annual visitation to the Park — 1.6 million in 2018. Visitors come to run, to walk, to bike, to climb, to learn, to relax, and to generate an estimated \$50 million in economic activity in the county.

Recognizing the importance of the C&O Canal to local residents and businesses, the Office of the County Executive has become a valuable partner to the C&O Canal Trust, providing over \$133,000 in funding since 2014 for in-county programs.

These grants have supported our Canal Pride volunteer projects at public access sites like Great Falls, Carderock, and Fletchers Cove; the management, preservation, and promotion of the Canal Quarters lockhouses located in the county; and the Park's Canal Classrooms education program at Great Falls.

Last year, for the first time, the Montgomery County Council approved a grant of

\$19,000 to support a new Canal For All Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) program to give disadvantaged county youth the opportunity to experience paid work in the Park, learn job skills, and possibly take first steps towards a career in the National Park Service. (See story above.)

"We are very grateful for our partnership with Montgomery County," said Trust President Robin Zanotti. "The momentum we have gained by working together has truly enhanced the value of the C&O Canal NHP for both the residents of and visitors to the county. We look forward to creative new ventures in the future."



PHOTO BY C&O CANAL TRUST

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich addresses the 2019 Canal Pride Days volunteers.

WINTER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Our winning photographs this winter capture the Park blanketed in snow, including two different views of Lockhouse 44 in Williamsport! Congratulations to winners Ray Jackson, Mark Crilley, Rusty Stone, and Wanda Poffenberger. Visit <http://www.canaltrust.org/photocontest> for details on how you can enter your canal photography in our monthly contest, and visit our Facebook page at the beginning of every month to vote for your favorites!



PHOTO BY RUSTY STONE (December Winner)



PHOTO BY WANDA POFFENBERGER (February Winner)

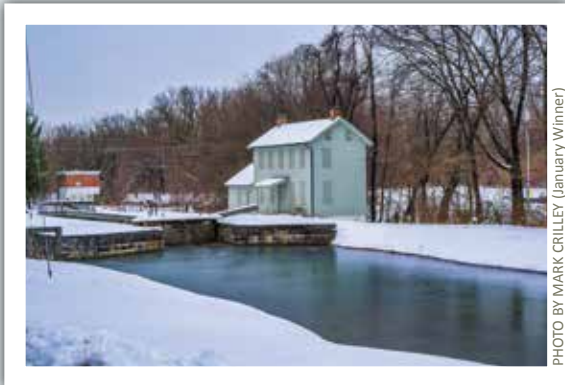


PHOTO BY MARK CRILLEY (January Winner)



PHOTO BY RAY JACKSON (March Winner)

“Resurfacing” continued from page 1

Government and the State of Maryland’s Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The C&O Canal Trust’s advocacy to the state in support of the Park’s towpath resurfacing proposal contributed to receiving the TAP grants.

We just completed our advocacy work seeking a third year of funding for this project from the same sources, which will resurface towpath from Seneca Creek Aqueduct (Mile 23) to Edwards Ferry, and Whites Ferry to Lock 26 (Mile 39.3) in 2020. Over 500 people signed an online petition in support of continuing the project, speaking passionately about not only their love for the canal, but also the economic benefit the C&O Canal NHP provides to the surrounding communities.

“I think these improvements to the C&O towpath are a very good idea,” said Ezra Deutsch-Feldman, a Washington, D.C. resident. “I was just biking on it this weekend, and it’s clear that the newly-resurfaced sections are a much nicer, safer ride than the sections that haven’t been

repaired in a while (this was especially true in the mud after the recent rain). I’m sure that there are many, many others like me who love using the towpath to get out of D.C. and into Maryland — spending tourism dollars in the local economy as we go.”

Much of the towpath slated to be resurfaced this year was severely damaged during the 2018 flooding. It is expected that the repairs, which include grading for better drainage and a new stone dust surface, will make the towpath more resilient during future heavy rains and flooding.

In addition to our advocacy work, the Trust also raises funds to supplement the federal and state funding for towpath resurfacing. Private contributions are used to ensure that resurfacing projects are “shovel-ready” – often a requirement for federal infrastructure funding. We have also contracted with Jack Paulik of Alder Valley Consulting to provide engineering and project management consultation on towpath resurfacing

to the C&O Canal NHP maintenance staff. Paulik was involved in the development of the Great Allegheny Passage trail and is using that experience to help create a safe, smooth surface on the towpath.

To make a gift in support of towpath resurfacing, visit www.CanalTrust.org/towpath.

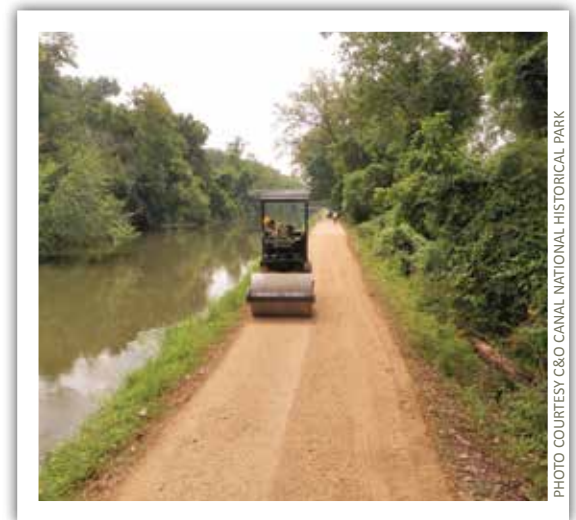


PHOTO COURTESY C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

TICKETS ON SALE: *Park After Dark*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.



PHOTOS BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY



Park After Dark is the C&O Canal Trust's annual gala fundraiser, held under the stars at Historic Great Falls Tavern. This year's event will feature live music and dancing to bluegrass band *Troy Engle and Southern Skies*, great food, libations, a campfire, unique auction items, and more – all while raising funds to benefit the Park. This year, we will be raising money to support the Park's ongoing towpath resurfacing project. Tickets are \$250 per person or \$2,000 for a table of 8. Sponsorships are also available. We typically sell out by August, so don't delay!

Order Now: www.ParkAfterDark.org

C&O CANAL CONSTRUCTION & PROJECT UPDATES

At 184.5 miles long and with more historical structures than any other national park, the C&O Canal National Historical Park is always a work in progress. This summer, however, visitors will be able to enjoy the fruits of several big projects nearing completion.

- **Georgetown:** Locks 3 and 4 have been completely rebuilt, and the Park anticipates re-watering the canal between Georgetown and Fletchers Cove this summer. Watch for information on a ribbon cutting for this project later this summer.
- **Locks 5 through 22 (Fletchers Cove to Violettes Lock):** The repair and replacement of a number of locks, culverts, waste water weirs, and other canal structures is almost done. The canal is now re-watered from Violettes Lock to Pennyfield. Operation of the Charles F. Mercer canal boat will resume later this summer, once work on Lock 19 is completed and the canal has been re-watered in that area.

- **Williamsport:** The rehabilitation of the Conococheague Aqueduct is expected to be complete by mid-July, assuming the weather cooperates! More information about a ribbon cutting for this project will be announced in the coming months.

Projects that are either underway or that will begin this summer:

- **Towpath resurfacing:** The Park's multiyear towpath resurfacing project is off to a strong start with the five miles between Edwards Ferry and Whites Ferry completed. A further 17 miles from Brunswick to Packhorse Ford near the Shepherdstown Bridge will be resurfaced this year. See the article on page 1 for more information.
- **Paw Paw Tunnel:** The Park will be continuing to scale the rock face above the towpath on the upstream end of the tunnel. The good news is that the tunnel will not be closed while work is underway. Instead, flaggers will be stationed at both ends of the tunnel to allow hikers and bikers to safely

traverse the work zone. Delays are estimated to last from 5 to 10 minutes.

- **Bridge over Culvert 82:** Planning for a bridge over the towpath washout at Culvert 82, downriver from Brunswick, is in progress. The Park's goal is to have the bridge done by September. In the meantime, the Park is planning to install a temporary low-water crossing to help hikers and bikers safely cross the washout, and the Canal Towns Partnership is sponsoring a shuttle around the breach (see page 3 for more information).
- **Bench installations:** Twenty new benches will be installed over the summer and fall at locations from Fletchers Cove (Mile 3) to Lock 56 (Mile 136). This will bring the total number of benches installed under our Bench Sponsorship Program to 57.

Watch www.CanalTrust.org and www.nps.gov/choh for more information.



C&O CANAL TRUST
1850 DUAL HIGHWAY, SUITE 100
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
*The official nonprofit partner of the
C&O Canal National Historical Park*



SUPPORT THE TRUST

Make a gift that will help protect, restore, and promote the extraordinary resources of the C&O Canal National Historical Park by visiting www.CanalTrust.org/give today!

2020 ANNUAL CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE



Featuring 13 full-color photographs of the C&O Canal National Historical Park from our Monthly Photo Contest. Proceeds benefit the C&O Canal Trust.

Order Now: www.CanalTrust.org/calendar



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