



# THE CANAL QUARTERLY

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## CANAL PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENVIRONMENT

Ask any visitor to the C&O Canal what they love about the Park and they will almost certainly talk about its natural beauty, valued all the more because of its proximity to a major metropolitan area.

What most folks don't know is that the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) is also one of the most biologically diverse parks in the nation, home to 219 rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. It is also a critical 184.5-mile riparian buffer along the Potomac River that helps to protect the Chesapeake Bay and the water supply for communities from Cumberland to Washington, DC.

Conservation of the Park's natural landscape is an important part of the C&O Canal Trust's mission. With increasing population pressure, widespread habitat loss, and the effects of climate change, the need to protect and steward this precious natural resource has never been more urgent.

The C&O Canal NHP is uniquely diverse because it spans four geophysical regions, each of which supports distinctive flora and fauna. The Potomac Gorge, including Olmsted Island at Great Falls, contains rare groundwater invertebrates found almost nowhere else on Earth and supports the highest concentration of rare plants in Maryland. Similarly, further upriver, the shale barrens at the Paw Paw Bends host a number of globally rare and unique plants.



*A turtle relaxes amongst the duckweed in the C&O Canal National Historical Park, which is home to hundreds of plants and animals, including over 200 rare, threatened, and endangered species.*

PHOTO BY RHONDA MAIERS

No less importantly, the Park's uninterrupted 20,000-acre forest cover paralleling the important food and water source of the

*"Environment" continues on page 11*

## TOWPATH RESURFACING FUNDING CONTINUES

The resurfacing project that has smoothed out 23 miles of the C&O Canal's towpath between Edwards Ferry and Shepherdstown received another infusion of cash earlier this fall, when the State of Maryland awarded the C&O Canal National Historical Park a \$1.025 million grant from

the Maryland Department of Transportation through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This is the third grant the Park has received in support of the "Towpath Rehabilitation: A Safe Towpath" project aimed at improving more than 80 miles of the 184.5 mile-long towpath.

"Nearly 5 million visitors recreate along the C&O Canal each year and nearly all of them use the towpath for a variety of activities," Acting Superintendent John Noel said. "We want to ensure that our visitors have a safe, durable towpath for years to come."



PHOTO BY SIMON BARBER

The Park's successful application was supported by a C&O Canal Trust-led advocacy campaign and petition, signed by over 500 towpath users. To date, Maryland has committed \$3.27 million to towpath resurfacing — enough, with matching funds from the National Park Service, to comprehensively rehabilitate a total of almost 50 miles of the towpath. The Park's goal is to resurface 80 miles of the towpath in most need of attention.

Following the completion of towpath resurfacing between Brunswick (Mile 54) and the Shepherdstown Bridge (Mile 72), the Park has begun to rehabilitate a new stretch between Whites Ferry (Mile 35) and Brunswick (Mile 54). Including the five miles from Edwards Ferry to Whites Ferry completed earlier this year, the Park has so far resurfaced 23 miles of the towpath. Its goal is to resurface a further 24 miles by the end of 2020.

*"Resurfacing" continues on page 11*

*A cyclist enjoys the new towpath surface.*

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# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you are enjoying pretty fall days in the Park. I've been making a point of riding the newly-resurfaced sections of the towpath, which are part of the Park's plan to resurface the 80 miles of the towpath most in need of rehabilitation (see page 1). Thanks to all who have contributed to the project and assisted us in advocating for the funding from the State of Maryland's Transportation Alternatives Program.

As I am making my own holiday plans, I am also reflecting on Trust-related items for which I am grateful. At the top of my list are the donors and volunteers who so generously and ably make possible our important work of preserving and protecting the Park. This issue of the Canal Quarterly recognizes our many donors for their contributions. There is also an article celebrating the hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to the Park each year. We recently hosted appreciation dinners to thank all our Trust and Park volunteers.

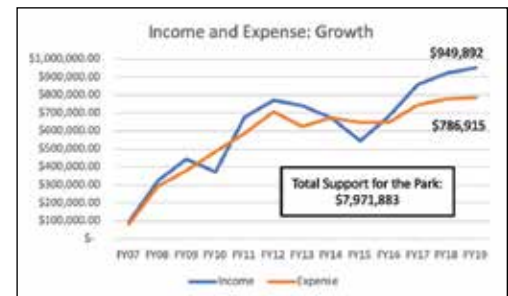
At our most recent meeting of the Trust Board of Directors, we considered how far we have come as an organization. A couple of the measures are about our fiscal

health. Below, I am pleased to share a graph showing the trajectory of our income as well as the expenses, demonstrating the nearly \$8 million of support for the Park since our founding in 2007. Now that's something to be thankful for!

As you approach the holidays and consider all you're grateful for, I hope you will count the C&O Canal National Historical Park among them. Thank you for all you do to support the Park through your charitable support of the Trust.

All the best for safe and happy holidays!

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](mailto:barber@canaltrust.org) for more information.

# VOLUNTEERS DONATE THOUSANDS OF HOURS

Welcoming nearly 5 million visitors annually and stretching 184.5 miles long, the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) requires significant manpower to maintain its trails and towpath, operate programs, and assist visitors. The National Park Service and the C&O Canal Trust are fortunate to work with hundreds of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours of their time each year. Last year, the C&O Canal Trust, which manages volunteer programs on behalf of the Park, had over 850 volunteers contribute 7,177 hours of service.

In early October, the Park and the Trust celebrated our volunteers at our annual volunteer appreciation dinners in Cumberland, Williamsport, and Great Falls. There was much to celebrate this year, including the 20th anniversary of the Bike Patrol and the announcement that the C&O Canal NHP's Volunteers in Parks program won the regional Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Many people volunteer for both the Park and the Trust. Eddie Rivas started volunteering with the Canal Classrooms Corps (CCC) in March of 2016, and just

a few months later became involved with the Billy Goat Trail Stewards. He has also been a volunteer for the Trust, participating in Canal Pride Days, and has helped with the Canal for All program.

Rivas' commitment to volunteering for the C&O Canal stems from his love of the outdoors and his desire to share that love with others, especially young people.

"I continue to volunteer my time because of my belief in the importance of creating [and] preparing future stewards of our natural heritage," he explains, "and to encourage people who traditionally have not enjoyed our parks to learn more about the natural world and the legacy of our parks."

The C&O Canal Trust's group of dedicated Quartermasters help maintain the seven refurbished lockhouses that make up the Canal Quarters program and assist guests with last-minute concerns. Jennifer Hearn has been a Quartermaster at Lockhouse 6 for 10 years.



Volunteer Eddie Rivas (left) leads students on a nature walk.

"I adore Lockhouse 6 and the C&O Canal," said Hearn. "My hope is that when people visit this sweet gem, they, too, will discover some of the rich history and enjoy the beautiful outdoor surroundings, just minutes from our nation's capital. My hope is that Lockhouse 6, the C&O Canal, and towpath will continue to bring joy to many people of all ages as we travel together through time."

## CURTIS DEPARTS AFTER EIGHT YEARS

In September, the C&O Canal Trust said goodbye to long-time Director of Programs and Partnerships Becky Curtis, who moved with her husband to Santa Barbara, CA. Becky joined the Trust in 2011 and played a vital role in its growth during her tenure. After successfully managing the six Canal Quarters

lockhouses and growing their occupancy each year, she led the charge to rehabilitate Swains Lockhouse, which was opened to fanfare in June 2019. She also grew the Canal Pride program exponentially, served as a collaborator and mentor to the Canal Towns Partnership, and conceived and launched

our new Canal For All program aimed at increasing diversity in all of the Trust's activities. She was a true leader both at the C&O Canal and in the larger public lands, conservation, and outdoor recreation communities in Maryland. We will miss her and look forward to hearing what she tackles next!



Becky Curtis (right) with two participants of a Canal For All program, which she developed and implemented during her time with the Trust.

## WELCOME CALLIE



Callie Fishburn has joined the Trust as our new Chesapeake Conservation Corps member for 2019-2020. She graduated from Hood College in 2018 with a degree in Environmental Science and Policy. With the Trust, Callie will develop programs that engage traditionally underrepresented audiences in service, educational, and employment opportunities at the C&O Canal.

# 2018-2019 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 over the last fiscal year.

The following Honor Roll of Donors reflects giving between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019. Every attempt has been made to ensure this list is complete.

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

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\* denotes William O. Douglas Society, our leadership donor society named for the late Justice William O. Douglas.

<sup>+</sup> denotes Patowmack Society, individuals who have made provision in their wills for the C&O Canal Trust.

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# PARK AFTER DARK RAISES \$175,000



PHOTO BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Thank you to everyone who made Park After Dark 2019 such a success – our sponsors, our silent auction donors, our volunteers and, most of all, our guests whose bonhomie and generosity truly made it a night to remember! We enjoyed delicious food and libations, danced to Troy Engle and Southern Skies, and sent Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt off to his retirement after 23 years at the C&O Canal. We raised close to \$40,000 for the Park's towpath resurfacing project and over \$135,000 in programmatic support for the C&O Canal Trust's in-Park programs. We couldn't have done it without you!



PHOTO BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY

*Attendees practice waving their paddles in the air in advance of the Fund-A-Need Paddle Raise, which ultimately raised \$40,000 for the Park's towpath resurfacing project.*

*Retiring Superintendent Kevin Brandt with Park After Dark sponsors Daofeng and Angela He.*



PHOTO BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY

**SAVE THE DATE: PARK AFTER DARK  
 Saturday, September 12, 2020**



PHOTO BY DEBRA KANTER-KLAUS (August Winner)

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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 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!

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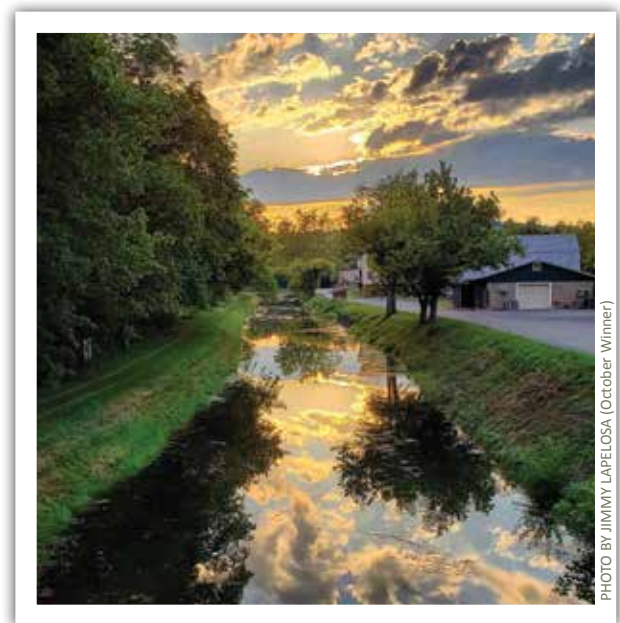


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*In honor of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America*  
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*In honor of Steve Plotkin's birthday*  
Elliott P. Levine

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*In honor of Heidi Glatfelter Schlag*  
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*In honor of Jenna, Taylor and Marion Lamblin*  
David and Debora Warrenfeltz

*In honor of Tour Guide Lowell Markey*  
Mercersburg Historical Society

*In honor of Troop 1710 2019 High Adventure*  
William Meredith

*In honor of Stuart Wallace, my biking buddy*  
Karene Motivans

*In honor of Charles Weidenfeller*  
Jeff Weidenfeller

## BENCHES

*By the Daofeng and Angela Foundation's Bench Collaboration*  
Mile 6.9 - Lock 7  
Mile 12 - Angler's  
Mile 30.7 - Edwards Ferry  
Mile 35.5 - Whites Ferry  
Mile 42.3 - Monocacy Aqueduct  
Mile 44.6 - Nolands Ferry  
Mile 69.3 - Antietam Aqueduct  
Mile 80.5 - Taylors Landing  
Mile 112.5 - Big Pool  
Mile 120.4 - Little Pool

*In memory of James Deacon Brew*  
Mile 12.9 - Widewater by his family

*In memory of Wolfgang and Odette Lehmann*  
Mile 61.6 - Lock 34 by their friends and family

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Mile 16 - Swains by The Tom Lippo and Kim Godley Family

*In honor of naturalist Stephanie Mason*  
Mile 11.3 - Marsden Tract by her supporters

*In memory of Violet Garoosi*  
Mile 22.1 - Violettes Lock by her family

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### *“Environment” continued from page 1*

Potomac provides critical habitat to both resident and migratory birds as development encroaches on natural areas. It also provides an ideal environment away from pesticides, leaf blowers, and human disturbance for insect populations that are a critical element in the food chain.

Here are some highlights of the Trust's conservation work:

- Our Canal Pride volunteers contribute directly to the health of the Park through trash clean ups, invasive plant species removal, and the installation of pollinator-friendly native gardens.
- We raise funds for the Park's Canal Classrooms program that over the past seven years has brought more than 67,000 K through 12th grade students to the Park for field trips that include an environmental focus. In 2018, Canal Classrooms incorporated the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) to increase the environmental literacy of students.
- Over the past two years, the Trust has hosted Chesapeake Bay Trust interns who create and implement programs to increase awareness among diverse populations of the importance of the Potomac River and the Park to the health of the Bay.

### *“Resurfacing” continued from page 1*

“We are extremely grateful for the State of Maryland's partnership in helping to fund this project. The feedback on the new smooth and safe surface has been very positive. Towpath preservation and restoration continue to be a high priority for the C&O Canal Trust as we secure funding and community support for the project,” C&O Canal Trust President Robin Zanotti said.

When construction is complete, the towpath's surface will be similar to the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Trail, which connects to the C&O Canal NHP towpath to create one of the premier cycling routes in America, stretching from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh, PA. The Allegheny Trail Alliance, which administers the GAP, has generously donated engineering expertise and planning support to this project. The new surface will be a vast improvement for trail users, making the towpath a safer and more enjoyable experience for the Park's nearly 5 million visitors.



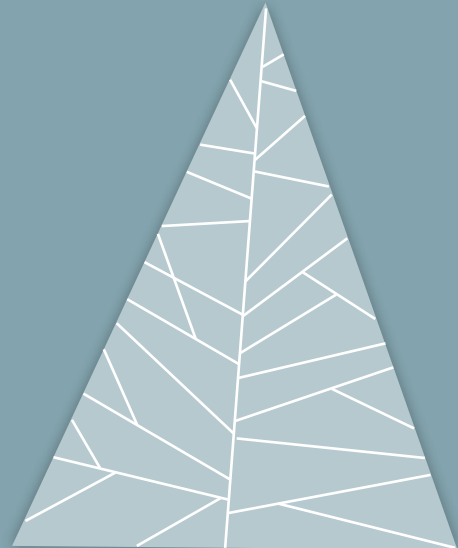
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