



THE CANAL QUARTERLY

WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

TRUST VOLUNTEERS TARGET TRASH IN PARK

Life has settled into a new rhythm as we cope with the challenges of a pandemic, an economic crisis, and social unrest. The C&O Canal National Historical Park has always been a place of respite and is experiencing a 22 percent increase in visitation over last year as people flock to the towpath for exercise, stress relief, and solace.

Unfortunately, these visitors are leaving a lot of trash behind them. The C&O Canal Trust has stepped up to help combat litter in the Park by focusing this year's Canal Pride events on cleaning up trash. While our regularly-scheduled spring Canal Pride events were cancelled because of pandemic-related stay-at-home orders, we developed new ways for volunteers to safely work in the Park when it was safe to do so. In July, the National Park Service approved the return of Canal Pride volunteers to the Park, and we got to work.

We hosted two public events in July, both of which complied with public health guidance

to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our volunteers, staff, and Park visitors. Small groups of no more than 10 gathered at different sites in the Park, allowing them to spread out and pick up trash safely. On July 11, we focused on Billy Goat Trail A, Anglers, Carderock, Chain Bridge, and Fletchers Cove. On July 25, we moved west and worked on sections in Brunswick, Lander Road, Weverton, Dargan Bend, Williamsport, Dam 5, and Oldtown.

During those two events, 103 volunteers removed over 1,100 pounds of trash from the Park! We will be holding several more

public events in the fall — watch for dates to be announced on our website and social media channels. We are also offering Personal Canal Pride Days for people to pick up trash on their own. Read on below for how to get involved.



PHOTO BY ELLEN KINZER

A volunteer gathers trash from Billy Goat Trail A in Potomac during a July Canal Pride event. All events followed public health guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

CLEANING UP THE CANAL: HOW YOU CAN HELP



PHOTO BY CALLIE FISHBURN

Two volunteers gather trash near Chain Bridge in Washington DC during a Canal Pride event in July.

To complement the public Canal Pride Days discussed above, the C&O Canal Trust has introduced Personal Canal Pride Days to help combat trash in the Park more widely, effectively, and safely. Designed for individuals or small groups of family or friends, Personal Canal Pride Days allow you to pick up trash in your favorite area of the Park on your own time.

To get started, visit www.CanalTrust.org/CanalPride and click on the "Personal Canal Pride Days" option. You can sign up there and read guidance on how to safely work in the Park. After you have completed your clean-up, we ask that you email us at canalpridedays@canaltrust.org and let us know your total number of volunteer hours, how many bags

of trash you collected, and what location(s) you cleaned. Also, be sure to share some photos of your day with us!

Another way you can help combat trash in our Park is by "leaving no trace" when you visit the Canal. The C&O Canal National Historical Park is a trash-free park; this means that all visitors are expected to take their trash out of the Park with them. There are no trash cans and no trash pick-ups. Often, people will bag their trash and leave it at an entrance, believing someone else will be along to pick it up. Instead, please throw these bags in your trunk to dispose of at home. With your help, we can leave the C&O Canal clean and beautiful.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to report that despite the pandemic, rampant unemployment, and the climate of civil unrest that have challenged us all over the past five months, the C&O Canal Trust is holding its own. These issues have informed our work, requiring adjustments in our operations to continue in our commitment to supporting the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Getting right to the bottom line, there is still room for improvement in our finances. Thanks to you – our loyal and generous donors – as well as a variety of local, state, and federal economic relief grants, we are doing well, but could use a boost before our fiscal year ends on September 30. To address this need, we formulated a plan designed to replace the important revenue lost due to the cancellation of Park After Dark, our annual gala benefit – learn how you can help on page 5.

We have successfully run two public and one private Canal Pride events and all seven Canal Quarters lockhouses have reopened. Both programs have new business models developed in response to COVID-19. I'm grateful to be able to share that volunteers remain eager to help preserve and protect

the Park, guests continue to love social distancing overnight in lockhouses, and the Trust board and staff have been energetic and creative in addressing each challenge.

We were gratified to learn this month that we were awarded the George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by a Group in the National Capital Area. This is particularly meaningful because the nomination comes from our National Park Service partners, an organization we could not be more proud to work with. We share this recognition not only with our volunteers, but also with so many members of Park staff who willingly engage with us in making each of our programs successful.

So what comes next? Like you, we aren't sure. What we do know is that we will continue to address issues as they emerge, we will throw everything we've got into supporting the Park, and we will learn and grow through it all. In the meantime, the Park remains a place for all who seek respite, exercise, and recreation. Please enjoy it!



Robin Zanotti, Trust President

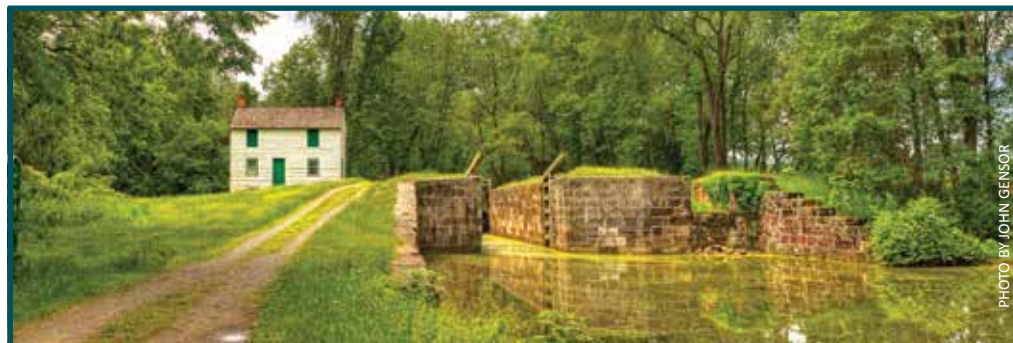


PHOTO BY JOHN GENSOR

Have you sought peace and solace along the C&O Canal during this difficult time?

Please show your gratitude today by investing in the preservation of the Park with a gift to the C&O Canal Trust. The Trust remains focused on our core mission of preserving and protecting the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Under the new CARES Act, you can take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return AND claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for a donation to the C&O Canal Trust.

Give today online at www.CanalTrust.org/GIVE or donate by check by returning the enclosed envelope.

TRUST WINS AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The C&O Canal Trust has been awarded the George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by a Group in the National Capital Area. Each year, the George and Helen Hartzog Awards honor the exemplary contributions of National Park Service volunteers.

The Trust was nominated for the award by the staff of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). “We wanted to recognize the Trust’s leadership of volunteer programs that preserve the story of the C&O Canal, champion youth engagement and diversity, draw canal communities into the Park’s history, and provide opportunities for local communities to engage in the many wonders of the C&O Canal,” said Park Superintendent Tina Cappetta.

In 2019, 851 C&O Canal Trust volunteers contributed 7,177 hours to the C&O Canal NHP, for a total value of \$204,131.



A youth group celebrates a successful 2019 Canal Pride event in Williamsport.

As a partner to the C&O Canal NHP, the Trust runs a variety of volunteer programs. “Members of the public flock to the annual Canal Pride Days, an opportunity to protect and preserve the Canal and its resources,” Cappetta said. “Volunteer Quartermasters maintain lockhouses that immerse visitors into seven unique time periods across canal history, opening eyes to what life was like for those who worked on the canal. The

volunteer Canal Towns Partnership engages 10 towns bordering the Park to help promote the importance and beauty of the resource.”

Volunteers also help the Trust with its annual Park After Dark fundraising gala, as visitor guides, as photographers, and as board and committee members.

“Award” continues on page 4

BOARD APPROVES DIVERSITY, EQUITY RESOLUTION

The C&O Canal Trust Board of Directors approved a resolution at their June meeting affirming the Trust’s commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Although the statement had been in the works for months, its passage now – as the nation reckons with its history of racial inequity – underscores how imperative it is that we continue to integrate these important principles into all facets of our organization.

Our Canal For All program, which focuses on connecting Black and Latinx communities

in Montgomery County with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, began in 2016 as a concerted effort to bring traditionally underrepresented audiences out to the Park.

This program thrives on partnerships with organizations who work with youth of diverse backgrounds, including Identity, an organization that provides opportunities for Latinx and other historically underserved youth to reach their highest potential, and Community Bridges, which empowers girls from diverse backgrounds to become exceptional students and leaders. Through Canal For All, youth from these organizations have participated in a variety of activities in the Park, including Latino Conservation Week, bike rides on the towpath, educational hikes around Great Falls, stays in Canal Quarters lockhouses, and clean-up activities as part of Canal Pride.

Thanks to funding from the Montgomery County Council, a Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) program was added in the summer of 2019 in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation’s TeenWorks program and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This program allows teens to work alongside National Park Service staff to preserve the C&O Canal’s assets, earn money, and learn job skills.

Besides continuing our work in diversifying our programs, the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resolution promotes an organizational culture welcoming to all people and calls for the formation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee that will guide the Trust’s progress towards these ideals.

The full resolution can be viewed on our website at www.CanalTrust.org/about-us/dei-statement/.



As part of their summer of service in the Conservation Jobs Corps program, youth from the TeenWorks program helped the C&O Canal Trust at the Swains Lockhouse ribbon cutting in July 2019.

CANAL QUARTERS OFFER SOCIALLY DISTANT OPTION

The Canal Quarters lockhouse program reopened in mid-June after a three-month suspension due to the stay-at-home order in Maryland. Since reopening, the lockhouses have been extremely popular as a socially-distant vacation option for people who have seen their travel plans cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Canal Quarters program makes seven rehabilitated historic lockhouses available to guests for overnight stays. To ensure the safety of our guests, we have contracted with a company to clean each lockhouse between guests. We have also covered each mattress with vinyl coverings that can be easily be wiped down and have removed some of

the hands-on interpretive items to reduce the possibility of virus transfer. We are also providing hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies for guests to tidy up during and after their stays. We still ask all guests to "Leave No Trace" and take their trash with them when they depart.

Canal Quarters guests are able to recreate in the C&O Canal National Historical Park by day, and by night, relax around a campfire or under the stars. Book your stay for up to eight people at

www.CanalQuarters.org.



PHOTO BY JAN BRANSCOME

Lockhouse 22 in Montgomery County, MD, is one of seven rehabilitated lockhouses available for overnight stays.

"Award" continued from page 3

Volunteers this year have also participated in trash clean-ups made necessary by a 22 percent increase in Park visitation since the pandemic began.

"I am so pleased that the C&O Canal Trust is being recognized for the role we play in engaging volunteers to preserve and protect the Park," said C&O Canal Trust President Robin Zanotti. "I could not be more proud of the work our staff, board, and volunteers do to maximize our impact to support the C&O Canal National Historical Park."

"Through creative efforts," Cappetta continued, "the Trust is paving the way in supplementing youth programming offered by the Park, targeting youth volunteers from diverse communities. Trust volunteer programs truly help the Park reach broader audiences while fostering a sense of community reminiscent of canal culture. We couldn't be more thrilled to have their wonderful contributions recognized and celebrated."

Each year, the National Park Service selects outstanding volunteer groups to receive the Hartzog Awards. The awards were created in honor of George B. Hartzog, who served as the National Park Service Director from 1964-1972, and his wife, Helen, who was an avid volunteer and supporter of volunteers in national parks. In 1970, under the leadership of Director Hartzog, the Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) program started with a few hundred volunteers. Today, hundreds of thousands of volunteers donate their time, skills, and talents to the National Park Service.

TRUST FUNDS RARE PLANT SURVEY

The C&O Canal Trust will help fund a comprehensive survey of rare, threatened, and endangered plant species along the trails in the Great Falls area of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, recognized as one of the most biologically diverse parks in the entire national park system. A \$64,757 grant will be used by the Park to hire a one-year botany fellow and a four-month botany intern.

The botany fellow will conduct botanical surveys of the area to identify plant species and populations at risk of being disturbed or destroyed by the repair and rehabilitation of the Billy Goat Trail system, planned to begin in 2021. The information from the survey will go on to influence the final locations of the trails so these rare communities can be preserved.

The botany intern will undertake mitigation plantings and translocate plants that will be affected by the work. They will also conduct plant surveys on other trails in the Great Falls area to facilitate trail modifications proposed by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), which provides trail stewardship.

"We need to understand which species are in the project area and where those species may exist, in order to conduct the trail repair and restoration without damaging rare natural resources," said Andrew Landsman, the C&O Canal National Historical Park's program manager for Natural Resources and Compliance. "The plans to repair and rehabilitate the Billy Goat Trail system include multiple trail bridges, stairs, water bars, areas of trail relocation, and trail re-grading. The trail

repair work cannot occur without these surveys, as information on the rare plants is a critical component of mitigating adverse potential impacts of the repair work to natural resources."

"We are so pleased to be able to work with the Park to help protect this ecologically-important area," Robin Zanotti, the Trust's president, said. "It is a great reminder that the C&O Canal is not only a place of history and recreation, but is also vitally important to the ecology of our region."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL C. MITCHELL

The C&O Canal Trust is funding a comprehensive survey of rare, threatened, and endangered plants along the Billy Goat Trails in Potomac, MD.

184.5 *mile* CHALLENGE

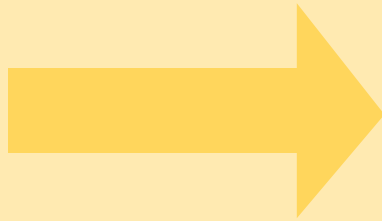
to benefit the C&O Canal

This fun campaign replaces this year's Park After Dark annual fundraiser.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended all of our plans for 2020, and, for the Trust, this has meant cancelling Park After Dark, our annual fundraising gala. To replace the critical revenue lost by the cancellation, we are inviting all those who love the C&O Canal to come together to have fun either virtually

or in the Park, and to help us raise \$184,500 (\$1,000 per mile of towpath) by September 15. Every dollar raised supports programs and projects in our treasured national park. You can visit our 184.5-Mile Challenge website here: <https://www.canaltrust.org/co-canal-184-5-mile-challenge/>

**Towpath
GO!**



TowpathGO!

Participate in our fun run, hike, or bike fundraising event for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or fitness level! You choose how far you want to go, how you want to go, and when you want to go. It might be a 5-mile walk, a 184.5-mile bike ride, or a 10K run. You can complete your challenge by yourself, or you can put together a team. We will help you set up your personal fundraising page where your family and friends can make a donation in support of your effort.

<https://bit.ly/3gdpd4Y>

Picnic in the Park



Picnic in the Park

We invite those who prefer to support our campaign in a more relaxing way to “attend” Picnic in the Park, our pandemic year “unevent” that you can enjoy either along the C&O Canal in your own time (while observing all appropriate health protocols), or from the safety and comfort of your home.

<http://www.canaltrust.org/picnic-in-the-park/>

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PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Nicholas Clements, Jon Wolz, Vinod Thomas, and Steph Clement Pogonowski for their winning photographs. 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 NICHOLAS CLEMENTS (July Winner)



PHOTO BY JON WOLZ (April Winner)



PHOTO BY STEPH CLEMENT POGONOWSKI (May Winner)



PHOTO BY VINOD THOMAS (June Winner)



PHOTO BY C&O CANAL TRUST

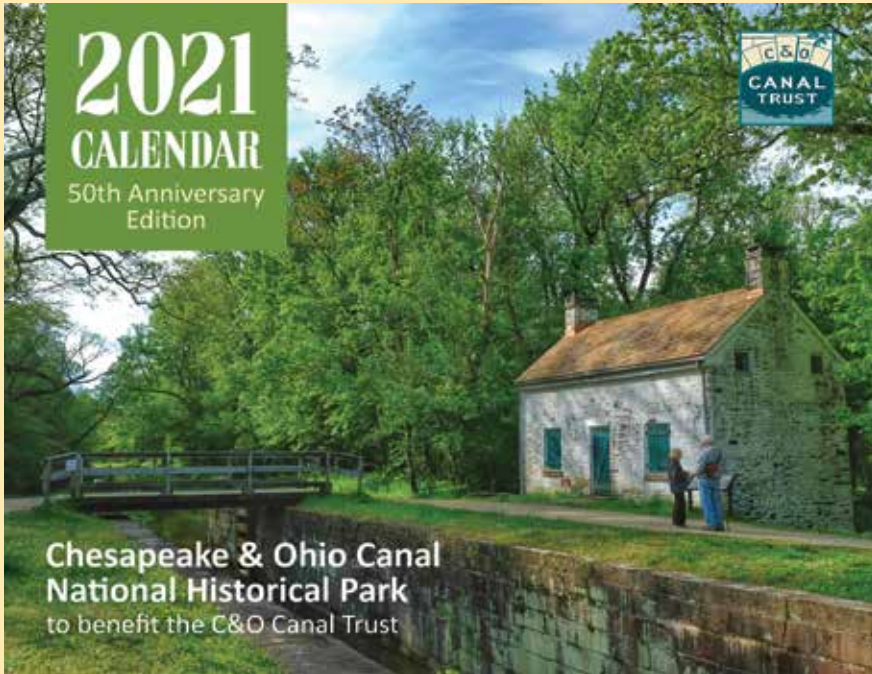
Ashley Duncan hits the towpath.

WELCOME ASHLEY DUNCAN

Ashley Duncan joined the staff in June 2020 as an AmeriCorps VISTA intern who will be working with the Canal Towns Partnership to increase funding and visibility for merchants and small town businesses. She will also be lending a hand with our Canal Pride activities, serving as a crew leader and assisting with logistics. Ashley graduated from Howard University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry with a

specialization in Environmental Science. She has participated in community outreach efforts with the Chesapeake Bay Program as an Environmental Justice Outreach Intern. When she is not out connecting with the community, she can be found tending her garden, hiking, or enjoying outdoor water recreational activities. Ashley's AmeriCorps service is made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation.

2021 ANNUAL CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE



Featuring photos by the following photographers:

- Mary Barnhart: Under the Cononocheague Aqueduct
- Nicholas Clements: Pennyfield Lockhouse 22
- MJ Clingan: Virginia Bluebells Near Opequon Junction
- Daniel Cohen: The Katie Dreamer at Cushwa Basin
- Stan Collyer: Violettes Lock
- John Gensor: Monocacy Aqueduct
- Torrey Mather Langdon: Olmstead Island Color
- Leah McDorman: Lock 31 at Weverton
- Michael C. Mitchell: Lollipop Trees at Widewater
- Jennifer Potter: Winter Sunset at Dam 5
- Mark Regan: Egret Takes Flight Over the Potomac
- Vinod Thomas: Sunset at Great Falls
- Garner Woodall: Paw Paw Tunnel

Order Now: www.CanalTrust.org/calendar

RACINE MULTISPORTS DONATES FUNDS

The C&O Canal Trust received \$2,249 from race participants around the world who donated when they registered for a Virtual Road Trip Run offered by Racine MultiSports, a race production and professional timing business located in Williamsport, MD.

Ken Racine, founder and owner of Racine MultiSports, approached the C&O Canal Trust about a partnership as he developed the Virtual Road Trip Run, which invited participants to name their “bucket list” running venue when they registered for a 5K, 10K, or half-marathon. At registration, they were also asked to make a donation to the Trust. Of the more than 650 people who registered, 161 made a gift. The funds will be used to support volunteer activities in the Park focused on cleaning up trash and repairing damage to the Park as a result of a

22 percent increase in visitation over the past three months.

Dan Spedden, President of the Hagerstown-Washington County Visitor and Convention Bureau and a member of the Trust’s Board of Directors, recommended the C&O Canal Trust as the beneficiary of the virtual event. He saw the partnership as a great way to promote both a local small business and benefit the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

“Racine MultiSports is excited to provide events that not only support the running community but also support the local community,” Racine said. “When we developed the Virtual Road Trip Run, we



C&O Canal Trust President Robin Zanotti and Board member Dan Spedden accept a check from Ken Racine of Racine MultiSports.

wanted to find a local charity to support and were so thankful that Dan Spedden referred us to the C&O Canal Trust. This was a perfect match for our event since the canal is used by so many of the runners who race with us.

PHOTO BY C&O CANAL TRUST



C&O CANAL TRUST
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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!

PARK AFTER DARK CANCELLED, NEED REMAINS



We wish this was an invitation to Park After Dark, but, in 2020, 300 people under a tent doesn't seem like such a good idea.

Sadly, the cancellation of our annual gala has left not only a big hole in our social calendars, it has also left a big hole in our budget.

Turn to page 5 of this issue to find out how you can help! We have planned several fun activities to support the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The Board of Directors and staff of the C&O Canal Trust will miss seeing you at this year's Park After Dark, as will canal mule Eva, who calls the event her favorite evening of the year.

