



# THE CANAL QUARTERLY

WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

## CANAL STEWARDS PROVIDE VITAL SERVICE

One of the largest contributions the C&O Canal Trust makes to the C&O Canal National Historical Park is the volunteer support we marshal and manage. As the Park's official nonprofit partner, we are focused on providing volunteer efforts to aid National Park Service (NPS) staff in maintenance and beautification projects along the towpath. Every garden mulched and invasive plant pulled by a volunteer is one less chore for an NPS maintenance worker, freeing him or her up for higher-level responsibilities.

In late 2020, the Trust added a new volunteer program to our arsenal, the Canal Stewards program, which we assumed management of from NPS staff. Canal Stewards "adopt" a section of the canal and maintain it for a designated time period. Parking lots, boat ramps, day use areas, campgrounds, structures, and parts of the towpath can all be adopted.

Stewards perform many types of light maintenance tasks, including lopping and pruning, painting, picking up trash, removing vegetation, raking, and restocking maps and trash-free park bags. It's the perfect way for an individual, couple, or small group to get fresh air, exercise, and care for the Park, all while social distancing.

Stewards are able to set their own schedules in cooperation with the Trust's Canal Stewards Coordinator Becka Lee. Volunteers are required to go through an orientation program prior to beginning work at their site. If you choose to become a Steward, you will join the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who work to keep the Park clean and safe for its nearly 5 million visitors. For more information, visit [www.canaltrust.org/volunteer](http://www.canaltrust.org/volunteer) or email Becka Lee at [canalstewards@canaltrust.org](mailto:canalstewards@canaltrust.org).



PHOTO BY ELLEN KINZER

*A volunteer cleans windows at Lockhouse 44 as part of a 2019 Canal clean-up event.*

## C&O CANAL CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 50th anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historical Park joining the National Park Service has illuminated how important this Park is to its surrounding community. Nearly 5 million visitors flocked to the canal during 2020's quarantines to enjoy 20,000 acres of

parkland with ample space to recreate, socially distance, meditate, and escape the four walls that had become offices and schools as well as homes.

Despite continuing restrictions due to COVID-19, visitors can still celebrate the C&O

Canal during this anniversary year by participating in a wealth of outdoor recreational activities. The canal's 184.5-mile-long towpath connects to the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) for a 330 mile adventure between

Washington D.C. and Pittsburgh. Paddling, paddle boarding, and boating get people out on the gorgeous Potomac River. Carderock offers a thrilling rock wall to climb, and history abounds as the 200-year-old canal prism and towpath wind their way through four Maryland counties that have been integral to America's growth since the seventeenth century.

While popular for hiking, cycling, and paddling, the Canal also lends itself quite well to a road trip. The C&O Canal Scenic Byway traverses 236 miles, running parallel to the Potomac River through Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, and Allegany Counties, and even dipping into West Virginia for a spell. There are restaurants, wineries, breweries,

*"Anniversary" continues on page 4*



PHOTO BY ROY SEWALL

*The Charles F. Mercer replica packet canal boat is towed by mules down the canal.*

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# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is always a hopeful time – trees budding, flowers blooming, and lush green foliage. COVID-19 took some of the fun out of that last year, but not this year. New signs of hope emerge as we enter a more controlled phase of the pandemic where many of us can begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

You will see that light in the stories that follow. We will be engaging hundreds of volunteers over the coming months to care for the Park that brought so much peace and comfort during darker days. Community partners are reaching out to talk about programs, and we are able to welcome them, although still at a six-foot distance – I'm good with that! And Canal Quarters continues to set all-time-high occupancy records as visitors discover these sweet lockhouses while social distancing.

More encouragement – over the last few months, we have been monitoring news about the implementation of projects within the National Park Service funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. See the article on page 7 about the award to the C&O Canal National Historical Park to repair a failing abutment at Dam 5. Such great news!

TowpathGO! is a peer-to-peer fundraising program we created last year as an answer to the cancellation of our Park After Dark gala. It was a hit so we're doing it again and moving it to the early weeks of summer (see page 5 for details). It's a way you can set your own personal challenge while asking your friends and family to sponsor you in achieving your fundraising goal to support the Trust and the Park. Join us – it'll be fun.

We are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the C&O Canal joining the National Park Service with new products, itineraries, and events, aided by our community partners. Despite lingering restrictions, there are a plethora of ways for you to celebrate!

I hope you share my obvious enthusiasm (too much?). I'm so ready for a sense of normalcy. The Park has been there for me this year. I hope it has been for you, too, and will continue to be your go-to place for fun, reflection, exercise, maybe all of the above.

I hope to see you on the towpath!



Robin Zanotti, Trust President



PHOTO BY WJ CLINGAN

Have you sought recreation and refuge along the C&O Canal throughout the past year?

**Please show your gratitude today by investing in the preservation of the Park with a gift to the C&O Canal Trust.** Your support is vital to ensuring that future generations experience a beautiful, safe, and welcoming C&O Canal National Historical Park, just as we do today.

**Give today online at [www.CanalTrust.org/GIVE](http://www.CanalTrust.org/GIVE) or donate by check by returning the enclosed envelope.**

# CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL AND MAY

In a sign that things are beginning to return to normal after a year of change and disruption, C&O Canal Trust volunteer forces will return to the C&O Canal National Historical Park for spring clean-up days this April and May. Canal Community Days events (previously called Canal Pride Days) will see volunteers tackling a wide array of maintenance projects in the Park.

Participants will be mulching, painting historic structures, repairing towpath potholes, cleaning up trash, pulling invasive plants, maintaining campgrounds, and more.

Projects are based in Great Falls, Antietam Creek Campground, Weverton, Williamsport, and Nolands Ferry.

The public events will adhere to the same COVID-19

safety measures that were used during our events last summer and fall. Participants will gather in groups of 15 or fewer in separate areas of the Park, and masks will be required when a social distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained.

"The support our volunteer community provides each year in helping to ready the C&O Canal National Historical Park for the busy season is critical," said Trust President Robin Zanotti. "We saw an increase in visitation during the pandemic, and the extra traffic has taken its toll on the natural resources along the canal. We are thrilled to welcome our volunteers back for our annual spring clean-ups, even with precautions still in place to protect their health."

We are grateful to our Canal Community Days sponsors, whose support make this work possible: REI, Deloitte, First Energy, M&T Bank, Friends of the Historic Great Falls Tavern, Minkoff Development Corporation, Clark Construction, Devils Backbone Brewing Company, and Younger Toyota.



PHOTO BY C&O CANAL TRUST

Two volunteers picked up trash along the towpath during a summer 2020 event.

## LOGO WINNER CHOSEN

Congratulations to Jeff Roth, whose original design was selected as this year's Canal Community Days logo to be featured on volunteer t-shirts. We had 14 entries in this year's contest — thanks to all who entered!



# RARE PLANTS SURVEY UNDERWAY ON BILLY GOATS

The rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that grow around the Billy Goat Trail network in the Potomac Gorge area of the C&O Canal National Historical Park are the focus of a new survey being partially funded by the C&O Canal Trust. This area is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse sections in the National Park System.

There are currently 102 known rare plant species growing in the area. With the Trust's financial support, the National Park Service has hired Clara Thiel as a Botany Fellow to survey and identify these rare plants, as well as search for new species not already documented in the Park's records.

"I have never seen such rare habitats, so I am excited and am looking forward to learning more," said Thiel, who is completing her Master of Science in Applied Ecology and Conservation at Frostburg State University.

Thiel's work will mitigate the chances that the rare plants will be disturbed or destroyed by the repair and rehabilitation of the Billy

Goat Trail system, scheduled 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 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," explained Andrew Landsman, Natural Resource Program Manager for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. "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."



PHOTO BY ROY SEWALL

A view of the Potomac Gorge in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

"We are doing our best to create a balance between stewardship of these habitats and providing recreational opportunities for the public," said Landsman. "For some of these species, the Park contains one of the only known locations in the region, and we have the responsibility to preserve them as best we can."

# TRUST ANNOUNCES C&O CANAL APPAREL LINE

You can now wear your favorite National Park on your back with the first item in the new C&O Canal Collection, which the C&O Canal Trust recently released in partnership with Maryland-based company Route One Apparel. The collection is being designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historical Park joining the National Park Service.

The initial offering, a short-sleeved t-shirt with a rendering of the scenic C&O Canal towpath on the back, retails for \$24.99. A portion of the sale of each shirt supports the C&O Canal Trust's mission to preserve and protect the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Founded in 2010, Route One Apparel is the area's original online source for trendy and affordable Maryland pride apparel and accessories. The company often partners with local nonprofits to contribute proceeds to deserving causes.

## ROUTE ONE APPAREL

The towpath design will be available on both indigo blue and yam orange shirts in a variety of adult sizes on the Route One Apparel website. If the shirts prove popular, the Trust plans to release children's sizes and three or more new designs later in the summer.

"We are thrilled to be releasing an apparel line featuring the C&O Canal," said Trust President Robin Zanotti. "This is something we have wanted to do for several years, and our partnership with Route One Apparel enables us to tap into their knowledge of the market to produce fun, durable garments our supporters will enjoy wearing as they explore the C&O Canal. The sales will also benefit the preservation and protection of this natural resource, making this a win-win."

Shirts can be purchased now at [www.RouteOneApparel.com](http://www.RouteOneApparel.com).



PHOTO BY ROUTE ONE APPAREL

The towpath design comes on this yam orange shirt, as well as an indigo blue option.

## C&O CANAL LIBATIONS TRAIL OPEN

After your hike or ride along the towpath, you can pop in to a local brewery or distillery for a cold one, thanks to the C&O Canal Libations Trail, which launched in February (or, rather, FeBREWary). The C&O Canal Trust and the Canal Towns Partnership collaborated on the trail to celebrate the Park's 50th anniversary while also supporting the economic development of the Canal Town merchants along the towpath who have struggled through the pandemic.

Each of the fourteen participating establishments have created a special C&O Canal themed beverage, including mostly beer and one mixed drink. Additional establishments, including wineries and distilleries will be added to the trail throughout the anniversary year.

Check out the C&O Canal Libations Trail at [www.CanalLibations.com](http://www.CanalLibations.com) on your next visit to the C&O Canal!



Douglas' Ditch is a lager being sold at four breweries in Allegany County as part of the Libations Trail.

### "Anniversary" continued from page 1

distilleries, shops, parks, and museums all along the Byway to delight and entertain you. The ten Canal Towns in particular are great places to stop for a bite and a respite. Along with the Libations Trail (see story above), the town merchants are collaborating on an ice cream trail in support of the 50th anniversary as well, which can be accessed on the Trust's website once it launches.

A variety of anniversary events are being planned for this year — check out [www.CanalTrust.org/50th](http://www.CanalTrust.org/50th) for information and updates.

### 50th Anniversary Schedule of Events

**May 6-June 1:** C&O Canal Photography Competition and Exhibit, Washington County Arts Council

**May 29-July 10:** TowpathGo! (see page 5)

**July 3:** Independence Day Celebration, Brunswick

**August 13:** Culture & Cocktails: Spotlight on the C&O Canal, Washington County Historical Society

**August 28:** 45th Annual C&O Canal Days, Williamsport

**August 30 – September 2:** World Canal Conference, Hagerstown

**September 11-12:** Heritage Days Festival, Cumberland



**2021 World Canal Conference**  
August 30-September 2, 2021

Join canal aficionados in Hagerstown this summer for "Historic Canals Today: Education, Recreation, and Tourism." Registration is open at [www.wcc2021.org](http://www.wcc2021.org).

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN CHALLENGE

## *TowpathGO! Returns for Second Year*

TowpathGO! is returning for a second year! The 2021 version of the choose-your-own-challenge program will run from **May 29 through July 10**. Participants can choose their challenge and their fundraising goal and win prizes for their efforts!

### THE CHALLENGE

This is a program for EVERYONE regardless of age, ability, or ambition. Follow one of our suggested challenge options or customize your own! Complete your challenge in one day or take advantage of the full six weeks.



### *Suggested Challenges:*

#### **184.5-Mile Challenge**

Take on the full length of the C&O Canal National Historical Park! Divide your challenge into sections and bike, run, or walk at your own pace. Enjoy a multi-day exploration of the Park and take time to visit Canal Towns along the way.

#### **50-Mile Challenge**

Establish your own starting and end points and stretch yourself to take on 50 miles of the C&O Canal in one or more days!

#### **25-Mile Challenge**

25 miles is just under a full marathon! Choose a section of the Park for a day of trail running, hiking, or biking.

#### **Customize your Challenge!**

You can create your own challenge – a 5K, a 10-mile trek, you name it! Complete your challenge however and wherever you like.

### *Fundraising*

Set a fundraising goal with your challenge, earn swag, and contribute directly to the ongoing preservation of the C&O Canal. We will help you set up your own personal fundraising page and provide a fundraising toolkit to help make your journey fun and easy!

### *Celebrate!*

Please join us for an optional meet up at one of the Trust's local brewery partners to celebrate your achievement and collect your swag! Invite your donors and help us say "thank you" for their support of your challenge and the C&O Canal. Celebratory meet ups will be held outdoors and will follow all health and safety guidelines.

For more information and to register, visit [www.CanalTrust.org/TowpathGo](http://www.CanalTrust.org/TowpathGo).



For their 2020 challenge, Mike Mitchell (left) and Francis Grant-Suttie section-hiked the entire 184.5 mile towpath with their cameras and raised a combined \$26,400.

Eight-year-old Brody Reppe and his father tackled the entire towpath for their 2020 challenge, raising \$6,558. In January 2021, Brody was named a Top Kid by radio station WTOP in recognition of his commitment to the C&O Canal!



## C&O CANAL IN TOP 10

The C&O Canal National Historical Park broke into the top 10 most visited National Park sites in 2020. The year's visitation statistics were released last month and have the C&O Canal ranked eighth with 4,888,436 visitors.

The C&O Canal Trust assists the Park with maintenance and preservation projects, as well as visitor services for the millions of guests who love the Canal. Your support will help us ensure the Park is here for the next generation to love and enjoy. Make a gift today at [www.CanalTrust.org/GIVE](http://www.CanalTrust.org/GIVE).

### THE TOP TEN

1. Blue Ridge Parkway
2. Golden Gate National Recreation Area
3. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
4. Gateway National Recreation Area
5. Lake Mead National Recreation Area
6. George Washington Memorial Parkway
7. Natchez Trace Parkway
8. Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park
9. Cape Cod National Seashore
10. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

## *Tell Us Your Canal Story...*

We are featuring 50 Canal Stories to celebrate the C&O Canal's 50th anniversary of joining the National Park Service.

Send the answers to these questions, and we could feature YOUR story too!

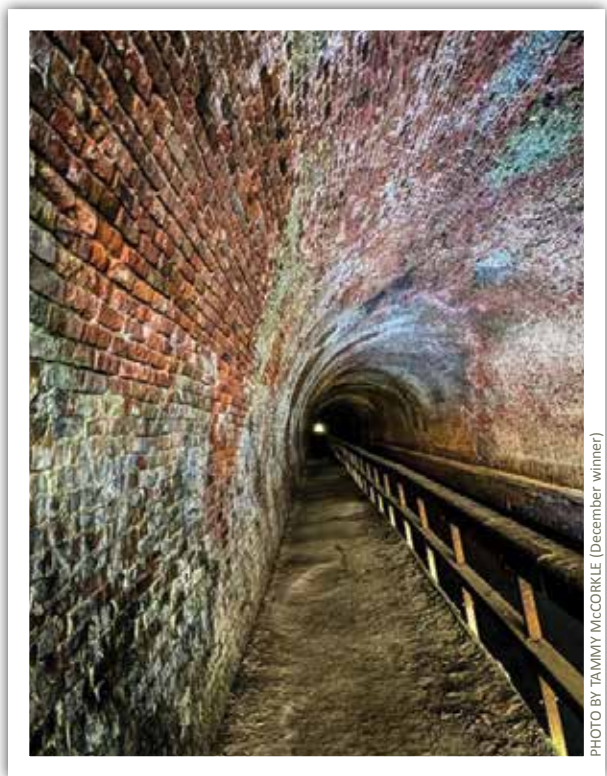
- What is your relationship with the canal?
- What is your favorite canal memory?
- What is your favorite spot on the canal?
- What does the canal mean to you?
- Include a photo of you at the canal!

Email your answers to us at:  
[info@canaltrust.org](mailto:info@canaltrust.org).

View 50 Canal Stories at:  
[www.CanalTrust.org/50CanalStories](http://www.CanalTrust.org/50CanalStories)

# MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

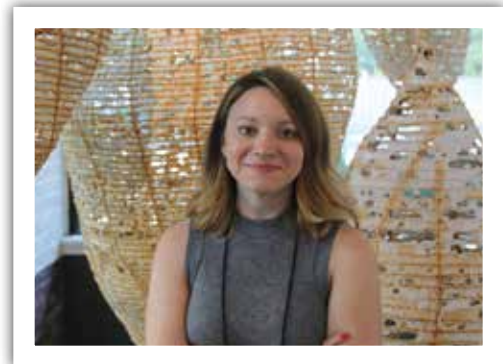
Congratulations to Nicholas Clements, Tammy McCorkle, and Grace Harmon for their winning photographs. Visit [www.CanalTrust.org/PhotoContest](http://www.CanalTrust.org/PhotoContest) for details on how you can enter your canal photography in our monthly contest, and visit our Facebook page at the beginning of every month to vote for your favorites!



## LAUREN RIVIELLO JOINS TRUST STAFF

The C&O Canal Trust welcomes Lauren Riviello, who is joining us from Boston as our new Director of Development. Lauren previously served as the Executive Director at the Brookline Arts Center, a visual arts center committed to bringing the community meaningful experiences in the arts through classes, exhibitions, and outreach. Lauren

earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from West Virginia University and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from The Institute for Nonprofit Practice at Tufts University. She is returning to West Virginia, where she grew up exploring the C&O Canal, with her husband and daughter.



# FAILING DAM 5 ABUTMENT TO BE REPAIRED

## *C&O Canal Receives Funding from Great American Outdoors Act*

A project at Dam 5 along the C&O Canal is one of 165 projects that will benefit from the recently-passed Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). The GAOA is providing up to \$1.9 billion a year for five years to the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. This money will fund deferred maintenance projects in National Parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and American Indian schools.

The C&O Canal will receive \$15.6 million to repair the left abutment of Dam 5 in Clear Spring, Washington County. The dam, which provides more than six miles of recreation boating waters, as well as water for hydroelectric power generation, is failing. Large cracks are visible, mortar is missing from between rocks in the wall, and the entire wall is leaning nine inches toward the river.

The proposed repairs will rehabilitate the masonry structure, stabilize the wall, and protect the cultural, natural, and recreational resources influenced by this substantial engineered feature. The end result will be a sustainable and stable structure that will be resilient to flooding well into the future.

National Park Service projects were selected for GAOA funding based on criteria that included maximizing the number of visitors that would benefit from the project and leveraging philanthropic partners, while prioritizing projects that would be shovel-ready for fiscal year 2021.

"The Great American Outdoors Act provides an unprecedented opportunity for the C&O Canal to undertake some critical large preservation projects," said C&O Canal National Historical Park Superintendent Tina Cappetta. "I can't think of a better 50th birthday present than to receive funding for the first of hopefully several projects!"



PHOTO BY PAUL GRAUNKE

*Dam 5 provides more than six miles of recreation boating waters, as well as water for hydroelectric power generation. Its left abutment will be repaired with funding from the Great American Outdoors Act.*

## CONTEST LAUNCHED FOR STUDENTS

The C&O Canal Trust is sponsoring prizes for the winners of the 2021 Canal Voices Contest, which encourages school-aged students to learn about the C&O Canal.

Produced by the education staff at the C&O Canal National Historical Park, the project includes lesson plans for teachers to utilize in their classes and resources for independent study. Elementary and intermediate students will then submit to the contest a 3-5 minute video responding to one of five C&O Canal-related questions.

The contest for middle and high school students encourages participants to write a research paper or create an artistic illustration that highlights lesser-known stories of African Americans, women, and immigrants on the canal.

Winners will be announced in late May and will receive a C&O Canal Explorer Backpack, as well as monetary awards provided by the C&O Canal Trust.

## TRUST MOVES TO WILLIAMSPORT

The beginning of April saw moving trucks relocating the headquarters of the C&O Canal National Historical Park and C&O Canal Trust from its Dual Highway, Hagerstown, location to a brand-new building in Williamsport.

Built on the site of the former Miller Lumber Company, the \$15 million project was funded by the National Park Service and the Maryland Economic Development Corporation, with support from Washington County.

The new building lies adjacent to historical canal sites such as the Cushwa Basin, Conococheaque Aqueduct, the operational Railroad Lift Bridge, and Lockhouse 44. A cross walk will be installed to aid visitors in crossing W. Potomac Street to move to and from the Park.



PHOTO BY HEIDI SCHLAG

*The new C&O Canal National Historical Park headquarters building stands adjacent to the Cushwa Basin in Williamsport, MD.*

The staff of the Park and the Trust are still teleworking due to the pandemic, but look forward to working so close to the canal. "It will be great to be so close to the Park, our visitors, and our neighbors again," said Trust President Robin Zanotti.

Please note our new address below. Telephone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

**C&O Canal Trust**  
**142 W. Potomac St.**  
**Williamsport, MD 21795**



**C&O CANAL TRUST**  
142 W. POTOMAC STREET  
WILLIAMSPORT, MD 21795  
*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](http://www.CanalTrust.org/give) today!

# Escape to nature

Authentic, historic lockhouses along the C&O Canal



“A lovely weekend! Runs, walks, games, and more. Thanks for giving us a cute, cozy place to talk, eat, and laugh!” - Libby

“What a gift for all of us! The scenery, the wildlife, and the peace and quiet made for a well-earned respite.”  
- Terri and Alan

**BOOK YOUR STAY NOW: [www.CanalQuarters.org](http://www.CanalQuarters.org)**



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