



THE CANAL QUARTERLY

WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

NEXT 50 YEARS CAMPAIGN EXPANDED

Canal community helps preserve the C&O Canal National Historical Park into the future

January 8, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). This is a remarkable achievement given that floods, the ravages of time, and a congressionally-approved plan to convert the C&O Canal into a parkway could all have spelled doom for the canal.

What made the difference is that ordinary citizens – people like you – mobilized to halt the parkway plan, and who, over the past five decades, have contributed their time, treasure, and talent to making the C&O Canal NHP truly a “people’s park”.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our canal community, we surpassed our goal of \$500,000, and have raised over \$650,000 through our **Next 50 Years Campaign**.

With time remaining in this monumental year, and with continued enthusiasm

for supporting the Park’s preservation for the next 50 years, we are expanding our campaign goal to \$750,000 by the end of 2021.

The words written in 1954 by Justice William O. Douglas to The Washington Post in opposition to the parkway are no less true today:

“It is a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace at the Capital’s back door — a wilderness area where we can commune with nature... One can hike 15 or 20 miles on a Sunday afternoon, or sleep on high dry ground in the quiet of a forest, or just go and sit with no sound except water lapping at one’s feet.”



PHOTO BY PAUL GRAUNKE

The next 50 years could be the most critical of all. Surging visitation, increased regional urbanization, and climate change will all impact the C&O Canal NHP. We are not helpless in the face of these challenges. Join us today: www.CanalTrust.org/50th.

C&O CANAL TRUST REFLECTS ON CANAL FOR ALL

The C&O Canal Trust’s Canal For All program was launched in 2017 with the goal of engaging young people from underrepresented communities in programs in the C&O Canal NHP. This year, the Canal For All program has grown to

provide fun and educational programs with community partner organizations in and around the C&O Canal. Program partners include the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Community Bridges, Girls Inc., PeaceJam, and TeenWorks.

Molly Lynch, the Community Bridges Middle School Program Manager, coordinated with the Trust this summer to bring educational programming to groups of kids at Community Bridges. “There were many impactful moments for our participants. Whenever we went hiking they shared how much they enjoyed being outside and in nature. They were in awe of all the beautiful views along the river. They also learned about different species and hiking safety! They loved sharing the facts they learned after their guided hike,” said Lynch.

Canal For All programming continued to grow this fall, with trash cleanups in Georgetown and at Swains Lockhouse.



PHOTO BY MARIANO GUEMEZ ALONSO

In the summer, over 200 youth and adults from the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County and Girls Inc. of Washington County visited Four Locks where they explored Lockhouse 49 and nearby natural areas, went on hikes, made crafts and played early American games.

Boys and Girls Club of Washington County group enjoys time at Four Locks.

“Canal For All” continues on page 5

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my favorite issue of the Canal Quarterly. We take the opportunity to thank donors to the C&O Canal Trust during our fiscal year which ends on September 30. We are very grateful for the exceptional generosity shown to the Trust in support of the C&O Canal National Historical Park during the pandemic. This generosity has allowed us to flourish and enhance our programmatic offerings. On behalf of the board and the staff of the Trust, thank you! Due to space limitations we have listed donors \$100 and above on the following pages but each donor, regardless of the size of their gift, is listed on our website at

www.CanalTrust.org/HonorRoll.

I am also pleased to be able to share with you the success of our *Picnic in the Park* gala which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The event was designed with public health guidelines in mind and was held entirely outdoors with picnic tables placed at safe distances from one another. We are particularly grateful to our sponsors of *Picnic in the Park* whose support was a key element of the success of the event.

One of the programs that grew

tremendously over the summer is Canal For All. We are partnering with organizations which serve underrepresented youth. These young people are participating in programs designed to instill an appreciation for the value of our Park and all public lands. They've been having fun and so have we!

The number of volunteers participating in Canal Community Days has also grown since the early days of the pandemic as we have continued our focus on multiple small groups of volunteers operating within public health guidelines.

Despite the resurgence of the pandemic, we have been able to operate effectively, efficiently, and safely. This is due in large part to your support. However, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of an awesome staff. As always, I'm honored to work with them.

I hope you will take the time to enjoy the park during these cooler months. It's a great time of year to enjoy its beauty.



Robin Zanotti, Trust President



PHOTO BY TORREY MATHER LANGDON

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/50th or donate by check by returning the enclosed envelope.

CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS

Canal Community Days is one of the C&O Canal Trust's most visible programs. Throughout the year, we recruit and manage hundreds of volunteers in public and private events to undertake a range of preservation, beautification, maintenance, and conservation projects along the 184.5-mile length of the C&O Canal NHP, working closely with the National Park Service to identify priorities that can be completed by volunteers of all ages.

Visitation to the Park surged throughout

the past year, and our dedicated volunteers helped provide vital support at high visitor use areas.

Canal Community Days launched in the spring with a public event at Great Falls. Utilizing a small group model, volunteers took on a number of preservation and beautification projects. Additional events were held later in the spring and in the fall in Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington Counties. Thank you for a successful year! Look out for information about 2022.



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

65 MILES OF TOWPATH RESURFACED

Folks walking and biking along the 50 miles of towpath between Violettes Lock and Lock 38 at the Shepherdstown Bridge are enjoying a whole new experience – gone are the rocks, roots, and ruts, gone the erosion and washouts, gone the deep muddy wallows. Instead, a smooth, firm resurfaced towpath of crushed stone dust carries visitors safely and trouble-free along the C&O Canal. One delighted user described the new surface as “a revelation.”

2017 marked the first year of the C&O Canal NHP's multi-year project to comprehensively resurface the more than 80 miles identified as most in need of rehabilitation. Thanks to the funding support of private donors to the C&O Canal Trust, along with funds from the National Park Service and the State of Maryland, resurfacing crews continue their work. An additional 12 miles from Lock 38 to the Big Slackwater boat ramp will be completed by the end of 2021.

In September, Governor Larry Hogan announced a \$1.8 million grant to the National Park Service to rehabilitate 18 miles

of the C&O Canal towpath in Allegany County through the FY22 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The Allegany County project will take place from the Paw Paw Tunnel and Oldtown through Spring Gap Camping area. With advocacy efforts supported by the Trust, the C&O Canal towpath resurfacing efforts have received over \$6 million in TAP funding. In 2021, the Trust received 1,088 signatures in support of resurfacing in response to advocacy efforts.

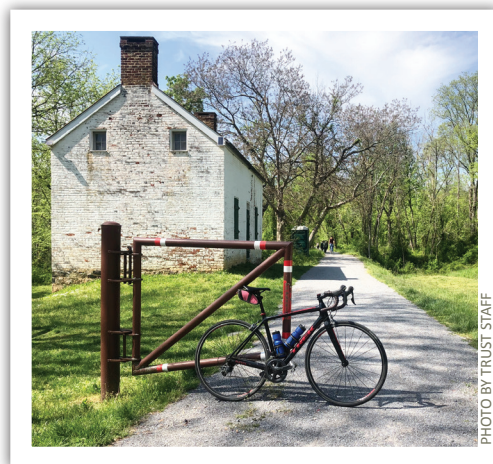


PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

Edwards Ferry after resurfacing was completed in January 2021.

RESULTS

Our small group model proved successful while we practiced COVID-19 safety precautions in the Park.



Towpath GO!

This year, nearly 20 participants volunteered to join our peer-to-peer fundraising challenge. Together, they raised over \$18,000!

For many, the Park has been a place of solace. Katie Rapp signed up for this very reason: to pay homage to a place that has given her a welcoming respite.

“I owe my sanity over the past year to my frequent bike rides along the C&O Canal NHP. The beauty, wildlife, solitude, fresh air, and nightly light show over the Potomac keep me coming back.”

Rapp biked a total of 379.5 miles on the towpath and raised over \$2,000 during her challenge.

Thank you so much to all of our participants and sponsors!

MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Paul Graunke, Beverly Ponton, Alissa Rosenstein, and Sue Roosma for their winning photographs. Visit 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!

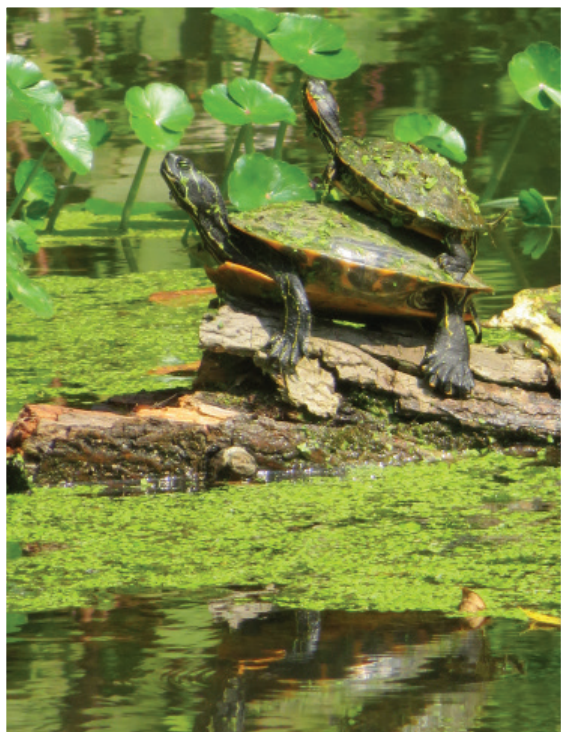


PHOTO BY SUE ROOSMA (October winner)



PHOTO BY PAUL GRAUNKE (July Winner)



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PONTON (August Winner)



PHOTO BY ALISSA ROSENSTEIN (September Winner)

MAGGIE DIER JOINS TRUST STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Maggie Dier as Director of Marketing and Communications. Maggie joined the C&O Canal Trust on November 1. She has worked in marketing for various for-profit and nonprofit organizations, most recently for a 3D design software company where she ran their national academic marketing campaigns and

programs. She has her degree in Media & Communications Studies from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Her love for hiking and the outdoors is what drew her to the Trust. Maggie lives in Maryland with her boyfriend and three cats. She enjoys crafting all sorts of art projects and playing board games with friends.



PICNIC IN THE PARK RAISES OVER \$150,000



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

On Sunday, September 12, the C&O Canal Trust hosted *Picnic in the Park* to celebrate and raise funds for the C&O Canal National Historical Park's 50th anniversary. The event was held at Carderock Pavilion where over a dozen picnic tables were beautifully decorated with photos of well-known Park landmarks and bouquets of locally-grown flowers.

Guests filtered into the Pavilion, enjoying libations, individually packaged gourmet picnic meals from Corcoran Caterers, and live bluegrass music from the Hillbilly Gypsies. During the event, the Trust screened the first viewing of a short video project commemorating 50 years of the Park. The video highlights stories from Park Superintendent Tina Cappetta, Trust

leadership, and our partners about what makes our Park so special, and how we can work together to ensure it remains beautiful, safe, and welcoming into the future.

Proceeds from the event provide vital support for the preservation and programs of the C&O Canal NHP. At 50 years old, it is the eighth most visited park in the National Park System, with nearly 5 million visitors each year. In total, the event raised over \$150,000.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, attendees, and sponsors for making this event an incredible success. Special thanks to Gay Barclay, Georgia Nassikas, Generation Media, and D&V Creative, as well as our generous sponsors.

"Canal For All" continued from page 1

A multi-generational event at Carderock brought together Canal For All partners and Canal Stewards to undertake needed maintenance in the day use area. The group worked together to paint picnic tables and enjoyed a hike on the Billy Goat Trail, Section C.

The Trust has received generous support to help expand this important work. In total, the Trust has been granted over \$94,000 from Montgomery County, Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation, Pepco, the Healthier Greener Kinder Foundation, and the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program through the National Park Trust.

As we celebrate this year's successful Canal For All programs, the Trust continues to develop the program with hopes of including additional underrepresented groups such as LGBTQA+ and hikers with disabilities. As Liz Janelle, the Trust's Canal For All Coordinator said, "The Canal For All Program is a great opportunity to provide free programming to help provide equitable access to the Park. To many, the C&O Canal NHP remains inaccessible, and the Trust's Canal For All program aims to improve that access."



PHOTO BY MARIANO GUEMEZ ALONSO



PHOTO BY MARIANO GUEMEZ ALONSO

HOLIDAY GIFTS

For the C&O Canal lover in your life, the C&O Canal Trust store has you covered: www.CanalTrust.org/shop.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MITCHELL

Canal Quarters Gift Certificates, \$110-\$180



C&O Canal Trust 2022 Annual Calendar, \$12.95

2020-2021 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 donations of \$100 or more given between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021. Our full Honor Roll can be found on our website at www.CanalTrust.org/HonorRoll.

Every attempt has been made to ensure this list is complete. If we have excluded you in error, please contact Lauren Riviello, Director of Development, at riviello@canaltrust.org.

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

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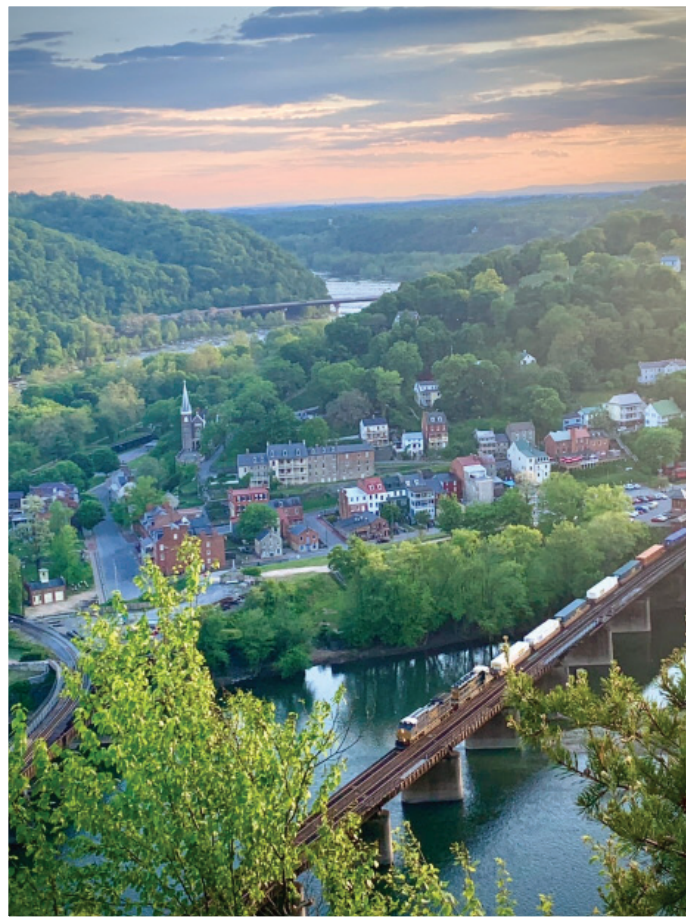


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 Mile 172.7 - Spring Gap

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Mile 5 - Lock 5

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