



# THE CANAL QUARTERLY

WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

## TRUST PRESENTS C&O CANAL WITH \$200,000 GIFT

### *Canal Community Supports Canal Classrooms and Towpath Resurfacing*

In the winter, the C&O Canal Trust presented a gift of \$200,000 to the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). “The C&O Canal Trust provides the ways and means for individuals to contribute directly – through philanthropy, volunteerism, and advocacy – to the Park we love today and to the one we will leave to the future. This gift represents a couple of years of this activity, from our community of donors who give in support of the Park’s Canal Classrooms education program and Towpath Resurfacing efforts,” said John Guttman, Board Chair of the C&O Canal Trust. “The C&O Canal Trust provides critical support for our work. Funding these programs is especially important because they provide a legacy for future visitors to enjoy the Park for years to come,” said Tina Cappetta, Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The Park’s Canal Classrooms program provides experiential learning opportunities

for K-12 students in Great Falls, Williamsport, and Cumberland. This is accomplished via STEAM-based curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) taught by the Canal Classrooms Corps (CCC), a cadre of retired educators. Since 2013, over 60,000 students have participated in Canal Classrooms, including many who are economically-disadvantaged and attend Title 1 schools. Funds raised through the C&O Canal Trust provide support for teaching stipends, transportation costs, and training workshops. While barriers to participation in in-person programs have continued this school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Canal Classrooms has served school audiences through virtual learning



From left: Robin Zanotti, John Guttman, and Tina Cappetta

opportunities for different ages, grade levels, and interests. Along with virtual resources for youth and families, the program provides useful resources for local educators to further engage with their students.

*“Trust Presents” continues on page 6*

## JOIN US FOR NATIONAL KIDS TO PARKS DAY

**When:** Saturday, May 21, 2022  
from 10:00am – 2:00pm

**Where:** C&O Canal NHP – Fletchers Cove  
4940 Canal Rd NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Kids to Parks Day is a national day of outdoor play celebrated annually in May. The day connects kids and families with their local, state, and national parks and public lands through thousands of park events that promote discovery and exploration outdoors.

friendly activities, challenges, and tools to help visitors of all ages learn more about the natural, human, and historical resources all around us.

How long does trash take to decompose? Challenge yourself to guess correctly! What wildlife is out in the Park today? Let our localized scavenger hunts help you find out! Whether you plan to relax here or trek on the towpath, be sure to stop by the Trust’s tables to chat with us and find some exciting new ways to explore your Park.

We are proud to partner with the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter III, who will offer free 20-minute tours of the Abner Cloud House, located at Fletchers Cove, as part of National Kids to Parks Day. Groups are limited to five people or one household.



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

Kids show off their paracord survival bracelets in the Park.

Join the C&O Canal Trust for fun and educational activities at Fletchers Cove. Explore a wild, diverse world that may be brand-new to you or might feel like part of your own backyard! Trust staff and volunteers will be on site with family-

[www.CanalTrust.org/KidstoParksDay](http://www.CanalTrust.org/KidstoParksDay)

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# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to spring at the C&O Canal! I hope you're enjoying some of the beautiful weather of this highly anticipated season. The C&O Canal Trust is actively preparing the Park for you and the 5 million or so visitors we anticipate this year. Of course, like everything the Trust does, we can only do it with your active participation.

During spring, we will welcome back our popular Canal Community Days program where volunteers are central to our mission to preserve and protect Park resources. Check out the dates in Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington Counties when groups of volunteers will gather to pick up trash, remove invasive plants, lay mulch, paint wooden Park features, etc. Please join us as we *Make this Park Shine!* If you can't be there, perhaps you'd be interested in financially sponsoring this important work. Please let us know if you can help.

As we enjoy the abundant spring wildflowers, I can't help but think about the 261 rare, threatened, and endangered plant species in the park. Will they be back this year? Is it the year they'll cease to exist due to climate change or the wear and tear of

5 million visitors? Please read the story on page seven about the partnership between the Park and the C&O Canal Trust to help these fragile plant communities thrive.

As you spend time in the Park in the coming months, please remember to recreate responsibly. It's an easy thing we can all do to reduce the human impact to the Park. Help us to be sure it will flourish during our lifetimes and for future generations!

Many thanks for all you do to support the Trust and the Park!



Robin Zanotti, Trust President



## LOVE THE PARK? SUPPORT THE TRUST!

The C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) is one of the nation's most popular parks, and the C&O Canal Trust is dedicated to preserving it, not just for your enjoyment today, but for future generations as well.

### Show your support 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, just as we do today.

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

# CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS WELCOME SPRING

Our dedicated volunteers will return this spring to undertake a range of preservation, beautification, maintenance, and conservation projects throughout the Park. Each year, the Trust engages hundreds of volunteers in our public Canal Community Days program. This season, we welcome you to join us in Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington Counties!

Groups of volunteers will work with a project leader on mulching, painting historic structures, repairing towpath potholes, cleaning up trash, pulling invasive plants, maintaining campgrounds, and more.

"Our volunteers provide needed support each year at high visitor use areas of the C&O Canal National Historical Park," said Trust

President Robin Zanotti. "We look forward to working together with our volunteers this year as we help ready the Park for the busy season and as visitation continues to rise."

## UPCOMING CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS

- April 23** Great Falls
- May 7** Locations throughout Frederick County
- May 14** Williamsport



Two volunteers pick up trash along the towpath in Frederick County.

PHOTO BY JOHN GENSOR

## LOGO WINNER CHOSEN

Congratulations to Alissa Rosenstein, whose original design was selected as this year's Canal Community Days logo to be featured on volunteer t-shirts. Thanks to all who entered!



## JOIN US

[www.CanalTrust.org/Volunteer](http://www.CanalTrust.org/Volunteer)

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 SPONSORS

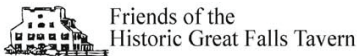
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Volunteers paint the mule barn at Great Falls in Montgomery County.

PHOTO BY SIMON BARBER

# EXPLORE YOUR PARK

Spring is here, a beautiful season to explore the C&O Canal NHP! The Park contains over 20,000 acres of historical, natural, and recreational treasures. Featuring a 184.5-mile towpath, the Park is popular with hikers and bikers, as well as paddlers who enjoy the neighboring Potomac River and its offshoots. With over 200 rare and threatened species of plants and animals, over 1,000 historic structures, and a rich history of native cultures, transportation growth, and Civil War conflict, the Park has something to offer everyone.

The C&O Canal Trust's website features a variety of trip-planning tools to get your adventure started. #ExploreYourPark by catching up on the Trust's many blog posts to help you jumpstart your day-trip or overnight journey into the C&O Canal. Stay in a lockhouse, camp alongside the Potomac River, bike on the towpath, or take a pit stop at one of the many restaurants in a Canal Town! With 184.5 miles to explore, there is something new to discover every time you visit.

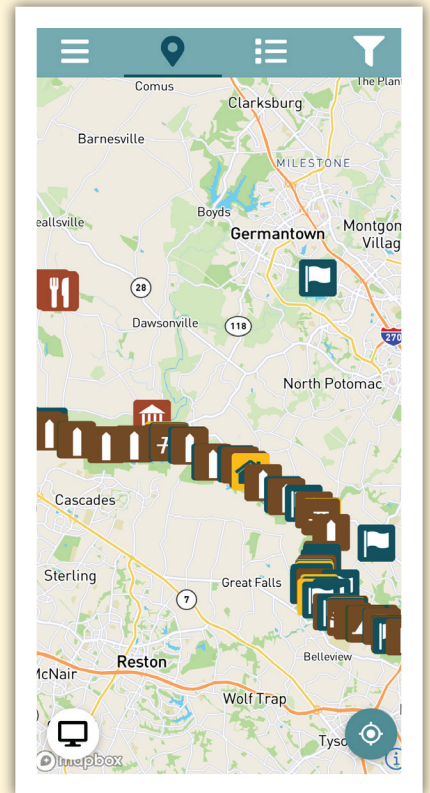


Make your trip planning easier with the C&O Canal Trust's Canal Explorer Mobile App. With over 800 mapped points of interest including hiking trails, campgrounds, parking, historic structures, and more, the app helps make your journey fun, informative, and easy.

The mobile app features the following:

- 800 mapped and searchable points of interest
- Interaction with your device's GPS, so you can see how far you are from points of interest
- Driving directions and mileage between points
- Details about historic sites
- Itinerary builder

[www.CanalTrust.org/App](http://www.CanalTrust.org/App)



The C&O Canal Explorer Mobile App will help you explore all 184.5 miles of the C&O Canal!



True Respite Brewing Company's "Lock Keeper" pays tribute to the men and women responsible for the daily operations of the lock gates lining the C&O Canal. The "Lock Keeper" Hazy IPA was released in February 2022. Graphic courtesy of True Respite Brewing Company.

## C&O CANAL LIBATIONS TRAIL 2.0

The widely popular C&O Canal Libations Trail will continue throughout 2022. Featuring craft breweries located in or near the 10 Canal Towns, the trail was developed in a joint effort involving Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery County tourism bureaus, Visit Maryland, the C&O Canal Trust, and the Canal Towns Partnership as part of the C&O Canal NHP's 50th celebration in 2021.

variety of brews attracting new visitors to the Canal Towns. This year, the trail welcomes Landmade Brewing. The new brewery in the Canal Town of Poolesville opened in February.

After your hike or bike ride along the C&O Canal, venture into the Canal Towns that line the towpath to enjoy locally-made beer, wine, and spirits with our C&O Canal Libations Trail: [www.CanalLibations.com](http://www.CanalLibations.com).

Participating breweries will offer canal themed beers at various times throughout the year and all will be busy creating a

## Remember to #RecreateResponsibly



GRAPHIC BY RecreateResponsibly.org

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN CHALLENGE

## TowpathGO Returns for Third Year

TowpathGO is returning for a third year. The 2022 version of the choose-your-own-challenge program will run from **May 1 through June 11**. 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.



### Challenge Options:

#### 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.

#### TowpathGO 5K Challenge

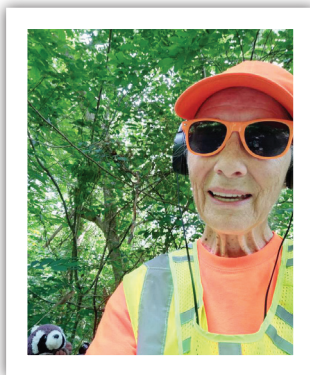
Are you up for a new challenge? Support the C&O Canal Trust and the C&O Canal National Historical Park by participating in the TowpathGO 5K Challenge in Brunswick on June 11, 10am-12pm. Lace up your shoes, set your own pace, and join us on the towpath!

### 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!

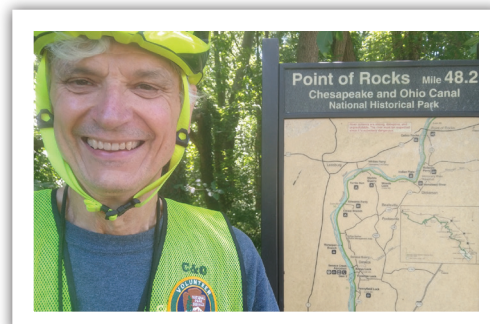
### Celebrate!

Join us for an optional meet up at Smoketown Brewery 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.



In 2021, Lorna Hainesworth challenged herself to bike 40 miles. She rode from Brunswick to White's Ferry and back with Rocky Raccoon.

Canal Steward John Kehne took on a 50 mile biking challenge, and raised over \$3,000 to support the C&O Canal Trust.



## C&O CANAL IN TOP 10

The C&O Canal National Historical Park made it into the top 10 most visited National Park sites again in 2021. The year's visitation statistics were released in February and have the C&O Canal tied with Zion National Park for 10th with 5 million 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. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
3. Golden Gate National Recreation Area
4. Gateway National Recreation Area
5. Lake Mead National Recreation Area
6. George Washington Memorial Parkway
7. Natchez Trace Parkway
8. Lincoln Memorial
9. Gulf Islands National Seashore
10. **Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Zion National Park**

## Tell Us Your Canal Story...

Celebrate your love for the C&O Canal by sharing your personal story about the Park. Each story will take a look at a person's relationship with the C&O Canal. 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).

Post your story on your social media feeds with the hashtag:  
**#MyCanalStory**

# MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Nicholas Clements, Beverly Edwards, Brian J Porter, and Vinod Thomas 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!

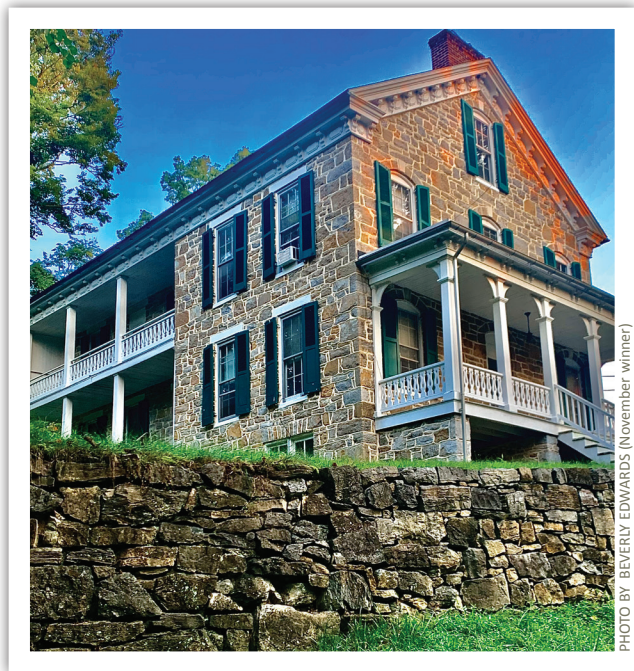


PHOTO BY BEVERLY EDWARDS (November winner)

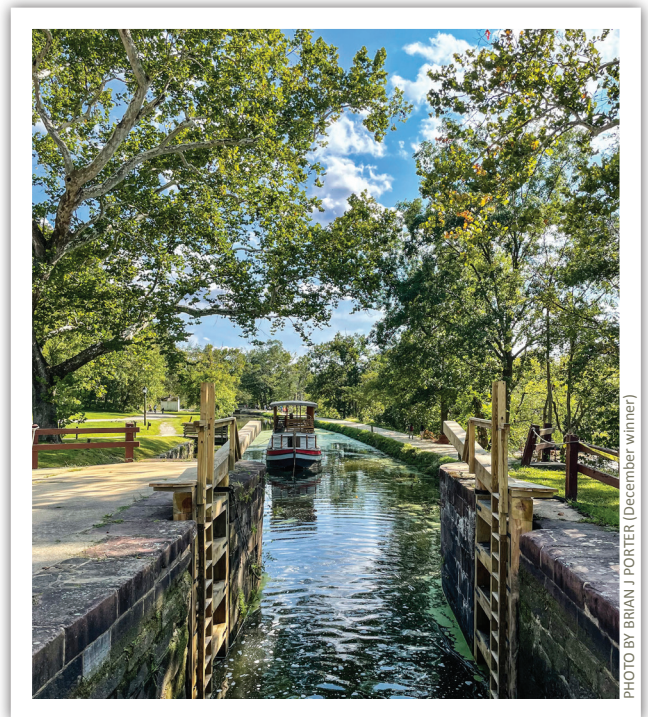


PHOTO BY BRIAN J PORTER (December winner)



PHOTO BY VINOD THOMAS (January winner)

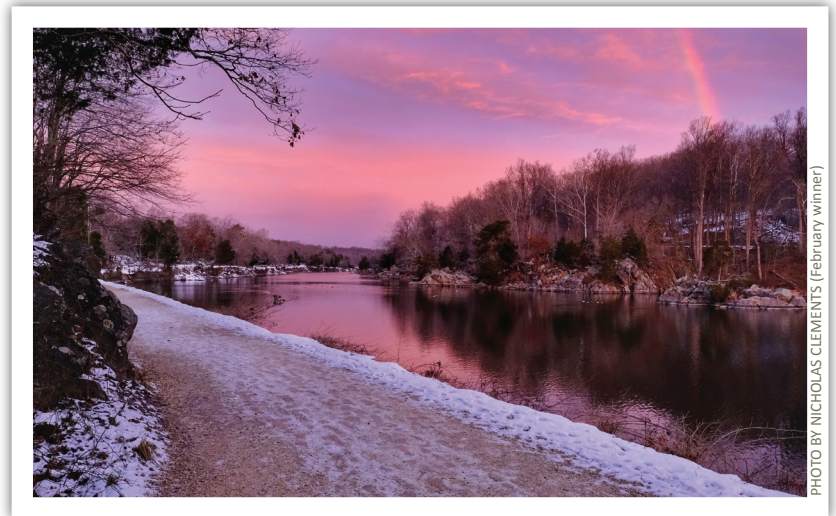


PHOTO BY NICHOLAS CLEMENTS (February winner)

## *"Trust Presents" continued from page 1*

The C&O Canal NHP's Towpath Resurfacing efforts allow visitors to enjoy the 184.5-mile length of the Park more safely. Funding for this project supports the removal of rocks, tree roots, and other obstacles, and adds a new surface of crushed stone dust, providing a smooth, level surface. To date, 65 miles of towpath have been resurfaced. Continued

support for this project will ensure that the towpath remains accessible and safe for all visitors for years to come.

"As a Park-lover and supporter, and as Board Chair of the Trust, I really appreciate the opportunity to work with our colleagues at the National Park Service, and thank them

for their efforts to protect and preserve the Park we all care so much about," said Guttman. "We also cannot forget all of the generous donors who make much of this work possible."

# TRUST SUPPORTS PRESERVATION OF RARE PLANTS

## A Biodiversity Treasure in Peril

The C&O Canal NHP is beloved for its natural beauty, rich recreational opportunities, and accessibility for over 5 million visitors. What is less well known is that it is one of the most biologically diverse national parks in the nation. Since its creation in 1971, nearly 200 rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) plants, some of which are globally rare and unique, have been identified. But that number appears to be dwindling. Between 2008 and 2020, just 106 previously identified RTE species were found along the C&O Canal. Invasive non-native plants, regional urbanization, and surging visitation have all taken their toll on the fragile habitats that make such diversity possible. With the addition of unfolding climate change, NPS is facing complex challenges to conserve these resources.

The C&O Canal NHP runs 184.5 miles and traverses four geographical provinces. From the Appalachian Mountains through the foothills of the Blue Ridge and the rolling farmland of the Piedmont, to its terminus on the Atlantic Coastal Plain in Georgetown, the Park contains a rich mosaic of different habitats that host 68 distinct plant communities, 12 of which are globally unique. These habitats are the result of a variety of geological formations, most notably the Potomac Gorge and the shale barrens of the Appalachian range. Frequent flooding along the Potomac causes tree canopy gaps, scouring, and silt and seed deposition along the length of the river. Many northern and southern plant species overlap in the Park with isolated populations of western species surviving where prairie habitat persists along the Potomac. Such

diversity extends to fauna which depend on these varied ecological niches to thrive.

Along the Potomac Gorge, the geology and hydrology of the river flowing over Great Falls has created a biodiversity “hotspot” comprised of the most diverse flora located within an urban area on the entire East Coast. Upriver, the shale barrens of Allegany and Washington Counties constitute a globally rare natural community where RTE plant and animal species have adapted to its harsh conditions and unique community structure. The steep slopes, constantly weathering shale, and continual undercutting of the Potomac limits soil development leading to the evolution of rare species referred to as endemic species, found nowhere else in the world.



Scour habitat along the Potomac River. Image by Chris Rief.



The only population of Snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) in Maryland is found in the C&O Canal NHP. Image courtesy of NPS.

## A Conservation Partnership with the C&O Canal Trust

With planning underway for the much-needed rehabilitation of the Billy Goat Trail System near Great Falls, NPS turned to the C&O Canal Trust in 2020 to request funding to support a youth botany fellowship program to survey RTE plants in and around the area. The purpose of the survey was to collect data from known populations and identify other threatened species to ensure that work on the trail system is sensitive to fragile habitats and endangered plants. This information will be used to identify and relocate at-risk plants or collect seed

for their propagation. These efforts will ensure the continued survival of the plant species while providing sought-after outdoor recreational opportunities. As the C&O Canal NHP’s official philanthropic partner, the Trust was able to provide \$64,757 to support this important work.

Over the spring and summer of 2021, the botany fellow located and identified 118 new and existing occurrences of RTE plants in the Great Falls area, and 261 RTE species occurrences Park-wide. They failed to find 91 species that had been previously known to exist in the Park before 2008.

NPS is seeking to ramp up long term

conservation of RTE species throughout the C&O Canal NHP with a strategy that includes comprehensive identification, monitoring, habitat protection, seed collection, plant propagation, and establishing new populations of RTE species in habitat niches unique to the Park. For it to be successful, however, it will need the help of our canal community to supplement available NPS funding. In support of these important efforts, the C&O Canal Trust is launching a major gifts campaign to raise needed funds that will help protect this national biodiversity treasure.

**For more information, please contact  
Lauren Riviello, Director of Development,  
at 240-202-2625, x102 or [riviello@canaltrust.org](mailto:riviello@canaltrust.org).**



**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



“Will never forget my stay there. Had to arrive after dusk, but there was a full moon and the eeriest pink fog enveloping the entire area. Washed up by flashlight beam, using the pitcher and basin, just like in the olden days. I'll never forget the wonderful experience!” - Elaine

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