

# ECANAL QUARTERLY WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

## C&O CANAL TRUST CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

We are pleased to be celebrating our 15th anniversary as the official nonprofit partner of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) this year. This milestone anniversary provided us with an opportunity to review some of the highlights of our work for the Park—none of which would have been possible without the support of our dedicated donors and volunteers. As we celebrate, we want to thank you for your continued commitment to preserving and protecting the Park for future generations.

Three years ago, we never could have predicted how a global pandemic would change the way many of us live, work, and recreate. The C&O Canal NHP, which entered the pandemic with a \$259 million maintenance backlog, has had a substantial increase in its use. When many public places closed their doors, people sought a safe and

enjoyable place to recreate and enjoy nature. The canal became a place of peace and restoration for more than five million people in 2021.

This year we were able to enjoy the return of many in-person events. Our volunteer numbers were closer to those we had pre-pandemic, Canal For All programming expanded, and we were able to hold Park After Dark.

Even as public places have re-opened, the Park remains a popular outdoor space for visitors and recreators. Surging visitation, increased regional urbanization, and climate change will all impact the C&O Canal NHP in the coming years. We hope you'll join us



in the face of these challenges as we look to make a difference in the next 15 years. Join us today: www.CanalTrust.org/Support.

See 15 Year Accomplishments Infographic on page 5

# PARK AFTER DARK RETURNS, RAISING MORE THAN \$223,000 FOR THE C&O CANAL NHP

The C&O Canal Trust welcomed nearly 150 guests to the Historic Great Falls Tavern on September 17 for its largest fundraising

event of the year, Park After Dark. The event raised more than \$223,000 for the C&O Canal NHP—surpassing the Trust's fundraising goals

and previous Park
After Dark events. Of
the funds raised at
the event, \$55,000
will directly support
the Park's work to
preserve and protect
rare, threatened, and
endangered plants.

In addition to celebrating the return of Park After Dark for the first time since 2019, the Trust celebrated its 15th anniversary. Special guests included Park leadership, representatives from Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin's offices, Maryland State Delegate Marc Korman, and Eva the Canal mule.

The William O. Douglas Stewardship Award was presented at Park After Dark to longtime supporters of the Trust and Park, Daofeng and Angela He and the Daofeng & Angela Foundation. Their deep commitment to preserving the park and sharing its history with visitors, now and into the future, continues to be an

"Park After Dark" continues on page 5



 $\textit{Park After Dark attendees enjoyed a beautiful evening at Great Falls} \; .$ 

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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The C&O Canal Trust celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. I've been honored to lead the organization for about half of those 15 years. From my unique perspective I can tell you with certainty that our growth and success have been made possible by donors who care deeply about the park and have entrusted us with their gifts. Your support funds the Trust's work to preserve and protect the park.

In this issue of the Canal Quarterly we recognize and thank donors during our most recent fiscal year. More specifically, this issue also outlines the impact of your support. As one who joins you in caring deeply about the park, you have my most sincere appreciation!

It was wonderful to be able to host 150 Park After Dark guests at Great Falls this past September! It provided a sense of normalcy despite choosing to reduce the number of guests as a nod to COVID-19. Perhaps next year COVID won't need to be such a major consideration in Park After Dark planning. Nonetheless, it was a wonderful event and very successful

financially. Thanks to all who were able to participate.

I've been preparing to end my tenure with the C&O Canal Trust with my retirement in early 2023. Over the last few months as I've approached a task or problem that I've always thought required my perspective and skill set, the thought has often occurred to me, "Well, I guess they'll figure out how to do that without me." The more I think about it, the happier it makes me. Together, we've built a strong organization that will withstand a change in leadership. Your support of my successor will be just as important as it has been during my tenure.

arti Zaveta



Have you sought recreation and refuge along the C&O Canal throughout the past year? Please show your gratitude 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 NHP. Give online at www.CanalTrust.org/GIVE or donate by check by returning the enclosed envelope.

Do you work for the federal government? Be sure to include the C&O Canal Trust in your Combined Federal Campaign workplace giving. It's an easy way to give back to the park that gives so much to you! Our CFC number is 98180. Please note, we are in the Chesapeake Bay area.

## CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS

Canal Community Days is the C&O Canal Trust's annual volunteer program. Each year, we recruit and manage volunteers 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.

Canal Community Days began last spring with our annual kickoff event at Great



Falls, and was followed by an event in Williamsport. Additional events were held this fall in Allegany County and Frederick County. The Trust also hosted numerous clean-up events for corporate groups, school groups, scouts and more througout the year.

Thank you, volunteers, for providing vital support in high visitor use areas! Your willingness to lend a helping hand and help make this Park shine is invaluable! Be on the lookout for forthcoming information about events in 2023.



## **2022 CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS RESULTS**



9,320 pounds of trash



pounds of vegetation

and

23 **Park locations** 

## 68 MILES OF TOWPATH RESURFACED

Canal users walking and biking along the towpath between Violettes Lock and Big Slackwater, as well as the Western Maryland Rail Trail Towpath Connector, are enjoying a whole new experience thanks to towpath resurfacing. Gone are the rocks, roots, and ruts, the erosion and washouts, and the deep muddy wallows. Instead, a smooth, firm resurfaced towpath of crushed stone dust carries visitors safely 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.

In 2021, 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). In 2023, resurfacing will continue with rehabilitation efforts focused on Allegany County. The C&O Canal towpath resurfacing efforts, with advocacy efforts supported by the Trust, have received more than \$6 million in TAP funding. We hope you've had an opportunity to enjoy this improved surface on the towpath.



## **HOLIDAY GIFTS**

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



\$110-\$180



**C&O Canal 2023 Annual Calendar** \$12.95

The C&O Canal Trust is the official non-profit partner of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Its mission is to work in partnership with the National Park Service to protect, restore, and promote this national treasure.

## TRUST PRESIDENT & CEO ROBIN ZANOTTI **ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

After more than seven years as president of the C&O Canal Trust, Robin Zanotti announced in October that she would retire in early 2023. Zanotti is participating in a year of succession planning and transition management with a succession planning team led by the Trust's Board of Directors. This is meant to ensure the change in leadership is seamless and the organization maintains its momentum in both revenue and program growth. The search for a new president and CEO of the Trust was launched by the Trust's succession planning team.

"My work with the C&O Canal Trust has been the work of a lifetime." Zanotti said. "I've been part of truly dedicated teams of board members and Trust staff collaborating to advance the Trust's mission of supporting the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Donors and volunteers alike have joined us in making this important work possible. It is rewarding to be leaving to my successor a vibrant, growing organization with a bright future."

Under Zanotti's leadership, the C&O Canal Trust has attracted philanthropic support sufficient to double its revenue and achieve

substantial organizational growth. Staff size has grown thereby enhancing the Trust's ability to engage communities in its work to preserve and protect the C&O Canal NHP.

"Robin Zanotti has been a tremendous and visionary president of the C&O Canal Trust," said Chairman of the Board of Directors John Guttmann. "She has made us a stronger organization, with greater reach and an enhanced ability to support the park as it serves its visitors. We wish her joy and happiness as she moves on to the next phase of her life."

Zanotti's 40-year career in fundraising and nonprofit executive leadership has spanned several high-level positions with West Virginia University Healthcare and Shepherd University in West Virginia, as well as St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital, Capuchin Ministries, and University Liggett School in her native Michigan. She is one of approximately 100 individuals internationally to have earned the Advanced Certified Fund Raising Executive (ACFRE) credential. Prior to joining the Trust as president in April of 2015. Zanotti ran her own business. Zanotti Nonprofit Solutions, LLC, where she

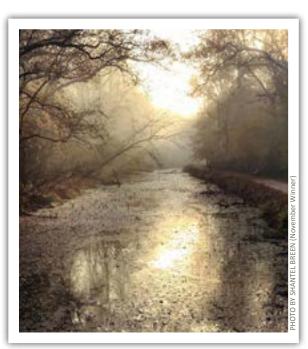


aided clients with strategy, fundraising, and management.

"It's crucial for the leader of the Trust and the superintendent of the park to have a good working relationship," said C&O Canal NHP Superintendent Tina Cappetta. "Robin and I have a synergy that will be difficult to replicate. I wish her well in her retirement and look forward to providing input to the process of selecting the individual who will lead the Trust forward as it continues to grow and support the park."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Shantel Breen and Paul Graunke for their recent winning photographs. Visit www.CanalTrust.org/PhotoContest for details on how you can enter and vote in our monthly contest!





## CANAL FOR ALL CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL SEASON





The C&O Canal Trust's Canal For All program began in 2017 with the goal of engaging young people from underrepresented communities in programs throughout the C&O Canal

This year, the program provided fun and educational programs with community partner organizations located near the Park. Program partners included the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, the Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle, Community Bridges, Girls Inc., of Washington County, PeaceJam and TeenWorks.

During the summer, more than 300 youth joined the Trust to learn outdoor skills and take part in games, crafts, hikes and tours, birdwatching, and songs at Williamsport and Four Locks.

They endured the heat on the warmest of days and dodged more than a few raindrops and thunderstorms in the afternoons.

In addition to hosting youth for programming in the park, the Trust has offered several joint events this year with Canal Stewards, including a recent trash and vegetation removal event with partner group Georgetown BID and PeaceJam American University.

We are grateful to the following grantors for the nearly \$100,000 in support of this program: Montgomery County, Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation, Pepco, the Healthier Greener Kinder Foundation, the National Park Trust/NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, and the Washington County Community Foundation Responsive Grant.

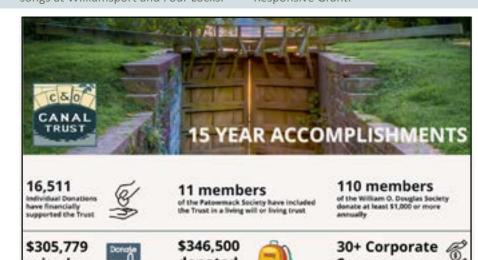
#### "Park After Dark" continued from page 1

inspiration. Daofeng and Angela's generosity has helped to fuel the Trust's growth and impact the park in numerous ways. To date, they have sponsored 50 benches in the park.

This year's Park After Dark featured entertainment by Troy Engle & Southern Skies, and food by Corcoran Caterers. Inspire Hearts Fundraising team Bobby D. Ehlert and Erin Ward were emcees for the event. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy s'mores around the campfire and approximately 35 people attended this year's night hike to the Great Falls Overlook.



Longtime Trust supporters Angela and Daofeng He, and the Daofeng & Angela Foundation, received the William O. Douglas Stewardship Award



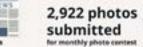
raised for Towpath Forever and Fowpath Resurfacing donated



Sponsors

benches

15,704 Canal Connection



submitted



54,338 hours ered by Canal unity Days participa

59 Canal Stewards





10,203 Canal Explorer



10 Canal Towns generating econo



7 Canal Quarters

997 Canal For All

49 states & 4 countries where guests have traveled from to stay in Canal Quarters lockhouses

30 Canal Quarters Quartermasters

## 2021-2022 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, 2021 and September 30, 2022. 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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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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The Daofeng & Angela Foundation Bench Collaboration: Mile 10.3 – Downriver from

> Carderock Mile 19.6 – Lockhouse 22 Mile 50.8 – Lockhouse 29 bge" Mile 58.1 – Weverton Mile 64.2 – Downriver from Dargan Bend

Mile 72.2 – Downriver from Lock 38 Mile 90 – Opequon Junction Campsite

Mile 100 – Upriver from Williamsport Mile 116.3 – Licking Creek Hiker Biker Campsite

Mile 137.8 – Downriver from Indigo Neck Campground

*In memory of Sam Himmelberger* Mile 50.8 – Lockhouse 29 *In memory of Karin Holtz* Mile 22.8 – Violettes Lock

*In memory of Ben Lesser* Mile 8.5 – Lock 8

*In memory of Mary Mutryn* Mile 8.9 – Between Locks 10 and 11

*In honor of Victor Schneider* Mile 14.5 – Great Falls

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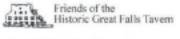


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11

10



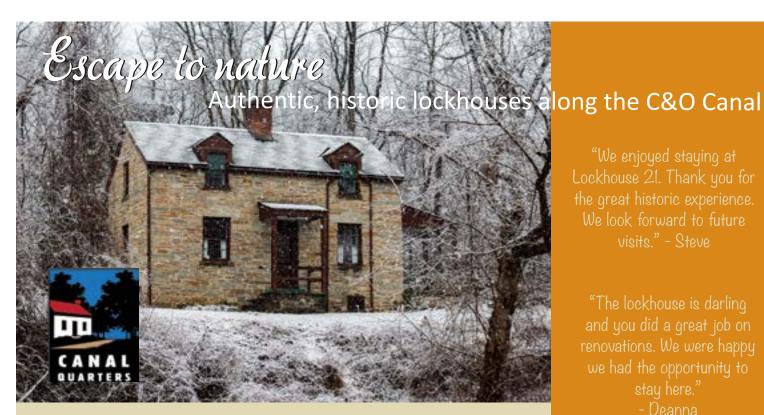
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