



THE CANAL QUARTERLY

WWW.CANALTRUST.ORG

C&O CANAL TRUST UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

Lauren Riviello Steps into Role of President and CEO

The C&O Canal Trust recently welcomed a new leader to guide its work as the official philanthropic partner of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). Lauren Riviello, an accomplished nonprofit leader with a passion for the Trust and its mission, stepped into the role of President and CEO on April 1. With her visionary leadership and desire to engage the canal community to realize the Park's historical, natural, and recreational potential, Riviello brings fresh energy and innovative strategies to advance the Trust's mission.

Riviello was named as the Trust's new leader after a year of succession planning with former President and CEO Robin Zanotti and the Board of Directors. Zanotti retired at the end of March after nearly eight years leading the Trust. She worked alongside Riviello for several months to provide a seamless transition in leadership.

"After an extensive search that included consideration of other excellent candidates, the Trust's board unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that Lauren is the right person to lead us into the future," said Chairman of the Board of Directors John Guttman.

Riviello served as the Trust's Director of Development from February 2021 to March 2023. During her tenure leading the development team, the organization steadily enhanced its fundraising efforts. When the Trust's annual Park After Dark fundraiser could not be held in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, Riviello pivoted and created Picnic in the Park, a smaller-scale event that successfully garnered support greater than the large-scale event. She also led planning efforts for Park After Dark in 2022, which celebrated the Trust's 15th anniversary and far exceeded fundraising goals.



C&O Canal Trust President & CEO Lauren Riviello

"New Leadership" continues on page 6

JOIN US FOR VIOLETTES LOCK & STROLL

When: Saturday, October 21, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Where: Seneca Creek Aqueduct
C&O Canal NHP
Poolesville, MD 20837

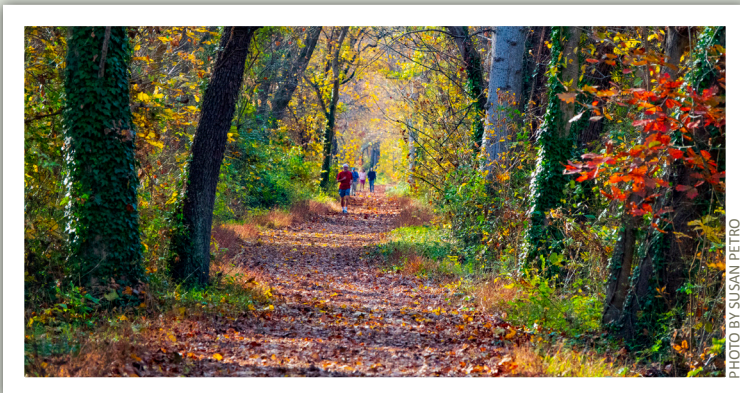
Support the C&O Canal Trust and the C&O Canal National Historical Park by participating in this fall's 5k fun run, Violettes Lock & Stroll!

This October, join the Trust and your fellow canal lovers in Poolesville, Maryland for an exciting fundraiser to support the Park. The route will start above the Seneca Creek Aqueduct at Rileys Lock, and travel upriver, across Violettes Lock and down towards Blockhouse Point. This fun run will

allow you to take in the scenic beauty of the C&O Canal during one of the most beautiful times of the year, when the Park foliage changes to brilliant shades of orange, red, and yellow. Violettes Lock & Stroll is open to all ages, and we encourage you to bring your freinds and family to join in a day of appreciation for the Park!

Following the 5k, we invite you to celebrate the completion of the fun run at Rocklands Farm Winery, a local Poolesville hotspot! Visit with C&O Canal Trust staff members and your local canal community!

Lace up your shoes, set your own pace, and join us on the towpath! Visit www.canaltrust.org/lock&stroll



Late Fall Color Explosion Near Rileys Lock

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warm early fall greetings from the C&O Canal Trust! As we conclude the busy summer season, and the first few months of my tenure as the Trust's new President & CEO, I am reflecting on the wonderful work of our staff, volunteers, partners, and NPS colleagues to help create a beautiful, safe, and welcoming experience for visitors of all ages. It is inspiring to see such a strong shared commitment to preserving and protecting our local national park.

So far this year, we have worked with over 500 volunteers to tackle critical beautification and maintenance projects along the length of the canal. Our dedicated volunteers have removed more than five tons of trash and invasive vegetation. Learn more about our public Canal Community Days events held earlier this year on page 3.

Over the summer, we worked with our community partner organizations to expand Canal For All, a program that introduces underrepresented communities to our Park's history and biodiversity. Over 300 individuals have joined us for fun and educational programs so far this year, with many more programs planned in the coming months.

I hope you will join us on Saturday, October 21 for our first Violettes Lock & Stroll 5k, and the celebratory gathering at Rocklands Farm Winery. This fun run event will be held during one of the most beautiful times of the year, when fall foliage is nearing peak colors.

Our Park is unquestionably unique, with many unique and complex challenges, and our colleagues at the National Park Service work tirelessly to keep up with its ever-growing needs. I hope that as the NPS works to preserve the C&O Canal and protect its future, we, as the Park's partner, can continue to expand our support. The next 50 years could be the most critical in the Park's history, and we are committed to ensuring its incredible resources endure.

We look forward to recognizing the wonderful support we have received this year in our annual Honor Roll of Donors, which will be published in the Winter Issue of the Canal Quarterly. Thank you for all you do to help us fulfill our mission. I hope to see you on the towpath!



Lauren Riviello, *Trust President & CEO*

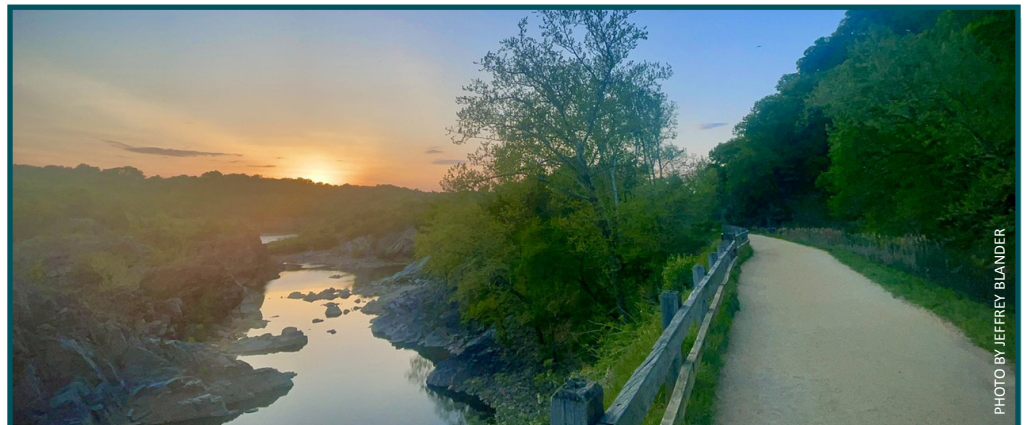


PHOTO BY JEFFREY BLANDER

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 or by check using the enclosed envelope.

CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THIS PARK SHINE

Each spring, the Trust recruits and engages hundreds of volunteers to complete a range of preservation, beautification, maintenance, and conservation projects along the C&O Canal NHP. The Trust works closely with Park staff to identify priorities and create projects for volunteers of all ages and abilities. These projects are completed during large-scale volunteer events in the four Maryland counties bordering the Park.

The 2023 Canal Community Days season kicked off at Great Falls on Earth Day, during National Park Week, and continued in Williamsport in May and Frederick County in June. The event planned for Allegany County in June was postponed due to inclement weather and was rescheduled for August 26.

“These clean-ups serve as a welcome to spring each year as our canal community

gathers together to help spruce up the Park” said Trust President and CEO Lauren Riviello. “The C&O Canal is one of the nation’s most popular parks, and we are proud to work closely with our colleagues at the National Park Service to preserve it. Visitation to the Park continues to surge, and our dedicated volunteers provide vital support at high visitor use areas.”

Collectively, 186 volunteers at the three Canal Community Days events collected over 1.5 tons of trash and invasive plants, painted 19 Park features and structures, built and re-routed trails and footpaths, planted native plants, spread 21 cubic yards of mulch, cleaned two canal boats, and washed four signs. These hard-working volunteers helped *Make This Park Shine!*



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

Volunteers clear invasive plants at Canal Community Days in Great Falls.

LOGO CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Brian Rimm, 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!



VOLUNTEER WITH THE TRUST!
www.CanalTrust.org/Volunteer

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

CANAL VISIONARY

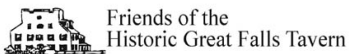


CANAL EXPLORER



CANAL TRAVELER

The Butz Foundation



CANAL PRESERVER

Clark Construction
 Guest Services
 Minkoff Development
 Walmart
 Younger Toyota

LOCKKEEPER

Community Foundation of Frederick County
 Exelon
 Potomac Community Village



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANF-SUTTIE

Volunteers landscape Lockhouse 44 with native plants during Canal Community Days in Williamsport..

CANAL FOR ALL PROGRAM EXPANDS

The C&O Canal Trust's Canal For All program works in partnership with the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP) to provide opportunities for education, stewardship, and volunteerism that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all. To foster diversity and to better reflect our community, Canal For All engages BIPOC, differently-abled, LGBTQIA+, and other underrepresented or disadvantaged communities. We partner with community organizations to diminish participation barriers and create exciting and relevant opportunities to Play, Learn, Serve, and Work in the Park.

In 2023, Canal For All has grown to serve over 300 youth and adults and will exceed that number by the end of the year. The program's impact and diversity have expanded in notable ways. Several new community organizations have partnered with the program, expanding our demographic reach to include adults with Down syndrome, LGBTQ+, and our first groups in Virginia.

New partner organizations include the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington and PALS Programs, an organization that creates inclusive camp experiences for people with and without Down syndrome. TEENS Inc., a vocational agriculture organization that provides training for at-risk youth and individuals with disabilities, and Girls Who Hike Virginia are our first Virginia-based partners.

As the Canal For All program continues to grow and evolve, its dedication to fostering inclusivity and diversity in the C&O Canal NHP stands as a beacon of progress and unity. Canal For All is expanding the canal community into a vibrant tapestry of individuals from all walks of life, united by their love for nature, history, and recreation. The Trust's commitment to diversity and community engagement is a testament to the transformative power of collaboration, and it sets an inspiring example for others to follow.



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

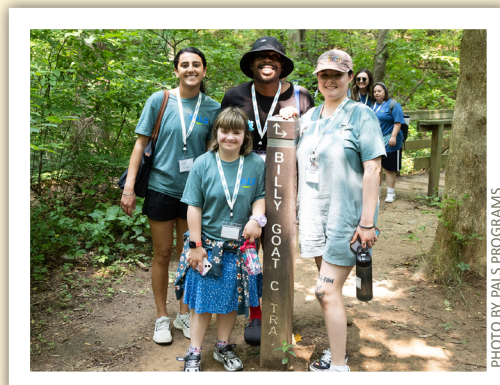


PHOTO BY PALS PROGRAMS

2023 Canal For All programming at Williamsport (top) and Carderock (bottom).

www.CanalTrust.org/programs/canal-for-all

TRUST CREATES ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE CANAL QUARTERS

The Canal Quarters interpretive program is a unique opportunity for visitors to the C&O Canal NHP to experience life like a lockkeeper while spending the night in a historic structure in the Park. While most visitors experience the lockhouses by booking an overnight stay, the Trust is increasing its efforts to share these historical treasures with a broader audience.

This year, the Trust held two Canal Quarters open houses, one at Lockhouse 49 as part of Washington County Gives and National Travel & Tourism Week. The other was at Lockhouse 25 as part of Heritage Montgomery's annual Heritage Days event. More than 100 people attended these events, getting an up-close, in-person glimpse of our Canal Quarters. The Trust also welcomed groups for special tours and programs like Smithsonian Associates and the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA).

With support through a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the Trust has also created virtual visits to Lockhouses 10 and 22 on the Trust website. While these immersive online experiences don't replace visiting these historic structures in person, they interpret the lockhouses to a broader audience. They are an excellent supplement for anyone planning to spend the night in Canal Quarters. The Trust plans to add virtual visits to other lockhouses in the program over time.

www.CanalQuarters.org

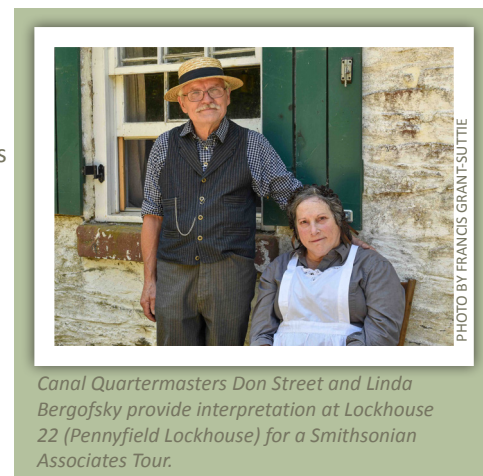


PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

Canal Quartermasters Don Street and Linda Bergofsky provide interpretation at Lockhouse 22 (Pennyfield Lockhouse) for a Smithsonian Associates Tour.



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

Travel writers and tourism professionals from MATPRA visit Lockhouse 21 (Swains Lockhouse).

C&O CANAL NHP RECEIVES STATE RECOGNITION FOR MCMAHONS MILL PROJECT

The C&O Canal NHP received the 2023 Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) award for Excellence in Historic Preservation and Sustainable Design. The award recognizes the Park's efforts to combat the impacts of flooding with long-term, sustainable solutions along a 0.9-mile stretch between McMahons Mill (mile 88) and Lock 42 (mile 89) in Williamsport, Maryland. The rehabilitated historical retaining wall and towpath ensure future generations will continue to learn and enjoy the C&O Canal in its historical context.

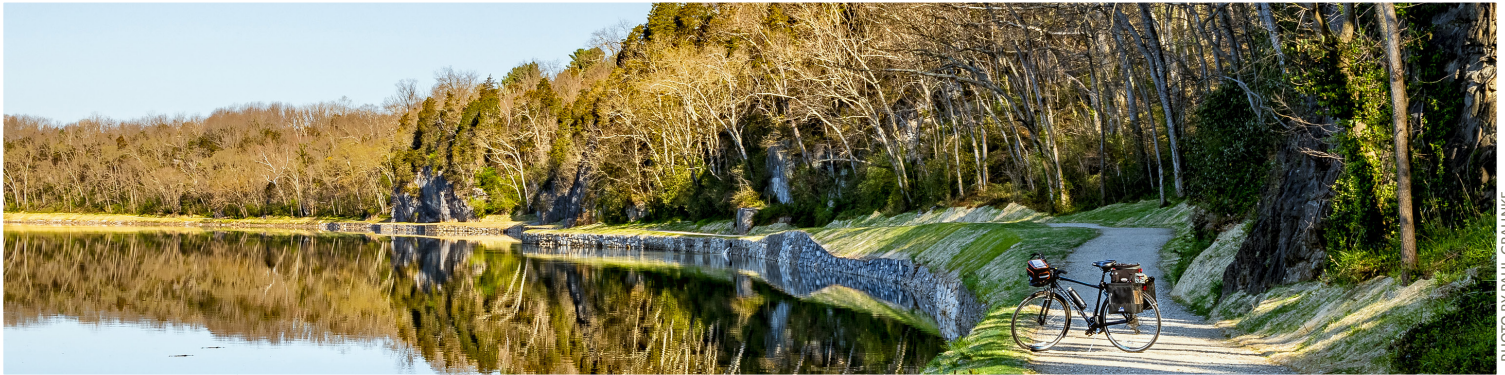
This project was the largest restoration project in modern Park history, reconstructing missing or washed-out portions of a historic stone masonry retaining wall and stabilizing the towpath, replacing drainage culverts, and removing unnecessary vegetation. To prevent flooding and reduce closures, some portions of the towpath were raised and moved farther inland. The towpath was also widened to allow for emergency and maintenance vehicles, as needed. This section of the towpath was frequently closed during flood events, due to sections that were impassable many times each year, requiring a 3-mile detour for hikers and bikers, on narrow, winding country roads.

Elizabeth Hughes, Director of the MHT, presented the award to Engineering Services Team Leader and Civil Engineer Joseph Reed on behalf of the Park, during an outdoor event at McMahons Mill on June 2. The Trust and other attendees had the opportunity to tour the McMahons Mill area and see the final results of the rehabilitation project. A digital recording of the event is available on MHT's Facebook page.

C&O CANAL MOST VISITED NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The National Park Service (NPS) 2022 Visitation Report shows that visitation to America's national parks continued to rebound toward pre-pandemic levels. NPS data shows that 38% of visitors go to parks with recreation, 32% to historical.

The C&O Canal NHP was the 16th most visited national park last year, with 4,286,185 visitors. That's more visitors than Acadia National Park (NP), Yosemite NP, Yellowstone NP, and Statue of Liberty National Monument. The C&O Canal ranked first among NPS sites with a National Historical Park designation.



View of the rehabilitated section of towpath from McMahons Mill looking upstream.

TRUST WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Grace Kearns joined the Trust as a part-time Marketing & Communications Associate in January. She is a recent graduate of Shepherd University's Communication and New Media program with a concentration in Strategic Communication.

Justin Mawdsley joined the Trust in January as a part-time Development Associate. Justin has over a decade of nonprofit management and fundraising experience.

Kalina Sweigert joined the Trust in February 2023 as a Development Associate. She has eight years of experience in grant management, nonprofit fundraising, event planning, and program administration.

Robyn Sumner joined the Trust as the Director of Development in April, stepping into the role left vacant when Lauren Riviello became the President and CEO. Robyn was most recently the Executive Director for the Washington County Historical Society in Hagerstown.

Becky McCarty joined the Trust in May of 2023 in the newly created Program Associate position that oversees the Canal For All and Canal Stewards programs. She began her career as an intern for the C&O Canal NHP, where she was an assistant volunteer coordinator.

Emma Horne joined the Trust in August of 2023 as a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps intern that will support the Programs team. She is a recent graduate of Salisbury University with a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Strategic Communications.

MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Nicholas Clements, Timothy Bates, and Katie Rapp 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 NICHOLAS CLEMENTS (May winner)



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY BATES (June winner)

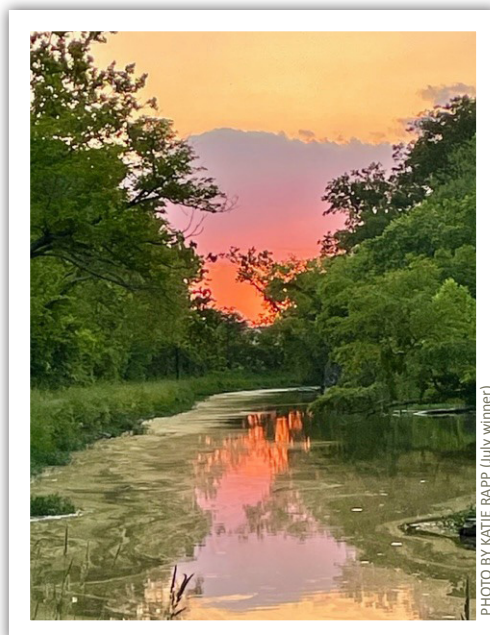


PHOTO BY KATIE RAPP (July winner)

"New Leadership" continued from page 1

Under Riviello's leadership, funding for the Canal For All program stabilized. She expanded the capacity and size of the development team.

A native of Shepherdstown, West Va., Riviello worked at the Brookline Arts Center (BAC) in Massachusetts before returning to the area. She held several different roles at BAC, including Assistant Director, Director of Operations, and Executive Director. Prior to joining BAC, she served as the managing Director of Gallery 263, also in Massachusetts. Riviello 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 lives in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia with her husband and daughter.

"I look forward to continuing to engage with the communities surrounding the canal and all of the visitors who share similar connections to their own special places in the Park," Riviello said. "I don't believe it's an everyday occurrence to really connect with others over "place". I feel quite privileged to

spend the majority of my days doing my part to preserve and protect this local national treasure."

Riviello's appointment as President and CEO of the Trust ushers in an exciting chapter for the organization. Under her guidance, the organization is poised to thrive and strengthen its partnership with the C&O Canal NHP. As Riviello sets out to engage with the canal community, cultivate partnerships, and broaden support for the Park, the future of the Trust appears brighter than ever.

C&O CANAL NHP CONTINUES IMPORTANT WORK TO PROTECT RARE PLANTS

Trust's C&O Canal Biodiversity Campaign Raises Funds to Support These Efforts

The C&O Canal NHP is focused on the long-term conservation of rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) plant species throughout the Park. Its comprehensive strategy to conserve these plants includes identification, monitoring, habitat protection, seed collection, plant propagation, and establishing new populations of RTE species in unique habitat niches in the Park. That strategy has recently come full circle as the first several hundred plants from five species of RTE plants, processed and propagated from collected seeds, have been outplanted into appropriate habitats in the Park.

Since the creation of the C&O Canal NHP in 1971, over 1,500 plant species have been identified. More than 200 RTE plant species have been recorded, some of which are globally rare and unique, however, that number appears to be dwindling, and many species are likely now locally extinct. Invasive non-native plants, regional urbanization, surging visitation, and climate change have all taken their toll on the fragile habitats that make such diversity possible. The C&O Canal NHP has faced additional challenges as a result of ongoing shortfalls in the National Park Service operating budget. Through the generosity of over 70 individual donors, the C&O Canal Trust has assisted with funding this critical biodiversity initiative since 2020.

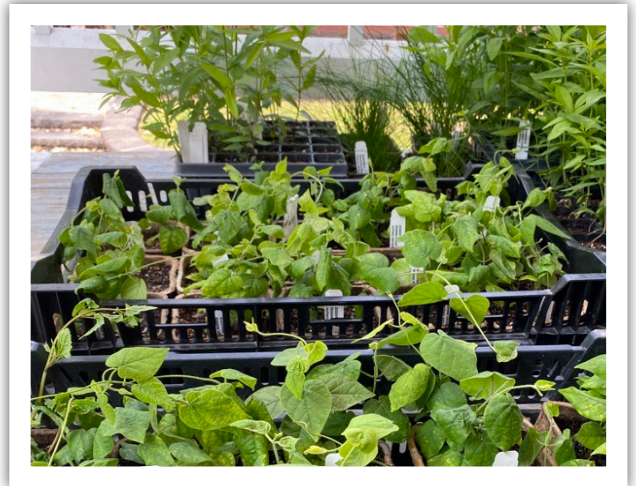
A Unique Partnership with Mt. Cuba Center

While the C&O Canal Trust has been a philanthropic partner to help fund conservation efforts, Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Del., has been an important partner in propagating seeds of RTE plant populations collected in the Park. The nonprofit botanical garden maintains an extensive collection of trillium and ongoing research programs dedicated to the conservation of the plant. Mt. Cuba Center partnered with the C&O Canal NHP when trying to expand its trillium collection to include snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*), a highly state-rare endangered plant species in the Park.

Snow trillium connected Mt. Cuba Center and the Park, and eventually, conversations began about Mt. Cuba Center propagating rare plants from the Park in their greenhouses. Resources staff collected 16,000 seeds from 16 different RTE plant species in 2022 and sent those to Mt. Cuba Center for processing and propagation. The Park received several hundred plants from five RTE plant species in May of 2023, and those plants were outplanted into appropriate habitats in the Park, primarily in the Potomac Gorge area. Those species included tall tickseed (*Coreopsis tripteris*), limerock milkvine (*Matelea obliqua*), smooth rock skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*), largeflower valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*), and flatstem spikerush (*Eleocharis compressa*).

More outplantings from the 11 remaining RTE species will be done throughout the growing season as plants mature and are available from Mt. Cuba Center. So far in 2023, seeds from five additional species have been collected, which include harbinger of spring (*Eriogenia bulbosa*), Carey's sedge (*Carex caryana*), eastern leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), white trout lily (*Erythronium albidum*), and eastern shooting star (*Primula media*). Collection

from additional species is planned as plants produce fruits and seeds throughout the growing season.

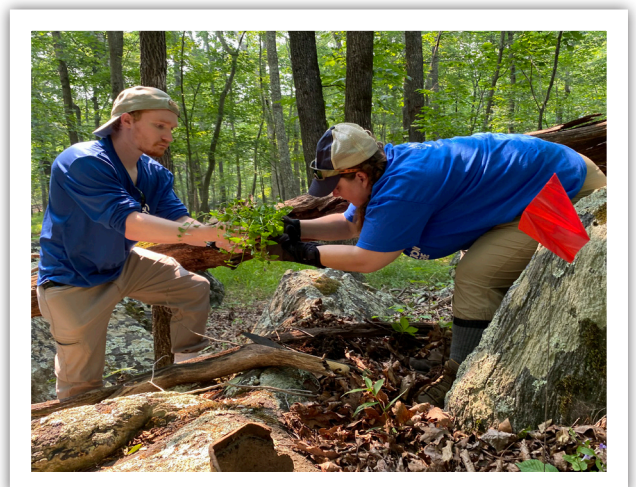


Propagated material received from Mt. Cuba Center in May. Photo by C&O Canal NHP/NPS.

Park resources staff are also exploring the effects of invasive species on RTE plant species. The Park is implementing a comprehensive plan for the removal of invasives that are putting RTE plants at risk. In addition to their important work in the field, Resources staff have been educating various groups about RTE plants and invasives, including Trust Canal for All groups.

The C&O Canal Trust launched the C&O Canal Biodiversity Campaign in 2022, with the goal of raising \$75,000 in 2022 and 2023. Due to overwhelming support for the project from our canal community, the Trust raised \$130,000. Make a gift today, and ensure the C&O Canal NHP is able to continue work to help protect this national biodiversity treasure. Together we can make a difference and help the Park conserve these plants for future generations.

For more information, please contact Director of Development Robyn Sumner, at sumner@canaltrust.org.



Student Conservation Association interns planting smooth rock skullcap at a site in the Potomac Gorge area. Photo by C&O Canal NHP/NPS.



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 today!



Enjoy A Unique Getaway
Authentic, historic lockhouses along the C&O Canal

BOOK YOUR STAY NOW: www.CanalQuarters.org

“My family and I stayed at Lockhouse 28 last summer. We left with some memories and stories that were unforgettable—so fun!”

- Jeffrey

