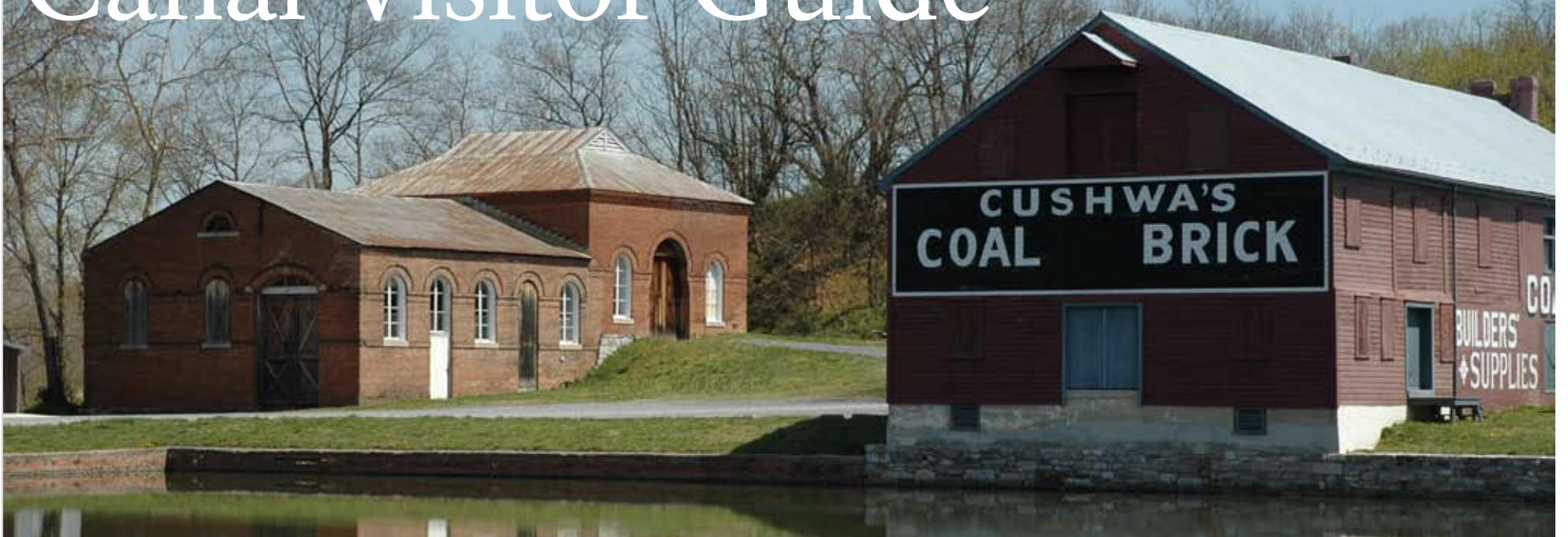




# Canal Visitor Guide

The official newspaper  
C&O Canal National Historical Park



## A Gift to the Nation

“The Canal Era also created canals of drama and beauty, which can be only partially glimpsed today. Across them moved a mass of humanity, on cargo boats that carried freight and packet boats carrying passengers. They brought the bustle of the canal basin and new excitement to isolated rural settlements. The long lines of canals now drawn on our maps and the canal structures that are still preserved today are but the skeletal remains of a once vital dimension of American life.” (from *Canals for A Nation*)

To understand the full ramification of the Canal Era, consider the thousands of miles of waterways that were constructed and operated by an innovative generation who made canals central to their lives. American canals were magnificent achievements of engineering and construction, often in nearly impossible terrain. The engineers who struggled to build the first American canals faced the simple, yet difficult problems: how to take an accurate level; how to dig a canal channel and remove the earth most efficiently; how best to cut through tree roots; how to use blasting powder to remove rock; to design lock gates, to create locks and gates that could be operated easily by hand. Engineers who learned these skills went from state to state bringing their expertise with them as new canals were built. Immigrant laborers endured disease and brutal conditions carrying out the arduous work necessary to dig the canals. These engineers and laborers persevered through many difficulties, building thousands of miles of canals and starting a transportation revolution.

The National Canal Museum and the C&O Canal National Historical Park give visitors a unique opportunity to experience the marvel of canal engineering and achievement first-hand through a new traveling exhibit now on display at the Trolley Barn in Williamsport, Maryland. “Building America’s Canals” blends history and science through hands-on activities that put you, the visitor, in the role of canal engineer. Activities are fun for adults and children alike, and provide a chance to build a canal, construct your own aqueduct using 2000-year old technology, test yourself on designing and operating locks, explore the science behind suspension bridges, and operate cranes used to load and unload everything from coal to mules! Each activity is accompanied by exhibits that provide historical background about canal engineering and how it related to particular canals in the United States. The exhibit opens April 17 and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October 12, 2008. Admission is free.

It is perhaps fitting that the exhibit is on display at the Williamsport facility, because of the role Williamsport played as a quintessential canal town. Transportation along the canal brought commerce, trade, and growing prosperity to the town.



“Build Your Own Canal” is just one of the many exhibits featured as part of the traveling exhibit from The National Canal Museum. Located in Easton, Pennsylvania, the museum is the only one in the country dedicated to telling the story of America’s historic towpath canals. The museum features four galleries filled with hands-on exhibits that educate and entertain parents and children alike.

Nowhere else on the canal, can one experience the wonders of canal engineering and history that once thrived at the Cushwa Basin in Williamsport. In the span of a half mile, many original structures are preserved for visitors to explore in person – the Cushwa Warehouse used for storing and transporting coal, the Concocheague Aqueduct, the lift bridge where railroad and canal intersected and allowed for travel on both, Lock 44 and its accompanying lockhouse. Williamsport is undergoing its own renaissance as the National Park Service takes steps towards restoring these structures. Work has already begun on restoration of the railroad lift bridge so that it can be made operational again – part of a larger plan that will restore the historical landscape along this ½ mile watered section.

George Washington envisioned a transportation route that would transform America – he thought of it as his “gift to the nation.” Though the canal while in operation did not fulfill Washington’s dream as a cornerstone of commerce and empire, the preservation of its history as a national park and the renaissance of Williamsport now taking shape perhaps do fulfill a different kind of dream. And perhaps, it has become a gift to the nation after all – for the fortunate visitors who dare to walk the towpath retracing the steps of all those who have gone before.

## Welcome From the Superintendent

Spring and summer not only bring a change of seasons to the flora and fauna of the canal towpath, but changes for our park as well. 2008 is a great time to visit the C&O Canal with plenty to see and do from Georgetown to Cumberland.

Georgetown will be offering historic walking tours focusing on a variety of topics from civil war to Hollywood. If you haven’t ridden one of our canal boats, this year is the time to take advantage of special themed canal boat tours with music and storytelling.

Williamsport is undergoing its own renaissance as work begins on restoration of the lift bridge and we welcome the Building America’s Canals traveling exhibit from the National Canal Museum. This exhibit offers hands-on activities that are fun for the whole family.

Of course, no visit to the canal would be complete without exploring the western end of the park. The Paw Paw Tunnel offers you a chance to see up close the most unique engineering marvel on the C&O Canal. Tours are offered every weekend at 2 p.m.

Recreational opportunities abound for visitors that make even a short visit -- fishing, boating, hiking, and biking -- to name just a few opportunities. Please remember that summers can be hot, and to bring extra water wherever you go, and be safe whatever you do.

See you out on the towpath!

Kevin Brandt  
Superintendent

## What’s Inside:

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

C&O Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, MD 21740



# Five Ways to Enjoy the Canal

## Take A Hike!

The canal towpath is an ideal place to enjoy a moment of solitude and enjoy nature and wildlife along the Potomac River. You can take a short hike or walk the entire 184.5 miles from Georgetown to Cumberland. Challenge yourself by scrambling over the rocks on the Billy Goat Trail while taking in some magnificent views of the Potomac Gorge. Great Falls visitor center has maps of the Great Falls hiking trails. Park maps of the towpath are available at all visitor centers. Please be advised to bring water, wear sturdy footwear and be prepared for changing weather conditions.



## Pedal the Path!

Biking the towpath is one of the most popular methods of enjoying the C&O Canal. In general, the towpath is an even, hard-packed dirt trail ideal for biking. A towpath detour is in effect at Big Slackwater (mile 84.5 to mile 88.1). To obtain more information and a map, please contact your local visitor center.

Bicyclists must follow park and state regulations while riding in the park. These include yielding the right-of-way to all pedestrians, horses and mules; wearing helmets for children under 16; groups riding in single file; and observing a 15 mph speed limit.



## Row, Row, Row Your Boat (or ride one!)

To really experience living history on the canal, we encourage visitors to ride one of our replica canal boats (see Page 2).

However, other boating opportunities are available as well. The first 22 miles of the canal from Georgetown to Great Falls are usually watered and provide an excellent place to canoe or kayak in gentle waters. There are also watered sections at Williamsport, Big Pool, Hancock, Little Pool and Oldtown. Gasoline and propane motorized vehicles are prohibited within the park. In addition, there are several parking areas located along the canal that provide boat ramp access to the Potomac River. Personal Floation Devices are required by the state of Maryland.



## Become a Volunteer!

Warm weather means plenty of opportunities to give back to the park. Volunteer opportunities are plentiful in all locations along the park. Have you always yearned to be a star in the theater -- become a living history volunteer working on our canal boats this summer! Openings are available at both Great Falls and Georgetown. All training and costumes are provided.

Or does the towpath make you yearn to get out on a bike? Our volunteer bike patrol rides the towpath providing orientation to visitors and assisting with bike repairs and minor first aid.

If you're a people person, we are always looking for knowledgeable, friendly people to engage our visitors at our visitor centers.

You will be rewarded by meeting people from all walks of life and helping make their experience a memorable one as they visit our park.

For more information, please contact our park Volunteer Coordinator at 301-714-2218 or visit our website, <http://www.nps.gov/choh/supportourpark>.

## Sleep Under the Stars!

There are a multitude of opportunities for camping along the C&O Canal. Drive-in car camping sites are located at Antietam Creek, McCoy's Ferry, Fifteen-mile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel and Spring Gap. Sites are first-come, first-serve at a fee of \$10 per night per site. Sites are limited to 8 people per site. Group sites are also available at McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw and Spring Gap for \$20 per night with a maximum of 35 people per site.

The park offers free hiker-biker campsites along the towpath every 5-7 miles. These sites are limited to one night. Groups may share sites as space allows.

All sites include a chemical toilet, picnic table and grill as well as drinking water (available mid-April through mid-November). **Due to a infestation by beetles, a park-wide ban is in effect on bringing your own firewood.** Campers may collect dead and down wood.

## Resource Management: The Eagle Has Landed

Visitors to the C&O Canal may enjoy a special treat while wandering the towpath – a large bird soaring through the sky with its tell-tale white head and tail feathers. More bald eagles are making their homes along the Potomac River and with each passing year, they are appearing further westward along the C&O Canal. Pairs have been sited as far west as Shepherdstown, West Virginia nesting in barren trees. As a result, more visitors are getting a glimpse of the animal that represents our nation's symbol of freedom. Once considered an "endangered species", eagles are making a comeback all over the country.

The significant increase in the eagle population is primarily due to the ban on the pesticide, Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane, and the expansion of protected environments for eagles. DDT was used extensively in the United States prior to the 1970s to prevent malaria and for agricultural uses. However, through studies by wildlife biologists, it was found that DDT was extremely damaging to eagle populations. DDT caused the eagles to lay thin-shelled eggs, which then cracked after the eagles incubated them. Cracked eggs produced no offspring. At one point, there were fewer than 500 pairs of bald eagles left in the U.S.

After DDT was banned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1973, eagles started to nest more successfully. Today, there are over 2,000 nesting bald eagles in the state of Maryland and over 7,000 pairs in the United States. They have now been



removed from the "Endangered" species list. Though a large portion of Maryland's eagle population nest around the Chesapeake Bay, several pairs are now making their homes along the Potomac River, within the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Spring can be an ideal time to spot bald eagles because of their large size and the lack of foliage in the trees where they nest. The eagle population actually increases along the Potomac River in spring, because migrating birds from Canada and New England make their home here during the winter months. During winter, eagles court and mate, and in March

they lay anywhere from one to three eggs and begin incubating. Young eagles hatch sometime in April, where they remain for 12 weeks. By June, the eaglets have begun flying on their own, with the ability to hunt for food on their own is mastered by August.

Bald eagles traditionally nest in large trees, either pines or hardwoods, usually at the edge of a wooded area near water. They build their nests where they have easy access, since their large size and wingspan make it difficult to fly through forested areas. Bald eagles usually build their nests in the uppermost crotch of tall trees and add nesting material to their nests each year. One Maryland nest which was used for over thirty years reportedly weighed 3,000 pounds!

The characteristic that makes eagles easy to identify from other large birds is the distinctive white feather head and tail. Their talons and bill are yellow and their bodies are usually dark brown. Though immature eagles are essentially the same size, they are dark brown in color, including their heads and tails.

This spring, consider a walk on the towpath somewhere in between Washington, DC and Williamsport. All you need to check out this majestic bird first-hand is some patience, persistence, and good pair of binoculars. Once you've seen the eagle perched or soaring above the river, you will understand why President Reagan said, "... to glimpse this majestic raptor, is to understand why the Founding Fathers chose it to represent the strength and courage of our great nation."



# Park Map and Special Events

## Cumberland

Saturday, July 12 -- CanalFest/RailFest  
Festivities at the Cumberland Terminus area include ranger programs and a visit with the mule.

## Oldtown

Saturday, May 31 -- Fishing Rodeo  
Fishing fun for kids 15 & under -- food and prizes awarded.  
Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29  
Oldtown Summer Fest  
Annual celebration with ranger talks and tours of Lockhouse 70

## Hancock

Saturday, June 7 -- Barge Bash  
Watch theme-based barges race down the canal.  
Race begins at 3 p.m. with activities and fireworks following in Widmeyer Park.  
Saturday-Sunday, September 13-14  
Hancock Apple Days Celebration  
Celebrate Hancock's Heritage at Widmeyer Park with a parade, crafts, food and exhibits.



## Williamsport

Saturday, June 7 -- 12th Annual Fishing Fun Contest  
Fishing derby for kids 15 and under -- fishing, food, fun and prizes awarded for 3 different age groups.  
Saturday-Sunday, August 23-24  
Williamsport Canal Days  
Celebrate Williamsport's heritage at Cushwa Basin and Byron Park with ranger programs, music, arts and crafts and food.

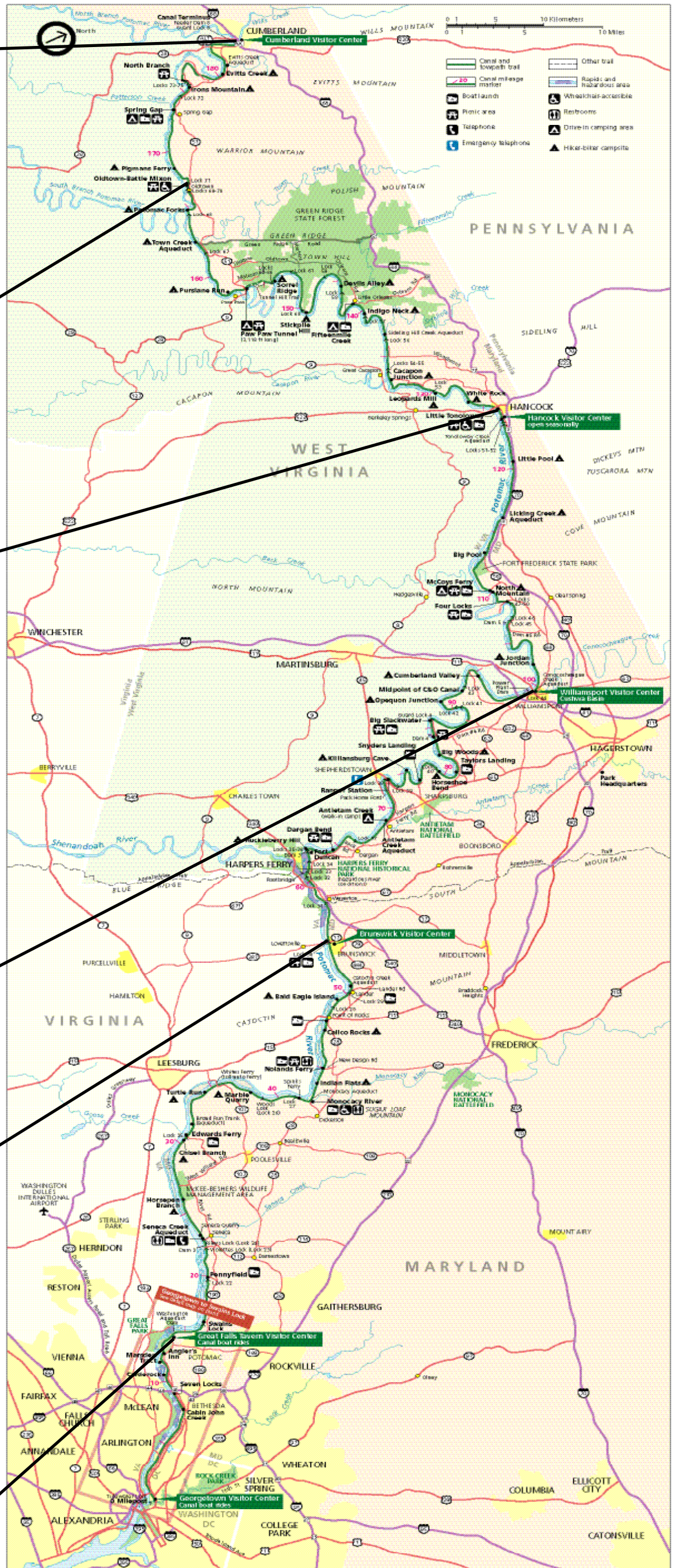
## Brunswick

Saturday-Sunday, October 4-5 -- Railroad Days  
Celebrate Brunswick's railroad heritage -- activities include model railroad displays, music, ranger programs, arts and crafts, and food.



## Great Falls

September 13-14 -- Civil War Encampment  
Experience demonstrations and living history of the civil war era by a regiment of the Union Army.  
Saturday, October 18  
Life and Death on the C&O Canal  
Experience lore and legend of the C&O Canal through a series of skits during this 1-mile lantern lit tour along the canal. Fee charged, tickets required.





# Park Programs and Services

## Park Fees:

The Great Falls area charges an entrance fee of \$5/car, \$3/cyclist/walker. Fees for commercial vehicles vary according to size of vehicles and number of passengers. Fees are good for three days. All other access points to the park are free.

Canal boat rides last one hour and cost \$4/person, children 4 & under free. The cost for school groups is \$4/student. Regularly scheduled programs are free. Additional programs and events may be offered seasonally -- please check local visitor centers for more information.

## Education Programs:

Ranger-led education programs are available at Georgetown, Great Falls, Williamsport and Cumberland. Please contact the local visitor centers to make reservations and get more information. Except for canal boat rides, all programs are free.

<b>Georgetown</b>		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Visitor Center, 202-653-5190</b> 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Boat ride tickets, orientation and information.	<b>April 5-October 26</b>			●	●	●	●	●
<b>Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides</b> - \$ (fee charged, see above) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. <b>April 3 - April 20</b>			●					●
<b>11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.</b> Experience living history while traveling up the canal, locking through lift locks during this 1-hour boat ride. Theme boat rides available on weekends only at 11 a.m. Topics include music, storytelling, civil war, and family life. Please inquire at visitor center for more information.	<b>April 20 - October 31</b>		●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Georgetown Walking Tours</b> 12:15 p.m. Join a park ranger for a walking tour of historic Georgetown. Topics vary each weekend and range from canal history to civil war to hollywood! Tours last from 1-2.5 hours in length. Please inquire at visitor center for more information. During April and October, tours are offered on Sundays only.	<b>May 3 - September 27</b>						●	●
<b>Great Falls</b>								
<b>Visitor Center, 301-767-3714</b> 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Boat ride tickets, orientation and information.		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides</b> - \$ (fee charged, see above) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. <b>April 3 - April 20</b>					●	●	●	
<b>11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.</b> Experience living history while traveling up the canal, locking through lift locks during this 1-hour boat ride. Theme boat rides available on weekends only at 11 a.m. Topics include music, storytelling, civil war, and family life. Please inquire at visitor center for more information.	<b>April 20 - October 31</b>		●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Hike of the Week</b> 12:30 p.m. Join a park ranger to explore the Great Falls area in greater depth. Topics include geology, mining history, and the Great Falls itself. Length varies from 1.5 - 3.5 hours. Inquire at visitor center for more information.	<b>April 5 - September 20</b>						●	
<b>Riley's Lockhouse</b> Join volunteers in period costume for a guided tour of one of C&O Canal's original lockhouses and explore the life of a lock-keeper in greater depth.							●	
<b>Bike Ride of the Month</b> 12:30 p.m. Join a park ranger for a guided bike ride exploring the eastern end of the C&O Canal Towpath. Rides last 3 hours and are on Sundays on the following dates: <b>April 13, May 18, June 8, June 29, July 13, July 27, and August 10.</b> Call the visitor center for more information.	<b>April - August</b>							●
<b>Brunswick</b>								
<b>Visitor Center, 301-834-7100</b> Open Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. An inter-agency visitor center with the Brunswick Railroad Museum. Park information, orientation and exhibits on the canal.						●	●	●
<b>Lander Lockhouse Open House</b> 2-4 p.m. Join a park volunteer for a glimpse at life as a locktender.	<b>April 19 - October 18</b>							●

# Williamsport

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Visitor Center, 301-582-0813</b> <b>9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</b> Museum, orientation, exhibits, and information. Effective October 14, the visitor center will be closed Monday-Tuesday for winter season.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Fact or Fiction: Stories of the C&amp;O Canal</b> <b>12 p.m.</b> <b>May 26 - September 1</b> Join a ranger for a 30-minute story about the C&O Canal and learn about history of the canal within the Williamsport Area. Meet at the Building America's Canals Exhibit in the Trolley Barn building.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Lock Demonstration</b> <b>May 24 - September 27</b> Join a ranger in historic Harpers Ferry at the program meeting area directly across from the bookstore in lower town for a 1-hour walk along the canal.						●	●
<b>Ferry Hill Plantation Open House</b> <b>12:00 - 4:00 p.m.</b> <b>May 26-September 1</b> Tour historic Ferry Hill plantation, and learn about the struggles of the families who lived there and how the civil war played into those struggles.						●	●
<b>Travel the Towpath</b> <b>12 p.m.</b> <b>May 28 - September 7</b> Join a ranger in historic Harpers Ferry for a look back at life on the canal. This 1-hour walking tour meets at the program area in lower town across from the bookstore.	●				●	●	●
<b>Canal Bike Ride with a Ranger</b> <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b> <b>June 5 - September 27</b> <b>1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month</b> Join a bike ranger for a guided bike ride of the canal exploring civil war history and canal history while enjoying the sights and sounds of the seasons..						●	

# Hancock

<b>Visitor Center, 301-678-5463</b> <b>9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>Open May 23 - October 26</b> Museum, orientation, exhibits, and information.	●	●			●	●	●
<b>Four Locks Walking Tour</b> <b>1 p.m.</b> <b>May 25 - September 21</b> Join a ranger to explore a community that developed and flourished during the heyday of the canal operation.							●
<b>McCoys Ferry Campfire</b> <b>7:30 p.m.</b> <b>May 25 - September 27</b> <b>2nd and 4th Saturdays of the Month</b> Join a ranger for an evening of fun as we gather around the campfire. Explore stories of the lore and legend of the C&O Canal.						●	

# Cumberland

<b>Visitor Center, 301-722-8226</b> <b>9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b> Museum, exhibits, and information on the canal and Allegany County.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Locktender's Life</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>May 24 - August 30</b> Learn more about the day-to-day life of the men and women who "tended" the locks along the C&O Canal. Location varies -- meets at either Lockhouse 70 (5/24, 6/7, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9 and 8/23) or Lockhouse 75 (5/31, 6/14, 6/21, 7/5, 7/19, 8/2, 8/16, 8/30). Please call the visitor center for more information.						●	●
<b>Paw Paw Tunnel Tour</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> <b>May 24 - August 31</b> Join a ranger for a guided walk through this 3,118 foot tunnel. Bring a flashlight and sturdy walking shoes for this one-hour tour of about two miles in length. Meet at the upstream side of the tunnel, a ten minute walk from the parking area.						●	●
<b>Cumberland Basin Walk/Talks</b> <b>3:15 p.m.</b> <b>May 27 - September 2</b> Join a ranger for a guided walking tour of the historic end of the C&O Canal, and learn about boat building and cargo transfer. Meet at the mule sculpture on the plaza.						●	●
<b>Lockhouse 75 Open House</b> <b>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</b> <b>May 24 - September 1</b> Tour the westernmost lockhouse on the C&O Canal, exploring the life as a locktender with an opportunity to see another side of life on the canal.						●	●
<b>Lockhouse 70 Open House</b> <b>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</b> <b>May 24 - August 31</b> Learn more about the C&O Canal and the rich history of Oldtown, Maryland.						●	●
<b>The Cumberland</b> <b>12:30 - 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>May 24 - September 20</b> Tour a replica canal boat, exploring the mule stable, hay house and captain's cabin.				●	●	●	●

# Recreational Guide by Milepost

Bike Repairs/Rental	Food	Car Camping -- Fee Charged
Boat Ramp	Groceries	Visitor Center
Canoe/Kayak Ramp	Parking	Restrooms
Boat Rental	Picnic Table	Lodging
Fee Charged	Tent Camping only	

**Note: Commercial services are subject to change at any time.**

0.1 Thompson Boat House 	26.1 Horsepen Branch 	62.9 Huckleberry Hill 	101.2 Jordan Junction 	144.5 Devils Alley 
0.4 Georgetown 	27.2 Sycamore Landing 	64.9 Dargan Bend 	106.8 Dam 5 	149.4 Stickpile Hill 
3.1 Fletchers Cove 	30.5 Chisel Branch 	69.6 Antietam Creek 	109.0 Four Locks 	154.1 Sorrel Ridge 
5.4 Lock 6 	30.8 Edward's Ferry 	72.7 Lock 38 / Shepherdstown, WV 	110.0 North Mountain 	156.1 Paw Paw 
6.5 Sycamore Island 	34.4 Turtle Run 	75.2 Killiansburg Cave 	110.4 McCoys Ferry 	157.4 Purslane Run 
7.0 Lock 7/Glen Echo 	35.5 Whites Ferry 	76.6 Snyders Landing 	112.4 Fort Frederick State Park 	162.1 Town Creek 
8.3 Lock 8/Seven Locks 	38.2 Marble Quarry 	79.2 Horseshoe Bend 	113.8 Big Pool 	164.8 Potomac Forks 
8.8 Lock 10/Seven Locks 	42.2 Monocacy Aqueduct 	80.9 Taylors Landing 	116.0 Licking Creek Aqueduct 	166.7 Oldtown/Battie-Mixon 
10.5 Carderock 	42.5 Indian Flats 	82.7 Big Woods 	120.6 Little Pool 	169.1 Pigmans Ferry 
11.0 Marsden Tract – group campground permit required. Parking 0.5 mile downstream at Carderock. 	44.6 Nolands Ferry 	84.4 Dam 4 	124.5 Little Tonoloway/Hancock 	173.3 Spring Gap 
12.2 Anglers Inn 	48.2 Point of Rocks 	85.5 Big Slackwater 	126.4 White Rock 	175.3 Irons Mountain 
14.3 Great Falls 	50.3 Bald Eagle Island 	88.1 McMahons Mill 	129.9 Leopards Mill 	175.5 Lock 75/North Branch 
16.6 Lock 51/Swains Lock 	50.8 Lock 29/Lander 	90.9 Opequon Junction 	130.7 Cohill Station 	180.1 Evitts Creek 
19.6 Lock 22/Pennyfield Lock 	55.0 Brunswick 	95.2 Cumberland Valley 	133.6 Cacapon Junction 	184.5 Cumberland / Canal Terminus 
22.1 Lock 23/Violette's Lock 	60.8 Harpers Ferry 	99.2 Lock 44 	139.2 Indigo Neck 	140.9 Fifteenmile Creek 
22.8 Seneca 		99.8 Williamsport 		

## Know Before You Go

**A**void the worst. Put Safety First! We want all our visitors to have a safe and memorable visit to the C&O Canal National Historical Park. By keeping in mind the following regulations, you will help preserve our park and keep yourself safe at the same time. If you do encounter an emergency at any time, please call 1-866-677-6677 or 911.

- Please take your trash with you. We are a trash-free park. Trash bags are provided at dispensers located throughout the park.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Please do not remove artifacts or natural items from the park.
- Children under 16 must wear bike helmets while riding; we encourage adults to do so as well. Bicyclists must observe a speed limit of 15 mph while riding the towpath. Bells are recommended.
- Dogs are welcome on the towpath, but must be on a leash at all times. Dogs are not permitted on the Billy Goat Trail, Section A or on the overlook trail to Great Falls.
- Camp in designated areas only. **Do not bring firewood with you for camping -- a park-wide ban is in effect due to infestation of ash-borer beetles. Dead and downed wood may be collected for fires.**
- Do not operate motorized vehicles on the towpath.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages in the park.



# Friends of the Park

## C&O Canal Trust

The C&O Canal Trust was founded in early 2007 to bring the resources of the community -- its energy, expertise, and economic might -- to the task of protecting, restoring, and promoting the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The Trust recognizes we all have an obligation to ensure that the park's natural, historic, and recreational qualities are available for future generations to enjoy. The Trust's strategy is not to replicate that which the National Park Service should be doing, but rather to work in partnership with park staff to complement and expand their efforts. Through a combination of volunteerism, community outreach, education, fundraising, and hands-on restoration, the C&O Canal Trust is working



to reclaim one of America's premier national parks. The C&O Canal Trust believes that bold thinking and fresh ideas are needed if the canal is going to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Perhaps this will take the form of restoring the canal system between Seneca and Georgetown, complete with operating locks and boat traffic. Or maybe one of the signature projects will be refurbishing the 27 remaining lockhouses to create a "hut-to-hut" system to accommodate overnight stays along the 184.5-mile towpath. The choices are unlimited. Restoration and revitalization of the C&O Canal can be this generation's legacy for the ages. For more information on how to get involved, visit their website at <http://www.canaltrust.org>.

## C&O Canal Association

The C&O Canal Association is a citizens association concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin. The Association supports the National Park Service in its efforts to preserve and promote the 184.5 mile towpath and the open spaces within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Membership is open to all.

Association activities include hikes, bike and canoe trips, a level walkers program, and special projects to support park activities. The Association provides opportunities for fellowship and education as well. Members receive a quarterly newsletter.

For more information about the C&O Canal Association, activities, and special projects, visit the [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org) or call 301-983-0825.

### C&O Canal Association Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Rates (circle rate):

Individual \$15 Family \$20 Patron \$25

My C&O Canal Association badge should bear this name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second badge name (Patron or Family Membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
C&O Canal Association  
P.O. Box 366



Serving the Visitors to America's National Parks and Other Public Trusts

Since 1947, Eastern National has been a proud partner to the national parks which currently partners with over 150 national parks and public trusts and has donated over \$70 million to the National Park Service through the years. Eastern National is dedicated to helping visitors find the information, materials, and experiences they need to fully understand and appreciate the legacy of the places they will visit.

We encourage you to become a member of Eastern National and help support their programs. Membership costs \$25 per year and the net proceeds from Eastern National bookstores are donated directly to the National Park Service. Members receive a 15% discount on purchases made at any of their bookstore locations. Many other NPS cooperating associations throughout the United States honor a similar discount to Eastern members. Please visit their website at <http://www.eparks.org>.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Preserving America's colorful canal era and transportation history, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park is 184.5 miles of adventure. Originally, the C&O Canal was a lifeline for communities and businesses along the Potomac River as coal, lumber, grain and other agricultural products floated down the canal to market. Today millions of visitors hike or bike the C&O Canal each year to enjoy the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities available.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## Volunteers-in-the-Parks: Volunteer Spirit Brings New Life to Lockhouses

Visitors to the C & O Canal National Historical Park are frequently surprised and intrigued to discover that several of the historic locktenders homes along the canal are open to the public, giving them a glimpse into the past and to life along the shipping waterway. These lockhouses are generally open weekends Spring to Fall thanks to the efforts of volunteers and park partners.

Lockhouse 6, located at Lock 8 near Cabin John, was not in prime shape when the Potomac Conservancy partnered with the park in 2003 to restore the lockhouse. Today the lockhouse is used for education programs and is open to the general public weekends May to October and for special tours at other times.

Riley's Lockhouse at Lock 24, Seneca, has been open for visitors since 1975 when the Bethesda Girl Scout Council began staffing the lockhouse. Gearing up for the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, furnishings were acquired for the lockhouse and the scouts had period clothing made to wear when they greeted visitors

to the structure. Continuing the tradition today, members of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital demonstrate home crafts and basic tasks of daily life that canalers of the 1870s might have done on a regular basis. Riley's Lockhouse is open from March through June and September through mid-December from 1 - 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sunday. Park volunteers Joan Paull and Bejay Myers have coordinated the volunteer program at Riley's Lockhouse for many years. In 2007, the volunteer program at Riley's Lock received the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award and a Take Pride in America Award from the Department of the Interior.

Lander Lockhouse (Lock 29), near the soon-to-be restored Catoctin Aqueduct, has been open to the public for the last 2 to 3 years. Open from late April to mid-October from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturdays, the first floor of the lockhouse is furnished. Members of the C & O Canal Association, coordinated by George Lewis, welcome visitors at Lander.

Lockhouse 75 at North Branch



Lockhouse 75 is just one of many lockhouses open to the public this summer.

is open Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and is also staffed by members of the C & O Canal Association. For close to a decade, volunteers have opened this westernmost lockhouse on the C & O Canal. While largely rebuilt in the late 1970s, Lockhouse 75 is one of the few remaining log lockhouses. William Bauman coordinates the schedule of volunteers serving at Lockhouse 75, North Branch.

Because of the time and efforts of many special park volunteers, several of the C & O Canal lockhouses have gotten a new life, opening a door to the past and into the lives of the canal locktenders.



# Kids Corner

## Help Us Name Our New Mule!



This spring we will be adding another member to the family. We are getting a new mule to help pull the canal boat at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. And we need your help to give her a name. We will be taking suggestions on what her name will be. You can enter as a class/group or an individual. Please send your suggestions to Ranger Mark. Please have them turned in by April 28, 2008.

**Name Our Mule!**  
Entry Form

**Your/ Group Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested Mule Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please Send Entry to: Mark Myer, C & O Canal NHP,  
11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, MD 20854 Or Fax  
at (301)413-2660



## A Mule Story

When people think of the C & O Canal today, they often envision a national park with people biking, fishing and enjoying recreation, but little do they know there is a group of ladies hard at work five days a week down at Great Falls and Georgetown. Those "ladies" are the mules of the C&O Canal that pull our canal boats -- Ada, Dolly, Ida, Lil, Molly, and Nell. Mules are considered an integral part of the canal family today just the same as when the canal was in operation over 100 years ago.

The importance of the mule starts with their breeding; mules are a cross between a Jack (a male donkey) and a Mare (a female horse). Mules inherit the size and strength of the horse and the intelligence and endurance of the donkey. Despite being a hybrid animal, mules were cheaper to purchase than horses and were less prone to illness and injury. Mules have both a longer life span and a longer work life than horses and could pull a canal boat for up to twenty years if they were taken care of. Being sure-footed, a mule was less likely to trip and injure themselves while pulling a heavy load. On the canal boat the mules had the front cabin, which was considered a mule stable. One team rested in the cabin while the other pulled in 6-hour shifts called a trick. Then they would switch.

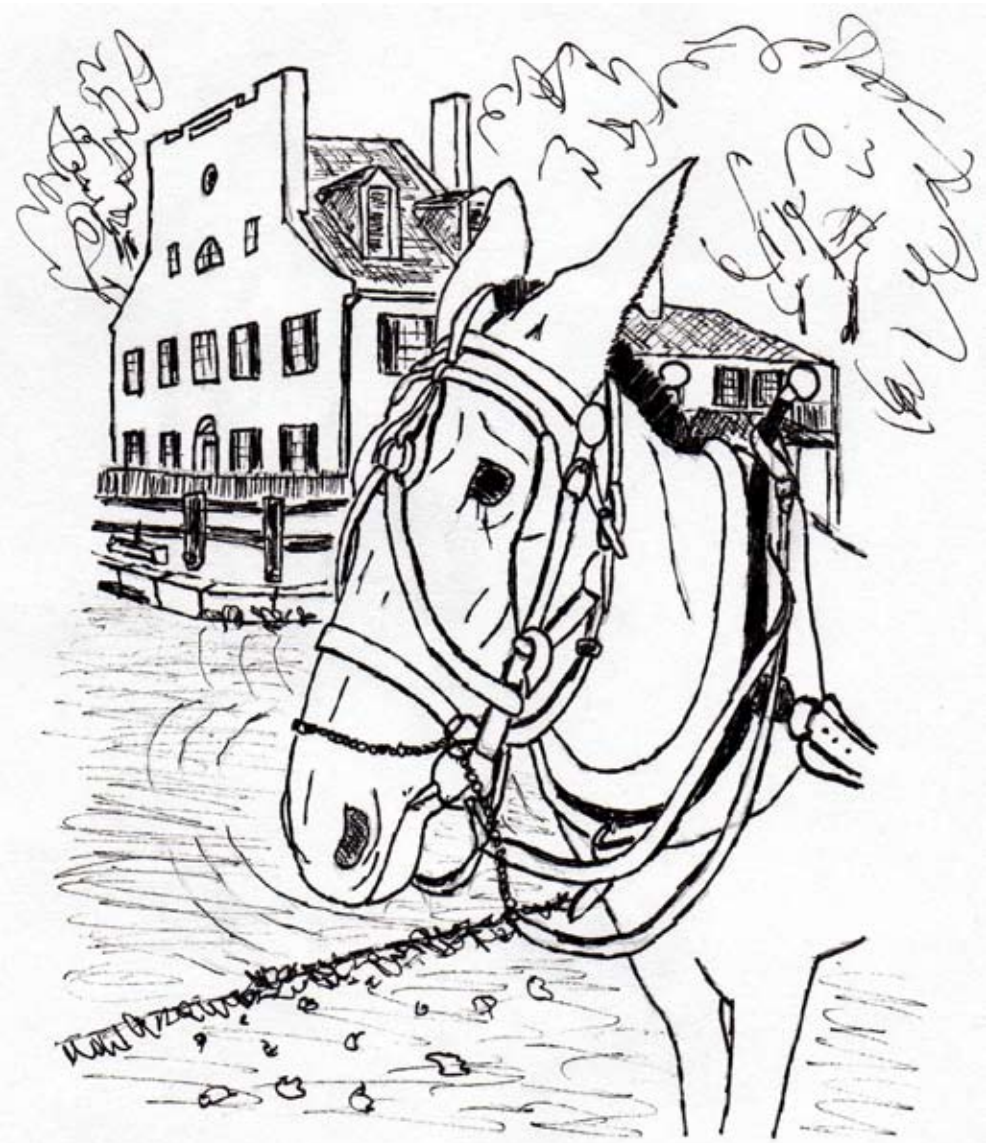
The C & O Canal was built with mules in mind -- the downstream current helped mules pull boats loaded with up to 120 tons of coal. Mules could walk approximately three to four

miles an hour while pulling a canal boat. While walking on the towpath mules worked in a tandem hitch (one mule in front of the other), this was to save space. Both upstream bound and downstream bound mules had to share the same towpath, which had to be wide enough so that when they met heading in opposite directions, they had room to walk past one another.

Everyone in a canal boat family interacted with the mules, from adult to small child -- whether it was feeding them, changing them out, or driving them down the towpath. In order to avoid problems, everyone needed to know the five basic commands. Come Up, starts a mule walking; Whoa, stops a mule; Gee, turns a mule to the right; Haw, turns a mule to the left; and Come Around, turns the mule completely around and heading in the opposite direction.

Mules were considered an integral part of the canal boat operation, as well as a member of the family. A mule who died created a operation disaster and a sense of loss for the boat families. More than any human crew member, mules were absolutely critical to the success of the operation. J.P. Mose says it best in Home on the Canal by Elizabeth Kyle: "A lot of people thought a lot of their teams... As a general rule, most everybody took good care of their teams. You had to figure it like this: without your team, your boat wouldn't go. Just like a car without gasoline. The majority of people did take care of their mules. We did."

## Color Your Own Mule!



## More to Explore!



It's easy to get to know more about the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and other National Parks.

Become a Junior Ranger at the C&O Canal! Get a Junior Ranger book at any of Park Visitor Center or ask your parents to go to the World Wide Web at [www.nps.gov/choh/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm](http://www.nps.gov/choh/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm). When you finish the book, visit a ranger to earn your badge.

Saturday, April 26 is National Junior Ranger Day with activities and special awards for kids of all ages. Please call your local visitor center for more information!

Become a WebRanger and explore National Parks all across the United States without leaving your home. Visit [www.nps.gov/webrangers/](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/) for WebRanger activities.

## Help our mule find her way home!

