



Volunteers-In-Parks News



Rebecca Jameson, Acting Volunteer Coordinator, addresses the Palisades volunteer appreciation dinner
(Photo courtesy Josh Whitman)

Volunteer Dinners and Awards!

Regional and National Award Winners!

The C&O Canal recognizes its hardworking volunteers with various internal awards throughout the year. In addition to park awards, a few of our hardworking volunteers hit milestones and received National and Regional awards!

Steve Dean, Level Walker and Culvert Crawler, received the 2016 regional Hartzog Enduring Service Award for his efforts with the park handbook, the Level Walker program, and of course documenting the park's historic culverts!

Vinh Le-Si received the National 2015 George and Helen Hartzog Volunteer Award for contributing over 1,000 hours last year with the Palisades Bike Patrol, the Billy Goat Trail Stewards, Mercer boat repairs, and updating park bulletin boards. He was presented with the award this year at a ceremony in Washington, DC!

Finally, the C&O Canal's volunteer program was the recipient of the **Hartzog Park Volunteer Program Award**. Through the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal volunteer program, 3,620 volunteers contributed 78,012 hours to the park in 2016, for a value of 1.8 million dollars!

In addition to these achievements, several volunteers' lifetime hours added up to significant milestones and received awards or recognition. For more information on those volunteers, see page 4.

VIP of the Year Winners!

Our VIP of the Year awards were announced at the volunteer appreciation dinners this October!

Eastern MD VIP Award: Ed Mroczka (Mercer Maintenance Crew, Bike Patrol)

Western MD VIP Award: Champ Zumbrun (Canal Classroom Corps, Advisory Committee)

Central VIP Award and VIP of the Year: Jim Tomlin (Level Walkers, PATC)

In This Newsletter:

- Page 1:** VIP Dinners and Awards
- Page 2:** Volunteer feature: C&O Canal Association & Jim Heins
- Page 3:** Palisades Bike Patrol social events, Fish Rescues, New Acting Volunteer Coordinator
- Page 4:** Centennial Challenge Coin, Hours Milestones, and Presidential Achievement Award winners
- Page 5:** Staff announcements



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U.S. Department of the Interior

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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.

This newsletter was written, produced and edited by the C&O Canal's Volunteer Office staff.

Thanks to: Catherine Bragaw, Emily Hewitt, Jim Heins, Candy Grueff, Steve Dean, and Becca Jameson for their contributions!

Call for Future Newsletter Submissions

Do you want to share what's going on in your area of the park? E-mail article ideas to [CHOHVIP@gmail.com!](mailto:CHOHVIP@gmail.com)



"We do good work" but sometimes, mistakes happen- don't worry, this sign was corrected after the picture was taken! (Photo Courtesy Jim Heins)

Lock Sign Saga

Jim Heins and a team of fearless C&O Canal Association (COCA) volunteers worked this summer to replace the signs on 72 locks throughout the park. Jim hatched the plan and plotted with NPS Staff (which, as a staff member says, "can be daunting, even though C&O Canal staff are all smart, good-looking people.") Jim also assisted in designing the new signs and negotiating the budget.

Installation alone took two months of logistics and fieldwork, including creating a pulley system to get materials to the berm side of the canal in areas where it isn't accessible by vehicle.

Observant readers may have noticed that 72 signs were replaced when there are 74 locks along the canal. This was a strategic move by Jim and the team due to the upcoming construction on Locks 3 and 4. Jim hopes to have park superintendent Kevin Brandt join volunteers for the installation of the final two signs.

Park visitors were thrilled to see the new signs. One even commented that they take pictures every year with the lock sign that matches their age. The new lock signs will be noticed and appreciated for years to come.

Thanks, Jim, Skip, and COCA!



To get materials to the berm side of the canal, sometimes an improvised pulley system had to be used. (Photo Courtesy Skip Magee)



Palisades Bike Patrol members gather for coffee and a snack before heading out on their patrols. (Photo Courtesy Carolina Kenrick)

Palisades Bike Patrol Gets Social

While the Palisades Bike Patrol has always done yearly picnics, a few bike patrollers noticed there was a gap between when they could get together. This summer, Candy Grueff, Mary Horwitz, and Carolina Kenrick decided to create an informal bike patrol social event to supplement the picnic get-togethers.

“You don’t have to RSVP or anything, just show up, drop \$2.50 in the box, and get a donut and a cup of coffee!” These gatherings allow new patrollers connect to the group without the pressure of a large event. After trying a few different dates and times, Candy settled on 9am, the second Saturday of every month, and had as many as 20 people attend!

Bill Knight, a bike patroller and “fabulous” baker, occasionally brings beignets or scones. After a few get-togethers, bike patrollers began to request their favorite treats, and Candy was more than happy to oblige.

“While the Bike Loaner Program is setting up in front of the tavern, we’re having coffee around the side! It’s a great way to help people connect,” she says. Keep an eye out for the coffee socials when they start again in the spring.

Volunteers in other districts, please get in touch if you’d like to start events like this with your group!

Fish Rescue: A Slippery Situation

Volunteers came to the (fish) rescue!

As part of an ongoing project, the Georgetown canal boat was moved upstream and Locks 3 and 4 were inspected by contractors for repair and rebuilding. For contractors to look at the locks, sections of the canal had to be drained, and many park visitors were concerned that fish would lose their habitat and die in the dry canal.

Armed with waders and nets, a group of volunteers and supporting staff members helped pull fish from Locks 3 and 4, including a shockingly large catfish (below.) The fish were brought to nearby streams and rivers. Thank you to the volunteers!



Volunteers measure a catfish (22”!) recovered from Lock 4 in Georgetown. (Photo courtesy Dorothy McQuaid)



Centennial volunteer recognition coin (courtesy NPS)

Milestone Volunteers!

Norman Liebow reached 10,000 volunteer hours this year, a number so amazing there isn't an official award for it! If you don't know Norman, he is a Palisades Bike Patrol volunteer that staff and visitors are always excited to see. One visitor even named their bike after Norman as a way of thanking him for his help! We are working hard on a way to recognize Norman for this fantastic commitment!

Centennial Challenge Coin Winners!

We'd like to recognize some of our amazing volunteers who worked over 201.6 hours in the NPS' Centennial year! They will be receiving their Challenge Coins at an event in early 2017!

Deena Barlev	John Hutchinson	Dward Moore
Nate Bickford	Ric Jackson	Charlie Morton
Peggy Blanchard	Curtis Keltner	Joan Paull
Dell Pillers/Cline	Russ Kennedy	Alan Redding
Steve Dean	Bob King	Tom Stanford
Sebastian Diaz	Bill Knight	Mark Stover
Ned Goddard	Vinh Le-Si	Ingrid Sunzenauer
Jim Goheen	John League	Charles Thornton
Karen Gray	Don Libes	Jim Tomlin
Tom Hall	Norman Liebow	Bonnie Troxell
Jim Heins	Megan Mannas	Dong Vo
Susan Howard	Lowell Markey	Ken Zabielski



The President's Lifetime Achievement Award (above, picture courtesy CNCS) is given to volunteers who have contributed more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetimes. This year, two C&O Canal volunteers qualified for this prestigious award.

We will be placing an order for more coins at the end of December, 2016, so please contact the Volunteer Office if your name is not on this list and you have completed over 201.6 hours this year!

Ric Jackson, coordinator of the Palisades Bike Loaner Program, has helped thousands of visitors enjoy the towpath on two wheels. He recruits, trains, and manages a volunteer crew as well as a fleet of a hundred bicycles.

Charlie Morton, a front desk volunteer at the Williamsport Visitor Center, is quick to help out visitors and fellow volunteers alike. He is knowledgeable about the canal and other attractions in the area, and offers to fill in wherever an extra hand is needed. Charlie is pictured to the left, with Emily Hewitt and his award. (courtesy NPS)





New District Supervisors!

Volunteers may have noticed new faces in Park Service uniforms around the park this fall! Each district has a new Ranger!

Brendan Wilson, Supervisory Georgetown District Park Ranger, comes to the C&O Canal from Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Pete Peterson, Supervisory Palisades District Park Ranger, comes all the way from Grand Canyon National Park!

Matt Graves, Supervisory Western Maryland District Park Ranger, was most recently stationed at the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, but years ago he was a “canawler” on the C&O at Great Falls.

If you see any of these new rangers in the field, please say hello and let them know what projects you are working on!



Left: New Palisades District Park Ranger, Pete Peterson (courtesy Pete)
Right: New Western Maryland District Park Ranger, Matt Graves (courtesy Monica Larcom)



New Supervisory Georgetown District Ranger Brendan Wilson at Flight 93 National Memorial (courtesy NPS)



Becca Jameson leads the mules and Deena Barlev (VIP) at the Georgetown Town-Out event! (courtesy Carolina Kenrick)

Acting Volunteer Coordinator Leads the Way!

Rebecca Jameson, who many volunteers knew as a ranger in Great Falls, filled the position of Acting Volunteer Coordinator while Emily Hewitt operated as Acting Education Coordinator. Becca was very excited to work with the volunteer office because her NPS career began with an SCA internship in Great Falls, and then as Assistant Volunteer Coordinator right here at the C&O Canal, before she moved to Palisades! Her detail started off with festivities as she was master of ceremonies at the volunteer appreciation dinners!

After a few months as Acting Volunteer Coordinator, Becca was offered a position at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. She will be missed!