

Description of the Park

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (C&O Canal) began as a dream in the 1820s to access new fortunes in the West, at a time when U.S. prosperity depended on its waterways. Stretching 184.5 miles along the Potomac River from Rock Creek at Georgetown in Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland, the canal served as a major transportation corridor. Construction on the canal began in 1828, which was intended to connect the Chesapeake Bay to the Ohio River. Falling short of the original vision for the canal, construction ended in Cumberland in 1850 and the canal remained in operation until 1924.

C&O Canal became a national monument in 1961, and in 1971, Public Law 91-664 established the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park “to preserve and interpret the historic and scenic features . . . and develop the potential of the canal for public recreation.”

Today, the remnants of the C&O Canal route, the spirit of its builders and operators, and a legacy of outdoor recreation and educational opportunities endure in this national park unit. Spanning roughly 20,000 acres, the park provides a place for millions of annual visitors to explore one of the most biologically diverse natural areas in the national park system, recreate along its historic towpath or in watered sections of the canal, and experience the rich history of the Potomac River Valley.

Mission Statement

To preserve and interpret the 19th-century transportation canal from Washington, DC, to Cumberland, Maryland, and its associated scenic, natural, and cultural resources, and to provide opportunities for education and appropriate outdoor recreation.

Federal Advisory Commission

The Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission was established by Section 6 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y-4). Public Law 91-664, January 8, 1971, as amended, and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2. The Commission is to meet and consult with the Secretary of the Interior on general policies and specific matters related to the administration and development of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

Commissioners

Joseph A. Adkins, Frederick County, Maryland

Joseph A. Adkins is serving as the Deputy Director for Planning for the City of Frederick. Mr. Adkins is in charge for current and long-range planning for the city. Under his leadership, the city formed its first Sustainability Commission and started to have serious conversations about resource conservation. Mr. Adkins is very familiar with serving on boards being on the Heart of Civil War Heritage Area Commission since 1998. In addition to serving on HCWHAC, he has served on the State's Task Force on Sustainable Growth & Wastewater Disposal as a liaison for the Maryland Municipal League. In addition to the basic requirements for this position, Mr. Adkins have actively used the C&O Canal for past 45 years with such activities as camping with the Boy Scouts, running the JFK (completing it 4 times), family activities, fishing and preparing for his bike trip on the Allegheny Passage.

Thomas L. Birch, District of Columbia

Thomas L. Birch served for more than thirty years as counsel and legislative advisor in Washington, D.C. to a variety of nonprofit organizations, developing policy and directing advocacy efforts, primarily in cultural policy and on issues of child welfare. A former legislative counsel to members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, he also held elected public office for fourteen years as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in Georgetown. He was a Peace Corps volunteer for three years in Morocco and has served as a board member and officer for charitable organizations, including the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, the American Humane Association, and the Ellington Fund of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He is the recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contribution to Child Advocacy (2003), the Citizens Association of Georgetown Belin Award for distinguished community service (2006), the Casey Family Programs Leadership Award (2006), and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies President's Award for Outstanding Advocacy (2012). He holds a B.A. in American history from Lehigh University and a J.D. from George Washington University.

David Brickley, Commonwealth of Virginia

David Brickley is the President of the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance, a nonprofit organization developing a national 1,300-mile trail connecting the three national 9/11 memorials. Coming to Virginia from military service in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Brickley served as Assistant County Executive for Prince William County, followed by 22 years as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. From 1998 to

2002 he was the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation which in 2001 received the National Gold Medal Award for the “Best Managed State Park System in America.” That same year Mr. Brickley received Environment Virginia’s Environmental Legacy Award. He is a former State Delegate and is the longest continuous serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Prince William County since it was founded in 1731. He is an attorney and holds a jurist doctorate from George Mason University’s School of Law.

Mark T. Cucuzzella, State of West Virginia

Mark T. Cucuzzella is a Professor at West Virginia University School of Medicine. He is also a Lt Col in the US Air Force designing programs to promote health and better fitness in the military with the USAF Efficient Running Project. In his community and medical school he has been a tireless promoter of nutritional interventions in patients with any spectrum of the metabolic syndrome, introducing a low carb option for hospital patients. He was a lead writer of one of the first grants supporting education of Medical Students in nutrition and physical activity through the MEDCHEFS program, now in its 3rd year. Mark is also the lead on a large USDA grant to double SNAP benefits at Farmers Markets- the goal is reducing food insecurity as a barrier to healthier eating. He’s also been a competitive runner for over 30 years — with more than 100 marathon and ultramarathon finishes — and continues to compete as a national-level Masters runner. He has won the Air Force Marathon twice. He is the race director of Freedom’s Run race series in West Virginia and director of the Natural Running Center, an education portal designed to teach healthier running. Mark is also the owner of Two Rivers Treads — A Center for Natural Running and Walking in his hometown of Shepherdstown, W.Va. Mark’s vision of medical care as it should be is housed in his site www.natureprescriptions.org. Mark’s innovative work and story has

been featured in the New York Times, NPR, Outside Magazine, Running Times, Runners World, Air Force Times, the Washington Post, JAMA, Blue Ridge Outdoors, and other medical and media outlets.

George F. Franks III, Washington County, Maryland

George F. Franks III is the President of Franks Consulting Group and owner of Geo. Franks, Hatter, a global e-commerce business. He is a former technology executive with extensive international experience. George is the founder and President of the Battle of Falling Waters 1863 Foundation, Inc. and a member of the Board of Directors of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. He is a Governor and former officer of the Company of Military Historians and the former President of the organization's Chesapeake Chapter. George served as President of the Capitol Hill Civil War Round Table and is an active member of Hagerstown Civil War Round Table, Save Historic Antietam Foundation and the Civil War Trust. He is the author of Battle of Falling Waters 1863: Custer, Pettigrew and the End of the Gettysburg Campaign and lives in the 1830 Daniel Donnelly House on the battlefield - less than a mile from the C & O Canal. George was awarded the 2015 John Frye Historical Preservation Award by the Washington County (Maryland) Commissioners. He studied history at the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Pittsburgh where he was graduated Magna cum Laude. AT&T selected George for the executive programs in marketing and international business at University of Virginia Darden School and Emory University Goizueta Business School.

Angela O. Hummer, State of Maryland

Angela O. Hummer began her career with the Maryland Park Service as a Law Enforcement Ranger in 1990. She worked as a ranger at Sandy Point State Park and Elk Neck State Park. She was promoted to Sergeant Area Manager at Greenbrier State Park in 1995. Angie spent

25 years of her career teaching Maryland State Park employees and volunteers First Aid and CPR. Angie retired as a Park Ranger Lieutenant from Maryland Park Service after 30 years in December of 2019. Her last assignment was Park Manger at Fort Frederick State Park Complex. Angie holds a bachelor's degree from Salisbury State University in Leisure Studies and a master's degree from Frostburg State University in Park and Recreation Administration. Angie is active in her community. She is a life member of United Fire Company in Frederick, Maryland where she has served as Secretary for the past 16 years. She is the Vice President of the Friends of Fort Frederick. She serves on the Hagerstown Washington County Convention of Visitors Bureau Executive Board. Angie was born and raised in Elkton, Maryland. In her spare time Angie enjoys making wine and quilts and volunteering for Lab Rescue. Angie lives in Boonsboro, Maryland with her husband Karl and their two Labrador Retrievers Ranger and Tonto.

Stella M. Koch, Commonwealth of Virginia

Stella M. Koch has been a strong advocate for the protection and restoration of local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay for over 30 years. She presently serves as Chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Chair of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (advisory to the Board of Supervisors), and Chair of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. She worked for Audubon Naturalist as their Virginia Conservation Advocate for over 25 years and prior to that taught Biology. She previously served on the Potomac River Keeper Board and the Choose Clean Water Coalition Steering Committee.

George E. Lewis, Chair, At Large

George E. Lewis is a Trustee Emeritus of Hood College, founder of the Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund, and recipient of the 2014

Preservation Maryland Volunteer Award. As an early advisor to the C & O Canal Trust, a past director of the C & O Canal Association, and recipient of the Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Citizen Stewardship (C & O Canal National Historic Park), Dr. Lewis has demonstrated an abiding and effective commitment to preservation and promotion of the C & O Canal, its heritage, and its ongoing vitality. Dr. Lewis served with distinction in the U. S. Army as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine for 30 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Florida, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University, and Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Illinois. Dr. Lewis is a 2009 recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution National Medal of Honor, and has twice been awarded the DAR Historical Preservation Medal.

Roderick C. Mackler, State of Maryland

Roderick C. Mackler is an active volunteer in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. He was appointed to the Park's federal advisory commission in July 2019. He has served as first vice president and chair of the environmental committee of the C&O Canal Association. A retired Foreign Service Officer, he brings an international perspective to the canal. He has attended twelve World Canals Conferences on three continents. Finally, he enjoys the opportunity to share his love of the canal with others, including giving presentations and writing articles for several canal journals.

Stephen D. Nelson, Allegany County, Maryland

Stephen D. Nelson is the owner of SD Nelson Marketing Solutions, a publishing and marketing firm in Western Maryland. Mr. Nelson is past president of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, YMCA of Cumberland, and Rotary Club of Cumberland. He currently is Chairman of the board of First Peoples Community Credit Union and serves as a

director on the boards of the Rotary club of Cumberland, Boy Scouts of America Potomac District, and the Tri County Council of Western Maryland. Mr. Nelson is a Scout master for Boy Scout troop 9 and is the recipient of the 2012 Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Community Service award. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Geneva College. He enjoys the outdoor recreation opportunities available in Western Maryland including cycling on the C&O Canal where in addition to being a member of the bike patrol, has cycled the entire length 11 times! Walter S. Stull III, Frederick County, Maryland
Walter S. Stull is a former member of the City Council of Brunswick, Maryland, where he served for 20 years. During his tenure, Mr. Stull served as liaison to the C&O Canal National Historical Park, commissioner with the Brunswick Planning Commission, and chairman of recreation and finance committees and is now a commissioner on the Brunswick Board of Appeals. Mr. Stull is a past chair and founding member of Canal Towns Partnership, whose mission is the economic vitality of towns along the C&O Canal. He was the Maryland Municipal League's representative to the Tourism Council of Frederick County and Transportation Services Advisory Committee of Frederick County. Mr. Stull is a past president of the Brunswick Heritage Museum which houses the C&O Canal Visitor Center. He is retired from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Scott Walzak, District of Columbia

Scott Walzak obtained a dual Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Architecture from Roger Williams University. Scott practiced architecture at HOK, an internationally renowned architecture firm where he received multiple national and international design awards, to include Metropolis Magazine's "Next Generation Design Award" in 2011. In late 2014 Scott co-founded MakeDC, a Public Interest Design Firm focused on providing professional design services to

underprivileged and underserved residents within the District of Columbia. Notable projects included: A Healing Garden for Joseph's House, a hospice facility for those experiencing homelessness with Aids and HIV; a mobile digital art gallery for Critical Exposure; and an award-winning concept design for Net-Zero affordable housing within the District. Scott further served as the Strategic Director at Engenium Group, a boutique engineering firm where he led the business development and assisted in growing the company by nearly 300% within three years. Scott joined Georgetown Heritage in 2017 as the Director of Planning & Project Management. As the owner's representative, Scott was tasked with ensuring a smooth and effective project development process, as well as leading the coordination and communications across the various project teams where he provided the day-to-day management of all design, engineering, and construction projects for Georgetown Heritage. Currently, Scott serves as an Architect, Project Manager for the Architect of the Capitol within the Office of the Chief Security Officer, Security Infrastructure division, where he designs and manages various projects addressing the security needs for the entire Capitol Campus

Evelyn C. Williams, At Large

Evelyn C. Williams is currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Frostburg State University, supervising their social studies student teachers. In July 2015, she retired from Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) where she served for 20 years as a high school teacher and then 15 years as an Administrator. Her last position with WCPS 2006-2015 was as the Supervisor of Social Studies for WCPS. Each year in that position she secured grants to provide buses for every fourth-grade class in Washington County Public Schools to visit the Cushwa Basin of the C&O Canal. Additionally, she helped develop educational materials and a panel of volunteers to support the trips. She serves on

numerous boards in her local community including the Washington Historical Society, Washington Museum of Fine Arts and Washington County Department of Social Services. She is also a member of the Friends of Acadia and the C&O Canal Association where she volunteers as a level walker. She believes that one of the keys to foster conservation is through voter education. To this end she has long served on the Board for the Washington County chapter of the League of Women Voters, supporting their advocacy for environmental and conservation measures.

Francis “Champ” Zumbrun, Allegany County, Maryland

Francis “Champ” Zumbrun served as forest manager of Green Ridge State Forest (GRSF) until he retired in 2009 after 31 years working as a professional forester for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. During his time at GRSF, Zumbrun also served as a fully commissioned law enforcement officer, Maryland Ranger, and as a natural resource manager in the state forest and park public lands system. Zumbrun holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management, a master of science in Management; and graduated from the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy. Zumbrun is a published author of a book and many articles about outdoor recreation and history of public lands management in Maryland. In 2009, Zumbrun received a national award for “Outstanding Field Forester” by the Society of American Foresters.