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YES. I want to join the Canal Friends and Keepers. Please send a membership application to:

Name:
E-mail:

daytime phone: ________________________ FAX: ________________________

Return to: Augusta Canal Foundation, P.O. Box 3367, Augusta, GA 30903 or FAX to 706-823-1045 • Questions 706-823-0440

FRIENDS OF THE CANAL

Student/Teacher: $20
Individual member benefits (see below) for full-time students & teachers
Individual/Basic: $35
One member card • Complimentary Interpretive Center admission for one person • 10% discount at Gift Shop • Headgates Newsletter • Priority reservations for special events (Annual Canal Cruise and similar events, as scheduled)
Dual/Couple: $50
Two ‘Friends’ member cards • Basic benefits as listed above for two members of same household
Family: $75
Two ‘Friends’ member cards • Basic member benefits for two adults and one Interpretive Center admission for accompanying members of immediate family (children/parents/grandparents)

CANAL KEEPERS

First Level: $100-$499
Two member cards • Basic member benefits for two adults and accompanying members of immediate family • Pet challeng: Float tour ticket for each member card holder (when available) • Copy of “Brightest Arm of the Savannah”–award-winning his-story book on Augusta Canal by Dr. Ed Cashin (softbound)
• Gift Acknowledgment in Headgates Newsletter

Second Level: $500-$999
Four member cards • First level benefits for four as listed above plus • Headgates Newsletter monthly publication • 10% discount at Gift Shop • Priority reservations for special events (Annual Canal Cruise and similar events, as scheduled)

Third Level: $1000+
Four member cards • Second level benefits for four as listed above plus • Additional 50% gift certificate
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
BY N. TURNER SIMKINS

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As you will learn when you visit the Center, Henry Cumming’s vision, perseverance and personal commitment led to the creation of the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center and the Canal itself.

Whether it be as a volunteer, a donor, a board member or simply a supporter, everyone in our community has the opportunity to make a difference. While our individual efforts may seem small, the collective effect of many small acts of “public good” may well have results beyond our imagining.

In this edition of Headgate you will learn about the new Augusta Canal Friends & Keepers membership program and the Canal Volunteer Corps. Should this be the place where you choose to make your effort for “the public good,” we welcome your participation. But regardless of where you opt to invest your time, talent or treasure, I urge you to follow Cumming’s example and experience the pleasure of contributing to “the public good.”

There are many lessons to be learned at the Canal Interpretive Center: how hydropower is made; how cloth is woven; how working-class Augustans lived in times past. But perhaps the greatest lesson is that personal dedication and commitment to a cause can have profound impacts—that may last generations beyond one’s own lifetime. Each of us can make some sort of contribution to “the public good.”

Lending their historical expertise were Augusta area historians Ed Cashin, Director of the Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University, Gordon Blaker of the Augusta Museum of History and Erick Montgomery with Historic Augusta.

Dozens of local citizens contributed their memories and mementoes of mill life or their recollections of the struggle to save the Canal. Many of these are incorporated in the video segments that conclude the Interpretive Center experience. Long-time residents who listen closely will recognize the voice of veteran broadcaster Jim Davis as the narrator of “The Power of the Canal,” the Center’s 10-minute orientation film.

And finally, it might be said that two Canal officials “gave their all” to the project. Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse and Canal Authority member Herb Kado posed for the lifecasts that are now the Mill Owner and Petersburg Boat Captain. This less-than-comfortable process involved being coated in various substances and remaining very still. Nevertheless, the results produced some of the most striking figures in the Interpretive Center.

New Employees

Meet the Interpretive Center Staff

Kelly Boyd joined the staff of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in March as Manager of the Interpretive Center and the Gift Shop. She will manage day-to-day visitor services and gift shop operations, aided by part-time staffers Holly Madden and Louise Blaylock.

Boyd previously was Customer Service Manager at Augusta Mall and also served as a trainer and customer service representative for AT&T. She is a graduate of Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina and is active in a number of community organizations including the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce and Morris Museum of Art.

I enjoyed the unique and creative place you have made. It was an excellent history lesson and made me proud to be born here.

Autumn, age 12

My grandma used to work here so I enjoyed seeing the mill. I like how you can interact with the exhibits.

Dana, age 12

It was SO COOL! Awesome stuff! You guys rule!

Mary Ann

The exhibits are wonder-full. My grandson loved to see the trolley running through the “city”

A grandparent

It was a wonderful place to spend the afternoon with four granddaughters.

Jack and Nell

Every Augustan should visit. I never dreamed it would be this wonderful.

Barbara

Thank you! Thank you! For Saving History! May we all remember and learn from our roots up!

Marie

Bigger than the Big Dream!
Towpath improvements and repairs: Plans for the towpath resurfacing project have been altered in response to several concerns. The initial surfacing material, a sand/clay mix, failed to adhere satisfactorily to the path. The alternative solution, a recycled asphalt material, was applied to the westernmost end of the trail in April. While many towpath users expressed enthusiasm for this material, others voiced concerns about its aesthetics and historical appropriateness. The Canal Authority has halted further application of the recycled asphalt and is considering alternatives. In the meantime, low places and ruts will be filled and patched. Other planned improvements, including safety railings and signage, are proceeding as planned.

A section of the towpath sustained damage in April when a large tree toppled into the canal following prolonged rains. A 125-foot crack developed along the waterside section of the path, located just west of the Raw Water Pumping Station. W.R. Toole Engineering has evaluated the situation and developed plans to repair the damage.

New Bartram Trail: Travelers along Riverwatch Parkway may have noted equipment at work clearing undergrowth and smoothing surfaces to create the New Bartram Trail. This section of the multiuse trail project will allow Canal towpath users access to the southern side of the Canal.

Petersburg Boats: Daily progress on the Petersburg boats continues. The docks at Enterprise Mill and the Headgates are complete. Projected completion for the vessels is now estimated to be July. Boat builder Rusty Fleetwood is creating two replicas of these canal cargo boats that will accommodate up to 45 people for scheduled tours or charters. A community festival is planned to mark the official launch and christening of the craft in late summer.

Headgates and Locks: Continued regulatory review by various state and federal entities has slowed progress on bidding for this project. When completed, the locks will once again be operational and the headgates structures refurbished.

Powderworks Chimney: A treasured Canal landmark, the Confederate Powderworks Chimney, received a thorough structural inspection in early May by McMullan & Associates, a firm specializing in historical structures. The physical integrity of the chimney, the only remaining structure from the C.S.A.’s vast Powderworks, appears to be sound.
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As you will learn when you visit the Center, Henry Cumming’s vision, perseverance and personal commitment led to the creation of the Canal we still enjoy today. If not for his efforts, and those of like-minded citizens, our city of Augusta might no longer exist at all. It most certainly would be a very different place than the one we enjoy today.

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The massive bell that once rang out atop the Enterprise Mill calling factory hands to work toned again at the official dedication of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Interpretive Center. More than 225 guests attended the April 17 event that featured comments by Augusta Canal Authority and National Park Service leaders as well as Augusta Mayor Bob Young and Congressman Max Burns. The ceremony climaxed with the unveiling of a dedication plaque by former Canal Authority Chairmen Tom Robertson and Richard Fox and the ceremonial ringing of the 42-inch bronze bell.

The $3 million, 10,000 square-foot Augusta Canal Interpretive Center occupies the spooling building of the former textile plant. The Center tells the story of the Augusta Canal’s development and impact on people, economy and social structure of the region. Dozens of interactive exhibits, models, movies and working mill equipment bring the Canal’s 158-year history to life.

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More than 1,000 people visited the Interpretive Center during April. In addition to the dedication, the facility hosted a community open house April 26. Participants in the 16th Annual Canal Cruise also toured the center on April 27. Comments have been universally positive (see page 3). One that perhaps best sums up the Interpretive Center’s purpose, “First class museum! I hope this will spur Augusta to remember its past, celebrate its people and look forward to what the future brings our way—opportunity!”