



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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The Potomac Conservancy and Partners Celebrate National Trails Day at the C&O Canal National Historical Park

On Saturday, June 2, Potomac Conservancy and partners AES Corporation and REI Inc. organized a National Trails Day celebration at the River Center at Lock 8 along the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Approximately 120 adults and between 40 to 45 children celebrated our nation's public trails while participating in hands-on work projects between miles 8 and 10 on the C&O towpath. The celebration included live music by local Irish folk group, Lilt. Participants received free t-shirts, snacks, and beverages.

National Trails Day is an annual event that increases awareness about trails and celebrates the actions of volunteers, agencies, and businesses. This year, noted Potomac Conservancy President Hedrick Belin, "AES employees and their friends and families came out to improve the C&O Canal towpath – trimming trees, removing invasive plants and picking up trash. We look forward to continuing to partner with them and to have them add their voices to our efforts to advocate for the lands and waters of the Potomac."



"It was a fun day for us at AES, putting our values in action by improving the quality of the recreational areas in our community" said Andrés Gluski, AES President and Chief Executive Officer.

Trail teams spread out up and downstream of Lock 8, wielding saw, rakes, and other maintenance tools. Several crews vanquished stands of garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and English ivy, which are non-native species that choke out native plants. The teams were augmented by Master Gardeners from Montgomery County, and REI staff from REI's Rockville and Bailey's Crossroads stores.

Mark Nelson, of REI, thanked Potomac Conservancy "... for all the time, thought and energy you put in trying to



protect and improve the entire Potomac watershed, and the partnership we share.”

“The Conservancy is proud to participate in National Trails Day. This annual event gives us the opportunity to get people outside, get them active and get them connected to the incredible public lands we are fortunate to have in the nation’s capital,” said Belin. “

National Trails Day is coordinated by the American Hiking Society. Since 1993, National Trails Day has inspired many thousands of people to enjoy trails on the same day nationwide.

About AES

The AES Corporation (NYSE: AES) is a Fortune 200 global power company that provides affordable, sustainable energy to 27 countries through a diverse portfolio of distribution businesses as well as thermal and renewable generation facilities. AES’ workforce of 27,000 people is committed to operational excellence and meeting the world’s changing power needs. AES 2011 revenues were \$17 billion and they own and manage \$45 billion in total assets. To learn more, please visit www.aes.com.

About REI

REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.), founded in 1938, is a retail corporation, described as a “consumers’ cooperative”, that sells outdoor recreation gear, sporting goods, and clothes via the Internet, catalogs, and over 100 stores in 27 states. Each year, REI donates millions of dollars to support conservation efforts nationwide, and sends scores of volunteers to build trails, clean up beaches, and teach outdoor ethics to kids. For more information, visit www.rei.com.

About Potomac Conservancy

Since 1993, the Potomac Conservancy has protected the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Its conservation programs address the goals of improving water quality, protecting the river’s scenic integrity, enhancing recreational resources, and building an informed and engaged constituency, using a range of tools, including restoration, permanent protection, advocacy, and citizen education and engagement.

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