

2022 CREDIT UNION CHERRY BLOSSOM

OFFICIAL MEDIA GUIDE



Contents

[Welcome Letters](#)
[Event Timetable](#)
[Race Day Media Information](#)
[Ten Mile Run Background](#)
[5K Run-Walk](#)
[Kids' Run](#)
[Course Maps](#)
[Event Sponsors](#)
[Honorary Race Chairs](#)
[PRRO Circuit Information](#)
[Prize Money Structure](#)
[Prize Money History](#)
[Bonus Payment History](#)

[Elite Athlete Bios](#)
[Open and Age Group Records](#)
[All-Time Champions](#)
[Past Winners' Notable Accomplishments](#)
[Returning Age Group Champions](#)
[Capitol Hill Competition](#)
[Past USATF 10 Mile Championships](#)
[Environmental & Social Sustainability](#)
[Social Media Race Ambassadors](#)
[Charity Donations](#)
[Donations to Children's Miracle Hospitals](#)
[2021 Elite Athlete Results](#)
[2021 Age Group Results](#)

[2021 Team Results](#)
[Interesting 2021 Race Statistics](#)
[Interesting Runner Data](#)
[Evolution of the 10 Mile Course](#)
[Event Participant Statistics](#)
[Race Director History](#)
[Title Sponsor History](#)
[The Runner's Rite of Spring®](#)
[Les Kinion Award](#)
[Road Runners Club of America](#)
[Press Releases for Current Year's Race](#)

Welcome Letters



We are thrilled to be in our 20th year of title sponsorship of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run! This is an amazing running event and credit unions nationwide have enthusiastically united to be a part of it.

The impact of our long-standing partnership is remarkable. Since becoming the title sponsors in 2002, we have donated over **\$10 million to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals**, locally and across the country, which treat 10 million children annually. This amount includes generous donations from runners and credit union members, employees, volunteers and business partners.

While our philanthropic achievements are notable, what's really impressive is that credit unions help consumers reach their financial dreams faster. They have the scale, services and cutting edge products needed for consumers and their families to succeed. By returning earnings back to their customers through higher rates on savings accounts and lower rates on loans, credit unions not only save their members an average of \$184 a year, they are also the best financial partners for life.

Credit Unions are family, and that's obvious when you see the hundreds of credit union employees who volunteer on race weekend at packet pickup, water stops, corrals, and other stations and to the thousands of credit union members running this year's race.

Thank you for your support and on with the Race and Celebration of our 20th Anniversary!

John Bratsakis
Chair of Credit Union Miracle Day
President/CEO of MD|DC Credit Union Association

Welcome Letters



Welcome back to the “Runners Rite of Spring” — actually in the spring time — for the 49th running of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run and 5K Run-Walk on April 3, 2022. What a journey it has been getting here – two virtual runs and an out-of-season in-person edition – but we made it!

It will be uplifting as our full-size field gathers on the Washington Monument Grounds for a celebration of the human spirit as the over-two-year pandemic wanes. However as we savor the beauty of spring in our Nation’s Capital and our own freedom, I hope everyone will reflect for a moment on the carnage and suffering being inflicted on the citizens of Ukraine and send our hopes for their ultimate freedom.

It is perhaps fitting at a time when the international community is united together in opposition to the Russian attack on Ukraine that we are returning to our open international competition format after hosting the USATF Men’s and Women’s National Championships last fall. Running aficionados will get to see in person some of the world’s outstanding athletes filling our streets with speed and grace. We encourage all of our participants to soak up their presence on one of the out-and-back sections of the course. Maybe they will inspire you to a personal best time.

Assuming no more surprises over the last two weeks, I would, on behalf of myself, Deputy Director Becky Lambros, the Cherry Blossom Inc. Board of Directors, the 90 member organizing committee and our 1,000 volunteers, like to welcome everyone to the 49th running of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run and 5K Run-Walk.

I want to call to everyone’s attention that the 2023 event on April 2, 2023 will mark our 50th running and 50th anniversary (we did not count the 2020 Virtual Run as a physical running of the event) and we are planning to make it special. Stay tuned for details.

Of course, we could not stage this event without the generous support of our sponsors, headlined by Credit Union Miracle Day, a collective of credit unions and business partners serving the credit union industry which has served as the title sponsor since 2002.

We take great pride that the event has served another cause as well — helping sick children receive medical care through the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Since the Credit Unions became the title sponsor, the event has raised over \$10 million dollars for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. This year for the first time, our participants were provided with an opportunity to make a donation at the time they registered. Many of you responded to the tune of an additional \$64,000 raised. Thank you.

We would be unable to conduct this event without the full cooperation of the National Park Service and the United States Park Police. We thank both organizations for the opportunity to stage the event on our Nation’s front doorstep.

Sincerely,
Phil Stewart
Event Director

Event Timetable

March 20 — April 17, 2022

Anytime, everywhere: Credit Union Cherry Blossom
Virtual Run Presented by MedStar Health

Friday, April 1, 2022
National Building Museum

2:30 P.M.
Capitol Hill Competition Press Conference

3:00 P.M. — 8:00 P.M.
Health and Fitness Expo Presented by Wegmans
(Packet pickup for Ten Mile Run, 5K Run-Walk and Kids'
Run closes at 7:45 P.M.)

Saturday, April 2, 2022
National Building Museum

9:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
Health and Fitness Expo Presented by Wegmans
(Packet pickup for Ten Mile Run and 5K Run-Walk
closes at 4:45 P.M.)

9:15 A.M.
Opening Ceremony for Credit Union Cherry Blossom
Kids' Run

9:30 A.M.
Start of Credit Union Cherry Blossom Kids' Run

Sunday, April 3, 2022
Washington Monument Grounds

5:00 A.M.
Metro service opens for runners, spectators and volun-
teers

7:00 A.M.
Deadline for check in at media tent for anyone seeking
press truck access — first come, first served

7:11 A.M.
Opening Ceremony for Credit Union Cherry Blossom
Ten Mile, including comments from the Hon. Secretary
of the Interior, Deb Haaland

7:15 A.M.
Presentation of the colors by the Navy Ceremonial Guard
and singing of the National Anthem by Jonny Hartwell

7:18 A.M.
Advance start for elite and seeded women

7:22 A.M.
Charity check presentation at start line

7:29 A.M.
Wheelchair start

7:30 A.M.
10 Mile start for elite international and U.S. men as well
as the first of five mass start waves, four more of which
will depart every 1-2 minutes thereafter

7:53 A.M.
Final wave of 10 Mile starts

8:00 A.M.
Starting line closed; no late starters allowed

8:09 A.M.
Expected arrival time of female winner

8:15 A.M.
Expected arrival time of male winner

9:00 A.M.
5K Run-Walk starts on Independence Avenue near Syl-
van theater

9:10 A.M.
10 Mile course closes at 5-mile mark for entrants moving
slower than 14-minutes-per-mile pace

10:00 A.M.
Random Awards begin at stage

10:05 A.M.
5K Run-Walk course closes

10:15 A.M.
Formal awards ceremony begins (age group and team
awards are not given out on race day)

10:18 A.M.
10 Mile course closes — all runners must exit the 10 mile
course — access to finish line will be sealed at 15th and
Independence Ave., S.W.

8:00 P.M.
Results posted at www.CherryBlossom.org

Sunday, April 10, 2022
Online registration closes for Credit Union Cherry Blossom
Virtual Run Presented by MedStar Health

Sunday, April 17, 2022
Last day to run Credit Union Cherry Blossom Virtual
Run Presented by MedStar Health

Sunday, April 2, 2023
Gala 50th Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5k
Run-Walk

Race Day Media Information

Keith Peters is the Media Coordinator for the 2022 Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run and 5K Run-Walk. For race-day media credentials and/or space on media trucks—there will be separate trucks leading the men's and women's races—please contact Keith at kpeters@CherryBlossom.org (cell: 307-690-6803). Space on these trucks is extremely limited, so call Keith to ensure seating. TV crews should also call in advance to secure parking for trucks on race morning.

There will be limited space at the finish for photographers. Please be respectful of race officials and volunteers as they try to keep the area clear and safe for all involved.

Leigh Philibosian is the media contact for all credit union related race activities. Please contact Leigh at lphilibosian@mdccua.org or 443-325-0768 for more information about the credit union title sponsorship benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the United States.

One final note: The event's website features a comprehensive results database, searchable by name and/or age group for the 10-mile race dating back to 1973, and for the 5K Run-Walk dating back to 2006, when the 5K was upgraded from an untimed run to a fully-timed and scored event: <http://www.cballtimeresults.org>



Photo: Karen Mitchell

American men's new USATF 10 Mile champion Biya Simbassa shares a laugh with Creigh Kelley at the September 2021 awards ceremony. In recent months Simbassa had lost two other U.S. championships by a matter of split seconds

Ten Mile Run Background

For runners in Washington since 1973, the true beginning of spring is marked not by a date on the calendar but by the running of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run, also known as *The Runner's Rite of Spring*.® (See the Runner's Rite of Spring section toward the end of this guide for a synopsis of every one of the 48 Ten Mile Runs.) Elite competitors have used the race as a final competitive tune-up for the Boston Marathon two weeks later. Bill Rodgers, Greg Meyer, and Lisa Larsen Weidenbach all went on to win Boston after their victories here.

For lesser mortals, Cherry Blossom typically means a chance to doff the warm-up suits, turtlenecks, caps and gloves of winter and join other runners in a celebration of the season. Here in Washington, the race has been as fixed a rite of spring as the Easter Egg Roll at the White House or the lighting of the Japanese lanterns on the Tidal Basin — at least until Covid-19 came along and caused the cancelation of the 2020 in-person race, and the postponement of the 2021 race to a one-time-only post-Labor Day race date of September 12.

As many things return to “normal” this spring, so, too, does the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run. With a full field scheduled to toe the 10 Mile and 5K Run-Walk starting lines on Sunday, April 3, the “Runner's Rite of Spring” returns to its typical early-April race date.

The staging area for the event is on the Washington Monument Grounds, and the course passes in sight of all of the major Washington, DC Memorials. While there have been numerous iterations of the 10-mile course over the years, one element has been constant—*The Runner's Rite of Spring* has always been the only truly elite running race to be held in the Nation's Capital.

The event serves as a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, a consortium of 170 premier children's hospitals across the United States. About one-third of the funds raised support Washington, DC's own Children's National Medical Center. To date, over \$10 million has been raised for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the United States. The event also funds two \$5,000 Road Runners Club of America “Roads Scholar” grants designed to support up-and-coming U.S. distance running talent.

Credit Union Miracle Day, Inc., a consortium of credit unions and credit union suppliers, is the title sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, 5K Run-Walk and Kids' Run. Presenting sponsors include ASICS, Discovery, Garmin, MedStar Health and Wegmans; supporting sponsors include CO-OP Financial Service, CUNA Mutual Group, PSCU, Potomac River Running, Gatorade Endurance, Suburban Solutions and UPS.

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run is committed to environmental and social responsibility. The event believes in inclusion, respect, and tolerance. These beliefs guide our actions in conducting our events. The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run has been awarded Gold Level Inspire Certification from the Council for Responsible Sport for the past five years in recognition of its legacy of certified responsible performance as well as its commitment to mentor other events interested in becoming more sustainable (www.councilforresponsiblesport.org).



5K Run-Walk

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom 5K Run-Walk is designed for individuals who don't wish to attempt 10 miles, or for walkers and relaxed-pace runners who feel they would take longer than 2 hours and 20 minutes to complete 10 miles. All 5K entrants receive the same amenities as the 10 miler participants, including the official race t-shirt, their overall times and places in the event, and post-race food and drink. All runners will be scored on net times. Only the first male and first female finisher will receive recognition; there will be no other 5K awards.



Photo: Team Mallet

Rob Halliday enjoys his victory in the 2021 5K.



Photo: Team Mallet

Jocelyn Kelley tastes the thrill of victory. While winning the women's division of the 2021 5K, she also claimed 5th overall.

Kids' Run

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Kids' Run debuted in 2016 on the grounds of the Washington Monument. In 2017, the Kids' Run moved to a new day — Saturday — and location at the National Building Museum. This 1/2 mile fun run for kids ages 5-10 will see the first wave of 5-year olds take off at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, at the corner of 5th Street and F Street NW.

The Kid's Run, like the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5K Run-Walk helps increase race weekend focus on the charity for which credit unions and runners fundraise year-round —Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN), including Children's National in Washington, D.C. Since credit unions became the title sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run in 2002, over \$10 million has been donated to CMN Hospitals.

Packet pick-up for registered Kids' Run participants will take place on Friday, April 1 at the National Building Museum between 3:00 P.M. and 7:45 P.M. and Saturday, April 2 between 8:00 A.M. and 9:15 A.M. at the registration tent outside the National Building Museum.

Registration is limited to 500, and the registration fee of \$10 includes a t-shirt. No times or places will be kept, but all finishers will receive a medal.

The Kids' Run will be run in single-age heats, beginning with the five-year-olds. The race is on an out-and-back course and is closely monitored by sentries, but parents are allowed to run with their children..



Photo: George Banker

The Kids' Run is on an out-and-back course and is closely monitored by sentries.

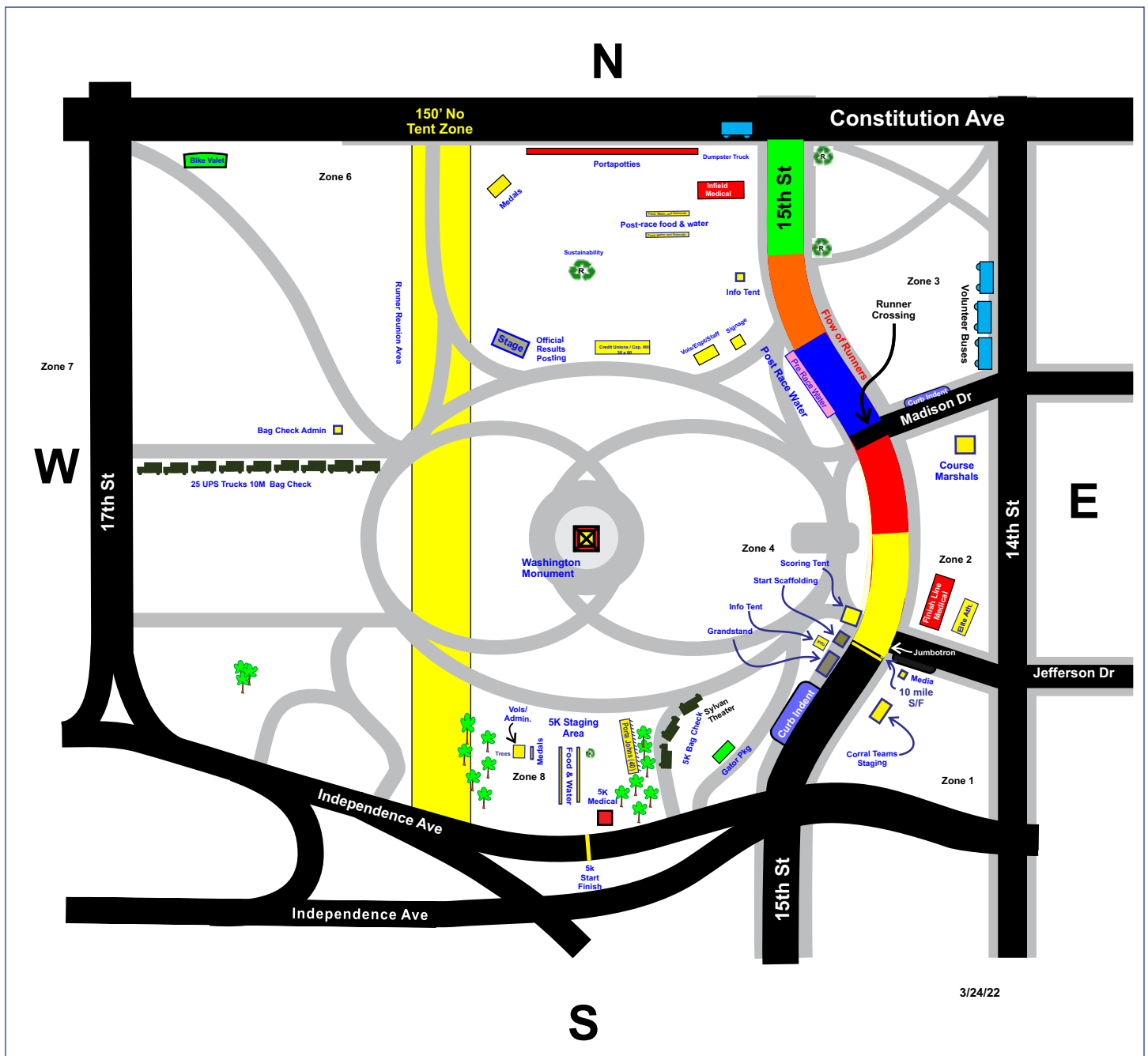


Photo: George Banker

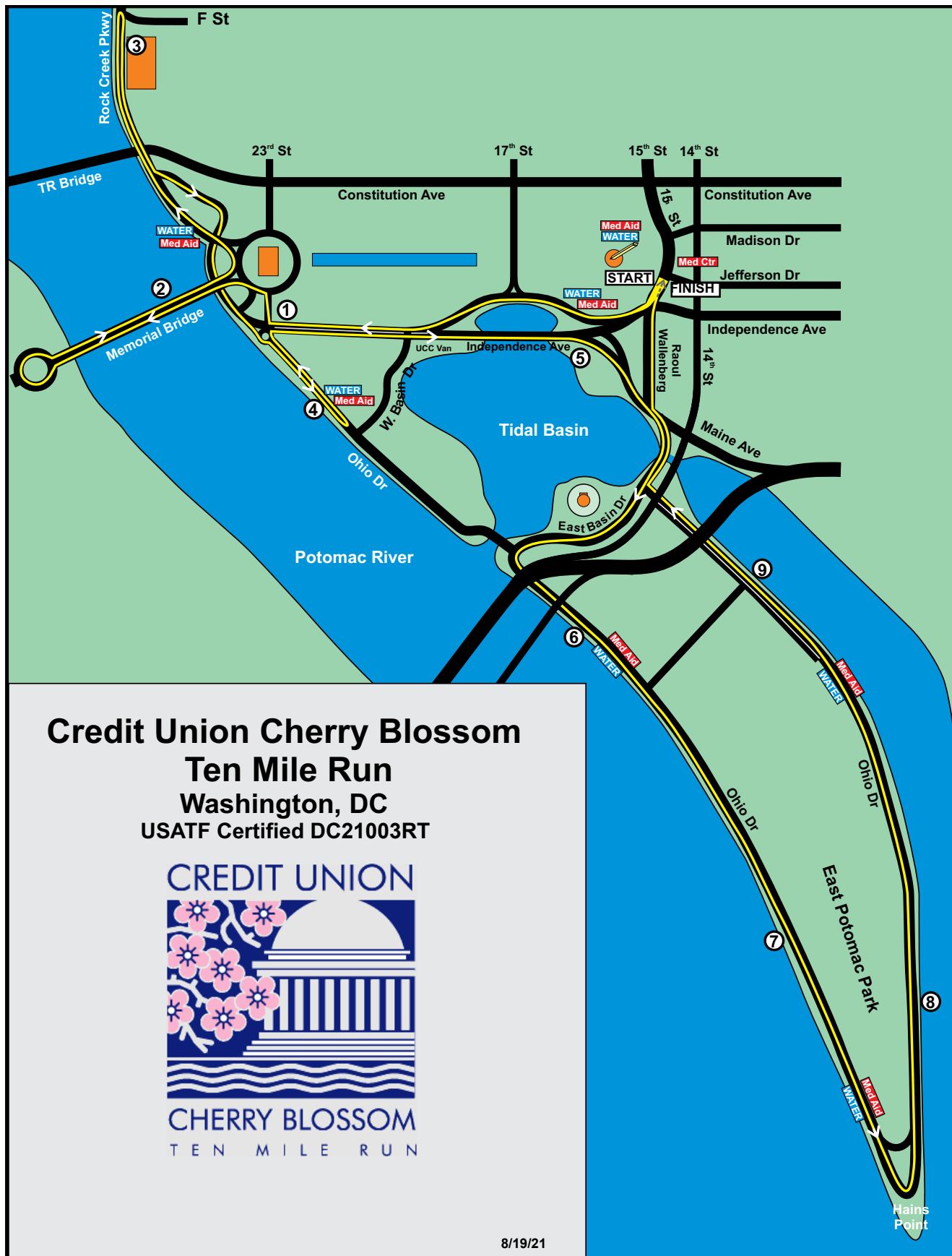
It takes place the Saturday before the Ten Miler.

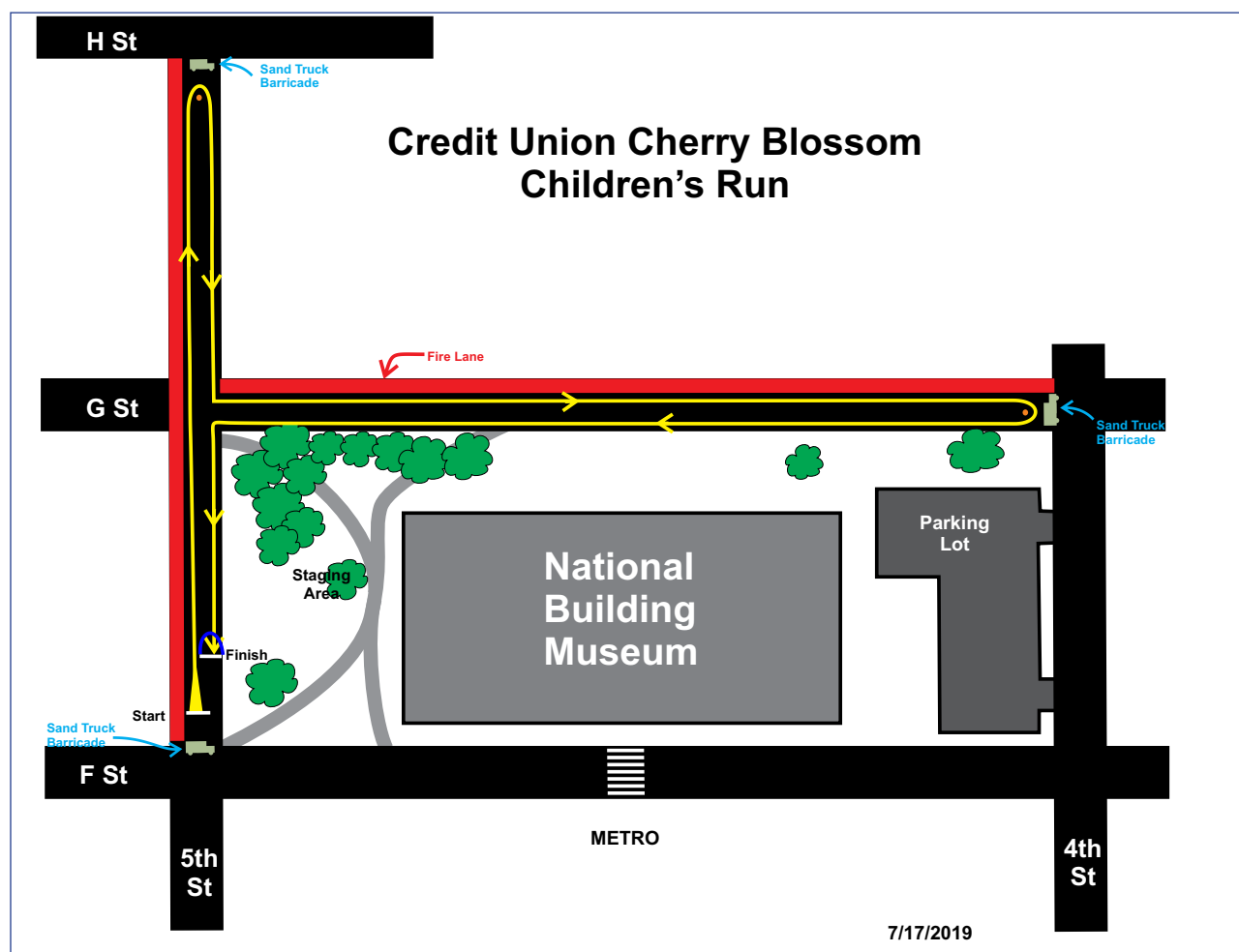
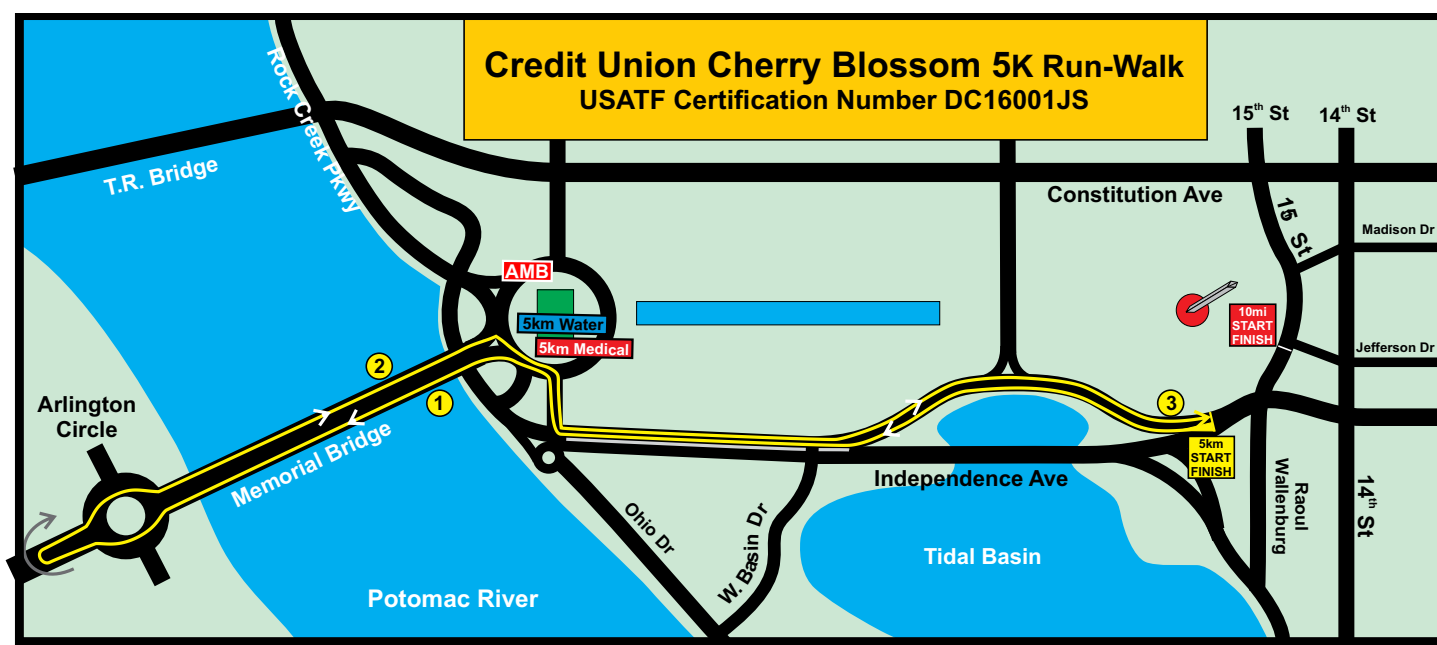
Course Maps

Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and 5K Run-Walk Staging Area



Course Maps





Event Sponsors



Credit Union Miracle Day (CUMD) is a consortium of over 100 credit unions, credit union suppliers, and credit union supporters from across the country. CUMD serves as the title sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, an affiliation of children's hospitals throughout the country that treat millions of children each year. To date, over \$10 million has been donated to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals since credit unions became the title sponsors of the event in 2002.

Each year, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run in Washington, D.C. brings together credit unions from across the country with a shared vision of fund raising and helping children – and driving awareness of the “credit union difference.” Not only will credit unions work together this year to support the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, but they will continue to work even harder to reach and support their own communities.

Presenting sponsors include ASICS, Discovery, Garmin, MedStar Health and Wegmans; supporting sponsors include CO-OP Financial Service, CUNA Mutual Group, PSCU, Potomac River Running, Gatorade Endurance, Suburban Solutions and UPS.

Presenting Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors



Honorary Race Chairs

The following distinguished honorary race co-chairs have aided in the success of the race. We look forward to their continued support.

Alabama

Rep. Barry Moore (2nd)

Rep. Terri Sewell (7th)

Alaska

Sen. Lisa Murkowski

Rep. Don Young (At Large)

American Samoa

Rep. Amata Coleman Radewagen
(At Large)

Arizona

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema

Arkansas

Rep. Steve Womack (3rd)

Sen. John Boozman

Rep. Bruce Westerman (4th)

California

Sen. Alex Padilla

Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Rep. Doug LaMalfa (1st)

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (11th)

Rep. Anna Eshoo (18th)

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (19th)

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (20th)

Rep. Salud Carbajal (24th)

Rep. Julia Brownley (26th)

Rep. Judy Chu (27th)

Rep. Brad Sherman (30th)

Rep. Norma Torres (35th)

Rep. Raul Ruiz (36th)

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (40th)

Rep. Mark Takano (41st)

Rep. Mike Levin (49th)

Rep. Juan Vargas (51st)

Rep. Jay Obermolte (8th)

Rep. David Valadao (21st)

Rep. Ken Calvert (42nd)

Rep. Lou Correa (48th)

Rep. Scott Peters (52nd)

Colorado

Rep. Ken Buck (4th)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (5th)

Sen. John Hickenlooper

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (7th)

Connecticut

Sen. Christopher Murphy

Sen. Richard Blumenthal

Rep. Jahana Hayes (5th)

Delaware

Sen. Thomas Carper

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (At
Large)

Florida

Rep. Kat Cammack (3rd)

Rep. Brian Mast (18th)

Rep. Byron Donalds (19th)

Rep. Lois Frankel (21st)

Rep. Stephanie Murphy (7th)

Georgia

Sen. Ralph Warnack

Rep. Sanford Bishop (2nd)

Hawaii

Rep. Ed Case (1st)

Sen. Mazie Hirono

Idaho

Sen. James Risch

Illinois

Rep. Bobby L. Rush (1st)

Rep. Marie Newman (3rd)

Rep. Mike Quigley (5th)

Rep. Bradley Schneider (10th)

Rep. Rodney Davis (13th)

Rep. Danny Davis (7th)

Indiana

Rep. James Banks (3rd)

Sen. Mike Braun

Sen. Todd Young

Iowa

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks
(2nd)

Sen. Chuck Grassley

Rep. Randy Feenstra (4th)

Kansas

Rep. Ron Estes (4th)

Sen. Roger Marshall, M.D.

Sen. Jerry Moran

Kentucky

Rep. Andy Barr (6th)

Louisiana

Rep. Mike Johnson (4th)

Sen. John Kennedy

Maine

Sen. Susan Collins

Sen. Angus King

Maryland

Sen. Ben Cardin

Rep. Andy Harris (1st)

Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
(2nd)

Rep. John Sarbanes (3rd)

Rep. Jamie Raskin (8th)

Sen. Ben Cardin

Rep. Anthony Brown (4th)

Rep. David Trone (6th)

Rep. Kweisi Mfume (7th)

Massachusetts

Sen. Ed Markey

Rep. Richard Neal (1st)

Rep. Lori Trahan (3rd)

Jim McGovern (2nd)

Michigan

Rep. Jack Bergman (1st)

Rep. Bill Huizenga (2nd)

Rep. Fred Upton (6th)

Rep. Lisa McClain (10th)

Sen. Gary C. Peters

Rep. Debbie Dingell (12th)

Rep. Brenda Lawrence (14th)

Minnesota

Rep. Angie Craig (2nd)

Rep. Betty McCollum (4th)

Sen. Tina Smith

Mississippi

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith

Sen. Roger Wicker

Rep. Steven Palazzo (4th)

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (3rd)

Missouri

Sen. Josh Hawley

Sen. Roy Blunt

Rep. Ann Wagner (2nd)

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (4th)

Rep. Billy Long (7th)

Montana

Sen. Steve Daines

Nebraska

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (1st)

Nevada

Sen. Jacky Rosen

Rep. Dina Titus (1st)

New Hampshire

Sen. Maggie Hassan

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen

Honorary Race Chairs

Rep. Chris Pappas (1st)

New Jersey

Rep. Chris Smith (4th)

Rep. Albio Sires (8th)

Rep. Donald Payne (10th)

New Mexico

Sen. Martin Heinrich

Rep. Yvette Herrell (2nd)

New York

Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer

Rep. Gregory Meeks (5th)

Rep. Adriano Espaillat (13th)

Rep. Paul Tonko (20th)

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

Rep. Carolyn Maloney (12th)

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (18th)

North Carolina

Sen. Richard Burr

Rep. G.K. Butterfield (1st)

Rep. Virginia Foxx (5th)

Rep. David Rouzer (7th)

Rep. Madison Cawthorn (11th)

Sen. Thom Tillis

Rep. Gregory Murphy, M.D. (3rd)

Rep. Richard Hudson (8th)

Ohio

Sen. Rob Portman

Rep. Brad Wenstrup (2nd)

Sen. Sherrod Brown

Rep. Robert Latta (5th)

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (9th)

Rep. Tim Ryan (13th)

Rep. Mike Carey (15th)

Oklahoma

Sen. James Inhofe

Tom Cole (4th)

Rep. Stephanie Bice (5th)

Rep. Markwayne Mullin (2nd)

Oregon

Sen. Jeffrey Merkley

Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th)

Sen. Ron Wyden

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (3rd)

Pennsylvania

Sen. Pat Toomey

Rep. Susan Wild (7th)

Rep. John Joyce (13th)

Rep. Glenn Thompson (15th)

Sen. Bob Casey

Rep. Mary Scanlon (5th)

Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (6th)

Rhode Island

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse

South Carolina

Sen. Tim Scott

Rep. Jeff Duncan (3rd)

Rep. William Timmons (4th)

Rep. Tom Rice (7th)

South Dakota

Sen. Mike Rounds

Rep. John Rose (6th)

Tennessee

Sen. Marsha Blackburn

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (3rd)

Texas

Rep. Al Green (9th)

Rep. Kay Granger (12th)

Rep. Ronny Jackson (13th)

Rep. Veronica Escobar (16th)

Rep. Pete Sessions (17th)

Rep. Joaquin Castro (20th)

Rep. Sylvia Garcia (29th)

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (30th)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (35th)

Utah

Sen. Mike Lee

Vermont

Sen. Patrick Leahy

Virginia

Sen. Mark Warner

Rep. Elaine Luria (2nd)

Rep. Donald McEachin (4th)

Rep. Donald Beyer (8th)

Rep. Jennifer Wexton (10th)

Rep. Gerald Connolly (11th)

Sen. Tim Kaine

Washington

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (3rd)

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (7th)

West Virginia

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito

Wisconsin

Sen. Ronald Johnson

Rep. Ron Kind (3rd)

Rep. Tom Tiffany (7th)

Sen. Tammy Baldwin

Rep. Bryan Stell (1st)

Rep. Gwen Moore (4th)

Wyoming

Sen. Cynthia Lummis

Sen. John Barrasso



Photo: Karen Mitchell

Abbabiya (Biya) Simbassa exults in his first U.S. National Championships win. His time of 46:18 was the third fastest ever in the event by an American.

PRRO Circuit Information



PRRO Circuit 2019-22 Summary

Overall 2019-22 Circuit events will award more than \$410,000 in prize money; next PRRO Circuit stop, Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile; 2022 Boilermaker 15K hosts 25th PRRO Championship

The **PRRO Circuit**, a nationwide series of premier non-marathon road racing events, is organized and promoted by the **Professional Road Running Organization (PRRO)**, an alliance of race directors. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the 2019-20 and 2020-21 PRRO Circuits were cancelled. The next stop on the extended PRRO Circuit is the 49th **Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile** on Sunday, April 3, 2022 in Washington, DC.

The PRRO Circuit showcases world class competition at three classic American road race events and offers more than \$410,000 in prize money overall, including \$132,000 in U.S.-only money. The **Boilermaker 15K**, a summertime U.S. road race that annually attracts 11,500 participants, will also host the **25th PRRO Championship** on Sunday, July 10, 2022 in Utica, NY.

At the 2022 **PRRO Championship**, reigning champions (**Gabriel Geay** and **Rosemary Wanjiru**), 2019 Boilermaker 15K winners and any athlete who has won one of the 2021-22 Circuit events are eligible to compete for the **\$10,000 PRRO Super Bonus**, which is awarded to the winner of the 2022 PRRO Championship (bonus split if an eligible male and female win the PRRO titles). Those aforementioned runners are also eligible for the **PRRO Event Champion's Bonus** (\$1500 cumulative for eligible athletes who do not win the PRRO Championship but do finish in places 2-10 at the PRRO Championship). Any athlete who wins the PRRO Super Bonus is not eligible for the PRRO Event Champion's Bonus.

If the male and female winners of the PRRO Championship have not won any of the events on the current Circuit, they will be awarded \$2500 each as the PRRO Championship Circuit winners in addition to the prize money at the PRRO Championship event.

Schedule, contacts and PRRO Super Bonus event qualifiers below:

PAST PRRO CIRCUIT EVENTS WHICH HAVE QUALIFIED ATHLETES FOR THE 2022 PRRO CHAMPIONSHIP

Lilac Bloomsday Run 12K, May 5, 2019, Spokane, WA

\$81,000 in prize money (\$20,000 U.S. prize money)

WINNERS: *Gabriel Geay**, Tanzania, 34:50 and *Rosemary Wanjiru**, Kenya, 39:06

Boilermaker 15K, July 14, 2019, Utica, NY

\$65,100 in prize money (\$14,500 U.S. prize money)

WINNERS: *Gabriel Geay**, Tanzania, 43:36 and *Caroline Rotich**, Kenya, 49:08

PRRO Circuit Information

[Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile](#), September 12, 2021, Washington, DC

\$52,000 in prize money (\$32,000 U.S. prize money) plus performance & record bonuses

WINNERS: *Edwin Kimutai**, Kenya, 45:45 and *Nell Rojas**, USA, 52:13

*Qualified to compete for the \$10,000 PRRO Super Bonus at the 2022 PRRO Championship.

UPCOMING PRRO EVENTS WHICH WILL QUALIFY ATHLETES FOR THE 2022 PRRO CHAMPIONSHIP

[Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile](#), April 3, 2022, Washington, DC

\$71,000 in prize money (\$31,000 U.S. prize money) plus performance & record bonuses

Elite athlete contact: Bill Orr, (863) 533-0654, borr@cherryblossom.org

[Lilac Bloomsday Run 12K](#), May 1, 2022, Spokane, WA

\$81,000 in prize money (\$20,000 U.S. prize money)

Elite athlete contact: Jon Neill, (509) 703-0025, jon@bloomsdayrun.org

THE 25th PRRO CHAMPIONSHIP

[45th Boilermaker 15K](#), July 10, 2022, Utica, NY

\$65,100 in prize money (\$14,500 U.S. prize money)

Elite athlete contact: Dick Mattia, dick@boilermaker.com

To-date, PRRO Circuit events have produced 17 world and 17 U.S. road records, awarded more than \$7.7 million in prize money and seen more than 2.5 million runners cross their finish lines. In addition, since 1996, the PRRO Championship race has paid out more than \$1.9 million including \$160,000 in PRRO Championship bonus money.

PRRO Championship and Circuit Year

The PRRO Circuit, launched in 1995, starts and finishes the Circuit Year at the same event that will also host the season-ending PRRO Championship race. The reigning titlists of the PRRO Championship and the event winners on the current Circuit are eligible to compete for the PRRO Super Bonus at the PRRO Championship.

Visit [PRRO.org](https://prro.org) for more information, including its history and past champions, as well as how to join the PRRO Circuit.



Prize Money Structure

When Nike became title sponsor in 1984, \$13,400 in prize money was offered for the first time, paid equally to the top-seven men and women. A complete history of the evolution of prize money and record bonuses is detailed in the race history section of this guide. The total amount of prize money paid since 1984 surpassed the \$1 million mark in 2017. (See prize money history)

This year, a \$10,000 World Record bonus is being offered to the first man to break Haile Gebrselassie's ARRS* World Record of 44:23, set at the Brabant Dagblad Ten Mild in Tilburg, NED on September 4, 2005, or the first woman to break the current ARRS Single-sex World Record of 51:23 set by Keira D'Amato in Washington DC's Anacostia Park on November 4, 2020. If both World Records are broken, the \$10,000 bonus will be split evenly. (*Because World Athletics does not keep official world records for ten miles, the time standards race organizers will use are those world records maintained by the Association of Road Racing Statisticians.)

The addition of the ARRS World Record bonus brings the total amount of prize money and bonuses up for grabs in 2022 to \$92,500. A complete breakdown of that \$92,500 includes the aforementioned \$10,000 World Record bonus; a \$10,000 American Record bonus for the first man to break Galen Rupp's American Record of 45:54, or for the first woman to break Keira D'Amato's American Record of 51:23 (if both American Records are broken, the bonus will be split evenly); \$40,000 in open prize money; \$25,000 in U.S. prize money, plus a possible \$3,500 in time bonuses. Also included in the prize money and bonuses accounting is \$6,000 in prize money for the top-three men and women who qualify as past recipients of RRCA Road Scholar Grants, or RRCA RunPro Camp alumni. Finally, the Washington Metropolitan Area Team Championship Division offers \$500 each to the first place men's and women's teams consisting of talented, open-division DC-area Running Club Store of Running Club teams.

2022 International Prize Structure

Place	Men	Women
1st	\$8000	\$8000
2nd	\$4000	\$4000
3rd	\$2000	\$2000
4th	\$1500	\$1500
5th	\$1000	\$1000
6th	\$900	\$900
7th	\$800	\$800
8th	\$700	\$700
9th	\$600	\$600
10th	\$500	\$500

2022 U.S. Prize Structure

Place	Men	Women
1st	\$5000	\$5000
2nd	\$2500	\$2500
3rd	\$1500	\$1500
4th	\$1000	\$1000
5th	\$800	\$800
6th	\$600	\$600
7th	\$400	\$400
8th	\$300	\$300
9th	\$200	\$200
10th	\$200	\$200

Prize Money History

With the advent of Nike as title sponsor in 1984, \$13,400 in prize money was offered for the first time, paid equally to the top-seven men and women. In 1985, the total purse was increased to \$16,500, with equal allocation between men and women—a policy that remains in place today. From 1987—2008, the top-12 finishing places earned prize money; in 2009, the race went back to paying top-ten finishers only. In 2016, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile achieved the milestone of having distributed over \$1 million in prize money since 1984.

The 2013 race also served as the USA 10 Mile Championship for women, and an additional \$14,400 was added to the prize purse to reward the top-ten American women finishers*. In 2014, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run served as both men's and women's USA 10 Mile Championships, and a total of \$28,800 was set aside for the top-ten American men and women finishers.

In 2019 a separate prize purse of \$1,500, \$1,000, \$500 for the top three men and women eligible to compete for the RRCA Roads Scholar RunPro Alumni Challenge was added. See RRCA.

In 2021, both the men's and women's USATF 10 Mile Championships were held in conjunction with the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile. A total of \$26,000 was paid to the top-10 American men and women finishers. And, yes, American runners placing in the overall top-ten were able to “double-dip” and collect both international and “American Development prize money.

Without USATF Championship races in 2022, prize money for Americans will total \$25,000, with an additional \$40,000 in the international purse. See the table below for the breakdown.

In addition to pay-for-place prize money, the event first introduced bonuses for records set in 2007. With the \$10,000 World Record bonus (split if both the men's and women's World Records are broken), plus time bonuses for the first two men or women to break 46:00 or 52:00 means a possible total of \$23,500 could be paid out in record and time bonuses in 2022.

The tables below document the event's prize money and record bonus history. To limit the size of the tables, separate columns for men and women have been eliminated; given the fact that equal prize money has been paid to men and women since 1984, payment for place figures represent money paid to men or women (**except for 2013 as noted above and in the table below*).

Credit Union Cherry Blossom Prize Money History

	International Purse	American Purse
2022 Total Purse	\$40,000	\$25,000
First	\$8,000	\$5,000
Second	\$4,000	\$2,500
Third	\$2,000	\$1,500
Fourth	\$1,500	\$1,000
Fifth	\$1,000	\$800
Sixth	\$900	\$600
Seventh	\$800	\$400
Eighth	\$700	\$300
Ninth	\$600	\$200
Tenth	\$500	\$200
2021 Total Purse	\$23,500	\$26,000
First	\$5,000	\$5,000
Second	\$2,500	\$2,500
Third	\$1000	\$1,000
Fourth	\$750	\$900
Fifth	\$500	\$800
Sixth	\$450	\$700
Seventh	\$400	\$600
Eighth	\$350	\$500
Ninth	\$300	\$500
Tenth	\$250	\$500

Prize Money History

	International Purse	American Purse
2015-2019 Total Purse	\$40,000	\$25,000
First	\$8,000	\$5,000
Second	\$4,000	\$2,500
Third	\$2,000	\$1,500
Fourth	\$1,500	\$1,000
Fifth	\$1,000	\$800
Sixth	\$900	\$600
Seventh	\$800	\$400
Eighth	\$700	\$300
Ninth	\$600	\$200
Tenth	\$500	\$200
2014 Total Purse	\$41,000	\$28,800
First	\$8,000	\$5,000
Second	\$4,500	\$2,500
Third	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fourth	\$1,500	\$1,500
Fifth	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sixth	\$900	\$800
Seventh	\$800	\$600
Eighth	\$700	\$500
Ninth	\$600	\$300
Tenth	\$500	\$200
2013 Total Purse	\$41,000	\$14,400
First	\$8,000	\$5,000
Second	\$4,000	\$2,500
Third	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fourth	\$1,500	\$1,500
Fifth	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sixth	\$900	\$800
Seventh	\$800	\$600
Eighth	\$700	\$500
Ninth	\$600	\$300
Tenth	\$500	\$200

Prize Money History

From 2009-2012, total prize money stayed constant at \$39,000, broken down as follows:

2009-2012	International Purse
Total Purse	\$39,000
First	\$7,500
Second	\$4,000
Third	\$2,000
Fourth	\$1,500
Fifth	\$1,000
Sixth	\$900
Seventh	\$800
Eighth	\$700
Ninth	\$600
Tenth	\$500

From 1984-2008, total prize money grew consistently from \$13,400 to 32,500:

1984-2008	Total Purse
2008	\$32,500
2007	\$32,000
2006	\$31,500
2005	\$31,000
2004	\$30,200
2003	\$29,500
2002	\$29,000
2001	\$28,500
2000	\$28,000



Photo: Team Mallet

Embedded medical team member Michael Huffman monitors the field from Mile Zero to Mile 10.

Prize Money History

1984-2008	Total Purse
2008	\$32,500
2007	\$32,000
2006	\$31,500
2005	\$31,000
2004	\$30,200
2003	\$29,500
2002	\$29,000
2001	\$28,500
2000	\$28,000
1999	\$27,500
1998	\$27,000
1997	\$26,000
1996	\$26,000
1995	\$23,500
1994	\$23,000
1993	\$22,500
1992	\$22,000
1991	\$21,500
1990	\$21,000
1989	\$20,000
1988	\$19,500
1987	\$19,500
1986	\$18,700
1985	\$16,500
1984	\$13,400



Photo: Clay Shaw

Nell Rojas moves to take charge. Antonia Kwambai (#22) and Annie Frisbie (#30), pace-setters for the previous half hour, rise to the challenge.

Bonus Payment History

A schedule of record bonus payments was first introduced in 2007, with \$750 on offer to the first two men to run under 46:00 and the first two women to run under 52:00. In 2013 the sub-46:00 and sub-52:00 bonus payment schedule was changed to pay \$1,000 to the first man or woman to achieve their respective benchmarks, and \$750 to the second man or woman to do so.

In 2015, race organizers were forced to re-route the course between four and six miles due to an accident on the course that occurred about an hour prior to the start of the elite women's race. The exact distance was measured as 9.39 miles after the race – making it just a fraction over 15K. Nevertheless, race organizers decided to pay bonuses based on projected times, as shown in the table below.

In 2019, post-race analysis of the course revealed that the turn-around point in West Potomac Park had been misplaced, resulting in a course-as-run that was 240 feet short of 10 miles. Nevertheless, race organizers paid the first two men and women the time bonuses for running faster than 46:00 and 52:00 respectively.

Credit Union Cherry Blossom Open Time Bonus Payments

	Sub-46:00 Bonus	Sub-52:00 Bonus
2021		
Edwin Kimutai (45:45)	\$1,000	
2019		
Jemal Yimer (45:36*)	\$1,000	
Josphat Tanui (45:38*)	\$750	
Rosemary Wanjiru (50:42*)		\$1,000
Gotytom Gebreslase (50:47*)		\$750
2015		
Mary Wacera (51:45*)		\$1,000
Cynthia Jeretich Limo (51:46*)		\$750
2014		
Stephen Sambu (45:29)	\$1,000	
Daniel Salel (45:29)	\$750	
2012		
Allan Kiprono (45:15)	\$750	
2011		
Lelisa Desisa (45:36)	\$750	
Allan Kiprono (45:41)	\$750	
2010		
Stephen Tum (45:53)	\$750	
Lilisa Desisa (45:44)	\$750	
Lineth Chepkurui (51:51)		\$750
2009		
Ridouane Harroufi (45:56)	\$750	
Feyisa Liesa (45:58)	\$750	
2008		
Tebya Erkesso (51:44)		\$750

Bonus Payment History

When the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run first hosted the USA 10 Mile Championships for women in 2013, an American Record bonus of \$2,500 was offered. In 2014, when both men's and women's USA 10 Mile Championships were hosted, the \$2,500 American Record bonus was offered to both men and women.

Credit Union Cherry Blossom American Record Bonus Payments

	American Record Bonus Payments
2019	
Stanley Kebenei (46:00*)	\$10,000
2014	
Janet Bawcom (52:12)	\$2500
2013	
Janet Bawcom (53:28)	\$2500

In 2015 race organizers introduced a \$10,000 American Record bonus (fastest time beating the U.S. men's 10-mile record of 46:13 or the U.S. women's-only record of 52:12), to be split equally if both records are broken. In 2017, race organizers added an additional \$10,000 to the American record bonus pool, doing away with the split bonus if both men's and women's records were broken in the same race.

*In 2019, Stanley Kebenei crossed the finish line in 46:00, apparently breaking Greg Meyer's long-standing American record of 46:13. Unfortunately, post-race analysis revealed that a set of misplaced traffic cones at the turn-around in West Potomac Park resulted in the course-as-run being 240 feet short of 10 miles. Race organizers paid Kebenei the \$10,000 bonus, even though his effort would go unrecognized as a new American record.

Just prior to the Covid caused cancellation of the 2020 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run, race organizers announced that they would add a \$10,000 World Record bonus* to the overall prize purse. For the April 2022 race, both the World and American Record bonuses will be split if both men's and women's records are broken.

*Because World Athletics does not keep official world records for ten miles, the time standards race organizers will use for bonus consideration are those records maintained by the Association of Road Racing Statisticians (www.arrs.run), a global statistical records keeper that has tracked world road running records since the 1970s. The current ARRS World Record for men is 44:23, run by Haile Gebrselassie at the Brabant Daglbard Ten Mile in Tilburg, NED, on September 4, 2005. The current ARRS Women's Single-sex record is 51:23, run by Keira D'Amato at the Up Dawg Ten Miler in Washington DC's Anacostia Park on November 24, 2020.



Elite women start 12 minutes prior to the men and open racers to ensure that their performances are eligible for women's-only race records.

Elite Men Athlete Bios

2022 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile - Elite Men (3/27/22)

#03

Kimining, Shadrack (26)

DOB: 2/19/96

Residence:

Citizen of: KEN

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 59:27/hmar

Career: 3rd, '21 Antrim Coast Half Marathon (1:00:32); 3rd, '20th Aramco Half-Marathon (59:27 PB); 8th, '20 AirTel Delhi Half-Marathon (59:51); 2nd, '19 Cardiff University Cardiff Half Marathon (59:32 PB); 5th, '19 Medio Maratón Valencia Trinidad Alfonso EDP Half Marathon (59:40); 3rd, '18 Yangzhou Jianzhen International Half Marathon (1:01:35); 5th, '17 Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon (1:01:37); 1st, '16 Cardiff University Cardiff Half Marathon (1:00:53).

2022 Times: 5th, '22 Aramco Half Marathon (1:00:53); 3rd, '22 Medio Maratón Internacional Electrolit Guadalajara Half-Marathon (1:01:33).

#05

Kimetei, Wilfred (37)

DOB: 3/11/85

Residence:

Citizen of: KEN

Team: Asics

Lifetime PRs: 28:02/ - / 59:40/hmar

Career: 2nd, '19 Ottawa 10k Canadian Championships (28:16); 6th, '18 RAK Half Marathon (59:40 PB); 1st, '17 Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon (1:00:54 PB/CR); 4th, '17 Mattoni Ústí Half Marathon (1:00:12 PB); 1st, '16 First Lady's Half-Marathon (1:00:38); 1st, '16 Parelloop 10k (28:02).

2022 Times: 3rd, '22 Aramco Half Marathon (1:00:44).

#07

Kosimbei, Nicholas (25)

DOB: 10/1/96

Residence:

Citizen of: KEN

Lifetime PRs: 27:52/ - / 1:00:21/hmar

Career: 4th, '18 Meia-Maratona Internacional de Lisboa EDP Half Marathon (1:00:21); 1st, '18 Gifu Seiryu Half Marathon (1:01:12); 7th, '16 Prefontaine Classic 10,000m (27:03 PB).

#09

Sambu, Stephen (33)

DOB: 7/7/88

Residence:

Citizen of: KEN

Lifetime PRs: 27:25/ - / 1:00:41/hmar

Career: 6th, '19 Lilac Bloomsday Run 12k (35:23); 3rd, '19 B.A.A. 10k (28:11); 7th, '19 AJC Peachtree 10k (28:38); 4th, '19 Boilermaker 15k (44:13); 4th, '19 Quad-City Bix 7 Mile (33:05); 2nd, '19 New Balance Falmouth Road Race 7 Mile (32:29); 7th, '19 TCS New York City Marathon (2:11:11); 7th, Aramco Half Marathon (1:00:41 PB); 6th, '18 UAE Healthy Kidney 10k (29:08); 3rd, '18 B.A.A. 10k (28:36); 2nd, '18 TD Beach to Beacon 10k (28:27); 4th, '18 New Balance Falmouth Road Race 7 Mile (28:51); 2nd, '18 EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler (46:56); 3rd, '17 World's Best 10k (28:34); 1st, '17 Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle 8k (22:47); 3rd, '17 UAE Healthy Kidney 10k (28:31); 2nd, '17 B.A.A. 5k (13:22); 4th, '17 TD Beach to Beacon 10k (28:16); 1st, '17 New Balance Falmouth 7 Mile Road Race (32:14); 5th, '17 Bank of America Chicago Marathon (2:11:07 PB).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 5th, '19 (9.96 miles corrected time for 10 miles) (46:55/47:06).

#11

Estrada, Diego (32)

DOB: 12/19/89

Residence: Flagstaff, AZ

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 2:11:54/ 1:00:51/hmar

Career: 4th, '19 Payton Jordan Invitational 10,000m (27:58); 8th, '19 USATF Distance Classic 5000m (13:38); 10th, '19 Faxon Law New Haven Road Race 20k (USA Championships) (1:01:29); 19th Chicago Marathon (2:11:54 PB); 2nd, '17 Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle 8k (23:06); 9th, '17 Bolder BOULDER 10k (29:59); 6th, '17 Wharf to Wharf 6 Mile (27:48); 16th, '17 Bank of America Chicago Marathon (2:15:19); 5th, '16 B.A.A. 5k (13:54); 3rd, '16 Bolder BOULDER 10k (29:41); 6th, '16 Laxon Law New Haven Road Race (USA Men's and Women's 20k Championships) (59:44); 1st, '15 USA Half Marathon Championships (1:00:51 DB); 6th, '15 Carlsbad 5000 (13:56); 1st, '15 Mt. SAC Relays 5000m (13:31.64); 9th, '15 Prefontaine Classic 10,000m (27:31 PB); 15th, '15 USA Outdoor Championships Men's 5000m (14:07.51); 8th, '15 USA Outdoor Championships Men's 10,000m (28:36.06); 10th, '15 CVS Health Downtown 5k (U.S. 5-K Championships for Men and Women) (14:22); 7th, '15 US National Road Racing Championships (34:46).

2022 Times: 17th, Gate River Run 15k (45:08 PB).

#17

Zienasellassie, Futsum (29)

DOB: 12/16/92

Residence: Indianapolis, IN

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 47:01/10 miles

Career: 1st, '21 Great Cow Harbor 10k (29:53); 5th, '21 Blue Cross Broad Street Run 10 Mile (47:01); 2nd, '21 Amway Bank Run 25k (USATF 25k Open Championships for Men and Women) (1:14:28 DB); 5th, '21 Mortgage Network Half-Marathon (USATF Half-Marathon Championships for Men & Women) (1:01:21 PB); 14th, '20th Aramco Half-Marathon (1:01:44 PB); 5th, '19 USA Half Marathon Championships (Pittsburgh Half Marathon) (1:03:55); 1st, '19 Great Cow Harbor 10k (29:36); 1st, '19 Monterey Bay Half Marathon (1:02:33 PB/CR); 11th, '18 Faxon Law New Haven Road Race 20k (USA Men's and Women's 20-K Championships) (1:03:04); 8th, '18 Medtronic Twin Cities USA 10 Mile Championships (47:28); 5th, '17 Cow Harbor 10k (29:54); 2nd, '17 Monterey Bay Half Marathon (1:04:02 DB).

2022 Times: 6th, Gate River Run 15k (43:29 PB).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 6th (2nd US), '19 Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile (9.96 miles corrected time for 10 miles) (46:57/47:08).

#19

Wanjiku, Charles (21)

DOB: 5/16/00

Residence:

Citizen of: KEN

Lifetime PRs: 29:45/ - / 1:01:23/hmar

#21

Buchanan, Reid (29)

DOB: 2/3/93

Residence: San Diego, CA

Citizen of: USA

Team: On/Mammoth TC

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:11:38/ 1:01:45/hmar

Career: 4th, '21 USATF Golden Games and Distance Open at Mt. SAC 5000m (13:32); 9th, '21 USA Olympic Trials 10,000m (28:04); 7th, '21 Faxon New Haven Road Race 20k Championships (1:00:24); 16th, '20 Houston Half (1:01:45); 13th, '20 The Marathon Project (2:11:38 DB); 3rd, '19 Carlsbad 5000 (13:56); 5th, '19 Payton Jordan Invitational 10,000m (27:59 PB); 8th, '19 Bolder BOULDER 10k (29:46); 4th, '18 Crescent City Classic 10k (28:57 PB); 12th, Lilac Bloomsday Run 12k (35:35); 7th, '18 Atlanta Journal Constitution Peachtree Road Race 10k (29:08); 12th, '17 Lilac Bloomsday Run 12k (36:03); 5th, '17 Quad-City Times Bix 7 Mile (USA 7 Mile Championships) (33:29).

#23

Austin, Brogan (30)

DOB: 10/5/91

Residence: West Des Moines, IA

Citizen of: USA

Team: New Balance

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:12:38/ 1:01:52/hmar

Career: 7th, '21 Amway Bank Run 25k (USATF 25k Open Championships for Men and Women) (1:15:37 DB); 1st, '19 Road to Gold 8 Mile (38:07); 6th, '19 United Airlines NYC Half (1:02:41); 4th, '19 USA Half Marathon Championships (Pittsburgh Half Marathon) (1:03:39); 2nd, '18 Dam to Dam 20k (1:03:07); 1st, '18 California International Marathon (USA Marathon Championships For Men & Women) (2:12:38 PB); 8th, '16 EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler (49:03 PB).

2022 Times: 52nd, Gate River Run 15k (49:50).

#29

Reichow, Joel (28)

DOB: 7/24/93

Residence: St. Paul, MN

Citizen of: USA

Team: Minnesota Distance Elite

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:15:45/ 1:02:38/hmar

Career: 13th, '21 Mortgage Network Half-Marathon (USATF Half-Marathon Championships for Men & Women) (1:03:38).

2022 Times: 26th, Gate River Run 15k (45:51).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 8th, '21 (47:36).

#31

Lalang, Lawi (30)

DOB: 6/15/91

Residence: Colorado Springs, CO

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 1:02:49/hmar

Career: 6th, '21 USATF Golden Games and Distance Open at Mt. SAC 5000m (14:05); 6th, '21 Blue Cross Broad Street Run 10 Mile (47:11); 6th, '21 Amway Bank Run 25k (USATF 25k Open Championships for Men and Women) (1:15:37 DB); 10th, '21 Mortgage Network Half-Marathon (USATF Half-Marathon Championships for Men & Women) (1:02:49 PB); 6th, '19 Payton Jordan Invitational 10,000m (28:04); 1st, '19 USATF Distance Classic 5000m (13:26); 1st, '19 Army Ten-Miler (48:38); 8th, '16 Carlsbad 5000 (13:58); 6th, '16 Quad-City Times Bix 7 (33:38); 6th, '16 Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot/Elite 5k (13:44); 1st, '15 Carlsbad 5000 (13:32); 7th, '15 Prefontaine Classic 5000m (13:17).

2022 Times: 1st, '22 All-America City 10k (29:16).

Elite Women Athlete Bios

2022 Credit Union Cherry Blossom - Elite Women (3/27/22)

#06

Twell, Stephanie (32)

DOB: 8/17/89

Residence:

Citizen of: GBR

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 31:08:13/10,000mPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 7th, '21 USATF Golden Games and Distance Open at Mt. SAC 5000m (15:37); 8th, '20th Aramco Half-Marathon (1:08:55 PB); 2nd, '19 Vitality Big Half (1:11:33 PB); 4th, '19 Simplyhealth Great Manchester Run 10k (32:41); 1st, '19 Vitality London 10,000m British 10k Championships (31:55 PB); 1st, '19 Night of the 10,000 PB's/European Cup 10,000m (31:09 PB); 8th, '19 Mainova Frankfurt Marathon (2:26:40 PB); 2nd, '18 Simplyhealth Great South Run 10 Miles (55:16); 7th, '18 Maratón Valencia Trinidad Alfonso edp (2:30:14 DB).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 8th, '19 Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile (9.96 miles corrected time for 10 miles) (52:58/53:10).

#10

Pagano, Sarah (30)

DOB: 7/21/91

Residence: Brighton, MA

Citizen of: USA

Team: Adidas

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 1:09:41/hmarPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 2nd, '21 Las Vegas Gold Half-Marathon (1:09:41 PB); 9th, '21 Gate River Run 15k (U.S. 15-K Championships for Men and Women) (50:36 PB); 5th, '21 Philadelphia Distance Run Half-Marathon (1:12:35); 8th, '21 Bank of America Chicago Marathon (2:33:11 DB); 9th, '19 Payton Jordan Invitational 10,000m (31:52 PB); 5th, '18 Crescent City Classic 10k (33:06); 1st, '15 Freihofer's Run for Women 5k (15:48); 5th, '18 USATF Outdoor Track & Field Championships 10,000m (32:14); 8th, '18 Atlanta Journal Constitution Peachtree Road Race 10k (33:31); 6th, '18 Manchester Road Race 4.748 mile (25:09); 1st, '17 NYRR Midnight Run 4 Mile (21:06 PB); 5th, '17 USA Cross Country Championships and World Cross Selection Trials 10k (35:44); 6th, '17 B.A.A. 5k (15:46 PB); 2nd, '17 Atlanta Journal Constitution Peachtree Road Race 10k (USA 10k Championships)(33:01); 3rd, '17 Monterey Bay Half Marathon (1:13:19); 4th, '17 Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot/Elite 5k (16:04); 9th, '16 B.A.A. 5k (16:05); 4th, '16 CVS Health Downtown 5k (U.S. 5k Championships) (15:55); 1st, '16 Half-Marathon on Monterey Bay (1:13:05); 2nd, '16 Manchester Road Race 4.748 Mile (24:19).

2022: 4th, Gate River Run 15k (49:51 PB).

#14

Conley, Kim (36)

DOB: 3/14/86

Residence: West Sacramento, CA

Citizen of: USA

Team: New Balance Norcal

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 31:35:88/10,000mPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 6th, '21 The Ten (31:41); 8th, '21 Sound Running Invite 5000m (15:18); 8th, '21 Abbott Dash to the Finish Line 5k (USATF 5k Championships)(15:53); 7th, '20 Gate River Run 15k (50:34 PB); 4th, '19 B.A.A. 5k (15:36); 2nd, '19 Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot/Elite 5k (15:44); 9th, '18 New Balance Falmouth Road Race 7 Mile (33:58); 4th, '18 Abbott Dash to Finish Line 5k (USA 5k Championships for Men and Women) (16:01); 10th, '17 Gate River Run 15k (USATF Championships) (51:30); 1st, '17 Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle 8k (25:43); 12th, '17 Prefontaine Classic 5000m (15:15); 13th, '16 Prefontaine Classic 5000m (15:11); 3rd, '16 USA Olympic Trials 5000m (15:10.62).

#16

Verdon, Carrie (28)

DOB: 3/8/94

Residence:

Citizen of: USA

Team: Tracksmith

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:31:51/ 1:10:11/hmarPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 2nd, '21 Valley O.N.E Half Marathon (1:10:11 PB); 7th, '21 Bank of America Chicago Marathon (2:31:51 DB); 8th, '20 Michigan Pro Half-Marathon (1:13:11 PB).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 7th (5th US), '21 Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10-Mile (USATF 10 mile Championships) (52:51).

#18

Stoner, Paige (26)

DOB: 1/31/96

Residence: Charlottesville, VA

Citizen of: USA

Team: Reebok Boston TC

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:28:43/ 31:22:55/10000mPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 11th, '21 Gate River Run 15k (U.S. 15-K Championships for Men and Women) (50:48); 8th, '15 Gate River Run 15k (50:36 PB); 4th, '20 Michigan Pro Half-Marathon (1:11:53); 7th, '20 The Marathon Project (2:28:43 DB); 7th, '19 Abbott Dash to the Finish Line 5k (USA 5k Championships) (15:55); 8th, '19 Manchester Road Race 4.748 (25:11).

#20

Tabb, Elaina (30)

DOB: 12/17/91

Residence: Brighton, MA

Citizen of: USA

Team: BAA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 1:10:44/hmarPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 12th, '21 Boston Marathon (2:30:33 DB); 3rd, '20 Michigan Pro Half-Marathon (1:11:02); 5th, '19 B.A.A. 5k (15:38 PB); 11th, '19 Payton Jordan Invitational 10,000m (31:56 PB); 1st, '19 Freihofer's Run for Women 5k (16:04); 4th, '19 EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler (55:30); 10th, '18 New Balance Falmouth Road Race 7 Mile (34:06); 5th, '18 Medtronic Twin Cities USA 10 Mile Championships (54:44); 5th, '18 Manchester Road Race 4.748 mile (25:08); 6th, '17 USA Cross Country Championships and World Cross Selection Trials 10k (36:19); 11th, '17 Gate River Run 15k (USATF Championships) (51:49); 8th, '17 B.A.A. 5k (15:59 PB); 3rd, '17 Tufts Health Plan 10k for Women (34:03); 15th, '16 Utica Boilermaker 15k (53:16 PB); 10th, '16 TD Beach to Beacon 10k (33:50); 8th, '16 New Balance Falmouth Road Race 7 Mile (38:45);

#22

Sullivan, Susanna (31)

DOB: 5/13/90

Residence: Reston, VA

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: 33:02/ 2:33:27/ 1:10:50/hmarPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 1st, '21 Project 13.1 (1:10:50 PB); 8th, '21 AJC Peachtree Road Race 10-K (33:02); 9th, '21 Asics Falmouth Road Race 7 Mile (38:28); 9th, '21 Mortgage Network Half-Marathon (USATF Half-Marathon Championships for Men & Women) (1:11:58); 4th, '20 Up Dawg Ten-Miler (54:22 PB); 19th, '20 The Marathon Project (2:33:27 PB); 9th, '17 Atlanta Journal Constitution Peachtree Road Race 10k (USA 10k Championships)(34:04); 2nd, '15 Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k (33:56); 2nd, '14 Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k (33:42).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 12th (8th US), '21 CUCB 10-Mile (USATF 10 mile Championships) (54:37); 10th (3rd US), '17 (56:12); 5th US, '15 (55:06); 8th (4th US), '14 (54:31).

#24

Tuttle, Tayler

Residence: Boulder, CO

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / 51:26/15kPRs in last three years: - / - / -

2022: 10th, '22 Gate River Run 15-K (51:26 PB).

#26

Griffey, Julia (29)

DOB: 7/29/92

Residence:

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:29:58/ 1:11:04/hmarPRs in last three years: - / - / -

2022: 15th, Gate River Run 15k (52:59).

#28

Zeis, Lexi

Residence:

Citizen of: USA

Team: Roots Running Project

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:32:40/ 1:11:31PRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 12th, '20 Michigan Pro Half-Marathon (1:14:19); 16th, '20 The Marathon Project (2:32:40 DB); 15th, '19 Gate River Run 15k (53:50); 14th, '19 Lilac Bloomsday Run 12k (42:57); 6th, '19 Amway River Bank Run 25k (U.S. 25k Open Championships)(1:28:37 PB); 3rd, '19 Garry Bjorklund Half-Marathon (1:12:43 PB); 5th, '19 EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler (56:54); 7th, '18 EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler (56:05).

Past Credit Union Cherry Blossom Top 10 Finishes: 13th (5th US), '19 Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile (9.96 miles corrected time for 10 miles) (54:32/54:45).

#30

Bookmyer, Molly

Residence: Columbus, OH

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / 2:33:19/ 1:11:58/hmarPRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 2nd, '21 Project 13.1 (1:11:58 PB); 3rd, '19 Amway River Bank Run 25k ((U.S. 25k Open Championships)(1:27:28 PB); 19th, '19 AJC Peachtree 10k (34:16).

#32

Goldring, Katja (31)

DOB: 8/11/90

Residence: Flagstaff, AZ

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / - PRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 2nd, '21 Grandma's Marathon (2:31:30 PB); 4th, '21 California International Marathon (2:30:14 PB); 20th, '20 The Marathon Project (2:33:29 PB); 9th, '16 Women's USA Olympic Trials Marathon (2:35:21 PB); 8th, Peachtree Road Race 10k (34:06).

#34

Belyeu, Bridget (33)

DOB: 1/1/88

Residence: Newman, GA

Citizen of: USA

Lifetime PRs: - / - / - PRs in last three years: - / - / -

Career: 15th, '21 AJC Peachtree Road Race 10-K (35:18); 4th, '19 Medtronic Twin Cities 10 Mile (USA 10 Mile Championships) (53:47).

Open and Age Group Records

Over the years, numerous 10-mile records have been set at the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run — a total of 10 World records and 10 American records. None lasted as long as the 46:13 time Greg Meyer ran in 1983; back then it was a World Record, and the American Record until October 30, 2020 when Galen Rupp ran 45:53.

Prior to the 2014 race, which served as both the USA Men's and Women's 10 Mile Championships, Meyer said: "While it's an honor to hold an American Record, it's time someone else owned it! My gosh, it's older than most of the Americans competing! I can't wait to see someone break it!"

When Stanley Kebenei crossed the finish line in 2019 in 46:00, Meyer and race organizers thought the men's American record had finally fallen. Unfortunately, post-race analysis revealed that the turn-around point in West Potomac Park had been misplaced, resulting in a course-as-run that was 240 feet short of the full 10 miles, thus negating Kebenei's apparent American record. The women's winner, Kenyan Rosemary Wanjiru, was also a victim of the short course, which kept her time of 50:42 from being recognized as the fastest all-comers time in a women's only race.

Despite the shortened route taken by the runners, race organizers paid Kebenei \$10,000 for posting a time faster than Meyer's American record of 46:13. Race organizers also paid \$1,000 and \$750 respectively to the first two men and women who ran faster than 46:00 and 52:00 minutes: race winners Jemal Yimer (45:36) and Rosemary Wanjiru (50:42), and second place finishers Josphat Tanui (45:38) and Gotytom Gebreslase (50:47). There was no bonus offered for a U.S. all-comers record.

Stay tuned for 2022 race results. In the meantime, take a look at the progression of various 10-mile records that have been set at Cherry Blossom since the inaugural race in 1973.

Year	Elite Men	World Record	American Record	Event Record
1973	Sam Bair			51:22
1974	Jack Mahurin			50:50
1976	Carl Hatfield			49:09
1978	Bill Rodgers			48:57
1979	Bill Rodgers			48:00
1980	Bill Rodgers			47:09
1983	Greg Meyer	46:13	46:13	46:13
1994	William Sigei			46:01
1995	Ismael Kirui	45:38		45:38
2011	Lelisa Desisa			45:36
2012	Allan Kiprono			45:15

Year	Elite Women	World Record (mixed race)	World Record (single sex*)	American Record (mixed race)	American Record (single sex*)	Event Record
1973	Kathrine Switzer					71:19
1974	Carol Fridley					62:41
1975	Julie Shea					59:55
1976	Julie Shea	57:04		57:04		57:04
1977	Julie Shea	56:08		56:08		56:08
1979	Aileen O'Connor			56:02		56:02
1980	Anne Sullivan			55:34		55:34
1983	Eleanor Simonsick					54:46
1985	Lisa Weidenbach					53:30

Open and Age Group Records

Year	Elite Women	World Record (mixed race)	World Record (single sex*)	American Record (mixed race)	American Record (single sex*)	Event Record
1986	Rosa Mota	53:09				53:09
1987	Lisa Martin	52:23				52:23
1989	Lisa Weidenbach			52:34		
1991	Jill Hunter					51:57
1995	Rose Cheruiyot	51:39				51:39
1998	Colleen De Reuck	51:16				51:16
2006	Lydia Grogoryeva		52:11			52:11
2006	Turena Johnson				55:42	
2007	Teyba Erkesso		51:44			51:44
2009	Sally Meyerhoff				54:38	
2013	Janet Bawcom				53:28	
2014	Janet Bawcom				52:12	

*In 2006, record keeping standards were changed to recognize the difference between women running with men in a mixed race, and women running in an all-women's race. Cherry Blossom race organizers implemented a 10-minute advanced start for women that year, and all subsequent women's World and American records have been set under this format.

While countless age group records have been set at the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run over the years, the tables below list current age group event records for men and women.

Credit Union Cherry Blossom Age Group Records

	Age Group Men	Time	Age	Year
40-44	Steve Jones	48:26	40	1996
45-49	Bill Rodgers	52:22	49	1997
50-54	Norm Green	52:53	50	1983
55-59	Jim O'Neill	54:25	56	1994
60-64	Norm Green	57:48	60	1993
65-69	John Hosner	1:02:47	65	1990
70-74	Charles Rose	1:06:35	70	2003
75-79	Ed Benham	1:12:13	76	1984
80-84	Ed Benham	1:13:23	81	1989
85-89	George Yannakakis	1:44:08	85	2017

	Age Group Women	Time	Age	Year
40-44	Priscilla Welch	53:51	42	1987
45-49	Priscilla Welch	56:33	46	1991
50-54	Joan Samuelson	1:00:52	52	2010
55-59	Joan Samuelson	1:03:55	59	2017
60-64	Joan Samuelson	1:07:56	60	2018

Open and Age Group Records

	Age Group Women	Time	Age	Year
65-69	Edie Severson	1:13:23	67	2017
70-74	Hedy Marque	1:22:58	73	1991
75-79	Hedy Marque	1:25:40	75	1993
80-84	Hedy Marque	1:31:24	80	1998
85-89	Hedy Marque	1:57:38	87	2005
90-94	Ruth Rothfarb	3:27:30	91	1993



Photo: Bob Burgess

Credit Union Cherry Blossom race committee member Keira D'Amato setting the American and World Record of 51:23 at the November 2020 Up Dawg Ten Miler

All-Time Champions

Ten Mile Run

On a warm and crystal clear late summer morning in September 2021, American Nell Rojas won a thrilling race among the top women runners, while Kenyan Edwin Kimutai left the rest of the men's field in his footsteps 25 minutes into the race to handily win the men's race. With his 33-second victory, Kimutai honored the recent passing of his wife, while Rojas surprised all the pundits when she sprinted away from Jenny Simpson with less than one half mile left in the race to win the 2021 USATF Women's 10 Mile Championship Presented by Toyota and the overall race among the women.

*On a picture-perfect day in 2019, with Washington DC's cherry trees in full bloom, defending champion Jemal Yimer, from Ethiopia, won the men's race in a time of 45:36. Kenyan Rosemary Wanjiru won the women's race in 50:42. Unfortunately the full impact of their very fast times was negated by the fact that the course-as-run ended up being 240 feet short of the full 10 miles, due to a misplaced set of traffic cones at the turn-around in West Potomac Park.

**In 2016, weather conditions for the event were less than ideal, with temperatures in the mid-30s and winds gusting up to 40 miles per hour during the race, thus slowing all runners' times considerably. For the first time in 10 years, the elite women started with the men, and surely benefited from running in the larger pack.

***In 2015, race organizers were forced to re-route the course between four and six miles due to an accident on the course that occurred about an hour prior to the start of the elite women's race. The exact distance was measured as 9.39 miles after the race – making it just a fraction over 15K. The times listed in the table below for 2015 represent projected 10-mile finish times; Stephen Sambu ran 43:20 for 9.39 miles, while Mary Wacera ran 48:35.

Year	Male Winner	Time	Female Winner	Time
2021	Edwin Kimutai	45:45	Nell Rojas	52:13
*2019	Jemal Yimer	45:36	Rosemary Wanjiru	50:42
2018	Jemal Yimer	46:17	Buze Diriba	53:45
2017	Stanley Kebenei	46:36	Hiwot Gebrekidan	53:37
**2016	Sam Chelanga	48:26	Veronica Nyaruai Wanjiru	53:12
***2015	Stephen Sambu – Kenya	43:20	Mary Wacera – Kenya	51:45
2014	Stephen Sambu – Kenya	45:29	Mamitu Daska – Ethiopia	52:05
2013	Daniel Salel – Kenya	46:06	Caroline Rotich – Kenya	52:46
2012	Allan Kiprono – Kenya	45:15	Julliah Tenega – Kenya	54:02
2011	Lelisa Desisa – Ethiopia	45:36	Julliah Tenega – Kenya	54:02
2010	Stephen Tum – Kenya	45:43	Lineth Chepkurui – Kenya	51:51
2009	Ridouane Harroufi – Morocco	45:46	Lineth Chepkurui – Kenya	53:32
2008	Ridouane Harroufi	46:14	Lineth Chepkurui – Kenya	54:21
2007	Tadesse Tola – Ethiopia	46:01	Tebya Erkesso – Ethiopia	51:44
2006	Gilbert Okari – Kenya	47:24	Lidiya Grigoryeva – Russia	52:11
2005	John Korir – Kenya	46:53	Nuta Olaru – Romania	52:00
2004	Nelson Kiplagat – Kenya	48:12	Isabella Ochichi – Kenya	52:06
2003	John Korir – Kenya	46:55	Olga Romanova – Russia	53:42
2002	Reuben Cheruiyot – Kenya	47:13	Luminita Talpos – Romania	52:50
2001	John Korir – Kenya	46:12	Elana Meyer – South Africa	52:15
2000	Reuben Cheruiyot – Kenya	46:07	Teresa Wanjiku – Kenya	55:50
1999	Worku Bikila – Ethiopia	46:59	Jane Omoro – Kenya	53:37
1998	Simon Rono – Kenya	45:51	Colleen De Reuck – South Africa	51:16
1997	Peter Githuka – Kenya	46:29	Valentina Yegorova – Russia	54:28
1996	Lazarus Nyakeraka – Kenya	46:49	Joan Nesbit – USA	53:25
1995	Ismael Kirui – Kenya	45:38	Rose Cheruiyot – Kenya	51:39
1994	William Sigei – Kenya	46:01	Helen Chepnego – Kenya	54:05
1993	William Sigei – Kenya	46:29	Judi St. Hilaire – USA	52:27

All-Time Champions

Year	Male Winner	Time	Female Winner	Time
1992	Richard Chelimo – Kenya	47:06	Albina Galliamova – Russia	53:44
1991	Carl Thackery – Great Britain	46:25	Jill Hunter – Great Britain	51:57
1990	Chris Fox – USA	47:06	Lisa Weidenbach – USA	53:28
1989	Brian Sheriff – Zimbabwe	46:43	Lisa Weidenbach – USA	52:34
1988	J.P. Ndaysienga – Belgium	47:33	Anne Audain – New Zealand	52:36
1987	Jon Sinclair – USA	46:48	Lisa Martin – Australia	52:23
1986	Thom Hunt – USA	46:15	Rosa Mota – Portugal	53:09
1985	Simeon Kigen – Kenya	46:24	Lisa Weidenbach – USA	53:30
1984	Simeon Kigen – Kenya	47:25	Rosa Mota – Portugal	54:16
1983	Greg Meyer – USA	46:13	Eleanor Simonsick – USA	54:46
1982	Terry Baker – USA	49:29	Eleanor Simonsick – USA	58:16
1981	Bill Rodgers – USA	47:17	Laurie Binder – USA	56:44
1980	Bill Rodgers	47:09	Anne Sullivan – USA	55:34
1979	Bill Rodgers – USA	48:00	Aileen O'Connor – USA	56:02
1978	Bill Rodgers – USA	48:57	Jenifer White – USA	56:35
1977	Dan Rincon – USA	49:44	Julie Shea – USA	56:08
1976	Carl Hatfield – USA	49:09	Julie Shea – USA	57:04
1975	Carl Hatfield – USA	51:47	Julie Shea – USA	59:55
1974	Jack Mahurin – USA	50:50	Carol Fridley – USA	1:02:41
1973	Sam Bair – USA	51:22	Kathrine Switzer – USA	1:11:19

5K Run-Walk

While the idea of having a “fun run” traces all the way back to the first event in 1973, when the fun run was two miles long, it wasn't until 2006 that the 5K Run-Walk was upgraded from an untimed run to a fully timed and scored event.

Year	Male Winner	Time	Female Winner	Time
2021	Rob Halliday	18:38	Jocelyn Kelley	19:49
2019	Jose Donato	18:24	Madeline Hanley	21:08
2018	Logan Yu	16:05	Hibah Abuhamdich	20:24
2017	Iber Gonzales Vidals	17:58	Lisa Gallagher	21:15
2016	Sylvain Clarenne (30)	18:31	Melanie Nakagawa (35)	22:47
2015	Dylan Eddinger (18)– Bally, PA	17:02	Ashley Kollme (32)– Washington, DC	18:29
2014	Nathan Davis (13) – Frederick, MD	17:58	Jessica McGuire (33) – Arlington, VA	20:34
2013	Nathan Davis (12) – Frederick, MD	17:22	Maggie Brill (36) – Pottstown, PA	19:43
2012	Barry Fischer (27) – Washington, DC	17:27	Win Persina (52) – Washington, DC	20:36
2011	Luke Holman (27) – McLean, VA	17:07	Nilda Cruz-Acevedo (47) – Laurel, MD	19:07
2010	Mitchell Lango (26) – Washington, DC	18:32	Britton Miller (30) – Arlington, VA	19:03
2009	Eric Sonnenschein (35) – Washington, DC	19:17	Marjorie Censer (26) – Arlington, VA	21:05
2008	Guy Cipolla (30) – Elmendorf AFB, AK	18:00	Erin Burlovich (27) – Chevy Chase, MD	21:34
2007	Daniel Bennett (36) – Dunkirk, MD	18:37	Erin Burlovich (26) – Chevy Chase, MD	20:42
2006	Michael Stanton-Geddes (24) – Washington, DC	17:54	Mary Margaret Peter (15) – Virginia Beach, VA	21:48

Past Winners' Notable Accomplishments

Over the years, a victory at the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run has proven to be a stepping stone to success at the Boston Marathon shortly thereafter. And some Cherry Blossom victors have gone on to Olympic success in the same year. The table below lists Cherry Blossom winners who have distinguished themselves at the Boston Marathon and/or Olympic Games.

Boston Marathon Champions

Name	Country	Won Cherry Blossom	Won Boston
Men			
Bill Rodgers	USA	'78, '79, '80, '81	'75, '78, '79, '80
Greg Meyer	USA	'83	'83
Lelisa Desisa	ETH	'11	'13, '15
Name	Country	Won Cherry Blossom	Won Boston
Women			
Rosa Mota	POR	'84, '86	'87, '88, '90
Lisa Weidenbach	USA	'85, '89, '90	'85
Lidiya Grigoreyeva	RUS	'06	'07
Teyba Erkesso	ETH	'07	'10
Caroline Rotich	KEN	'13	'15

Olympic Medalist

Name	Country	Won Cherry Blossom	Medal	Event
Rosa Mota	POR	'84	3rd, '84; 1st, '88	Marathon
Richard Chelimo	KEN	'92	2nd, '92	10,000m
Lisa Martin	AUS	'97	2nd, '88	Marathon
Elana Meyer	RSA	'01	2nd, '92	10,000
Isabella Ochichi	KEN	'04	2nd, '04	5,000m



It's hard to compete with Bill Rodgers' four Cherry Blossom and four Boston Marathon wins, but Rosa Mota's three Boston wins and two Olympic medals may take the prize.

Returning Age Group Champions

Age Group	Age in 2021	First Name	Last Name	Hometown
Women 40-44	43	Lindsay	Wilkins	Arlington, VA
Women 55-59	56	Christina	Morganti	Severna Park, MD



Photo: Clay Shae

Watch your step! Women negotiate 180-degree turn on Rock Creek Parkway. It's the first of two sharp turnarounds on the course.

Capitol Hill Competition

The Capitol Hill Competition at the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile started in 2002 and is organized for Members of Congress and their staff, who compete against each other within the broader Credit Union Cherry Blossom race. The Capitol Hill Competition is made possible by the support of the Congressional Federal Credit Union, the United States Senate Federal Credit Union, the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), and the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

This year there will be a total of 62 teams, with 39 teams from the Senate, 20 from the House of Representatives, and 2 representing federal agencies.

Team Name	Office
10-Mile Budget Outlook	Congressional Budget Office
Team CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
Cali Cruisers	Rep. Ken Calvert
Continuing Runsolution	Rep. Steve Womack
Foster Than You	Rep. Bill Foster
Houlagans	Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Hudson Hustlers	Rep. Richard Hudson
LaMafia	Rep. Doug LaMalfa
Legitimate Winning Dis Course	Rep. Mike Levin
Reclaiming Our Time	House Financial Services Committee
Reclaiming Our Time Too	House Financial Services Committee
Red And Green Roadrunners	Rep. Melanie Stansbury
Ro's Colored Glasses	Rep. Ro Khanna
Run Forest(er) Run	Rep. Bruce Westerman
Slow Is Smooth & Smooth Is Fast	Rep. Jared Golden
Team Barry Moore	Rep. Barry Moore
Team BWC	Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
Team Quigley	Rep. Mike Quigley
The Barry Bunch	Rep. Barry Moore
The UnderDoggetts	Rep. Lloyd Doggett
UnBERAbly Fast And Furious	Rep. Ami Bera
Welch's (Fruit) Snacks	Rep. Peter Welch
197s	Senate Appropriations Committee
Blumenthal - Team Judiciary	Sen. Richard Blumenthal
Blumin' Blossoms	Sen. Richard Blumenthal
Booker	Sen. Cory Booker
Booking It With Booker	Sen. Cory Booker
California Soles	Sen. Alex Padilla
Capital Daines	Sen. Steve Daines

Capitol Hill Competition

Team Name	Office
Cardin Cruisers	Sen. Ben Cardin
Cheesehead Caucus	Sen. Tammy Baldwin
Corn People	Sen. Deb Fischer
Cow Crown	Sen. Angus King
Granite State Of Mind	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
Hauling Harbaughs	Sen. Gary Peters
Heinrich Maneuver	Sen. Martin Heinrich
Honoring Our Commitment To Run	Sen. Richard Blumenthal
Isotopes Chile Pepper Race	Sen. Martin Heinrich
It's Good To Be First (State)	Sen. Chris Coons
James' Joggnernauts	Sen. James Lankford
Jerry Duty	Sen. Jerry Moran
Louisianimals	Sen. Bill Cassidy
Markey On Your Left	Sen. Edward Markey
Merkley Milers	Sen. Jeff Merkley
Mount Runmore	Sen. John Thune
Murphy's Lawmakers	Sen. Chris Murphy
Never Say Di	Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Please Run Toomey	Sen. Pat Toomey
Reed's Rangers	Sen. Jack Reed
Spartan Sprinters	Sen. Gary Peters
Team Cortez Masto	Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto
Team Leahy: Running Since '74	Sen. Patrick Leahy
Team Lummis 1.0	Sen. Cynthia Loomis
The Chile Blossoms	Sen. Ben Ray Lujan
The Majori-team	Sen. Chuck Schumer
The Speedy Padillas	Sen. Alex Padilla
Tillis Track Club	Sen. Tom Tillis
Time To Speed Up	Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
Unidentified Athletic Phenomena	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand
Van Hooligans	Sen. Chris Van Hollen
We're Running - Rob's Not	Sen. Rob Portman

Capitol Hill Results

The Capitol Hill Competition at the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile started in 2002 and is organized for Members of Congress and their staffs, who compete against each other within the broader Credit Union Cherry Blossom race. It is sponsored by the Congressional Federal Credit Union and the United States Senate Federal Credit Union, with support from the Credit Union National Association and the National Association of Federally-insured Credit Unions.

Out of the 11 Capitol Hill teams that competed in 2021, the “Merkeley Milers” prevailed among teams from the Senate in a time of 3:54:26, and “Live Laugh Larson” was the fastest House team in 4:40:53.

The table below lists the winning Senate and House of Representatives teams since 2002 (times listed represent the sum total of the three fastest times among as many as 11 team members):

Winning Senate and House Teams

Senate Teams		House Teams	
Team Name/Office	Time	Team Name/Office	Time
2021			
Merkeley Milers/Senator Jeff Merkeley	3:54:26	Live Laugh Larson/Representative John Larson	4:40:53
2019			
Bourne to Run Senate Intelligence Committee	3:33:18	Red White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:52:21
2018			
Heinrich Maneuver Senator Martin Heinrich	3:21:18	Model Runners Congressional Budget Office	3:00:34
2017			
All the Kings Men Senator Angus King	3:21:35	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:18:15
2016			
Carper Diem Senator Tom Carper	3:21:21	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:18:43
2015			
Carper Diem Senator Tom Carper	3:13:58	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:06:42
2014			
Minnesota Nice and Fast Senator Amy Klobuchar	3:23:46	White Cheddar Shredders Representative Peter Welch	3:23:50
2013			
Foreign Relaytions Senate Energy Committee	3:30:03	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:18:24
2012			
Too Extreme for Colorado Senator Michael Bennet	3:21:14	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:31:38
2011			
Running Back Home Again Senator Richard Lugar	3:35:36	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:46:23

Capitol Hill Results

Senate Teams		House Teams	
Team Name/Office	Time	Team Name/Office	Time
2010			
Team Frenzi Senator Michael Enzi	3:39:32	Stark Running Mad Representative Peter Stark	3:42:56
2009			
Run Io-way With Me Senate Agriculture Committee	3:54:01	Markey's Glacial Pacers Representative Edward Markey	3:31:15
2008			
Ken's Salad Bar Senator Ken Salazar	3:26:43	Red, White and Blumenauer Representative Earl Blumenauer	3:43:03
2007			
Crapo Couch Potatoes Senator Mike Crapo	3:25:03	Project Blue Hen Representative Mike Castle	3:46:46
2006			
Crapo Couch Potatoes Senator Mike Crapo	3:30:37	Green Milers Representative Mark Green	3:15:48
2005			
Team Frenzi Senator Michael Enzi	3:49:51	Green Milers Representative Mark Green	3:25:15
2004			
Couch Potatoes Senator Mike Crapo	3:07:28	The Green Monsters Representative Mark Green	3:51:37
2003			
Murray's Milers Senator Patty Murray	3:40:37	Team Ryan Representative Tim Ryan	3:49:52
2002			
Murray's Milers Senator Patty Murray	3:28:34	Dancing Homers	3:57:26



Congressional Federal Credit Union supports the Capitol Hill Competition

Past USATF 10 Mile Championships

The 2021 USATF 10 Mile Championships Presented by Toyota were held in conjunction with the one-time-only fall running of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile. This was the third time one or more of the USATF 10 Mile Championships have been hosted by Credit Union Cherry Blossom race organizers: the women's championships were part of the 2013 event, while Cherry Blossom hosted both the men's and women's championships in 2014.

While the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile has offered a prize purse for elite runners of all nationalities since 1984, the 2013 USATF Women's 10 Mile Championships marked the first time race organizers introduced a separate prize purse of \$14,400 for American women. When the Men's 10 Mile championships were added to the slate in 2014, so, too, was an additional \$14,400 for the American men's prize purse.

The prize pool for the 2021 USATF 10 Mile Championships totaled \$26,000 for men and women. An additional \$10,000 bonus would have been awarded if a man or woman broke the American Records of sub-45:54 or sub-51:23 respectively. American runners placing in the top-10 overall were eligible to receive both open and American-only prize money; seven American men and seven American women double-dipped on race day by placing in their respective overall top-10s.

One other bonus for victory in the 2021 USATF 10 Mile Championships — the top American man and woman each earned a spot on Team USA for the 2022 World Athletics Half Marathon Championships, to be held in Yangzhou, China, on November 13, 2022.

When the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile hosted both the men's and women's USATF 10 Mile Championships in 2014, Janet Bawcom set an American women's-only record of 52:12 — a time which Cherry Blossom race committee member Keira D'Amato lowered to 51:23 in November 2020 in an elite-only, women's-only pop-up event called the Up Dawg Ten Mile in DC's Anacostia Park.

Participants in the Women's Championships started 12 minutes before the men so performances would be eligible for ratification as women's-only records.

2021 USATF 10 Mile Championships

Place among Americans	Men	Time	Women	Time
1	Abbabiya Simbassa	46:18	Nell Roja	52:13
2	Augustus Maiyo	46:23	Jenny Simpson	52:16
3	Reed Fischer	46:59	Annie Frisbie	52:26
4	Frank Lara	47:13	Sara Hall	52:43
5	Shadrack Biwott	47:35	Carrie Verdon	52:51
6	Joel Reichow	47:36	Diane Nukuri	53:23
7	Elkanah Kibet	47:39	Amy Davis	54:23
8	Chris Derrick	47:42	Susanna Sullivan	54:37
9	John Raneri	47:43	Bria Wetsch	54:38
10	Noah Droddy	47:47	Madeline Alm	54:41

2014 USATF 10 Mile Championships

Place among Americans	Men	Time	Women	Time
1	Christo Landry	46:41	Janet Bawcom	52:12
2	Girma Mecheso	47:21	Sara Hall	52:54
3	Mo Trafteh	47:27	Frances Koons	54:30
4	Ben Bruce	47:33	Susanna Sullivan	54:31
5	Tim Young	47:45	Brianne Nelson	54:33
6	Matt Tegenkamp	47:57	Jen Rhines	54:38
7	Joseph Gray	48:04	Heather Cappello	54:40
8	Tyler McCandless	48:21	Meghan Peyton	54:42
9	Ian Burrell	48:42	Sara Slattery	55:14
10	Lucas Meyer	48:45	Blake Russell	55:26

Past USATF 10 Mile Championships

2013 USATF Women's 10 Mile Championships

Place	Name	Time
1	Janet Bawcom	53:28
2	Brianne Nelson	54:01
3	Sarah Crouch	54:15
4	Kellyn Johnson	54:19
5	Jen Rhines	54:54
6	Katie DiCamillo	55:19
7	Heather Cappello	55:31
8	Ladia Albertson Junk	55:32
9	Stephanie Pezzullo	56:13
10	Clara Grandt	56:40



Photo: Bob Burgess

Nell Rojas had a kick that stunned second-place Olympian Jenny Simpson, who has used her blazing speed to win a bronze Olympic medal at 1500m, and gold and silver in two World Championships.

Environmental & Social Sustainability

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom has a long history of reducing its environmental footprint and expanding its positive social impacts.

Race organizers first identified Children's National Medical Center as the race's charitable beneficiary in the mid-1990s, and the focus on raising money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals continues to this day. They also work with under-represented groups and non-profit organizations, such as Teens Run DC (<http://www.teensrundc.org/>), to reduce barriers to participation in the event.

Since 2011, race organizers have been working with the Council For Responsible Sport (<http://www.council-forresponsiblesport.org>) to quantify the results of their environmental and social efforts through the Council's certification program. Following three consecutive biennial certifications by the group—Silver in 2011 and 2013, Gold in 2015—in 2017, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run was invited to participate in a new program called *Inspire*. The Council's Inspire events represent the pinnacle of achievement and stand as an example and inspiration to others.

Inspire event status is awarded by invitation to events that have achieved multiple certifications from the Council, with the intention of recognizing the legacy that sporting events committed to sustainability and thoughtful resource management provide to their audiences and communities. Inspire certified events are required to provide important sustainability metrics and are expected to share their story with fellow event organizers. Inspire event organizers are also asked to mentor other Council-affiliated events on aspects of their responsible sport program.

Sustainability highlights from the 2015 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run can be found here: (http://cherryblossom.org/images/2016/2015_Sustainability_Report_web.pdf).



Social Media Race Ambassadors

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Social Media team is responsible for keeping the event's runners, volunteers, sponsors and supporters informed and engaged throughout the year on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The social media team includes **Sarah Beth Hensley House**, **Kristen Byers** and **Jina Freiberg**.

The race ambassador program is an opportunity for everyday runners to join the team. These goodwill ambassadors receive a race entry as well as gear from sponsors like ASICS and Garmin, they participate in training programs from Potomac River Running, ASICS and RunCoach, and more, in exchange for the ambassadors sharing their experiences on their social media platforms. In 2022, we selected four new race ambassadors: **Shanta Whitaker**, **Donn Carlos**, **Amy Hough** and **Gloria Ruiz**.

Be sure to follow CUCB on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get the latest information about the race as well as to see posts and updates from the race ambassadors!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CreditUnionCherryBlossom>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CUCB>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cucb/>

Hashtag: #CUCB2022



Charity Donations

Each year, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run in Washington, D.C. brings together credit unions from across the country with a shared vision of fundraising and helping children. One very effective fundraising program is the Charity Race Entry program.

With a field limit of 17,000 established by the National Park Service and selected by lottery, not everyone who wants to run is accepted through the lottery process. So, each year a limited number of Charity Race Entrants gain entry by raising a minimum of \$500 for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

In 2021 participants were given the opportunity to make donations directly to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals when entering the race. For the year, charity donations totaled \$180,059, with \$25,000 of that total coming directly from race entry donations.

The event also funds two \$5,000 Road Runners Club of America "Roads Scholar" grants designed to support up-and-coming U.S. distance running talent (<http://www.rrca.org/programs/roads-scholars/>).



Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the official event charity, is presented with a check for \$180,059 in 2021.

Donations to Children's Miracle Hospitals

Credit Union Miracle Day, Inc. has been the organization behind the title sponsorship of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run since 2002. Dedicated to fundraising to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the fundraising effort has generated over \$10 million dollars to date.



The largest big check donation to Children's Miracle Hospitals was \$858,684 in 2010



2021 Elite Athlete Results

OPEN AWARD WINNERS

1	Edwin Kimutai,28,KEN	45:45	\$5,000	1	Nell Rojas,33,Boulder,CO	52:13	\$5,000
2	Abbabiya Simbassa,28,Flagstaff,AZ	46:18	\$2,000	2	Jenny Simpson,35,Boulder,CO	52:16	\$2,000
3	Augustus Maiyo,38,Colorado Springs,CO	46:23	\$750	3	Antonina Kwambai,29,KEN	52:23	\$750
4	Reed Fischer,26,Boulder,CO	46:59	\$600	4	Caroline Rotich,37,KEN	52:25	\$600
5	Frank Lara,25,Westminster,CO	47:13	\$400	5	Annie Frisbie,24,Minneapolis,MN	52:26	\$400
6	Dominic Korir,28,KEN	47:30	\$350	6	Sara Hall,38,Flagstaff,AZ	52:43	\$350
7	Shadrack Biwott,36,Folsom,CA	47:35	\$300	7	Carrie Verdon,27,Boulder,CO	52:51	\$300
8	Joel Reichow,28,White Bear Lake,MN	47:36	\$250	8	Diane Nukuri,36,Flagstaff,AZ	53:23	\$250
9	Elkanah Kibet,38,Colorado Springs,CO	47:39	\$200	9	Iveen Chepkemai,24,KEN	53:40	\$200
10	Chris Derrick,30,Boulder,CO	47:42	\$150	10	Amy Davis,24,Rochester Hills,MI	54:23	\$150
11	John Raneri,29,Flagstaff,AZ	47:43		11	Purity Cheromei,29,KEN	54:34	
12	Emmanuel Roudloff,26,FRA	47:45		12	Susanna Sullivan,31,Reston,VA	54:37	
13	Noah Droddy,30,Boulder,CO	47:47		13	Bria Wetsch,33,Broomfield,CO	54:38	
14	Tom Anderson,31,Seattle,WA	48:07		14	Madeline Alm,28,Louisville,CO	54:41	
15	Elijah Mwangangi Saolo,25,KEN	48:13		15	Natosha Rogers,30,Littleton,CO	55:02	
16	Brendan Gregg,32,Davis,CA	48:14		16	Paige Stoner,25,Charlottesville,VA	55:46	
17	Jeff Thies,26,Boulder,CO	48:22		17	Jennifer Bergman,29,Erie,CO	55:51	
18	Clint McKelvey,29,Arlington,VA	48:33		18	Abbie McNulty,25,Charlottesville,VA	56:12	
19	Matt Llano,33,Flagstaff,AZ	49:00		19	Molly Culver,31,Richmond,VA	56:25	
20	Kiya Dandena,32,Flagstaff,AZ	49:20		20	Cleo Whiting,27,Washington,DC	57:10	
21	Sam Geha,25,New York,NY	50:00		21	Liz Costello,33,Arlington,VA	57:13	
22	Zach Perrin,26,Bozeman,MT	50:02		22	Hannah Cocchiari,29,Baltimore,MD	57:16	
23	Willie Milam,29,Louisville,CO	50:24		23	Peyton Thomas,26,Hampstead,NC	57:34	
24	Brogan Austin,29,Longmont,CO	50:36		24	Emily de La Bruyere,28,Washington,DC	57:49	
25	Timothy William Gill,29,East Boston,MA	50:38		25	Robyn Mildren,31,Baltimore,MD	58:03	

USATF MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

1	Abbabiya Simbassa,28,Flagstaff,AZ	46:18	\$5,000
2	Augustus Maiyo,38,Colorado Springs,CO	46:23	\$2,500
3	Reed Fischer,26,Boulder,CO	46:59	\$1,000
4	Frank Lara,25,Westminster,CO	47:13	\$900
5	Shadrack Biwott,36,Folsom,CA	47:35	\$800
6	Joel Reichow,28,White Bear Lake,MN	47:36	\$700
7	Elkanah Kibet,38,Colorado Springs,CO	47:39	\$600
8	Chris Derrick,30,Boulder,CO	47:42	\$500
9	John Raneri,29,Flagstaff,AZ	47:43	\$500
10	Noah Droddy,30,Boulder,CO	47:47	\$500

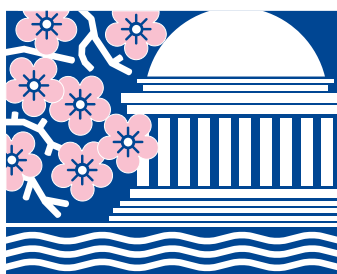
USATF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

1	Nell Rojas,33,Boulder,CO	52:13	\$5,000
2	Jenny Simpson,35,Boulder,CO	52:16	\$2,500
3	Annie Frisbie,24,Minneapolis,MN	52:26	\$1,000
4	Sara Hall,38,Flagstaff,AZ	52:43	\$900
5	Carrie Verdon,27,Boulder,CO	52:51	\$800
6	Diane Nukuri,36,Flagstaff,AZ	53:23	\$700
7	Amy Davis,24,Rochester Hills,MI	54:23	\$600
8	Susanna Sullivan,31,Reston,VA	54:37	\$500
9	Bria Wetsch,33,Broomfield,CO	54:38	\$500
10	Madeline Alm,28,Louisville,CO	54:41	\$500

TOP LOCAL FINISHERS

1	Clint McKelvey,29,Arlington,VA	48:33	1	Susanna Sullivan,31,Reston,VA	54:37
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CREDIT UNION



CHERRY BLOSSOM

T E N M I L E R U N

2021 Age Group Results

MEN

Pl	Name, Age, Hometown	Official Time	Age Graded	Pl	Name, Age, Hometown	Official Time	Age Graded
AGES 01 to 19				4	Eric Genetti,45,McLean,VA	01:01:21	0.7674
1	Sohan Ganatra,19,Boyds,MD	59:02	0.7411	5	Jason Tripp,49,Ellicott City,MD	01:01:35	0.7907
2	Nathan Szubin,14,Washington,DC	01:09:16	0.6665	AGES 50 to 54			
3	S. Somwaru,15,N. Potomac,MD	01:10:31	0.6425	1	Shane Anthony,53,Palmerton,PA	57:37	0.8750
AGES 20 to 24				2	A. Hetherington,54,Vienna,VA	01:00:52	0.8356
1	Aidan Reed,23,Helena,MT	51:47	0.8449	3	Matt Boyd,51,Fredericksburg,VA	01:02:10	0.7968
2	Peter Rindfuss,23,Hamburg,NY	52:12	0.8381	4	Michael Naff,50,Arlington,VA	01:04:14	0.7645
3	Tony Floyd,23,Westland,MI	52:22	0.8355	5	Shawn Kyle,50,Huntingtown,MD	01:04:35	0.7604
4	Ronan O'Shea,24,Austin,TX	52:28	0.8339	AGES 55 to 59			
5	Kasey Gelfand,23,Severna Park,MD	55:54	0.7826	1	A. Morakinyo,57,Columbia,MD	01:02:22	0.8380
AGES 25 to 29				2	S.Peterson,55,Fairfax Station,VA	01:07:26	0.7610
1	Edwin Kimutai,28,KEN	45:45	0.9563	3	Rob Bowen,57,Oak Hill,VA	01:08:02	0.7682
2	Abbabiya Simbassa,28,Flagstaff,AZ	46:18	0.9449	4	Brian Jett,55,Los Angeles,CA	01:08:06	0.7536
3	Reed Fischer,26,Boulder,CO	46:59	0.9312	5	Jim Economos,55,Arlington,VA	01:08:11	0.7527
4	Frank Lara,25,Westminster,CO	47:13	0.9266	AGES 60 to 64			
5	Dominic Korir,28,KEN	47:30	0.9211	1	David Haaga,60,Rockville,MD	01:03:15	0.8496
AGES 30 to 34				2	Scott Brown,63,Ashburn,VA	01:07:04	0.8247
1	Chris Derrick,30,Boulder,CO	47:42	0.9172	3	Michael Anderson,63,Tucker,GA	01:07:12	0.8231
2	Noah Drodgy,30,Boulder,CO	47:47	0.9156	4	Mike Sinisi,61,Springfield,VA	01:07:35	0.8028
3	Tom Anderson,31,Seattle,WA	48:07	0.9092	5	David Whitnah,60,Washington,DC	01:07:42	0.7938
4	Brendan Gregg,32,Davis,CA	48:14	0.9075	AGES 65 to 69			
5	Matt Llano,33,Flagstaff,AZ	49:00	0.8945	1	Gerald Graf,67,N. Myrtle Beach,SC	01:07:40	0.8504
AGES 35 to 39				2	Robert Judson,65,Bethesda,MD	01:09:16	0.8143
1	A. Maiyo,38,Colorado Springs,CO	46:23	0.9624	3	Marvin Pace,67,McLean,VA	01:11:29	0.8050
2	Shadrack Biwott,36,Folsom,CA	47:35	0.9291	4	Bill Loomis,67,Silver Spring,MD	01:11:53	0.8005
3	Elkanah Kibet,38,Colorado Springs,CO	47:39	0.9368	5	Joseph Donahue,66,Vienna,VA	01:17:36	0.7341
4	Zach Miller,37,West Chester,PA	52:18	0.8490	AGES 70 to 74			
5	Brian Flynn,38,Ashland,VA	52:26	0.8513	1	Ben Harvie,74,Kemah,TX	01:20:18	0.7770
AGES 40 to 44				2	Lee Payton,70,Chevy Chase,MD	01:21:15	0.7303
1	Brock Butler,44,West Chester,PA	54:15	0.8608	3	James Rittmueller,71,Cheyenne,WY	01:22:58	0.7230
2	Tom Dichiara,44,Garrett Park,MD	54:33	0.8560	4	Eric Melby,73,Bethesda,MD	01:24:12	0.7306
3	Colin Fishwick,44,Silver Spring,MD	55:20	0.8439	5	Charlie Morris,71,New York,NY	01:30:42	0.6614
4	Marty McCormick,41,Arlington,VA	55:25	0.8224	AGES 75 to 79			
5	Scott Burns,40,West Chester,PA	55:58	0.8081	1	Harold Rosen,78,Potomac,MD	01:30:21	0.7402
AGES 45 to 49				2	Tom Vollrath,75,Jefferson,VA	01:37:58	0.6468
1	Marco Cardoso,48,Sayreville,NJ	01:00:05	0.8035	3	Bill Reamer,76,Cotati,CA	01:44:22	0.6174
2	Scott Stemberger,46,Englewood,CO	01:00:59	0.7784				
3	David Kent,49,Arlington,VA	01:01:08	0.7965				

2021 Age Group Results

WOMEN

Pl	Name, Age, Hometown	Official Time	Age Graded	Pl	Name, Age, Hometown	Official Time	Age Graded
AGES 01 to 19				3	Abigail Lorge,45,Fairfield,CT	01:07:57	0.7751
1	L. Mellon,17,Falls Church,VA	01:10:12	0.7235	4	C. Blanchard,48,Chevy Chase,MD	01:09:01	0.7860
2	Alexandra Mathews,12,Arlington,VA	01:23:09	0.6769	5	Janet Whittaker,47,Washington,DC	01:09:13	0.7755
3	Libbie Larsen,18,Tyrone,GA	01:23:16	0.6006	AGES 50 to 54			
AGES 20 to 24				1	H. Wandaogo,51,Silver Spring,MD	01:06:19	0.8467
1	Annie Frisbie,24,Minneapolis,MN	52:26	0.9345	2	Hilary Cairns,50,Washington,DC	01:08:33	0.8095
2	Iveen Chepkemai,24,KEN	53:40	0.9130	3	Daryle Lademan,51,Arlington,VA	01:10:30	0.7964
3	Amy Davis,24,Rochester Hills,MI	54:23	0.9010	4	Carol Currey,50,Fairfax Station,VA	01:11:34	0.7754
4	Kayla Keane,24,Bethesda,MD	59:20	0.8258	5	Amy Smith,50,Fairfax,VA	01:12:00	0.7707
5	Lily Anderson,24,Brooklyn,NY	59:45	0.8201	AGES 55 to 59			
AGES 25 to 29				1	C. Morganti,56,Severna Park,MD	01:14:11	0.8040
1	Antonina Kwambai,29,KEN	52:23	0.9355	2	Kelly Brown,57,Ashburn,VA	01:14:52	0.8067
2	Carrie Verdon,27,Boulder,CO	52:51	0.9272	3	Cornelia Pritchard,55,Frederick,MD	01:15:03	0.7849
3	Purity Cheromei,29,KEN	54:34	0.8981	4	Margarita Brose,59,Arlington,VA	01:17:52	0.7957
4	Madeline Alm,28,Louisville,CO	54:41	0.8961	5	Amy Lederer,57,New York,NY	01:19:29	0.7599
5	Paige Stoner,25,Charlottesville,VA	55:46	0.8787	AGES 60 to 64			
AGES 30 to 34				1	Cindy Conant,60,Kensington,MD	01:10:47	0.8868
1	Nell Rojas,33,Boulder,CO	52:13	0.9437	2	Erica Rubenstein,63,Potomac,MD	01:14:54	0.8724
2	Susanna Sullivan,31,Reston,VA	54:37	0.8988	3	Deborah Schmidt,63,Sylvania,OH	01:21:19	0.8036
3	Bria Wetsch,33,Broomfield,CO	54:38	0.9019	4	Lynne Still,64,Radford,VA	01:21:41	0.8110
4	Natosha Rogers,30,Littleton,CO	55:02	0.8910	5	K. Asao-Ragosta,63,Charlottesville,VA	01:23:03	0.7868
5	Molly Culver,31,Richmond,VA	56:25	0.8701	AGES 65 to 69			
AGES 35 to 39				1	Amy Subar,65,Potomac,MD	01:18:50	0.8520
1	Jenny Simpson,35,Boulder,CO	52:16	0.9481	2	Geri Clifford,68,Rye,NH	01:20:12	0.8743
2	Caroline Rotich,37,KEN	52:25	0.9528	3	Lee Catella,69,Oneonta,NY	01:21:18	0.8754
3	Sara Hall,38,Flagstaff,AZ	52:43	0.9519	4	Carol Poenisch,67,Northville,MI	01:21:56	0.8435
4	Diane Nukuri,36,Flagstaff,AZ	53:23	0.9317	5	Angela Cason,65,Damascus,MD	01:23:18	0.8064
5	Laurel le Moigne,36,Springfield,VA	01:00:17	0.8250	AGES 70 to 74			
AGES 40 to 44				1	Judy Phelps,70,Myrtle Beach,SC	01:24:37	0.8537
1	Lindsay Wilkins,43,Arlington,VA	01:03:32	0.8152	2	Jane Serues,73,N. Myrtle Beach,SC	01:28:20	0.8566
2	Michelle Miller,40,Gaithersburg,MD	01:03:56	0.7936	3	Patricia Burgess,70,Asheville,NC	01:31:10	0.7924
3	Amanda Beal,40,Ellicott City,MD	01:05:16	0.7774	4	Kathleen Doswell,72,Columbia,VA	01:39:21	0.7498
4	Meg Ryan,41,Takoma Park,MD	01:06:04	0.7728	5	Janet Marano,73,Reston,VA	01:40:01	0.7565
5	Jessica McGuire,41,Arlington,VA	01:06:44	0.7651	AGES 75 to 79			
AGES 45 to 49				1	Karen Cox,77,Pagosa Springs,CO	01:49:42	0.7372
1	Carrie Dunn,45,Arlington,VA	01:07:18	0.7825	2	Cheryl Kohut,76,Cold Spring,NY	01:50:42	0.7176
2	Kara Quick,45,West Chester,PA	01:07:49	0.7766	3	Bonnie Bence,77,St. Louis,MO	01:51:29	0.7254

2021 Team Results

Running Club Teams

Female Open Running Club

1 MoCo Racing Women 03:32:33
Kristen Kelman, Erica Singleton, Liz Ozeki

Male Open Running Club

1 MoCo Racing 02:53:05
Nicolas Crouzier, Adrian Spencer, Taylor Williamson, Aaron Trulock, Brian Murphy

Co-ed Masters Running Club

1 MoCo Racing Masters Team A 03:07:55
Jim Dahlem, Roman Gurule, Michelle Miller, Ryan Hadley
2 MoCo Racing Masters Team B 03:21:19
Robert Palmer, Meg Ryan, Cindy Conant, Julie Sapper
3 PR Masters I 03:26:50
Bill McNary, Stephen Crago, Kim Isler, Bronson Lee
4 PR Masters II 03:53:48
Brian Szabos, Luz Blakney, Harry Linde, Marcy Foster

Elite Teams

Females Metro Elite Teams

1 Pacers/GRC NB Women 02:55:49
Cleo Whiting, Emily De La Bruyere, Catherine Worthington, Natalie Daniels
2 Capital Area Runners * 03:04:49
Laurel Le Moigne, Hannah Kellogg, Lindsay Wilkins, Maeve Roach

Mens Metro Elite Teams

1 Pacers/GRC NB Men 02:35:28
Zachary Hine, Zach Herriott, Patrick Hanley, Jerry Greenlaw
2 Capital Area Runners 02:40:12
Gregory Mariano, Thomas Rammelkamp, Matt Deters, Alex Peterson

Credit Union Teams

Credit Union Team Challenge

1 LCFCU Adams 03:57:11
Marvin Pace, Elena Humphreys, Celeste Pace
2 LCFCU Jefferson 03:59:00
Charles Kim, David Smole, Kelly Maguire, Liana Rosen
3 Support Education 1 04:05:07
Mikhail Petrovskikh, Bryn Conway, Brian Flores, Prasad Gerard
4 LCFCU Madison 04:14:44
Dave Hank, Bart Elias, Wendy Ginsberg, Brent Yacobucci
5 Support Education 2 05:10:44
Rina Morrissey, Lindsey Ells, Philip McGaughey

Capitol Hill Competition

U.S. Senate

1 Merkley Milers 03:54:26
Jackson Thein, Caroline Kuritzkes, Mike McKiernan
2 Blumin' Blossoms 03:57:05
Lauren Moxley Beatty, Mike Jones, Michael Lawson, Liam McCaffery, Danisha Craig
3 Booker 04:01:58
Jeff Gertz, Nora Ryan, Mitchell Smith
4 Don't Take Us For Granite 04:20:08
Max Lurie, Sarah Weinstein, Allan Rodriguez
5 Curd Crawlers 04:33:14
Nicholas Graham, Samuel Martin, Rachel Erlebacher
6 Markey On Your Left 04:37:19
Bennett Butler, Taylor St. Germain, Geoff Burgan
7 The Speedy Padillas 04:37:37
Vanessa Valdivia, Sarah Swig, Jose Villalvazo
8 The Van Hooligans 04:46:58
Harry Stein, Alexandra Wilcox, Hassanatu Savage
9 The Late Blumers 04:55:08
Collin Anderson, Jack Budish, Hank Montalbano, Beatrix Dalton
10 Capital Daines 04:57:23
Joshua Sizemore, Holly Hinojosa, Rachel Dumke, Katie McKeogh

U.S. House of Representatives

1 Live Laugh Larson 04:40:53
George Wang, Michael Dunn, Sarah Gianni

Capitol Hill Agency

1 Team CAO 03:49:14
Kenny Ames, Richard Cappetto, Frank Cadle, Jean Woodrow, Anna Amis
2 Team CAO 2 04:41:15
David O'Boyle, Benjamin Weldon, Bethany Detweiler

Other Divisions

Embassy

1 Germans on ze Run! 04:09:10
Marco Achtelik, Kevin Dibb, Stefan Olbermann, Niels Von Redecker, Annelisa Crabtree

Interesting 2021 Race Statistics

Category	2021 (reduced field due to Covid-19)	2019
Total dollars raised for Children's Miracle Network this year	\$180,000	\$400,000
Total dollars raised for Children's Miracle Network since 2002	10,000,000+	\$9,500,000+
Carbon Offset Contribution	\$6,700	\$11,902.50
Total number of 10 mile finishers	5,888	17,656
Total number of male finishers	2921	7146
Total number of female finishers	2967	10,291
Percentage male finishers	49.61%	40.98%
Percentage female finishers	50.39%	59.02%
Total number of finishers in 1973 event	129	129
Total prize money earned by elite athletes	\$59,000	\$86,500
First place open prizes	\$5,000 for Kimutai; \$10,000 for Rojas	\$9,000 for Yimer; \$9,000 for Wanjiru
Total 1st U.S. checks (Simbassa Biya, \$8,500, Nell Rojas, \$10,000)	\$18,500	\$23,900
Last U.S. male champion and year	Stanley Kebenei, 2017	Stanley Kebenei, 2017
Last U.S. female champion and year	Nell Rojas, 2021	Joan Nesbit, 1996
Total number of 5K Run-Walk finishers	1677	2,915
Percentage of 5K male finishers	28.74%	30.57%
Percentage of 5K female finishers	71.26%	69.43%
Number of sponsoring Credit Unions and partners	61	74
Number of states represented	50	50
Number of foreign countries represented	9	24
Number of volunteers	850	2,200
Number of app downloads	unknown	10884
Number of volunteers from Credit Unions	190	600
Average age of all competitors	40.75	38.04
Average age of female competitors	39.68	37.03
Average age of male competitors	42.17	39.64
First time entrants in 10 Mile or 5K	4854	12,014
Entrants who have run either race previously	7071	13,000
Youngest 10 mile finisher	9	9
Oldest 10 mile finisher	83	87
Number of Park Police Officers working the event	85	86
White/Caucasian participants	71%	
Asian/Pacific Islander participants	10%	
Hispanic/Latino participants	8%	
Black/African American participants	7%	
Other race participants	2%	
Mixed Race participants	2%	
Native American participants	0%	

Interesting Runner Data

Browsing the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run's all-time searchable database (<http://www.cballtimeresults.org>) reveals a treasure trove of interesting runner data: finish line details for every runner since 1973 are available, as are annual age group results. But the Top Charts tab is, perhaps, the most interesting—revealing lists of Top Streakers (consecutive runs) and Top Finishers (most total runs/miles).

Here's a sample of the data you'll find:

Bennet Beach, from Bethesda, Maryland, leads all Cherry Blossom finishers with an active streak of 48 years and 483 miles. John Baxter, from Haymarket, Virginia, has an active streak of 42 years and 420 miles. And Karen Craney, from North Potomac, Maryland, has the longest active streak among women with 18 years and 180 miles.

Betty Blank, from Falls Church, Virginia, and Lizzie Sadoff, from Washington, DC have both run the race 35 times for a total of 350 miles each.

All told, 13 men and 3 women have run the Ten Mile 30 or more times.

But membership in the Top Finishers or Top Streakers lists isn't limited to just Ten Mile runners. Ninety-five year-old Dixon Hemphill, from Fairfax Station, Virginia, has crossed a Credit Union Cherry Blossom finish line 31 times between 1978-2019, having run the Ten Mile 22 times and the 5K eight times for a total of 248 miles.

And here are some interesting facts that aren't so easily tallied: 1) there are 2,034 members of the 100-mile club, and they've run a total of 237,987 miles, up from 1750 100-milers and 222,072 miles run prior to last year's event, and 2) there have been 211,254 unique finishers over the years, and 384,520 total performances.

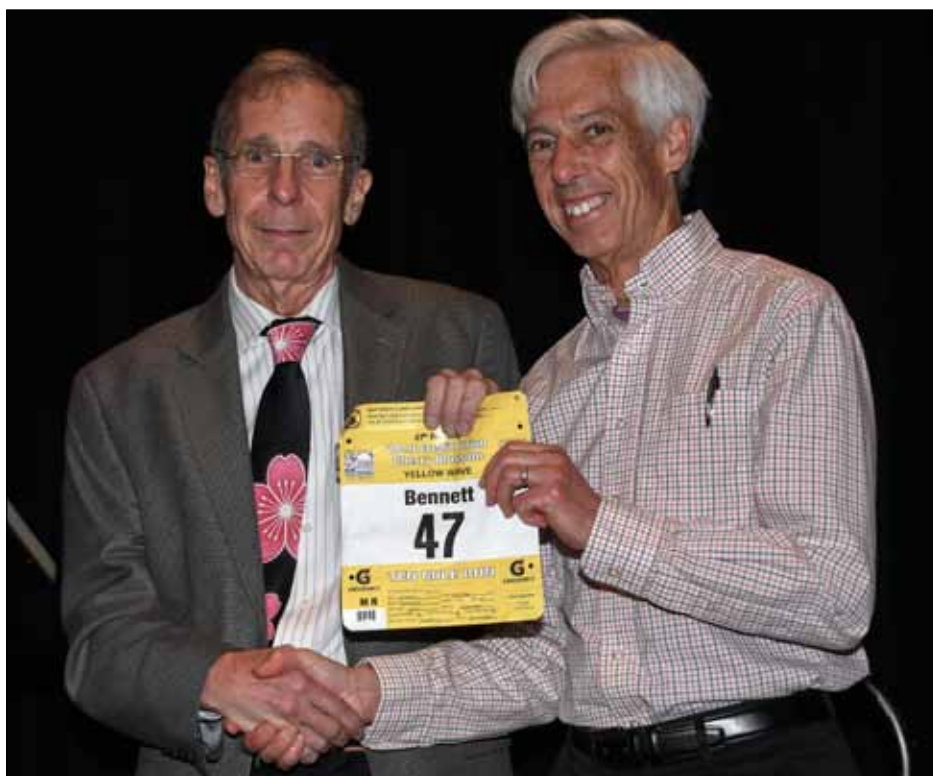


Photo: Karen Mitchell

Just prior to the 2019 race, Event Director Phil Stewart presents Ben Beach with a bib reflecting his quest for a 47th consecutive finish of the Cherry Blossom Ten Miler. Ben will be wearing #49 this year.

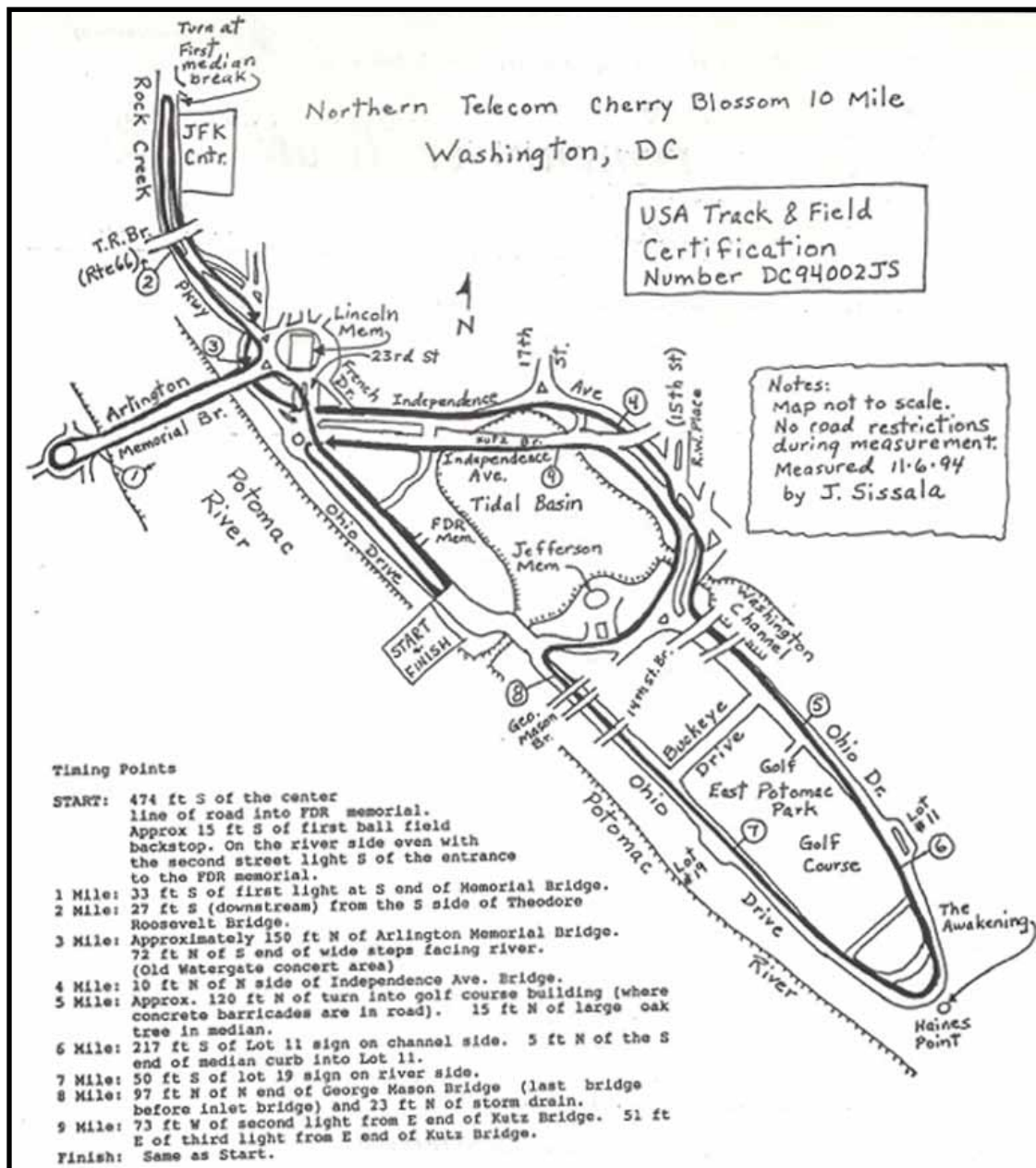
Evolution of the 10 Mile Course

In 1970s the event started and finished near the golf course in East Potomac Park and ran clockwise around Hains Point before crossing over the Inlet Bridge and looping the Tidal Basin twice, running clockwise. Runners then returned back around Hains Point to the finish line at the same location as the start. The growing field soon made the out-and-back portions on Hains Point as well as the two loops around the Tidal Basin too tight, so the course was moved onto Ohio Dr. in West Potomac Park.

Frequent construction during the 1980s and 1990s meant the course was frequently modified, but the start and finish remained in West Potomac Park.

The first crossing of Memorial Bridge took place in 1993 and in 1998 the course included an out-and-back section up into Rock Creek Parkway. The staging area made the dramatic move out of West Potomac Park onto the Washington Monument Grounds in 1998, setting up a string of years with the same course through the 2017 event.

The long-needed rehabilitation of Memorial Bridge began to be a regular topic of discussion by 2014, which prompted officials to certify a new course—which was used in 2019—for the non-Memorial Bridge version with the staging area remaining on the Washington Monument Grounds. After two years of construction, Memorial Bridge became runnable once again, just in time for the 2021 race.



1994 Course Map

Event Participant Statistics

In 2017, the 4417th finisher in the 10-mile race became the 300,000th 10-mile finisher overall.

	Event	Women	Men	Total
2021	10M	2967	2921	5888
2021	5K	1195	482	1677
2019	10M	10291	7146	17437
2019	5K	2023	892	2915
2018	10M	9868	6791	16659
2018	5K	1801	728	2529
2017	10M	10446	6996	17442
2017	5K	1821	698	2519
2016	10M	9908	6378	16,279
2016	5K	1393	539	1932
2015	10M	11042	6839	17881
2015	5K	1673	629	2302
2014	10M	10600	7277	17871
2014	5K	1545	598	2142
2013	10M	10323	7215	17538
2013	5K	1457	547	2004
2012	10M	9729	7195	16938
2012	5K	1328	520	1849
2011	10M	9030	7009	16046
2011	5K	1272	459	1731
2010	10M	8853	6910	15763
2010	5K	1247	449	1696
2009	10M	8323	6652	14975
2009	5K	1057	412	1469
2008	10M	6395	5904	12299
2008	5K	683	242	925
2007	10M	5529	5217	10749
2007	5K	471	154	625
2006	10M	5435	5236	10669
2006	5K	473	173	646
2005	10M	4333	4323	8655
2004	10M	3900	4157	8026

	Event	Women	Men	Total
2003	10M	3526	3923	7449
2002	10M	3333	3723	7056
2001	10M	2972	3559	6530
2000	10M	2166	3016	5182
1999	10M	2358	3190	5548
1998	10M	2462	3750	6212
1997	10M	2149	3513	5662
1996	10M	1825	3412	5237
1995	10M	1744	3463	5207
1994	10M	1428	3105	4533
1993	10M	967	2445	3412
1992	10M	767	2100	2867
1991	10M	886	2441	3327
1990	10M	869	2557	3427
1989	10M	737	2465	3199
1988	10M	769	2620	3387
1987	10M	691	2366	3057
1986	10M	678	2513	3192
1985	10M	634	2386	3021
1984	10M	600	2573	3173
1983	10M	542	2424	2965
1982	10M	533	2657	3190
1981	10M	591	2756	3347
1980	10M	431	2459	2891
1979	10M	494	2529	2982
1978	10M	297	1967	2261
1977	10M	143	1465	1608
1976	10M	93	849	942
1975	10M	46	518	564
1974	10M	27	314	341
1973	10M	12	115	127

Race Director History

1973 — Gar Williams and Ralph Reynolds

1974 — 1982 Jeff Darman and Ed Murray

1982 — 1988 Jeff Darman, Race Director

1988 — 1990 Jeff Darman, Race Director and Phil Stewart, Deputy Race Director

1991 — present Phil Stewart, Race Director

2005 — 2011 Irv Newman, Deputy Race Director

2012 — present Becky Lambros, Deputy Race Director



Becky Lambros, Deputy Race Director



Phil Stewart, Race Director

Title Sponsor History

1973 – The race debuts as the *Acacia Cherry Blossom Invitational Run*, thanks to Acacia Mutual Life.

1974 – The race name is changed to *Acacia Cherry Blossom Classic*, and the entry fee is dropped for the ten-miler, a tradition that would last for twenty years.

1977 – Union First Bank of Washington replaces Acacia Mutual Life as title sponsor.

1978 – Perrier becomes the new title sponsor and brings four-time winner-to-be Bill Rodgers along with them.

1984 – Nike replaces Perrier as title sponsor, bringing with it \$13,400 in prize money.

1991 – After seven years as title sponsor, Nike turns the top role over to Northern Telecom, a major telecommunications company which had just recently opened a World Headquarters in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Under Northern Telecom the prize money grows to \$21,500, the largest purse ever.

2002 – After an 11-year run as title sponsor, Nortel Networks steps down – its sponsorship a victim of the collapse of the internet bubble. Greg Farmer, Nortel's Senior VP Global Government and Community Relations, says, "I do not believe that any other sponsorship has provided Nortel with such a high profile with Washington policy-makers." By the end of the summer, a group of approximately 40 Credit Unions, mostly from the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, forms an organization called the "Credit Union Miracle Day Committee," and signs on. It is a win-win situation as the event helps the Credit Unions raise nearly \$100,000 for the Children's Miracle Network and hundreds of Credit Union employees and members sign up as volunteers.

To this day, Credit Union Miracle Day remains the collaborating group behind the sponsorship of *Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run*. Their fundraising efforts have resulted in over \$10 million being donated to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the United States.



The Runner's Rite of Spring®

Capsule Histories of all 46 Editions of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run

1973-2021

For runners in Washington since 1973, the true beginning of spring is marked not by a date on the calendar but by the running of the Cherry Blossom Ten-Mile.

Elite competitors have used the race as a final competitive tuneup for the Boston Marathon two weeks later. Bill Rodgers, Greg Meyer, and Lisa Larsen Weidenbach all went on to win Boston after their victories here.

For lesser mortals, the Cherry Blossom means a chance to doff the warmup suits, turtlenecks, caps and gloves of winter and join other runners in a celebration of the season. Here in Washington, the race has become as fixed a rite of spring as the Easter Egg Roll at the White House or the lighting of the Japanese lanterns on the Tidal Basin.

1973 (April 1)

Who would have believed, in 1973, that a family-style gathering of fewer than 200 runners would become an event so popular that it is necessary to hold a lottery to keep people away?

The Cherry Blossom Invitational Run, as it was christened, was the brainchild of Gar Williams, then president of the DC Road Runners Club, and Ralph Reynolds, program director of Washington's Central YMCA. The two men conceived of a race to coincide with the Cherry Blossom Festival, a high point of the city's tourist season, when mag-

nolias, forsythia and cherry blossoms bloom along the roads and paths bordering the Potomac River.

Williams and Reynolds settled on the ten-mile distance. "If it was longer, you'd be too pooped out for Boston," Williams once recalled. "We didn't want it too short, though. The idea was to have an attractive alternative to a marathon." Families could come to Washington as tourists. Dad or Mom could run the ten-miler, and the rest of the family could enter the two-mile fun run and collect commemorative patches as well.

A local insurance company, Acacia Mutual Life, was persuaded to serve as a sponsor, and entrants were recruited through the DC Road Runners Club and through pink flyers distributed at the YMCA.

Winners of that inaugural race, held in muggy weather, were Sam Bair of Pennsylvania in 51:22 and Kathy Switzer of New York City in 71:19. The organizers congratulated themselves on attracting over 100 runners to the ten-miler - a big field in those days.

1974 (March 31)

The following year, 1974, the race came into its own. At the suggestion of DCRRC official Dave Theall, the race was renamed the "Cherry Blossom Classic," and the entry fee was dropped for the ten-miler, a tradition that would hold up for twenty years. Nearly 400 runners showed up to run on a raw, cloudy day. Jack Mahurin, then a graduate student at the University of Maryland, lowered the men's event record to 50:50, and Carol Fridley, of Pennsylvania, won the women's in 62:41.

1975 (April 6)

The field doubled again in 1975 - some 575 finishers in the ten-miler, and 275 in the fun run - for a race held in brilliant sunshine but Arctic temperatures. Carl Hatfield of West Virginia battled frigid winds gusting up to 30 mph to win the race in 51:47. Julie Shea, a then-unknown North Carolina schoolgirl, took the women's crown in 59:55, the first in a series of three consecutive victories.

1976 (April 4)

It was Hatfield and Shea again in 1976 as the field for the ten-miler topped 1,500. Hatfield lowered the men's event record to 49:09, while Shea set a U.S. women's record for the ten miles at 57:04.

1977 (April 3)

By 1977 the running boom was starting to crest, and race organizers instituted an entry cutoff for the first time as the number of applicants swelled above 2,000. The field was



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limited to 2,230, with 500 disappointed runners turned away. There was also a new sponsor - Union First Bank of Washington, which filled the breach when Acacia Mutual Life decided to bow out. Maryland runner Dan Rincon won the race in 49:44, while Julie Shea lowered her U.S. Women's record to 56:08.

1978 (April 2)

The era of Perrier and Bill Rodgers began with the 1978 race. When Union First failed to renew as a sponsor, race organizers found Perrier, which, in turn, brought in Rodgers. Competing with a cold just one day after a race in Jacksonville, Florida, Rodgers cruised to his first Cherry Blossom victory in 48:57 over a field limited to 4,000 entrants. Jenifer White of Alexandria, Virginia, took the women's title in 56:35.



Perrier became title sponsor in 1978

1979 (April 1)

In 1979 the glamour of Rodgers led to a flood of race applications. Entries were closed on February 5, only a few days after they had opened. Organizers Jeff Darman and Ed Murray begged unofficial runners to stay away as a massive field chased Rodgers to another event record of 48 minutes flat. Maryland schoolgirl Aileen O'Connor lowered the U.S. record to 56:02 in the women's race.

1980 (March 30)

1980 brought two innovations: a lottery to choose race entrants, and a star-studded field of invited runners. Over 12,000 applicants vied for 4,000 places in the lottery. Meanwhile, the spreading fame of the race attracted nearly 100 runners capable of running ten miles in less than 53 minutes. When the race was over, Bill Rodgers had set a new U.S. record of 47:09, and 24 other runners had gone under 50 minutes for the distance.

The women's field was also impressive. Anne Sullivan of

Brown University, who set a U.S. women's record of 55:34, was followed by five other women under 60 minutes.

1981 (April 5)

Rodgers repeated again in 1981 with a 47:17 victory despite windy, warm weather. Laurie Binder of San Diego led 11 women under the one-hour barrier with a 56:44 performance. A field of 4,500 entrants toured the course on a humid, overcast morning.

1982 (April 4)

The 1982 race will be remembered as the War of the Winds, as chill winds gusting up to 50mph slowed the entire field. Terry Baker, a vocational education teacher from Hagerstown, Maryland, took the lead with less than a mile to go to upset defending champion Bill Rodgers by seven seconds in 49:29. Eleanor Simonsick, a policy research consultant living in Washington, broke the tape in 58:16 to give the race its first pair of local winners. Only four male runners broke the 50-minute barrier, and an equal number of women finished under an hour.

1983 (March 27)

After the disastrous weather of 1982, ideal conditions prevailed in 1983. On a cool, rainy morning with almost no wind, both Greg Meyer and Eleanor Simonsick set event records in winning their respective divisions. Running alone almost from the start, Meyer cruised to a 46:13 victory, setting a World record, breaking the former event record by 56 seconds and beating his nearest rival by over a minute. Overshadowed by Meyer's performance was that of 31 other runners who broke 50 minutes for the distance.

Repeating her victory of 1982, Simonsick took the lead at three miles and kept adding to it, recording the fourth fastest ten-mile time by a woman and breaking the event record by almost two minutes in 54:46. Simonsick led 15 other female finishers under the one-hour barrier.

1984 (April 1)

The 1984 race brought several surprises. Perrier dropped sponsorship, and Nike stepped in, adding prize money to the race for the first time. A less pleasant surprise was the weather. Despite the bizarre conditions that have characterized this early spring event, no one anticipated a flooded course. Heavy storms the previous week left the tip of Hains Point under six inches of water, causing worried race officials to consider shortening the course to 15 kilometers as late as race morning.

Prestige and prize money gave the Cherry Blossom its first foreign winners. Olympic hopefuls Simeon Kigen of Kenya

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and Rosa Mota of Portugal sloshed through ankle-deep water to win their respective divisions. Kigen took the men's title in 47:25 as 22 men broke 50 minutes. Mota nipped Lisa Larsen in 54:16 to lead 12 women under the one-hour mark.



Race winner Simeon Kigen and Race Director Jeff Darman in 1984

1985 (March 31)

In 1985, Kigen won again, posting a near-record 46:24 as favorable weather returned to the event. With temperatures in the low 50s and moderate wind, Lisa Larsen Weidenbach, runnerup the previous year, surprised everyone, including herself, by running an event record of 53:30 to take the women's crown.

Masters champion Barry Brown, with an age-group record 49:46, was the last of 31 runners to break 50 minutes for the distance. Some 25 women dipped under the one-hour barrier.

1986 (April 6)

In 1986, Rosa Mota eclipsed the women's World Best 10 mile, while Thom Hunt came to within two seconds of Greg Meyer's 1983 world best time. Mota, the bronze medalist in the Los Angeles Olympic Marathon and 1984 Cherry Blossom winner, shaved nine seconds off Joan Samuelson's World Best time with a 53:09 clocking despite running on a tender achilles tendon. Hunt began a series of surges to break away from English Olympic steeplechaser Roger Hackney at the 8-1/2 mile mark, which brought him to the finish just off the all-time best with a 46:15. The top 37 men broke 50 minutes, while 20 women bettered one hour.

1987 (April 5)

April showers stopped the night before the 1987 race and low tide right at race time ensured that the tip of Hains Point would not be submerged. Both the runners and the fully in-bloom cherry blossoms were pushed by favorable

southerly winds. The women responded in remarkable fashion—the top three broke Rosa Mota's year-old World Best time. Lisa Martin of Australia finished first in 52:23, a whopping 46-seconds under the previous mark. Runners-up Anne Audain (52:30) and Carla Beurskens (53:00) also bettered the old record. Jon Sinclair reversed a series of major race runner-up finishes by kicking early and moving away from J.P Ndaysienga and Larry Green for a 46:48 win.

Priscilla Welch, 42, won the women's masters division and placed fourth overall with an astonishing 53:51, a world best time for masters.



Jon Sinclair (6) wins in 1987

1988 (March 27)

The winds shifted to the northwest for the 1988 race, with gusts up to 25 miles per hour. Belgium's J.P. Ndaysienga, the 1987 runner up, took the lead at 3 miles, got caught by a pack at 7 miles, but emerged in the front of a wild four-man sprint to the finish. He clocked 47:33, with Martyn Brewer second in 47:35, Jon Sinclair third in 47:40, and Joseph Kipsang fourth in 47:45. Anne Audain reversed the previous year's standings with Lisa Martin with a 53:26 to 54:06 victory in the women's race.

1989 (April 2)

Perfect running weather was sandwiched between high winds on Saturday and showers on Monday for the 1989 race. Lisa Weidenbach responded with her second victory in an American record time of 52:34 – just 11 seconds shy of Lisa Martin's World Best time. The men's race featured a near-photo finish with Zimbabwe's Brian Sheriff outlean-

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ing Mexico's Dionicio Ceron, 46:43 to 46:44. Steve Jones of Wales followed five seconds back in 46:49.

1990 (April 1)

Lisa Weidenbach returned in 1990 to match Julie Shea ('75, '76, '77) as the only female three-time winner. She cruised to a relatively easy win over Anne Audain, 52:38 to 53:18. Chris Fox, a Hagerstown, MD resident who had dreamed of winning this race since he was in high school, had his dream come true when he bested Ashley Johnson 47:06 to 47:07—the second one-second winning margin in a row.

1991 (March 31)

After seven years as title sponsor, Nike turned the top role over to Northern Telecom, a major telecommunications company which had just recently opened a World Headquarters in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Under Northern Telecom the prize money grew to \$21,500, the largest purse ever. With the cherry blossoms in full bloom, Great Britain's Carl Thackery and American Bill Reifsnyder went charging after the event record. Thackery prevailed in the match up, but missed the record by just 12 seconds with a time of 46:25. Reifsnyder followed in 46:30. Fellow Brit Jill Hunter reduced the women's event record to 51:57 – a time just 10 seconds off Carl Hatfield's winning time in 1975 and 26 seconds under Lisa Martin's event mark.

1992 (April 5)

In 1992, the Kenyans made their marks here as elsewhere. Running into 30-35 mph winds, Richard Chelimo (who won a silver medal that summer at 10,000-meters in the Olympics) and William Koech went 1-2 with respective times of 47:06 and 47:15. They went after the 1983 event record (46:13), passing 5 miles in 22:46 before the winds slowed them. Russian Albina Galliamova won the women's race in 53:44.



1993 saw the first use of Memorial Bridge on the Cherry Blossom course.

1993 (April 4)

Runners tried out a new course which featured an out-and-back crossing of Memorial Bridge (pending construction of the FDR Memorial forced the shift). Last year's runner-up William Koech was joined by several of his Kenyan teammates including William Sigei, who had won the World Cross Country only a week before. Once again the Kenyans were under world record pace at five miles, only to ease the up during the second half of the race. Sigei triumphed over Anthony Kiprono, 46:29 to 46:33. Judi St. Hilaire swept past early pacesetter Pauline Konga of Kenya after nine miles and scored a 3-second win in 52:27.

1994 (April 10)

After 11 years Greg Meyer's men's world record of 46:13 fell to Kenya's William Sigei. On a relatively warm, windy day (a thunderstorm blew in later that morning) Sigei and Kenyan teammates Josphat Machuka and Thomas Osano broke away from the pack early, but the pace sagged to over world record pace by nine miles. However, Sigei upped the tempo and closed with a 4:29 last mile to claim the mark with a 46:01. Both the 18-year-old Machuka (46:05) and his uncle, Osano (46:07), bested Meyer's longstanding mark as well. Kenya's Helen Chepngeno and Jane Omoro produced the closest finish ever with World Cross Country Champion Chepngeno declared the winner by inches in 54:05. With a revised race course, the number of finishers grew to over 4,600.



Ismael Kirui sets a World Record on 45:38 in the 1995 race

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1995 (April 9)

Pre-race speculation centered on the Kenyans cracking the 46:00 barrier for the first time. With world cross country runner up Ismael Kirui and 1994's third place finisher Josphat Machuka as the top seeds, the stage was set (Sigei was out due to injury). Race day dawned with no wind, although temperatures were in the upper 50s and the humidity was high. As expected, Kirui and Machuka went right to work, dropping further below world record pace with each passing mile. Suffering from blisters, Machuka dropped off by 5 miles. Kirui slowed to a 4:41 ninth mile, but responded with a 4:31 closer to smash Sigei's year-old mark with a 45:38. Just over six minutes later Rose Cheruiyot of Kenya, who had set a world 5K record a week before, collected the second world record of the day as she sprinted home far in front of the women's field in 51:39, chopping 2 seconds off Jill Hunter's 1991 world record set in New York City. U.S. marathon champion Debbi Kilpatrick finished second in 55:05. Over 5,200 runners finished.

1996 (March 31)

Lazarus Nyakeraka, 20, the hottest Kenyan on the U.S. road circuit in the early months of 1996 with wins in major races the two preceding weekends, toed the line with a number of his Kenyan teammates who were looking to steal a little of his luster. On a perfect race morning with only a 100-yard puddle on Hains Point remaining from the worst winter of flooding in over 20 years in Washington, DC, Joseph Kariuki remained with the youthful Nyakeraka for 8 miles. At that point, Nyakeraka surged away for a 46:37 to 46:49 win. Joan Nesbit became the first American winner since 1993 with a methodical dismantling of the women's field in 53:25. Steve Jones of Wales, a frequent top 10 finisher over the years, turned 40 and demolished the late Barry Brown's 1985 masters event record of 49:46 when he posted a remarkable 48:26, finishing 11th overall. The prize money was upped to \$26,000 with \$5000 going to the top male and female.

1997 (April 6)

The event celebrated its 25th running in 1997 and a number of former champions (including the first women's winner, Kathrine Switzer) came to join in the festivities. A group of a dozen runners who had run the 1973 event — and Ben Beach, the only individual who has completed the race every year it has been run — were feted at the Saturday night dinner. On race day, special coffee mugs were awarded to 24 men and 94 women who ran faster than the winning times in the first race (51:22 and 71:19). Runners from Kenya continued to dominate the men's competition — this year it was Peter Githuka upsetting defending champion Lazarus Nyakeraka in 46:29. On the women's side, Olympic marathon gold ('92) and silver ('96) medallist Valentina Yegorova of Russia took the lead from the start and captured the

women's title in 54:28. A total of \$35,000 was given to Children's Hospital, bringing the total charity contribution to over \$140,000.

1998 (April 5)

A new course featuring an out-and-back section on Rock Creek Parkway delighted the 5,800 finishers. South African Colleen DeReuck proved that the layout was fast as she shattered Rose Cheruiyot's World Record for 10 Miles of 51:39 — set in the 1995 race — with a scintillating 51:16 performance that placed her 23rd overall. (She would have been the overall winner of the 1973 race!) DeReuck finished over two minutes ahead of runner-up Marian Sutton of Great Britain. On the men's side Simon Rono, who would go on to be the top road runner of the year, produced a fast sub-46:00 time with a 45:51, the second fastest time ever in the event. He pulled Kenyan teammate Joseph Kariuki under 46:00 as well (45:58). Kenyans secured the top eight places in the men's race.



Colleen DeReuck set a World record of 51:16 in the 1998 race

1999 (April 11)

Construction along Independence Ave. meant another revision in the course for 1999. The popular Rock Creek Park section was retained, but a new section took runners through the West End and Foggy Bottom sections of Washington, DC. It was the first time the course had ventured off of National Park Service land. A cool rain greeted 6,000 starters. The many turns in the course slowed the times. For the first time since 1991, a non-Kenyan male won the

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race, as Ethiopian Worku Bikila outsprinted three Kenyans to take the overall title in 46:59. Lazarus Nyakeraka (47:01), James Kariuki (47:03) and William Kiptum (47:07) followed. Interestingly, Bikila got off his plane in Pittsburgh where it had stopped and went to the Doubletree Hotel in Pittsburgh. Some frantic calling got him D.C. bound shortly thereafter to the Doubletree race headquarters hotel here. Apparently the distraction to him was minimal. The women's race was even closer than the men's as Kenyan Jane Omoro bested teammate Jane Ngotho by a single second, 53:37 to 53:38. The win was satisfying to Omoro, who had lost the 1994 race on a lean to Helen Chepnego.

2000 (April 9)

At 6:30 a.m. on race day, snow was swirling in the staging area in West Potomac Park. The good news is that it stopped by the race time of 8:00 a.m.; the bad news is it was replaced by a howling, cold northwest wind. Runners throughout the field reported that they were nearly slowed to a walk on the completely exposed out-and-back crossing of Memorial Bridge. However, with much of the course similar to 1998 and within the closed confines of Rock Creek Park once again, Reuben Cheruiyot was still able to clock 46:07 as he blazed the final two miles — with the wind at his back — in 8:44. On the women's side, defending champion Jane Omoro narrowly lost to Kenyan teammate Teresa Wanjiku, 55:50 to 55:56. In honor of the race being held in Washington and it being a presidential election year, the organizers staged a "Foot Poll." Using a transponder chip laced into their shoes, runners crossed mats about a quarter mile from the finish line marked "Democrat," "Republican," or "Neither/Undisclosed." "Votes" were tallied at the finish line. In the end the Democrats prevailed with 44%; Republicans and "Neither/Undisclosed" tied for second with 28%. Republicans were heard to remark that the mat marked "Democrat" was along the shortest route to the finish, a charge instantly denied by the organizers.

The event marked ten years with Nortel Networks as the title sponsor.

2001 (April 8)

For the first time since 1993, the cherry blossoms were at their peak on race day with "perfect-for-running" temperatures near 50-degrees. For the first time since 1992, the event used the same course for two years in a row. A few sprinkles of rain fell early in the morning, but runners were glad they weren't last year's snowflakes! Kenyans Reuben Cheruiyot and John Korir waged an epic battle which resulted in the closest men's finish ever, with Korir edging Cheruiyot, 46:12 to 46:13. A dramatic photo appeared in the *Washington Post* showing both men with their arms raised in expectation of the win. South African Elana Meyer, making her first appearance, dominated the women's field,

finishing in 52:16, nearly a minute up on Lydiya Grigorieva, who clocked 53:15. The event had its largest number of finishers ever, 6,515.



2001 Women's Champion Elana Meyer

2002 (April 7)

After an 11-year run as title sponsor, Nortel Networks stepped down — its sponsorship a victim of the collapse of the internet bubble. Greg Farmer, Nortel's Senior VP Global Government and Community Relations, said, "I do not believe that any other sponsorship has provided Nortel with such a high profile with Washington policymakers." By the end of the summer, a group of approximately 40 Credit Unions, mostly from the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, formed an organization called the "Credit Union Miracle Day Committee," and signed on. It was a win-win situation as the event helped the Credit Unions raise nearly \$100,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, and hundreds of Credit Union employees and members signed up as volunteers. The blossoms joined the festivities for the second year in a row as Kenyans John Korir and Reuben Cheruiyot picked up where they left off in 2001. This time Cheruiyot prevailed by 5 seconds with a time of 47:13. Luminita Talpos equaled Cheruiyot's 5-second margin of victory in a time of 52:50 to become the first Romanian winner. Ethiopia's Teyba Erkesso followed. Legally blind U.S. runner Marla Runyan finished fifth in 53:37. The event grew to a record 7,061 finishers.

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2003 (April 6)

For the third straight year, race day dawned with the Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park awash in a blaze of pink and white cherry blossoms. Race officials were glad simply to be in West Potomac Park at all. Three weeks before the race, the War in Iraq had raised security levels in Washington to “Code Orange,” one step down from “Code Red,” which likely would have meant cancellation of the event. The race committee scouted out an alternative site in Poolesville, MD, 25 miles outside of Washington, as a contingency. John Korir and Reuben Cheruiyot, who else, were at it again, and when the dust settled, Korir had evened the score at 2 victories each with a 46:56 to 47:03 triumph. Russian Olga Romanova bested pre-race favorite Ashi Gigi of Ethiopia for the women's title. Through the efforts of the event and the Credit Unions, over \$190,000 was raised for the Children's Miracle Network. Bethesda's Ben Beach continued his streak as the only runner to have finished all 32 editions of the race with a time of 1:02:15. The perfect day produced the largest number of finishers ever at 7,488.



Bethesda, Maryland's Ben Beach has finished every edition of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile.

2004 (April 4)

The blossoms greeted the runners for the fourth year in a row, but so did howling winds with gusts in excess of 40-miles an hour. A pelting rain and winds pummeled the staging area about 5:30 a.m. on race morning, followed by an eerie calm almost like the eye of the storm during which the organizers decided to go ahead and put up the tents, overhead scaffolding and signage. The winds returned

shortly after the 8 a.m. start, prompting all the aforementioned items to be taken down for safety reasons. The men's times reflected the conditions, with unknown Kenyan Nelson Kiplagat winning in 48:12 – the slowest men's winning time since 1982 when Terry Baker bested Bill Rodgers in similar near-gale force winds. Rodgers was in this year's field, placing 3rd in the men's 55-59 division in 1:02:55. But track-trained Kenyan Isabella Ochichi ran the performance of the day in winning the women's title in 52:07 – the 4th fastest women's winning time ever. Boston Marathon prep-ping Catherine Ndereba finished a distant second in 53:00. Both women would go on to claim silver medals in the Athens Olympics, Ochichi in the 5,000-meters and Ndereba in the marathon. With the National Park Service allowing an increase in the number of finishers, the race had 8,057 people go the distance. For the first time, over 50% of the entrants were women, although more men finished (4,157 to 3,900).

2005 (April 3)

Kenyan John Korir collected his third win and established a streak of winning the event in odd-numbered years only. His other two wins came in 2001 and 2003. With the victory Korir moved into second place among male repeat winners, just one victory shy of Bill Rodgers' four consecutive titles between 1978 and 1981. Does anyone know how to say “2007?” Korir employed the same wait and kick strategy which had made him the most feared road racer competing on the U.S. roads over the last six years, passing runner up Reuben Chebii in the final 400-meters. Romanian Nuta Olaru took the opposite tack and ran away from the women's field to earn her first title in 52:01. Her time was the fastest performance since Colleen DeReuck's world record time of 51:16 in 1998. The event established a reciprocal relationship with the Himeji Castle 10 mile in Japan. Three Japanese runners from the top 10 came to participate here, while top American Michael Wardian traveled to Japan to run the Himeji race the following February. Under cold and blustery conditions a record number of 8,630 participants finished the event. Alexandria's Hedy Marque, 87, was the oldest finisher (1:57:38), and Ben Beach of Bethesda maintained his status as the only finisher in all 33 editions of the race with a 1:10:08 time.

2006 (April 2)

After the race, Event Director Phil Stewart handed out special t-shirts to the organizing committee members that said “The Year of Many Changes.” The entire staging area of the race was redesigned to make it resemble a small city complete with two roadways named “Gary Dr.,” after longtime logistics coordinator Gary Ceponis, who had just retired, and “Brian Blvd.,” after Brian Laush, who undertook the changes. There was a big change up front as well, as the elite women started 10 minutes ahead of the men. The new for-

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mat gave far greater visibility to the women's race and produced a world record for 10 miles in an all-women's event, simply because this was the first All-Women's 10 mile event to be run under current record keeping standards. Russia's Lidiya Grigoryeva established the mark of 52:11 on a beautiful morning awash with cherry blossoms at their peak. American Turena Johnson Lane notched the American 10 Mile record in an all women's race when she finished sixth overall in 55:42. The 5K was upgraded from an untimed run to a fully-timed and scored event. The event finally cracked the 10,000-runner mark with 10,670 participants. The Credit Unions and race participants together raised over \$500,000 for Children's Miracle Network, bringing the total funds raised during the Credit Union era to over \$1.5 million. Women's champion Grigorieva warmed everyone's heart when she donated 5% of her first-place \$6,000 check to the charity.



2007 Women's Champion Teyba Erkesso

2007 (April 1)

To celebrate the 35th running of the race, the organizers invited back numerous past winners including Kathrine Switzer ('73), Carl Hatfield ('75, '76), Bill Rodgers ('78, '79, '80, '81), Greg Meyer ('83), Lisa Rainsberger ('85, '89, '90), Jon Sinclair ('87), Colleen DeReuck ('98), and John Korir ('01, '03, '05) for a picture perfect weekend with the blossoms at their peak. Times were fast under the excellent conditions and when it was over, Ethiopia joined the U.S., Kenya, and Great Britain as the only countries to sweep both the men's and women's titles in the same year, as Tadesse Tola won

the men's race in a quick 46:01, and Teyba Erkesso topped the women's division in 51:44. With the advance start for women used again, Erkesso's time established a new world record for a women's only 10 mile. John Korir failed in his bid to match Bill Rodgers' 4 wins when he finished third in 46:11. The organizers received a scare when they were told that construction on Rock Creek Parkway would start before race day and the course would be unusable. Fortunately, it was delayed until the day after the race. Washington's newly elected Mayor, Adrian Fenty, finished in a respectable time of 1:08:47. A record number of 10,748 runners finished the 10-mile, and 756 finished the 5K Run-Walk. The funds raised by the Credit Union Miracle Day Committee swelled to \$850,000.

2008 (April 6)

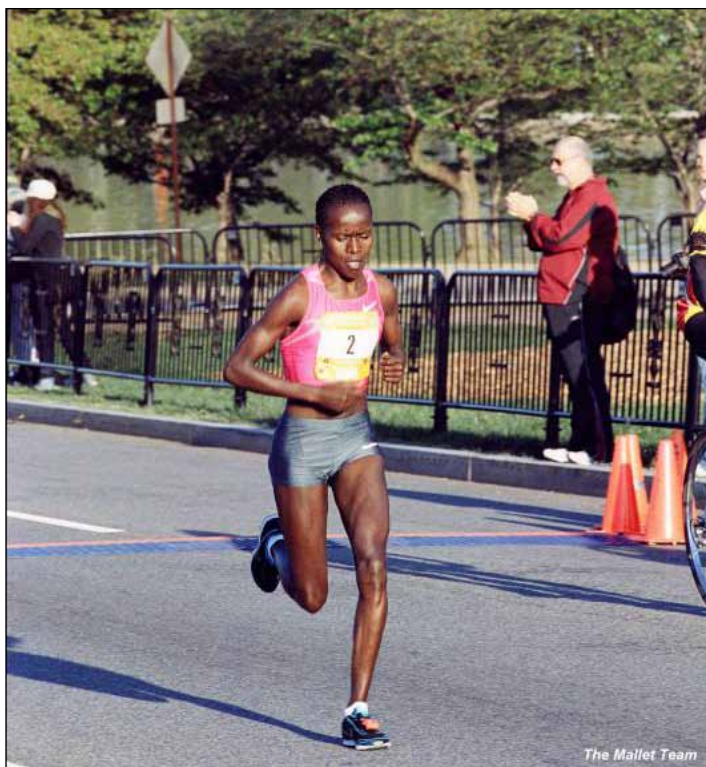
With the construction on Rock Creek Parkway underway, the organizers knew a new course needed to be developed for 2008, and they started work on it almost immediately after the 2007 event. With the cooperation of the National Park Service, the start and finish lines were moved from West Potomac Park to a spectacular new location on 15th St., with the staging area on the Washington Monument Grounds. The new site was also only ¼ mile from the Smithsonian Metro stop, which eliminated an unwieldy shuttle bus service. The new course was a big hit as it incorporated the blossoms around Hains Point in addition to those around the Tidal Basin. The race filled its expanded allotment of 12,000 finisher slots just four hours after online registration opened in Dec., 2007. This was less than 1/6th the amount of time it had taken the previous several years. Heavy rains flooded the staging area on the Monument Grounds and all the start-finish area tents, porta-potties, etc. had to be shifted to the "Folk Life Festival Grounds" on the east side of 15th St. just 48 hours before the start of the race. Race day featured intermittent rain, chilly temperatures in the 40s, and blossoms a smidge beyond peak – not bad conditions for the record number of 12,294 finishers under the newly imposed timing limit of 2 hours and 20 minutes for completing the 10 miles. Young Kenyan Lineth Chepkurui, 20, raced away from Olympic marathon silver medallists Lidia Simon ('00) and Catherine Ndereba ('04) to take the women's title in a sluggish time of 54:21. Ridouane Harroufi became the first Moroccan to capture a title as he outlegged Nichola Kamakya of Kenya by a single second in 46:14. The other big news of the day was the Credit Union Miracle Day Committee cracked the \$1 million dollar mark in funds raised for the Children's Miracle Network when it signed over a check for \$1,036,000.

2009 (April 5)

2009 was the year that all of the pillars of the event changed – the course was run in reverse in order to avoid a narrow section during the first mile on the 2008 route; the

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staging area was completely redesigned; there was a new headquarters hotel, the Grand Hyatt Washington; and there was a new expo site at the National Building Museum. The entire organizing committee was exhausted by the time race weekend rolled around. However in a show of magnanimity, Mother Nature provided one of the most perfect days ever, with brilliant sunshine, temperatures about 50-degrees rising to the mid-60s for the awards ceremony, and blossoms just a tinge past peak. However, some things remained the same, most notably the winners, as Ridouane Harroufi and Lineth Chepkurui repeated as champions, both running faster (45:56 and 53:32 respectively) than in 2008. A relatively unknown American woman, Sally Meyerhoff, raced to a new American record for a women's only race when she clocked 54:38 to finish 7th overall. For some unexplained reason the number of no-shows plummeted, resulting in a record number of 14,969 finishers, some 3,000 over the number stated on the National Park Service Permit. Due to the committee's and volunteer's extraordinary efforts to clear the streets by 10:30 a.m. for the cherry blossom tourists, the NPS did not protest. Despite a tightening economy, Credit Union Miracle Day still raised \$1 million dollars for the Children's Miracle Network.



Lineth Chepkurui en route to her third consecutive victory in 2010

2010 (April 11)

With the race a week later than its traditional first weekend in April date due to Easter, the blossoms were nearly gone but a glorious spring day was enjoyed by all 15,600 finishers.

The action at the front of the men's pack was never tighter with a photo finish that had to be decided by the finish line judges (and then was protested by the runner-up who felt he had been impeded in the final sprint). In the end Stephen Tum of Kenya was declared the winner over Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia (Desisa later dropped the protest). Almost lost in the drama was that Tum was a scant 5 seconds off Ismael Kirui's event record set back in 1995, with a finishing time of 45:43. The women's race was a run-away and a three-peat by Kenya's Lineth Chepkurui, who has gotten faster every year. Her time of 51:51 eclipsed Julliah Tinega of Kenya by 48 seconds. Chepkurui's third consecutive win tied her with Julie Shea, who won three in a row between 1975 and 1977. The sponsoring Credit Unions raised \$923,000 for Children's Miracle Network. The event also hired an environmental consultant to look for ways to reduce its environmental footprint. The plan was to have the event certified as "Green" by the Council for Responsible Sport in 2011. Deputy Race Director Irv Newman relinquished his role and the event hired longtime volunteer Becky Lambros as the second salaried staff member.

2011 (April 3)

Ethiopian Lelisa Desisa was not a happy man after losing the 2010 race in a photo finish. After initially protesting the judge's call, he backed down. A year later, he ran like a man with something to prove as he broke Ismael Kirui's 1995 event record by two seconds, clocking 45:36. His five-second margin over Kenyan Allan Kiprono seemed vast in comparison with his 2010 loss. Desisa's interpreter said, "He wanted to make sure it didn't come down to the finish again this year." Three-time winner Lineth Chepkurui was unable to return for her attempt at matching Bill Rodgers' four consecutive wins, paving the way for Julliah Tinega, who, like Desisa, was runner up in 2010. Tinega powered her way home in 54:02, a single second up on fellow Kenyan Risper Gesabwa. The event earned a "Silver Level" designation by the Council for Responsible sport as environmentally-friendly. The 2011 race marked the 10th year of sponsorship by Credit Union Miracle Day. With an additional \$578,000 raised for the Children's Miracle Network, the total amount of funds raised during the Credit Union era eclipsed the \$5 million dollar mark. Just a year before the 40th running, the event logged its 200,000th all-time finisher, Adrianna Swinson of Centreville, VA. After the race, the organizers unveiled an all-time searchable database listing every finisher since 1973.

2012 (April 1)

The Gala 40th Running of the race featured some dazzling solo front-running by Kenyan Allan Kiprono, who, like Lelisa Desisa in 2011, was out to avenge a runner-up finish at the previous year's race. After teammate Lani Kiplagat suggested pushing the pace around the three-mile mark, Kip-

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rono followed the advice and surged into a lead which only grew larger with each additional stride. By the finish line, he had amassed a 1:13 lead over Kiplagat and reduced the 2011 event record by a stunning 21 seconds with a time of 45:15. On the women's side Jelliah Tinega repeated as champion by matching her 2011 winning time of 54:02, 22 seconds up on Ethiopian Malika Mejdoub. The anniversary run attracted some special VIPs, including Greg Meyer, who still owns the fastest time by an American, 46:13, for the event; Colleen DeReuck, who owns the current women's event mark of 51:16; and Gar Williams, one of the race founders in 1973 and former DC Road Runners and Road Runners Club of America President. The race also feted 39-year-old Gerri Baer of Rockville, who was born on April 1, 1973, the date of the first race. Bethesda's Ben Beach finished the race for the 40th consecutive time, the only runner with perfect attendance. The Children's Miracle Network fundraising juggernaut continued with an additional \$515,000 raised by the sponsoring Credit Unions and runners.

2013 (April 7)

USATF's USA Women's National Championship 10 Mile Presented by America's Credit Unions made its first appearance at the race. An extra prize purse of \$14,400 for American women (added to the existing \$42,000 in open prize money) produced a deep elite field featuring strong American talent on the women's side. With U.S. 2012 Olympian Janet Bawcom in the field, hopes ran high of having the first U.S. female overall champion since Joan Nesbit in 1996. Bawcom hung with the lead pack for about 2/3rds of the race but succumbed to the relentless pressure of Kenyan Caroline Rotich, who powered to a 52:46 victory. Bawcom placed 4th in 53:28 but still bested the late Sally Meyerhoff's single sex American record by 70 seconds. Brianne Nelson (7th in 54:01) and Sarah Crouch (9th in 54:15) also bettered the old mark. Alan Kiprono, who ran away from the field and broke the event record in 2012, returned as the favorite in the men's division. However, fellow Kenyan Daniel Salel would not shake loose as the twosome traded surges over the closing miles. Cresting the incline at 15th and Independence, Kiprono appeared to have victory in hand. However one final burst right at the finish tape brought Salel across the line first, according to the judges who viewed the near photo finish. Salel clocked 46:06, with Kiprono posting 46:07. There were some heads turned in the 5K Run-Walk when 12-year-old Nathan Davis of Frederick, MD was the overall winner in 17:22. A cool spring kept the cherry blossoms just short of their peak on a near perfect day for running with temperatures in the 50s. The sponsoring Credit Union Miracle Day added another \$483,000 in donations to Children's Miracle Network, bringing the total funds raised since becoming the title sponsor of the race to over \$6 million dollars. Just over 17,500 runners finished the race.

2014 (April 6)

With a positive reaction to hosting the USA Women's National Championship in 2013, the organizers bid on and received both the USA Men's and Women's National 10 Mile championships from USA Track and Field. The added infusion of top American runners raised the possibility that the event could see its first American champions since Chris Fox won the men's race in 1990 and Joan Nesbit won the women's race in 1996. However, it was not to be. On the men's side Kenyans Stephen Sambu and Daniel Salel finished 1-2 with the 2nd and 3rd fastest men's times ever recorded for the event (both were timed in 45:29 with Sambu given the win). Christo Landry finished sixth in 46:41, the fourth fastest American time for the event behind Greg Meyer, Thom Hunt and Bill Reifsnyder and less than 30 seconds off Meyer's 1983 American 10 Mile record (still standing) of 46:13. Meyer had returned to hold the finish tape in hopes of seeing his mark bettered after more than 30 years. On the women's side, American Janet Bawcom gave serious chase to Ethiopian Mamitu Daska but fell seven seconds short of Daska at the end as the Ethiopian claimed the title 52:05 to Bawcom's 52:12. Bawcom's consolation was the single-sex American 10 mile record, bettering the mark she had set a year earlier by 1:16. Nathan Davis, now 13-years-old, repeated as 5K champion in 17:58. A long and cold winter meant the cherry blossoms were just shy of blooming for the second straight year. The credit unions, in the 13th year of their sponsorship, donated another \$487,000 to Children's Miracle Network.



2013 and 2014 USA 10 Mile Women's Champion Janet Bawcom

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2015 (April 12)

For the first time in its history, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom was not a 10 mile. Due to an accident on the course just 90 minutes before race time, organizers had to scramble to come up with an alternate route because of the accident investigation. The results showed some eye-popping times for anyone who did not read the explanation that the course was 9.39 miles long after the re-routing. Any disappointment over the shortened course was more than counterbalanced by the most spectacular display of blossoms at their absolute peak on a windless, gorgeous morning. Stephen Sambu notched his second title in a row, this time with a more comfortable 9-second margin instead of his eyelash win in 2014. He clocked 43:20. American Jake Riley finished in second place eight seconds later, the highest men's finishing place by an American since Bill Reifsnyder was the runner-up in 1991. Daniel Salel, who was on the short end of the eyelash in 2014, ended up in third. Training partners Mary Wacera and Cynthia Limo separated themselves from the rest of the women's field by the eight-mile mark and ran together toward the finish line. Wacera edged ahead by a few yards for the win - both received the identical time of 48:35. The top American woman was Serena Burla in sixth place with a time of 50:18. Ben Beach kept his perfect attendance intact as the only runner to have run all 43 editions of the race with a 1:27:59 finish. Dixon Hemphill, 90, finished the 5K and said, "I gave this race my all." He clocked 47:01, two minutes faster than his 2014 time. Longtime Deputy Race Director Irv Newman received the first Les Kinion Outstanding Service Award, named for long time race volunteer Les Kinion who died in the summer of 2014.



2015 Men's winner, Stephen Sambu, and runner-up, Jake Riley, share a laugh during the awards ceremony.

2016 (April 3)

The 2016 race hardly felt like "The Runner's Rite of Spring," as wind gusts clocked as high as 47 miles per hour howled across the Washington Monument Grounds during the pre-dawn set up hours, prompting the organizers to dismantle anything that could become a projectile, including tents and signs. The decision to allow the race to take place at all wasn't made until 5:00 a.m. on race morning and wind gusts between 30 and 40 miles an hour greeted the over 16,000 runners who showed up. The \$10,000 bonus offered to the first U.S. male or female to break the American record (split if both records fell) was safe on this day. The elite mens race was won by Sam Chelanga, the first U.S. male to win the race since Chris Fox took the title in 1990. Chelanga, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Kenya, prevailed by a single second over Silas Kipruto of Kenya with a wind-impeded time of 48:26. A second American, Martin Hehir, finished third in 48:29. Due to the winds, the women's advance start was mercifully abandoned. Kenyan Veronica Nyaruai Wanjiru of Kenya won in 53:12 and said, "Because of the wind, I didn't look at the time." She prevailed by eight-seconds over Ethiopian Buze Diriba. Two American women with local connections placed in the top six — Maegan Krifchin of Silver Spring, MD was third in 55:01 and Serena Burla of Stafford, VA was sixth in 55:58. The most recognizable runner of the weekend was 2004 Olympic silver medalist, 2009 New York City Marathon winner and 2014 Boston Marathon winner Meb Keflezighi who opted to pace runners hoping to break 1:00:00 just six weeks after placing second in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Marathon trials. Despite the conditions, 16,228 finished the 10 mile and 1,932 completed the 5K. Children's Miracle Network received a check for \$505,000 bringing the credit union era contributions to \$7.5 million dollars. It seemed fitting that Logistics Coordinator George Tarrico who supervised the construction and the quick dismantling of the Washington Monument Grounds due to the winds was awarded the second Les Kinion Outstanding Service Award.



2016 Men's winner, Sam Chelanga was the first American male winner since 1990.

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2017 (April 2)

The organizing committee approached the 2017 race, which marked the 45th running of the event, with the modest goals of no wind and running a full 10 miles after the two difficult years in 2015 and 2016. These expectations were exceeded handily with a close to perfect day for running and cherry blossoms, which had been forecast to bloom two weeks before the event, in the final stages of peak bloom. After Sam Chelanga broke a 27-year drought for an American male winner, Stanley Kebenei made it two in a row for the Red, White and Blue with a surge after nine miles which brought him across the line in 46:35, good for a three-second win over Kenyan James Kibet. Ethiopian Hiwot Gebrekidan, only 21-years old, had an easier time winning the women's competition over country woman Buze Diriba 53:37 to 53:52. The 45th running celebration brought a host of past luminaries to town and two of them showed their longevity with excellent finishes in their age groups. Kathrine Switzer, the first woman's winner in 1973, captured the women's 70-74 division in 1:30:31 and four-time winner Bill Rodgers clocked 1:19:15 to place 7th in the men's 65-69 division. Of course Ben Beach kept his streak going as the only runner to have finished all 45 editions with a time 1:34:18. Beach completed his 50th Boston Marathon in a row just

over two weeks later. Joan Samuelson, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the inaugural women's marathon, showed her excellence remains some 33 years after her win in Los Angeles by setting an American women's 55-59 age group mark of 1:03:55. In keeping with the five-year anniversary tradition of offering (I would have won this race in 1973) mugs to all runners who ran faster than Sam Bair's and Switzer's winning times of 51:12 and 1:11:19, the organizers handed out mugs to 36 men and 218 women. After years of being held on the Washington Monument Grounds at the conclusion of the 10 mile, the Kids Run was moved to Saturday and held in conjunction with the Health and Fitness Expo. The change was well received. Longtime Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Carter won the third Les Kinion award for outstanding service to the event.

2018 (April 7)

Dubbed "Our Championship Year," the 2018 race hosted both the PRRO Circuit Championship and the RRCA National 10 Mile Championship held in conjunction with the RRCA's 60th Annual Convention held in Washington, DC. The PRRO Championship which rotates among the PRRO Circuit races, was being held at the race for the first time. Winners of the other PRRO Circuit Events can earn



Virtual Run participants show off their medals

The Runner's Rite of Spring®

the \$10,000 PRRO “Super Bonus” by winning the Championship as well. Ethiopian Buze Diriba did exactly that and pocketed \$18,000 for winning – \$10,000 from PRRO and \$8,000 from the Credit Union Cherry Blossom with a time of 53:45. On the men's side Ethiopian Jemal Yimer picked up \$2,500 in PRRO cash since he had not won another PRRO race to augment his \$8,000 first place prize in 46:17. Both runners won the RRCA National Championship titles as well. A chilly morning awash in blossoms greeted some 17,000 starters in the 10 mile and 2,000 in the 5K Run-Walk, but for the first since 1992 the runners did not cross Memorial Bridge which was closed for construction. Continuing its commitment to helping young Americans just out of college, the race teamed up with the RRCA to offer a special \$1,200 purse to the top RRCA Roads Scholar grant recipient and RRCA RunPro Camp alumni. Abbabiya Simbassa(RunPro) and Emma Bates (Roads Scholar) earned these awards. And yes, Ben Beach finished again for the 46th consecutive year.

2019 (April 7)

There was an organizational race before the running race in 2019 when just six weeks before race day a lane of the race course along Rock Creek Parkway was closed down for construction with no advance notice given to the organizing committee. Since the prospect of 17,000 runners passing through a 12' wide opening along the road way was hardly appealing, the course was re-routed for the first four miles, taking the route off National Park Service land and onto Washington, DC city streets. Gaining approval from the city for the permit on an accelerated basis was complicated but ultimately successful with a permit received less than 36 hour before the start. Then, a week out, a bulldozer appeared and proceeded to dig up an area near the starting line where several tents were scheduled to be constructed. The result? A quick recasting of the starting line area in the last few days. All the of the tensions of the lead-up were allayed when race day dawned with the perfect blossoms and perfect weather. It appeared that the elite runners responded with lightning fast times. Men's winner Jimal Jimer blazed a 45:36 clocking. Not far behind, Stanley Kebenei, the 2017 winner crossed, the line in 46:00, faster than Greg Meyer's 46:13 American record time from 1983, and broke into euphoria in the center of the road way no doubt in part due to the \$10,000 bonus being offered for a new American record. On the women's side, Kenyan Rosemary Wanjiru clocked in at 50:42, 34 seconds faster than Colleen DeReuck's course record set in 1997. Behind the winners came scores of happy faces on runners with new PRs. Or so it seemed. By mid-week, the organizers determined that the turn-around in West Potomac Park had been misplaced on a temporary measurement mark and the course was 80 yards short. They agreed to pay Kebenei his \$10,000 bonus even with the short course. (Kebenei's adjusted time would have placed him at the finish line within a second

or two either way of Meyer's record.) Kebenei vowed to return in 2020 to go for the mark again.

2020 (April 5)

Elements of nature have come perilously close to cancelling the race in the past -- flooding, high winds and snow have jeopardized the event but ultimately have been overcome. One could have never imagined that something 0.12 microns in size and first reported in Wuhan, China would cause the event to tumble. As the highly virulent Corona virus (COVID-19) spread across the globe during the winter, large running events suddenly became potential incubators. In early March, the first U.S. spring races began to cancel or postpone, prompting the organizing committee to tell participants it would “monitor the situation” and look for Federal and Public Health agency guidance about cancelling. When the Boston Marathon, just over two weeks after the Credit Union Cherry Blossom, postponed until September, the necessity of cancelling was apparent. (The complexity of the numerous permits made postponement impossible.) This was announced to participants on March 14 with options of receiving a lottery exemption for the 2021 race (with no entry fee refund), a full 2020 refund, or donating the entry fee to Children's Miracle Network. About 50% took the lottery exemption, 5% made donations and 45% asked for a refund. A free Virtual Run was offered as a way for participants to celebrate their preparation with nearly 2,300 people participating, many posting joyful pictures and narratives about their experiences. Later in the year there were two developments regarding records set at the Cherry Blossom. On October 30, Galen Rupp broke Greg Meyer's American 10 mile record of 46:13 set at the Cherry Blossom in 1983 (three years before Rupp was born) with a time of 45:54 recorded at the 10 mile split of the Row River Half Marathon in Dorena, OR. Just 24 days later, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom organizing committee put together the Up Dawg Ten Miler in order to provide committee member Keira D'Amato with an opportunity to break the All-Women's 10 mile record of 52:12 set by Janet Bawcom at the 2014 Credit Union Cherry Blossom (ironically, D'Amato was holding the tape when Bawcom set the mark). D'Amato didn't disappoint, shattering the record by 49 seconds with a time of 51:23. The time also established a new U.S. “All-comer's mark, the fastest time ever run by a runner of any nationality in an All-Women's competition on U.S. soil (breaking the time of Ethiopia's Teyba Erkesso of 51:44 set at the 2008 Credit Union Cherry Blossom). D'Amato would go on the break Deena Kastor's long standing American Record in the marathon with a stunning 2:19:12 performance at the Houston Half Marathon in January, 2022.

The Runner's Rite of Spring[®]

2021 (September 12)

As the unrelenting Covid-19 pandemic continued to ravage the globe and just couple of months after vaccines to protect individuals from the virus began to be introduced, the possibility of holding the race in its traditional April timeframe was a non-starter. However the organizing committee simply could not bear the thought of a three-year gap between the last in-person edition of the event and the 2022 event, so they elected to stage an event that celebrates the annual blossoming of the trees in September when there would not be a cherry blossom in sight. To bring an element of excitement, the race was awarded the Men's and Women's USATF National 10 Mile Championship for the first time since 2014.

Although the event caught a window between the Delta and Omicron Covid-19 variants when both cases and deaths had dropped significantly, plans still had to be developed for social distancing at the start and possible mask wearing throughout the weekend. Many runners were still cautious as the event attracted only 12,000 registrants with 7,000 finishers. On race day, no social distancing was mandated and masks were required only before and after, but not during, the event. Competition-starved American and International runners responded with fast times on a pleasant September morning (heat had been feared). Kenya's Edwin Kimutai clocked 45:45, the 9th fastest time ever run on the course, to win the men's division, while Nell Rojas captured the both women's open race (the first American woman to win the race since Joan Nesbit earned the title in 1996) and the U.S. Women's Championship in 52:13. Ironically, if the race organizing committee had not organized the UpDawg 10 Mile in November, 2020 in which Keira D'Amato set the American record of 51:23, Rojas' time would have bettered the old mark set by Janet Bawcom in the 2014 championship event by a single second. Abbabiya Simbassa claimed the U.S. 10 mile men's title in 46:18 while finishing second over all. The event was enthusiastically embraced by the runners who took part, but everyone was already hoping for a return to April in 2022.

The organizers had not let the traditional April, 2021 weekend go by unnoticed as they hosted a virtual run between March 20 and April 11 which attracted 1941 finishers in the 10 mile and 5K events .



Les Kinion Award

By trade, Les Kinion was a Baltimore fire fighter with Engine Company 43. By passion, he was first a runner and then a running club officer and race director. In 1970, Les co-founded the Baltimore Road Runners Club, one of the earliest chapters of the Road Runners Club of America. In 1973 he helped launch the first Maryland Marathon. After retiring in 1986, Les moved to Bishopville, MD and worked on hundreds of races on the Maryland-Delaware Coast. He became involved with the Cherry Blossom Run over 20 years ago, and was active until he passed away in July 2014 at the age of 78.

In 2015, race organizers established the Les Kinion Outstanding Service Award, which was awarded to former Deputy Race Director Irv Newman. In 2016, longtime Logistics Coordinator, George Tarrico won the award. In 2017, longtime Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Carter was recognized for her many contributions. In 2018, Jean Arthur was awarded the Les Kinion Outstanding Service Award in recognition of her 20 years of service to the event. In 2019, Glenn Klenk was recognized for his eagerness to take on tedious and unglamorous tasks that few, if any other people would seek out. And in summer 2020, Nita Lalla Rincone was surprised by a socially distanced presentation on her front porch after her big moment at the pre-race dinner never came to be because of the Covid caused cancellation of the 2020 in-person race.

In September 2021, when runners and race officials were once again able to gather in person, Marsha Way was awarded the 2021 Les Kinion Outstanding Service Award. Deputy Race Director Becky Lambros had the pleasure of introducing Marsha Way at the pre-race dinner, as only a friend of 48 years could:

“Marsha’s dedication to the Credit Union Cherry Blossom race is unfailing – I’m not sure the race could go on without Marsha issuing orders from the volunteer tent – and everyone listens! That is an indication of the respect everyone has for her. When we are in a bind we all say – Ask Marsha. The Les Kinion award was created to honor outstanding volunteers – Marsha is truly one of those.”

Press releases about Irv, George, Michelle, Jean, Glenn, Nita and 2021 recipient Marsha can be found in the archives at:

<http://www.cherryblossom.org/aboutus/pr2017.php>.



Photo: Karem Mitchell

Deputy Race Director Becky Lambros presents Marsha Way with the Les Kinion Award. Marsha has performed myriad tasks during her years of service to the committee.

Road Runners Club of America

Road Runners Club of America and Cherry Blossom—A special relationship



In 2018, the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) awarded \$2,400 in prize money to the top the finishers in the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run that were either an RRCA Roads Scholar or RunPro Camp alum. The race also served as the 2018 RRCA Ten Mile National Championship.

In 2022, building upon the long tradition of cooperation and mutual support between the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile and the RRCA—America's oldest and largest grass roots organization of running clubs—race organizers and the RRCA will jointly award \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 to the top-three men and women alumni of the two [innovative RRCA programs designed specifically to support up-and-coming American distance runners](#).

Since 1996, the RRCA has awarded 140 grants totaling \$730,500 through its Roads Scholar program to assist American post-collegiate road runners who show great promise to develop into national and world class road running athletes. Over the past 20 years, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run has contributed over \$220,000 to the Roads Scholar grant program, making it the program's largest single contributor.

To date, the following RRCA Roads Scholar grant recipients have committed to race in the 2022 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile: **Futsum Zienasellassie (2020)**, **Alexis Zeis (2019)**, **Reid Buchanan (2018)**, and **Katja Goldring (2016)**. In addition, **Brogan Austin** received Olympic Trials Qualifier Grants in 2020.

RunPro is another RRCA-funded program that Credit Union Cherry Blossom organizers are pleased to support. Event Director Phil Stewart and Elite Athlete Coordinator Bill Orr are regular presenters at the RunPro Camp weekend in July of each year. Intended to assist newly-graduated, post-collegiate runners seeking to make the transition to professional running, RunPro Camp provides attendees with the information, knowledge, and networking resources necessary to pursue a professional running career.

RunPro Campers who have committed to this year's race include: **Joel Reichow (2017)** and **Susanna Sullivan (2014)** as well as **Futsum Zienasellassie (2017)** and **Brogan Austin (2015)**.



Photo: Clay Shaw

Emma Bates (8) from Boise, ID, took home a total of \$9,000 in prize money in 2019, including \$1,500 for winning the RRCA Roads Scholar/RunPro Alumni challenge; Samantha Palmer (34) from Northport, AL, ran away with \$2,500, including \$1,000 for being the second RRCA Roads Scholar/RunPro Camp alum among the women.

Press Releases for Current Year's Race

Copies of pre-race releases can be found on the event website (<https://www.cherryblossom.org/press-social-media/newsroom/2022-press-releases/>). Here's a list of releases that have been issued to date in regards to the 2022 race:

Credit Union Cherry Blossom Virtual Run Offers A New Opportunity To Celebrate National Cherry Blossom Festival (3/1/22)

Wegmans Joins Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run As Presenting Sponsor Of Health & Fitness Expo (1/10/22)

2022 Credit Cherry Blossom Run Lottery Information (12/22/21)

Credit Union Miracle Day Extends Title Sponsorship Through 2025 (10/12/21)



Photo: Clay Shaw

Crossing Memorial Bridge minutes into the race, American Annie Frisbie (#30) and Kenyan Antonia Kwambai ((#22) take over pacemaking duties.