



## The Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network's Quarterly Newsletter

Printed on 100% recycled paper



### Upcoming events

**December 12th & 13th**

**DRN's Craft Show**

Eagle Ballroom, Eagle Fire Company  
New Hope, PA

**March 13th**

**Schuylkill Watershed Congress**

Montgomery Co. Community College  
Pottstown, PA

### Phonathon 2009

The year is drawing to a close signaling time for our phonathon.

During Phonathon 2009, we will be

contacting many of you by phone to ask for critical financial support.

Phonathon allows us to connect with our members, provide updates on our work, and ask for your support. Many worthy causes will be asking for your donation this year, but your gift to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network may be one of the most important charitable investments you make this year.

*Please give as generously as you can afford.*

**Thank you for giving!**



### Changing the way we change the watershed

*A note from the Delaware Riverkeeper*

We're changing how we do business. When we can, we're replacing meetings with conference calls to save gas. Webinars are replacing presentations. E-activist alerts are replacing mailings, saving postage, paper and reducing our carbon footprint. We're looking for ways to save resources, increase our effectiveness and broaden our reach wherever we can in order to ensure that every dollar donated to us is working as hard as possible for the River.

Through social networking sites, we can do more to spread the word about threats to our local streams without increasing costs. I have taken the leap and joined Facebook (Are you on Facebook? Then let's be friends). The Delaware Riverkeeper Network also has a MySpace page. Facebook and MySpace will be able to help us to connect with our members and supporters here in the Delaware River watershed and far beyond its boundaries.

We have been encouraging our members to receive *River Rapids* via email and many of you have embraced this approach, but we need to do more. So in 2010, *River Rapids* will be going digital. *River Rapids* will be available three times a year in an improved format with interactive features and links to more information. The electronic version of *River Rapids* will be presented in the same layout as this print version, but it will be a searchable pdf file with enhanced content. Follow *River Rapids* and learn about other money-saving changes we're making on line at [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org).

The current economy has required us to do more with less, but protecting the River remains our priority and our passion. Thank you for your donations that help make our work possible

*Maya K. van Rossum*  
the Delaware Riverkeeper

**"I'll take mine online" . . . Please let us know if you prefer to receive *River Rapids* by mail.** We will continue to offer this option to those who prefer it, but by choosing to view *River Rapids* online, you will be helping us not only to cut costs, but also to save trees, reduce water consumption and eliminate the discharges that the manufacture of paper requires. When each new issue is available online, our members will receive a keepsake postcard reminder to go to our website to check out the latest on our efforts to protect the Delaware and its tributary streams.

**To request *River Rapids* by mail, call 215-369-1188, or email [molly@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:molly@delawareriverkeeper.org).** You must reply by December 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the Winter 2010 issue.

# Shop our River Shop for gifts this season

The holiday season is fast approaching. If you are looking for ideas for meaningful gifts for those you love, consider combining gift memberships with our Delaware Riverkeeper Network merchandise. For the kayaker in the family, include a copy of *Canoeing the Delaware River* by Gary Letcher and one of our waterproof paddler cases. Add one of our macramé “River” bracelets for the friend who wears his love for the River on his sleeve. Our stainless steel water bottles make great gifts for fitness buffs in the family. And for the person who has everything, give them something to carry it all in . . . one of our great canvas tote bags!

## Fight natural gas drilling. Use our Organic Cotton Canvas Tote Bags.

Plastic bags are made from natural gas or petroleum by products. Use our tote bags to replace plastic shopping bags. Our totes are made in the USA from 10-ounce organic cotton canvas. They are easy to clean, made to last, and feature the beautiful Delaware Riverkeeper Network logo printed in teal.

Three sizes are available (width x height x gusset):

**Classic:** 18" x 15" x 5"

**Grocery:** 16.5" x 17" x 6"

**Beach:** 21.5" x 17" x 6"

All sizes have 23" handles. **\$10.00 plus shipping and handling.**



## Stainless Steel Water Bottles

With concern over chemicals leaching from plastic water bottles, isn't it time you broke the bottled water habit? Stainless steel water bottles are recommended by National Geographic's Green Guide over aluminum bottles. Our stainless steel bottles are good for every day excursions or whenever thirst hits. These water bottles are rugged, reliable and reusable. Choose from gold with black logo or navy blue with cream logo. **\$12.00 plus shipping and handling.**

## Waterproof Paddler Cases

These protective cases are ideal for paddlers and boaters who wish to hold onto their cell phones, credit cards or cash when out on the River. When sealed, these cases are waterproof and they even float. Height, 4.3" x Width, 2.7" x Depth, 1.3". Our paddler case displays our pollution hotline number, 1-800-8DELAWARE, so that you can be our eyes on the River and can let us know when you see a pollution incident. **\$4.00 plus shipping and handling.**



## Remember the River pins, bracelet

Show that you care about the Delaware by wearing our RIVER bracelet or *Remember the River* lapel pin. Buy one for yourself, or buy several for your family and friends!

### Remember the River Lapel Pin

\$7.00 each, includes shipping  
5 for \$25.00, includes shipping  
10 for \$40.00, includes shipping

### Macramé River Bracelet

\$4.00 each, includes shipping  
4 for \$10.00, includes shipping

Sales of Delaware Riverkeeper Network merchandise help support our work for the River. To order the merchandise featured here, use the attached order form and return by first class mail. **To see more**

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network merchandise and apparel, go to our River Shop online at [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org).** You'll find gifts for family, friends and yourself.

# Remember the River . . . Give a gift membership!

Do you know someone who loves the River? Then consider giving a gift membership so he or she can become part of the thousands actively supporting the Delaware River. A gift membership is a great way to honor someone's appreciation for the River while helping to ensure that our children and grandchildren can enjoy its beauty and bounty.

The recipient of a gift membership will also receive a certificate announcing your gift, a 10% discount at our annual Native Plant Sale held the first weekend in May each year, and invitations to special members-only events.

When you give a gift membership of \$50 or more, we'll also send to the recipient one of our beautiful macramé "River" bracelets. For gifts of \$150.00 or more, you receive a Delaware Riverkeeper Network canvas tote with your thank you. Or you can choose to have it included as part of your gift.

Select from among these gift membership levels:

\$35 Striped Bass Bunch	\$50 Blue Crab Band	\$100 Shad Circle
\$250 Oyster Alliance	\$500 Sturgeon Guild	\$1,000 Otter Society

## Delaware Riverkeeper Network Merchandise Order Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to address (if different from name above):

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Cost Per Item	Description	Quantity	Total
Macramé "River" bracelet	\$4.00 each, 4 for \$10.00			
"Remember the River" lapel pin	\$7.00, 5 for \$25.00, 10 for \$40.00			
Waterproof Paddler cases	\$4.00			
Tote bag (specify Classic, Grocery or Beach)	\$10.00			
Stainless steel water bottle (specify Blue or Gold)	\$12.00			
Gift Membership (specify level) \$35, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000				
<b>Books</b>				
<i>The Riverkeepers</i>	\$25.00			
<i>Damming the Delaware : The Rise and Fall of Tocks Island Dam</i>	\$27.00			
<i>Canoeing the Delaware River</i>	\$17.00			
<i>Pond and Brook: A Guide to Nature in Freshwater Environments</i>	\$24.00			
<i>The Plants of Pennsylvania</i>	\$75.00			
<b>Just for Kids</b>				
<i>Tall Tales From the Watershed</i> CD	\$15.00			
			<b>Subtotal</b>	
			<b>Shipping</b>	
			<b>Total</b>	

**Shipping via USPS  
Merchandise Total  
& Handling**

\$ 0.00-\$19.99	\$3.95
\$20.00-\$49.99	\$4.95
\$50.00-\$74.99	\$6.95
\$75.00-\$99.99	\$8.95
\$100 and up	\$10.95

**Shipping**

Check or money order enclosed.

Please charge to my  Visa  MasterCard. Card

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network

*The Voice of the River and its Tributary Streams*

300 Pond Street, 2nd Floor  
Bristol, PA 19007

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## Shop Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Annual Holiday Craft Show

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm,  
Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm,  
*The Eagle Ballroom, Eagle Fire Company*  
46 North Sugas Rd, New Hope, PA

Support local artists, artisans and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network while wrapping up your holiday shopping. You can do it all the second weekend in December at our **Seventh Annual Holiday Craft Show at the Eagle Fire Company Ballroom on North Sugas Road in New Hope Pennsylvania.**

The DRN craft show, which highlights a **wide variety of high quality, handmade crafts from over 40 local artists and crafters**, offers an alternative to mall shopping for the holidays. This year's quality crafts include jewelry, wearable art, ceramics, wood, glass, mixed media, watercolors, oils, pastels, photography, and homemade chocolates for all occasions.

This holiday season there's no need to drive from store to store to find the perfect gift because you will be sure to find it at our craft show. When you shop our craft show, you will be saving gas, reducing your carbon footprint, and supporting local economies, all while helping to protect the River.

Don't miss one of the best seasonal shopping events in the region! The **suggested entry donation is \$5.00 per person**. Entry donations help support programs such as our River Resources Law Clinic, water quality monitoring and awareness-to-action training. So come out and support DRN because every dollar donated makes a difference for the River.

Our annual craft show is an indoor event and held rain or shine. For more information, call Tim at 215-369-1188, ext. 116.



Artwork that will be available at DRN's craft show includes jewelry by Beth Ann Judge, pastels by Virginia Fitch, and ready to frame photos by Carla Klouda. Photo credits: B. Judge, V. Fitch, and C. Klouda.



October 15, 2009

What should have been a simple draw down of the Robin Run reservoir went terribly wrong. As a result, thousands of fish died.

Last week, the reservoir release conducted by Bucks County crews as part of maintenance work on a dam resulted in a release of built up sediment into Robin Run, a tributary of Mill Creek. Sediment flushed into the small stream coating the bed with six to twelve inches of mud, choking the stream bottom and the native fish, aquatic insects and other organisms that lived there. Large and small fish from the reservoir were carried along with the sediment with tens of thousands of fish perishing before anything could be done to save them. Some fish did find their way to tiny pools in the stream, taking refuge in the only places they could find, gasping for breath in sediment-laden, polluted water that would stay chocolate brown for days.

You may have heard about the fish kill – it was reported in area papers and on broadcast news - but you should also know about the volunteers that responded to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's call to help rescue fish stranded in the sediment. More than 25 volunteers turned out to help rescue stranded fish, hauling them five-gallon bucket by five-gallon bucket to safety. Over 250 five-gallon buckets later, an estimated 10,000 native fish were transferred to the safety of the re-filling reservoir and nearby Mill Creek.

Some people might be surprised that so many private citizens would give of their own time to help save some fish, but we know better. We have mobilized volunteers before and have always been gratified by the response of local people willing to help rivers and river critters in need.

Unfortunately, the history of pollution events in the Delaware River is staggering and we have had to mobilize volunteers too often.

- ✓ On the Friday after Thanksgiving 2004, an oil tanker dumped 265,000 gallons of heavy crude oil into the River, exposing 115 miles of river, 280 miles of shoreline, 16,500 birds, as well as fish, shellfish, wildlife and a variety of important habitats to this toxic pollution. This was the first of three oil spills to take place in four years along the Delaware.
- ✓ In August 2005, when all eyes were turned toward New Orleans and the Gulf in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, failure of a power plant settling basin released 100,000 gallons of coal fly ash into Oughoughton Creek and the Delaware River, coating the stream and river bed with a coal fly ash sludge, smothering benthic life, and exposing fish, wildlife and drinking water supplies to arsenic and other toxins.



*Fish caught in the sediments in Robin Run.*

*Photo: A. Roe.*



*DRN Monitoring Director Faith Zerbe briefs volunteers.*

*Photo: A. Roe.*

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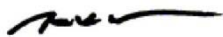
- ✓ In June 2006, a pharmaceutical company employee illegally dumped potassium thiocyanate down the drain which caused a chemical reaction in the local sewage treatment plant that killed at least 1,000 Wissahickon Creek fish.
- ✓ In September 2007, a cast iron pipe company illegally discharged oil to the Delaware River and vehemently denied responsibility. State officials spent ten hours cleaning up the three-mile oil sheen.

Our experience mobilizing volunteers for pollution incidents has illustrated the key to effective volunteer mobilization: a proactive approach. We are now looking to formally establish DR SWAT, a catastrophic pollution incident response program with approved protocols and trained volunteers at the ready. DR SWAT, or Delaware River Safe Water Action Team, will offer agency approved protocols and trained volunteers at the ready, saving much-needed time during the first few hours of a pollution incident.

The Robin Run reservoir draw down illustrates that programs like DR SWAT are needed now more than ever as government agencies trim oversight and enforcement staff. We need your support to protect the waters of the Delaware River and its tributaries for future generations. Will your children and grandchildren be able to walk under a green forest canopy along free-flowing headwater streams? Will they be able to catch and eat fish from their local rivers? Will they have plentiful clean water to drink? The River that our children and grand children inherit will be determined by our actions today.

**Thanks for being a part of our efforts to leave a legacy of healthy, vibrant rivers and the communities they support.**

Remember the River,



Maya K. van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper



*Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum works late into the evening searching for fish in Robin Run's muddy waters.*

*Photo: S. Magill*



*One that will survive for another day.*

*Photo: A. Roe*

✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂

**YES, I want to help the Delaware Riverkeeper Network respond to pollution incidents.**

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

- \$35 *Striped Bass Bunch*  
  \$50 *Blue Crab Band*  
  \$100 *Shad Circle*  
 \$250 *Oyster Alliance*  
  \$500 *Sturgeon Guild*  
  \$1,000 *Otter Society*  
  \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Please charge my Visa/MasterCard: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am enclosing a check made payable to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network

*Donors contributing \$150.00 or more receive a Delaware Riverkeeper Network canvas tote bag with their thank you.*

**Decline Gift:** Please use 100% of my tax-deductible contribution to protect the River.



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_