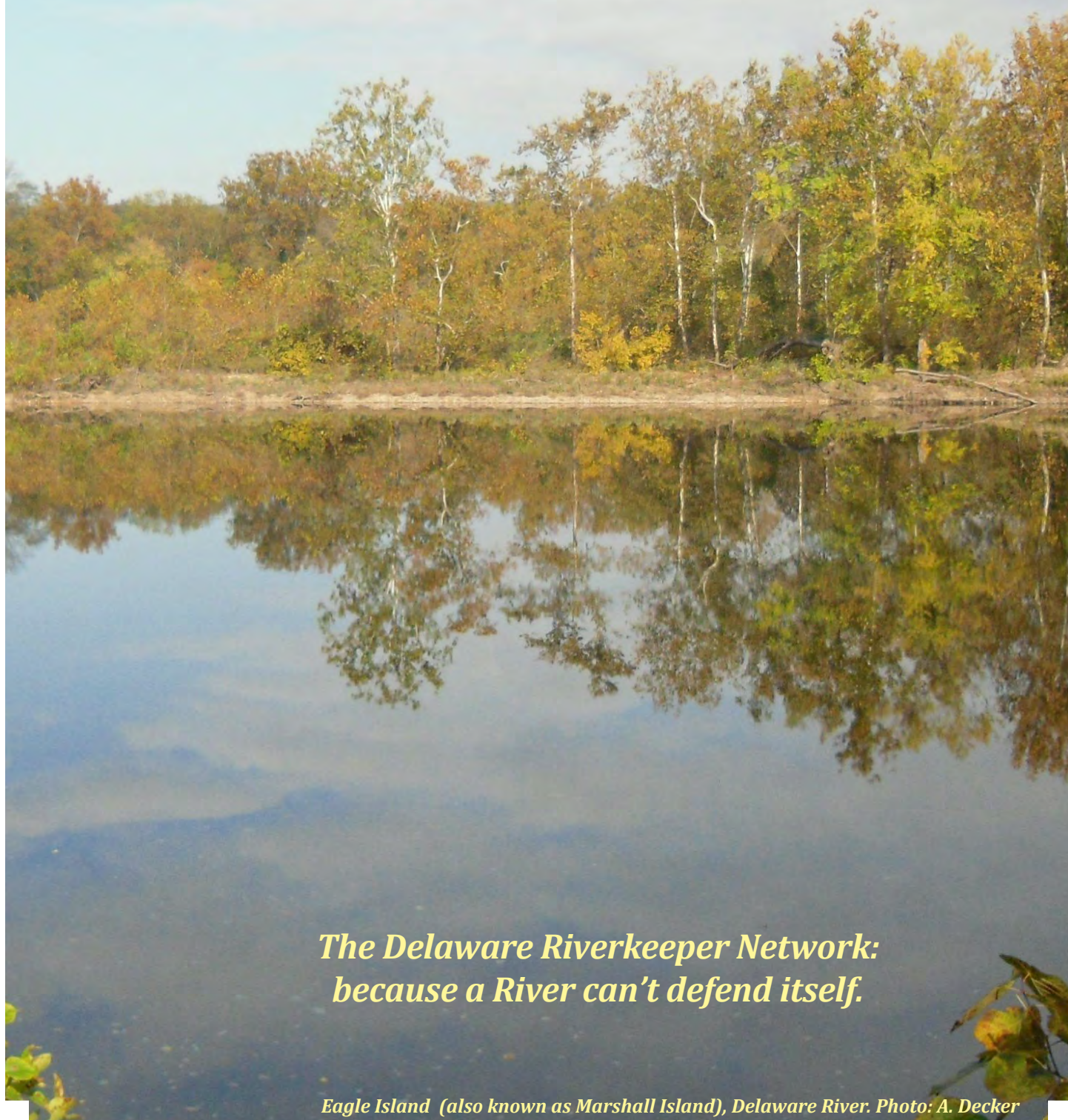


RIVER RAPIDS

The newsletter of the DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

Summer 2013



*The Delaware Riverkeeper Network:
because a River can't defend itself.*

Eagle Island (also known as Marshall Island), Delaware River. Photo: A. Decker



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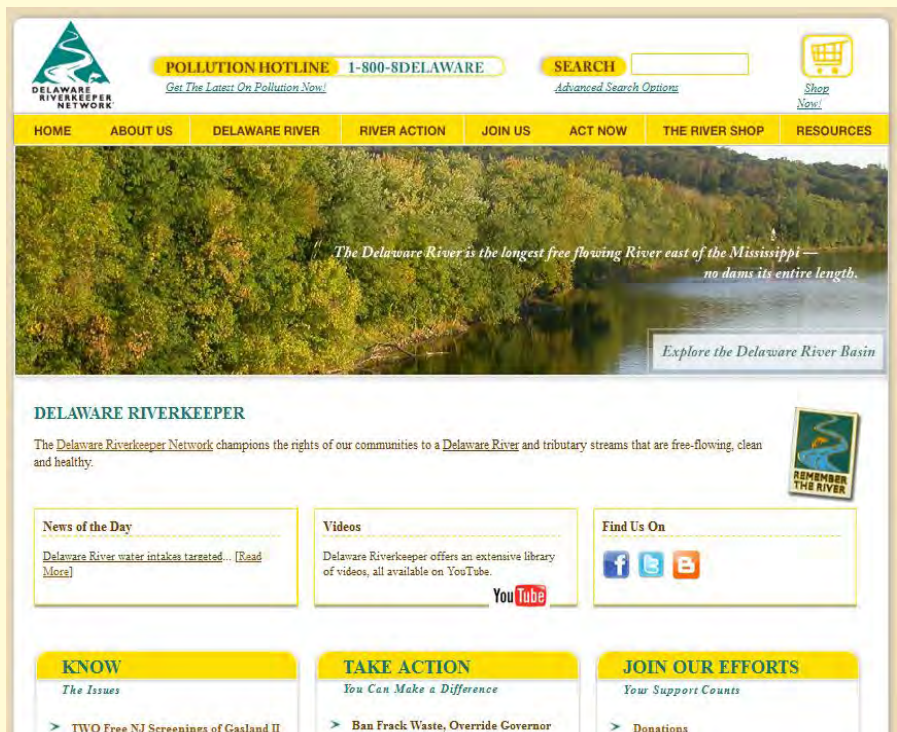
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News for Delaware Riverkeeper Network members

- Our *River Rapids* newsletter is published for members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and posted online in February, June and October. Members receive postcard notification of *River Rapids'* availability online.
- *River Rapids* is now supplemented with a monthly e-newsletter that provides our members with timely information about member events, volunteer opportunities, and new resources and merchandise. To be sure you receive your monthly e-newsletter, please make sure we have your current email address. To update your email address, contact cliff@delawareriverkeeper.org and add us to the safe senders list in your email program to ensure you don't miss an email.
- Members who want notification about important advocacy opportunities to help protect and restore the beautiful Delaware River should sign up for our E-activist listserv.
- For the latest information on Delaware Riverkeeper Network activities, check out our website at www.delawareriverkeeper.org. A screenshot of our home page is shown below.



- And don't forget to check our calendar page for details about future events, workshops, trips and volunteer days. To learn more, go to: www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/calendar.aspx.

Questions about *River Rapids* or other Delaware Riverkeeper Network publications? Contact riverrapids@delawareriverkeeper.org.

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www.Facebook.com/Delaware.Riverkeeper.Network • www.youtube.com/user/DelawareRiverkeeper

A letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper

You can help protect the Delaware's Atlantic sturgeon

The Delaware River watershed is blessed with many wondrous and beautiful elements and inhabitants – not the least of which is its population of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*). The Atlantic sturgeon that live and reproduce in the Delaware River are a unique and distinct genetic stock; researchers have found that Haplotype A5 is private to the Delaware River's Atlantic sturgeon, making them genetically distinct from all other Atlantic sturgeon on earth.

The Delaware River once supported the largest population of Atlantic sturgeon in North America. But in the late 19th and early 20th century, Atlantic sturgeon were severely overharvested for caviar. Today, Atlantic sturgeon populations remain decimated and unable to rebound. Atlantic sturgeon are long-lived, but reproduce relatively late in life and not as often as other species. Moreover, the harms inflicted upon this ancient fish are many: habitat loss, primarily from dredging and deepening; sedimentation of river bottom spawning habitat; saltwater intrusion; water pollution; boat and propeller strikes; and bycatch mortality, both in the Estuary and off the nearby continental shelf. These impacts have all contributed to the Atlantic sturgeon's decline and continue to impair the species' ability to recover to its former numbers.

It is estimated that today there may be less than 90 spawning Atlantic sturgeon across the entire Delaware Estuary from this distinct genetic line. In an effort to protect the ailing population from further decline, moratoria on the commercial, recreational and tribal harvest of Atlantic sturgeon have been put in place in the U.S. And for the past number of years, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and others have sought and supported listing of the species as endangered.

In February 2012, the Delaware River's Atlantic sturgeon were officially listed as an endangered species by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Delaware River's unique Atlantic sturgeon population was not listed individually, but in combination with the Hudson River's population.

This listing should provide a critical layer of protection to the sturgeon, although so far it has failed to do so in that projects, like the Delaware River deepening, which could be devastating for the species have been approved with little concern for potentially devastating impacts on our Atlantic sturgeon population. And yet, efforts are already afoot to undo the endangered species listing.

A new stock assessment is about to be launched by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – it is important that this assessment be fair, balanced and scientifically strong. And there is something you can do to help with that.

In preparation for the stock assessment, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has begun gathering data on the Delaware River's population of Atlantic sturgeon and is seeking information on any interactions with or sightings of the fish. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) also accepts sturgeon interaction reports.

Whether you accidentally catch an Atlantic sturgeon while fishing, see one swimming, or find one washed up on a beach, NJDEP and DNREC want to hear from you. Be prepared to report the date and location where you interacted with the fish as well as its length. Note the number, color and location of any tags. If you interact with an Atlantic sturgeon while out on New Jersey's waters, please submit your report to the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife online: www.njfishandwildlife.com/sturgeon_reportform.htm. For those interacting with Atlantic sturgeon on the State of Delaware's waters, report sighting, finding or catching any Atlantic sturgeon to the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife by calling 302-735-8663.

We also ask that you share your interaction report with us so we can track the information the state agencies are receiving and verify how it is being included in their reporting and assessment efforts. Submit your interaction report by email to keeper@delawareriverkeeper.org or via our website at: www.delawareriverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=143.



Photo: K. Gowan van Rossum, who has served as the Delaware Riverkeeper since 1996, uses her skills as an environmental attorney, strategist, community organizer, facilitator, coalition builder and manager to enable the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to make progress in improving the health of the Delaware River Watershed.

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

DRN's Shale Truth interview series launches June 19th

Ed Rodgers

To bring other perspectives to the debate over shale gas development, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has launched a weekly interview series in which experts examine the true impacts of shale gas extraction.

The *Shale Truth* interviews can be viewed on DRN's YouTube channel at:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3yVl0q9sFlwgSjflSBEA3pLrDsxMDMwe.

DRN is presenting these interviews in an effort to better inform the public about how fracking poisons our water supplies, pollutes our air, destroys forests and wetlands, and ruins the quality of life in many communities. The series kicked off on Wednesday, June 19th, with the first expert to be featured: Arthur Berman, an oil industry analyst with Labyrinth Consulting Services.

In this first interview, Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, spoke with Mr. Berman about the real availability and supply of shale gas as well as industry claims that natural gas will lead to energy independence for our country. If you missed it, don't worry. All episodes will continue to be available online after posting.

A new video in the series will be released every Wednesday. Other speakers to be featured in the series include Leslie Sauer, Andropogon Associates, who is an expert in landscape restoration, and Cornell University engineering professor Dr. Anthony Ingraffea.



Arthur Berman, Labyrinth Consulting, speaks with Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum.

Photo: F. Foley

June 2013 - A whole month of national action against fracking!

Tracy Carluccio

Across the county, communities have been taking action to *Stop the Frack Attack!* Major rallies are being held in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Over 15 screenings of *Gasland Part II*, including one in Trenton, have been scheduled. Call-in days to elected officials; actions in support of moratoria, government accountability and industry reform; petition drives; and social media events are all happening now and will continue through to July.

But we need you to take part! Take part in local, regional or statewide action by connecting with the Stop the Frack Attack calendar here: www.stopthefrackattack.org/calendar/.

Gasland Part II premieres on HBO July 8th. Fox's award winning film *Gasland* has been an engine for activism and this sequel takes off where *Gasland* ended in 2010. To find screenings go to: www.gaslandthemovie.com/screenings.

We'll be looking for you at the rallies, the call-in action days, on social media trips, thunderclaps and letter avalanches to elected officials. Help us *Stop the Frack Attack* and build a non-fossil fuel and sustainably healthy energy future!

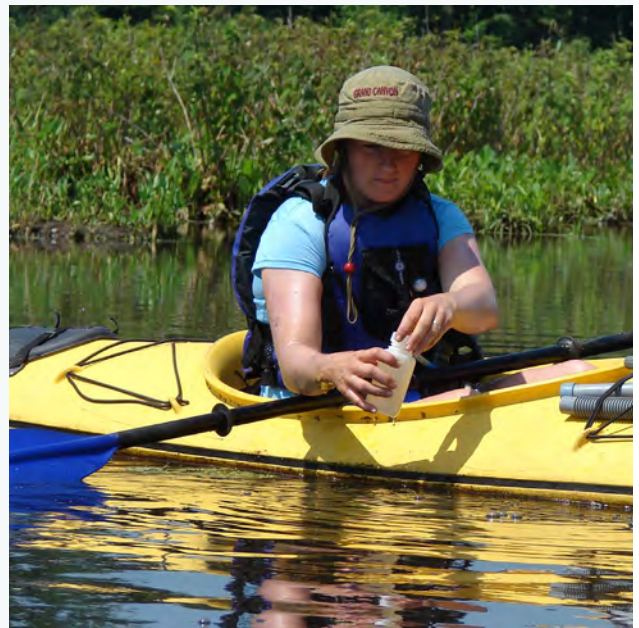


Photo: A. McGrath

DRN's Monitoring Director Faith Zerbo collects a water sample to monitor conductivity, temperature, salinity and total dissolved solids. DRN has over 100 stream stations where volunteers watch-dog our waterways.

DRN tackles fish kills at powerplants, industrial facilities

Nick Patton

Every year, Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Mercer Generating Station (both in New Jersey), and the Delaware City Refinery (in Delaware) kill over three billion fish and other organisms, decimating more than half the population of the striped bass and nearly a quarter of the weakfish in the Delaware River. Moreover, more than 90% of these fish kills are avoidable.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, along with other environmental organizations, has called on environmental officials in New Jersey and Delaware to require these three industrial plants to comply with a long ignored provision of the Clean Water Act that mandates facilities such as these minimize the fish kills they cause. DRN launched a campaign to call for action by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to stop fish kills by requiring the installation of closed cycle cooling at these plants.

Currently, these facilities use a once-through cooling system, sucking in billions of gallons of River water each day. When water is taken into these facilities, billions of fish and other organisms are impinged on the intake screens, or are swept along with the intake flow (“entrained”) through the cooling system. The cooling system water is discharged back into the River at temperatures up to 110°F. The discharge of superheated water has independent environmental consequences such as adding to algae blooms and bacteria growth, thereby dropping dissolved oxygen levels, and further adversely affecting fish and shellfish.

The installation of a closed loop cooling system with accompanying cooling towers would reduce water intake, and the associated fish kills, by over 90% and as much as 95% at Salem. Cooling towers are a feasible and affordable technology considering the viability and profitability of the three facilities, and therefore should be implemented to stop this needless depletion of the River’s resources. These facilities have been allowed to operate under expired yet “administratively extended” permits, in some cases, for more than a decade. DRN and other environmental organizations are seeking to compel NJDEP and DNREC to perform their mandatory duties to issue new permits that require installation of the environmentally more protective closed cycle cooling technology.

It’s finally time NJDEP and DNREC recognized that the fish of the River don’t belong to power plants and industry, rather they are an essential part of the River's ecosystem that needs to be protected for the benefit of all, particularly the anglers, recreational users and the ecological integrity of our River.

To learn more about our this efforts, go to: www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/PR%20announce%203%20letters%205%2016%2013.pdf.

Decades of Gun Club shoots result in lead contamination

Karimah Schoenhut

On May 20th, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network provided additional lead concentration data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to further support a petition asking the agency to investigate potential releases of lead into the Delaware River from the Philadelphia Gun Club shooting range, which is immediately adjacent to the River. The Philadelphia Gun Club has admitted its members used lead shot during shooting activities occurring from 1880 through 1994 at the range.

DRN first petitioned EPA on April 26th, 2013, urging it to conduct an assessment of the Philadelphia Gun Club’s trap shooting range in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, to evaluate whether lead accumulation resulting from 114 years of lead pellet shooting activities at the site could be releasing lead into soil, groundwater, and surface water connected to the Delaware River.

The petition submitted in April included the results of preliminary soil sampling DRN conducted along the shoreline adjacent to the shooting range, which showed lead concentrations exceeding EPA recommended screening levels. The results of more refined sampling and lead testing conducted after submission of the petition, which have also been submitted to the EPA, show even higher soil lead concentrations.

The average lead concentration for the eastern portion of the shoreline along the Philadelphia Gun Club range was 1041 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), which exceeds both the residential screening level of 400 mg/kg and the non-residential screening level of 800 mg/kg. The highest lead concentration in all samples was 2000 mg/kg. Notably, the average lead concentration in upstream soil samples taken along the shoreline of the Neshaminy State Park was only 36 mg/kg.

Swamp Creek restoration at the Erwinna Covered Bridge

John Nystedt

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and project partners recently completed stabilization and restoration along Swamp Creek at the Erwinna Covered Bridge in Tinicum Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Work on this project was begun in 2012 and continued into Spring 2013. The bioengineering and dense stream-



side plantings are helping to stabilize 600 linear feet of stream-bank near the bridge as part of a 1,300 linear foot restoration of the riparian corridor.

The native plantings included 400 trees, 180 shrubs, 700 live stakes of trees and shrubs, and seeding in a widened and enhanced riparian buffer zone. DRN provided project management and design, and engineering was provided by Mike Adams at Stantec. Installation of the stabilization and planting was completed by Paul W. Steinbeiser, Inc., with help from DRN as well as Tinicum Conservancy volunteers. Funding was provided by a Pennsylvania Growing Greener II grant administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, with supplemental funding from private foundations and individuals.

In 2013, DRN and the Tinicum Conservancy will continue invasive species management of Swamp Creek. In May this year, the partners have already removed hundreds of invasive multiflora rose from the riparian zone near the Erwinna bridge.



Upper left: Bioengineering during winter 2012-2013 construction.

Lower left: Spring 2013 sprouting.

Photos: J. Nystedt

DRN documents effort to repair horseshoe crab spawning beaches

Ed Rodgers



Photo: E. Rodgers

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been producing a series of videos on the effort to rebuild the New Jersey Delaware Bay beaches damaged by Superstorm Sandy. Horseshoe crabs use the beaches to spawn and lay their eggs. Thousands of shorebirds, such as the red knot (*Calidris canutus*), feed on these eggs during their Bay stopover in order to complete their spring migration to the Arctic. Both horseshoe crab and red knot populations have

suffered significant declines in recent years, and damage done to horseshoe crab spawning habitat by the storm threatened fragile recoveries of both species.

As part of the project, old bulkheads and other debris were removed and hundreds of truck loads of sand were brought in to replenish the beaches. By early May, biologists had begun seeing the return of spawning horseshoe crabs to the impacted areas.

DRN, along with Greener New Jersey Productions and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, are documenting the restoration work in a series of four videos. A 30-minute segment will also be released in the fall. The videos can be seen on DRN's YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFFE3yAWplo&list=PL3yVl0q9sFIx8Crv4QdMnRE9R01WDDWuV.

Bioretention area improves Saddler's Run water quality

John Nystedt

Next to Saddler's Woods in Haddon Township, Camden County, New Jersey, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network installed a vegetated bioretention area and meadow to slow, clean, filter and infiltrate stormwater runoff before it enters Saddler's Run, a tributary of Newton Creek. Saddler's Run has been severely impacted by urban runoff that has been polluting and eroding the stream for years, down-cutting the streambanks as much as twenty feet, adding sediment and degrading water quality in Newton Creek and downstream.



A view of the Van Sciver rain garden.
Photo: J. Nystedt

The bioretention area, also known as a rain garden, was engineered to manage the first one inch of runoff from 32,000 square feet of impervious surfaces and to capture 440,000 gallons of stormwater runoff per year. It slows and infiltrates the runoff, while the native plants uptake and evapotranspire some of the runoff similar to a natural ecosystem. The soil microbes and the plants clean the water, while the deep roots of the native plants allow increased infiltration compared to the lawn that the bioretention area and meadow replaced.

Installed in 2012, the bioretention area is functioning superbly and the meadow is maturing well. Native planting in the 15,000 square-foot bioretention area and the 11,000 square-foot meadow consists of 31 trees, 70 shrubs, 3,700 grasses, 600 perennials and seeding. The installation, on land owned by Haddon Township and the Haddon Township School District, improves the landscape around the Van Sciver School.

Tours of the installation are being led by the Saddlers Woods Conservation Association for the New Jersey Native Plant Society, www.npsnj.org/pages/getinvolved_Upcoming_Events.html, and a case study focusing on the design and engineering was presented at the 2013 Watershed Congress. That presentation can be viewed online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=reKbvi-jRWU.

Project Management: Delaware Riverkeeper Network • Design: Meliora Design, Jonathan Alderson Landscape Architects, and Delaware Riverkeeper Network • Installation: ThinkGreen LLC • Volunteers: Saddlers Woods Conservation Association and Van Sciver School students • Funding: New Jersey Statewide Nonpoint Source Program- 319 (h), administered by NJDEP, with additional funding from The William Penn Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wakefern Corporation, Saddler's Woods Conservation Association, Jordan Fund, and tion Resources Inc.

2013 Wild Rivers campaign benefits clean water

Stephanie Smith



Sierra Nevada Brewing Company launched its fifth year of "Wild Rivers," an effort to spread the word about keeping our rivers free and wild. Through this campaign, Sierra Nevada donates a portion of its proceeds earned from June 1st until July 15th to non-profit watershed organizations protecting our nation's waters. Through Wild Rivers, started in 2009, Sierra Nevada has donated over \$400,000 to its non-profit partners.

For a third consecutive year, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network was chosen to benefit from Wild Rivers. "Great beer requires safe and clean water – Something that beer crafters in our watershed are lucky to have in abundance," said Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. "We are so grateful to Sierra Nevada for helping us keep it that way, especially with great beer being made with watershed water throughout our region." DRN is one of six organizations that will benefit from Wild Rivers in 2013.

This summer, remember that the beer you purchase can help give back to our efforts to protect clean water. For more information, go to www.savewildrivers.com or contact stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org.

DRBC's failures to act spur direct action

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

A movement is growing to change how we fuel our energy needs, to leave behind drilling, fracking, mountaintop removal and coal tar sands, to abandon polluting fossil fuels that are devastating our landscape and increasing extreme weather events. But our politicians aren't listening, at least not to the people. Instead, they accept energy industry claims that we need shale gas when the facts, science and impacts on the ground prove this to be false.

After repeated and fruitless efforts to secure the attention of decision makers, we the people are increasingly turning to our last option—protest, civil disobedience and both legal and beyond-legal exercises of our first amendment rights—to be heard. Elected and appointed officials may try to dismiss these public displays of dissatisfaction and demands for environmentally responsible decision-making, but in doing so they are galvanizing public protest and outcry.

In February 2012, the environmental community asked the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to protect communities, wetlands, and old growth forests on public and private lands from the devastation to be brought by the construction of interstate pipelines, many of which are proposed for our region. Our request was ignored, as were subsequent requests submitted throughout the year.

DRBC is comprised of the governors of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware and a representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the federal delegate. The governors serve by virtue of their office; we the people elected them to those offices. But the Commissioners were clearly not listening to us.

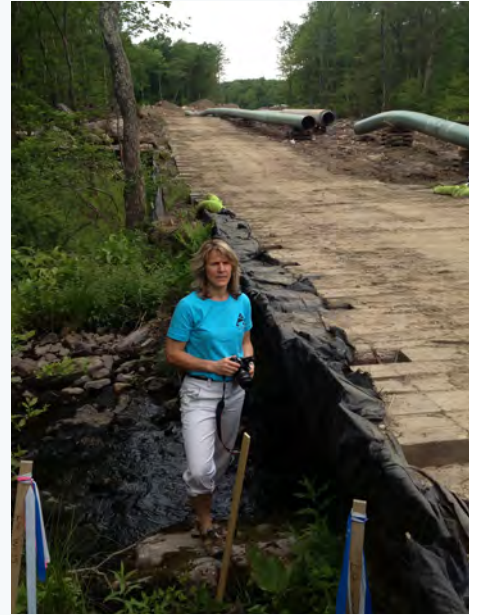
After seven months, frustrated environmental and community organizations and citizens submitted a formal petition requesting action in September 2012. Then, on December 5th, with no comment on our request and with no opportunity for public comment, the Commissioners voted quickly and unanimously to reject our request.

Remarkably, in January 2013, DRBC admitted they got it wrong when they failed to exercise jurisdiction over two pipelines that were among those specifically mentioned in DRN's many requests and that, by January, had already been built. The construction and subsequent operation of these two pipelines resulted in close to 400 violations. Still, DRBC refused to exercise jurisdiction over other pipelines.

By ignoring the public's interest, the DRBC spurred public action. We wrote the DRBC before their March meeting to say there was still time to avoid the harms to be inflicted by pipelines, and submitted a formal petition calling for DRBC action. We made clear that we the people expected our request to be addressed and that we expected a meaningful opportunity to be heard before votes were cast. With that goal in mind, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network along with over 140 citizens and colleague organizations attended DRBC's March 6th meeting, but it soon became clear that the Commissioners planned to once again ignore our request and instead approve dockets for industry and others.

At that moment, we the people took over the meeting to send a message to the DRBC. We held a People's Hearing; people testified in an orderly fashion, unconstrained by a time clock. Our hearing concluded with the presentation of a resolution that would commit DRBC to exercise jurisdiction over pipelines. Still the Commissioners refused to act. And so we the people began to sing and chant, taking control of the meeting. DRBC was created to serve the public's needs, yet was totally disregarding us to serve the gas industry. If DRBC wasn't going to act on our petition, it should not be allowed to approve industry projects in our Watershed. Singing and chanting continued until the Commissioners ended the meeting and left the building.

It was important for the public to take back control of this public agency, even for these few hours. Clean water, clean air, healthy food grown from healthy land are fundamental rights. But these rights are being taken from us in service to industry. Because officials are failing to do the people's business, we the people are rising up to stop rollbacks of environmental laws, to demand that people be treated like people and that corporations be treated like the bricks and mortar they are. Our water, our air, our earth and our health are at stake. We the people are talking; it's time our elected and appointed officials started listening to us again.



Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, inspects construction of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's NorthEast Upgrade Project in High Point State Park.

Photo: F. Zerbe

DRBC petitioned to protect Estuary oxygen levels

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

The Delaware River's fish populations were once so healthy that it has been said it was possible to walk across the River on the backs of the fish that lived there. But by the middle of the 20th century, the River had become so polluted that a 20 mile oxygen "dead zone" developed where nothing survived. But then people got smart; we passed laws, took action and cleaned things up. The fish returned. The problem is the regulation and protection didn't go far enough.

Laws were passed to protect oxygen levels by reducing pollution dumped into the River, but only to a point; in the Philadelphia reach of the River, politicians set that point at just 3.5 milligrams per liter (mg/l), good enough for fish to survive, but not to spawn, grow and thrive. And so, on March 5th, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network delivered to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) a petition asking them to protect fish populations of the Delaware Estuary by ensuring oxygen levels are set, met and protected at a level that supports not just fish living there, but fish reproducing and growing in all waters of the Estuary. The petition was submitted by DRN, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association and the Lehigh River Stocking Association.

A growing body of research shows that some fish are reproducing in the Estuary. They are using these waters and habitats for spawning, nursery grounds and to live out various portions of their life cycles. But the 3.5 mg/l oxygen levels protected in some parts of the Estuary is not supportive and optimal for all species and needs. The harms to fish populations by reduced oxygen levels are compounded by additional stressors including toxins in the River such as PCBs; habitat alterations such as dredging and deepening; and loss of habitat due to fill and construction into the River itself, as is proposed for Southport and the Philadelphia International Airport. Protecting optimal oxygen levels for all fish would not only support natural reproduction and life cycles, but could also help species better endure these other harms.

Our petition asks the DRBC to recognize that fish are, and should be, using the Estuary for all life cycles including reproduction by upgrading the "designated use" of the River to include maintenance and propagation of aquatic life, and that then the oxygen levels protected should be set high enough to in fact protect all of these aquatic life cycles.

People fish the Delaware Estuary for recreation, for commercial use, and many people still fish the River to feed themselves and their families, some out of choice and some out of necessity. Preventing pollution and cleaning up historic contamination of the River and all its tributaries has always been a top priority for DRN. We have worked to ensure that people are aware of fish advisories so that those who consume fish from the River understand the benefits and risks of doing so. Now, our effort to ensure that River oxygen levels are high enough to achieve optimal habitat for healthy, vibrant, growing and thriving fish populations will ensure the fullest enjoyment of an ever cleaner River – whether you love fish for their beauty, for recreation, for food, or just because they are a part of the healthy River system we all have worked so long to protect.

Read our petition online: www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Letters/DO_Petition_03-05-2013.pdf.

Heating oil spill threatens Bucks County creek

Ed Rodgers

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and concerned residents living along the Paunacussing Creek in Carversville are urging Pennsylvania environmental officials to move quickly to clean up the remaining heating oil that spilled into the stream from an underground tank in March. People living in the area report that, even though the tank was emptied and removed and containment booms placed in the stream, oil is still getting into this tributary of the Delaware. The Paunacussing's High Quality designation means that it is among Pennsylvania's cleanest streams and should be protected from degradation. A contractor hired by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is installing monitoring wells to determine the extent of the spill's impact on nearby properties.



Oil sheen visible on the surface of the Paunacussing.

Virtual Canoe Race 2013: Young Paddlers Edition comes to an end

Stephanie Smith

After the success and positive feedback from the participants of last year's Virtual Canoe Race, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network decided to hold a race just for kids ages 14 and under in April, and the turnout was great! The race provided a fun and educational way for kids to celebrate Earth Day and the start of Spring while learning about the River they depend upon. Haddon Township Middle School in Collingswood, New Jersey, was among the first to join and entered 14 classrooms into the competition. In addition to classroom teams, a few brave young paddlers joined the race solo.

During the race, young paddlers were asked what they did this Earth Day to help the environment. They were asked ways to conserve water, to draw pictures of their favorite fish, and to send in photos to earn themselves River Miles. Although Haddon Township Middle school classrooms had a strong presence all over the leader board throughout the race, solo racer Victoria "Tiny Crown" Sullivan paddled ahead of her competition early on and consistently landed in 1st Place.

DRN recognizes our overall grand prize winners:

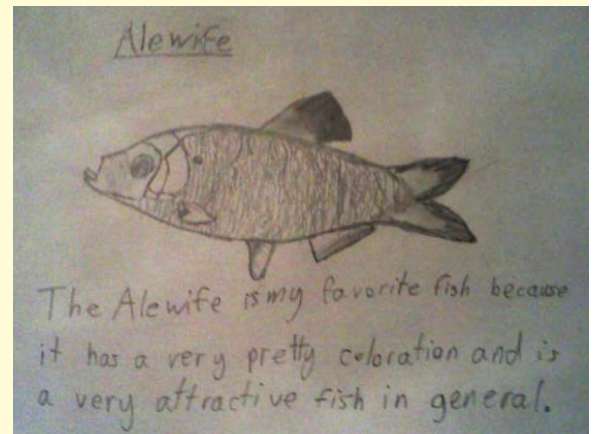
- Victoria "Tiny Crown" Sullivan: 1st Place, 59 miles.
- Middle School Classroom team D. Mull: 2nd Place, 49 miles.
- Middle School Classroom team T. Mull: 3rd Place, 47 miles.

Did you miss out on the fun? Consider racing in the next Young Paddlers Virtual Canoe Race coming in 2014. DRN will be accepting registrations this Fall for next year's race. Are you a teacher and want to get your school involved? Parents, want to get your children involved? Go to the Virtual Canoe Race website, www.delawarerivercanoeing.org, for more information. You may also call 215-369-1188, ext. 114, or email stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org.

What are people saying about the Virtual Canoe Race?

"Thank you for your hard work organizing this contest. I think my daughter learned a lot about the Delaware and developed some great research skills! It was great to see her exploring your website and then telling her friends about it," said Elizabeth Sullivan about daughter, Victoria.

Tom Mulligan, Science teacher with Haddon Township Middle Schools said, "We had a great time participating in the project. The students learned much from the contest and it complemented my curriculum so well."



Drawing by Victoria "Tiny Crown" Sullivan



Haddon Township Middle School team D. Frank's Earth Day photo.
Photo: Classroom Team D. Frank

The Delaware

by Mark Harrison Ross
in honor of Malcolm "Angus" Ross

Rivers flow and carry dreams,
So much more than nourish things.
One for sure is in our hearts,
As it completes our land's great parts.
Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware,
The length of Jersey, all in its care.
Remember those who've kept it strong,
And never forget one man's song.
Treat the earth as if your friend,
When it needs help, help it mend.
Always cherish its strength and beauty.
May its care be your loyal duty.
So paddle on your merry way,
And think of Angus as you play.

DRN to hold pirate-themed River Ransom event

Stephanie Smith

Shiver me timbers—This September, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network will launch the first-ever River Ransom event. First stop, Philadelphia! What is a River Ransom event? Well, some of the most influential and prominent business leaders in Philadelphia have agreed to be taken captive by pirates of the Delaware River. These business and community leaders will be raising "ransom money" (in the form of donations which will be used to help support DRN's mission to protect the Delaware River Watershed).

Participants will be picked up from their place of work—for just one hour during their lunch break—and then be taken to one of Philadelphia's local restaurants where they will walk the plank (enjoy a light lunch and an opportunity to network with other local business leaders).

In advance, participants will be provided with a River Ransom packet, which includes helpful fundraising tips, and a personal fundraising website to share with friends and family via Facebook, Twitter and email.

Brace yourself, matey—If someone thinks you're a great person with a good sense of humor and are possibly worth a lot of ransom money, you could be next on the pirates' list!

If you or someone you know would like to participate, OR if you do not want to participate but are interested in making a donation to support DRN's exciting River Ransom event, please call 215-369-1188, ext. 114, or contact stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org.



Photo: R. Roudabush

Coming to an event near you?

Stephanie Smith

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network frequently receives requests to set up tables or booths at local events in communities along the River. Already this year, we've had the pleasure of attending Basil Bandwagon's 5th Annual Music Festival, an earth fair at 30th Street Station, Whole Foods' Earth Day Bash in Princeton, a pipeline impacts conference at



Photo: S. Smith

Ramapo College, and many others. DRN's presence at your event provides an opportunity for your audience to learn about the Delaware River and hear the latest news on River issues. Not to mention, we ALWAYS have DRN merchandise on hand. If you want us to set up a table at your event, call 215-369-1188, ext. 114, or contact stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org.

DRN partners with Planet Green for e-waste fundraiser

Did you know that over 2.5 million tons of electronic waste still end up in landfills each year? We want to reduce the amount of e-waste that goes into landfills, potentially polluting our waterways. You can help by recycling your e-waste, and when you recycle with Planet Green, your e-waste can help to support our work.

Planet Green offers a program that provides financial support to organizations that help recycle e-waste. Under this program, cell phones, pagers, ipads, tablets, e-readers, mobile hotspots, ipods, MP3 players, digital/video cameras, GPS units, PDAs and inkjet cartridges are all eligible for recycling. Now you can turn these old electronics into funds for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

To participate, you can:

- 1) send your e-waste directly to Planet Green,
- 2) bring them to our office, or
- 3) mail them to us and we'll recycle them for you.

To ensure the items you mail directly are properly credited, use the FREE pre-paid shipping label available through our Planet Green fundraising website: <http://planetgreenrecycle.com/delawareriverkeeper>.

Thanks for recycling!



Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata). Photo: J. Nystedt

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