

New
Longer Format

RIVER RAPIDS

Winter 2012

The newsletter of the DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

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

The Delaware River in Winter, Photo: R. Albert



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A letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper

On a warm winter Saturday recently, I was working in my garden, where over the past six years ago, my husband and I have worked hard to restore a native woodlands behind our house and along the sides yards. In our front yard, we established a native meadow for butterflies and bees. Since our front yard also serves as our septic field, it is perfect for such habitat.

I was not expecting anyone, so I was surprised when a car pulled up abruptly. But the stranger who got out of the car greeted me with a friendly smile and praise for the garden my husband and I had so lovingly tended. My visitor talked about enjoying the evolution of the garden as she drove by regularly. She asked questions about what we were doing, how we were doing it, and expressed an interest in doing the same in her own garden.

This brief encounter was a wonderful illustration of the kindness and joy that can be inspired by the beauty of nature. But not two days later, my little bubble was burst by a letter from my Township stating that complaints about my garden had been received from a neighbor. This was the third letter about our garden we have received.

Because of these anonymous complaints, we have been asked about the plants we are growing and about the large wood chip pile (a pile that is constantly being used up and then replaced). We have responded to every request from the Township with the information requested and an explanation of our goals.

The Township says it understands our efforts, but seems unwilling to protect our property rights. Turf lawns result in pollution and flood-inducing, heated runoff. Our beautiful backyard habitat reduces runoff and pollution, and beautifies the neighborhood.

I know other native plant gardeners too have faced challenges from unformed neighbors. I'm saddened that our efforts to protect the beauty and health of our communities are so misunderstood by some that they would be moved to anonymously report our stewardship as a violation of law or community values. Township officials should not lend indulgence or support to the unfounded harrassment.

At times like these, I think of my mother from whom I learned to garden. I know she too had complaining neighbors. But one day, after many years, the very neighbors who had so vigorously complained began to express first appreciation and then gratitude for my mother's beautiful garden.

I love my garden and recognize that we all benefit from its life supporting and pollution preventing contributions. I hope that—over time—the anonymous neighbor will also learn this. Maybe one day, they will join me, as was the case with my mother's neighbors, for a morning cup of coffee or an evening glass of wine and sit in my garden, watching the butterflies, the hummingbirds, the pollinating bees, bug-eating bats, beautiful red fox an roaming deer who are also enjoying it with us.

the Delaware Riverkeeper

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

A photograph of a river with a waterfall cascading over mossy rocks. The water is clear and white as it falls, creating a soft, blurred effect. The rocks are dark and covered in vibrant green moss. The background shows more of the river and some foliage.

The Exceptional Delaware River

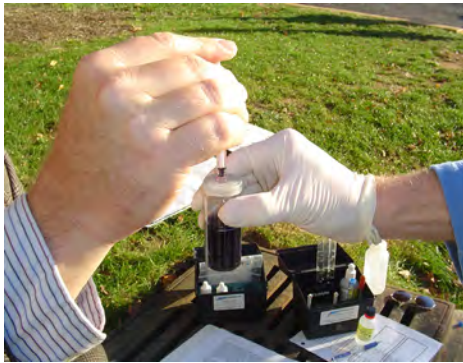
In December, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and its partners submitted a petition to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to strengthen protections for the upper and middle Delaware River by upgrading the designation of the River and all the Pennsylvania tributaries that feed the upper and middle reaches to Exceptional Value status. EV status is reserved for the cleanest streams of the Commonwealth. Only about 4% of Pennsylvania streams have received this designation.

The majority of the streams in the proposed upgrade area already have the High Quality designation, but an EV designation will further strengthen the protections required by law and better align Pennsylvania regulations with the Delaware River Basin Commission's Special Protection Waters Program.

DRN's 70-plus page petition highlights water quality data collected by DRN volunteer monitors and staff as well as other sources of data.

Please support this petition by writing a letter now: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=95>

Upcoming Events



**February 16th, March 15th, April 12th,
May 24th and June 7th, 7 pm**

Monitor Call-In Days

faith@delawariverkeeper.org

These calls provide existing volunteer monitors who regularly sample streams for DRN to check in with Monitoring Director Faith Zerbe.



**February 25th, March 24th, and
April 21st, 9 am - 1:30 pm**

Marcellus Shale Stream Monitoring workshops

Location TBD

faith@delawariverkeeper.org

March 10th, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Watch-Dogging the Gas Drillers
Pottstown, PA

faith@delawariverkeeper.org

This workshop is part of the Watershed Congress (see at right). You must register for Congress to participate.

Spring (dates TBD)
Riparian Corridor Plantings

Swamp Creek, Erwinna, PA

and

**Morrisville Riverfront Preserve,
Morrisville, PA**

john@delawariverkeeper.org

Join us for the 2012 Watershed Congress

We're celebrating 15 years of sharing information, tools, and practices on watershed protection and restoration.

With a focus on networking across disciplines, the Watershed Congress melds science, policy and practical applications into one program. As a result, the annual Watershed Congress is a highly anticipated event for people interested in understanding, protecting and restoring their local streams.

Our 2012 program features sessions on: Native Plants; Green Infrastructure; Monitoring and Evaluating in the Hopewell Big Woods; Schuylkill Watershed Geology; Dam Removal; Next Steps in American Shad Restoration; Sustainable Stormwater Management; Pennsylvania Delaware River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; Chemical-Free Lawn Management; Constructed Wetlands for On-Lot Waste Water Treatment and more.

Join us as a representative of your local stream!

When: **Saturday, March 10th**

Where: **Montgomery County Community College-West Campus
101 College Dr., Pottstown, PA**

Registration: Register by February 17th to qualify for the **\$40 Early Registration fee**. From February 18th to March 2nd the Registration fee increases to \$50 per person. After March 2nd, the Registration fee is \$60.

Go online for complete details on all sessions being offered:
www.delawariverkeeper.org/Pdf/2012_WC_Online_Detail.pdf

Register online, <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oei=dk=a07e5gnyccf7557df45&llr=ese8e9iab>.

Or download registration forms to register offline: www.delawariverkeeper.org/Pdf/2012_WC_RegistrationForm.pdf.

Spring (dates TBD)

Webinars for Watershed Issues

john@delawariverkeeper.org



May 6th and 20th

June 4th and 19th

Horseshoe Crab Census

Locations (TBD)

faith@delawariverkeeper.org

Join DRN for any one of four trips to the Delaware Bay to collect valuable information on the status of the Delaware Bay's horseshoe crab population.



June 2nd, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Saddlers Woods Planting
Haddon Township, NJ

john@delawariverkeeper.org

Join DRN and the Saddlers Woods Conservation Association in planting perennials and warm season grasses in the rain gardens next to Van Sciver School.

For more details on these events and activities, contact the Delaware Riverkeeper Network staff person indicated.

Fighting Aliens

Ever have a neighbor's plant escape and spread into your yard? If it's a non-native species, it could wreak havoc. Aggressive non-native vines such as Chinese wisteria can overcome and topple trees. Non-native trees such as Bradford pear or Aristocrat pear are now cross-breeding and spreading into native habitats. Non-natives such as multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle have extensively invaded natural areas. Escapees such as purple loosestrife have replaced diverse wetland habitats with monocultures. Non-native invasive plants diminish the quality of ecosystems and the diverse fauna they could support. They prevent the natural reproduction of susceptible native plants; every non-native plant takes the niche of a native plant.

What can you do to help? Avoid installing non-native plants, especially aggressive non-natives that could spread (this is difficult for the average gardener to ascertain, so the best rule of thumb is to simply avoid planting non-native plants). Even apparently benign species, such as Japanese maple, are starting to spread by seed. Although they are not listed as an invasive species in many databases, they may cause trouble in nearby native habitats in the future.

What do you do if your property is already infested with aggressive non-native plants? Read up on excellent information available on the internet, contact DRN's Restoration Program for advice, and work at managing the invaders each year. Effective treatment of aggressive vines on trees can be accomplished by simply cutting and spot-treating the stumps with appropriate herbicide (according to directions) to kill the roots. If you prefer to avoid herbicide, you may choose to regularly remove vines and as much roots as you can each season. Remove as much of the cut vines as you can from the trees. Species of spreading invasive plants have varied cycles, so management has to be timed properly accordingly. For instance, removing plants before they set seed is an excellent approach for annual or biennial species such as garlic mustard and Japanese stiltgrass.

Native trees have a very important and positive impact on our watershed so if you want to know where to start in the fight against aliens, save your trees from non-native vines and plant more native trees.



Japanese hops vine overtaking a tree.

Photo: J. Nystedt.

DRN partners with regional native plant nurseries

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is proud to be partnering again this year with three of the premier native plant nurseries in our region: [Redbud Native Plant Nursery](#), [Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery](#), and [Toadshade Wildflower Farm](#). They offer excellent customer service to help you select the best plants for your landscape needs, and they will donate to DRN a portion of the profit from any sales to our members. So when you are shopping at one of our nursery partners this spring, be sure to mention that you are a DRN member.



Redbud Native Plant Nursery is located at 1214 N Middletown Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342 (just 25 minutes south of Philadelphia). For a plant list, hours (opening for the 2012 season in mid-March) and directions, visit redbudnativeplantnursery.com.



Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery is located at 2415 Route 100, Orefield, PA 18069. For more information, call 610-395-2570, e-mail info@edgeofthewoodsnursery.com, or go online, www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com. Follow them on Facebook too: <http://www.facebook.com/EdgeOfTheWoodsNursery>.



Toadshade Wildflower Farm is located in Frenchtown New Jersey. Contact them by calling 908-996-7500, check out their catalog at www.toadshade.com, or e-mail toadshade@toadshade.com.

Friends Central fundraiser for DRN

In November, the Friends Central Lower School in Wynnewood, PA, hosted a fundraising campaign for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network that netted over \$500. The fundraiser was part of a school-wide water-themed learning unit. Each grade studied a different aspect of water, and presented something about what they learned at an assembly to kickoff their fundraising efforts. The assembly included a song about where water goes after it runs down the drain and a puppet show on shad. Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum spoke to the students about protecting the River from pollution. Students at the school donated coins by dropping them in water bottles on display in the Library. To see "Be a Giver for the River," a video by the fourth grade class, follow this link to the Friends Central Lower School Library blog, <http://blogs.friendscentral.org/lslibrary/video/>.

Scenes from "Don't Drill the Delaware Day" rally



Above: Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum (r) with DRN's Deputy Director Tracy Carluccio.
Below left: Actor/Director, Mark Ruffalo.
Below right: GasLand Director Josh Fox.
All photos these pages: A. Roe.

On November 21st, eight hundred people gathered in front of the War Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey, to say "Don't Drill the Delaware." The rally was called by a coalition of groups, including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, to give people the opportunity to express their determination to keep drilling and fracking out of the Watershed.

The rally was held at the steps of the building where the Delaware River Basin Commission had been set to meet to vote on opening the Watershed to gas drilling. That meeting was cancelled because the voting members of the DRBC could not reach agreement on the issue.

Representatives of several constituency groups and organizations, including Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum and DRN's Tracy Carluccio, rallied the high-spirited crowd. Speakers also included prominent activists: writer and director Josh Fox; actor, director and founder of WaterDefense.org Mark Ruffalo; actress Debra Winger; and biologist, author and cancer survivor Dr. Sandra Steingraber.

After rallying at the War Memorial, the group then marched to the New Jersey State House to Governor Chris Christie's office to call for him to cast his vote at the DRBC against drilling in the Watershed. At the State House steps, the crowd was greeted by members of the New Jersey Legislature who were sponsors of the New Jersey Frack Ban Bill.



2012 to be a year of decision on gas drilling, fracking

As we enter 2012, the gas drilling and fracking moratorium remains in place in the Delaware River Watershed, but the industry is drilling feverishly in the rest of Pennsylvania. The public comment period has closed on the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's revised draft environmental study on drilling using high volume hydraulic fracturing, but its de facto moratorium is still intact. New Jersey's Legislature became the first state to pass a ban on fracking, but Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the bill, asking for a one year moratorium instead. The one year moratorium bill passed in the last hours of the 2011 session and, if signed by the Governor, will become law.

No new meeting date has been set by the Delaware River Basin Commission after the cancelled November 21st meeting, but we can expect 2012 to be a year of big decisions on their proposed natural gas regulations. The Commissioners were to decide if they'd allow drilling to start at the November meeting, but the meeting was cancelled at the last minute after Governor Markell of Delaware announced that he would not approve and New York state officials expressed that they did not want the DRBC to move ahead before NY DEC had completed its own in-state review and rulemaking process.

The New York DEC is expected to decide this year on whether they will allow high volume hydraulic fracturing in that state. DRN joined with partners to file [extensive comments on the draft environmental study](#) as well as a [legal and policy comment](#). DRN also independently filed [comments on ecosystem/habitat](#) and [water resource impacts](#). Copies of comments can be downloaded from the [Resources](#) section of our website.



DRN continues to push DRBC challenges

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network remains vigilant in defending the watershed against all forays by the shale gas extraction industry and is challenging several Delaware River Basin Commission actions in federal court. First, DRN is challenging the DRBC's issuance of a water withdrawal docket for natural gas extraction to Stone Energy Corporation. Because hydraulic fracturing of a single well requires between 2.4 and 7.8 million gallons of water, the revocation of the water withdrawal docket would impede Stone Energy's ability to fracture its pre-existing in-basin well should DRBC lift its moratorium. Second, DRN is challenging the DRBC's grandfathering of certain exploratory wells in the Basin, allowing their construction despite the basin-wide moratorium. Lastly, DRN is challenging the failure of the DRBC and the Army Corps of Engineers to examine the potential cumulative impacts of shale gas development prior to proposing draft Natural Gas Development Regulations.



Army Corps attempt to justify costs of the Deepening fails again

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

On January 5, 2012, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, joined by Taxpayers for Common Sense and the Water Protection Network, issued a new independent analysis that proves once again that the Delaware River deepening project is an economic loser. The expert analysis, accompanied by a report titled "*Army Corps Cooks the Books Again*," was issued in response to a 2011 document prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Although the Army Corps' report was never released publicly, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network got wind of its existence and made a formal request for its release in October 2011. As a result, we have been able to see the most recent manipulations that have been used by the Army Corps.

The Army Corps' assessment pretends that, without deepening, shippers would have to rely on trucking, a far more expensive option, to get goods to Philadelphia area markets. But the Army Corps' report also makes clear that the cost to bring goods to the region via the ports—using smaller ships—is one fifth the cost of the trucking option. When calculations use this more likely alternative shipping cost, it becomes clear that deepening is neither necessary nor cost efficient for the delivery of goods to the region.

According to our recent expert analysis, correction of the shipping versus trucking error alone reduces the benefit/cost ratio for the project to 1.1 to 1 at best. That ratio uses a scenario where 60% of the goods are trucked to the region with only 40% shipped here. Scenarios where a greater percentage of goods come to the region by the cheaper shipping method already in use reduced the benefit/cost ratio to below 1.1 to 1.

In other words, the expert analysis makes clear that deepening is an economic loss for the taxpayers who will pay for it. And the more goods that continue to come to the region via the more effective shipping option, the greater the loss. And supplemental information in

the accompanying *Cooked the Books* report identifies a number of additional errors which further reduce any claimed benefits. And of course, the Army Corps' economics fail to consider the tremendous level of environmental harm the project brings to oysters, horseshoe crabs, fish, wetlands, endangered sturgeon and birds, to drinking water and the communities who rely upon the River for their health, economies and the quality of their lives.

In a report issued in April 2010, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its third challenge to the reliability and accuracy of the Army Corps' economic claims for deepening. The first GAO report was issued in 2002. The second challenge came in the form of Congressional testimony given in 2006.

Over the years, experts from our region and beyond have stated on the record that deepening is not the path to success for the ports of our region. Further investment in niche port status, in warehousing, and in more efficient transportation are the kinds of strategies that will best serve the future of this region's ports. The ports of the Delaware River have shown record growth in recent years, demonstrating the truth of these expert perspectives.

Assertions that deepening will inject millions of dollars into the region's economies and create tens of thousands of jobs are unsubstantiated. They have not been the subject of any reports or reviews made available to the public or the experts for considered review. Even the Army Corps estimates only \$13.65 million of net annual economic benefit from the \$277 million taxpayer expenditure it requires—a rather small sum when one considers that these benefits are the result of economic efficiencies, not increased goods or jobs.

And that is without considering the project's associated harms. \$13.65 million is nothing compared to the \$80 million associated with the oyster industry, the \$34 million associated with the horseshoe crabs and shorebird migration, the \$150 million biomedical industry, and the tens to hundreds of millions associated with fishing that are all put at risk by deepening.



Copies of the expert analysis and report can be downloaded from:

http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Stearns_rpt_2012.pdf

http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Army_Corps_Cooks%20the_Books_Again.pdf

Pipeline construction threatens streams across PA

Large interstate pipelines, as well as gathering pipelines, are necessary elements to move natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania and beyond to northeastern markets. However, Pennsylvania's density of stream miles per unit of land is among the highest in the country. Which means that each new pipeline has the capacity to cross—and subsequently harm—hundreds of water bodies. Construction activities associated with pipeline water crossings ultimately results in significant environmental degradation including: erosion and sedimentation of streams and rivers, forest fragmentation and habitat loss, reductions in riparian vegetation, negative stream geomorphology impacts, air emissions, environmental degradation from cumulative impacts and accidents and permit violations.

But the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is committed to protecting the Delaware River Basin from the detrimental effects to human health and the environment that result from natural gas pipeline expansion and construction activity. DRN has designed a real-time monitoring system to oversee natural gas drilling activity and pipeline construction in the Basin. This system provides us with the capacity to respond to construction and permitting activity quickly and appropriately.

In addition to our monitoring efforts, we are actively legally engaged at the state and federal level on existing pipeline construction activities by commenting on proposed plans and challenging improperly issued permits. Specifically, DRN is an intervener at the Federal level in the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Upgrade Project. And DRN will be submitting comments on permits issued to the project by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

DRN is also exploring ways in which regulatory agencies may be encouraged to exercise their regulatory authority over pipeline construction activities. Lastly, DRN is actively reviewing, analyzing, and commenting on the effectiveness of existing state and federal regulations to insure that they provide as much protection to human health and the environment as possible. In particular, early this year, we will be submitting comments on new pipeline regulations that are being drafted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. By utilizing advocacy, monitoring, and legal strategies DRN is dedicated to preventing the environmental harms associated with natural gas pipeline expansion and construction activities in the Delaware River Basin.



Columbia Gas Pipeline right-of-way carving across Pike County, PA.

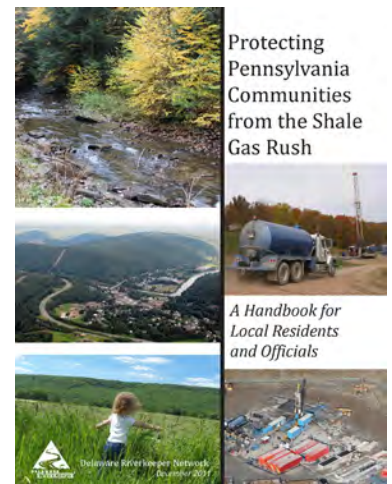
Photo: F. Zerbe.

New resources on gas drilling now available

DRN has recently produced several new factsheets and videos about gas drilling and posted them on our website and YouTube channel. Topics of the four new factsheets include: sand mining impacts associated with gas drilling; the economics of gas drilling and the Delaware River Basin; groundwater contamination, seismic risk, and aquifer degradation in the Delaware River Basin; and aquifer protection and cement and casing issues. "Citizen Action Tools" designed for you to use in your community are also available.

You can download the factsheets and citizen action tools from the gas drilling page: <http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=97>. Scroll down the right-hand side bar to the blue heading labeled "Factsheets" and peruse items available for download. Videos are available on the DRN youtube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/DelawareRiverkeeper>.

DRN also has a new publication, *Protecting PA Communities from the Shale Gas Rush; a Handbook for Local Residents and Officials*, now available on our website. The handbook is meant to help municipalities exercise their rights to employ zoning to protect residents and environmental and community resources from the impacts of gas development. Click on the cover at right to download your copy today.



Protecting Pennsylvania Communities from the Shale Gas Rush

A Handbook for Local Residents and Officials

DRN seeks stricter enforcement of NJ wetland and stream encroachment laws

Garden State Growers, a large-scale commercial horticulture operation, has repeatedly violated environmental laws by encroaching into wetlands and streams in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. GSG also has questionable stormwater control and pesticide application practices. To stem GSG's illegal activities, the Delaware River Network sent a notice of intent to sue the facility in 2005. Shortly thereafter, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection initiated enforcement efforts of its own against the facility, displacing DRN's notice which clearly inspired the state action. Initially, NJDEP levied a fine of \$180,000 for GSG's violations, a small fraction of the \$2.2 million maximum allowable fine under the law. NJDEP is now attempting to settle the case for only \$33,000.

For more than a decade, GSG has demonstrated a blatant disregard for New Jersey's environmental laws. GSG has a pattern and practice whereby it violates stream encroachment and wetlands laws, remedies the violation (after third party intervention from DRN or NJDEP), and then, as if unaware of the laws it has violated, subsequently violates these very laws again. GSG's actions directly impact Locketong Creek, a pristine Category One stream. Because GSG treats its violation of New Jersey's environmental laws as a mere cost of doing business, we have challenged NJDEP's settlement attempt and demanded that NJDEP settle this case for no less than \$132,000, an amount more likely to encourage GSG's future compliance with New Jersey's environmental laws.

DRN comments on proposed power line

On November 21st, the National Park Service published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Susquehanna-Roseland 500 kV transmission line and took comment until January 31st, 2012.

DRN's substantial comment focused on impacts on the resources necessary to preserve the scenic, historic, natural and cultural qualities of the three park units – the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. And with energy demand down nationwide, including in the northeast, our comment also challenged the stated need for the line. Even the power company requesting the line has pushed back the date as to when they will need the line up-and-running from 2012 to 2015.

The NPS projects that they will publish the Final Environmental Impact Statement in Fall 2012 at which time there will be a 30-day comment period. To stay informed and get involved, join DRN's e-activist list by going to: <http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/join/eactivist.aspx>

Want to organize a fundraiser for DRN?

DRN has just released a new manual for our members who want to organize a fundraiser to support our efforts. The manual can be used as a guide to organize everything from a small house party to a larger scale concert or merchandise sale. Included are tips on who to invite; what kind of program to offer; a "to do" checklist; how to manage donations; and more. Several DRN volunteers have already hosted successful events and more are planned for spring. For more information or to get started implementing your DRN fundraising/friendraising event, contact Laurie, 215-369-1188, ext. 114 or laurie@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Whitpain tree-cutting prompts DRN inquiry

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been responding to the concerns of Whitpain Township, PA, residents about the future of forested open space known as the Cook Tract. The Township entered into an agreement with a contractor doing work on the expansion of the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Northeast Extension. Under that agreement, more than a half million cubic yards of fill will be dumped on this open space parcel. That's the equivalent of a mountain of fill measuring nearly 240 feet wide, 240 feet deep and 240 feet high.

Since mid-December, the contractor has been cutting down trees on the land at a furious pace. Neighbors say some of the trees are more than 50 years old. Local residents are worried about runoff into nearby Stony Creek, a Schuylkill River tributary, and the potential for flooding.

Part of the agreement calls for the contractor to build lacrosse and soccer fields on the site. Residents expressed concerns that the stormwater plan for the project is inadequate and it looks like those concerns were justified. DRN has obtained a letter, dated January 3rd, from the Montgomery County Conservation District informing Whitpain Township officials about deficiencies in the erosion and sediment control plan for the project.

To see videos of the tree removal, go to DRN's YouTube channel: http://youtu.be/PP-CfoAH_jQ.



The Schuylkill in Winter.

Photo: A. Lang



The view from Morrisville's Riverfront Preserve. Photo: J. Nystedt

DRN helping plan riverfront restoration

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is partnering with the Morrisville Environmental Advisory Council to plan and implement habitat restoration at the Morrisville Riverfront Preserve. Located adjacent to the Delaware River, the Preserve will provide improved habitat as well as improved public access in this densely populated area. It is a wonderful location, with views of Trenton and the bridges crossing the Delaware. The Preserve improvements will provide a high quality natural habitat so important to the health of the riparian corridor.

DRN's Restoration Specialist has been developing a management plan to guide the creation of trails and habitat restoration. The treatment of non-native invasive species, especially Japanese knotweed, has been successfully proceeding since 2010, and the site will be ready for native plantings to begin in 2012.

Stay tuned to learn about opportunities to help out in planting, trail-creation and clean-ups. For more information, contact john@delawareriverkeeper.org.

"Run for the River" team raises over \$6,500!

A team of dedicated Delaware Riverkeeper Network runner/volunteers took the clean water message to their friends, neighbors and colleagues, to the running community, and to the city of Philadelphia by participating in the 2011 Philadelphia Marathon on November 20th.

The official "Run for the River" fundraising team consisted of: **Jennifer Foulk, Gina Fishetti, Andrew McGrath, Gokhan Seker, Michael Smith, and John Weyrens**. They were supported by a host of friends, fellow runners and work colleagues, including **Credit Agricole Bank, Mainline Honda and the staff at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**. We salute our team and thank them for their efforts!

And the team is ready to start recruiting for next year, so start training and mark your calendars for next year's race on November 18th, 2012. Registration opens April 12th.

Contact DRN if you wish to join the team. We have a packet of helpful information to get you started fundraising, and a Facebook page where runners share their ideas and support each other. For more information, call our office at 215-369-1188, ext. 114, or e-mail laurie@delawareriverkeeper.org.



"Run for the River" team member Mike Smith celebrates his run in honor of his late friend Rob Thomas.

Photo: E. Smith

Quarry's bad behavior setting bad example

A stone quarry in Lackawaxen Township, PA, that has repeatedly—and illegally—expanded its footprint in violation of its mining permit is now requesting approval to become even bigger. But this move would be contradictory to the Upper Delaware Scenic River Management Plan.

Last year, when we sent out an action alert about Holbert Quarry's expansion request, members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's e-activist list responded by sending over 300 letters to Township officials. You objected to rules being bent to accommodate actions by the quarry that have a clear and predictable negative impact on the River. And you told officials that letting the quarry's actions slide sets a dangerous precedent for other businesses and industries in that region.

The actions of other mining and logging interests in the Upper Delaware will likely be influenced by how the Holbert land use issue plays out.

The National Park Service, which has responsibility to manage and enforce the Scenic River Management Plan, was denied the opportunity to speak at the Lackawaxen Township meeting. Now the NPS is reportedly negotiating with Holbert directly. DRN has requested a public hearing be scheduled prior to any final decision.



The Delaware River near Morrisville. Photo: B. Setzer

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River Rapids is published for members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.