

RIVER RAPIDS

The newsletter of the DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

Fall 2012

New
Longer Format

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

Photo: G. Adams



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A letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper Menhaden, pet food and what you can do

The menhaden populations of our oceans and estuary are crashing. Atlantic menhaden, *Brevoortia tyrannus*, are an important food source for just about everything that swims: striped bass, weakfish, bluefish, mackerel, Bluefin tuna, bottlenose dolphins, humpback whales, sharks and more. A member of the herring family, menhaden are also prey for herons, egrets, osprey and eagles. Without healthy numbers of menhaden in our bay and ocean waters, there is a gap in the food chain that will have cascading effects on a whole host of species.

Menhaden are the second largest commercial fishery in the United States. More than 400 million pounds of menhaden are estimated to be caught each year. But more menhaden are being removed from our oceans than the breeding population can replace. Overfishing of menhaden has occurred in 52 of the last 54 years.

Once caught, menhaden are ground into fish meal for pet food, livestock and fish farm feed, and fertilizer. Menhaden are also used commercially in traps for species like blue claw crab and lobster. Their Omega-3 rich oils are widely used in fish oil supplements and many other nutraceutical products sold for human consumption.

Menhaden, which can grow to a foot or more, are filter feeders that swim with mouths open ingesting particles of algae, plankton and other tiny creatures. They serve as a protein conversion mechanism, providing an unmatched source of protein to their predators, but the menhaden population is now at a historical low. The effects of their dramatic population decline are already being seen in the animals that prey upon them—malnourishment has been observed in striped bass, weakfish and osprey.

At a recent meeting, Capt. Paul Eidman with Menhaden Defenders, www.menhadendefenders.org, spoke with me about the plight of the menhaden and shared an important piece of advice that pet owners can act on now to help save menhaden, "Pick your pet food wisely."

Menhaden are used in many pet foods, even natural or holistic brands. **By choosing to feed your pets with products that don't use menhaden as an ingredient, you can help remove an incentive for overharvesting this important species.** Many pet foods list ingredients as "ocean fish" or fish meal which makes it hard to know what you are actually feeding your pet.

In the search for menhaden-free food for his own pets, Capt. Eidman identified one product, Before Grain by the Merrick brand, that was affordable, widely available and menhaden-free. There surely are other menhaden-free pet foods, but they are tough to identify. DRN is not endorsing Before Grain, but we do feel it is important to share this information with our members to encourage them to immediately start on a path of helping to protect the menhaden and all the species that rely upon them.

If dogs and cats are part of your family, please investigate the ingredients in their foods to learn if you are feeding menhaden to your pets. If you discover other menhaden-free pet food options, please let me know by emailing me at keepermaya@delawareriverkeeper.org so we can add them to our list.


the Delaware Riverkeeper

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

Upcoming Events



September 30th - November 11th
DRN's Virtual Canoe Race
canoerace@delawareriverkeeper.org

OPEN TO LATE ENTRIES.

The racers are currently neck and neck – this one is going to be a photo finish! You can still join in and compete. Go to : <http://delawarerivercanoeing.org> for full details.

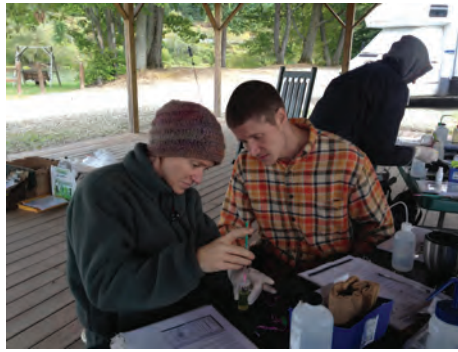
October 20th , 9 am - Noon
Petty's Island Litter Cleanup
Pennsauken, NJ

fred@delawareriverkeeper.org

DRN, the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, the New Jersey Audubon Society and the Cooper River Watershed Association are sponsoring a litter clean-up followed by an interpretive tour on Petty's Island.

Volunteers will drive onto the island and then shuttle to the clean-up site. All volunteers should wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, boots, and bring work gloves.

Registration is required.



October 20th , 9 am - 1:30 pm
Marcellus Shale Stream
Monitoring workshops
Location TBD
faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

October 27, 9 am - 3 pm
Rain Garden Workshop / Installation
Radnor, PA
john@delawareriverkeeper.org

Meet in the parking lot of Clem Macrone Park to take part in the installation of this demonstration rain garden. John Nystedt, DRN Restoration Specialist, will help lead this installation and training.

October 31st , 5 pm
Deadline, Call for Presenters for
the 2013 Watershed Congress
chari@delawareriverkeeper.org

Will 2013 be the year you present? Share your expertise with the concerned and active Watershed Congress audience.

All applications must be submitted electronically at: <http://tinyurl.com/WC-2013PresentersCall>.

November 10th , 9 am - 1:30 pm
Marcellus Shale Stream
Monitoring workshops
Upper Delaware River Basin
Location TBD
faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

November 16th - 18th
Run for the River
Philadelphia Marathon, Half Marathon and Rothman Institute 8K
Philadelphia, PA
stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org



2011 "Run for the River" team member Mike Smith celebrating his run in honor of his late friend Rob Thomas.

Photo: E. Smith

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

We need your email address!

We're always looking for ways to save money to ensure that every dollar donated to us works as hard as possible for the River. Email is a cost-effective way for DRN to share River news with our members. And sometimes email is the only way to contact you about time-sensitive calls-to-action.

But maybe you suffer from email overload and are reluctant to share your address. We sympathise and are in the process of improving our capability to tailor the email you receive from us.

Please share your email address with us now. We promise we will work to send you only river news you want.

To share your email address, contact cliff@delawareriverkeeper.org



Great blue heron on the Delaware River. Photo: J. White

Pipelines threaten our streams; require DRBC oversight

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

For over two years, the communities of the Delaware River Basin have joined forces and successfully protected our River and communities from the devastation of gas drilling and fracking. This success, which is inspiring others across the nation to strive for the same protections, is a testament to what can be accomplished when we work together. But now, our success against drilling must be used to inspire our watershed community to rise up together once again, this time to defend our Watershed against the pipelines that gas drilling brings.

Every gas well that is drilled and fracked requires approximately 1.6 miles of gathering lines, the pipelines that move the gas from the well pad to the interstate transmission pipeline. Interstate lines, which transport the gas to its next destination, can travel for hundreds of miles across our landscapes with rights-of-way as much as 200 feet wide.

Every pipeline brings with it a cut across the landscape. Old-growth forests, residential communities, pristine waterways and productive wetlands all must give way when a pipeline comes through. The loss of habitat can be devastating for species such as the Indiana bat, an important insectivore and resident of the Marcellus Shale regions of our basin, which is already hanging by a thread because of white nose syndrome.

Clear-cutting of rights-of-way means rainfall once captured by tree leaves and soaked up by their roots and soil now runs off, contributing to pollution, erosion and flooding downstream. Streams

are “open cut” to lay pipes across. Wetlands, once drained, are taken over by grasses and unable to sustain the quantity and quality of life they once did. And those are the impacts that result if the pipeline company does a good job.

Pipelines, as known sources of methane, are also sources of air pollution. A percentage of the gas produced by a well—estimates put the figures between 1% and 10%—is lost during storage and transmission of extracted gas – making pipelines a significant contributor to climate change and global warming. Methane is the second largest contributor to climate change, and 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the earth.

Compressor stations are required to move the gas through the pipelines. Located every 40 to 100 miles, compressors bring more development, air pollution and noise. The town of DISH, Texas, is underlain by the Barnett Shale, another unconventional shale. In DISH, high levels of carcinogenic and neurotoxic air pollutants have been recorded near compressor stations.

Many of the pipelines will take, or already are taking, their gas to liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. From these LNG plants, the gas will go overseas for sale and use in foreign countries. In fact, the gas drilling industry is already building and pursuing facilities with the capacity to move an estimated 20% of the U.S. supply of natural gas to foreign countries; and they are just getting started.

At least a dozen pipelines or pipeline expansions are being proposed for the Delaware River Watershed. Construction and/or



expansion is being considered for pipelines throughout the Basin. In Pennsylvania, Pike and Monroe Counties are already seeing pipeline construction. Chester County and other counties in and near Philadelphia will soon see impacts. New Jersey’s Sussex County may also see pipeline construction in the near future. In New York, Delaware and Broome Counties will be hit. But the ultimate impacts will be much broader as the routes for anticipated pipeline construction become known.

Pipelines are known sources of methane air pollution. Methane is the second largest contributor to climate change, and 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the earth.

Communities that once thought themselves spared the construction and drilling of gas wells are now finding themselves faced with proposals for pipelines or a compressor station. Still others are concerned they will find themselves downstream of a wastewater plant discharging frack waste, or the location where

drilling companies are sucking millions to billions of gallons of water out of their favorite fishing creek or swimming hole.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has petitioned the Delaware River Basin Commission to exercise its authority to regulate pipelines in our Watershed.

Pipeline battles may seem daunting, but together we can secure greater protection against pipelines. On September 12, 2012, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network served the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) with a petition asserting that the regulatory agency is obligated to review and approve any pipeline projects that pass through the boundaries of the Delaware River Watershed.

Now we need your letters to the DRBC specifically supporting our petition. When we asked for your letters to tell the DRBC to put a moratorium on shale gas drilling in our watershed, you responded in record numbers. We need you to respond in record numbers once again. We need your letter. We need letters from your friends and neighbors. We need letters from your local, state and federal elected officials. Your support may make all the difference.

Help ensure that the DRBC takes its responsibility for reviewing pipelines seriously. To send a letter to DRBC through our website, go to: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=125>.

If you want to reach out to your elected officials, email keeper@delawariverkeeper.org or call 215-369-1188 and we will send you a packet of information you can use to support your request.

DRN challenges TGP pipeline approval

Aaron Stemplewicz

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has challenged a federal agency's approval of the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's (TGP) 300 Line upgrade, a project which threatens water quality in the Delaware River Watershed with over 80 stream crossings.

TGP has proposed upgrading its existing 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline—designated as the 300 Line—in portions of Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey and crossing under the Delaware River just above the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Referred to as the Northeast Upgrade Project (NEUP), TGP's proposal would increase capacity in the 300 Line through the construction of over 40 miles of pipeline in five 30-inch diameter pipeline loops and by modifying four existing compressor stations.

A pipeline loop is a segment of pipeline installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to the existing pipeline at both ends of the segment. These five loops will be constructed along the last remaining un-looped segments of TGP's 300 Line running east from Bradford County, Pennsylvania, into Bergen County, New Jersey. In effect, the NEUP allows TGP to complete a second pipeline parallel to the 300 Line.

The NEUP includes pipeline drilling activities under the Delaware River, significant new grading and clearing of previously undisturbed land, and over 80 separate water body crossings within the watershed. The size and scope of the construction activity and stream crossings associated with this project will have a deleterious effect on the water resources of the Delaware River Basin. There are significant concerns related to the cumulative impact that continuous waterbody crossing pipeline construction activity has on the health and vitality of the Delaware River Basin. Moreover, this project will facilitate the additional development of new natural gas wells, access roads, gathering lines, compressor stations and other supporting infrastructure, which will further degrade our environment.

DRN has spearheaded a challenge to an approval the NEUP received from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). On June 28, 2012, DRN submitted a hearing request that, among other things, demonstrates that FERC did not fulfill requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act to consider the full extent of environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, when it weighed adverse impacts against public benefits. The filed legal documents insist that a full Environmental Impact Statement is required and that FERC cannot allow TGP to avoid accurate environmental review by "segmentation," or cutting up the pipeline review into small parts to dodge comprehensive analysis. A ruling on the rehearing request is expected at any time. If FERC denies the rehearing request, DRN will have the opportunity to appeal the decision in federal court within 30 days.

To see DRN's petition asking DRBC to exercise its full authority over pipelines, go to: http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/2012-09-12_PR_on_Pipeline_with_Petition.pdf.



Background: Columbia Gas Pipeline right-of-way carving across Pike County, PA.
Inset photos: **Top,** A lone adult male spotted newt observed by DRN staff in May in a silt fenced wetland, Wayne County, PA; **Center,** An open-cut for a pipeline crossing within and active flowing channel; **Bottom,** Old growth tree to be cut for pipeline right-of-way.

Photos: F. Zerbe, A. Sæmplewicz, J. Zenes

View DRN videos documenting the harms already inflicted on our Watershed by pipelines at our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=boTlfxMaFSs.

District court dismisses—without prejudice—DRN NEPA lawsuit

Jane Davenport

On September 24th, Judge Garaufis of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn dismissed without prejudice our case against the Delaware River Basin Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the federal representative on the DRBC) challenging the agencies for their failure to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the environmental impacts of regulations to permit shale gas extraction in the Basin. The judge found that, because the DRBC has not yet voted to issue final regulations, the lawsuit is not ripe and therefore cannot be heard by the court at this time.

NEPA requires federal agencies to take a “hard look” at the environmental ramifications of their projects and proposals. The NEPA process is important in two ways: first, it informs the public of the agency’s rationale for choosing between proposed alternatives and educates the public on the environmental impacts, including

cumulative impacts, of the alternatives under consideration. Second, the NEPA process protects the public’s right to participate in the decision-making process by requiring agency officials to fully consider and respond to public comments.

DRBC initially complied with NEPA, which was enacted in 1970, but it stopped doing NEPA analyses in 1980 solely on the basis of lack of funds. In 1997, DRBC rescinded its own body of NEPA regulations altogether. As both DRBC and the Army Corps deny that they have any legal obligations to undertake a NEPA analysis of the DRBC’s draft shale gas regulations, neither agency undertook a comprehensive, hard look at the impacts of opening up the Delaware River Basin to intensive shale gas development involving tens of thousands of well pads and pipeline systems and millions of gallons of water per well per frack job.

DRN filed suit, together with our co-plaintiffs Hudson Riverkeeper and National Parks Conservation

Association, to challenge the agencies’ failure to issue a draft NEPA document for public review and comment at the same time that the DRBC voted to release its draft regulations to permit shale gas development in the Basin. Our case was joined with similar actions including one filed by the Attorney General for the State of New York.

As Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum put it, “The judge’s decision recognized and validated the tremendous concerns over threatened gas drilling for the Delaware River, our organizations and communities. That he found he could not render a final judicial opinion at this time does not diminish his acknowledgement that gas drilling is a major threat to this region, and that the actions of the agencies involved should be the subject of judicial review. Of great importance, the judge did not side with agency effort cavalierly to set aside the role of the courts or the public in reviewing what the agencies are up to on this precedent setting matter.”

Thank you to Sierra Nevada, the Guacamole Fund and Jackson Browne

Stephanie Smith

Sierra Nevada Brewing Company chose to partner with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network again this year as part of Wild Rivers 2012. A portion of proceeds from every 12-pack of Sierra Nevada beer purchased between June 1st and July 7th was donated to DRN and other nonprofit river organizations across the country. The Wild Rivers campaign urges folks to keep our waterways clean, clear and WILD!

All of us at DRN would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to Sierra Nevada Brewing Company for allowing us to be a part of this wonderful program.

Wild Rivers 2013 – Here we come!
For more information about Wild Rivers or Sierra Nevada, please visit: www.SierraNevada.com.

Earlier this summer, DRN was contacted by the

Guacamole Fund about an exciting opportunity. The nonprofit Guacamole Fund helps to coordinate events for organizations that work in the public interest and involve local community activists in their work.

At the request of Jackson Browne, the Guacamole Fund invited DRN to set up an information and outreach booth at Browne’s July 25th concert in Philadelphia. We could not have been more thrilled. We enjoyed great music and met many new people with a willingness to help support our efforts. We were honored to be a part of the show.

Thank you to the Guacamole Fund, and thank you to Jackson Browne. To learn more about the Guacamole Fund, please visit: www.guacfund.org.



John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: F. Miles

DRN seeks changes in PennDOT projects to protect waterways

Ed Rodgers

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is calling on Pennsylvania environmental officials to take steps to protect two important tributaries from road construction projects in Bucks County.

First, DRN has asked the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to require an individual permit for the Route 32 bridge replacement project over the Tohickon Creek in Tincum and Plumstead Townships.

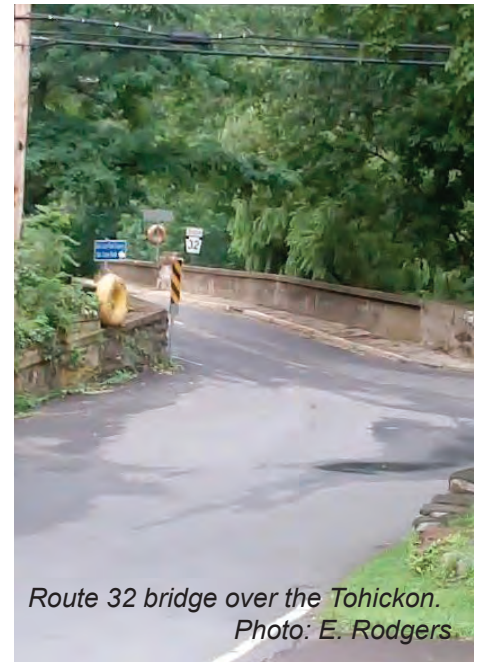
The Tohickon Creek has been nominated for Exceptional Value status, but the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is seeking a general permit for the proposed bridge project. Projects impacting Exceptional Value streams require an individual permit which comes with a more thorough review process; state code requires that regulators consider the upgrade petition when reviewing the potential effects of a project.

The engineering plans for the Route 32 bridge replacement project

show the width of the bridge would be widened by ten feet, creating more impervious cover and increasing the runoff of pollutants into the stream. The hydraulic opening where the Tohickon flows into the Delaware would also be increased. This section of the River has been designated as Special Protection Waters. DRN's position is that the current bridge should be rehabilitated rather than replaced.

Second, DRN is also asking the PADEP to require PennDOT to conduct an impact and alternative analysis study for the stormwater drainage system that is part of the Fleecy Dale Road construction project in Solebury Township, Bucks County. The current plans call for replacing a drainage pipe that will carry stormwater runoff into the Paunacussing Creek. A number of trees will also be cut down in order to extend a wall along the roadway. DRN believes this will increase the polluted runoff being carried into the Paun-

acussing. The Paunacussing Creek is a High Quality stream and no degradation in water quality is permitted. In addition to conducting an alternative analysis, DRN is also asking that the outfall from the drainage pipe be moved from dumping directly into the stream to another location where the runoff can be filtered by a buffer system.



*Route 32 bridge over the Tohickon.
Photo: E. Rodgers*

PA's Special Protected Waters not so specially protected by PADEP

Nicholas Patton

As a result of legal efforts by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has been compelled to better protect two of Pennsylvania's Exceptional Value waterways: Mill Creek in Union Township (Berks County); and Cooks Creek in Springfield Township (Bucks County). These Exceptional Value streams are pristine waterways that support an excellent diversity and population of aquatic life.

DRN first challenged PADEP's approval of a small flow sewage treatment facility which was designed to discharge directly into

Mill Creek. PADEP approved the project without adequately assessing Mill Creek's water quality and the effect the project would have on the creek. DRN's second legal challenge highlighted PADEP's failure to ensure that a bridge replacement project would not degrade Cooks Creek. In both legal challenges, PADEP failed to undertake its legally required antidegradation analysis to safeguard these Exceptional Value streams.

Shortfalls in PADEP's antidegradation program were identified in DRN's antidegradation white paper, *Protecting Pennsylvania's Cleanest Streams*, released in 2011,

and are confirmed by these inadequate PADEP approvals. The importance of antidegradation analysis cannot be overstated; it ensures that the water quality of Pennsylvania's specially protected waters is preserved and safeguarded so that we can all enjoy these beautiful resources. As we move forward, DRN will continue to closely review projects impacting Pennsylvania's specially protected waterways and hold PADEP accountable to undertake the necessary environmental review to protect our waterways.

Why sue the Philadelphia Gun Club? Pollution and safety

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

In late March, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed a Clean Water Act case against the Philadelphia Gun Club. The legal action was filed to stop the illegal discharge of pollution that happens from the grounds of the gun club every time they engage in one of their live pigeon shoots. On random Saturday mornings, without any public notice or warning, the gun club members gather on the site for the event. Behind a large cloth barrier, pigeons are released into the air from cages, and the shooting begins. If you happen to be in a boat on the River during this time, even as much as 100 yards from the gun club, you could be peppered with gun shot as it rains down onto and into the Delaware River. The result is both a pollution problem and a very real safety hazard.

The rain of shot is a constant discharge of pollution into the Delaware River throughout the course of the many hours when the event is taking place. Without

a permit to allow this pollution discharge, the shoots represent an ongoing violation of the federal Clean Water Act, an important law that has provided critical clean up and protections for our nation's waterways.

There is also a serious safety hazard associated with these shoots. A DRN volunteer kayaking on the River in the vicinity of the Philadelphia Gun Club experienced the rain of gun shot which cut his face and drew blood. It is easy to see how a person travelling on the River at a moderate rate of speed in a motorized boat could be at serious risk of an injury, including eye injuries.

DRN's mission includes protecting and encouraging the rights of all people to enjoy our River and its tributary streams. The activities of the Philadelphia Gun Club causes pollution and creates a safety hazard that should not be allowed and could not be ignored.

According to documents filed by the Philadelphia Gun Club with

the federal government, the Club was formed for the sole purpose of holding these live pigeon shoots. Perhaps that is why, in the legal action, the Philadelphia Gun Club clung so desperately to its right to continue to pollute and shoot into the River without a permit, despite the reality that they were using and abusing the River in a way that does harm to everyone else who seeks to enjoy this reach of the River and beyond. Maybe it is time for the Philadelphia Gun Club to rethink its operations, and to find ways to use and enjoy their riverfront lands that don't harm others.

In September, the federal district court hearing the case entered a judgement against the Philadelphia Gun Club. The judgment obligates the Philadelphia Gun Club to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection by December 31, 2012, and to pay legal costs incurred by DRN.

Virtual Canoe Race underway!

Stephanie Smith

With summer officially over, there are fewer opportunities to paddle the River. But you can keep the River in your thoughts whatever the weather with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Virtual Canoe Race.

In the Virtual Canoe Race, DRN has created a fundraiser that is a terrific mix of friendly competition and an ultimate test of river knowledge. The online race began on September 30th, but ***you can still join in and compete***. The entry fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under.

Participants are provided with multiple choice questions about the Delaware River Watershed. Simply answer these questions to "paddle" in the race. Completing a set of action items, similar to a scavenger hunt, also earns you river miles. Earn extra river miles by answering the questions quickly after they are posted, by completing as many action items as possible, and by visiting the websites of our sponsors to answer questions about their business or organization.

Prizes are awarded to three winners in each category at the two-week and four-week checkpoints. Grand prizes will be awarded when the race ends after six weeks. All participants will receive a limited edition 2012 Virtual Canoe Race T-shirt as well as a DRN paddlers case.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the race, there is still time to catch up if you paddle hard enough! Please visit: <http://delawarivercanoeing.org> or email canoerace@delawariverkeeper.org, should you have any questions.

Become an individual sponsor for this event which benefits our work for the River. Simply join the race and pay the entry fee. DRN will apply the entry fee as a donation on your behalf.

DRN report highlights impact of shale gas drilling on imperiled bat species

Jane Davenport

Bats play an important role in the ecosystems of the Delaware River Basin. Many bat species in northeastern North America, already in decline because of human pressure on their habitats, are now experiencing precipitous population losses from the scourge of White-nose Syndrome (WNS), a deadly fungal infection affecting hibernating bats.

Over the past six years, WNS has spread across nineteen states, killing millions of bats. The Basin is home to many bat species—including the federally endangered Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat and eastern small-footed bat (both candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act), the little brown bat, and the tri-colored bat—that are facing precipitous population declines (as much as 98%) because of WNS.

If the outlook for bats were not already dire enough, a new report released by DRN highlights the growing threats to already-imperiled bat species from shale gas drilling and its infrastructure. The June 2012 report, *Impacts of Shale Gas Development on Bat Populations in the Northeastern United States*, was authored by Cris Hein, Ph.D., the Bats and Wind Energy Program Coordinator at Bat Conservation International. Dr. Hein identified water withdrawals, water pollution, air pollution, and massive land disturbance from construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines as the biggest potential threats from shale gas development to bat species.

According to Dr. Hein, “This report should raise a red flag about the impacts of gas drilling and associated infrastructure such as gas pipelines for our already imperiled bat populations. Bats are primary predators of night-flying insects, including many that consume and potentially decimate important food crops. By working to protect bats from the potential harmful impacts of shale gas development, we are

also helping to protect people.”

Bats are a vital part of the Delaware River watershed ecosystem, and a group of species that we want to thrive in our region. This report shows just one more way that shale gas development harms our communities. Harming the bats is not only an ecological catastrophe, but also one that hurts people.

DRN is using this ground-breaking report to educate federal and state agencies and the public about the need to take immediate action to protect imperiled bats from the detrimental impacts of shale gas development. DRN has already sent this report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists working to conserve Indiana bats and considering whether to list other bat species as endangered under federal law. DRN also sent the report to the Pennsylvania Game Commission in a letter supporting the proposed listing of three bat species under Pennsylvania’s endangered species law.

To read the report or download the pdf, go to: http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Impacts_of_Shale_Gas_Development_on_Bats.pdf.



Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis).

© Merlin D. Tuttle, Bat Conservation International, www.batcon.org

Philadelphia Marathon 2012 – "Run for the River" team

Stephanie Smith

DRN has been chosen to partner with the Philadelphia Marathon again this year. Last year, our *Run for the River* team raised over \$6,500 to support our efforts. Our 2012 team is well on its way to topping that amount. All funds raised benefit our work to protect the communities and waterways of the Delaware River.

We still have open spots for runners interested in joining our 2012 *Run for the River* team, but—with race weekend being November 16th to 18th—interested runners should act fast. Choose to run in the marathon, half-marathon or Rothman Institute 8K. Contact DRN if you or someone you know is a runner and would like to join the team. We will send you a packet of helpful information and tips to assist with fundraising.

You don't need to run a marathon to help the *Run for the River* team. Consider becoming a sponsor or making a donation towards the team's fundraising efforts.

For more information, please call 215-369-1188, ext. 114, or email stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Anglers on the Delaware River protest fracking. Photo: F. Foley



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