

RIVER RAPIDS

The Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network's Quarterly Newsletter

Printed on 100% recycled paper



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Montgomery County
Community College
Pottstown, PA

For more news about Delaware Riverkeeper Network activities, go to www.delawariverkeeper.org and look for the latest information under **News/Calendar** on our homepage.

Calling all members . . .

A note from the Delaware Riverkeeper

As 2007 comes to a close, we turn to our members to ask for crucial financial support with our year-end giving appeal. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is the voice for the River and tributary streams, but we need your help now to ensure that we can continue to speak on its behalf.

We spoke on its behalf when the U.S. Army proposed dumping 4 million gallons of treated VX nerve agent waste into the Delaware River and we're speaking for it now to prevent developers from building from as many as 1,500 new homes on flood prone Petty's Island. We're working instead to have this 392-acre island restored and donated to the residents of New Jersey for high quality public open space and for floodplain and endangered species habitat protection.

Your financial support helps us to combat high-powered corporate lawyers and take on the key cases necessary to protect clean water, healthy ecosystems and the diverse communities of the Delaware River watershed. Your donation makes it possible for us to build upon the in-house scientific expertise of our monitoring and restoration staff and draw upon outside technical experts when necessary.

This year, as you plan your tax-deductible year-end giving, consider increasing your contribution by 20% to 30%. If you gave \$100, please consider increasing your contribution by \$20 to \$30. This is just a few dollars more -- less than the cost of a night at the movies, a new DVD, or going out to dinner -- but it would represent vital support for our efforts.

We will be contacting you soon, by mail or by phone, to ask for your support. Please, this year, instead of a night on the town, invest in clean water. Invest in the River's voice. Thank you for giving!



Photo: T. Carluccio

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

Stay informed, get involved with E-Activist . . . Be the first to get breaking news about the River through **E-Activist**, a free service available through our website. Click on *Take Action* and then on *E-Activist Sign-up* to register.

The Voice of the River and its Tributary Streams

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Canoe the beautiful Delaware River

November 12

**Businessperson's Special
Canoe Trip on the Delaware**
Frenchtown, NJ to Stockton, NJ

Take the day off or call in sick to join us for a fall canoe trip along one of the most beautiful sections of the River. We'll meet at the **Kingwood Boat Access** on Route 29 south of **Frenchtown, New Jersey**, at **10:00 AM on November 12th**. Then we'll paddle 8 miles to Bulls Island, roughly a 4-hour trip.

Pre-registration and PFDs are a must. Bring your own lunch and your own canoe or kayak. Need a paddler or want to join someone else? We'll try to accommodate. The fee for this trip for members is \$15.00.

For more information or to pre-register, email fred@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Volunteers needed for Phonathon!

We need your help to let our members know how much we need and appreciate their support. Through Phonathon, we connect with our members, provide updates on our work, and ask for financial support. If you **join us for Phonathon 2007**, you will find that you have something in common with every person you'll be calling – a deep concern for the River!

We will have a brief training session during the week of October 29th and calls will be made November 4th through 8th at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network office in Bristol Borough. While you're giving of your time to make calls for a good cause, we'll provide sandwiches, light refreshments and good company. You'll get to meet DRN staff and other volunteers and connect with our members throughout the watershed.

Phonathon is an integral part of our fundraising program. We hope you'll join us. For more information or to join our 2007 Phonathon team, email katy@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Update: Palmyra Cove dredging

Activists of all ages converged on Palmyra Cove Nature Park, in Burlington County, New Jersey, to prevent the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers from dumping maintenance dredge spoils onto 70 acres of what has become a vibrant wildlife preserve and an outstanding outdoor educational center visited by hundreds of students each year. The compromise offered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corp as a result of the protests and publicity is that spoil dumping will be limited to 20 acres for now. DRN and other environmental organizations are trudging through the bureaucratic and legal maze to permanently preserve the remaining 50 acres as open space.

A rest stop fit for man and bird

The red knot makes a critically timed 3,300 miles non-stop hop from Brazil to the Delaware Bay, each year in late spring when the horseshoe crab is spawning. Red knots require a super-abundance of horseshoe crabs eggs to gain weight and restore their energy in order to finish their journey to the Arctic.

The Mispillion River, which forms the border between Delaware's Kent and Sussex counties, is critical to the survival of the red knot. As many as 80 percent of the Bay's red knots stop to feed and rest along Mispillion Harbor during their annual migration.

This past summer, the red knot, as well as the birders that enjoy observing them and other shorebirds during their Bay stopover, got some new habitat for their R&R. The DuPont Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor Reserve, operated by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), opened officially in May.

The nature center is located on a 1.7-acre property at the mouth of the Mispillion River on the Delaware Bay. The property overlooks approximately 70 acres of marsh and dunes purchased by DNREC from the Conservation Fund in July 2006, as well as hundreds of other acres of marshlands that are part of the Milford Neck Wildlife Area.

The Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor Reserve, located at 2992 Lighthouse Road near Milford, is open from 8 AM until 4 PM, Monday through Friday (hours during next spring's migration may differ). The grounds are open every day until sunset.

Want to comment on a topic in this issue of River Rapids? We want to hear from you. Simply send your emails to riverrapids@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Your new car can donate \$100 to DRN

Thanks to Gokhan “Joe” Seker, a long-time member and volunteer horseshoe crab monitor, we have a new fundraising opportunity that can coincide with *your* next environmentally friendly car purchase. **Martin Main Line Honda**, located at 123 East Lancaster Ave in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, **will donate \$100 for every member who purchases a new or pre-owned certified Honda from their dealership through 2007.**

In addition to this generous donation, Martin Main Line Honda is providing new car purchasers with services such as **free annual Pennsylvania state inspections and a complimentary oil change.** Simply mention that you are a member of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to get these services and help benefit the River. So, if you’re thinking about purchasing a car that is fuel-efficient, green, and also want to benefit the River, be sure to stop by Martin Main Line Honda for a test drive. Ask for Joe. You can check out their website at www.martinmainlinehonda.com.

Does your local business have a way to benefit Delaware Riverkeeper Network? If you’d like to explore a fundraising partnership, please email katy@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Free technical assistance available to Pennsylvania watershed groups

Does your watershed group need help developing a volunteer monitoring program? Do you need help analyzing or presenting existing data you have collected? Could your group benefit from a presentation about a specific watershed topic? If so, the **Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds, or C-SAW**, can help.

C-SAW is a team of specialists who provide eligible watershed groups or local project sponsors technical assistance, free of charge. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is one of nine C-SAW partners and, over the past few years, DRN has assisted over 30 watershed groups in the Delaware River watershed. The C-SAW Program is made possible through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program. C-SAW assistance is provided at no cost to eligible groups. For more information about C-SAW, visit <http://pa.water.usgs.gov/csaw/>

Go paperless!

We are beginning a campaign that will eventually allow us to send you *River Rapids*, Thank You receipts, and special appeals by email instead of by mail. This campaign will reduce the paper you receive as well as save printing and postage costs. If you prefer to receive mailings from us, no need to worry. We will *always* offer paper versions of *River Rapids* and other mailings. The campaign we are undertaking is about personalizing your membership and letting you choose how you wish to receive our correspondence.

If you’d like to opt to go paperless, please email katy@delawareriverkeeper.org with your most current email address. Please include your name and regular address so that we can easily identify you in our database. Thanks for supporting our efforts to save paper and more efficiently use your generous donations.

We reduce, reuse and recycle, but we still need office paper. If your business only prints on one side of a page, **we can reuse your office paper.** If you have paper to donate, contact Claire at 215-369-1188 or email claire@delawareriverkeeper.org

Shop river apparel at our River Shop online

Show your support for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network with apparel from our River Shop online, www.delawareriverkeeper.org/donate/shop.asp#apparel. You’ll find gifts for family, friends or yourself.



River Resources Law Clinic intern Jennifer Casler (left) and Restoration Specialist Emma Gutzler study the floodplain of the Delaware River in our **Women’s Short Sleeve Shirts. \$15.00.** Men’s shirts are also available.



Emma catches on up her Delaware River reading. Also available at our River Shop: **Damming the Delaware: The Rise and Fall of Tocks Island Dam (\$27.00)** written by our very own Staff Scientist, Dick Albert.



Our organic cotton tote bags, the perfect place to stash all your river gear (**\$12.00**).

Photos: K. Diana

Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network

The Voice of the River and its Tributary Streams

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Mark your calendars

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Fifth Annual Holiday Craft Show

Saturday, December 1st, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 2nd, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Prallsville Mills,
Stockton, New Jersey



Pottery by Deborah Tinsman. Photo by Randl Bye.

Support local artists, artisans and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network while wrapping up your holiday shopping. You can do it all the first weekend in December at our **Fifth Annual Holiday Craft Show** at **Prallsville Mills** on **River Road in Stockton, New Jersey**.

Our Craft Show, which features **great handwork and beautiful crafts** by **over 35 local artists and artisans**, has become one of the best seasonal shopping events in the region! This year's quality crafts include jewelry, wearable art, ceramics, wood, glass, mixed media, watercolors, oils, pastels, photography, and homemade chocolates for all occasions. You can be sure **you will find something for everyone on your shopping list**.

And while you're shopping, know that you are helping protect the River and its tributary streams. The **suggested entry donation of \$4.00 per person** helps support programs such as our River Resources Law Clinic, water quality monitoring and awareness-to-action training. Our annual Craft Show is held rain or shine.

Prallsville Mills is located in Stockton, New Jersey, on the Delaware & Raritan Canal, within sight of the Delaware River, with easy access and lots of parking. Make a day of it. For more information, call 215-369-1188.

RIVERRAPIDS is published for members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.