

RIVER RAPIDS

The Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network's Quarterly Newsletter

Printed on 25% recycled paper

Upcoming Events

August 5, September 30
Darby Creek Restoration Project
Hoffman Park
Lansdowne PA

August 26, September 16 & 30
"Keep 'Em Growing" Saturdays
Bucks, Chester, Delaware
and Montgomery Counties, PA

September 28
DRN's Annual Dinner
Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing
Philadelphia, PA

October (date TBA)
Alexauken Creek Protection Plan Update
West Amwell Township Building,
Lambertville, NJ

For more news about Delaware Riverkeeper Network events, call 215-369-1188 or click on [Calendar](#) at www.delawareriverkeeper.org



On endurance . . .

A note from the Delaware Riverkeeper

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Immense is the patience of Nature." In our work to protect the River, we must aspire to such patience, because successes against the efforts of those seeking to dredge, dam and degrade our waterways often come only after years of fighting the good fight.

We've fought the Delaware Deepening for over a decade. For 14 years, we've been fighting to stop the slaughter of fish at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station. Plans to dam Rock Run, Neshaminy Creek, and the Schuylkill River are reborn over and over again. These long-term battles require the patience of Nature *and* unwavering commitment to the River complimented by technical knowledge, legal know-how, and strong citizen voices.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has brought these attributes to bear on issues that threaten the River, but we're seeking to increase our effectiveness as the only advocacy organization working throughout and for the entire Delaware River watershed. Soon we'll be moving our offices, launching a new and stronger web site, carrying out renewed efforts to strengthen the link between our communities and our River, and creating new opportunities for you to help protect the River at our new office or through our new website.

But one thing remains constant. Your time and financial support remain key to our success. Thank you for your continuing commitment to the River.

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

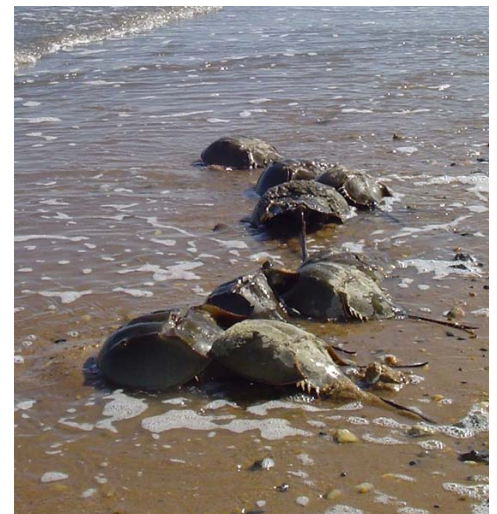
Volunteer to help restore local streams

This season, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Restoration team is seeking volunteers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania to help with a variety of native planting and invasive plant control projects in the region. Streams and areas slated for restoration this season include:

- Valley Creek, Valley Forge National Historic Park, PA
- Sprogels Run, Brookside Country Club, Pottstown, PA
- Little Neshaminy, Kemper Park, Warminster, PA
- Coopersburg, PA
- Thornton Creek, Bordentown, NJ

If any of these areas are in your neighborhood and you want to join us to help improve your local stream, email dave@delawareriverkeeper.org or call 215-369-1188.

Tracking horseshoe crabs



Once again this year, DRN took part in horseshoe crab monitoring with the University of Delaware. Photo: F. Zerbe.

The Voice of the River and its Tributary Streams

THE DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER® NETWORK

1298 Gen. Washington Memorial Blvd.
P.O. Box 326,
Washington Crossing, PA 18977
Phone: 215-369-1188
Fax: 215-369-1181

drn@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

Staff

Maya K. van Rossum,
the Delaware Riverkeeper

Dick Albert, *Scientist/Restoration Director*
Ann Bidwell, *Executive Assistant*
Claire Biehl, *Office Manager*
Tracy Carluccio, *Director, Special Projects*
Carole Glessner, *Office Assistant*
Carole Hendrick, *Senior Attorney*
Amanda Larson, *Development Director*
Rich Myers, *Citizen Action Coordinator*
Mary Ellen Noble, *Associate Director*
Fred Stine, *Citizen Action Coordinator*
Chari Towne, *Director, Schuylkill Programs*
Tim White, *Director, Special Events*
Dave Williams, *Restoration Manager*
Faith Zerbe, *Monitoring Director*

Upper bay oil spill



Tarballs on Pickering Beach, DE.
Photo: F. Zerbe.

Oil spills, small and large, are part of the ongoing assaults that the Delaware River and Bay experience every day. In late April, oil and tarballs washed up on Bowers Beach, Kitts Hummock, Port Mahon, and elsewhere along the Delaware Bay. The owners of the Netherlands-based container ship responsible for the spill are now paying for the clean up, which is estimated to run in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We need your help . . . We're moving!



Come August we'll be moving into our new home in Bristol. It's a great location and we hope to see many of you there soon. Photo: C. Biehl.

Those of you who have visited our office in Washington Crossing know that, for years, we have been bursting at the seams.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has grown in recent years in direct response to the needs of the River. In just the past 5 years we have added an attorney to our staff, an events coordinator, a new law clinic, and technical experts (a new restoration assistant and part time staff scientist). The number of members and volunteers is also on the upswing.

We are making plans to secure a permanent home for the organization, but that is a long-term effort, and the need for a more suitable office space has become critical. So, while we lay the groundwork for and move forward with a building campaign, we are moving to more spacious offices in the quaint river town of Bristol, PA. It's a great location and we hope you'll join us at our upcoming open house (to be announced).

We will be moving during the summer months and we need your help with our upcoming move. Let us know if you want to help. Email claire@delawareriverkeeper.org or call 215-369-1188 to let us know how you can help.

For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception until death. ~Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1962

DuPont's PFOA Contamination

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a compound made by DuPont and used in Teflon pans, nonstick food containers, and stain- and water-resistant fabric since the 1950's, has recently been found to be a likely carcinogen. PFOA has been used so commonly that we all likely have about 1 part per billion of PFOA in our blood.

More than 20 lawsuits relating to PFOA have been brought against DuPont for widespread groundwater contamination, including one recently settled in West Virginia. Under an EPA order, DuPont has agreed to cut PFOA emissions by 2010 and eliminate them by 2015. However, DuPont continues to manufacture and promote products containing PFOA today.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, concerned about possible PFOA contamination of water supplies around Dupont's NJ Chambers Works plant, conducted tap water sampling that turned up PFOA in residents' drinking water. Class action lawsuits and Dupont worker protests have since resulted there.

DRN filed a letter with the New Jersey DEP for a permit modification of DuPont's Chambers Works groundwater permit requiring that PFOA be added to their monitoring. NJ DEP ordered the modification and is now working on setting a water quality standard statewide. DuPont is also required to monitor PFOA in its surface water discharge permit.

PFOA water pollution in Delaware River communities must be addressed. Impacts on the River and aquatic life go unexamined. Action is needed to require DuPont to stop the use and discharge of PFOA chemicals and clean up the contamination. Go to DRN's online Action Center at www.delawareriverkeeper.org for a detailed Fact Sheet.

Wissahickon Creek takes a beating

On June 13th, a Merck employee ignored company protocol and disposed of a dangerous chemical, potassium thiocyanate, by dumping it down a drain. When the chemical came into contact with chlorine at the Upper Gwynedd Township Wastewater Treatment Plant, it was transformed into a toxic chemical that was discharged into the Wissahickon Creek.

The newly formed chemical compound caused a major fish kill (killing at least 1,000 fish) and a high level of toxicity in the creek. In response the PA Department of Environmental Protection banned fishing, swimming and contact recreation on the Wissahickon as well as the Schuylkill River, which the creek feeds. Days later the advisory on the Schuylkill was lifted, but the advisory for the Wissahickon remained in effect until July 10th.

One week later, on June 20th, the Ambler Borough wastewater treatment plant released 55,000 gallons of raw and/or partially treated sewage into the Wissahickon when the sewer plant malfunctioned and the backup generator failed. Sewage entered the creek in 3 separate, but related incidents through a manhole and from 2 tanks. Reportedly the plant switched to ultraviolet light disinfection and a new generator was brought in until the plant was able to return to normal operations.

The Delaware Riverkeeper is following up on both spills, ensuring full follow up by the agencies, and that the responsible parties are required to pay penalties as well as to undertake initiatives to restore the Wissahickon Creek from the harm they have done. Log on to our web site to keep informed and learn how you can help make sure that the Wissahickon is protected, restored and respected.

Power lines proposed for “Wild and Scenic” Delaware River

New York Regional Interconnect Inc. is proposing to run a 200-mile, high voltage direct current transmission line from Utica to Orange County. About 73 miles of the power line will run along and through Wild and Scenic portions of the Upper Delaware River. The project poses an environmental as well as aesthetic threat to these high quality reaches of the River.

Communities and politicians are outraged. Once again the Upper Delaware is being asked to sacrifice in order to service New York City and other communities located in the Hudson River watershed. In the coming months the River and its upriver communities will need your help to stop this project. Stay tuned to our website to learn how you can get involved and help.

For more information, check out the fact sheet located on our web site, www.delawariverkeeper.org.

In Memory of Jody

Anthony “Jody” Suozzo was a gifted musician, writer and naturalist whose life was cut tragically short this year, at the age of 26. He loved the Delaware, and spent a great deal of time both enjoying and protecting it. As a child, Jody organized clean-ups, convincing his young friends of the importance of caring for the River. In honor of Jody’s deep affection for the Delaware, childhood friend and bandmate Christian Giannelli organized a June concert in his memory, with proceeds benefiting DRN. These funds help us to continue to protect the waters that Jody – and all of us – love so much.



Anthony “Jody” Suozzo. Photo: C. Giannelli



Students from the United Nations International School in Manhattan ply their paddling skills on the Delaware River as part of their 15th annual canoe and camping trip coordinated by DRN. Since the trip's inception in 1991, DRN has led 1,500 freshmen high school students from 42 different nations along the scenic Delaware to learn about river issues and international cooperation. Photo by J. Brunner

Volunteer for “Keep ‘Em Growing” Saturdays

New plantings need tender loving care to grow into a successful, mature riparian corridor. If you know of a high school group, scout troop, service organization or other group in Bucks, Chester, Delaware or Montgomery Counties looking for community service hours, this could be the project you are looking for.

Keep ‘Em Growing Saturdays scheduled for this summer include August 26, September 16 and 30 and will run from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information or to sign up, contact faith@delawariverkeeper.org

Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network

The Voice of the River and its Tributary Streams

1298 General Washington Memorial Boulevard
P.O. Box 326
Washington Crossing, PA 18977-0326



American Littoral
Society Affiliate



Join us for our Annual Dinner

September 28th, 2006

Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing

Philadelphia, PA

On September 28th, professionals from around the region will gather together, celebrate the Delaware River and the work we are doing on its behalf, and help raise funds to ensure that our work can continue.

This year, at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Annual Fundraising Dinner, we will be joined by speaker **Mike McGrath**, host of the nationally syndicated Public Radio program, "**You Bet Your Garden**," award recipient and former NJ Department of Environmental Protection **Commissioner Bradley Campbell** and **Mary Shafer**, author of *Devastation on the Delaware: Stories and Images of the Deadly Flood of 1955*.

Please join us for this special occasion and show your support for the River.

Tickets

Guests: \$200 per person

Non-profit/Government Guests: \$150 per person

DRN Members: \$150 per person



Become a sponsor

All proceeds from our Annual Fundraising Dinner directly benefit the Delaware River, its tributary streams, and the communities that are dependent on and appreciate these vital natural resources.

When you become a sponsor, you are helping support our River Resources Law Clinic, our volunteers monitoring water quality and restoring stream ecosystems, and other ongoing initiatives that benefit the health of river ecosystems.

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Sponsor the event reception \$5,000
- Sponsor the dinner wine \$2,500
- Sponsor the event program \$2,000
- Purchase a table for 10 \$2,000
- Sponsor table centerpieces \$1,000
- Sponsor the attendee gifts \$1,000
- Provide a silent auction item

To become a sponsor or purchase tickets for this special dinner, please call Tim White at 215-369-1188. Tim can be reached by fax, 215-369-1181, or email, tim@delawareriverkeeper.org.