

RIVER RAPIDS

Quarterly Newsletter of the Delaware Riverkeeper® Network

Upcoming Events . . . Upcoming Events . . . Upcoming Events . . .



October 9, 10 & 11
DRN Canoe & Camping Trip
Worthington State Park, NJ

October 9, 16 & 23
Stream School Workshop
Nolde Forest Env. Ed. Center
Reading, PA

December 4 & 5
DRN's Craft Show
Prallsville Mill
Stockton, NJ

March 5 & 6
Schuylkill Watershed Congress
Montgomery County
Community College
Pottstown, PA

March 24
DRN's Annual Dinner
Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing
Philadelphia, PA

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

Make Our River Heard – VOTE

A letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper

One of the most powerful tools I wield when I am talking to politicians, urging them to take action to protect the river, our communities and environment, is the ability to say, "Delaware Riverkeeper Network members vote in large numbers." You can't imagine the impact.

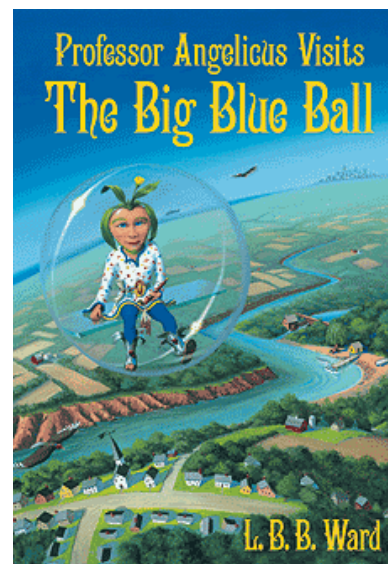
About 65% of our members voted in the last election. That figure is a genuine help in my discussions with politicians and key decision-makers. Can you imagine the impact if I could say that 95% voted?

Your vote helps put leaders who care about our environment and communities in office. And it makes sure that all leaders take the time to hear us.

Please take the time to consider the candidates in the upcoming election and to vote. No matter how you cast your ballot, the fact that you cast it strengthens the power we wield on behalf of our rivers, streams, communities and environment.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to apologize for the lateness of this year's Annual Report. My mother's death this past spring has taken its toll and forced me to reorganize some short-term priorities. But the report is out now with lots of great information on our many wins for the River and watershed, and great coupons on exciting items (many of which make excellent holiday gifts). I hope you enjoy paging through our Annual Report and I thank you all for the loving letters, phone calls and supportive thoughts I received during this very difficult time in my life.

Finally, I want to tell you about a great new children's book, *Professor Angelicus Visits the Big Blue Ball*, by L.B.B. Ward. The story, message, and sales benefit the River and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. My daughter Anneke and I LOVE this wonderful new fictional tale that takes us on a journey with the Delaware River and sends an important message of love and appreciation for all our rivers. Check it out and order a copy on-line at www.delawareriverkeeper.org/Angelicus.htm.



Maya K. van Rossum
The Delaware Riverkeeper

RIVERRAPIDS

is published for members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Printed with soy-based ink on 25% recycled paper.

Litigation update and a call for action

The River Resources Law Clinic (RRLC)* has been busy. Our legal challenge to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) approval of the Borough of Portland's Act 537 Plan Update Revision and its attendant National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit was argued before the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) in April. After a seven-day trial and the post hearing filings, the EHB denied our appeals. The fact that the DEP approved a sewage treatment plant intended and designed to accommodate a neighboring municipality (i.e., the region) without that municipality's involvement in the sewage facilities planning was of no moment to the EHB. This decision sends the message that municipalities can plan oversized sewage treatment plants for regional service areas without requiring a regional alternatives analysis. The EHB's decision and the DEP's approval have been appealed to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

The RRLC reached settlement in two other cases, both providing needed protection to ecologically sensitive land and water resources. In Bucks County, we secured permanent protection of an acre of wetlands in the heart of a highly developed area. In Chester County, in the Cornog

Quarry case, we saw that the deeds were filed to permanently protect several acres in the headwaters of the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek. These settlements represent successful coordination among DRN scientists, advocacy staff and legal counsel to assure that the best possible outcome could be achieved in these cases.

We continue to investigate and work on many more issues, including a petition to list the red knot as an endangered species, environmental impacts of factory farming and Clean Water Act violations to name a few. Through our investigations we have noticed a decline in environmental enforcement across all the agencies and we see a major shift in concern -- away from the long-term preservation and sustainability of the environment in the "public trust" to the short-term economic benefit of the few. Every day I remind myself that as a resident of Pennsylvania, I have a Constitutional right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment (PA Constitution, Article 1, Section 27). Across the River in New Jersey, the New Jersey Environmental Rights Act assures citizens the right to protection when the agencies do not enforce state environmental laws. New York and Delaware promote

Carole Hendrick, Senior Attorney
citizen participation in environmental protection. Without these Constitutional and/or statutory mandates, not only the quality of the environment, but also the quality of our lives, is in jeopardy. The decline in the concern for the protection of our natural environment is a national crisis. We need to stand firm and speak out.

As we forge ahead in our efforts to protect the River, we need your help. We need all of our members to be vigilant and begin deliberate and regular observations of pollution sources in and around their communities. If you observe colors or odors that do not look right, chances are something is happening that should be stopped. Start keeping logs and records. Take photographs. Watch for permitting activities and public notices. Attend public hearings. Vote thoughtfully for the environment. Speak up and speak out. Do it with confidence; know that your comments matter. Keep in touch with us and keep us informed. When we work together, we are 6,500 voices strong. We can and we do make a difference.

** The River Resources Law Clinic, which was established with support from the George & Miriam Martin Foundation, works with law students from Temple University's Beasley School of Law to protect water resources throughout the Delaware River watershed.*

Action Alert

Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum is an appointed member of the Oversight Committee giving input into the development of the new stormwater manual that will guide future development in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania started out on the right track, focusing on addressing volume and quality issues with a special emphasis on holding increased runoff on site, but the developers and their consultants are starting to take hold of the process and direct us backwards towards detention techniques, the very techniques that have caused so much damage.

Please write to Secretary McGinty. Ask her to take charge of her Department and ensure that the final stormwater manual addresses quantity, quality and peak rate using best management practices that require:

- Prevention of stormwater runoff through minimum disturbance and low impact development techniques,
- Infiltration of stormwater runoff,
- Storage of stormwater runoff on site, preferably for reuse, and
- Water quality protections and peak rate protections for unavoidable runoff.

Send your letters to:

Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty
Dept. of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, RCSOB
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Invasive species are changing the nature of the watershed

By now, many of us have become familiar with, or at least heard of, the concept of “invasive species.” Out of the hundreds of non-native plants, insects, and other animals that have found their way to the Delaware River watershed, there are a select few that find the region offers them a suitable climate with little or no natural competition. That’s when the problems begin. Some of these problems are recent, others date back generations.

The Philadelphia region, one of the largest socio-economic hubs for early European settlement, has unfortunately become home to a host of foreign species. Historical records show that a Philadelphia gardener first introduced Tree-of-Heaven, *Ailanthis altissima*, in 1784. Since then, this tree has spread across the continent. The widespread effects of this tree are still not fully understood, but its aggressive colonization of disturbed areas has been shown to reduce the diversity of trees and shrubs in areas where it establishes.

Another plant taking the watershed by botanical storm is Japanese stilt grass, *Microstegium vimineum*. This beautiful, short, shade-loving grass forms dense

carpets in wooded areas throughout the watershed. Each small plant produces up to 1,000 seeds that are viable for several years. Studies have shown this plant capable of completely overtaking forest floors within three to five years. This problem is made worse by the watershed’s abundant deer population, which grazes on most vegetation, but not on Japanese stilt grass.

Of course, invasive species are not limited to the plant world. Recently, studies on several species of earthworms have led to a new concern over the effects non-native species are having on our ecosystems. These worms, beloved by gardeners for their soil aeration and nutrient recycling, are guilty of doing too good a job in our forests. In areas infested with these worms, the forest floor lacks a thick protective layer of humus and has a completely altered soil structure. These worms break down dead material so quickly that soils are reduced to nothing but worm castings. Many plants cannot adapt to this extremely loose and well-drained “soil.”

A number of non-native aquatic species are now impacting the life in our waterways. Recently, Northern snakeheads, *Channa argus*, were

Dan Salas, Restoration Manager found in tidal Meadow Lake, which is located within FDR Park near the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. These fish, native to China, Russia, and Korea, have been popularized as “Frankenfish” due to their ability to survive for long periods out of water and to drag themselves over land for short distances. Northern snakeheads, which can be distinguished by their torpedo shape, long lower jaw and long anal fins, prey on amphibians, fish, aquatic birds, and even, upon occasion, on small mammals. There is some concern that these aggressive and opportunistic feeders may out compete other fish species.

The problem of invasive species in the Delaware River watershed is nothing new. Controlling the few species that cause damage to our habitats is a long and tiresome task that has only begun to receive attention in recent years. At the forefront of this battle are many volunteers who have seen the damage done by these various pests and have become motivated to fight back. Learn to identify the invasive species near you and you’ll see how these species are affecting your local ecosystem.

Basin naturalization completed

Dave Williams, Restoration Specialist

In August, DRN, the Friends of Mingo Creek, the Montgomery County Conservation District and Upper Providence Township, worked together to naturalize a stormwater basin in the Township’s Black Rock Park. The 3,600 square foot basin, designed to serve as a dry pond that detains water during storm events, was constructed this summer in association with the Township’s new Public Works facility. The project partners wanted to demonstrate stormwater Best Management Practices that can help restore health to our streams, improve the quality of our environment, and enhance our communities.

The basin was planted with native species that reduce pollutants, provide benefits for wildlife and create a more aesthetically interesting place than the barren landscape of a mowed basin. The planting plan included two native seed mixes, plugs of wildflowers and grasses, and native trees and shrubs selected for both aesthetics and the variable moisture conditions they will experience.

Contact the DRN Restoration staff by email, drmrestoration@delawareriverkeeper.org, for advice on basin design, plant selection, and basin maintenance.



The Black Rock Park stormwater basin naturalization crew. Photo by Upper Providence Township staff.

Stream School workshop to be offered in Berks County, PA

Chari Towne, Director, Schuylkill Office

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Stroud Water Research Center are once again offering a session of Stream School, the innovative program designed especially for the adult private citizen interested in protecting local streams. This is the only session of Stream School being offered this year. At this time, no sessions are scheduled for 2005.

Stream School will be held on three consecutive Saturdays, October 9th, 16th and 23rd, running from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. This session is being hosted by Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, near Reading.

Participants in this three-day workshop will learn the skills needed

for conducting a stream monitoring program, gain an understanding of the regulations that protect our waterways, and participate in a watershed advocacy exercise. Stream School offers a great opportunity to increase your understanding about stream ecosystems while becoming part of the solution to improve and protect our vital water resources.

With support from The William Penn Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Grant Program, Stream School is offered to participants at no cost. However, participants are required to provide a \$75 deposit, which is refunded in full to participants who attend the entire



Macroinvertebrate Identification during Stream School.

Photo by C. Medved, Stroud Center.

course and complete the watershed advocacy exercise.

For more information, contact Chari at 610-469-6005 or chari@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Good news on fight to save Depue Island

On September 9th, the federally-appointed Advisory Commission to the Delaware Water Gap Natural Recreation Area voted unanimously to "disapprove development and commercialization of any islands in the DWGNRA" in an effort to protect Depue Island and all the islands in the park, none of which is presently developed.

The owner of Depue Island has publicly stated that he is considering developing the island, which sits in the Delaware River in the midst of the national park, for a hotel and conference center. There has been an outpouring of opposition to development of the island from people in the region, and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is very involved in the fight to prevent its development and to preserve the island. The developer is expected to announce final plans this fall.



Stockton Bluffs saved

A proposed 44-unit residential development that has threatened the Brookville Hollow Creek, the Delaware and Raritan Canal, the Delaware River and the Borough of Stockton for over 10 years has finally been scrapped. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and residents in this river town worked together to oppose the proposed subdivision on the grounds that it would cause point and nonpoint source pollution and harm the scenic, recreational, and historic resources of the region.

This August, the site of the proposed development, 65+ acres

perched high on a rocky ridge overlooking Stockton, was purchased for open space preservation. Private conservation groups, Stockton Borough, Hunterdon County, and NJ's Green Acres program, all working in partnership, provided the funds necessary to preserve these forested lands and steep slopes in their natural condition forever.

The developer had proposed piping stormwater to the D & R Canal, an action requiring a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Before the NJ State House Commission, DRN opposed the sale

Tracy Carluccio, Director, Special Projects of Green Acres open space for the stormwater outfall into the canal. We drew agency attention to the need for the Corps permit, which required archeological surveys. An investigation revealed an ancient Native American village site and the original farm of Captain John Anderson, an early settler. His family cemetery is believed to be located there.

As a result of this long fight, Stockton residents, including several DRN members, are now energized and working together to protect the natural environment, the River, and quality of life in their community.

A Postcard from . . .



Members' Day 2004

Members' Day this year was spectacular. Despite reports of rain farther north in the watershed, the weather in Cape May and Cape Henlopen was perfect - sunny, but not too hot and no rain in sight. 25 friends met us in Cape May for a lovely ferry ride across the Bay. Another 10 met us in Delaware. Lunch provided delicious delights for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. But our time on the beach was best - pods of dolphins swam close to our swimming group, hung out for a while, swam on, only to return later for another pass. Dolphins jumped in the air and danced. It was fabulous. Hope you join us next year!

DRN announces '05 Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Keynote

The **2005 Schuylkill Watershed Congress**, a gathering of watershed citizens interested in understanding, protecting and restoring their local streams, will be held on **Saturday, March 5th**, at the **Montgomery County Community College, West Campus in Pottstown, PA**. Watershed tours will be offered on Sunday, March 6th.

The **Keynote Address** for the 2005 Congress will be delivered by **Thomas Cahill, a Professional Engineer and President of Cahill Associates**, a firm specializing in water resources management, environmental planning, and sustainable site development. Cahill has conducted or directed numerous watershed management studies, including development of three-dimensional models of ground water movement and pollutant migration, and ground water base flow models. Cahill Associates, a national leader in the application of porous pavements, underground storage and infiltration beds, and other innovative stormwater management systems, is currently preparing Pennsylvania's new technical-oriented Best Management Practices manual which focuses on achieving comprehensive stormwater management objectives: peak rate and runoff volume control, maintenance of groundwater recharge, and water quality control.

Schuylkill Watershed Congress

Saturday, March 5th, 2005

**Montgomery County Community College, West Campus
Pottstown, PA**

Call for Presenters

Concurrent Sessions and Posters

Submissions due by November 12, 2004

The Schuylkill Watershed Congress Organizers invite you to share your knowledge with a presentation or poster session. Congress participants are interested in the latest information on progressive watershed planning, model projects, and innovative watershed protection.

Requested topics include:

Stormwater Treatment • Working with Local Government • Causes and Cures of Stream Erosion • Groundwater Infiltration • Watershed Flora and Fauna • Phase II NPDES and MS4 • Schuylkill River Education Programs • Stream Pollution ID • Bioengineering Opportunities • Wetland Protection • Water Quality Monitoring • Tree Planting Demonstrations • Volunteer Retention and Recruitment • Wellhead Protection • Innovative BMPs and Products • Municipal Environmental Issues • GIS and Watershed Mapping • Community Involvement in Stormwater Issues • Erosion and Deposition Rates • Geography and Rivers • Running Public Meetings • Drinking Water Quality • Stream Naming • Trout Unlimited group activities • Schuylkill Networking Efforts • Recreation and Watershed Protection • Presenting Water Quality Data • Watershed Organization Financial Planning

*All presentations must include a question and answer component.
Field trips and hands-on, interactive presentations are encouraged.*

Presentation proposals should include:

- ✓ Presentation Title (please limit to 10 words)
- ✓ Presenter(s), Affiliation(s), Address(es)
- ✓ Email Address(es)
- ✓ Daytime Telephone Number(s)
- ✓ One Sentence Presentation Summary
- ✓ Level (e.g., *Introductory, Intermediate, Advanced*)
- ✓ Abstract Body (*should not exceed 200 words*)
- ✓ Estimated Length of Presentation
- ✓ Presenter Bio(s) (*should not exceed 100 words*)

Specify concurrent session or poster.

Please submit proposals via email to chari@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Save the Date . . .

March 24th, 2005

*The Delaware Riverkeeper
Network's Annual Dinner*

The Hyatt Regency

at Penn's Landing

Cocktails - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Door Prizes & Silent Auction



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Help sponsor this very special event

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network will hold its *Annual Dinner* on *Thursday, March 24, 2005*, at the *Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia*. Over 150 professionals from around the region will gather to celebrate the Delaware River and the work that is being done on its behalf. All proceeds from our Annual Dinner directly benefit the River, its tributary streams, and the communities that depend upon and appreciate these vital natural resources.

We invite your agency, company or organization to help sponsor this very special event. We offer sponsor-

ship opportunities through which you may not only make an important contribution for the protection of the Delaware River, but also receive wide-ranging recognition for your support and meet with important public officials.

Sponsors will be recognized in mailings and notices to over 7,000 individuals, organizations, businesses and agencies throughout the Delaware Valley as well as on all event materials. Sponsors will also receive prominent recognition on our web page, in program materials and signage at the Annual Dinner.

Tim White, Development Director
Consider sponsoring:

- The event reception, \$5,000
- The dinner wine, \$2,500
- The event program, \$2,000
- A table for 10, \$2,000
- The table centerpieces, \$1,000
- The attendee gifts, \$1,000

Or consider sponsoring or providing a silent auction item.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of this special event to honor the Delaware River, contact Development Director Tim White by phone, 215-369-1188, or by email, dinner@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Did you miss?

- *July 31st* - The Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Bucks County Bluegrass Festival at Snipes Farm. Featured bands included the Philadelphia Bluegrass Band, the Sugar Sand Ramblers, the Yingling Brothers, James Seward and Railroad Earth.
- *August 21st* - an eclectic mix of folk, jazz, progressive rock and noise at Joe's Mill Hill Saloon in Trenton benefiting the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Featured artists included Wing Dam, JFK's LSD UFO, Sketch, Misamotu and Chris Bozzone.

Don't miss the next Delaware Riverkeeper Network event. For information on concerts, festivals and outings to enjoy with people who share your love for the River, check out our calendar at www.delawareriverkeeper.org.

DRN Craft Show

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, *Saturday, December 4th*

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, *Sunday December 5th*

Prallsville Mill, Stockton, NJ
Suggested Donation: \$4.00

At the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Craft Show you'll find nearly 40 vendors selling a variety of handcrafted treasures that make great gifts. Delaware Riverkeeper Network merchandise will also be available for purchase.

Prallsville Mill is located on the Delaware & Raritan Canal, within sight of the River, with easy access and lots of parking. Make a day of it. For more information, call our Washington Crossing office at 215-369-1188.

Time for DRN's Fall Phone-a-thon

We will be kicking off our 2004 Phone-a-thon this fall on Tuesday, October 19th, and we need your help to raise the money we need to continue our work on behalf of the River and its tributaries. What can you do? Consider volunteering to make calls for the Phone-a-thon! You care about the River. You support the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. You know how vital the need is so please consider helping out. You will only be calling other Delaware Riverkeeper Network members, people who share your love for the River and its tributary streams.

And when we call you, please consider raising your contribution by 20% to 30%. If you gave \$35 last year, an increase of 25% is only \$8.75. If you gave \$100, please consider increasing your contribution by \$25 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 essential support for our River Resources Law Clinic, our volunteers monitoring water quality and restoring stream ecosystems, and our ongoing initiatives that benefit river ecosystems.

For 2004, our Phone-a-thon runs for just nine evenings. Please, this year, instead of one night on the town, choose to increase your support for our work on behalf of the River. Your contributions and your visible support do make a difference!

We're looking forward to speaking with you soon. And remember, the Phone-a-thon is also a great time to make sure your contact information is up to date.

Estelle Bronstein

Delaware Riverkeeper Network Advisory Board

Wish List

We are in need of some equipment and supplies. On our wish list right now:

- **New paper** - We can use paper of any size, shape or kind.
- **Used office paper** - Does your office print on only one side of the page? Let us re-use your paper.
- **Carousel slide projectors (2)**.
- **Heavy duty work gloves** - For volunteer planting days.
- **Loppers, shovels, and pruners** - For planting trees and controlling invasive vines at Adopt-A-Buffer sites.
- **A functioning lab incubator** - To incubate water samples and enhance the capabilities of our Monitoring Program.

Call 215-369-1188 and ask for Claire if you wish to donate items on our wish list. We greatly appreciate your donations and make good use of them on behalf of the River.

When to Volunteer

Dates:

October 19, 21, 26 & 28
November 4, 9, 11, 16 & 18

Times: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Washington Crossing

Contact Development
Director Tim White by phone,
215-369-1188, or email,
tim@delawareriverkeeper.org,
to volunteer.



The Delaware Riverkeeper® Network

on the web at www.delawareriverkeeper.org

Offices

On the main stem

P.O. Box 326
Washington Crossing, PA 18977
Phone: 215-369-1188
Fax: 215-369-1181
drn@delawareriverkeeper.org

In the Schuylkill Watershed

P.O. Box 459
Saint Peters, PA 19470
Phone: 610-469-6005
Fax: 610-469-6025
chari@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*

Rich Myers, *Citizen Action Coordinator*

Mary Ellen Noble, *Associate Director*

Dan Salas, *Restoration Manager*

Fred Stine, *Citizen Action Coordinator*

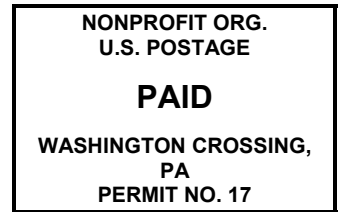
Chari Towne, *Director, Schuylkill Office*

Tim White, *Development Director*

Dave Williams, *Restoration Specialist*

Faith Zerbe, *Monitoring Coordinator*

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
An American Littoral Society Affiliate
P.O. Box 326
Washington Crossing, PA 18977-0326

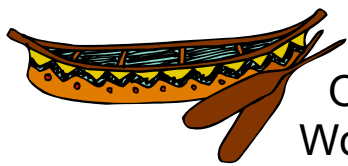


Don't miss . . .

“Some of the most rugged terrain and splendid views of northern New Jersey”

-- www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/worthington.html

DRN Family Canoeing and Camping Weekend!



Saturday, Sunday & Monday
October 9th, 10th & 11th
Worthington State Forest, NJ

Join the Delaware Riverkeeper Network for a family-oriented Canoeing and Camping Weekend in Worthington State Forest, NJ. We'll explore some of the park's 26 plus miles of trails and paddle day trips around Walpack Bend, where eagles soar and not a house can be seen. Hikes and river trips will be based on your ambitions and desires – you paddle or hike as much as you like.

The adventurous among us may choose to climb to the top of Mt. Tammany (1,527 feet above sea level) for panoramic views of the Delaware Water Gap. Maybe you'll tackle the trail to Sunfish Pond, a glacial lake surrounded by a chestnut oak forest. For history buffs, the Rockcores Interpretive Trail offers a glimpse into the past.

Daily canoe (\$31.50) and kayak (\$38.50) rentals are available. Shuttle service is included with rentals and is available for those bringing their own boat for \$25.00 a day. When it's time to turn in for the evening, our group campsite offers picnic tables, fire rings, and modern toilets. You provide your own food. Registration (non-refundable) is \$10.00 per person per night. **Please note: Space is limited.**

For more information, call Fred, 856-854-5108 or DRNEstuary@juno.com.

