



The Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network's Quarterly Newsletter

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Special Event: This Earth Day, meet **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**, at the new **Kiehl's** in the Plaza at **the King of Prussia Mall**. On **April 22nd**, van Rossum and DRN will help Kiehl's launch a limited edition body lotion. Proceeds from the sale of this limited edition Superbly Restorative Body Lotion will benefit DRN and the Waterkeeper Alliance.

May 2nd

DRN's Annual Native Plant Sale

Golden Nugget Antique Market
Lambertville, NJ

May 22nd, June 5th

Delaware Horseshoe Crab Census

South Bowers Beach, DE

June 21st

Cooper River Watershed Bike Tour
Collingswood, NJ

Important change coming to DRN

A note from the Delaware Riverkeeper

Since its establishment back in 1988, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has become a force to be reckoned with in the Delaware River watershed. We stand as a leader in regional watershed issues with the ability to provide effective environmental advocacy, undertake technical watershed studies, implement cutting edge stream restoration projects, and enforce compliance with environmental laws.

But DRN has functioned legally as an affiliate of the American Littoral Society, our parent organization. ALS has nurtured our growth for over 20 years, but the time has come for DRN to leave the nest. With ALS' support and encouragement, DRN has secured independent 501(c)(3) standing.

On May 1st, ALS and DRN will officially become two separate organizations. This move will benefit water resource protection by establishing two separate, strong and independent environmental advocacy organizations. ALS will continue, as it has done since 1961, to promote the study and conservation of marine life and habitat, protect the coast from harm, and empower others to do the same. DRN's mission remains unchanged: to protect and defend the Delaware River, its tributaries and watershed, restore the watershed's natural balance where it has been lost, and ensure the preservation of that natural balance where it still exists. Donations to each organization will of course remain tax-deductible.

The decision to separate has been considered carefully. The pros and cons have been studied for a number of years. The updating of DRN's strategic plan in 2007 focused attention on what independent status would mean for each organization. We realized a turning point had been reached. The time to separate had come. The factors that have put DRN on the road toward independence include:

- ✓ A strong base of membership in the Delaware River watershed,
- ✓ Key supporters who will serve as board members to lead DRN into the future,
- ✓ Solid relationships with decision-makers in the watershed,
- ✓ Strong relationships with foundations and agencies, and
- ✓ A proven track record of securing its own financial support.

Our members remind me every day of the people and streams we're fighting for. It is with our members in mind, but also with an eye toward future generations, that we take this step. We know that an independent DRN is essential to ensure that the Delaware River, its tributaries, and the communities that rely on them, are protected.

Because of the commitment of our members, we know that we can confidently move forward not simply as a newly independent 501(c)(3) organization, but as an enduring network of members, volunteers, and professional staff working together to leave a legacy of healthy, vibrant rivers.

Thank you for all your support in the past and for moving forward with us at this exciting time.

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

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Help DRN count horseshoe crabs



Photo: F. Zerbe

Once again, DRN will be assisting the University of Delaware in counting horseshoe crabs as part of the annual census to collect valuable information on the status of the Delaware Bay horseshoe crab population.

This year, we will be at South Bowers Beach, DE, on Friday, May 22nd, and again on Friday, June 5th. Our work begins both evenings at 7:00 pm. We will be camping for those wanting to make a weekend of it. For more information, email faith@delawareriverkeeper.org.

In Memory

In December, the Delaware River lost two good friends. Joseph J. Crilley, an artist, a photographer, and a decorated World War II paratrooper, passed away on Thursday, December 4th, at his home in Carversville. As an avid fisherman, the Delaware River was important to Joe, a Bucks County resident for 60 years. The River, its habitats, and its communities were frequent subjects of his artwork. Joe studied drawing and painting at the Fleisher Art Memorial and the Philadelphia College of Art. His work can be found in private homes, galleries, museums, and twice appeared on the cover of *Pennsylvania Angler*. It was through art that Joe met his wife Suzanne, whom he married in 1982. Joe also enjoyed teaching and mentoring young artists. He was 88. His family asked that donations be made to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Robert Muller, a retired insurance agent, passed away on Friday, December 30th, at his home in Jamison. Although retired, Bob's days were filled with music, poetry, art, and theater. He fearlessly embraced life, learning and citizen action to protect his local streams. The River inspired both Bob's life and his art. Bob, along with his wife Beth, were valued supporters during the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's campaign to save Dark Hollow from a bad proposal that called for the construction of a dam. Bob was 76. His family also asked that donations be made to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Just as we were saddened to learn of the passing of these two good men, we are so deeply moved that their families would ask others to honor Joe and Bob by helping to protect the Delaware River and its streams.

We remember Joseph J. Crilley and Robert Muller, and honor them and the rivers that ran through their lives.

June 20 is Youth Fishing Education Day

Once again, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association is sponsoring Youth Fishing Education Day, a great opportunity to introduce your children or grandchildren to fishing, and to begin fostering a lifetime of appreciation of the River.

This program is FREE to youth, ages 8 to 15, however **only the first 100 applicants will be accepted**. Pre-registration is a must.

Youth Fishing Education Day begins at 7:00 am, with registration and breakfast, and runs to 5:30 pm. Participants will rotate through 10 different stations: knot tying; bait knowledge; aquatic survey and fish identification; casting; fish contest; ethics; reptile program; canoe safety; first aid and survival; and drug and alcohol prevention. Each station will run 45 minutes. There will be a break for lunch, which is provided for participants.

At approximately 4:45 pm, after participants have completed their last station, we will all return to the pavilion for trophies, door prizes and literature bags.

The event is hosted at the Point Phillips Rod and Gun Club in Bath, Pennsylvania. The rain date for this event is June 27th. For more information, call David Carl, 570-325-4336, or email, fisherman_dcarl@yahoo.com.

Cooper River watershed bike tour

Join DRN staff for a Father's Day bike tour through the Cooper River watershed on Sunday, June 21st. This easy 11-mile tour, which will begin at 10:00 am and run to about 1:00 pm, traverses mostly flat terrain. We will begin at the Cooper River Yacht Club, in Collingswood, NJ. Along the way, we will learn more about watershed issues such as shad migration, fish ladders and wetlands. Children ages 8 and up are welcome.

The fee for this program is \$10 per person for members, \$15 for non-members. We will be riding on park sidewalks, secondary roads, and dirt trails so make sure you bring a helmet. Email fred@delawareriverkeeper.org for more information or to sign-up.

Natural gas: the whole story

You've probably seen the TV commercials touting natural gas as an environmentally friendly, clean burning fuel that will help wean us from foreign oil. This isn't the whole story; it is but a very small piece of it.

Natural gas extraction is a major threat to the environments and communities where it occurs. And now it's coming to the Upper Delaware. Energy companies are seeking to extract natural gas from the Marcellus shale, a layer of rock that underlies about 36% of the Delaware River watershed.

To extract the gas, drillers mix a proprietary brew of toxic chemicals with 4 to 7 million gallons of water per well. This slurry is injected under high pressure a mile into the earth to break up the shale and release the natural gas.

The water needed for drilling is taken from local streams, aquifers, and reservoirs – wherever drillers can find it and regulators allow. Local water levels are depleted by these withdrawals. Drilling process water, once used, is contaminated. Deep aquifers may be contaminated by process water left underground. Process water that is returned to the surface must be transported to industrial waste treatment plants. Gas well sites span 3 to 5 acres, impacts large enough to cause harm, small enough to be exempted from regulation.

Gas drillers are convincing Upper Delaware landowners to sign away their mineral rights with real promises of money but false promises of protection. Energy companies are lobbying politicians to minimize oversight and going to court to challenge regulations.

DRN believes that we cannot sacrifice water for natural gas. We are pressing this position with a coalition of organizations in NY, PA and nationally.



Cabot Natural Gas Well, Dimock, PA

Photo: T. Carluccio

Volunteer profile: Gail and Jim Ewin

Shortly after Gail and Jim Ewin retired in the early 90's (Gail from teaching elementary school and Jim from working as a systems engineer with Bell Telephone Laboratories and Telcordia Technologies), they built their current home on Paulinskill Lake where the Ewin family had long had a "cabin." The Ewins had frequently spent summers and winters on the lake and they couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

When the Ewins heard about a local water monitoring program being offered, they jumped at the chance to learn how they could help protect the river and lake they had come to love. Gail and Jim attended their first monitoring training in April 1999. They started monitoring shortly after that, and are now marking their 10 years of monitoring.

Gail and Jim feel the time they spend monitoring is well rewarded as they get to see how the plants, animals and birds along the lake and river change with the seasons. They have also become much more aware of how people's behavior can cause problems for our world.

Monitoring also introduced the Ewins to new and dear friends. Gail and Jim met Leo McHale, who lived just across the lake from them, at that first training in 1999. Leo was a very knowledgeable nature lover and shared his knowledge with Gail and Jim. Soon a friendly competition, comparing visits to their backyards by both birds and bears, was begun. After Leo's sudden death in 2005, his wife Maureen joined the Ewins in monitoring. Maureen is also learning the names of the birds so she can continue their backyard birding competition.

If the Paulinskill could speak, Gail and Jim feel it would ask people to "Take care of me!" and the Ewins are doing just that. Thank you Gail and Jim (and Maureen too) for your dedication to your local waters. And congratulations on 10 years! We are glad to know volunteers like you who are helping us to protect and restore the Delaware River, its tributaries and habitats.

Monitoring Training

Spring Monitoring Training

April 18th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Learn water chemistry monitoring techniques along Turkey Run, a tributary to Neshaminy Creek. Macroinvertebrate sampling will also be performed. For more details, contact faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

Watershed Stream School

April 28th & 29th,

8:30 am to 4:00 pm both days

Come to Stockton, New Jersey, to learn macroinvertebrate monitoring techniques with DRN, the Stroud Water Research Center and New Jersey Watershed Watch. We will highlight and sample the Wickecheoke Creek. To learn more, visit www.delawareriverkeeper.org.

To register, call Carole 215-369-1188.

Bacteria Monitoring Training

May 6th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm;

May 11th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm; and

May 16th, 10:00 to Noon

DRN is recruiting dedicated volunteers who can assist with bacteria testing in May and June. The data collected will be used to determine if streams are meeting swimming standards. Volunteers will be expected to sample at least two stations for this project. For more information and the names of streams to be sampled, contact faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

Delaware RIVERKEEPER® Network

The Voice of the River and its Tributary Streams

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DRN's Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2nd, 2009

8:00 am to 12:00 Noon

*Golden Nugget Antique Market
on Route 29 (River Road)*

2 miles south of Lambertville, New Jersey

DRN's Native Plant Sale offers a wide selection of beautiful plants, ferns, grasses, shrubs and trees, all gathered from regional nurseries. Our plant experts and stream restoration staff will be on hand with a wealth of information on choosing, planting and growing native species. So whether you are a first time customer or an avid gardener, you'll be able to find out design, cultivation, and care techniques.

Our sale, celebrating its 10th year, is known for offering top quality plants native to this region at affordable prices. This year, we have successfully located several special native plants that we haven't been able to find before, broadening the variety of species that will be offered. A catalog listing the types of plants you can anticipate seeing at this year's sale is now available online at www.delawariverkeeper.org. In addition to recognizing the sponsoring organizations that help make the sale possible, our catalog provides information about the benefits of native plants, guidance on care and planting, and much more.

We also use the sale to promote the benefits of native landscaping for our gardens and our communities. At the sale, we educate gardeners about how native plants maintain biodiversity, provide habitat and food for native animals, and help protect streams and slow stormwater runoff. All sale proceeds benefit our work for the River.

For more information, please call Tim at 215-369-1188, ext 116.



Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum greets patrons of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's 2008 Native Plant Sale.

Photo: S. Blankinship