



estuary news

Newsletter of the Delaware Estuary Program

Volume 9 / Issue 3
Spring 1999

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

by Jonathan Sharp, Ph.D.

After two years as Director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Bud Watson has moved on to new challenges. As of December 1998, Kathy Klein accepted the position of Acting Executive Director. We appreciate Bud's efforts, which helped launch the Partnership and guide it during its early stage. We look forward to dynamic new leadership from Kathy as we move from our development stage to an active and exciting new phase of the Delaware Estuary Program.

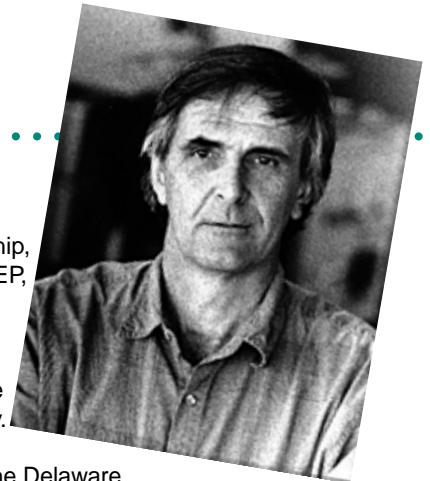
Many of our readers are familiar with Kathy through her role as Program Director for the Partnership. Prior to joining the Partnership, she spent four years as the Director of Development for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. In total, Kathy brings with her more than 15 years of developing and implementing environmental education programs.

I am pleased to report that there are also exciting changes in other parts of the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP). Last Fall, the Steering Committee for the Delaware Estuary Program established the Estuary Implementation Committee (EIC), which has representation from the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, Regions II & III of the EPA, the Partnership, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the Chairs of all of the DELEP Implementation Committees. This Committee is crucial in spanning the gap between numerous individual implementation activities and the Steering Committee that makes policy decisions and commitments from the federal and three states' governments.

One of the first acts of the EIC was the decision to hire a full time Program Coordinator. After an extensive search, the EIC selected Ms. Forsyth Kineon (see page 2). Forsyth, most recently with the NJ DEP, is now located at the Delaware River Basin Commission. She will have the responsibility to coordinate the efforts of the various state and federal programs with those of the various implementation teams for more effective and more efficient impact.

When the Management Plan for the DELEP was signed in 1996, the intent was that EPA headquarters in Washington, DC would provide financial support during the first two years of implementation and then leave the effort to local parties. Through re-evaluation, EPA headquarters is now committed to continuing financial support for the 28 National Estuary Programs, including DELEP. In addition, non-profit Association of National Estuary Programs, a non-profit organization, was recently established with the purpose of increasing interaction among the 28 programs and lobbying Congress for continuing and expanded support. Thus,

changes in the Partnership, the structure of the DELEP, and the commitment of EPA headquarters' all bode well for a more exciting and active future for the Delaware Estuary.



Current Partnership for the Delaware Estuary projects, and new ones soon to be initiated, will require additional staff support which we hope to have on board within the next few months. The successful Estuary Education Institute will be continued in the Summer of 1999 (see page 10) and an expanded year-round education network is in the process of being developed. The successful minigrant program also continues in 1999 (see page 3). *Estuary News* was expanded to twelve pages in late 1998 and we hope to be able to include even more material in future issues. Efforts are proposed for urban stormdrain stenciling projects in both the Philadelphia area and in Southern New Jersey. Also, funding is being sought for development assistance so that a much larger public outreach initiative can be achieved.

While the twenty thousand subscribers of this newsletter are aware of and interested in the Delaware River and Bay watershed, they are not necessarily aware of the diverse assets of the estuary, of the recent improvements in urban water quality, of continuing problems with contaminants and habitat loss and alteration, and with the challenges we face to maintain sustained multiple uses of the estuary for future generations. During the next several years, we will focus our activities to increase the size of our constituency. A step in this direction is the creation of the Partnership's own website. Please "check us out" at www.udel.edu/PDE.

In closing, I announce another change in the Partnership. At the May 1999 Board of Directors meeting, Jonathan Rinde of the law firm Manko, Gold and Katcher and I will exchange places; he will take the reins as Chair and I will become Vice Chair. As was our original intent, the leadership of the Partnership should change fairly frequently. We are fortunate to have the interest and enthusiasm of Jonathan Rinde as he becomes the organization's second Chairman.

*Jonathan H. Sharp
University of Delaware*

UPDATES FROM THE DELEP IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

DELEP WELCOMES FORSYTH P. KINEON AS its NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Forsyth P. Kineon, the Delaware Estuary Program's (DELEP) new Program Coordinator, brings a 10 year background in marine and estuarine environmental management to the Program. Coming directly from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Division, Forsyth worked with stakeholder groups to characterize the watersheds in New Jersey, assess the pollutant loads, and formulate a management plan to reduce the point source and non-point source pollution to the water bodies through education and cooperation with industry.

Prior to her career with NJ DEP, Forsyth worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for 8 years in Washington, DC and in Washington State. While at NOAA, she was involved in many subject areas ranging from coastal zone and estuarine management, ocean management and fisheries management, global warming, marine mammal interactions with anthropogenic sound, natural resource damage assessment and habitat restoration, and writing regulations involving best management practices for non-point source pollution.

Forsyth has an undergraduate degree from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, including a summer semester in Woods Hole, Massachusetts in marine biology, oceanography and marine policy. She also has a graduate degree from the University of Washington in Marine Environmental Management.

Forsyth's vision for the Delaware Estuary is a geographic area where there are people working together towards a goal of cleaner water and more wetlands and habitat for animals, birds and fish, thereby increasing their populations and attaining a fishable and swimmable river. In her new position as Program Coordinator for DELEP, she will facilitate coordination of implementation activities within the estuary through talking with the entities involved and providing direction through their input. She would like to see more public recognition of and involvement in the program as well as increased progress in the restoration and preservation of the estuary and the watershed. This can be done through continued and increased cooperation among all the partners of the program, taking advantage of more funding opportunities, conducting and then acting upon results of studies on the pollutant loads into the Delaware, increased interaction with corporations in the watershed, and increased public support. She looks forward to learning more about the program and the diverse stakeholders involved in the estuary system and to the challenges she faces in coordinating and helping to improve a program already in its implementation phase.



HABITAT AND LIVING RESOURCES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (HLRIT)

In January, the Corporate Environmental Stewardship Program (CESP) completed two workshops entitled, "Wildlife Habitat and Wetland Management on Private/Corporate Property." One workshop was held at the DuPont Chestnut Run Plaza in Wilmington, Delaware and the other at the Philadelphia Bar Association's Conference Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Each workshop had more than 50 participants and was well received. The workshops focused on how companies managing their property for wetlands conservation and wildlife habitat can increase employee satisfaction and morale; generate favorable and measurable impacts on their company's bottom line by saving land management direct cost and indirect expenses; realize tax savings through conservation easements; create environmental assets; and build bridges of trust between the company and its neighboring local communities and customers.

The CESP is promoting demonstration projects on corporate lands or demonstration projects in communities which corporations and industry can sponsor. These projects can be any size from large wetland restorations to small butterfly gardens. The projects will showcase what corporations can do to improve the health of the estuary while benefiting from the project at the same time. The CESP can coordinate technical assistance for planning and design of the projects and provide some small incentive financial assistance.

The project partners are currently evaluating five sites being proposed by corporations. Construction on one or more of these is expected to begin by this fall. The CESP is also offering to provide on-site corporate briefings on its program for upper management. Companies interested in doing a demonstration project or in a corporate briefing should contact one of the partners listed below.

The CESP is a three-year program within the Delaware Estuary Program designed to promote and initiate corporate participation in the restoration, enhancement, and/or conservation of wetlands and associated wildlife, native plant habitats, and corridors on their lands. The CESP also encourages joint projects between the private and public sectors on land that is not necessarily corporate owned. The Delaware Estuary Program would like to form alliances with corporations to promote a sustainable ecological and economic future for the estuary.

For more information, please contact one of the CESP partners, which include:

Wendell Scheib, Wetlands and Natural Habitat Coordinator,
Delaware Estuary Program
Phone: (610) 793-3698; Fax: (610) 793-7530;
E-mail: wscheib@bellatlantic.net

Kathy Klein, Acting Executive Director, Partnership
for the Delaware Estuary, Inc.
Phone: (302) 793-1701, 1-800-445-4935;
Fax: (302) 793-1666; E-mail: partners@udel.edu

Laura Glenn, Wildlife Habitat Council, Silver Spring, MD
Phone: (301) 588-8994; Fax: (301) 588-4629;
E-mail: Lglenn@wildlifehc.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (PPIT)

The PPIT and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary are pleased to announce that ten of the twenty-five minigrant proposals that were submitted in January 1999 have been selected for funding. We appreciate all of the hard work that went into preparing the proposals and were very impressed by the quality and breadth of the projects that were reviewed.

The projects that were funded are:

- 1. City Parks Association Regional Parks Institute, Philadelphia, PA**
A two-day symposium to explore the relationships between parks and water management issues.
- 2. Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife, Smyrna, DE**
The Water Beetle World Project will work with high school students to monitor wetlands using beetle communities as indicators.
- 3. Delaware RiverKeeper Network, Washington's Crossing, PA**
The RiverKeeper will strengthen its volunteer monitoring program and will expand its efforts in the estuary.
- 4. The Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds, Glassboro, NJ**
Minigrant funding will enable this organization to complete an educational video, which depicts the county's natural resources and promotes citizen involvement in their protection.
- 5. Gilbert Spruance Elementary School, Philadelphia, PA**
This school will research the environmental and ecological problems affecting the Delaware Estuary and will post their findings on a Web page.
- 6. Manayunk Development Corporation, Philadelphia, PA**
A self-guided walking tour guidebook of the Manayunk Canal for families will be created. It will focus on the area's water-use history and its diverse natural resources.
- 7. New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route, Newport, NJ**
Small-scale species identification wayside exhibits will be created to mark nature trails along the Heritage Trail throughout the Bayshore Region of New Jersey.
- 8. New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program, Cape May Court House, NJ**
Working with the Teitelman School, the Sea Grant Extension Program will develop a hands-on oyster enhancement project and supporting curriculum.
- 9. Swarthmore Borough Environmental Advisory Council, Swarthmore, PA**
A series of programs will be designed to increase public awareness of the role that the Little Crum Creek plays in the local ecosystem. Programs will include a walking tour, a cleanup, and a streambank restoration demonstration project.
- 10. Vare Middle School, Philadelphia, PA**
Middle school students will study their impact on the Delaware Estuary and how it affects their lives. Students will also stencil stormdrains and create a mural that will be painted inside the school.



To get information about the other Delaware Estuary Implementation Team's activities, please call the following people:

Local Government Resource Teams (LGRT)

In PA call Lou Guerra at (610) 832-6100, in DE call John Kennel at (302) 739-5726, and in NJ call Liz Rosenblatt at (609) 633-1349

Monitoring Implementation Team

Jonathan Sharp, University of Delaware
(302) 645-4259 or jsharp@udel.edu

Regional Information Management Service (RIMS) Implementation Team

Bruce Hargreaves, Lehigh University, (610) 758-3683
or Karl S. Heinicke, DRBC, (609) 883-9500 ext. 241
or heinicke@drbc.state.nj.us

Sustainable Summit Workgroup

Michael McAllister, NJ DEP, (609) 292-0502

The Delaware River Basin Commission also has three committees that serve in the same capacity as implementation teams:

Water Conservation Advisory Committee

Dr. Joseph Miri, New Jersey DEP, (609) 292-7219

Water Quality Advisory Committee

Ed Brezina, PA DEP, (717) 787-9637

Toxics Advisory Committee (TAC)

Richard Greene, DE DNREC, (302) 739-4590

Estuary events

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DELAWARE ESTUARY DATES AND EVENTS

Philadelphia Regional Earth Day Events

April 1999

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For information on 1999 Earth Day events in the Philadelphia region, links to other Earth Day sites, and a list of publications available for Earth Day visit EPA Region III's Public Home Page under "What's New" at www.epa.gov/region03/earthday.

FREE Volunteer Monitoring Workshop

Wednesday - Friday, April 14 - 16, 1999

Holiday Inn, 290 Highway 37E

Tom's River, New Jersey

Leaders and teachers of local volunteer or student water-quality monitoring programs and local, state, regional, and federal agencies working with water quality issues are encouraged to attend this workshop. This program is sponsored by the US EPA's Oceans and Coastal Protection Division, in partnership with the Center for Marine Conservation. Registration will be from 3-5 pm on April 14 with dinner at 5 pm. The following day, registration will be at 8 am and the workshop will be held from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm with dinner at 7 pm. On April 16, the previous day's schedule will be followed with a wrap-up at 4:30 pm. No dinner will be provided on Friday. For more information, call Ron Ohrel at (757) 496-0920 or E-mail rohrel@vacmc.org.

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

Free Nature Walks

Every Weekend

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Learn about the natural history and flora and fauna of wetland habitats. For dates and times, call (215) 365-3118.

Cooper River Restoration Project

April 14 - 21, 1999, 9 am - 4:30 pm

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Volunteer to help reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat by planting grasses and shrubs and installing biodegradable coconut fiber materials that will form a zone of deep rooting vegetation. Meet at Walworth Park. For more information, call Fred Stein, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, at (609) 854-5108.

Clean Air Council's 18th Annual 5K Run for Clean Air

Saturday, April 17, 1999, 9 am

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For information about the Run for Clean Air please call the Clean Air Council at (215) 567-4004.

8th Annual Christina River Watershed Cleanup

Saturday, April 17, 1999, 9 am - 1 pm

Christina River, Delaware

Plan to give something back to the waterways that provide us with so much enjoyment and natural beauty. Bring the kids and join other volunteers who want to help restore the health of the rivers. For more information, call (302) 834-9301.

Upstream Festival

Saturday, April 17, 1999, 10 am - 4 pm (rain or shine)

Stroud Water Research Center

Avondale, Pennsylvania

"Images of Nature" is the theme for this year's community Earth Day event, featuring a local art show and sale, stream and woodland walk, native plant sale, workshops, fly fishing demonstration, crafts, story telling, and music. For more information, call Jennifer Biondi at (610) 268-2153 x247.

Water Snapshot '99

April 16 - 25, 1999

Delaware River Basin

The Snapshot program, now in its 4th year, works to connect people to their local waters over a 10-day period through water-quality testing activities. The results are published in a well-designed final report containing all the data collected. For more information, call Robert Kausch at (609) 883-9500 x252 or E-mail bkausch@drbc.state.nj.us.

Cape May's Spring Festival

April 16 - 25, 1999

Cape May, New Jersey

This year's festival includes historic house tours, dance events, dinners and brunches, garden tours, trolley rides, the tulip and garden craft show, golf and mini-golf tournaments. For more information, call MAC (800) 275-4278 or Cape May Chamber of Commerce (609) 884-5508.

Earth Day at Fort Mott State Park

Saturday, April 24, 1999, 10 am - 4 pm

Pennsville, New Jersey

During this day of family fun and activities, the New Jersey State Park Service will provide demonstrations, displays, exhibits and mini-workshops to help you better understand and respect the environment. For more information, call Florence McNelly, Superintendent, Fort Mott State Park, at (609) 935-3218.

1999 Earth Day Celebration

Washington Lake Park

Saturday, April 24, 1999, 10 am - 4 pm

Turnersville, New Jersey

Determined to top last year's major success, the Washington Township Park Service is expanding this event to include demonstrations and seminars on related programs that support environmental awareness, conservation, and public enjoyment of the outdoors. For more information, call James McCann, Earth Day Coordinator, at (609) 589-6427.

National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America

May 2 - 5, 1999

Detroit, Michigan and Points Across America

This meeting will culminate a year-long journey to catalyze a national movement towards sustainable development with events across the country. To get involved, contact the President's Council on Sustainable Development at (202) 408-5296.

Wissahickon Creek Restoration Project

Early May 1999

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Riverkeeper Network will be planting a variety of shrubs and trees on 165 feet of private land to help control erosion. For more information, call Fred Stein, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, at (609) 854-5108.

Woolman Lake on Rancocas Creek Restoration Project

First Two Weeks in May 1999

Mount Laurel, New Jersey

This restoration project will restore 500 feet of streambank. For more information, call Fred Stein, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, at (609) 854-5108.



Meghan Wren, Executive Director, Delaware Bay Schooner Project, and friends at Bay Day celebration. Photo by Bill Buchanan.

**Upper Perkiomen Restoration Project
Mid-May 1999**

Upper Hanover Township, Pennsylvania

The Riverkeeper Network will join with Philadelphia Suburban Water Company and The Patrick Center to restore 500 feet of streambank near the Church Road flyfishing area. This is a project you won't want to miss! For more information, call Fred Stein, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, at (609) 854-5108.

**World Series of Birding
Saturday, May 15, 1999**

Cape May Point, New Jersey

Everybody Wins! Nobody Loses! This event has brought attention to New Jersey's avian wealth and has raised millions of dollars for a host of conservation organizations. To learn how to participate or to become a team sponsor, call the Cape May Bird Observatory at (609) 884-2736.

**National EPA, State, Tribal and Local Wetlands
Program Symposium**

May 18 - 20, 1999 with Workshops on May 17, 1999

**Regal Harvest House Hotel
Boulder, Colorado**

The theme for this symposium is "Effective Partnerships for Wetlands Protection, Management and Restoration." Focus will be on community education and outreach, wetlands and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and wetland water-quality standards. For more information, call (765) 494-9555.

**Cape May Bird Observatory Spring Weekend
May 21 - 23, 1999**

Cape May, New Jersey

Explore the natural treasures with expert leaders for 3 days of birding (over 200 species), butterfly watching, and boat trips. Savor the horseshoe crab and shorebird phenomenon along the Delaware Bayshore. For more information, call (609) 884-2736 or 861-0700.

**Bartram 300 Living History Festival
May 22 - 23, 1999**

**Historic Bartram's Garden
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

This two day festival will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Bartram, America's first botanist, and will take place at Bartram's 44-acre homestead on the banks of the Schuylkill River. The festival will feature tours of the Bartram House and gardens, musical and dance performances, children's events and exhibits, and tours of the Kalmar Nyckel, Delaware's tall ship. For more information, call (215) 729-5281 or check out the Bartram 300 Celebration page at www.libertynet.org/~bartram.

**Delaware Bay Day
Saturday, June 5, 1999, 11 am - 11 pm
Port Norris, New Jersey**

This year's Delaware Bay Schooner Project's festival, held along the recently designated "Wild & Scenic" Maurice River, will include street and boat parades, environmental and educational activities for children and adults, food, music, hands-on exhibits and displays, contests, river tours and evening fireworks. Highlights of the day will include blue crab races, an oyster shucking contest, traditional crafts and demonstrations, and local seafood. For more information, call (609) 785-2060.

**Schuylkill River Sojourn
June 5 - 11, 1999**

Launch at Schuylkill Haven Park, Pennsylvania

Promoting river awareness through education, music, and entertainment, this week-long sojourn will travel 106 miles from Schuylkill Haven Park to Philadelphia, PA. For more information, call Kelly Koch, DCNR Rivers Programs, at (717) 787-2316.

**"Keep America Growing"
Urban Sprawl Conference
June 6 - 9, 1999**

**Adams Mark Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

A few of the issues that will be addressed at this conference include (1) what contributes to sprawl?; (2) can we have growth and development without destroying working lands?; and (3) what is sustainable, responsible development? For more information, call Karl Otte, Conference Coordinator, at (703) 440-8611 or E-mail kotte@gateway.net. Information may also be accessed at www.nrsc.usda.gov or www.farmland.org/kag.html. To obtain a copy of the program, write to The American Farmland Trust - "Keep America Growing", Champlain Mill #36, One Main Street, Winooski, Vermont 05404.

**Interstate Initiatives for Clean Water in the Christiana Basin
June 17, 1999**

**Ashland Nature Center
Hockessin, Delaware**

This day-long conference will help interested individuals learn about how they can play a role in the development of the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Christiana River Basin. For more information, call Eileen Butler at (302) 239-2334 ext.32.

**International Trails and Greenways Conference
June 23 - 26, 1999**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

For information, contact William Sharp, National Park Service, at (215) 597-1655, E-mail William_Sharp@nps.gov for more information.

**15th Biennial International Conference
Estuarine Research Federation '99**

**Where THE River Meets the Sea
September 25 - 30, 1999**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Scientists and managers from around the world will meet in the Crescent City for technical presentations, discussions of new issues, and workshops concerning all aspects of estuaries. The pre-registration deadline is August 1, 1999. For more information, contact ERF on the web at www.erf.org or by phone (410) 586-0997.

**Wetlands Regulatory Workshop, CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
November 2 - 5, 1999**

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Scientists, managers, regulators and consultants will meet to discuss the use and protection of wetland ecosystems. In addition, the workshop will serve to increase dialogue and foster partnerships between federal, state, and local regulatory agencies as well as the regulated community. For more information, call Ralph Spagnolo at (215) 814-2718, E-mail spagnolo.ralph@epamail.epa.gov or visit <http://www.epa.gov/region03/hydricsoils/>.

Making Waves

“FLOWING TOWARD THE FUTURE” — 21st Century Decisions for the Delaware River and its Watersheds

by Kathy Klein, Acting Executive Director,
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

For the past year, more than 12 state, federal, and regional non-profit organizations have been meeting to plan an initiative that would address Action L1 which is under the Land Use Sustainable Development section of the Delaware Estuary Program's Management Plan. This Action's goal is to “Develop a Comprehensive Environmental Policy for the Delaware Estuary.”

In order to establish a vision for sustaining the Delaware Watershed for the next century, the Delaware River Basin Commission has taken the lead on coordinating a series of five regional workshops that will take place during April and early May. The goal of these workshops is to develop directions and actions which will be presented to the Governors from the four states in the Delaware River Watershed—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The Governor's Summit, the event at which the workshop findings will be presented, is scheduled to take place this fall. To follow-up on the Summit, a basin-wide Conference will be held one month later.

To encourage participation in the workshops, each one will be held twice at the same location—the afternoon sessions will take place from 1-4:30 p.m., and the evening sessions will take place from 6-9:30 p.m. The workshops are free and refreshments will be served. Once participants are welcomed and provided with an overview of the program's objectives, they will break out into the following four interest groups:

Preservation and Advocacy including land trusts; greenways; watershed associations; advocacy groups; grant-making foundations; historical preservation groups; environmental educators; community development organizations; interested citizens; and others.

Commerce and Utilities including agriculture; builders, developers, and realtors; port and economic development; labor; engineering and business consultants; water supply purveyors; wastewater dischargers; transportation; banks and other financial institutions; environmental consultants; and others.

Recreation Providers and Users (non-government) including equipment retailers; skiers; liveries; marinas; guide services; campgrounds and lodging; anglers; hunters; birders; hikers; bikers; campers; outfitters; outdoor people; and others.

Government including local, state, county, regional, and federal agencies; elected officials; and educational institutions.

Look forward to updates on the “Flowing Toward the Future Initiative” in the Summer and Fall issue of Estuary News. If you would like a free copy of the Delaware Estuary Program's Management Plan, please call the Partnership at 1-800-445-4935.

If you are interested in attending one of the workshops on the dates listed or would like more information, please call, toll-free, (877) 675-8147.

Dover, DE
Monday, April 19, 1999
Sheraton Dover Hotel
R.S.V.P. Deadline April 6

Narrowsburg, NY
Wednesday, May 5, 1999
Tusten Town Hall
R.S.V.P. Deadline April 26

Philadelphia, PA
Monday, April 26, 1999
Cohanzick Country Club, Fairton
R.S.V.P. Deadline April 12

Bethlehem, PA
Thursday, May 6, 1999
Iacocca Hall, Mountain Top Campus
R.S.V.P. Deadline April 26

“Sacred Places” — A Powerful Visioning/ Planning Tool for Localities

by Bill Painter, EPA Office of
Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities (OSEC)

In the course of reading numerous “community sustainability,” “watershed protection,” or “ecosystem management” plans, one is struck by how frequently the message of a strong “pride of place” emerges from the pages of these documents. Again and again, when a wide variety of stakeholders who share an interest in a particular locale come together to address the future, common ground is found regarding wanting to protect what is special and unique about a particular part of the landscape—rare ecosystems, historic sites, community gathering places, outstanding architecture, etc. One innovative and effective tool for helping stakeholders identify what they hold as special about “their place” is the Sacred Places identification process. Though some readers of Community-based Environmental Protection (CBEP) News Online may flinch initially at the use of the term “sacred,” fearing it may be linked too closely to certain types of organized religion to suit their tastes, in fact this methodology uses the term to mean “worthy of respect”—one of the definitions offered by Webster's dictionary.

The Sacred Places methodology was developed two decades ago by Randy Hester, a faculty member at the North Carolina State University School of Landscape Design. He was working with the town of Manteo, NC on an economic revitalization plan. In discussions with townfolk in this coastal community, Hester came to realize that though they were eager to obtain new employment opportunities, there were also things about the community that they wanted to retain. One of the most surprising to Hester, was a “funky” coffee shop that had served for years as an informal local gathering spot. From this experience, Hester realized that for every part of the world, there are spots/features that people “hold sacred,” and want to preserve at virtually any cost. Consequently, he developed a methodology aimed at helping local stakeholders identify those cherished parts of their natural, cultural, and social landscape.

Hester has been joined by others in efforts to make this planning tool available. Notably, the Alliance for Community Education, headed by Anne Pearson, and based in Annapolis, MD. In the last couple of years, the Alliance has brought the Sacred Places methodology to bear in three communities in the Chesapeake Bay basin.

For more information about Sacred Places planning and possibilities for bringing this approach to communities in your “neck of the woods”, contact Anne Pearson, Alliance for Community Education, at (410) 956-1002, fax (410) 956-0993, or aplace@toad.net.

estuary excursions

INTRODUCING HANDS LANDING PRESERVE

by Christine A. Bosco, Community Outreach Assistant
The Nature Conservancy, Delaware Bayshores Office

The Nature Conservancy's Hands Landing Preserve, located in Cape May County, covers 112 acres, and includes a variety of habitats. The Nature Conservancy purchased this land because its habitat provides disturbance-free resting and feeding areas required by migratory shorebirds. This land also is a protected spawning site for horseshoe crabs. But the Hands Landing Preserve protects more than shorebirds and horseshoe crabs; it also protects vernal ponds that provide habitat for endangered amphibians and forested areas for resting and feeding migratory songbirds. The purchase of the Hands Landing Preserve was very important for a variety of reasons all of which help us protect the biodiversity unique to the Delaware Bay region.

The trail at Hands Landing, total length 2 miles, will take you through a variety of habitats. At the head of the trail is a quiet red cedar grove (*Juniperus virginiana*). After passing through this grove, you find yourself in a mixed-oak forest. The next stop along the trail is at vernal ponds. The ponds are home to rare amphib-

ians and reptiles. From the vernal ponds, continue on to a pine then a sweet gum successional forest. Within this habitat, there are crane fly orchids (*Tipularia discolor*) and a wide variety of mushrooms including witches' butter, hen-of-the-woods, and deadly angel. Before reaching the bay beach, you will pass through a marsh-estuary environment. *Spartina cynosuroides*, food for the rare skipper butterfly (*Problema bulenta*) is found here.

The trail ends as you come to the long-awaited view of the Delaware Bay. You will be standing at the beach after walking approximately one mile. If it is shorebird season you will see thousands of shorebirds resting and feeding here in an attempt to fatten up before their long migration. You may also see horseshoe crabs spawning here providing food for the shorebirds. And now it is time to turn back.

For more information on visiting the preserve, call The Nature Conservancy's Delaware Bayshores Office at (609) 861-0600.

Species Specific

SWAMP PINK

SOURCE: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*) is characterized by a bright pink flower cluster that blooms in early spring. It is a member of the lily family. Its closest relatives include a species in Japan and the bog asphodel, another rare plant found in New Jersey.

How would you recognize swamp pink? In April or early May, its stem is topped by a cluster of pink flowers dotted with pale blue anthers. Another clue is its smooth, lance-shaped leaves that are 3 to 10 inches long. These leaves lie flat on the ground in a basal rosette. During the winter months, they remain evergreen when the leaves of most other plants have turned brown.

Swamp pink is more often found in clumps than as an individual plant. Some large populations have numbers of plants estimated in the thousands with densities up to 50 plants per square yard.

As the name implies, swamp pink is a wetland plant. Since the species cannot survive in open sun, the plant is limited to shady forested wetland areas. Because of the loss of forested wetland habitat due to clearing, draining, and filling, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated swamp pink as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in September 1988.

Some biologists suspect that healthy-looking swamp pink populations are really declining due to the impact of upland development surrounding them. It is believed that adult plants can survive poor conditions for several years, but long-term survival is dependent on the availability of high-quality, undisturbed habitat. Even adjacent

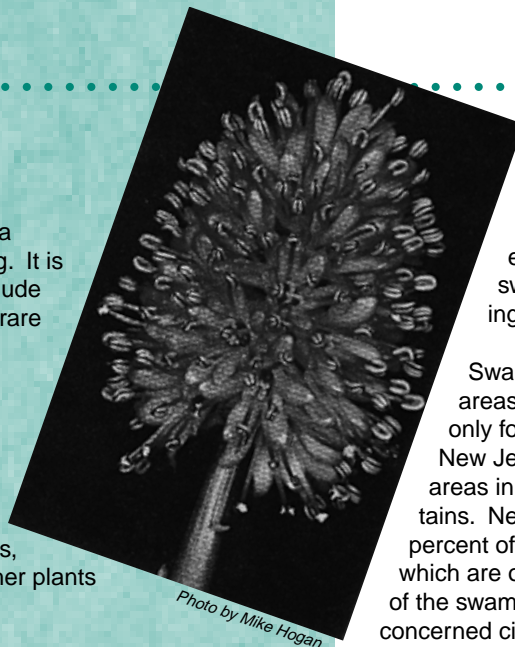


Photo by Mike Hogan

disturbances in upland areas create changes in water quality and water supply to wetlands that eventually eliminate the sensitive swamp pink without directly destroying the wetland.

Swamp pink used to be found in wetland areas from New York to Georgia; now it is only found along the coastal plain from New Jersey to Virginia and in isolated areas in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. New Jersey contains more than 70 percent of the known sites, the majority of which are on private land. The future existence of the swamp pink will rely on informed and concerned citizens providing protection for the plant and its forested wetland habitat.

Often hidden
from the amateur eye
in dense thickets of wetland vegetation,
this harbinger of spring is
a delight to discover
for those who are willing to tread
into the secluded, shaded, and oftentimes wet
landscape the plant inhabits.

Source: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

TIDINGS: News from around the region

EPA Releases Report on the Condition of Mid-Atlantic Estuaries

On November 30, 1998 EPA released a report combining scientific research on the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Estuary and the Delmarva (Delaware-Maryland-Virginia) coastal bays. This report is the first in a series of planned reports on the Mid-Atlantic region produced by the Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment (MAI), a joint effort of EPA's Region III and the Office of Research and Development (ORD). Access www.epa.gov/emap/html/docs.html for more information.

Center for Watershed Stewardship Begun at Penn State

The Center for Watershed Stewardship is a new initiative at Penn State being supported through a partnership with the Howard Heinz Endowments based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Center provides an interdisciplinary graduate level curriculum in watershed stewardship through a collaborative effort between the Department of Landscape Architecture and the School of Forest Resources. For further information, contact Kerry Wedel at (814) 865-3334 or klw14@psu.edu or visit the web-site at www.larch.psu.edu/watershedstewardship.html.

Schuylkill River Watershed Initiative Announces Mini-grant Program

Two of the Schuylkill River Watershed Initiative partners have mini-grant programs that do not require matching funds. The Chester County Parks and Recreation Department administers a small grants program for private and public trail and riparian projects for the County's Schuylkill River communities. Contact Bob Folwell at (610) 344-6415 for more information.

A second mini-grants program is administered by The Conservation Fund. The Schuylkill River Watershed Initiative Conservation Grants Program, sponsored by The William Penn Foundation, makes available grants ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 to non-profit organizations and public agencies throughout the watershed. Grants can be used: (1) to stimulate the planning, design and implementation of greenways or open space corridors; (2) to develop and implement local watershed conservation plans for water quality, open space and recreation; or (3) to acquire or develop organizational communication capacity via the internet or other progressive media, such as digital photography. All projects must take place within the Schuylkill River watershed and applications must be postmarked no later than April 16, 1999. Grant notifications will be made by mid-May. Contact Elizabeth Kitchel at (215) 563-7860 or emkitchel@msn.com for an application or for more information.

The Conservation Fund's Revolving Loan Fund

The Conservation Fund administers a revolving low interest rate loan fund for conservation land acquisition in eastern Pennsylvania. Last year, a \$200,000 loan was made to the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, which used the money in combination with other public and non-profit support, to acquire a 58-acre preserve. Priority is given to projects within the Schuylkill River watershed; however, projects are actively being sought. For more information about the revolving loan fund, contact Elizabeth Kitchel at (215) 563-7860 or emkitchel@msn.com.

BetterAmerica Bonds

The Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed a total of \$700 million in tax credits over five years for Better America Bonds. This funding will enable state and local governments to issue \$9.5 billion in bond authority over 5 years. Communities will have access to zero-interest financing because investors who buy these fifteen-year bonds will receive tax credits in lieu of interest. To help communities reconnect with their land and water, preserve green space for future generations, and provide attractive settings for economic development, Better America Bonds can be used to preserve open space, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields. A fact sheet providing more information about this new initiative is available on the web at www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/fy2000.htm.

**Check out
these websites
to Learn
more about
the Delaware estuary:**

**www.del.ep.org
www.udel.edu/pde**

Horseshoe Crab Lottery

Twenty-six applicants entered the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife lottery hoping to win one of five 1999 horseshoe dredging permits. Only those who have vessels licensed to transplant oysters from natural oyster beds are eligible. Restrictions on horseshoe crab dredging were initiated by the state in 1991 to manage and conserve declining horseshoe crab populations. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's horseshoe crab fishery management plan was approved in October 1998. It calls for Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey to keep restrictions in place at least through 1999.

EPA Community-Based Environmental Protection (CBEP) Newsletter

This newsletter can be obtained through the Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities (OSEC) Fax-on-Demand System at (202) 260-5339. Documents requested through the Fax-on-Demand can be received either by fax or by mail. The back issues of CBEP News Online, and its predecessor OSEC On-Line Newsletter, can be read or down loaded from OSEC's home page at <http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity>.

CBEP, sometimes known as place-based or the ecosystem approach, integrates environmental management with human needs, considers long-term ecosystem health, and highlights the positive correlations between economic prosperity and environmental well-being. This involves identifying environmental problems, setting priorities, and forging solutions through an open, inclusive process driven by places and the people who care about them. In this approach, a community or place is a geographic area defined by an environmental issue or issues, the interested and affected people, and the natural landscape around which the issue is developed.

Adopting the CBEP approach means changing how we do business at EPA, with an increased focus on places and the environmental issues encountered in those places. Because we cannot be directly involved in every community, we need to focus our resources on building the capacity of others. Our goal with the CBEP approach is to help communities achieve tangible and sustainable environmental results through collaborative, innovative efforts.

EPA Releases Directory of Volunteer Monitoring Programs

EPA recently released the fifth edition of the National Directory of Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Programs. For a copy, contact EPA's National Center for Environmental Publications and Information at (800) 490-9198. Be sure to include the publication number, EPA 841-B-98-009, in your order. The Directory is also available on EPA's volunteer monitoring web-site at www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/vol.html.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is up on the World Wide Web

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is now up on the World Wide Web. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works voluntarily with private landowners providing them with financial and technical assistance to restore all types of degraded wildlife habitat (including wetlands) on their property. The direct access address is <http://www.fws.gov/r9dhcpfw/> but can also be accessed through the Fish and Wildlife Service's main web-site (or its list of links organized by office) at <http://www.fws.gov/>. The web-site includes an overview of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Regional and State contact information, links to Regional Partners information, a list of frequently asked questions, and a page with details on numerous award winning projects. For more information, call Don MacLean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (703) 358-2201 or e-mail don_maclean@mail.fws.gov.

National Wetlands Symposium

For information about this symposium, access <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/National.html> or <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/announce.htm>. If you are interested in conferences and workshops for the year, <http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/calendar.htm#cal36> is recommended. Contact Wendell Scheib at wscheib@bellatlantic.net if you have questions.

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Teachers Page

INSTITUTES AND CONFERENCES

1999 Delaware Estuary Teacher Education Institute
A week-long residential summer program
for K-12 public and private school classroom teachers
July 19 - 23, 1999

Is your school in a county within the Delaware Estuary?
If so, you have the opportunity to explore and experience its geographic, scientific, economic, cultural, and historic resources.

Housed at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ, and the Biden Center in Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes, DE, participants will benefit from professional instruction in content and themes of estuary education; timely and teacher-tested educational materials from private and public agencies and educational institutions; exciting field trips in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania and more. Accommodations and meals are free. A stipend of \$250 will be awarded upon successful completion of the Institute's requirements.

The Institute is sponsored by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. For more information, call Kathy Klein, Acting Executive Director, at (302) 793-1701 for requirements and application form.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1999.



RECOMMENDED FIELD EXPERIENCES

NatureLink

NatureLink is geared primarily for families who would like to experience the outdoors with their children but who may lack the knowledge, skill, equipment or self-confidence to venture out on their own. NatureLink's game plan is to put these families and volunteer mentors who love and respect the outdoors together in a natural setting where they can interact, have fun and share a concern for the environment. For information, call the Delaware Nature Society at (302) 239-2334 x14 or check the Internet at webpage @dnsashland.org.

Canoe the St. Jones River
Saturday, May 8, 1999, 9 am - 11 am
Dover, Delaware

Enjoy a leisurely trip on the St. Jones River to view the wildlife and beautiful scenery with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR). This is a free event, but bring a snack and beverage for a short break halfway through the trip. DNERR organizers recommend that you have some canoeing experience and that you wear old, closed-toe shoes. Transportation will be provided at the end of the program. Meet at Lebanon Landing in downtown Dover. For more information and registration, call (302) 739-4413 from 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

Otter Trawling the St. Jones River
Sunday, May 16, 1999, 11 am
Magnolia, Delaware

Hop aboard the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve's (DNERR) 24-foot Carolina Skiff research and education vessel to collect, study, and release fish and other St. Jones River inhabitants using an otter trawl. Wear closed-toe shoes for this free field trip. Meet at Scotton Landing in Magnolia, DE. For more information and registration, call (302) 739-4413 from 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

The Shorebird/Horseshoe Crab Connection #5087B
Teachers 3-12
Saturday, May 15, 1999, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Aquatic Resources Education Center,
Hay Point Landing Road
Smyrna, Delaware

Witness vast numbers of migratory shorebirds feeding on millions of horseshoe crab eggs and learn why this natural phenomenon in the Delaware Estuary has international significance. Travel short distances by van to the best sites, discuss efforts to protect the estuary biodiversity and habitat, find out how to involve your class in a tagging/survey project and take home related activities and lesson plans. Bring a bag lunch and extra shoes for wading. Call the Delaware Teachers Center at 1-800-282-8770 to register before May 3, 1999.

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

WEB-SITES

The Bridge (<http://www.vims.edu/bridge/data.html>).

Pointers on how to use real-time data in your classrooms and how to make it interesting for your students. Features an activity on a regular basis which is related to a current event in marine science.

Journey North (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth>)

185,000 students are tracking spring's journey across the Northern Hemisphere and you're invited to join them. Journey North is a free online educational service supported by the Annenberg CPB Math and Science Project.

National PTA (<http://pta.org/ew>)

Schools, families and PTAs can look ahead to spring and Earth Week, April 18-24, 1999, thanks to resources available on the National PTA web site. The planning site offers ideas from PTAs "Air, Land, and Water" booklet, artwork for magnets, stickers, banners, and posters that can be downloaded, a sample press release, and information from partnering organizations.

CD-ROMs

The National Audubon Society now has available an Interactive CD-ROM Guide to North American Birds, which includes color photographs of birds with calls and songs for 723 species, habitat descriptions and range maps. Life list for recording your birds featuring a color photograph of the bird next to your entry. Can be used with either Windows 3.1 or Macintosh. Available at Wild Birds Unlimited in Hockessin, Delaware.

AUDIO-VISUALS

"Protecting Our Water: Who's Got the Power?". Through the educational experience of the Delaware Nature Society and the scientific expertise of the Stroud Water Research Center, this half-hour made-for-television documentary describes the intimate relationship of the land to our waterways, how our streams and water supply are suffering as a result of changes we have made to the landscape, and what citizens can do in their communities and their own backyards to help. Copies are available from the DNS Ashland Nature Center at a cost of \$10. Middle School and High School activity guides written to supplement "Protecting Our Water ..." are also available. For more information, call Linda Stapleford, (302) 239-2334 ext. 11. If you are an educator in Delaware, you may call your nearest Learning Resource Center at (302) 831-8148 (UD), 672-1958 (Dover), or 855-1649 (Georgetown) to have these resources sent to your classroom on a loan-basis.

"Stormy Weather," produced by the Philadelphia Water Department, is a 22 minute video that provides the history of drinking water in the City of Brotherly Love and stormwater runoff pollution prevention information. This video is available for free, along with pre & post lessons, by calling the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary at 1-800-445-4935.

RESOURCE BOOKS

Discovering and Exploring New Jersey's Fishing Streams and the Delaware River. 1998 New Jersey Sportsmen's Guides. This is a guide for all seasons by some of the best-known writers and anglers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. For more information, write to New Jersey Sportsmen's Guides, P.O. Box 100, Somerdale, NJ 08083.

Top 10 Watershed Lessons Learned. EPA Office of Water, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds. EPA840-F-97-001. October 1997. For copies of this document, call the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information at 1-800-490-9198.

A Resource Guide for Oceanography and Coastal Processes.

This resource guide contains 79 "hands-on" activities developed by Elementary, Middle, and High School teachers participating in Operation Pathfinder Institutes for use in their respective pre-college classrooms. Complimentary copies may be obtained by written request to: Oceanography and Coastal Processes Resource Guide, Institute of Marine Sciences, J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium, PO Box 7000, Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000. The fax number is (228) 374-5559.

Hello Marine Educators,

Unfortunately the ship "New Carissa" has put oil spills back on the front page. But it provides us with another teachable moment, so the BRIDGE 's March 1999 "Data Tip of the Month" features websites and activity ideas to help educators design lessons on this timely topic.

You can find the BRIDGE link at <http://www.marine-ed.org/>. Click on the BRIDGE button, then click on the oil drum.

Vicki Clark,
VIMS Marine Education Specialist

Source: List serve message to Mid-Atlantic Marine Educators (MAMEAns)



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DELAWARE ESTUARY PROGRAM

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WHO IS THE PARTNERSHIP?

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc., is a private, non-profit organization established in 1996. The Partnership promotes the estuary as a regional resource through public outreach and education.

Thanks and Welcome to the Partnership's Newest Members

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary sends a sincere thank you and welcome to its newest Founding Partners that are listed below. To find out how you can become a member, call the Partnership at 1-800-445-4935, or visit our new website at www.udel.edu/PDE.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Anthony S. Bartolomeo, P.E., Pennoni Associates, Inc. - Philadelphia, PA | Donald Kirchoffer - Shamong, NJ |
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