



ESTUARY NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DELAWARE ESTUARY: A NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Earth Day Turns 40

By Jennifer Adkins, Executive Director, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FORMAT FOR ESTUARY NEWS!

You might not see the difference yet, but you will soon notice that this issue is a fraction of the size of our standard issue. That's because we've moved to a new combination of printed newsletters twice per year (winter and summer) with shorter, more frequent e-newsletters in between. This combination allows us to bring you more of the in-depth, printed issues that you love, while also getting you more timely and frequent information (on events, for example) by e-mail. So, if you like your information by e-mail in brief, immediately-digestible pieces of current information, we've got it. And if you like more in-depth articles in a printed format that you can save and share and take with you, we've got that too.

Right now is perfect timing for our first e-news issue in the new format. With Earth Day's 40th anniversary coming up, the list of fun ways to celebrate it is growing daily and we've got information on many of them here in *Estuary News*. Whether you are interested in something educational, inspirational, or just plain enjoyable, there is an Earth Day event in the Delaware Estuary Watershed for you. Happy Earth Day! ■



A fountain located in Philadelphia's Love Park spouts water that has been dyed green in honor of Earth Day.

MEETINGS CONTACT LIST

Meetings conducted by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's implementation and advisory committees occur on a regular basis and are open to the public. For meeting dates and times, please contact the individuals listed below:

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Earth Day: Past, Present & Future

By Dee Ross, Watershed Program Coordinator, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

In 1962, Sen. Gaylord Nelson was dismayed by the state of the environment. Polluted air caused fatalities in big cities, rivers inundated with oil slicks caught on fire, entire species were disappearing, and trash covered the ground. Nelson realized that the public was becoming increasingly concerned with the environment, but the issue was nowhere to be found on any political agenda.

After several unsuccessful years of trying to convince fellow politicians that there would be great public support for environmental policies, Nelson found inspiration in the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations of the late '60s. Focusing on the combination of public concern and established student energy, he set out to organize protests to force the environment into the political forefront.

At a September 1969 conference in Seattle, Nelson announced that there would be a national demonstration for the environment the following spring. The news spread, picked up by TV networks and major newspapers. Only a few short months later, Nelson, with his tiny staff of volunteers and minimally paid appointees, accomplished the seemingly impossible: the first Earth Day, which took place on April 22, 1970.

Addressing thousands that day in Washington, D.C., Nelson declared that Earth Day was a beginning, not an end in itself. He said, "If the environment is a fad, it is going to be our last fad." Over 20 million Americans participated in organized, peaceful rallies in both big cities and small towns, proving that they did in fact care about the environment, and that they expected government to do the same. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was created shortly thereafter, and the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts soon followed.



Laura Whalen (left), a restoration specialist with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, tells a festival goer how to properly care for her free native plant at Wilmington's Earth Day Celebration in April of 2009.

A public-opinion poll in May 1971 showed that 25% of Americans felt that protecting the environment was an important goal — a 2,500% increase over the same question asked in 1969! Thirty-eight years after the first Earth Day, a 2008 Pew Research Center poll showed that 56% of Americans supported making environmental protection a top priority. In 2009 that support dropped to 41% as Americans

turned their focus to the immediate needs of strengthening the economy and increasing the energy supply. This year, as Congress struggles with health-care reform and economic stimuli, let Earth Day remind us that we cannot have a robust economy and a healthy population without a sustaining environment that includes clean air and water.

After 40 years, Earth Day celebrations continue to serve as fun and friendly reminders that there is in fact plenty that we can do as individuals while we support and encourage our political leaders to do the same. The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the City of Wilmington, for example, celebrate Earth Day each year at a lunch-time festival in Rodney Square. Thousands

of participants visit eco-friendly exhibitors to learn how they can make a difference by choosing Energy Star appliances and items made of recycled materials, using longer-life, compact-flourescent light bulbs, replacing plastic shopping bags with reusable cloth totes, and reducing chemical use at home. Simple changes like these can make every day an Earth Day of sorts, preserving and protecting our life-sustaining environment and continuing the positive progress that began on April 22, 1970. ■

*Celebrate the
40th anniversary of
Earth Day
by visiting the
Wilmington Earth Day
Celebration,
organized by the
Partnership for
the Delaware Estuary,
on April 22,
from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Delaware River and Bay the Focus of Upcoming Summit

By Shaun Bailey, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

If you seek cooperation, innovation and resourcefulness, look to an estuary and you will find it.

Examples abound in the tidal Delaware River and Bay Watershed. In 1947 there was the Schuylkill River project, a huge undertaking that removed a legacy of coal-dust pollution from the waterway. Then, in 1971, a new law called the Delaware Coastal Zone Act effectively froze the number of industrial properties permitted on the First State's fragile coastline. And later, in 2005, organizations across the watershed joined together to form the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force, which brought the bay's population of eastern oysters back from the brink of total devastation.

Success stories like these are never easy. It can be difficult and time consuming to find a consensus across 13 counties in three different states, or a watershed roughly the size of Hawaii. Many do not see eye to eye on tough issues like the horseshoe-crab harvesting ban, for example. That's why the occasional roundtable is needed, to bring different stakeholders together.

"As a National Estuary Program, our role is not to litigate or take an activist's stance. Organizations already exist who are succeeding at those approaches," said Jennifer Adkins, executive director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "Instead, our job is to bring all of the sides together, to educate people and inform their decisions using sound science, and to point out the potential consequences of their actions. Perhaps the best way we do this is through the Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit."

The Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit is a four-day gathering at the Grand Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey, for environmental scientists, educators, regulators, resource managers, and corporate do-gooders seeking to share and learn about the latest environmental research in coastal Delaware, southern New Jersey, Southeast Pennsylvania and beyond. The next summit has been scheduled for January 30 to February 2, and registration will commence later this summer.

There are many things that make this event different from



Marketing Consultant, Andy Robinson, relates his expertise on raising money and engaging supporters during a challenging economy at the Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit in January of 2009.

almost every other conference of its kind. For starters, each of its 130 presentations, give or take, are limited to just 15 minutes in length. This allows attendees to gain a big-picture understanding of all the work currently taking place across the Delaware River's 6,800-square-mile tidal watershed. It is also one of the few conferences that attracts environmental decision makers from every jurisdiction; not only New Jersey, but also Delaware, Pennsylvania and beyond.

Since about 90% of Cape May residents live elsewhere during the winter, conference attendees all but take over this seaside town of roughly 4,000. This makes for a unique destination where guests have the freedom to continue their discussions, and perhaps even their negotiations, at a local restaurant, for instance, just as easily as they might inside the summit's hotel.

For the first time, the PDE will seek to include presentations by everyday watermen; for example, a crabber, longshoreman, oysterman and others. These talks will be grouped with related lectures to enhance the summit using real-world perspectives and on-the-ground observations; the sort of data that sometimes proves just as valuable as that which comes from a laboratory.

To propose a lecture or poster for the 2011 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit, please visit www.DelawareEstuary.org in late March to submit an abstract using the guidelines provided. Registration information will be posted to this website later this summer.

The Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit is a biennial event, meaning the next opportunity for attendance will not arrive until 2013.

Overnight accommodations can be reserved by calling the event's venue, the Grand Hotel, at (800) 257-8550. For additional information, please contact Elizabeth Horsey at (800) 445-4935, extension 114, or EHorsey@DelawareEstuary.org. ■

ESTUARY EVENTS

Yo! No Dumping!

Until March 12 | Philadelphia, PA

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary needs good Samaritans to protect Philadelphia's urban rivers by gluing signs onto storm drains that warn, "Yo! No Dumping! Drains to River." The deadline for registration is March 12, after which free training and materials will be provided prior to Earth Day. To learn more, please call (800) 445-4935, extension 112. Registration forms and further information can be found online at DelawareEstuary.org.



Delaware Great Green Expo

March 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wilmington, DE

Featured on ecoDelaware.com

Green your lifestyle on this, the first Saturday of spring, as you browse amongst dozens of exhibitors inside The Chase Center on the Riverfront. Visitors will be treated to demonstrations, organic foods, and speakers such as Steve Thomas, star of Discovery's Planet Green television series *Renovation Nation* and the former host of *This Old House* on PBS. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. Visit GreatGreenExpo.com for details.

Christina River Watershed Cleanup

April 10, from 8 a.m. to noon

Throughout New Castle County, DE

Volunteers are needed on April 10, from 8 a.m. to noon, to remove litter from a variety of sites near the Christina

River and its tributaries. Join the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary at the Wilmington Riverfront site near the Shipyard Shops. Participants will receive a free t-shirt displaying the winning drawing of a student art contest. To register, please visit ChristinaRiverCleanup.org or call Shirley Posey at (302) 838-1897.



Wilmington Earth Day Celebration

April 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wilmington, DE

Featured on ecoDelaware.com

Celebrate Earth Day's 40th birthday on April 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Wilmington's Rodney Square. Visitors will be welcomed with music, a free giveaway, and vendors offering advice that's good for the environment, and your wallet. This rain-or-shine festival is hosted by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary on behalf of the City of Wilmington. To learn more visit DelawareEstuary.org or call (800) 445-4935, extension 105.

Look for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary at:

Schuylkill River Congress

March 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pottstown, PA

www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org/AboutUs/Events.asp

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Creatures of Habitat

April 10-11 | Philadelphia, PA
www.PhiladelphiaZoo.org/Creatures

Washington Township Earth Day Festival

April 17 | Washington Township, NJ
www.TownshipNJ.com

Earth Day at the Philadelphia Zoo

April 22-24 | Philadelphia, PA
www.PhiladelphiaZoo.org

Ag Day 2010

April 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Newark, DE
http://Ag.UDel.edu/Events/AgDay/AgDay_2010.html

OTHER GREAT EVENTS

Beach Grass Planting

March 20, from 9 a.m. to noon
Kent and Sussex Counties, DE
www.swc.DNREC.Delaware.gov/Shoreline/Pages/BeachGrassPlanting.aspx

Red Clay Valley Cleanup

March 27 at 8 a.m. | Hockessin, DE
www.RedClayValley.org

Run for the Schooner

April 10 at 8 a.m. | Bivalve, NJ
www.AJMeerwald.org

5K Run for Clean Air and Earth Day

April 17 at 7:30 a.m. | Philadelphia, PA
www.5KRunForCleanAir.org

DSWA Earth Day Festival

April 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Felton, DE
www.DSWA.com/News_Calendar.asp

Earth Day at the Academy of Natural Sciences

April 17-18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Philadelphia, PA
www.ANSP.org

Kids Grow Expo

April 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Ambler, PA
www.PennsylvaniaHorticulturalSociety.org/Events/GrowExpo.html ■

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: a National Estuary Program

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc., (PDE) is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1996. The PDE leads collaborative and creative efforts to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary and its tributaries for current and future generations. The PDE is one of 28 National Estuary Programs. To find out how you can become one of our partners, call the PDE at (800) 445-4935 or visit our website at www.DelawareEstuary.org.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc.

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