



ESTUARY NEWS

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

Something for Everyone

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



Dr. Danielle Kreeger (left) and Jennifer Adkins (right) of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary display freshwater mussels they found living in the tidal Delaware River in July.

Credit: Kurt Cheng of the PDE

There has been a flurry of activity from spring through fall this year at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE). Whether your passion is dogs, gardening, photography, science, or enjoying and learning about our region, there is something in these pages that will interest you.

Reporting on the "State of the Estuary" this year was a major accomplishment for the PDE and the many scientists and managers whose work made it possible. But that hasn't kept us from making progress on other projects too, like:

- Piloting an experimental shell-planting project to restore oyster beds hit hard by storms
- Surveying new beds of freshwater mussels in the Delaware River
- Sharing tools and ideas to help local communities adapt to weather and water-related changes

Catch up on these, along with other recent and upcoming events, in this issue of *Estuary News*. ■

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:

Estuary Implementation Committee

Jennifer Adkins, Executive Director (Chair),
(800) 445-4935, ext. 102
jadkins@delawareestuary.org

Monitoring Advisory Committee

John Yagecic, Monitoring Coordinator,
(609) 883-9500, ext. 271
john.yagecic@drbc.state.nj.us

Toxics Advisory Committee

Dr. Thomas Fikslin, Branch Head,
(609) 883-9500, ext. 253
thomas.fikslin@drbc.state.nj.us

Fish Consumption Advisory Team

Dr. Thomas Fikslin, Branch Head,
(609) 883-9500, ext. 253
thomas.fikslin@drbc.state.nj.us

Science and Technical Advisory Committee

Dr. Danielle Kreeger, Science Director,
(800) 445-4935, ext. 104
dkreeger@delawareestuary.org

Delaware Estuary Education Network

Lisa Wool, Program Director,
(800) 445-4935, ext. 105
lwool@delawareestuary.org

Polychlorinated Biphenyls Implementation Advisory Committee

Pamela Bush, Esq., Commission Secretary
& Assistant General Counsel
(609) 883-9500, ext. 203
pamela.bush@drbc.state.nj.us

FOLLOW US ON



Celebrating Hard Work

The Experience the Estuary Celebration was held on October 11 at the Figure 8 Barn in Bellevue State Park in Wilmington, Delaware. This event highlighted the projects and programs of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE). About 300 people attended thanks to the support of over 30 sponsors. The staff of the PDE is grateful to all those who supported their work by purchasing tickets, auction items, raffle tickets and more. ■



Credit: Matt Urban of Mobius New Media



Credit: Lisa Wool of the PDE

Casting Rivers in a New Light

The PDE and Schuylkill Action Network have launched an online photo contest called the Schuylkill Shots Competition to highlight the Schuylkill River. The contest has three categories: Fun on the Schuylkill, Wild & Scenic, and Tip Top Tap. The winning photos of the contest will be displayed throughout Southeast Pennsylvania and used for education and outreach. The deadline to enter is October 30, and online voting will begin on November 15. For more information, see facebook.com/SchuylkillWaters. Sponsors include Calumet Photographic, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), and REI. ■

Connecting Families to the Waterfront

At least 2,000 to 3,000 people came to Pennsylvania Coast Day at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia on September 8. Of those who came:

- 370 people won prizes by completing the Wonders of Water Challenge
- Nearly 400 enjoyed a narrated tour of the Delaware River aboard a free ferry boat
- Almost 300 paddled Penn's Landing in a kayak or swan boat
- Over 200 took a free shuttle to the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center

The PDE hosts Pennsylvania Coast Day every September. Other sponsors include the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program, and the Philadelphia Water Department. To get involved in next year's Pennsylvania Coast Day, please contact Cheryl Jackson at (800) 445-4935, extension 112, or look for information in next summer's issue of *Estuary News*. ■



Credit: Shaun Bailey of the PDE

Staying Out of Harm's Way

The PDE hosted the Out of Harm's Way Forum on August 1 in Wilmington, Delaware. This Forum focused attention on the newest ways for local communities to prepare for climate change. It was attended by about 80 people representing nonprofit organizations, communities, corporations, and state and federal agencies in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Pictured, from left to right, are presenters Dr. Danielle Kreeger of the PDE, Dr. David Bushek of Rutgers University's Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, and Lance Butler of the Philadelphia Water Department. Discover how you can "Take Action for Weathering Change" online at <http://bit.ly/UCamkO>, or contact Sari Rothrock at SRothrock@DelawareEstuary.org. ■



Credit: Lisa Wool of the PDE

Taking a Bite Out of 'Poo-lution'

Congratulations to the winners of our 2012 Philly Water's Best Friend Spokesdog Competition: Scooter from Northern Liberties (left) and Joey Bag-o-Donuts from Queen Village (right)! You may see these two pups out at events letting their bark park buddies know that picking up dog



Credit: Shaun Bailey of the PDE

waste (and other waste) is important. This prevents it from washing into our storm drains and waterways every time it rains. A casting call for next year's competition will take place in January thanks to its annual sponsor, the Philadelphia Water Department. For more information on how you can prevent "poo-lution," visit PhillyWatersheds.org/Spokesdog. ■

Teaching the Teachers

Almost 20 teachers from Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania enjoyed a mixture of hands-on classroom and outdoor activities at our Delaware Estuary Watershed Teacher Workshop in July. Together they participated in programs at the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve of Dover; Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center of Philadelphia; PSEG Energy & Environmental Resource Center of Salem; Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education of Philadelphia; University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment of Lewes; and more. The PDE would like to thank the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, PSEG, United Water, the PWD and those above for their continued support. Look for info on next year's workshop in the spring issue of *Estuary News*, or contact Cheryl Jackson at CJackson@DelawareEstuary.org for details as they become available. ■



Credit: Cheryl Jackson of the PDE



Credit: Lisa Wool of the PDE

Searching for Nature's Water Filters

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) worked with two environmental nonprofits to carry out Volunteer Mussel Survey workshops last summer in Pennsylvania. These included the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership. Over 70 people attended two workshops, conducted creek surveys, and uploaded their findings to a new online database. This information will help the PDE determine where mussels exist, each filtering up to 20 gallons of water per day. Our partner in this endeavor was New Castle County, a member of the Corporate & Community Environmental Stewardship Program. ■



Credit: Sari Rothrock of the PDE

Restoring Storm-damaged Oyster Beds

The PDE hosted a press conference on August 14 in Bivalve, New Jersey. This was done to promote a new oyster-restoration project with Rutgers University, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and The Nature Conservancy. This event brought significant media attention to Delaware Bay oyster restoration and needs. It also showed journalists how "planted" clam shells covered with baby oysters are being moved up Delaware Bay to restore storm-damaged reefs off Salem County. ■

Planting Rain Gardens for the Bay

The PDE completed the first of three rain gardens last June in New Castle County's Glasgow Park. Funding was provided by the Delaware Clean Water Advisory Council, and volunteers like Jessica Golden (left), Carolyn Magnotti (center), and Maggie Myers (right) lent a hand. This project will help to show thousands of park visitors how rain gardens absorb runoff from nearby roads, pathways, and other unnatural surfaces. Other recent projects of the Corporate & Community Environmental Stewardship Program include a meadow planting and a stormwater-pond retrofit. ■



Credit: Laura Whalen of the PDE

Diving Deep for Research

Last summer, the PDE led a new survey of freshwater mussels in areas along the tidal Delaware River. This was done to answer some vital questions about population size and their importance for clean water. By partnering with The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University and the Philadelphia Water Department, the PDE is advancing its efforts to assess the clean-water benefits of mussels in the Delaware and restore them to other streams around the region. This work is being funded by the Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program, with significant matching aid from the Philadelphia Water Department. ■



Credit: Melanie Mills of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Assessing Our Wetlands

Field work was in full swing between June and September. Science staff monitored the health of two marsh areas in southern New Jersey using a technique called the Rapid Assessment Method. They also monitored wetland health and function at fixed stations around the estuary. Pictured to the left are Angela Padeletti (left) of the PDE and Mike Schafer (right) of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. Their work is being funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ■



Credit: Will Whalon of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Training Future Scientists

Last spring, the PDE launched a new study to assess the importance of salt marsh plants and mussels in performing two critical services: nutrient (pollutant) removal and levee building (flood control). The PDE's new Science Fellow, Josh Moody (left), will be working on this project while pursuing his Ph.D. at Drexel University. The PDE has also launched a new project to assess if ribbed mussels or Asian clams can help detect certain bacteria and viruses that are significant human-health risks. New PDE fellow and former intern, Kurt Cheng (right), will be working on this effort in pursuit of his master's degree at Drexel University. Their research is made possible by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ■



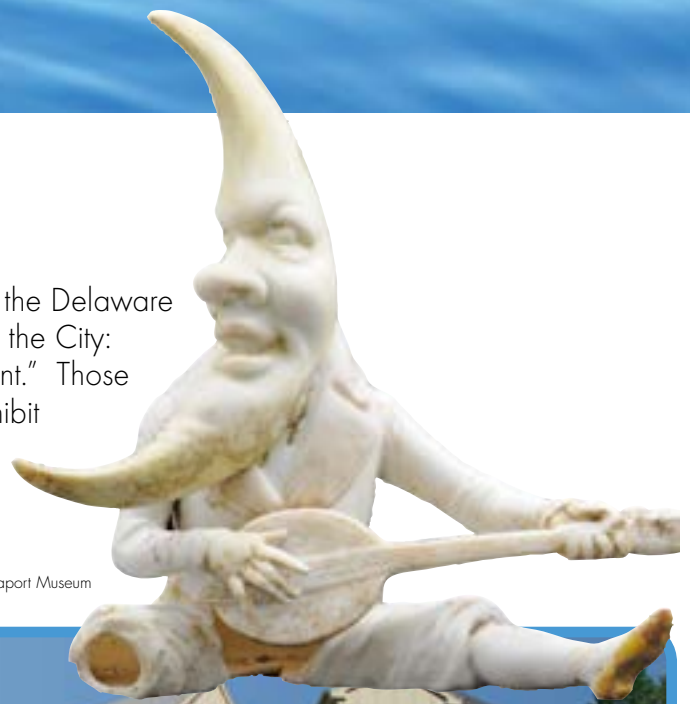
Credits: Dr. Danielle Kreeger (image left) and Angela Padeletti (image right), both of the PDE

Digging the City

Now through February 3 | Philadelphia, PA

See what archaeologists have unearthed near the banks of the Delaware River. Visit the Independence Seaport Museum for "Digging the City: Archaeological Discoveries From The Philadelphia Waterfront." Those who do can also catch "Disasters on the Delaware," an exhibit showcasing collisions, shipwrecks, and other catastrophes on the river. Visit PhillySeaport.org or call (215) 413-8655 for details. Admission costs \$10 to \$12, and it is free for museum members.

Credit: Independence Seaport Museum



Credit: Stroud Water Research Center

Tour & Talk | November 7 at 7 p.m. | Avondale, PA

The wetlands surrounding Delaware Bay were deemed to be internationally important in 1992. Discover why during this year's final installment of the Stroud Seminar Series. Those who arrive at 6:15 will have an opportunity to tour parts of Stroud Water Research Center's new Moorhead Environmental Complex. For details visit StroudCenter.org/Events or call (610) 268-2153, extension 303. This event is free and appropriate for anyone 12 years of age or older.



Credit: Roydon L. Hammond and Delaware Public Archives

Oyster Movie

November 10 at 10 a.m. | Rehoboth Beach, DE

A documentary film about Delaware's oyster industry will premiere at the Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival. *White Gold: Delaware's Oyster Industry* chronicles the rise and fall of Delaware Bay oysters, once referred to as "white gold." See what happened when diseases caused harvests to fall over 98%, from 900,000 bushels per year to just 15,000. And watch as a waterman works to restore one of the bay's last remaining wooden schooners. Tickets cost \$9 to \$10 per person. Visit <http://rbfs1.powweb.com> for information, or call (302) 645-9095.

Christina Meeting

November 15, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Wilmington, DE

Dr. Danielle Kreeger, science director at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and associate research professor at Drexel University, will talk about "Monitoring Wetlands along the Christina River to Understand a Changing Landscape." Dr. Kreeger will summarize the status and trends of coastal wetlands and discuss the importance of local marshes along the Christina at the Christina Conservancy's Annual Meeting. Coastal wetlands are a hallmark feature of the Delaware Estuary, and they are threatened by changing conditions like sea level rise. For more information, please call Lynn Williams at (302) 654-0986.

Schuylkill Meeting

November 16, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Reading, PA

Community leaders and organizers are invited to Reading Area Community College for a special meeting of the Schuylkill Action Network. Those who attend will evaluate how the organization is doing in its quest to improve the Schuylkill River's health. They will also have an opportunity to provide feedback that will help members plan for a productive year ahead. Details are available at SchuylkillWaters.org, or by calling (800) 445-4935, extension 109.

Forest Hike

November 17 at 9 a.m. | Downe Township, NJ

Now is your chance to explore Bear Swamp, one of the oldest forests left in the entire Northeast. This remote tract is located in Cumberland County near the Delaware Bay, and it is normally off limits to the public. This woodland hike is being offered by the American Littoral Society together with The Natural Lands Trust. The cost is \$10 for members of the ALS and \$20 for nonmembers. Start your journey at LittoralSociety.org, or call (856) 825-2174 to sign up – but hurry. This event fills up fast.

Credit: ForestPolicyResearch.org



Collabagala!

CHARITIES COMING TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE... AND A PARTY!

Collabagala November 17 at 7 p.m. | Wilmington, DE

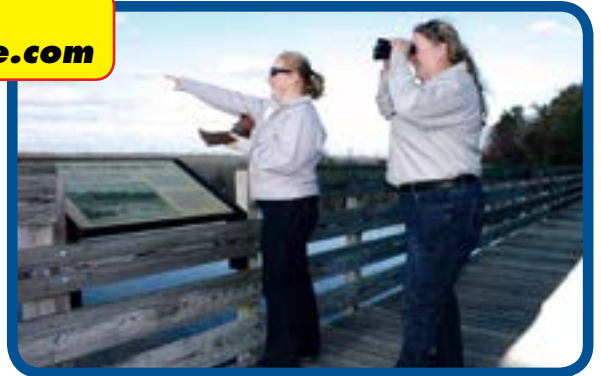
The first-annual Collabagala fundraising event will be held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. This will be hosted by several local companies to benefit 10 Delaware charities, including the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE). Tickets are available for \$125 each and admission includes gour-

met food, an open bar, live entertainment, and \$25 in chips for the Casino Royale. Please visit Collabagala.com for more information. And please be sure to designate the PDE as the benefiting charity when purchasing your tickets!

Water Quest Scavenger Hunt Ends November 20 | Throughout Delaware

**Featured on
ecoDelaware.com**

Spend some quality time exploring the First State's waterways this autumn. Take part in the Water Quest Scavenger Hunt; top prize: a cash award. (Last year's totaled \$350!) Groups of two to four people can search the state for answers to a variety of water-related clues. Prizes will be awarded based on speed, creativity, and completeness. For details please visit DEAWRA.org, the online home of the Delaware Section of the American Water Resources Association.



Credit: Delaware Section of the American Water Resources Association



Credit: Shaun Bailey of the PDE

Photo Exhibit Ends December 20 | Philadelphia, PA

After it was built, the Fairmount Water Works became the second-most popular tourist attraction in the United States, surpassed only by Niagara Falls. It even boasted the world's largest dam. See these engineering marvels anew when you visit the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC) for "A Bicentennial Portrait," a new photography exhibit by Andrea Baldeck. The FWWIC is located behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art, appropriately enough. It is free to visit during the hours listed on FairmountWaterWorks.org.

Estuary Summit January 27-30 | Cape May, NJ

Online registration is now available for the Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit, located at the Grand Hotel. This event's theme will be Weathering Change – Shifting Environments, Shifting Policies, Shifting Needs. Its program will address a wide range of current and emerging issues within the estuary. Early-bird registration is available for as low as \$100 per student and \$270 per nonstudent until December 7 (hotel room not included). For more info, please log on to DelawareEstuary.org or call (800) 445-4935, extension 105. ■



Credit: Lisa Wool of the PDE

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.

Jennifer Adkins, Executive Director
Tel: (800) 445-4935 / Fax: (302) 655-4991
E-mail: jadkins@delawareestuary.org

Environmental Protection Agency

Irene Purdy, EPA Region II
Tel: (212) 637-3794 / Fax (212) 637-3889
E-mail: purdy.irene@epa.gov

Megan Mackey, EPA Region III
Tel: (215) 814-5534 / Fax: (215) 814-2301
E-mail: mackey.megan@epa.gov

Pennsylvania

Andrew Zemba
Department of Environmental Protection
Tel: (717) 772-5633 / Fax: (717) 783-4690
E-mail: azemba@state.pa.us

Delaware

John Kennel
Department of Natural Resources and
Environmental Control
Tel: (302) 739-9255 / Fax: (302) 739-2048
E-mail: john.kennel@state.de.us

New Jersey

Jay Springer
Department of Environmental Protection
Tel: (609) 341-3122 / Fax: (609) 984-6505
E-mail: jay.springer@dep.state.nj.us

Delaware River Basin Commission

Bob Tudor
Tel: (609) 883-9500 ext. 208 / Fax (609) 883-9522
E-mail: robert.tudor@drbc.state.nj.us

Philadelphia Water Department

Stephanie Chiorean
Tel: (215) 685-4943 / Fax: (215) 685-6207
E-mail: stephanie.chiorean@phila.gov

Editor

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

Estuary News encourages reprinting of its articles in other publications. *Estuary News* is produced four times annually by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. (PDE), under an assistance agreement (CE-993985-11-1) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an open, informative dialogue on issues related to the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the PDE or EPA, nor does mention of names, commercial products or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use. For information about the PDE, call 1-800-445-4935.