

ESTUARY^{NEWS}

Newsletter of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: A National Estuary Program

Wonders of Our Waterways

Over \$100,000 Raised for the Delaware Estuary



Partnership for the
**DELAWARE
ESTUARY**

FALL 2017 | VOL. 28, NO. 1

In October 11, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) celebrated the many partners from across the region who participate in our work to protect and improve the Delaware River and Bay at our annual *Experience the Estuary Celebration*. Fittingly, the event took place just a stone's throw from the Delaware River at The Waterfall in Claymont, Delaware.

Honorary Chairwoman, Dawn Rittenhouse, Director, Sustainability, DuPont commemorated the long-term commitment to the health of the Estuary by DuPont - Clear into the Future™ and honored the memory and contributions of DuPont colleague, Steven Threefoot.

The event is an important networking opportunity for 400 of the region's leading professionals representing business, industry, government, academic institutions, and local nonprofits. Guests experience, a three-course dinner, silent auction, and the famous 90-minute raw oyster bar featuring local Delaware Bay oysters and PDE's own scientists as the shuckers.

DuPont - Clear Into the Future was the top "platinum" sponsor for this event, with Exelon Generation, PSEG Nuclear, and Sunoco Pipeline also providing major sponsorship. (See page 7 for a full list of sponsors.)



SAVE the DATE - Thursday, September 27, 2018!

So much fun was had at The Waterfall this year that the Celebration will be there again next September.

Welcoming Input on Future Priorities

More than 90 people came out to Open Houses in September and October to discuss ideas for actions to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary. These events gave folks the opportunity to suggest ways to make water cleaner, communities stronger, and habitats healthier. Planners are now using their ideas to revise a long-term plan called the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* for the Delaware Estuary. Once finished, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary will spend the next 10 years collaborating with 6 agencies tasked with carrying out the plan.



Credit: Elizabeth Wilson

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Tell planners the best ways to restore plants, animals, and waterways in your community.

Link: goo.gl/1fwZxp

Connecting Locals to their Coast

More than 3,000 people explored the Delaware River at Pennsylvania Coast Day on September 9 in Philadelphia. Free yacht rides, row boating, and pedal boating was offered to over 750 people. For many, it was their first time on a boat, experiencing the Delaware River. More than 450 also learned environmental lessons while earning prizes. This festival was made possible by funding from Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management and the Philadelphia Water Department. See for yourself in photographs available at goo.gl/s11DT3.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Get to know your watershed! Visit WatershedAlliance.org to find an education center near you.

Link: DelawareEstuary.org/pennsylvania-coast-day

Taking Teachers Outdoors

More than **two dozen educators gained new skills** at four Watershed Workshops in July. Each workshop allowed participants to learn from experts, earn professional development hours, and explore field-trip destinations. Sites in Pennsylvania included Bartram's Garden, the Fairmount Water Works, and Villanova University's latest clean-water projects. In New Jersey teachers toured a restored shoreline in Money Island and the PSEG Energy & Environmental Education Center. And Delaware's Brandywine Creek (pictured) allowed educators to spend a day surveying for aquatic life.



HOW YOU CAN HELP Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Day on May 8, 2018, by sponsoring a local teacher to attend the 2018 workshop. Link: DelawareEstuary.org/teacher-workshops



Credit: Laura Whalen

Rain Gardens Galore

In June and July, students, staff, and volunteers weeded, pruned, and installed educational signs at two **rain gardens**. Both rain gardens are on school campuses – one at Newark High School in DE and one at Pottsgrove High School in PA. In addition to helping manage storm water, these gardens will also provide outdoor learning experiences for the schools and their communities. Both projects are courtesy of a grant from 3M.



Staffing News

In July, PDE welcomed **Renée Brecht** as our new Director of Outreach. In this position, Renée is cultivating new and existing partnerships and providing oversight and guidance to the outreach department. Renée holds dual master's certificates in Project Management and Project Management IS/IT from Villanova University. She is currently pursuing an eMPA degree from the University of South Dakota. Previously, Renée worked at the Cumberland County Improvement Authority and the American Littoral Society. Discover more about Renée at DelawareEstuary.org/pde-staff-directory.

Turning Waste into Clean Water

This year **43 volunteers** **bagged 26 tons of oyster shells**. That is roughly the same weight as four elephants! The PDE then used the **1,800** shell bags to restore shorelines spanning about three football fields. This effort is part of the Oyster Shell Recycling Program, which counts 10+ eateries among its members. In time, PDE hopes to expand this program beyond northern Delaware.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer to bag recycled oyster shells by calling Jeff Long at (302) 655-4990, ex 106.

Link: DelawareEstuary.org/buy-cook-recycle-oysters



Fostering Baby Water Filters

Thousands of freshwater mussels will soon make waterways cleaner. PDE has been rearing baby shellfish at *The Mussel Hatchery* exhibit located in Philadelphia's Fairmount Water Works. Once old enough, the babies were moved to ponds throughout the Estuary including Bellevue Pond, Longwood Gardens, and Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. Current data suggests that these baby mussels are surviving well in the wild, filtering up to 20 gallons of water per day as they eat.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become a citizen scientist. Survey local streams for freshwater mussels.

Link: DelawareEstuary.org/freshwater-mussels-volunteer-surveys



Giving Camden a Greener Future

Camden County continues to reinvent its Delaware River waterfront, this time with help from PDE. This summer PDE's researchers collected data on animal and plant life, water quality, and elevation profiles. These data will help the company Stantec plan an **innovative restoration project** adjacent to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. This "living shoreline" will consist of all-natural materials, wetland plants, and freshwater mussels, making it truly unique. More importantly, it could serve as a model for riverfront landowners.



Credit: Roger Thomas of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Keep shorelines natural. Only mow a narrow trail to the water's edge.

Link: DelawareEstuary.org/living-shorelines



Ridding Refuges of Trash

America's first urban wildlife refuge is much cleaner thanks to the hard work of volunteers. On August 26, 75 volunteers and eight organizations gathered together at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in South Philadelphia. At the end of the day, more than **3,500 pounds of trash** was collected. That's like dragging an automobile out of the mud! In addition to PDE, collaborators included Anheuser-Busch, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Penn Beer, the Philadelphia Water Department, River Network, United by Blue, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Take a bag with you during walks. Use it to pick up litter, your dog's waste, or both.

Link: goo.gl/qWWpGP

Building a DIY Data Logger

This summer, PDE/Drexel Fellow Spencer Roberts **built and ran field tests on a prototype device that measures water flow along the river bottom**. Once the design and buildout is finalized, the device will be used to evaluate freshwater mussel habitat and learn more about how these animals interact with the river. Eventually, these data will help PDE develop strategies for freshwater mussel reintroductions in local waterways.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Check out the video of Spencer's first test of his DIY water logger! **Link:** goo.gl/APtiZR





Christmas Bird Count

December 16, from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. | Bristol, PA

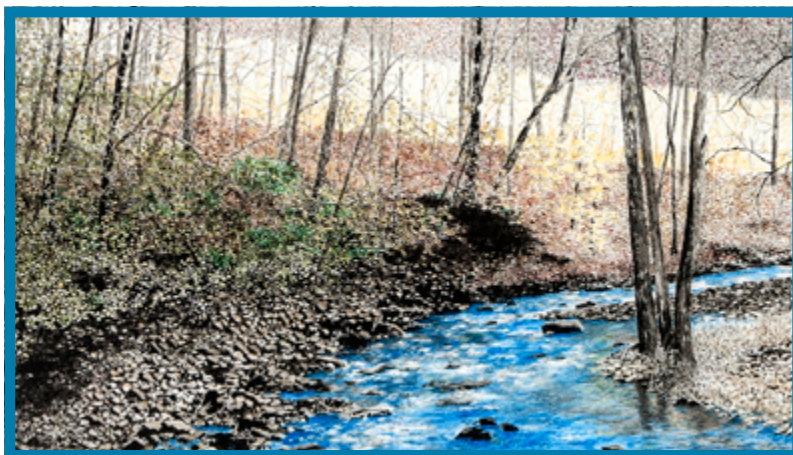
Spend the day as a citizen scientist on the lookout for birds near the Delaware River. Who knows? You may even see one of Pennsylvania's endangered species, like the sedge wren or short-eared owl (pictured). Reporting what you see will aid the National Audubon Society and its quest to protect birds and the places they need. To participate simply call the Silver Lake Nature Center at (215) 785-1177. They even have binoculars you can borrow.

Schuylkill Art Show

Ends December 17 | Pottstown, PA

The Schuylkill Valley has inspired world-renowned painters like Thomas Eakins and Thomas Birch. See whom it inspires today during *Scenes of the Schuylkill*, an art show and sale now in its 14th year. Those who visit will get to see winners' art works for free at Montgomery County Community College's Fine Arts Gallery. This is thanks to the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area.

Link: SchuylkillRiver.org



Credit: Edward McCarty, courtesy of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area

Save the Date – 2018 Events

Schuylkill Scrub Watershed Cleanup | **March through May**

Wilmington Earth Day | **April 20**

Christina River Cleanup | **April 14**

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community | **June 9**

Delaware Estuary Teacher's Watershed Workshops | **July-August**

Experience the Estuary Celebration | **September 29**

Check out www.DelawareEstuary.org for updates as details become available in the New Year.



Thank you to the Sponsors of the 2017 Experience the Estuary Celebration!

PLATINUM



GOLD



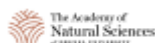
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To The Waterfall for making our
Celebration special!
Center for the Inland Bays
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Event Committee

Laura B. Copeland
Roy Denmark, Jr.
Robert K. Dobbs, Jr., chair
Kathy Klein
Rhonda Manning
Dan Martin

MEETINGS CONTACT LIST

Credit: MichaelWM25 on Flickr



As the year comes to a close, and you make plans for your year-end giving, please keep us in mind and know that a gift of any size will truly make a difference!

[Donate here](#)

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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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: Connecting people, science, and nature for a healthy Delaware River and Bay

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. (PDE), is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1996. The PDE, a National Estuary Program, leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. 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.

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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-99398513-2) 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.