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National Nonprofit Rallying Locals to Clean Up Delaware River

PHILADELPHIA — [Chad Pregracke](#) of [Living Lands & Waters](#) is bringing crews all the way from Illinois to help the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) clean up the Delaware River. This will be the nonprofit's only East Coast stop in its quest to remove 1 million pounds of litter from waterways.

Pregracke leapt to fame in 2010 following Discovery's pilot television show entitled "River Warriors." He has since received a Jefferson Award for Public Service, CNN's Hero of the Year award, and Mitchum Deodorant's Hardest Working Person in America award.

Pregracke and his team will lead volunteers on 18 excursions Aug. 20, 21, 24-28, 31, and Sept. 1. Shifts include either 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

"We may have started with the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, but we've expanded our mission to include some of the major rivers in America," said Pregracke. "The Delaware River historically has so much significance we're happy to play a small part in helping to clean it up."

Some of Pregracke's volunteers will clean up [Little Tincum Island](#). Others will take on John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge's [Tincum Marsh](#), among other destinations. Rallying points include [Penn's Landing Marina](#) and [Ridley Marina](#) in Pennsylvania, as well as [Delair Boat Ramp](#) in Pennsauken, New Jersey.

"We chose to target Little Tincum Island because it collects litter from Philadelphia, Camden, and other cities," said [Lisa Wool](#), program director at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "This is also the case in Tincum Marsh, which is the largest freshwater tidal marsh we have left."

Organizers will provide gloves, trash bags, and water. All volunteers must do is arrive wearing long pants and closed-toe shoes.

Those who wish to volunteer can register at LivingLandsandWaters.org/DelawareRiverCleanups. They can also contact Amber Pribyl at (563) 505-8321 or Amber@LivingLandsandWaters.org.

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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, 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.