



ESTUARY NEWS

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

New Alliance Unveils Priority Projects

At its first-ever meeting in April, the **Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's Alliance for Comprehensive Ecosystem Solutions** (PDE Alliance) identified five projects as those most important to promote and support for the Delaware Estuary in 2010. Following are the **2010 Priority Projects for the Delaware Estuary**:

- Bridesburg Urban Waterfront Restoration
- Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration
- Mannington Mills Scrub-shrub Riparian Restoration
- Mill Creek Stream Restoration
- Strategic Reforestation of Riparian (river-side) Zones

Selection as a priority project by the PDE Alliance does not guarantee funding. But it does guarantee that PDE and other Alliance members will use all tools at their disposal to promote and support these projects in 2010 – start-

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



Dr. Danielle Kreeger (right), science director at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, explains the benefits of the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project to visitors at last October's Delaware Coast Day in Lewes by dissecting a live eastern oyster.

ing with this issue of Estuary News!

The PDE Alliance is a collaboration of public and private entities with diverse interests, and one important one in common: protecting and enhancing the

Delaware Estuary. It includes agency leadership from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state of Delaware, the state of New Jersey, the

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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

Edward Santoro, Monitoring Coordinator, (609) 883-9500, ext. 268
edward.santoro@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., (609) 883-9500, ext. 203
pamela.bush@drbc.state.nj.us

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commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the city of Philadelphia. Also involved in the PDE Alliance are leaders from the private sector, including companies, foundations, and organizations with a long history of supporting restoration in the Delaware Estuary, like DuPont, PSEG, ConocoPhillips, the William Penn Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and PDE.

Each year, the PDE Alliance will identify a select list of projects to support and promote, based on expert review of projects from the PDE Project Registry (Registry). This is a pilot year for the PDE Alliance, but that didn't stop the group from selecting an ambitious set of projects, which together are in need of over \$2 million. Each of these projects addresses one or more of the PDE Alliance's priorities: tidal wetlands, urban waterfronts, forested streamside areas, and shellfish or other signature species of the Delaware Estuary.

The Registry was created in late 2009 as a way to collect and store project information so that projects can be easily matched with funding or partnership opportunities as they arise. Use of the Registry is open to any organization with a project, or any funder or partner looking for a project. PDE is currently working to make the Registry available online so that project information can be added or searched directly by users. In the meantime, anyone interested in submitting a project to the Registry, or accessing project information in the Registry, should contact Laura Whalen at LWhalen@DelawareEstuary.org.

Both the Alliance and Registry are part of PDE's Regional Restoration Initiative. Learn more about this initiative online at DelawareEstuary.org, where you can also find detailed descriptions of the **2010 Priority Projects for the Delaware Estuary**. ■

Why these priorities?

- ▶ Tidal wetlands act as nature's sponges by reducing flooding and filtering pollutants.
- ▶ Urban waterfronts connect people to the river while also providing unique habitat for plants and animals in places where it is greatly needed.
- ▶ Forested streamside areas help to absorb pollution before it can run off into waterways, where it can impact drinking water, fish and wildlife.
- ▶ Delaware Bay oysters and other shellfish help to remove pollutants as they feed on microscopic organisms. They are also a renewable source of food for both humans and animals.

Projects at a Glance

The Bridesburg Urban Waterfront Restoration Project seeks to restore 15 acres and 2,000 linear feet of shoreline along the Delaware River in Philadelphia. The project area includes upland, river-bank, and intertidal land along the northern Delaware River Greenway Trail where the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) will work to restore a mixture of riverfront forests, meadows, and freshwater tidal wetlands.

The **Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project** is a cooperative effort led by the Rutgers University Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory to revitalize eastern oysters, a signature species of the Delaware Estuary. This is being accomplished through sustained shell planting, whereby oyster beds in the Delaware Bay are replenished with strategically-placed ocean sea clam and oyster shells. Shell planting sites provide clean, hard surfaces to which baby oysters, or "larvae," can attach in order to grow.

The New Jersey Audubon Society seeks to restore 15 acres of riparian (land along a river's edge) habitat by planting it with native grasses as part of the **Mannington Mills Scrub-shrub Riparian Restoration Project**. Located in the Salem River watershed, this project will help

improve conditions in waterways, marshes, and grassland habitats for declining birds. The restored site will provide habitat for a number of targeted species, including migrating birds seeking resting and refueling habitat during their north- and south-bound migrations.

The **Mill Creek Stream Restoration Project** seeks to restore approximately 2,175 linear feet of Mill Creek and create approximately 2.5 acres of wetlands. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control will employ a variety of restoration techniques to change the stream's pattern, profile and dimension to accommodate for the effects caused by development. Native trees and shrubs will also be planted in the wetland areas and along the stream.

Strategic Reforestation of Riparian Zones will refine a new user-friendly planning tool to help reforest areas along streams. The Academy of Natural Sciences will use this tool to build a strategy for reforesting the Delaware River Basin, and it will implement that strategy by working with conservation groups within targeted areas to assemble volunteers for tree and shrub plantings. Today, nearly 40% of the streamside areas in the Delaware Estuary lack forest cover.



Students Use Artwork to Teach Philly About Pollution

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

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) and the Philadelphia Water Department are proud to announce the first-place winners of our annual art contest, the theme of which was "Protect Philadelphia's Hidden Streams." Nearly 1,400 children learned about urban water pollution by creating drawings or videos; this, despite two major snow storms that cancelled classes for days.

Hidden streams are waterways buried long ago to make way for cities, like Philadelphia. These were made into sewers to make way for buildings and carry pollution away from people, where it would not cause disease. It's important to remember that streams can always become polluted, whether hidden or not. That's why we must all work together to rid these waterways of both litter and runoff tainted by motor oil, paint, and other contaminants.

Look for artwork depicting this message around Philadelphia. You can find it on advertisements placed inside SEPTA buses and subway cars; inside the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, located next door to the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and, beginning next winter, inside the Philadelphia International Airport's Youth Art Gallery. You can also find and share it online at www.Flickr.com/DelawareEstuary and www.YouTube.com/DEEstuary. Congratulations, winners! ■

1ST-PLACE DRAWING

Grades 9-12

Nicola Villegas is a junior at Maritime Academy Charter School. She wants Philadelphians to preserve nature by choosing to recycle.



1ST-PLACE DRAWING

Grades 6-8

Liana Spiro is a seventh grader at Germantown Friends School. She learned how everything in a storm drain can become water pollution when it flows from the sewer's hidden streams into local waterways.



1ST-PLACE DRAWING

Grades 3-5

Valerie Quici of St. Monica Elementary School's third grade says, "Please do not throw things into the sewer." She does not want this pollution to hurt fish in the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.



1ST-PLACE DRAWING

Grades K-2

Second grader Kyndale Mitchell of St. Gabriel School knows that litter in the street leads to litter in the stream. His drawing shows how storm drains carry trash to local waterways.

1ST-PLACE VIDEO

Grades 6-12

Brendon Agaraj, Alea Gonzalez, and Maurice Bonner-El of Maritime Academy Charter School, along with their claymation dog, would like to say, "Everyone remember to pick up after your dog and keep our streams clean."



ESTUARY EVENTS

Featured on *ecoDelaware.com*

Horseshoe Crab & Shorebird Festival

May 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Milton, DE

Celebrate the age-old relationship between Delaware Bay, horseshoe crabs, and shorebirds. Highlights at this popular festival will include environmental and art exhibits, children's activities, and outdoor adventures. You can even hop a shuttle bus for a quick visit to Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Check out the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's booth to see how you can explore Delaware's horseshoe-crab sanctuaries. For more information visit HistoricMilton.com.

Delaware Bay Days

June 12, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

June 13, from noon to 5 p.m.

Bivalve, Port Norris, and Mauricetown, NJ

Once a year, southern New Jersey celebrates its maritime roots at a free, two-day festival called Delaware Bay Days. Saturday will feature



"Folklife & Seafood" in Bivalve and Port Norris, New Jersey. And the fun continues on Sunday with "Wildlife & Watercraft" beside Mauricetown's Lake Audrey. Stop by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's table on Saturday to see how oysters filter our bay water. Log on to AJMeerwald.org for details.

Delaware Estuary Watershed Workshop for Teachers

July 12-16

Sites Vary

Attention, teachers: This year we're moving our teacher workshop from Pennsylvania into Delaware. Join us as

we travel from Brandywine Creek State Park to sites located in each of the three states that make up the Delaware Estuary's watershed: Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Participants will learn environmental science lessons they can use in the classroom while earning continuing-education hours. Call Cheryl Jackson at (800) 445-4935, extension 112, to enroll today. But hurry, seats are filling fast given the price – a mere \$50. ■

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 III
Tel: (212) 637-3845 / Fax (212) 637-3889
E-mail: purdy.irene@epa.gov

Ed Ambrogio, EPA, Region III
Tel: (215) 814-2758 / Fax: (215) 814-2301
E-mail: ambrogio.edward@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 ext. 109 / Fax: (302) 739-7864
E-mail: john.kennel@state.de.us

New Jersey

Kerry Kirk Pflugh
Department of Environmental Protection
Tel: (609) 663-7242 / Fax (609) 777-1282
E-mail: kerry.pflugh@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

Howard Neukrug
Tel: (215) 685-6319 / Fax: (215) 685-6207
E-mail: howard.neukrug@phila.gov

Editor

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

Layout & Design

Janet Andrews, LookSmartCreative

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