



## PRK Pursues Two Poultry Processing Plants

Toxic waste and Construction Debris are Entering the North Fork of the Shenandoah

The Potomac Riverkeeper and the Shenandoah Riverkeeper—along with their resource organization, Waterkeeper Alliance—announced their intent to sue two poultry processing facilities for violating Virginia and Federal laws in May, 2007.

Some of the charges against the poultry processing facilities—Pilgrim's Pride Corporation and Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation—include sending excess poultry waste to a failing wastewater treatment plant, dumping construction waste and debris into the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, and allowing overflows of industrial waste and sewage to enter the North Fork from their respective pump stations.

see "Poultry" on pg. 10



*Right, a shot of the Pilgrim's Pride poultry processing facility taken from the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, demonstrating its proximity. Above, a closer look at the facility.*



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## What People are Saying

*Our actions speak on our behalf, but PRK is happy to share the kind words people have said to us.*

**“Governor [Tim Kaine] also mentioned that he is strongly supportive of the work that Jeff Kelble, the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, is doing as a watchdog for the waterway.”**

*Bruce Ingram, during a fishing trip with Governor Kaine, as featured in Virginia Wildlife magazine (August 2007).*



*Above, Gov. Kaine listens to Jeff Kelble report on the state of the Shenandoah*



*Riverkeepers learn quickly that they must keep many plates spinning in order to be successful. In this edition of River Watch, our Riverkeepers—Ed Merrifield (Potomac) and Jeff Kelble (Shenandoah)—tell us about some of those plates. Ed (who has been a Riverkeeper for four years) reminisces on his first mentor in river conservation, while Jeff (who has been a Riverkeeper for one year) relates a predicament central to every advocate.*

## The Potomac Riverkeeper's...Rivermaker

Four and a half years ago I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the health of our river and streams. I was less sure how to build a nonprofit organization but, luckily for me, a few people mentioned that I should talk to the Mid-Atlantic Manager of River Network, an organization known for helping new watershed groups. The manager's name was Pat Munoz.

At our first meeting, I quickly realized how much I needed to learn. Pat asked questions like: "Do you have a financial plan?" "Do you have a fundraising plan?" "Do you have a plan for acquiring new board members?" My answers were "Sort of," "No," and "What's that?" I left her office with my arms full of articles and books to read. This was the beginning of my education.



For the last four years, Pat Munoz has never been far from the side of our organization. She has been the focus of every budget, financial, and fundraising plan we have had. She managed our first four fundraising events. She attended every board meeting to help and consult. We would not be the organization we are today if it weren't for Pat.

When people tell me how impressed they are with our growth these last four years, I say: "I couldn't have done it without Pat." Lately, she has given me more leeway in our discussions, but I still know to attend to her quiet guidance.

Pat retired this July after over 30 years of service to river organizations. Her retirement party was filled with people who consider her a special friend. I'm proud to say I am one of them. She has, at last, joined our board of directors, and once again I'll use the phrase:

"Thank you, Pat."

*Ed Merrifield*

Ed Merrifield  
Executive Director & Potomac Riverkeeper

## Takin' the small fish with the big...

I'm finding that being a good Riverkeeper often means balancing programs with short-term results along with the longer-term (and eventually more important) programs aimed squarely at systemic problems. We'll talk more about some of the short term successes in this issue of *River Watch*, but my thoughts are with those larger successes that I want to accomplish as the Shenandoah Riverkeeper.

The balance between scoring the small victories and consciously molding them into a larger picture is a tenuous one. At the risk of appearing blunt, I say our short term programs are wildly successful at addressing very local issues and building trust within our community. Going from our most recent endeavors, we've removed ammonia from Merck's discharges into the Shenandoah, we've gotten the Coors Brewery to amend their discharges, and we've even gotten Virginia's Attorney General to sue polluters just by saying we'd do it if he didn't.

Short term successes are important on so many levels. They allow me to get out on the river and physically stop pollution. They help me attract a base of volunteers and supporters who believe in my mission. They even help me to apply for (and receive) funding so that I can go on to my next task.



What they aren't going to do though, is solve the cultural problems that plague all of our rivers. We need to understand that our actions affect the waterways we rely on for sustenance as well as aesthetics and recreation. I'm aiming my sites at "fixing" this river, and color me naïve, but isn't that what we need? How many more years of fish kills are we going to have to endure?

Intense agriculture intertwined with the boom in housing and industrial development is what truly endangers the Shenandoah River, read: non-point source pollution. I'm not trying to leave wastewater discharge and other point source pollution off the list; it's just that, to make this river right, we have cultural non-point issues to address. This is the larger issue I am striving to address with all my victories.

I expect it to take several years of intense focus before wide-scale change is possible. So please continue to cheer for us in the short term as we are successful in reducing point source pollution, but also feel free to ask us what light we see at the end of the long-term tunnel. Right now, I'm sensing that the public is becoming more open to environmental concerns and change. That's my light.

Jeff Kelble  
Shenandoah Riverkeeper



PRK's Riverwatcher program is our way of getting communities involved in restoring their local rivers and streams. As you'll read in our first-hand account from Joe Ellis ("A Potomac Sojourn"), being a Riverwatcher is more about "paying your dues" than about changing your daily routine. Look to the right for information about our fall 2007 Riverwatcher Training Sessions.

## A Potomac Sojourn

by Joe Ellis, Riverwatcher



Ellie left me at White's Ferry at about 8:00 this morning as I prepared to paddle the Potomac in my duckie. It was already warm and muggy. After I had paddled a short while, I encountered a small spit of land, too small to be considered an island, and went ashore to prepare my morning tea. As I hiked this small isle, I noticed several great blue herons and ended up counting a dozen. Tea was satisfying, and the view was spectacular!

Before the day's journey was over, I counted more than sixty of these beautiful birds and several great egrets as well. Later, I paddled downstream and, out of the corner of my eye, I spotted something aloft: could it be? Yes, it was a bald eagle! It came out of the trees on my port side and flew directly above me in an arc covering perhaps 300 yards before disappearing into the trees again. My first sighting of a bald eagle on the Potomac River! I'll never forget it.

But there were 'dues' to pay. In return for spending a joyous day basking in the serenity, enjoying the nearly endless beauty, and marveling at the magnificence of the Potomac River, I collected detritus from her waters. I plucked several plastic bait containers, one chock full of chicken livers, one whiskey bottle, a couple of drink containers, a child's ball and half of a minnow trap. After traversing 10.5 miles downstream I deposited this trash in a container at Algonkian Regional Park, and my dues were paid.

This was a small price to pay to leave our Potomac River just a little bit cleaner and more magnificent than when I found it this morning.

## What You Can Do

Three ways *you* can positively impact our rivers and streams

- 1.) Take pictures when you spot pollution.
- 2.) Report pollution to your local authorities (pertinent numbers are on pg. 11) and make sure to call our hotline at **301-POTOMAC**.
- 3.) Read the next page and become one of PRK's Riverwatchers!



# PRK Needs Riverwatchers to...Enjoy the River!

Volunteer program targets people who recreate on the Potomac and its Tributaries

**We need your help! Come to our Riverwatcher Training Sessions on September 29, October 6, and October 27 and protect your rivers and streams!**

Do you paddle, fish, sail, bike, hike or swim along the Potomac and its tributaries? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should come to one of our fall 2007 Riverwatcher Training Sessions!

The Potomac watershed is huge—spanning nearly 15,000 square miles over four states and the District of Columbia—we need your help to be our eyes and ears in all parts of the watershed!



Our Riverwatcher Training Sessions are a crash course in how to spot and report pollution while you're out taking a stroll along the riverbanks or paddling the river itself. The sessions feature informative guest speakers and materials detailing how you can do your part to clean up our watershed. Water monitoring equipment will also be given out to interested Riverwatchers.

Please mark these events on your calendar today! Locations and times will be announced soon. If you want to receive an email notification when they are posted, please send an email to [keeper@potomac-riverkeeper.org](mailto:keeper@potomac-riverkeeper.org) and ask to be placed on our list-serv. We'll be sure to let you know when we're in your neighborhood!

## PRK Welcomes New Members

In January of 2007, PRK unrolled a new member acquisition, with a generous grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. We are very happy to report 200 new memberships, so far. We look forward to getting to know everyone.

Thank you to all of our new members, we appreciate your support!

**We invite you to our training sessions on Sept. 29, Oct. 6, and Oct. 27, 2007 and to help restore our rivers and streams! They need us!**





## Members Raise \$50,000

*"At the River's Edge"*  
Sunday, June 3 2007

Members of Potomac Riverkeeper raised more than \$50,000 at our annual auction and party, including a \$10,000 matching donation from an anonymous donor. We were also "honored" to have **Topper Shutt, WUSA Channel 9 Chief Meteorologist**, as our honorary chair.

The proceeds benefited PRK programs like "Healthy Rivers = Healthy Communities," which promote community action and increase public awareness. A special appeal was also made to buy water monitoring kits for our volunteer Riverwatchers, and to buy the Potomac Riverkeeper and the Shenandoah Riverkeeper cameras for increased precision in documenting illegal pollution.

The event would not have been complete without help from our board, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and auction and individual donors. We would like to **THANK EVERYONE** involved for an event well planned and executed. Special thanks to the Potomac Boat Club for use of their wonderful spot "at the river's edge."

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

#### Angels

Anonymous  
Peter Bross and Lisa Rarick  
Avis Ogilvy Moore  
Mac Thornton

#### Champions

Linda & Stan Collyer  
Katherine Ward

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Stan & Linn Oaks  
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Rena Steinzor

#### Friends

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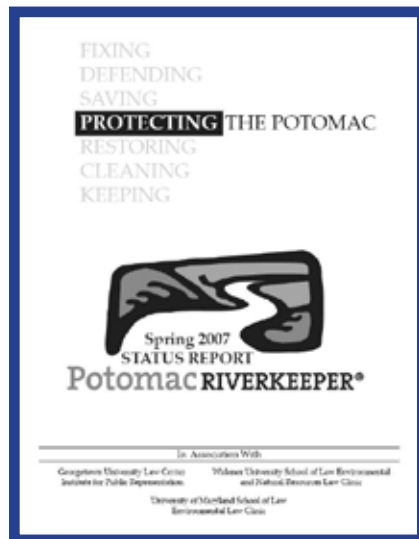
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## Protecting the Potomac

PRK continues to expand its community action programs by alerting watershed residents of the dangers of rampant pollution, and giving them the tools to make a difference. In July, 2007 we released our inaugural *Protecting the Potomac* Status Report. The report contains two main sections: "Problems along the Potomac" and "The Framework of our Legal Strategies."

The first section deals with what is ailing the river: industrial sewage, fish kills, wetland loss, and trash, among others. Each problem is dissected and the reader is given examples of why they occur. The second section deals with how PRK stops pollution. Some of our methods include: surveillance, reviewing pollution permits, litigation, and spreading public awareness.

In May, we sent you *Protecting the Potomac* as a special edition of the newsletter. You can go to our web-site to download a complete report which includes the appendices identifying the key polluters.

## Writing for Your Watershed

In partnership with the UMD's Environmental Law Clinic, PRK has developed a guide to making public comments on pollution permits. *Writing for Your Watershed* is written for the concerned watershed resident who is eager to help in the fight for clean drinking water. The guide takes the mystery out of reading a permit and gives useful tips on what to include in comments. A PDF copy of the guide is now available to download from our web site.



## 2006 Annual Report

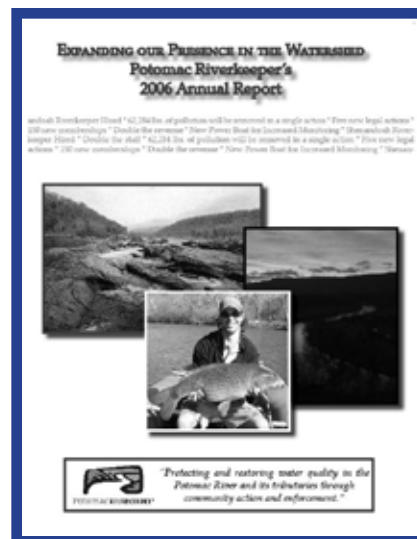
In mid-June, PRK released its 2006 annual report, entitled: *Expanding our Presence in the Watershed*. Our theme, expansion, was appropriate on a few different fronts.

PRK scored a major legislative victory in 2006 when it prodded Virginia's Attorney General to file a suit against Sheaffer International, LLC—a major polluter of the Shenandoah River. In this endeavor we were aided by Jeff Kelble, the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, whose addition to our staff is perhaps one of the most important avenues of expansion we made all year.

Having a Riverkeeper to protect the Shenandoah, which is the largest tributary of the Potomac River, enforces our commitment to keeping the Nation's River clean and demonstrates our understanding that "we all live down stream."

In addition, we initiated five new legal actions in 2006, bought a powerboat for more effective river monitoring, and exceeded our recruiting goals for new memberships and our financial goals for our annual auction and party. It was a great year for PRK.

If you would like a copy of these reports, go to [www.potomacriverkeeper.org/publications](http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org/publications) or email us at [keeper@potomacriverkeeper.org](mailto:keeper@potomacriverkeeper.org).



# Welcome, New Board Members!

*At our board meeting in June, PRK unanimously voted to add two members to our Board of Directors: Pat Munoz and David Stang. Pat and David come to our organization with experience and vigor. Please join us in welcoming them.*



## Pat Munoz

Pat Munoz has served as Mid-Atlantic Watershed Program Manager for River Network, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people understand, protect, and restore rivers and watersheds for the past 14 years. In that position, she has worked with nonprofit river and watershed groups around the country to help them build sustainable organizations and develop resources. Pat has been involved in nonprofit fundraising for over 25 years.

From 1977 to 1993, Pat worked at American Rivers as Vice President for Development. Pat has also served on the board of various small nonprofits including the Coalition for the Capitol Crescent Trail, the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, and the Cacapon Institute.

Pat holds a BA in Latin American History from American University. She is fluent in Spanish and is an avid whitewater canoeist and kayaker.



## David Stang

David has loved wildlife and the outdoors all his life. As a kid on Long Island's Great South Bay, he messed around in little boats, swam, and explored the water world. As an undergraduate, he took courses in ecology, wildlife management, soil and water conservation, ichthyology, and ornithology.

After receiving a BS from Cornell University, an MS from the University of Toronto, and a PhD from Syracuse University, David began working as a research psychologist and later became an entrepreneur in software, information security, and organizational development.

David and his wife now fund and direct the BayScience Foundation.



# ...And, New Staff Members!

*PRK is also fortunate to have two new staff members in 2007. Nadia Elguindy was hired as our Programs and Development Coordinator in March and has already played a major role in planning our annual auction and party and building a relationship with members and volunteers. Robin Broder was hired as PRK's first Director of Operations in April, and has already begun building infrastructure for new programs and making PRK more efficient and attractive to volunteers, members, and funders.*

## Nadia Elguindy

### Programs & Development Coordinator

Nadia Elguindy comes to Potomac Riverkeeper with administrative experience from the Counter-Terrorist Financing Network in Washington, DC, where she authored reports and case studies on terrorism issues. Nadia has also worked with the Children's Defense Fund and with Capital Development Strategies. In May 2006, Nadia graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL with a dual degree in International Relations and International Business. Nadia has traveled extensively with her college chorus and study abroad programs, and to visit family in Egypt.



## Robin Broder

### Director of Operations

Robin Broder comes to PRK with over 18 years of experience working in nonprofits. Robin spent nine years with the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN) as Board President and then as Director of Development during a time of rapid growth in programs and funding.



Prior to A-SPAN, Robin was a consultant to The Rockefeller Foundation on a communications project for their urban poverty project grantees. Before settling in the DC area, Robin worked with public housing residents on a public-private partnership to redevelop their neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. Robin has a MA in Public Policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies. She is on the board of AHC, Inc., a nonprofit housing developer, and she is a member of Leadership Arlington.

## Poultry (continued from page 1)

The Riverkeeper groups officially announced their intent to sue on May 23, 2007, giving Virginia's Attorney General sixty days to either file the state's lawsuit, which would take precedent over the Riverkeeper groups' lawsuit, or allow the Riverkeeper groups' lawsuit to proceed. The Riverkeeper groups are suing under the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Virginia's Waste Management Act.

The legal actions taken against Pilgrim's Pride and Cargill are linked to earlier actions taken against Sheaffer International, LLC in August,

2006. The Riverkeeper groups announced their intent to sue Sheaffer, which treats wastewater from Cargill and Pilgrim's Pride, for dumping excessive amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen into the Shenandoah River. Virginia's Attorney General filed his own lawsuit against Sheaffer within the sixty day waiting period, and the state brought the case to court. Since the beginning of this process, a court has ordered Sheaffer to make roughly \$2 million in upgrades.

Sheaffer has filed for bankruptcy, claiming it cannot underwrite the upgrades, and has filed suit against

both Pilgrim's Pride and Cargill for breach of contract, though the latter suit has been dropped.

Sheaffer is saying that both poultry processing facilities sent prohibited substances to its Timberville facility for treatment and also sent too much waste for them to handle. The plant will go up for auction at the end of August.

Since the announcement of intent to sue, Cargill has taken some action toward cleaning up the Shenandoah—working with Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality to clean up the debris. Pilgrim's Pride has been unresponsive so far.

## Clean-up at Seneca Creek

Nearly four years after Potomac Riverkeeper announced it would sue Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) over lead pollution in Great Seneca Creek, DNR will clean up most of the lead in September.



DNR has agreed to clean up the "hot spots" of concentrated lead in a ten acre area to just above toxic dump standards – but not to residential standards.

We believe that giving DNR the opportunity to get started with the clean-up is the best approach at this time. Within the settlement, we have reserved the right to return to court if problems are detected in the future.

We are working to eradicate the damage done to the North Fork of the Shenandoah, and will continue to press the corporations and treatment facilities responsible for the pollution to clean up the mess.

### PRK STAFF:

Ed Merrifield  
*Exec. Dir. & Potomac Riverkeeper*  
Jeff Kelble  
*Shenandoah Riverkeeper*  
Robin Broder  
*Director of Operations*  
Nadia Elguindy  
*Development & Programs*  
Damien Power  
*Communications & Outreach*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Avis Ogilvy Moore, Chair  
Katherine Baer  
Peter Bross  
Carrie Collins  
Linda Collyer  
Wayne Compton  
Pat Munoz  
Sunny Pitcher  
David Stang  
Rena Steinzor  
Mac Thornton  
Katherine Ward

## Contact Us

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**MAIN OFFICE LINE:** 540.837.1479

**FAX LINE:** 540.837.1479

#### EMAIL ADDRESS:

keeper@shenandoahriverkeeper.org

#### WEBSITE:

www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org



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Spot Pollution? Dial Our Hotline At:

**301-POTOMAC**

If you are in WASHINGTON, DC, call

**WASA Hotline (202.612.3440)**

if you see sewer leaks (please have a cross street ready).

**DC Water Quality Division (202.535.2194)**

if you see oil or hazardous substances.

**DC Watershed Protection Division (202.535.2240)**

if you see sediment/dirt from a construction site or a cement truck washing into the street or storm drain.

**DC Department of the Environment (202.535.2615)**

for any problem.

If you are in VIRGINIA, call

**Northern Regional Office (703.583.3800)**

for all pollution.

**Tidewater (Southern VA) Regional Office (757.518.2179)**

for all pollution.

**Piedmont (Middle VA) Regional Office (804.527.5020)**

for all pollution.

**Department of Emergency Management (804.897.6500)**

for all pollution after hours, on weekends, and on holidays.

If you are in WEST VIRGINIA, call

**Emergency Spill Line (800.642.3074)**

for all pollution.

**Open Dumpster and Litter Line (800.322.5530)**

for backup.

If you are in MARYLAND, call

**MD Department of the Environment (866.633.4686)**

for all pollution.

If you are in PENNSYLVANIA, call

**PA Department of Environmental Protection**

**(800.541.2050) for all pollution.**

**YES! I want to protect and restore the Potomac River! Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership gift to help POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER and keep our Nation's River clean!**

☐ \$35 Regular   ☐ \$50 Family   ☐ \$100 Major Donor   ☐ \$250   ☐ \$500   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Please send me information about your Riverwatcher program today!

Please make checks payable to **Potomac Riverkeeper**. Thank you!

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To donate online, go to [WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG/DONATE)



# Action Alert!

The health of our local streams, rivers, and lakes depend on strong protections from the Clean Water Act. These safeguards for clean and healthy water are now in jeopardy following a confusing 2006 Supreme Court opinion that leaves the fate of 60% of the nation's stream miles in a state of legal limbo. Polluters are flooding the courts and invoking the Supreme Court decision to strip safeguards from small streams and wetlands. Congress can fix this troubling situation by passing legislation restoring full federal protection for all our waters!

Help ensure protection for all streams and wetlands from pollution and complete destruction! Ask your Representative to co-sponsor the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2007.

## OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS NEED YOUR HELP!



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