

"Fracking" for Gas has Many Costs

Land disturbance, water contamination, and waste disposal to name a few

The search for natural gas has come to the Shenandoah Valley and Jeff Kelble, our Shenandoah Riverkeeper, is making decision makers aware of the threats to our drinking water.

In Rockingham County, VA, Carrizo Oil and Gas LLC has applied for a special use permit to produce natural gas from the Marcellus Shale. The proposal includes the production technique called hydraulic fracking, which uses large amounts of water, sand, and chemicals to release natural gas. In addition to land disturbance issues, fracking can contaminate ground and surface water. Water supply is also an issue. According to a February, 2010 memo to a US Congressional committee, each production well requires up to 4 million gallons of water.

In most other Eastern States where significant Marcellus exploration is taking place, the states are scrambling to protect

their waterways. This has prompted West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York to begin updating and improving regulations specific to Marcellus Shale exploration and production. We are urging Virginia and Maryland to also develop regulations specific to natural gas development in Marcellus Shale.

Rockingham County has put the permit on hold while they collect more information. In the meantime, many local citizens and citizen groups like Shenandoah Riverkeeper are voicing their concerns about drinking water contamination and other community impacts.

The costs of fracking for natural gas may outweigh the benefits, with Rockingham County residents footing the bill. The West Virginia, western Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Potomac River watershed are also faced with pressures to "frack" for natural gas.

In This Issue

The Emperor's New Report Card
page 2

Endocrine Disruptors and You
page 3

495 Hot Lanes
page 4

2010 River Gala
page 5

Featured in Catalogue
page 6

Factory Farm Disclosures
page 7

Potomac River Rodeo
page 8



North Mountain Quarry Hearing Stifles Public Participation



North Mountain Shale, LLC is petitioning to make a quarry. If the permit is approved, the resulting quarry could seriously contaminate drinking water in Berkeley County, WV.

West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP) held two "public" hearings on the proposed quarry. As we reported earlier, Brent Walls submitted comments at the first meeting, urging WV DEP to reject the permit due to significant risk of drinking water contamination. At the second meeting, people had to make comments behind closed doors and one at a time, with four cameras pointing at them.

A public hearing like this intimidates people and discourages the very people who make government work – people who engage in public processes and hold government accountable. People must be free to make comments publicly, among their friends and neighbors, and in a setting free from intimidation.

It's important for more West Virginia residents to get involved. Public participation is the most important way to keep North Mountain pristine and our drinking water clean. You can help by talking to your friends and neighbors about the North Mountain Shale, emailing Brent (brent@potomacriverkeeper.org) to report concerns or to become involved, and going online to learn more about the quarry and sign up for updates (www.northmountain.org).

Please help us build this group, and save our drinking water at the same time!

The Emperor's New Report Card

The Bay Grade – Good Science Ending In Spin

The new Bay report card is out (<http://www.eco-check.org/reportcard/chesapeake/2009/>) and the Bay was given a grade of "C" for 2009. This must mean there is nothing to worry about. The Bay and its rivers are in "average" health and we can just go on chugging along the same as always.

Unfortunately, this is far from reality. The excellent data collection and scoring that occurred was ruined by the spinning of the results into nonsensical grades. This reminds me of the tale of the Emperor's New Clothes, where the Emperor's tailors convinced him that only the worthy would be able to see his new clothes. It took a child to stand up and say the Emperor was naked and not dressed in his finest robe as the adults were forced to believe. Those who decided on this grading system for the Bay are no different than the Emperor's tailors; they want us to believe the Bay is better than it is.

Have you ever taken a test where a score of 40 out of 100 was a grade of "C"? Even organic chemistry courses don't curve that low! That's exactly what is happening with this report card. Good science, in the form of good data collection and interpretation, has been turned it into a laughable grade. The Spinmeisters answer that this is not a problem because they have defined the grades differently than the usual approach.



According to their system, the Bay and its rivers would get a passing grade of "D" if it scored 20 out of 100. They know, however, that the only thing most people will remember is that the Bay's health is a "C," and that means average. Go ask a waterman if he thinks the Bay deserves a grade of "C."

So please let others know the facts. The Bay's health score for 2009 is 46%, which is basically the same as it was in 1986 (45%). After the millions and millions of dollars that have gone into all the programs for a healthier Bay, this is unacceptable.

You should also know that the Potomac's overall health score for

2009 was 45%, which is one-fourth higher than the 36% it scored in 1986. This also was spun as a "C," which is not correct. We can say that the Potomac is in better shape than it was 23 years ago, but at 45%, the Potomac – like the Chesapeake – should be graded "F," or perhaps "D" if you're generous. The Potomac feeds about 25% of the water to the Bay, and until we all become active in protecting our river from pollution, don't expect the Bay's health to improve.

Enjoy, Drink, and Protect Our River!

Ed Merrifield

Potomac Riverkeeper



Whole Foods Contributes \$20,000 to Restore our Nation's River

Thank you to everyone who dropped by Whole Foods and shopped during our Earth Week fundraiser! Whole Foods donated 5% of their receipts on April 21 from the P Street, Tenleytown, and Georgetown stores, and together we raised \$20,000! Thank you to all the managers and staff of Whole Foods! Please be sure patronize your local Whole Foods, they're helping us stop pollution and restore clean water in the Potomac River, Shenandoah River and their tributaries!

Endocrine Disruptors and You

Introduction

Emerging contaminants. Endocrine disruptors. Intersex fish. A few years ago, we only read these terms in studies. Back in 2003, a US Geological Survey scientist named Vicki Blazer uncovered a startling fact: male fish were growing ovaries and producing eggs. What was causing these mutations in the fish? What did that mean for people who eat the fish or drink the water?

We've learned that chemicals found in everyday products are entering our waters and mutating aquatic life. These chemicals, called endocrine disruptors, are in pesticides, makeup, medications, soaps, and more. They attack the endocrine system, mutating genes, mimicking hormones, and usually lowering fertility rates in males.

The effect endocrine disruptors have on humans is not yet clear, but we can assume they have some impact. Intersex fish are our canaries – warning us to be concerned about our drinking water supplies. So what can we do to limit our exposure to endocrine disruptors? Check out the news, studies, and resources below!

The Latest News

The President's Cancer Panel released "Reducing Environmental Cancer." The report says the true burden of environmentally induced cancer has been grossly underestimated. The US marketplace is flooded with nearly 80,000 chemicals, and only a couple hundred of them are examined. Since many of the known contaminants are linked to cancer, the panel recommends increased chemical monitoring and research.

Atrazine, one of the most commonly used herbicides in the world, has been shown to affect reproduction of fish,

according to a USGS study. A separate study out of the University of California at Berkeley found atrazine can turn male frogs into females at concentrations 30 times lower than those deemed safe by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). How much atrazine does it take? The weight of five grains of salt—divided by five thousand!

What You Can Do

- Keep manmade chemicals out of our water supply systems and rivers by choosing personal care products, foods, toys and garden products with no or fewer endocrine disruptors or other toxins. (go to www.ewg.org, www.cosmeticsdatabase.com, www.healthystuff.org and <http://www.panna.org/resources/advisor>.)
- Keep pharmaceuticals out of our water supplies and rivers by safely disposing unused drugs and other chemicals properly – DO NOT FLUSH down the toilet. (go to: www.disposemy meds.org and www.smartdisposal.net)
- Consider filtering drinking water (find out what's in your water: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/chemicals_drugs_water.htm)
- Store water in glass or stainless steel containers, or in plastics that don't contain BPA or phthalates (chemicals used to soften plastics). Microwave food in ceramic or glass containers.
- Give preference to food grown without pesticides, chemical fertilizers and growth hormones. Avoid meats that are cooked well-done.
- For those whose jobs may expose them to chemicals, remove shoes when entering the house and wash work clothes separately from the rest of the laundry.

Shenandoah Riverkeeper: On the River Researching Fish Health & Endocrine Disruptors



Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble is about to be a published author! He has been working with the US Geological Survey to research the causes of recent fish kills on the Shenandoah River, and find links between endocrine disrupting chemicals and fish health. Jeff is working with Vicki Blazer, the scientist who first discovered intersex fish in the Potomac six years ago.

Jeff's work continues our previous efforts to shine a light on endocrine disrupting chemicals, which can send hormones out of whack even in very small doses. Long-time members might remember that Ed Merrifield, our Potomac Riverkeeper, testified before Congress in 2006 on the dangers these chemicals could pose to humans.

We'll let you know how to get a copy when the report is published. If you don't want to wait for our next newsletter, be sure to go to www.potomacriverkeeper.org and sign up for our email list! Or join one of our social networks (<http://www.facebook.com/PotomacRiverkeeper> and <http://twitter.com/potomacriv>).

495 HOT Lanes: Action Starts with Great Volunteers

In newsletters, e-newsletters, brochures, training sessions, website articles and more, we say that our volunteer Riverwatchers are our "eyes, ears, and noses" in the areas around the Potomac River. Riverwatchers are our first responders, they tell us what's going on in their neighborhood and we follow up.

Thanks to one volunteer, Kris Unger, we were made aware of the horrible pollution at the 495 HOT Lanes construction site in Annandale, VA. After listening to Kris talk about pollution rushing off the site directly into Accotink Creek tributaries, and seeing videos and pictures to confirm his story, we knew something needed to be done. Philip Latasa, of Friends of Accotink Creek, also helped document the damage being done.

Potomac Riverkeeper filed a notice of intent to sue Flour Lane, the HOT lanes contractor. Virginia's Attorney General entered a consent decree with Flour Lane that is pending approval by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. We have submitted comments detailing what actions are still necessary to mitigate the damage. A thorough cleanup of existing pollution and fines that effectively deter future pollution are two main concerns, as are provisions for stronger public participation in the future. Unless we take action,

taxpayers will be paying for damages caused by private firms. Does that sound fair to you?

In the wake of the BP oil disaster in the Gulf region, we're learning that the environment suffers when things are done "on the cheap." We should avoid playing any sort of blame game, and instead simply make sure our local enforcement agents are keeping track of the violations and making the responsible parties pay for them.



At our 2010 Potomac River Gala, Kris Unger received our Volunteer of the Year Award

Report Pollution: 301-POTOMAC or keeper@potomacriverkeeper.org

Outfitters to Aid Shenandoah Riverkeeper Conservation Fund

Do you plan on floating or tubing the Shenandoah River this summer? A portion of your reservation fee will help restore the river-if you choose the right outfitter.

Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble is partnering with three valley outfitters to create the Shenandoah Riverkeeper Conservation Fund. The fund supports on the ground action in the Shenandoah Valley: improving farms, cleaning up trash, and keeping the Shenandoah River healthy and beautiful.

Want to learn more? Go to www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org/fund!

Partner Outfitters:



Downriver Canoe Company

884 Indian Hollow Road
Bentonville, VA 22610-2206
(540) 635-5526
www.downriver.com



Front Royal Canoe Company

P.O. Box 473
8567 Stonewall Jackson Hwy.
Front Royal, VA 22630
540-635-5440 / 800-270-8808
www.frontroyalcanoe.com

SHENANDOAH RIVER OUTFITTERS, INC., LURAY, VA
CAMP OUTRACK CAMPERSHED
SHELLY VOTTA OUTRACK AND CAMPERS
SHENANDOAH RIVER OUTFITTERS
8702 S. PAGE VALLEY ROAD
LURAY, VA 22835



Shenandoah River Outfitters

6502 S Page Valley Rd
Luray, VA 22835
(800) 622-6632
www.shenandoahriver.com



Potomac Riverkeeper Celebrated 10th Anniversary at River Gala!

Thank you to everyone who joined Potomac Riverkeeper board and staff at our 7th Annual Potomac River Gala. Despite the dark clouds and tornado warnings, the sun came out and our tour of the DC shoreline was picturesque. Over 150 friends boarded the *Cherry Blossom* on Sunday, June 6th to celebrate our 10th Anniversary with food, drinks, Swing Dixie music, and live and silent auctions. Together we raised over \$60,000 to restore our Nation's River, making this year's Gala our biggest ever. We would like to thank everyone who helped us this year, including our host committee, corporate sponsors, and event hosts.

Hedrick Smith received our second annual "Protector of the Potomac" award to honor his unmatched dedication to protecting clean water and to restoring our Nation's River. In 2009, Hedrick Smith produced a Frontline documentary, *Poisoned Waters*, that highlighted pollution issues in the Potomac River. Ed and Jeff took Hedrick and his production team out on the rivers several times and provided background information for the documentary.

Kris Unger received our inaugural "Volunteer of the Year Award." Kris has worked tirelessly to protect Accotink Creek. This year, he was involved in our legal action to stop the illegal discharges of mud and debris from leaving the 495 HOT Lanes construction site. (See related 495 HOT Lanes article.)

Corporate Sponsors

River Champions



River Defenders



River Guardians



River Advocates



River Friends



Event Hosts

River Champions

Andrea & Dendy Young

River Defenders

Peter Bross
Sally Davidson
Stan & Linn Oaks

River Guardians

Avis Ogilvy Moore
Doug DuPont
Sarah Epstein & Donald Collins
Jim Kimsey
Mac Thornton

River Advocates

Valerie Amerkhail
Judith Bell & Dick Goodwin
Brent & Terry Blackwelder
Marney Bruce
Linda & Stan Collyer
Paul Hagen & Christine Jahnke
Richard & Pam Hanlon
John Holmes
Pat Munoz
Christina Nichols
George Ohrstrom
Mark & Cheryl Pullen
Mike Senatore
Cabell & Kathy Williams

River Friends

Donna & Michael Amedeo
Kim & David Brock
Robin & Mike Broder
David & Nancy Cartier
Barbara & Clem Dinsmore
Jay Eiche & Tanya Harvey
Jim Fary
Larry Gladieux
Barbara Gunning & Judith Rotman
Judith Jones
Barbara & Warren Lewis
Josh Lukens & Merci Bowie
Peter & Sydney McKelvy
Ed & Donna Merrifield
Lissa Moore & David Wember
George Wyeth

Potomac Riverkeeper Adds Two to Board of Directors

Please help us welcome two new members to our Board of Directors.

Christina Nichols comes to our board with a strong background in communications. She has worked as the communications director for the Safe Energy Communication Council, the communications manager for D&R International, Ltd., and the senior marketing manager for SunEdison, LLC. Currently, Chris is a workforce analyst for YouthBuild Green Jobs at the Department of Labor.

Michael Senatore is an environmental law attorney. He has worked for the National Wildlife Federation and the Center for Biological Diversity. Currently, Michael is the VP of Conservation Law and General Counsel at Defenders of Wildlife. He has been working to protect wildlife in the wake the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



GREATER WASHINGTON

We're Featured in the Catalogue For Philanthropy!

Potomac Riverkeeper is listed in the 2010-2011 Catalogue for Philanthropy, a guide to the DC area's best non-profits. After a rigorous review process, we were one of the 70 applicants chosen out of 250 to be in this year's Catalogue. We were first featured in the 2006-2007 Catalogue.

The Catalogue enables smaller non-profits to tell their stories to individuals who would otherwise never hear them, and to encourage those individuals to get engaged and to give. We're thrilled to be featured in the catalogue again; it lets our donors know they can invest with confidence.

The Catalogue will also bring our mission to new donors, some of whom may not be familiar with our work. 20,000 individuals and hundreds of family foundations will receive copies of the print Catalogue in November, and others will visit the new Catalogue website (cfp-dc.org) the only regional philanthropy site of its kind in the country.

Contact Us

Potomac RIVERKEEPER

1100 15th Street, NW • 11th floor
Washington, DC 20005
P: 202.222.0707 • F: 202.783.0444
keeper@potomacriverkeeper.org
www.potomacriverkeeper.org

Shenandoah RIVERKEEPER

P.O. Box 405 • Boyce, VA 22620
P: 540.837.1479 • F: 540.837.1479
jeff@shenandoahriverkeeper.org
www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org

Upper Potomac River Manager

P.O. Box 417 • Bunker Hill, WV 25413
P: 443.480.8970
brent@potomacriverkeeper.org

Follow Us!

[Facebook.com/PotomacRiverkeeper](https://www.facebook.com/PotomacRiverkeeper)
[Twitter.com/potomacriver](https://twitter.com/potomacriver)
[Youtube.com/PotomacRiverkeeper](https://www.youtube.com/PotomacRiverkeeper)
[Flickr.com/photos/potomacriverkeeper](https://www.flickr.com/photos/potomacriverkeeper)

Staff

Ed Merrifield
Potomac Riverkeeper & President
Jeff Kelble
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Robin Broder
Vice President
Brent Walls
Upper Potomac River Manager
Alan Lehman
Agricultural Project Manager
Nadia Elguindy
Programs & Development
Damien Power
Communications & Outreach

Board

Mac Thornton, *Chair*
G. Cabell Williams, *Vice Chair*
Stan Oaks, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Linda Collyer, *Treasurer*
Brent Blackwelder
Peter Bross, MD
Sally Davidson
Ken deLaski
John Gibson
Avis Ogilvy Moore
Pat Munoz
Christina Nichols
Michael Senatore
Andrea Young



Named "one of the best small nonprofits" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy

Riverkeeper is a registered trademark and service mark of Riverkeeper, Inc. and is licensed for use herein. Potomac RIVERKEEPER, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.



This newsletter was printed on 100% recycled paper and is 100% recyclable.

Factory Farms Will Disclose Information to EPA

Residents will have increased information and public participation rights

Residents will receive more information about factory farms in their communities, thanks to a settlement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and three environmental groups, including Waterkeeper Alliance.

EPA will collect data from all factory farms, officially called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations or CAFOs, and make the data available to the public. The information includes farm location, number of animals on site, and information about manure storage and capacity including: how much manure is produced annually, how wastewater is processed, and if the operators apply the waste on their farm or move the waste off site.

Not all of the information EPA collects will be released to the public, but the content of the withheld information will be cataloged. If residents, or groups that represent residents, feel any of the withheld information should be subject to pollution permits, they may petition the EPA to issue pollution permits.

Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble played a vital role in this case by submitting an affidavit solidifying Waterkeeper Alliance's legitimacy in challenging the EPA. Such legitimacy, or "standing," is essential; no one can be in court without it.

Just one more way we're working to open up avenues of public participation.

Another Victory for Those Using the Waters in the District

Putting the Daily Back Into TMDLs

If you're trying to cut down on chocolate and give yourself a daily limit of one square, does this mean it's healthy to have 365 squares in one day and be done for the year? Absolutely not! Daily means daily, right? That's our view, and the same logic holds true when we're talking about pollution budgets for our rivers and streams.

Until recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) disagreed, only checking on pollution budgets monthly or annually. The budgets, called Total Maximum DAILY Loads (TMDLs), are put in place so that contaminated waterbodies are not bombarded with more pollution than they can handle. Daily monitoring is the only way to ensure, at the very least, our waterbodies do not get worse.

Potomac Riverkeeper, Anacostia Riverkeeper, and the DC Environmental Network, along with our lawyers at Earthjustice, have been fighting for daily limits, and recently prevailed in court.

In May, a judge gave EPA a limited time frame in which to adopt all TMDLs in DC to have daily (not annual) limits on pollutants. EPA has until the end of 2014 to complete limits for solid waste, and until the end of 2016 to complete limits for various organics and metals.

This timeline is about as fast as the EPA has ever been forced to change its schedules and this is a victory for all those who use the tidal waters around the District. After waiting decades, it will be just a few years more until we have daily testing of bacteria and other pollutants in the Potomac, Anacostia, and Rock Creek.

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

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Potomac RIVERKEEPER and mail to:
1100 15th Street, NW, 11th floor, Washington, DC 20005
Or visit www.potomacriverkeeper.org and click on "Support Us"



- ☐ I want to be a Riverwatcher, send me information today!
- ☐ I would like to designate Shenandoah Riverkeeper!
- ☐ I can't contribute, but please put me on your mailing list!

Summer 2010



Potomac RIVERKEEPER®
Shenandoah RIVERKEEPER®

1100 15th Street, NW
11th floor
Washington, DC 20005



Join us on July 17th **Shenandoah River Rodeo!** *Bluegrass Music, Food & Beverages, and Camping*

It's Rodeo time again! Join us for paddling, fishing, swimming, live music, and camping...all on the banks of the South Fork! We'll be at the Low Water Bridge Campground on July 17, with a monster BBQ, door prizes, and a live bluegrass band.

This year we are also featuring a pre-Rodeo flotilla! For a fee, you can spend the afternoon floating on the Shenandoah. The flotilla will begin at 11:00am and end around 3:00pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Downriver Canoe Company (800-338-1963 or www.downriver.com). Don't forget to mention you are with the Shenandoah Riverkeeper flotilla!

We will also have a catch and release fishing competition featuring Jeff Kelble and other accomplished fishing guides in the Valley. If you are interested in joining the guides, call Jeff at 540-837-1479 or email jeff@shenandoahriverkeeper.org to bid on a seat in a boat.

Individual ticket \$40, Couple ticket \$70, Sponsor \$200 (2 tickets). Get your ticket today at www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org/rodeo. Or mail a check to Shenandoah Riverkeeper, 1100 15th Street, NW, 11th floor, Washington, DC 20005.