



Broadway Cuts Phosphorus by 85%

Shenandoah Riverkeeper and Potomac Riverkeeper Actions Force Facility Upgrades

Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble and Potomac Riverkeeper Ed Merrifield have had their eye on the North Fork Modular Reclamation and Reuse Facility—a wastewater treatment facility—since August 2006, when it was owned by SIL International, LLC. SIL had violated its clean water permits by almost 14,000 pounds of nitrates and by 48,000 pounds of phosphorus in a single year.

The Township of Broadway, VA took over the facility in 2007, after Ed and Jeff had started legal actions against SIL. Bringing the plant into compliance would remove 62,000 lbs. of pollution from the Shenandoah River annually, and Ed and Jeff wanted to make that happen.

Thanks to our Riverkeepers' efforts, the plant's owners have cut phosphorus emissions by almost 85% since taking over. There is more work to do, including upgrades to the facility, before the plant complies with the permits that SIL violated, but this is a big step in the right direction.

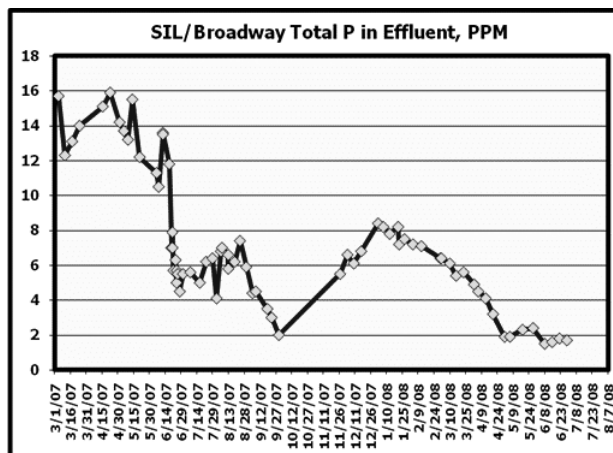
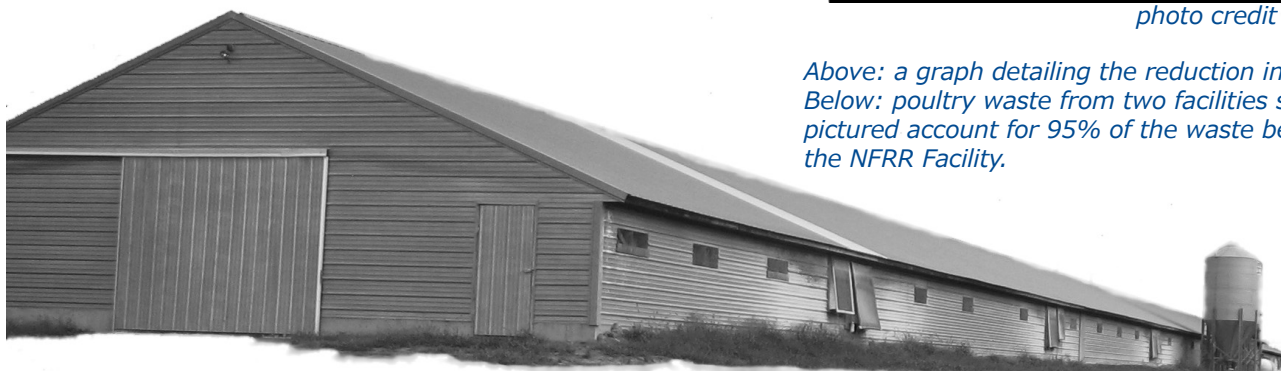


photo credit John Butcher

Above: a graph detailing the reduction in phosphorus.
Below: poultry waste from two facilities such as the one pictured account for 95% of the waste being treated at the NFRF Facility.



In this issue...

All the news since our last newsletter in September. Happy Holidays! We'll see you in 2009!

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| End Near in Battle with Merck..... | 2 |
| Visit to Morgantown..... | 2 |
| PRK Submits FOIAs..... | 3 |
| Good News at Seneca..... | 3 |
| Thank You..... | 3 |
| New Training Sessions..... | 4 |
| Submit Public Comments..... | 4 |
| What's New on the Web..... | 5 |
| New Board Members..... | 6 |
| Contact Us..... | 6 |
| Art Exhibit to Benefit PRK..... | 7 |
| Annual Report..... | 7 |
| Tribute to 5 Year Members..... | 8 |
| Give the Gift of Clean Water..... | 8 |

NEW TRAINING SESSIONS!

Back by popular demand, Potomac Riverkeeper is announcing two upcoming "Get the DIRT Out" training sessions. Now's your chance to keep contaminants out of our rivers and streams, and our drinking water supply! Register on our website today! More information on page 4!

Sun., Feb. 1

10:00 am - 12:00pm at
REI in Fairfax
11950 Grand Commons Ave
Fairfax, VA 22030

Thurs., Feb. 5

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm at
Halfway Firehouse
11114 Lincoln Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

End Near in Two Year Battle with Merck

Shenandoah Riverkeeper Argues Proposed Caps Should Not Be Increased

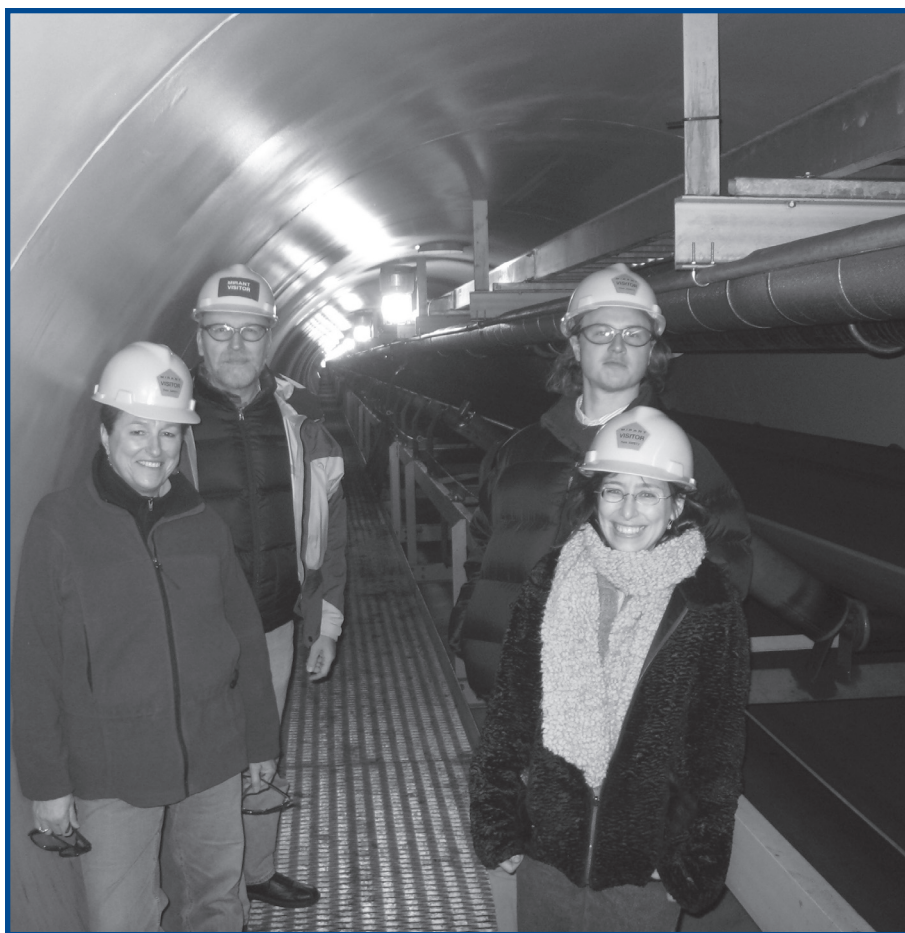
Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble applauded Virginia's Water Control Board for deferring action on a request by the Merck Pharmaceuticals plant in Elkton, Virginia at its meeting on December 4.

Merck wanted to increase the amount of nutrient pollution it would be allowed to discharge into the South Fork of the Shenandoah River when Virginia's rules for pollution reductions to protect the Chesapeake Bay take effect in 2011. Merck had petitioned for a nitrogen pollution cap increase of roughly 30,000 lbs. (a 300% increase) and a phosphorus pollution cap increase of roughly 3,000 lbs. (a 400% increase).

Jeff has led the fight against Merck's petition since we discovered its filing nearly two years ago. Shenandoah Riverkeeper argued at the Control Board meeting that Virginia cannot adopt Merck's suggested cap increases because they would prevent achieving the 2011 water quality standards.

The nutrient caps were created so that Virginia can honor its commitment to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement. One major problem is that Virginia has already over-allocated its pollution levels in the Shenandoah and Potomac.

Increasing Merck's cap would require finding pollution reductions elsewhere in order to meet the pollution reduction targets set by Virginia to restore the Bay. The good news is that no matter where the Board sets the cap in March, Merck will have to greatly reduce their current nutrient pollution discharge.



Riverkeeper Visits Morgantown Power Plant

November 21, 2008

Potomac Riverkeeper Ed Merrifield and his attorneys toured Mirant's power plant in Morgantown, Maryland, at the invitation of Mirant.

PRK has been tracking the plant for some time, and is interested in making sure the coal and its by-products not end up in the water.

Ed is standing in a tube that is 1/4 of a mile long. The tunnel keeps coal and its by-products away from the water while it is being transported from the barge to the plant.

This transport system is one of two being used in America.

PRK Submits FOIAs Wants to Know What's in Our Water

The safety of our drinking water depends on the health of our rivers and streams. The effects of contaminated drinking water can be devastating, which is why it is so important that we know exactly what is in it!

Potomac Riverkeeper recently submitted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to four area water suppliers, asking for:

- **Testing data for the last three years on the presence of chemicals, pollutants, pharmaceuticals**
- **Testing protocols that have been proposed, adopted and/or implemented in the last three years for the presence of chemicals, pollutants, and any other compounds**

This information is clearly in the public interest, and Potomac Riverkeeper wants everybody in the community to know what's in their water, and what the water providers are doing about it.

Shortly after our requests were sent, the U.S. Geological Survey released a study that revealed our water has small amounts of herbicides, gasoline additives and industrial solvents.

The USGS measured water from the Washington Aqueduct, and found 17 chemical compounds that had escaped the treatment process.

The study says that the chemicals are only detected in trace amounts and most likely do not negatively impact human life, but impact of sustained ingestion has not been studied, and one of the chemicals may possibly be at the root of the intersex fish issue.

Potomac Riverkeeper is committed to pressing water companies to disclose what they know about our water, both before and after it enters their system, so we can make sure that we have safe drinking water. Find out more in the Resources and News sections of our website at WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG!

Good News at Seneca Creek!

Potomac Riverkeeper has been fighting to clean up Great Seneca Creek for some time, having forced Maryland's Dept. of Natural Resources to remove lead from the watershed.

At a recent settlement meeting, we had the most positive outcome for what we feel still needs to be done at this site. We will report on the details later when the settlement agreement is finalized.

Ed Merrifield also led a tour of Great Seneca Creek with Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler on December 11, 2008.

The purpose of the visit was to continue Gansler's series of "river audits" that included the Chester and Pocomoke rivers on the Eastern Shore, and the Monocacy River in Frederick County

For more updates, join our list serv at WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG!

Thank You...

Foundations

Agua Fund
Anonymous
The Bancroft Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Keith Campbell Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
Community Foundation of the National Capital Region

deLaski Family Foundation
The Hopewell Fund
MARPAT Foundation
The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts
Spring Creek Foundation Fund (CFNCR)

New Members

Potomac Riverkeeper welcomed 480 new members in 2008. Thank you for your commitment to a healthier Potomac River and tributaries!

Get the DIRT Out Sessions Added for '09

The Potomac Riverkeeper wants you to know how to combat polluted runoff (dirt and debris that flow into our rivers and streams), one of the biggest water quality issues affecting the Potomac River and its tributaries. That's why we unveiled our new "Get the DIRT Out" program in the fall! "Get the DIRT Out" shows residents how to evaluate the polluted runoff violations on construction sites, report violations, and help ensure that construction sites are not contaminating our rivers and streams.

So far dozens of volunteers have been trained and, by popular demand, two new training sessions have been added. If you can't make it to our trainings, but you still want to get involved, send an email to KEEPER@POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG and then go to our website to download the construction site report form and get all the information you will need to get started. You can also send an email if you would like to request a "Get the DIRT Out" workshop for your environmental or civic organization (minimum of 8-10 people, please).

NEW TRAININGS

Sun., Feb. 1

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm at
REI in Fairfax
11950 Grand Commons Ave
Fairfax, VA 22030**

Thurs., Feb. 5

**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at
Halfway Firehouse
11114 Lincoln Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740**

Stop Pollution Before it Starts

Submit Public Comments and tell Lawmakers Pollution is not OK

In communities around the watershed, people want to help, but they are not sure how. **THE BEST WAY TO STOP POLLUTION BEFORE IT STARTS IS TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS** when pollution permits are being written and renewed.

Lawmakers must look at the public comment record when they are determining how much a polluter is allowed to discharge in our rivers and streams.

Recent permits that we are reviewing and commenting on include: Montgomery County's general stormwater permit, Maryland's factory farm permit, Maryland's MS4 stormwater permit, Virginia's poultry litter permit, and Virginia's stormwater permit. But there is more work to be done, **WE NEED YOU TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

By submitting comments, you are reinforcing our demands for a healthier Potomac River and tributaries, and stopping pollution from entering our rivers and streams **BEFORE** it starts.

Right now, YOU can tell the State of Virginia to get the dirt out of our water! Virginia's general construction stormwater permit is being renewed. The 60-day public comment period began on October 27 and will end on December 26. Don't miss your chance to tell Virginia to get the dirt out!

1

Search

Go to WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG and find out what issues you can take action on (see "take action!" section on the next page). Check the calendar for public hearings and deadlines.

2

Read

Read up on the issue and prepare your comments, if you need help, download our **GUIDE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS** for free at WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG/PUBLICATIONS.

3

Speak

Go to a public hearing and deliver your comments! Tell public officials that healthy rivers and streams are achievable when we **STOP ALLOWING POLLUTERS** to contaminate them!

www.potomacriverkeeper.org

Our website, www.potomacriverkeeper.org, is a nexus where users can come together to protect and restore the Potomac River and its tributaries, share stories and pictures, and get information on clean water actions in our watershed. Log on today, subscribe to our enews, and...

check out our latest!
Join our list serv, read our newsletters and MORE: this is your first stop at our website!

Check out our latest...
Newsletter!
Join our list serv!
2007 Annual Report!
Report Pollution, call 301-POTOMAC or click here!
VIDEO: Potomac Riverkeeper tests "Troubled Waters!"
Read the Shenandoah Riverkeeper's blog!

Virginia's general construction stormwater permit is being renewed. **Now is your chance to weigh in on how much dirt and debris stays OUT of your rivers and streams.** The 60-day public comment period began on October 27 and will end on December 26 and there are three public hearings. DCR will also be submitting the proposed regulations to the US EPA for its review during this time period. Don't miss your chance to tell Virginia to Get the DIRT Out!

[More information](#) * [Public Hearings](#) * [General Permit](#)

Latest News
Reports & Other Groups
Study: Development Worsening Pollution of Potomac
Lawsuit by advocates is reasonable approach if it spurs overdue federal action
Hard facts about development's harm

Riverwatcher Photo
In this photo, submitted by Riverwatcher Ned Stone, a tire is found standing up in the Potomac River near the mouth of Cameron Run.

Main Menu
• [Home](#)
• [Who We Are](#)
• [What We Do](#)
• [What You Can Do](#)
• [Support Us](#)
• [Resources](#)
• [News](#)
• [Search](#)
• [Store](#)
• [Administrator](#)

PRK Member Login
Username
Password
☐ Remember me
[Login](#)
[Lost Password?](#)
[No account yet? Register](#)

Events Calendar
November 2009
S M T W T F S
26 27 28 29 30 31 1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 1 2 3 4 5 6

submit pollution pictures!
See something that doesn't look so good? Take your camera, point, click, and send (to KEEPER@POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG). It's easy!

register for our website!
You can become a registered user and submit news and research links that we will publish. This is a great tool if you are an author, reporter, watershed activist, or concerned citizen. Click on the "Register" link and follow the directions from there!

add events to our calendar!
Plain and simple: get your events publicized! Email the pertinent details to KEEPER@POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG!

take action!
This section is for the people who really want to DO something about clean water in the Potomac River Watershed! Read up on our latest issues and events and take action!
Currently, we are urging our members to submit public comments on Virginia's Construction Stormwater Permit (for more information about submitting public comments, read our coverage on page 4).

visit us online today!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY ONLINE!



Ken deLaski

Great Falls, VA

Ken deLaski comes to our board with a background in business management and a passion for clean water in the Potomac River. Ken was the co-founder, Chairman, and CEO of Deltek, Inc. from 1983 until 2005. Deltek is one of the largest software companies in the DC metropolitan area, with annual revenues of approximately \$300 million.

Ken currently is a Managing Director of the deLaski Family Foundation, which focuses on the arts, education, the environment and humanitarian assistance. Ken also serves on the board of the Mercy & Sharing Foundation.



Andrea Young

McLean, VA

Andrea Young is a lifelong DC metropolitan area resident. She is fluent in several languages and enjoys traveling throughout the world. Andrea has been deeply involved in her children's schools, and currently is a member of the Washington University Parent Council and the John Dickinson Society at Dickinson College. For many years she has served as an interviewer for her alma mater, Princeton University.

Andrea has been instrumental in the start-up and sale of two companies, and is now a partner in McLean Capital, a northern Virginia private equity firm. Her main community focus at this time is educating people about the dangers of water and air borne toxins, especially those affecting normal fetal and childhood development.

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 Jeff Kelble
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
 Robin Broder
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IRA Charitable Rollover Extended!

Congress Extends Program in Economic Stabilization Act

For older donors and nonprofits that rely on their support, a glimmer of good news emerged from last month's economic turmoil: Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. Make a donation to PRK through this great program!

Art Exhibit!

20% of proceeds benefit PRK!

The Fresh Potomac
From the Fall Line to
Fort Washington
Photographs by:
Andrew Macdonald

December 13, 2008 –
February 12, 2009

AHM Gallery
215 South Union Street
Old Town Alexandria
603-512-9379
www.ahmgallery.com

20% of all sales will be donated
to Potomac Riverkeeper!

Annual Report

Our 2007 Annual Report is available for download from our website, WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG, for free!

Just log onto our website and click "2007 Annual Report" in the top left-hand corner (underneath the "Check out our latest" links section).

IN OTHER NEWS...

Look for Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. in the following campaigns



United Way # 9335
Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign # 8455
Combined Federal Campaign # 87828



GREATER WASHINGTON

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 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Email _____

How did you hear about us? _____

- ☐ Please send me information about your Riverwatcher program today!
- ☐ Do not trade my name
- ☐ I want my donation to go to Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Phone _____

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

1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 600 Washington DC 20036

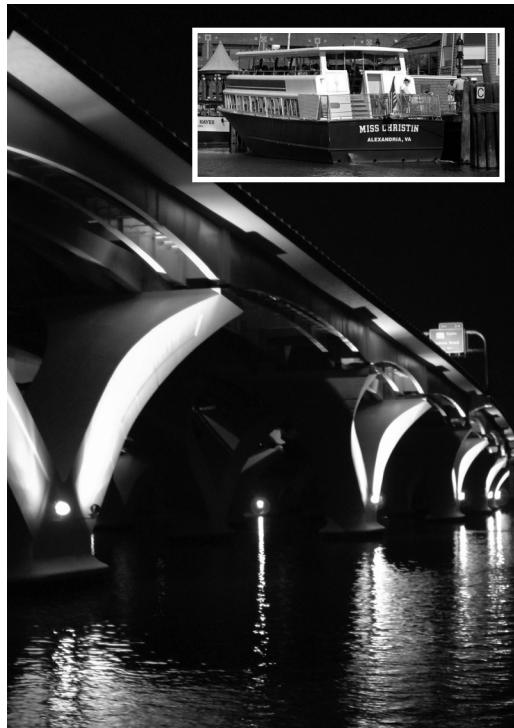
To become a member online, go to WWW.POTOMACRIVERKEEPER.ORG

Riverboat Cruise

PRK Pays Tribute to Five Year Members!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support Potomac Riverkeeper at our "Riverboat Cruise" on the Potomac River. The **POTOMAC RIVERBOAT COMPANY** generously donated the *Miss Christin* for our evening cruise on October 23.

Guests boarded the *Miss Christin* for a happy hour, with food donated from **CLYDE'S OF GEORGETOWN, WHOLE FOODS OF ALEXANDRIA, AND BUGSY'S OF ALEXANDRIA**. Our guests were treated to an evening tour of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the new National Harbor. We would like to thank bridge engineer **PATRICK DiNICOLA**, our tour guide, for giving us a picturesque, entertaining and informative tour!



*Above: the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.
Inset: the Miss Christin*

Give the Gift of Clean Water

During this holiday season, you can give yourself and your family the gift of a clean and healthy Potomac River and tributaries.

Even at times when it seems nothing is certain, we must remember the only way to ensure clean drinking water tomorrow is to take action today!

We have achieved victories in the fight for a healthy Potomac River and tributaries, and we will continue to do so in the coming year.

Please make a special donation or renew your membership before the end of this year! You can do this online by clicking on "Support Us" on our website.

Thank you and happy holidays!



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