

RIVER WATCH

The Official Newsletter of POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER® NETWORK

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RIVERPALOOZA 2018

A NEW PRESIDENT OF POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK AND A NEW ERA BEGINS



*From Nick Kuttner
Chairman,
Board of Directors*

Since PRKN was founded in 2002, we have grown and strengthened our mission to protect the public's right to clean water: stopping pollution, promoting safe drinking water and enhancing the public's use and enjoyment of our nation's river. And now, I have the distinct honor to announce that PRKN will

continue to build on our successes as a new president, Nancy Stoner, prepares to lead our organization into the next chapter of its evolution.

Nancy brings to PRKN an extensive, deep and distinguished career in water. She hails from an elite circle of national leaders in clean water advocacy known by virtually anyone protecting rivers in this country. Currently serving as Director of the Water Program and as a Senior Fellow at the Pisces Foundation, Nancy previously served as Acting Assistant Administrator for the U.S. EPA's Office of Water. As a top EPA policymaker on water, Nancy was responsible for protecting surface water resources and ensuring the safety of tap water across the United States. A highly experienced environmental lawyer, she is exceptionally knowledgeable and passionate about water

and has played a leading role in cultivating new technologies, pioneering cutting-edge programs, and fostering innovative partnerships to further water quality programs across the country. Even more poignant, if you ask our Riverkeepers about Nancy, they will candidly tell you they've been looking up to and following Nancy's campaigns and leadership for 20 years. And now she comes to PRKN.

As Chairman of the Board of Directors at PRKN, I have watched the organization steadily build its capacity to serve our 15,000 square-mile watershed and our need for water quality protection and enforcement. Under Jeff Kelble's leadership, the organization added two new Riverkeeper positions and a Vice President of Programs and Litigation that broadened our ability to monitor and resolve water quality issues. As a result, we have vastly expanded our ability to pinpoint new areas of concern across the region and fight aggressively to have them addressed. We have protected our communities and waterways, educated new audiences about the importance of environmental stewardship, and connected growing numbers of residents to the beauty of the nation's river. Now, with Nancy's help, we are ideally positioned to continue the upward trajectory that Jeff established.

It's rare for an organization to move from strength to strength through transitions, but that is exactly where we find ourselves as Jeff returns to his beloved Shenandoah Valley and PRKN begins its next phase of life under one of America's foremost clean-water warriors. On behalf of everyone at PRKN, I would like to say that we are excited to have you at the helm of our organization - Welcome aboard Nancy!

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK: KEY DATES

2000: Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. is established by principals of Potomac Conservancy, Piedmont Environmental Council and West Virginia Rivers Coalition to fill the empty niche of strong advocacy and enforcement of clean water laws for the Potomac River and its tributaries. Riverkeepers patrol the river, find and then solve pollution problems which helps protect the public's right to clean water in their rivers and streams. Encompassing the skills of scientists, teachers, law officers, fishermen and paddlers, Riverkeepers combine a profound knowledge of their waterway and a passion for protecting the river and the rule of law.

2003: Ed Merrifield is hired and serves as President & Potomac Riverkeeper until the end of 2012

2006: Jeff Kelble is hired as the Shenandoah Riverkeeper

2010: Brent Walls is hired as the Upper Potomac Riverkeeper

2014: Jeff transitions to President of Potomac Riverkeeper Inc.

2015: Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. formally transitions to a network structure, designed to support the growing needs of the Riverkeepers and their campaigns. It changes its name to Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN), splitting the President & Riverkeeper title and expanding to three Riverkeepers. Mark Frondorf becomes the new Shenandoah Riverkeeper and Dean Naujoks takes the baton from Ed as Potomac Riverkeeper. Phillip Musegaas becomes the organization's first-ever Vice President of Programs and Litigation to oversee its expanding docket of legal actions.

2018: Nancy Stoner is named President



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



HELLO FRIENDS,

This is the last time I'll be writing you as President of PRKN. After the amazing things we've done in the past 14 years, it's time for me to head back to the Shenandoah Valley to work and to be home with my family, full time. From the bottom of my heart, it's important to me that you all know how incredibly grateful and fortunate I've been to have your support and friendship since I started as Shenandoah Riverkeeper nearly 14 years ago. You may remember I gave up my fishing guide business to go work for the river and try to bring back the smallmouth bass which were dying in mysterious prolonged multi-year fish kills. Many of you are friends and clients from my guide days who jumped into this fight with me.

While it all started with fish kills, this adventure has taken me to places I'd never imagined, gotten me into pickles, and provided me with a rich way to make a living while serving a river I love, and a community of river users I love more.

I'm incredibly proud of my achievements as Riverkeeper and as President so I leave with my head held high. But especially sweet is that I'm leaving the organization in the most amazingly capable hands on staff and board. Today we have the most incredible line-up of staff talent including Dean, Mark, and Brent as Riverkeepers, Alan managing agricultural issues and Phillip managing the organization's programs and litigation. Over the past eight years we have cherry picked from the best talent in the country. Speaking of amazing talent, I just hired Emily Franc, formerly Anacostia Riverkeeper, to lead our development office. I can't begin to describe the quality of people who helped me lead this organization. EVERY SINGLE member of my board is an MVP, and very few things I accomplished as president were possible without them.

In the end, people even more than laws make our work happen.

Topping things off, I get to hand leadership over to Nancy Stoner. To me this feels like wrapping up a friendly tennis game at the local courts, then handing the racket to Serena Williams to play the next game. I've admired and looked up to Nancy since I got to know her work 13 years ago. If there was a single person on the planet I could choose to run this organization, it would be Nancy. You can imagine my surprise when I heard she would be interviewing for president.

Thank you, mom and dad, and thanks to my wife Erika's mom, Elaine, for supporting me and showing that you're proud of the kind of work I've decided to pursue.

My final thanks are the most important: to my wife Erika and my girls Sydney and Sabrina. The frenetic and never-ending work life of a Riverkeeper is no joke. Being away from home half of the past four years isn't either. As I write this I can truly say they have been my inspiration and have always blown warm winds at my back. Thank you Erika, Sydney, and Sabrina.

I'm leaving much unsaid but I'd need the entire newsletter to get it covered and to properly thank all of you out there, and everyone here at PRKN. Now for the last time.....

I hope to see you on the river!

Sincerely,

Jeff Kelble, President



The Kelbles — Jeff, Sydney, Sabrina, and Erika



MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT NANCY STONER!



Nancy Stoner

On June 1, 2018, PRKN President Jeff Kelble will retire and Nancy Stoner will become the organization's new president. One of the nation's most experienced water policy experts, Nancy has a rich and distinguished background in protecting our nation's water.

Nancy began her career as an attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC, where she litigated and analyzed legislative proposals on a broad range of environmental and natural resource statutes. She also worked

for many years at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where she recently served as Acting Assistant Administrator for Water. In that position Nancy managed the agency's program for implementing the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act nationwide to protect surface water resources and ensure the safety of tap water, supervising a staff of more than 600 and a budget of more than \$3 billion in grants, loans and contract support. She also supervised the development of national rules to protect surface waters, drinking water sources and tap water and represented the agency in congressional hearings, national conferences, symposia and press conferences. Nancy also served as Co-Director, Water Program, Natural Resources Defense Council, where she co-directed a national program to promote sound water resource management nationally and in specific watersheds, such as the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, and Anacostia River.

Nancy is currently serving as Water Program Director and Senior Fellow for the Pisces Foundation where she developed the foundation's strategy to protect freshwater resources in the U.S. using integrated water management (IWM) to maximize the value from water resources for people and nature. She also supervised a \$7 million investment annually to implement IWM in urban and agricultural watersheds.

When asked about leaving the Pisces Foundation and assuming the presidency at PRKN, Nancy said, "I am excited about the opportunity that awaits me as President of Potomac Riverkeeper Network. It is an amazing fit for me given my background and experience. It is uncanny really. PRKN protects the Potomac and Shenandoah watersheds, which are the same watersheds that I have been living in since I was 8 years old. They do so primarily through implementing and enforcing the Clean Water Act, which is the same statute I've been working to implement and enforce since 1987 (more than 30 years!). It is sad for me to leave Pisces, but I am looking forward to taking on a new challenge."

Nancy graduated from the Yale Law School, New Haven, CT and was awarded a Juris Doctorate in 1986. She was also awarded a Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

She lives in Silver Spring, MD, with her husband, Marc Machlin. She has two grown children, Laura and Jared. She enjoys whitewater rafting, tubing, canoeing, birding, and gardening.

Welcome to Potomac Riverkeeper Network Nancy!



Nancy and her husband, Marc Machlin, enjoying a setting to inspire us all!



Nancy and the Cherry Blossoms

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER[®]

COAL ASH — AN UNFINISHED SAGA



Dean organized a Move Your Ash rally in Richmond the day Dominion presented its report to the Virginia General Assembly

Since I first began fighting Duke Energy, then Dominion Power in 2015 over toxic coal ash, I never realized that it would consume hours, days, and weeks of my life, but it has been one of the most important issues I have ever worked on over my 27 years of environmental work. Coal ash is extremely dangerous — we have members who have had their drinking wells poisoned, their children's health compromised, and property values diminished. Everyone deserves safe, clean water! And while it is frustrating at times, our hard work has made steady progress in holding Dominion accountable while changing the dialogue from leaving toxic coal ash buried in the ground in leaking unlined pits along the Potomac River to real solutions for safely cleaning it up.

On Friday, March 2, Dominion issued its federally required report describing levels of groundwater contamination from leaking coal ash ponds at Possum Point and three other Virginia sites. PRKN's powerful response debunked Dominion's assertion that there are no toxic contaminants leaking into groundwater or nearby wells. Patty Marrow, a resident living near Dominion's coal ash ponds, said, "For over 20 years we never knew about the dangers of toxic coal ash until we tested our drinking wells. A consultant we hired told us not to drink our water which has had a devastating impact on the value of our home and helped explain many health issues our family has suffered." Samples collected from Marrow's drinking water and some of her neighbors' wells have revealed hexavalent chromium, arsenic, cobalt, aluminum, barium, copper, magnesium, manganese, nickel, zinc, vanadium, boron and strontium—many of which are carcinogenic—and all are found in coal ash.

Southern Environmental Law Center, PRKN's partner in the fight to clean up Dominion's coal ash ponds, made several preliminary conclusions about the report. At all of its wells at the Possum Point facility, Dominion found high levels of chemicals like boron and chlorides, which are the "leading indicators" (according to the EPA) of whether coal ash pollutants are escaping off-site. In other words, the high levels of these chemicals indicate contaminated groundwater is flowing out of the largest coal ash pond at Possum Point. In addition, contaminated groundwater appears to be flowing into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. For example, Dominion's so-called "sentinel wells," two of which are located between the pond and the Potomac River, reveal elevated levels of arsenic, beryllium, lithium, and radium.

Even more disturbing, five of Dominion's wells appear to have elevated radium concentrations—a radioactive element more commonly associated with nuclear waste. In fact, one well actually exceeded the applicable standard. This troubling development appears to be part of a larger coal ash problem, with high levels of this radioactive pollutant having been found at Dominion's other sites in Virginia, Bremono, Chesterfield, and Chesapeake.

The timing of the report, and PRKN's rebuttal, was even more critical as we led a successful fight in the Virginia House of Delegates to pass SB 807, which directs the Department of Environmental Quality to suspend, delay, or defer the issuance of any permit to provide for the closure of any coal combustion residuals (CCR) unit until July 1, 2019. The measure also requires the owner or operator of any CCR surface impoundment that is located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to determine the overall feasibility of recycling coal ash, including its costs and the potential market demand and to report on the results of the RFP by December 1, 2018.

This one-year moratorium will prevent weak state regulators from issuing permits that would allow the now discredited "cap-in-place" option to be used at Possum Point and moves us a big step closer to using recycling and landfill disposal to permanently remove this toxic waste from our riverbanks. We live to fight on!

ALEXANDRIA'S LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN (LTCPU)

Potomac Riverkeeper is deeply involved in crafting Alexandria's Long-Term Control Plan for Combined Sewer Overflow – help by getting these dates on your calendar!

- Monday, April 23 – LTCPU Public Comment Period Ends
- Tuesday, April 24 – City Council Legislative Meeting

SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER[®]

VIGILANCE, SUCCESS, AND LEADERSHIP

We've had a lot of success to report about since the last *River Watch* – vigilance, success, and leadership have been the hallmarks of Shenandoah Riverkeeper's accomplishments throughout the Valley and across the Commonwealth.

Cattle herds with unfettered access to the Shenandoah have long been a source of pollutants to the river and the Chesapeake. Along with the incredible, daily help of Alan Lehman, PRKN Agricultural Manager, SRK Mark Frondorf has worked hard – and diplomatically – to make real progress to diminish the harm. It's a difficult and a daily effort of vigilance to identify problem spots and to assure solutions put in place have not backtracked. Diplomatically difficult because the farmers grazing the Valley frequently are our best friends on a broad range of environmental issues but can be bound by longstanding habits which only delicate efforts can change.

While they have succeeded in reducing the number of cattle herds by more than half that directly access the Shenandoah River, they are disappointed knowing that their research into Rockingham County revealed that just 20 percent of the farms have engaged in best management practices to exclude cattle from directly accessing rivers and streams that flow into the Shenandoah. So obviously, Virginia has considerable work to do to meet its Chesapeake Bay cleanup numbers given that the state wants to achieve a 95 percent rate of farms engaged in stream exclusionary practices.

Nonetheless, this research has proven to be so illuminating that the Environmental Integrity Project asked the Shenandoah Riverkeeper organization for its help to plan and verify a Google Earth images program to estimate the percentage of farms in Augusta County that fence their cattle out of streams. Vigilance, Success, and Leadership!

Want more examples of success and leadership? Just ask the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The work Mark and Alan did preparing comments on grazing policy earned us an unprecedented "Thank You" from USFS. USFS noted that SRK's input provided valuable insights into the cattle grazing impacts on the Shenandoah River and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and was "key in forming the decisions for all of our cattle grazing areas on the Lee Ranger District." It's gratifying to be recognized but even more gratifying to be successful!

Vigilance! When Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality recently notified Atlantic

Continued on page 7



Mark investigating unfettered cattle access to the Shenandoah



Cattle in the Shenandoah



Mark and the SRK Raft

SHENANDOAH APPLE BLOSSOM PARADE

Catch Mark and Alan proudly displaying the Shenandoah Riverkeeper raft in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Firefighters and First Responders Parade on Friday, May 4th in downtown Winchester, VA! The parade starts promptly at 5:30 p.m.

If you have never been, you really should make it as it is a doozy of a parade that runs for three hours!! Lots of local watering holes around town to help you recover from the excitement.

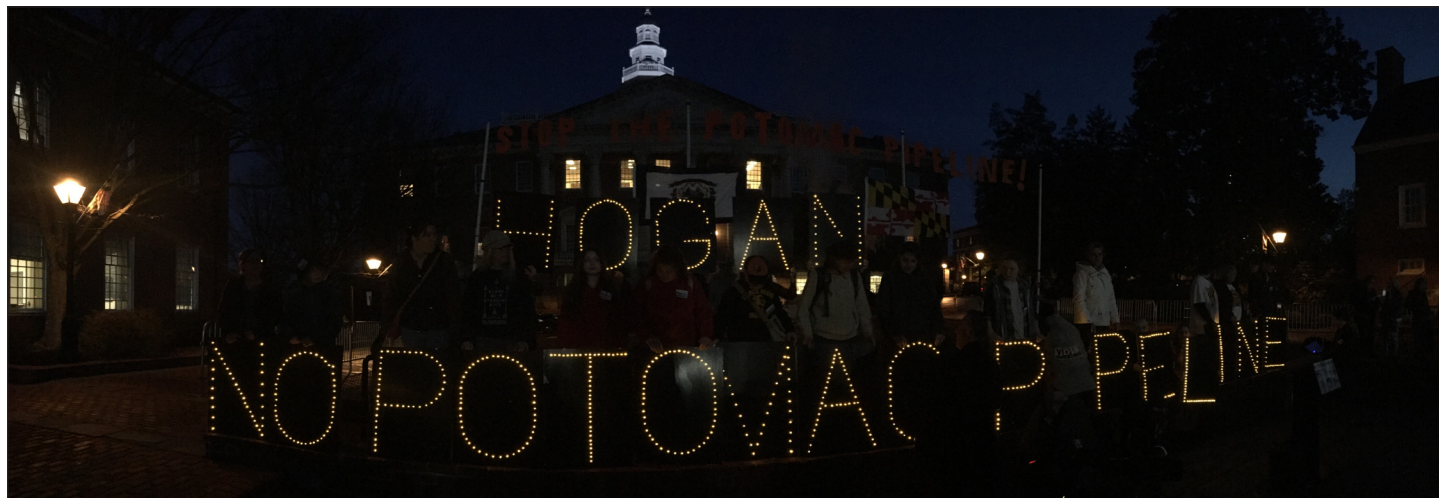


HEAR SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER MARK FRONDORF ON WZRV – RIVER 95.3

Starting in April and running through September, hear Mark Frondorf on WZRV 95.3 every Monday and Friday – during the 8:35am - 8:40am window and replayed in the afternoon – as he talks about the health of the Shenandoah River, the work of SRK, and all of the fun things happening in and along the Shenandoah River this paddling season! Our good friends at Front Royal Outdoors sponsor the twice-weekly radio broadcasts. You can also pull them up online at: <http://theriver953.com/podcasts/shenandoah-riverkeeper/>

UPPER POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER®

POTOMAC PIPELINE — WHERE WE ARE, HOW WE GOT THERE, AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED



Potomac Pipeline Protesters at February 14 Rally at the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis

You've probably heard by now that both West Virginia and Maryland have issued permits for the construction of the Mountaineer Gas and Columbia Gas pipelines. Despite this disappointing news, we are continuing to fight these risky and unneeded pipelines, and we have some good news to share!

First, we worked with the Sierra Club to support legislation in Maryland which would require all federal pipeline projects to complete a comprehensive Clean Water Act Section 401 review, including the Potomac Pipeline. Although the measure did not pass this term, it would if passed next year provide valuable tools for opponents of other pipeline projects in Maryland. Also, we, joined by Waterkeepers Chesapeake, Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), and Food and Water Watch, submitted comments on the Environmental Assessment filed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and were heartened to see that our outreach led to 2400 citizen comments supporting our concerns.

From the beginning we have worked with like-minded people and organizations to take every step possible to rally support to stop the pipeline. For example, when the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) held a hearing on December 19 (a week before Christmas) in the small western Maryland town of Hancock, over 300 people attended the rally we organized, and 250 people signed up to speak against the pipeline. As part of our campaign and with the help of a pro-bono graphic designer, weekly ads against the pipeline appeared in Washington County, Frederick County and City of Annapolis.

When MDE scheduled a second hearing for January 22, we planned a

boycott rally to protest its inaction and refusal to meet with us. Seventy-five people armed with signs and chanting held up the hearing, demanded MDE respond to our complaints and then all walked out together.



Hands Across the Potomac -- Against the Potomac Pipeline



Protesters of Potomac Pipeline Rally January 22 in Hancock, MD

At our February 15 rally in Annapolis, 265 people surrounded the Governor's Mansion chanting No Potomac Pipeline! We persuaded over 150 businesses in western Maryland to sign a letter to Governor Hogan, and convinced County Commissions and Councils from Washington, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's and Carroll Counties to send letters, and the City Councils of Hagerstown, Boonsboro, Sharpsburg, Frederick, and Washington, DC, wrote to him as well. In addition, thanks to help from our friends at CCAN, we reached 30,000 Maryland residents and urged them to contact Gov. Hogan. And, as recently as March 14 in Annapolis, we participated in a civil disobedience action – Mothers protecting Mother Earth -- when five stalwart women volunteered to be arrested with the support of more than 50 of our dedicated followers standing in solidarity. As a result of our efforts, the final MDE Permit included some important special considerations including independent monitoring and reporting during drilling and testing drinking wells nearby before and after.

You can be sure that we will continue fighting to protect and defend the Potomac from this unnecessary and risky pipeline. As we continue our battle,

I want to send out a heartfelt thank you to all the dedicated people and organizations involved in building this valuable coalition, which is sure to serve us in future battles to preserve and protect our precious natural resources and communities.

VIGILANCE, SUCCESS, AND LEADERSHIP (CONT'D)

Coast Pipeline, LLC, of 15 disturbances exceeding legal limits in upland riparian areas approaching wetlands, it was clear that the company was over-reaching. As a result, SRK is working with Compliance Surveillance Initiative to seek volunteer pilots and drone operators to monitor ACP construction activities. While all of us at PRKN were disappointed that DEQ issued a kind of conditional permit to ACP, we understand that resources are limited and are eager to provide our help to ensure the company adheres to all legal requirements.

Leadership is at its best when opportunities arise. So, Mark made a strong move to broaden the scope and networking of Shenandoah Riverkeeper and Potomac Riverkeeper Network generally, by joining the Board of Directors of Friends of the Shenandoah River, a volunteer, non-profit, scientific organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the Shenandoah River and its tributaries. The group was founded in 1989 by a group of like-minded Shenandoah Valley citizens and scientists concerned about the rapid decline in water quality of their beloved Shenandoah River. They will benefit from Mark's expertise and passion and PRKN will enjoy the new partnership.



Swimmers just yards from cattle soiling the Shenandoah



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.RIVERPALOOZA2018.ORG

2018 RIVERPALOOZA — IT'S BACK

Experience the Beauty of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers on these Fishing, Bird Watching and Camping Paddles

We are thrilled to unveil our *RiverPalooza* 2018 schedule for river connoisseurs and those who love the Potomac River and its tributaries. *RiverPalooza* officially kicks-off on June 2 and is a two month long annual event providing families and river enthusiasts with memorable on-the-water experiences that build a deep and enduring appreciation for our rivers. Paddle trips are scheduled between June 2 and July 27 and range from bird watching and fishing paddles on the Shenandoah to overnight camping on the Potomac's beautiful Paw Paw Bends. And this year, we're introducing *RioPalooza* — a wonderful opportunity for everyone, but with a special focus on Latinos, to come together and to demonstrate our passion for the outdoors — both its enjoyment and preservation. All programs will be bilingual.

No other event of its kind offers as wide a range of on-the-water and paddling events. *RiverPalooza's* canoe outings, fishing excursions, camping trips, kayak adventures, snorkeling, bird watching, and floats for all skill levels make it a popular series of events for all ages. From rare opportunities to explore the historic water trails that Captain John Smith first voyaged in the early 1600s, to the Potomac Heritage Trail that follows the paths explored by George Washington, the events offer a series of unique outings that inspire a sense of stewardship and reverence for the Potomac watershed.

RiverPalooza is the area's premier clean water program aimed at building awareness and appreciation for the entire Potomac watershed. We hope you will support our continued efforts to transform our Nation's River into a resource that can be enjoyed by future generations for years to come.

COME JOIN US! IT'S SURE TO BE A FUN AND MEMORABLE EVENT THAT YOU'RE SURE TO LOVE.

MEET EMILY

PRKN is extremely pleased to announce that we have hired Emily Franc as our Vice President of Development/Philanthropy. Emily has been involved with environmental issues throughout her career and joined the Waterkeeper movement in 2015. She was incredibly successful in expanding the programs and growing funding at our sister organization, Anacostia Riverkeeper, and now brings her passion for clean water philanthropy to our watershed. Going forward she will be working with our new President Nancy Stoner to continue Potomac Riverkeeper Network's rapid growth of programs and coverage. Please join us by helping welcome Emily!



Emily Franc, PRKN New Director of Development/Philanthropy



POTOMAC
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3070 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20007



2018 RIVERPALOOZA SCHEDULE:

EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF THE POTOMAC AND SHENANDOAH RIVERS ON THESE FISHING, BIRD WATCHING AND CAMPING PADDLES

- **Sat., June 2:** Kick-Off in Harpers Ferry, two launch sites, beginner tubing and duckie floats and Intermediate level raft trip
- **Wed., June 13:** Shenandoah River Bird-watching Paddle
- **Thurs., June 21:** Antietam Creek Float — a tour through history
- **Fri., June 22:** Ghost Fleet Paddle Malloes Bay
- **Sat., June 23:** American Indian Cultural Interpretation Paddle with the Piscataway Kanoi Tribe on Piscataway Creek
- **Fri., June 29:** Shenandoah River Fishing Trip
- **Sat., June 30:** Trough Paddle/Overnight
- **Sat. to Sun., July 14-15:** Paw Paw Bends Overnight Float
- **Sat., July 21:** Shenandoah River Snorkeling — South Fork
- **Sat., July 21:** Women on the Water
- **Sun., July 22:** RioPalooza
- **Fri., July 27:** Monuments Paddle

**For more information visit
www.RiverPalooza2018.org**