

RIVERWATCH

The Official Newsletter of POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER® NETWORK

FALL 2020
Volume 17, Issue 2

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LAW & WATER

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POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER® NETWORK

AGILITY IN DELIVERY, BUT THE SAME FUN CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT WORK OF OUR RIVERKEEPERS!

Our Law & Water Gala is always the high point of our never ending quest to have some fun; those of you who have joined us know how great it is to mingle with friends, have some time with our Riverkeepers, and generally enjoy a night of drinks, dinner, and dancing.

This year, of course, for our **Friday, October 23** night, we have made some accommodations – but only to how the package is delivered, not what. This year, we're going to be completely virtual. All the details are in the Gala program we've inserted in this issue of RiverWatch.

Here's how we're going to do it. Just sign up for the virtual gathering through our website. We'll have videos showing our accomplishments and short talks by the Riverkeepers and Nancy Stoner, our president. The auction will be live streamed, but you can bid early on some of the items. Just go to the Gala information page on our website. You'll be there anyway to sign up.

What can you expect? Recognition of this year's Award Winners, our usual excellent array of auction items (read more about them in the Insert to this newsletter), opportunity to learn what we accomplished in 2020 and what is on the list for 2021. AND, music and dancing. Yep, you read that right! The band will be playing and all you have to do is find space at your house – move a couple chairs and you'll be good to go.

Our award winners so utterly deserve our gratitude. In different ways, they have both led the way and been profoundly helpful in protecting and defending our precious rivers.



Fun with Friends at the Gala!

Protector of the Potomac and Shenandoah – AVIS OGILVY MOORE

Avis grew up close to the Mississippi River levee in New Orleans, and her love of rivers and the outdoors runs deep. After she moved to Maryland, she became an early member of Potomac Riverkeeper's Board and served as its chair at a formative time in its development.

Quiet in her demeanor, she used her gifts to support growth in resources and the goals of the staff; without her long-standing devotion to Potomac Riverkeeper Network, we would be less effective and we thank her.

Volunteer of the Year – CARL SCHEIDER

Carl Scheider has organized, coordinated, and run the volunteer citizen science water quality monitoring program for the Potomac for the past two years. He is knowledgeable, organized to a tee, and knows how to pitch in with our dozens of volunteers every week over the summer. PRKN could not have done it without Carl!

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



CLEAN RIVERS SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES

HELLO FRIENDS,

As the katydid's singing slows and the birds start to flock together in anticipation of migration, we begin to see the first subtle signs of fall. I sincerely hope you all have had a safe summer and found some time to get out on the water, relax, and enjoy this area's natural beauty. As another summer closes, we are all still feeling the harsh effects of Covid-19 after months of social distancing, caring for the sick, and experiencing economic turmoil from the closing of businesses and increased rates of unemployment.

In this time of unparalleled stress, Potomac Riverkeeper Network's continued efforts to ensure a clean, safe, and accessible river are crucial to supporting opportunity, stability, and economic development within our region. It is vital, now more than ever, to boost our local economies by safely supporting our communities' businesses and the revitalization of the Potomac River that helps them to grow. Potomac Riverkeeper Network helps to provide beautiful environments for patrons to enjoy by ensuring a clean, pollution-free waterfront. What better way to safely support businesses than by ordering take-out from a locally-owned restaurant and enjoying a waterfront picnic in Alexandria's Oronoco Bay Park, doing yoga outside on the waterfront at National Harbor, or visiting the Wharf in D.C. to grab an ice cream cone and take a stroll along the river?

As our world shifted this year, the demand for outdoor spaces has increased. Clean outdoor spaces are essential for creating an environment where safe socializing is possible. Despite the pandemic, our team at PRKN continues to push hard

towards our goal of ensuring that the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers are clean and enjoyable for all. We were able to host River Cleanup events throughout the summer, and have continued patrolling, water quality monitoring, and holding polluters accountable to ensure our water is clean and safe for recreation. We also started several new initiatives for our rivers, including the Swimmable Potomac, Trash Free Potomac, and Respect the Shenandoah campaigns.



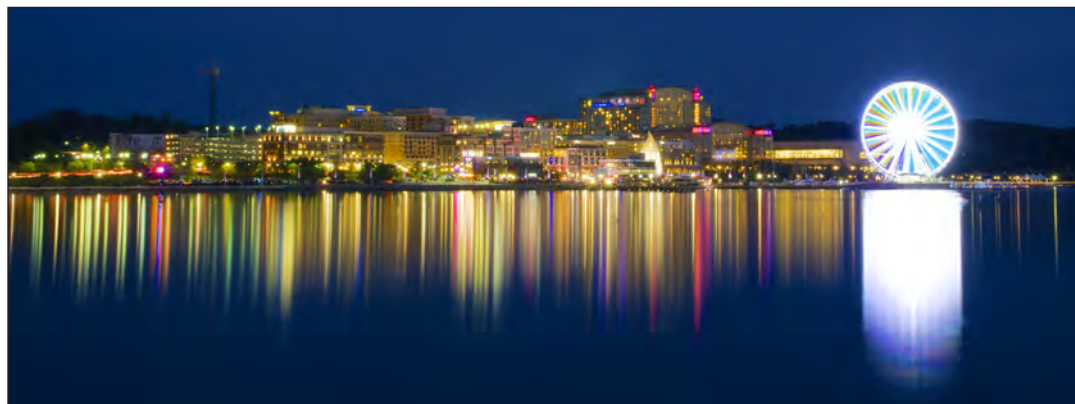
PRKN's research vessel Sea Dog on water in National Harbor

As we all wind down into autumn, and the foliage begins to shift, I hope each and every one of you finds the time to take a moment, support a local business, and enjoy our beautiful rivers.

Let's do great things together!

Sincerely,

Nancy Stoner, President



The revitalization of the National Harbor Waterfront has been important in boosting the local economy.

Riverkeeper is a registered trademark and service mark of Riverkeeper, Inc. and is licensed for use herein.

Potomac Riverkeeper Network is a proud member of both EarthShare Mid-Atlantic and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Employees can choose to designate a portion of their paycheck to Potomac Riverkeeper Network. Our EarthShare and our CFC number is the same – #87828.

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER®

TRASH-FREE POTOMAC CAMPAIGN – RAISING AWARENESS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION



Local Alexandria residents assist in a waterfront park cleanup to help remove trash from the watershed.

Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks, appalled at the trash that despoils the beauty of the Potomac River, has launched the Trash-Free Potomac Campaign to inform the public in the DC Metro area about trash and plastic pollution in the river and what we can do to solve this chronic problem.

Trash in our rivers comes from a variety of sources, but most of it gets into the river from stormwater running off streets and parking lots, carrying “floatable” garbage like plastic water bottles, bags, and food takeout containers, all “single-use” plastics, into storm drains that flow directly into the Potomac River or its tributaries, and beyond.

People are the cause of trash and stormwater pollution threatening the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, and we can be a big part of the solution. Reducing our use of single-use plastics and actively fighting for laws to ban them are two of the most important things we can do to reduce plastic pollution.

Trash and plastic pollution has long been a problem in the Potomac and is becoming a serious threat to Chesapeake Bay aquatic ecosystems. The Trash-Free Potomac Campaign will raise awareness about the prevalence of single-use plastics in our lives, and

give us the tools and knowledge we need to cut our dependence on plastics once and for all. Our campaign website is packed with information about sources of plastic pollution, its impacts on our environment, and ways to fight it.

One of the major goals of our campaign to make the Potomac trash free is to engage the community, especially through our monthly river cleanups at the Alexandria waterfront and National Harbor to which the public is invited. Additionally, people can be involved on an individual level through the Water Reporter smart-phone app, which enables users to submit photos of trash pollution in their communities and tag the location to alert others about trash hot spots. Submissions from the community will populate the map on PRKN’s Trash-Free Potomac webpage so people will know where the trash hot spots are found and can work to prevent them. We will also be activating our members and supporters to contact their legislators and support new laws to reduce or eliminate single-use plastics.

We cannot afford to ignore the devastating and long-term impact of trash generated by single-use plastic. We’re eager to take on this challenge and to do it in partnership with communities across the watershed. We are all in this together!

SWIMMABLE POTOMAC CAMPAIGN

The Potomac Riverkeeper’s primary goal is to protect and restore the Potomac River – we want to make the Nation’s River swimmable again. When it rains, raw sewage from the area’s combined sewer system flows into the Potomac River, threatening the health of its recreational users. Our Swimmable Potomac Campaign is committed to eliminating those overflows, lifting the DC swim ban, and making the Potomac swimmable again!

Potomac Riverkeeper works with dozens of volunteer citizen scientists who monitor Potomac water quality every week in Maryland and Virginia waters to provide reliable data all summer about water quality conditions in the river. In DC, PRKN monitors seven Potomac River sites through a water quality monitoring consortium led by the Anacostia Riverkeeper and funded by the District Department of Energy and the Environment. Both programs use a downloadable app called SwimGuide to identify and pinpoint access points where the river is safe for human contact and where it is not.

The Potomac is a public resource, and the public has a right to enjoy the river. Making the Potomac swimmable again is a campaign goal that will benefit generations to come. Please join our Swimmable Potomac Campaign!



Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks, spearheading the Trash Free Potomac and Swimmable Potomac Campaigns.

UPPER POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER[®]

D&L COAL – TARGETED AND FOCUSED

For too long, D & L Coal of Keyser, WV, has allowed stormwater contaminated with coal waste to pour into the North Branch of the Potomac River. But not anymore...

In July, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, Environmental Integrity Project, and Appalachian Mountain Advocates filed a Notice of Intent to bring a Clean Water Act citizen suit against D&L Coal for Clean Water Act violations at its coal storage and loading facility in Keyser.

Contaminated stormwater from this coal site has been polluting the Potomac River for too long, threatening its ecology and the health of the many people who love to fish and paddle in the river. Brent has been relentlessly fighting this pollution, which needs to stop, and the company needs to clean up this site.

When it rains, coal residue from the stockpile flows into ditches and then discharges into the North Branch Potomac River, according to the notice. D&L Coal company has long claimed, in its reports to West Virginia regulators, that its coal loading operation did not allow any stormwater pollution into the river.

Brent, however, collected drone photos to the contrary. In the course of his investigation of water pollution discharges by the nearby Luke Paper Mill, Brent noticed coal residue along a channel formed by coal-laden stormwater, leading from the D & L site into the river, and, over the course of two months, took photos documenting the discharge of polluted water from the coal site into the waterway through an outlet.

Thus, the company is in violation of the Clean Water Act in two ways. First, they do not sample or do inspections during and after rain events. So rain-induced pollution is not reported to the state. Without accurate information from companies, state agencies are blind to pollution in our waterways and can't do their jobs. The second violation is of course the impermissible discharges themselves.

As of this writing, while denying that it violated the law, D&L has expressed an interest in meeting to try to resolve the issues. And, after we sent the Notice of Intent to Sue, D & L has begun to remove much of the coal from the site and upgraded some stormwater sumps, clearly in response to our Notice. Stay tuned for details.



PFAS levels in small mouth bass have been incredibly high in the Potomac. Riverkeeper Brent Walls is in the early stages of investigating this toxins impact on the river.

UPRK USES OLD AND NEW TOOLS TO PURSUE POLLUTERS

Brent Walls, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, is training Waterkeepers across America on innovative use of drones to detect and track the sources of pollution so they can be cleaned up. He is also tipping the scales in favor of clean water as demonstrated by two different approaches to investigations – one focused and the other more broad-reaching – but both necessary and productive.



Upper Potomac Riverkeeper Brent Walls using drone technology to investigate pollution along the river.

PFAS – A BROADER AND MORE PROFOUND ISSUE

Brent is in the early stages of investigating PFAS in his watershed – look up PFAS, and you'll find it's a toxic chemical present nearly everywhere because of its many commercial and household applications. Brent recently issued a report with some alarming findings of PFAS contamination in the historic Antietam Creek; check it out on our website.

The presence of PFAS in the blood plasma of smallmouth bass in Antietam Creek was incredibly high and raises concerns that the edible fish tissue of smallmouth bass and other species could contain high levels of PFAS and be unsafe to eat. Brent is now investigating the levels in species that do not travel as far as the smallmouth – bluegills, sunfish – to try to identify the contamination sources. His inquiry will also include testing of levels of PFAS in sewage sludge (also known as “biosolids”), which are applied to farm fields.

We are early in our investigation of PFAS in our rivers and facing the challenge that these chemicals are detected at some level nearly everywhere. Our first task is to identify the sources, the impacts to our rivers, and the potential risk to public health that PFAS represents in our communities. The scope of Brent's work reflects that. Only after we understand sources and the degree of presence through the watershed, all the way down into the Chesapeake, will we be able to make the recommendations for remediation and enforce them.

LAW & WATER

A GALA EVENT TO BENEFIT

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER[®] NETWORK

FRIDAY
OCT. 23, 2020

PROGRAM

Law & Water, now in its sixth year, celebrates the work that PRKN does all year round, even in crisis, to enforce clean water laws in the Potomac Watershed. Law & Water brings together supporters for a night, in honor of those who protect and defend our Nation's most treasured natural resource.

PRKN is thrilled to host a LIVE-Streamed Gala that will reach an audience throughout the Watershed. From the comfort of your home, we invite you to join us in celebrating our 2020 Protector of the Potomac Awardees, bid on auction items, hear directly from our Riverkeepers and learn about the latest PRKN projects in action!

The work of Potomac Riverkeeper Network has never been more timely, relevant, or critical. Together, we can work to protect the right to clean water for six million people. Please join us, on October 23rd, as we Party Like it's 2020, LIVE at Law & Water!

RSVP TODAY AT: [HTTPS://PRKN.GIVESMART.COM](https://prkn.givesmart.com)

GALA EVENT TIMELINE

6:00 p.m.	Welcome Remarks, Nancy Stoner, PRKN President
6:10 p.m.	Awards Presentation
6:20 p.m.	Live Auction
6:30 p.m.	Riverkeepers Special Message
6:40 p.m.	Live Auction
6:50 p.m.	Special Video
7:00 p.m.	Music & Dancing with The Thrillbillys!

PLEASE JOIN US LIVE ONLINE, ON OCTOBER 23rd,
AS WE TOAST OUR 2020 AWARDEES.

YOU MAY RSVP ONLINE TODAY AT: [HTTPS://PRKN.GIVESMART.COM](https://prkn.givesmart.com)

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR 2020 LAW & WATER HOST COMMITTEE

Thank you for making our Law & Water Gala a success. Your generous and continued support helps to ensure that the Potomac Watershed is swimmable, fishable, and drinkable.

Carol Ackerman
Randy Benn
Peter Bross
David Buente
Sally Davidson
Jeff Kelble
Pat Munoz
Stuyve Pierrepont
Lisa Wu

We look forward to celebrating more victories with you.



AUCTION

Join in the fun by bidding on a plethora of unique items and one-of-a-kind experiences. Every Auction Item is 100% donated, which means ALL the proceeds go directly to fund PRKN projects. Once you've bid on an item, you'll receive notifications to your phone or email (your choice) to let you know if you're still the lucky winner. Check out the auction list below for some of the highlights, with more items on the way!

VISIT [HTTPS://PRKN.GIVESMART.COM](https://prkn.givesmart.com) TO REGISTER AND PLACE YOUR BIDS!

Auction Open for Preview - October 9th

Bidding goes LIVE - October 16th

AUCTION PREVIEW (TO-DATE....MORE TO COME!)

- Bid on one of THREE different customized one or two-day excursions with your Riverkeeper. Whether you prefer a fishing trip, paddling, or even the chance to ride the Riverkeeper patrol boat. This experience will certainly prove to be chock full of insight about the river in a behind-the-scenes access to the best the mid-Atlantic has to offer.
- Four event tickets to the Owner's Private Suite at the **Anthem**!
- A private three-hour concert by the DC-Based Band "**Soulfire**"!
- A prize to add to your bucket list! Imagine you and three guests in a private plane (Cessna Super Skymaster 337) soaring over spectacular views of Washington DC.
- Float the river in style. Guided tour and lunch for six provided by **Ashby Gap Adventures**!
- A southern Virginia getaway for two nights at **One Starling Bed & Breakfast** in Martinsville, Virginia, plus a curator-led tour of the extensive behind-the-scenes vaults that house the museum's collections.
- **DC Holiday Boat Parade**! Winner +6 guests decorate the Sea Dog 42' Chesapeake Bay deadrise boat and ride in the parade.
- One-of-a-kind jewelry creation made by **Wildscape Jewelry**
- **Washington Nationals** Game Day Package for Four with Baseline Box level tickets plus on-field passes to watch batting practice
- **Chopsmith** Dinner Package at the Wharf in DC
- One-Night stay in the hard to get **C & O Canal House (Lock House 21)**.
- Panoramic Photography of Potomac River by local artist **Roy Sewall**
- Enjoy a week-long stay at beautiful **Cape Cod**! Stay at a three-bedroom waterfront home fully furnished and ready for your travel plans in 2021.
- Slalom Kayak Lesson with **US National Team Member Tyler Uthus Westfall**.
- Private behind the scenes tour of the **National Aquarium**
- Shenandoah River Cabin Getaway
- Iconic DC Photography by **Tom Wachs**
- **Route 11 Chips** for a Year!
- Smallmouth Float Trip with Mark Kovach and John Hayes
- Gift Certificate for either **Mi Vida** or **The Grille** at the Wharf



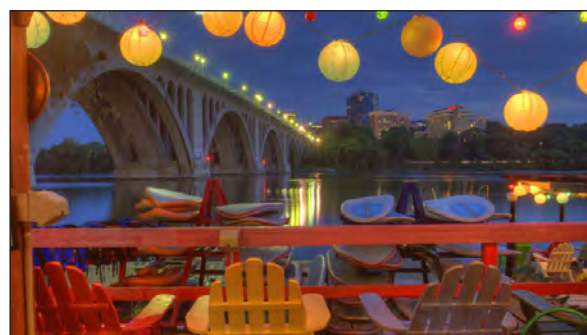
Ashby Gap Adventure at its best



Holiday Boat Parade



Home of One Starling B&B



Night on the Potomac

Join us LIVE online on October 23rd for the reveal of SPECIAL AUCTION ITEMS which will only be made available for bidding that evening.
Stay tuned for more details!

2020 PROTECTOR OF THE POTOMAC AWARDEES

The Protector of the Potomac Awards were established to recognize exemplary efforts in advancing the cause of clean water advocacy throughout our watershed. Nominees may be from any sector including: legal, business, institutional, nonprofit, our outstanding PRKN volunteers, and federal, state, or local government. PRKN is pleased to recognize these conservation leaders for their work in law or water, either as part of their career or through volunteer service.



PROTECTOR OF THE POTOMAC AND SHENANDOAH AVIS OGILVY MOORE

This award recognizes the tremendous leadership and vision of Avis Ogilvy Moore, who helped to establish the environmental movement in the United States and remains a strong, committed environmental advocate at age 95. Avis is a former PRKN board chair and was a member of the Potomac Riverkeeper Board from 2006 until earlier this year. She has a long and distinguished career in the environmental movement as an activist, researcher, scholar, and philanthropist.

Avis joined the Board of Friends of the Earth as a founding member in 1969, and later became its Board Chair. Avis helped to plan the first Earth Day in 1970. She also co-founded and chaired the New York branch of Friends of the Earth in 1972 and served on the Board of the Sierra Club's Atlantic Chapter, Zero Population Growth's New York Chapter, the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, and the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

Jeff Kelble, who had just begun his tenure as PRKN president when Avis was chair is especially appreciative of her guidance to him; he remarks that Avis was the embodiment of grace and strength. Quiet in her demeanor, she used her gifts to support growth in resources and the goals of the staff.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR CARL SCHEIDER

Carl grew up fishing, swimming, and boating on the New Jersey shore and crabbing and clamming on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. He has a B.S. in geotechnical engineering and geophysics from Cornell, an M.S. from American University, and another M.S. from National Defense University.

Carl came to PRKN as a volunteer in May 2019. Driven by interests as a former open water swimmer, father of a high school rower, and lifelong water enthusiast, Carl uses his 35 years of service as a scientist, program manager, and senior executive to run PRKN's water quality monitoring program.

In 2020, despite the pandemic constraints, he has helped PRKN to expand our volunteer cadre of water samplers, our collection sites, and our partnerships with other conservation organizations.

When not on the river, Carl and spouse Jane Williams split their time between the towns of Vienna and Waterford, Virginia. They have two adult daughters and two large, angry, attention-seeking Persian cats.

Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper, attributes PRKN's success in maintaining and even growing our citizen science water quality monitoring program in 2020 despite the pandemic to Carl's attention to detail and skill in managing volunteers. From all of us, thank you, Carl!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

(AS OF 9/10/2020)

RIVER ALL-STAR

Sally Davidson
John Holmes & Diane Zipursky

RIVER CHAMPION

Cabell & Kathy Williams

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RIVER DEFENDER

Valerie Amerkhail
Paul & Catherine Armington
Elaine S. Bernstein
David T. Buente
Thomas & Karen Ehrhard
David & Janet Hunke
Nick Kuttner & Mysia Pallas
Evan Miller & Nancy Hedin
Pat Munoz & Dorcas Adkins
Ann O'Neil
Spitfire Strategies

RIVER GUARDIAN

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Doug Baker & Sam Kilpatrick
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Alison & Loren Denton
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Robin & Lauren Kent
Richard and Son McBride
Stan Oaks
George & Mancie Ohrstrom
Rafe Pomerance
Potomac Boat Club
Kristin & Doug Siglin
Mac Thornton & Molly Carr

RIVER ADVOCATE

David Alberswerth & Cary Ridder
Janet Augustine
Thad Bench
Brent Blackwelder
David & Anne Cottingham
Harriett Crosby
Jo Ann Moran Cruz & Fernando
Cruz-Villalba
Robert Dreher
Jay Eiche & Tanya Harvey
Chuck Fox
Fiona & Burr Gray
Tim & Bree Hill
Edward Hopkins
Mary Ellen & Peter Levine
Mark Pollins & Gisele Nimic
Zuard Renkey
Lois Schiffer
Michael Shaprio & Julie Rosenberg
Bobby & Jeanne Whitescarver

If you would like to Sponsor the
Law & Water Gala, please email us
at emily@prknetwork.org.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Join in the fun by bidding on a plethora of unique items and one-of-a-kind experiences. Every Auction Item is 100% donated, which means ALL the proceeds go directly to fund PRKN projects. Once you've bid on an item, you'll receive notifications to your phone or email (your choice) to let you know if you're still the lucky winner. Check out the auction list below for some of the highlights, with more items on the way!

1. RSVP online at <https://PRKN.givesmart.com>. You will receive special Gala announcements and instructions for the big night!
2. On October 23rd, tune in ONLINE using your personal device (TV, PC, Laptop, Tablet, or Smartphone). Visit <https://PRKN.givesmart.com> for more information.
3. Organize a Gala Watch Party with your family and friends! With the right social distancing and precautions, small groups can watch our Live Gala together in a shared space. What fun!
4. During the Gala, we want to see and hear from you. You'll have the opportunity to connect with PRKN throughout the LIVE Gala - send us your photos and listen for a special message!



@PotomacRiverkeeperNetwork



@potomac_riverkeeper_network



@PotomacRiver

Don't forget to keep this program for the BIG night! Have you sent in your Online RSVP?
Register online now at: <https://PRKN.givesmart.com>

SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER[®]

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE – DOMINION THROWS IN THE TOWEL!

Potomac Riverkeeper Network had a lot of real successes last year – coal ash removal and recycling in Virginia, and the demise of the Potomac Pipeline in Maryland. And we've been able to match that success this year, too.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is history! This was a grueling struggle that went on for over six years. On July 5, 2020, Dominion finally faced reality and announced that it was stopping construction of this dangerous and unnecessary pipeline and withdrew its request for the permits necessary to build it. The pipeline would have crossed 600 miles of Virginia land, both public and private, clear topped 26 mountains, cut right through the Appalachian Trail and gone over or under 900 waterways across the Commonwealth, including many Shenandoah headwater tributary streams.

Mark Frondorf, Shenandoah Riverkeeper, along with other members of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, spent considerable time in Richmond, testifying before authorities and informing them and legislators about the risks – which far outweighed any benefits – of the pipeline.

This was a huge community and grassroots effort – so thanks to all of you who participated in and supported it. We did it – together!



Participants enjoying the Shenandoah Snorkel trip hosted this past August.

SNORKELING ON THE SHENANDOAH

Last July, Mark and his partners, the US Forest Service and Hispanic Access Foundation, hosted a day of socially-distanced snorkeling on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Participants peered into a world not often observed – that is, under, rather than just in or on the water.

This is an incredibly tactile experience as snorkelers feel the tug of the current, the coolness of the water washing over and around them, the roughness of the stone as their fingers hold onto a ledge to keep them stationary in the liquid environment – all the while watching fish and little bottom-dwelling (benthic) creatures go about their business. Mother Nature also put on a late afternoon fireworks display replete with thunder and lightning that literally rolled down the Shenandoah Valley, encouraging everyone that it was time to get off the river.

PRKN and the USFS made a special effort to promote this trip to Latino communities and provided a native Spanish speaker to accompany the trip. During this time of Covid-19, it is especially important that everyone living in our watershed has access to safe, socially distant recreational opportunities in and on the river. PRKN and USFS personnel delighted in being able to share their knowledge of the fish and other wildlife that we had the good fortune to see on the trip, the protection of public land and how it also protects water quality, and how we can all work together as stewards of the Shenandoah watershed to keep it clean.



The beautiful Shenandoah River, which now faces one less threat with the death of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

TAKING ON NORFOLK-SOUTHERN RAILROAD TO PROTECT MANASSAS RUN

Among Mark's current efforts is pressing Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to hold Norfolk-Southern accountable for environmental damage and public health risk that resulted from unlawful dumping of E. coli laden sediment from a pond that was used by cattle into Manassas Run, a tributary of the Shenandoah River. A big thanks to Mark and Karen Andersen without whose investigation DEQ would not have known about this incident or issued its Notice of Violation in July.

This was not some Mom-and-Pop business that didn't understand the rules. Norfolk Southern's payroll alone was \$2.2B in 2019. Yet they decided to flout state and local regulations by emptying a stormwater pond that was approximately the size of a football field and 45 feet deep without any of the required permits.

Stay tuned for further details about this travesty.

SHENANDOAH E-DNA TESTING

Mark has started a water testing program in the Shenandoah watershed using DNA source tracking to determine the source of the E. coli bacteria that often makes the river unsafe for human contact. Using a dozen sampling kits and DNA analysis donated by Jonah Ventures, a DC-based start up firm that uses environmental DNA to advance ecological understanding, Mark will find out whether the E. coli comes from the intestinal tract of humans or animals, and, for the animal sources, whether it is from turkeys, chickens, cattle, horses, or wildlife (such as raccoons, deer, birds, etc). Mark has identified seven initial sampling locations for testing, all tributaries to either the North Fork or the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

The Shenandoah watershed contains high levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and E. coli, much of which comes from Augusta, Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah counties, which together raise

more than 159 million chickens, 16 million turkeys, and manage more than 528,000 dairy and beef cows in a single year. These animals generate more than 410,000 tons of poultry litter and one billion gallons of liquid manure annually.

Shenandoah Riverkeeper will use the DNA analysis to identify the smaller Shenandoah watershed tributaries that contain E.coli at unsafe levels and which would make excellent candidates for the implementation of intensified agricultural best management practices. These streams could also benefit through financial assistance from one of Virginia's Onsite Sewage System Financial Assistance programs to correct failed septic systems or straight pipes of untreated sewage going directly into the water.

This is an exciting development for the Respect the Shenandoah campaign, especially because of the nexus between the testing results and consequent identification of candidates for the agricultural best practices program.

Thank you, Jonah Ventures, and well done, Mark!

SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER – AN INTEGRAL PARTNER



As one of our most important legal partners, Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), represents PRKN in protecting the Potomac and Shenandoah from EPA's attempts to severely weaken core Clean Water Act requirements that have led to dramatic improvements in our rivers over the past forty years. With nine offices in six states, SELC uses the power of the law to champion the environment of the Southeast. Its team of more than 80 dedicated attorneys stands up for all the things you love about this special region—clean water, healthy air, mountains and forests, and the coast.

By working at the national, regional, state, and local levels, and in all three branches of government, SELC is able to do what it takes to get results. SELC strengthens laws, makes government agencies do their job, and, when necessary, goes to court to stop environmental abuses or to set far-reaching precedents.

That means that when Dominion Energy stonewalled about the impact of its coal ash ponds in Virginia and denied having dumped toxic sludge in Quantico Creek and the Potomac River, SELC gave PRKN the legal muscle we needed. And when we took on federal and state authorities to stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the dedicated attorneys at SELC stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us.

In both cases, we prevailed thanks to the tremendous representation we received from SELC.

SELC's help in preparing a Potomac Riverkeeper's Notice of Intent to Sue Dominion under the Clean Water Act to stop illegal discharges by Dominion on Possum Point was decisive in stopping that pollution, and their staff's lobbying expertise in the Virginia General Assembly was instrumental in passing the historic legislation requiring the company to recycle or remove the millions of tons of legacy coal ash at sites across Virginia's section of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

We have finally achieved complete victory over Dominion in the battle to stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline – see page 9 for more

of those details – and we would not have gotten there without SELC. Shenandoah Riverkeeper was a plaintiff, represented by our friends, in a suit to challenge the Clean Water Act certification that the pipeline would not adversely impact water quality. That certification was dead wrong, and we are extremely glad to report that Dominion has withdrawn its request for a permit to build this unnecessary and harmful project.

SELC is the largest environmental organization in the Southeast region. In addition to its more than 80 attorneys, it has 75 legislative affairs, communications, advancement, finance, and administration professionals working in its region and on Capitol Hill. This structure enables the organization to work on the local, state and federal level.

Founded in 1986 by President Emeritus Rick Middleton, SELC is currently under the leadership of Executive Director Jeff Gleason.

SELC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME BIG WINS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW.

Precedent-setting Supreme Court decision

SELC is weaning the South off its over-reliance on fossil fuels. In April 2007, after seven years of legal effort, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled power companies could no longer continue to extend the lives of old, coal-burning power plants without installing modern pollution controls, catalyzing the largest power plant cleanup in history.

The organization's attorneys then blocked or shelved plans to construct seven new coal-burning units in the region and secured plans or legally binding commitments to retire one-third of the existing coal plant capacity in the region.

Cleaning up 90 million tons of coal ash

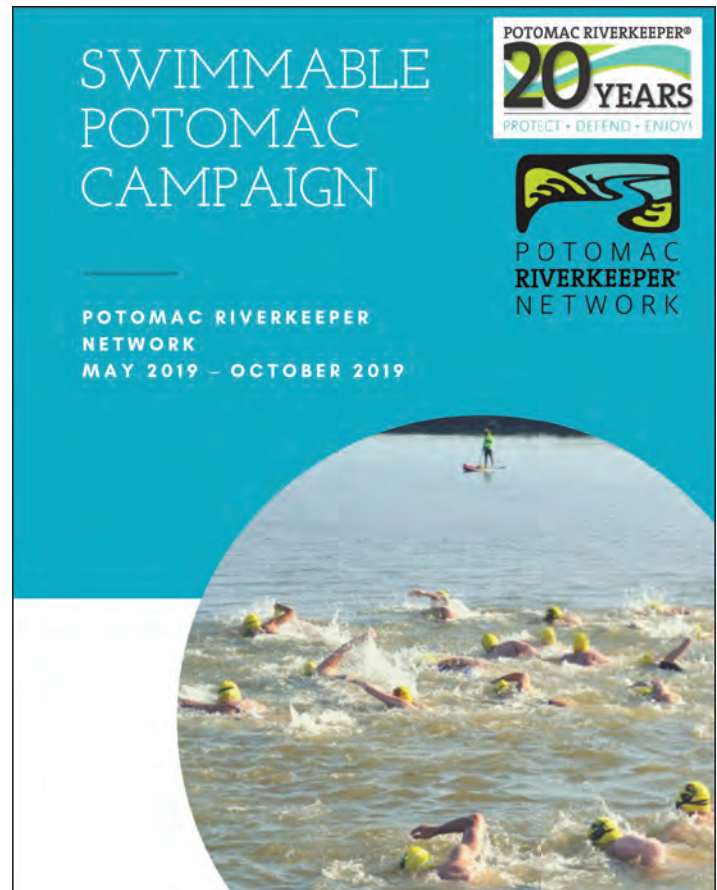
For decades, utilities have been allowed to store toxic coal ash in unlined, leaking pits next to rivers. SELC's campaign to stop that practice is realizing the largest ever cleanup of industrial pollution in the Southeast. The organization reached agreements to safely store or recycle all coal ash in South Carolina. It has compelled Duke Energy to clean up 8 of its 14 sites in North Carolina, with active cases at the rest. Its suit challenging TVA's Gallatin plant resulted in the first time a federal court ordered a utility to excavate its coal ash.

SWIMMABLE POTOMAC

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Potomac Riverkeeper this year, we have been taking great strides towards our goal of ensuring that the Potomac River is healthy, safe, and swimmable. We are proud to have released our first annual Swimmable Potomac Water Quality Monitoring Report this past July. The report analyzes the data and results of weekly water sampling along the Potomac River in 2019 and 2020. The data used was collected and analyzed by a team of dedicated volunteer citizen scientists as a part of Potomac Riverkeeper Network's Swimmable Potomac Campaign. The Potomac River is enjoyed by thousands of people annually for recreational activities such as boating, kayaking, fishing, and swimming. However, the findings of our report suggest that the quality of water in the Potomac is not always safe for these types of primary contact recreation.

This report is an important step in understanding the current state of water quality in the Potomac River and will support data-driven action to ensure the future health and protection of this iconic body of water. Our data showed dangerous levels of E. coli in areas near combined sewer overflows that discharge raw sewage when it rains. It also showed a direct correlation between high turbidity levels and high bacteria levels when rainfall events trigger both combined sewer overflows and stormwater pollution. Fortunately, there are many days when the Potomac is safe and swimmable, which is why we are encouraging people to download the SWIMGuide smartphone app to know when and where the river is safe for human contact.

You can learn more about our Swimmable Potomac Campaign and the Swimmable Potomac Report on the Potomac Riverkeeper Network website.



The Swimmable Potomac Report, released in July, discusses water quality, sewer overflows, and a course of action to ensure the river is safe for recreation.

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK GAINS SUPPORT FROM YAMAHA RIGHTWATERS™

Thanks to support from Yamaha Rightwaters™ and many PRKN supporters, Dean Naujoks has a new 4.2 liter, 225- horsepower outboard for his Parker patrol boat. Dean says, "The greatest legacy we can leave for our children is access to clean water. Safeguarding the Nation's River from pollution is a responsibility we take seriously – it is the lifeblood of our region, and our patrol boat is the workhorse of our program. Yamaha Rightwaters stepped in with Marine Evolutions at exactly the right time to make sure we were on the water to carry out our mission as soon as possible. We are incredibly grateful for their support."

The Yamaha outboard gives Dean a boost in horsepower, allowing him to carry more equipment and more people. The Potomac River, like many bodies of water across the country, has seen a spike in recreational activity in the recent months, and patrolling to ensure the water is safe for swimming and boating is now more critical than ever before.

"More people are looking to the river as a safe way to recreate and stay socially distant," said Naujoks. "The increased interest makes patrolling and sampling the river this summer even more important. As part of our Water Quality Monitoring Program, we now issue a weekly SwimGuide that keeps citizens informed about safe areas for swimming. This report could not happen without the sampling we do in the patrol boat."

Yamaha Rightwaters™ is a national sustainability program that encompasses all of Yamaha Marine's conservation and water quality efforts. Program initiatives include habitat restoration, support for scientific research, mitigation of invasive species, the reduction of

marine debris and environmental stewardship education. Yamaha Rightwaters reinforces Yamaha's long-standing history of natural resource conservation, support of sustainable recreational fishing and water resources and Angler Code of Ethics, which requires pro anglers to adhere to principles of stewardship for all marine resources.



Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks out patrolling with the newly donated Yamaha Motor.



3070 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20007

LAW & WATER

A GALA EVENT TO BENEFIT

POTOMAC **RIVERKEEPER** NETWORK

PRKN'S LAW & WATER GALA IS GOING VIRTUAL

We're not quitters! Even though we aren't able to host an in person event, we're all ready to give you a great night of fun, but just virtually! So join us Friday, October 23 and register now.

This year, you may look forward to a creative lineup of entertainment including action videos from the "Potomac Spy" drone fleet, remarks by special guests, a bigger, better offering of Live and Silent Auction items with online bidding, a chance to raise your paddle to support your Riverkeepers, and of course it wouldn't be a PRKN Gala without music and dancing to the Thrillbillies!

This is an event that you won't want to miss, and now you don't have to!

RSVP TODAY AT [HTTPS://PRKN.GIVEMART.COM](https://prkn.givesmart.com)

OR TEXT PRKN TO 76278 TO REGISTER