

DRBC Currents

Delaware River Basin Commission

Spring 2000

Flowing Toward the Future

As the twentieth century came to a close, a consortium of government agencies and nonprofit organizations, including the DRBC, embarked on a multi-step process designed to generate a vision to meet water resource challenges for the Delaware River and its 216 tributaries in the new millennium. This project, called "Flowing Toward the Future," consisted of three elements—regional workshops, a Governors' Summit, and a watershed-wide conference.

The process began in April and May 1999, with approximately 350 people attending 10 regional workshops held at five locations in the Delaware River watershed—Dover, Del., Philadelphia, Pa.,



Bridgeton, N.J., Narrowsburg, N.Y., and Bethlehem, Pa. In addition, students attending a regional Youth Summit in

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Flow Management Strategy in the Basin

Flow Needs Study Set to Begin

Although there are no dams on the main stem of the Delaware River, flows are regulated by releases from several large tributary reservoirs. These releases, made in accordance with a 1954 U.S.

Supreme Court Decree and subsequent amendments enacted through the DRBC, sustain flows during dry periods. During such periods, reservoir releases can account for up to 90 percent of the flow in the upper reaches of the Delaware River. The enhanced flows provide benefits to water quality, recreation, stream habitat, and waste assimilation. These benefits, however, can and do lead to competition for the use of reservoir storage, which also must provide for water supply. Despite a detailed reservoir operating plan, which has been negotiated over

many years, requests for additional flow augmentation, especially for recreational and habitat use, continue.

To develop the most efficient flow augmentation policy, it is important for decision makers to fully understand the benefits of stream flow for multiple, competing uses. The required analytical tools must show how such general parameters as water quality, recreation, in-stream habitat, and waste assimilation are related to stream flow and, ultimately, to the degree of flow augmentation.

The need to better define and integrate stream-flow relationships in decision making has led the DRBC to propose a study to develop a strategy for resolving interstate flow management issues in the Delaware

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It is important for decision makers to fully understand the benefits of stream flow for multiple, competing uses.

Reservoir releases can benefit such things as water quality, recreation, and natural habitat. The two paddlers shown here are participating in the Delaware River Sojourn, an annual event that highlights the river's vast recreational opportunities. That's Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) at the bow (front), and National Park Service Superintendent Calvin Hite near the stern.

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Executive Director's Corner:

Water Conservation Makes Dollars & Sense

By Carol R. Collier

When the Delaware River Basin found itself in the grips of a drought during 1999, the word "water" was in the headlines and on the minds of people who were really starting to miss it.

The realization that you can't make any more sure hit home last summer. We waited for the rain to arrive with the hope that enough would fall to recharge the ground-water supplies, save what was left of the crops, replenish the reservoirs, bolster flows in streams and rivers, and green up those brown lawns. As we now know, relief arrived on September 16 in the form of Hurricane Floyd, when as much as 6 to 10 inches of rain fell over an 18-hour period. Unfortunately, much of this rainfall was quickly diverted to the nearest creek or river via storm-water drains and pipes, but the drought was broken.



Carol R. Collier

While we waited for drought relief, we tried to tell anyone who would listen about the importance of water conservation. Although water is not now at the forefront of public consciousness as it was a mere six months ago, water conservation is still an important activity that needs to be practiced every day.

Recognizing that awareness is the first step in any conservation effort, here are some facts that should still make you think twice before you turn on the spigot, drought or no drought, 365 days a year:

- Approximately two-thirds of residential interior water use is for toilet flushing and bathing. The use of water-saving toilets, shower heads, and faucet aerators can cut this usage in half. (Installation of low-consumption toilets alone recently resulted in a 45 percent savings in water use in a Dover, Del., office building.)
- A top-loading clothes washer uses between 40 and 55 gallons of water per load. Front-loading models use roughly half that amount. Make sure they're full before turning them on.
- Hot water leaks not only are a waste of water, but are a waste of the energy (and money) used to heat that water.
- A dishwasher uses between 8 and 12 gallons of water per load. Again, only run full loads.
- Up to 90 percent of water used to sprinkle lawns can be lost to the atmosphere through evaporation. Use soaker hoses when gardens and shrubs need to be watered.
- A garden hose discharges up to six-and-a-half gallons of water per minute under standard household water pressure.
- Check your water bill. How much do you use in one day? Each of us should be able to live well using only 50 gallons of water a day.

Water conservation is an important activity that needs to be practiced every day.

At the DRBC, water conservation became an integral component of the agency's strategy to manage water supplies in the four-state region long before the idea was fashionable. The logic was simple: reducing all types of water use provides significant economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Water conservation makes dollars and sense. It can delay or eliminate the need for developing expensive new water sources. It also can lead to a direct reduction in per capita generation of wastewater, therefore enabling sewage treatment plants to process waste from more homes and businesses and eliminating the need for constructing costly new treatment plants or expanding existing plants. And think what a waste of money it is to extensively

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Basin Flood Preparedness

The DRBC hosted and participated in a meeting on December 2, 1999, at its West Trenton offices to seek input from experts on the existing level of flood preparedness in the Delaware River Basin and explore areas for improvement. The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 different organizations with flood preparedness responsibilities.

DRBC staff, wary that flooding sometimes ends a drought, began planning for this meeting during the summer months. The originally scheduled September 16, 1999, meeting date had to be cancelled due to Hurricane Floyd, which arrived as if on cue and caused severe tributary flooding in the southern portion of the basin. Just like 1955, a year of record flooding, the summer drought of 1999 and Hurricane Floyd provided vivid examples of how quickly hydrologic conditions can change in the Delaware River Basin and why communities must always be prepared for flooding.

The overall goal of flood preparedness is to reduce the loss of life and property damage caused by flooding. There are many activities, in addition to flood warning and response, that support this goal. These activities—such as flood-plain regulations, property buyouts, storm-water management, flood-proofing, structural flood control, and flood insurance administration—are particularly important to prevent new flood damage in developing areas and encourage wise flood-plain use. Even with the success of such programs, existing flood-plain development

and the potential for damage require an effective flood forecasting, warning, and response system.

DRBC staff in January released a report summarizing the December 2 meeting and the flood preparedness activities described by each of the organizations in attendance. This report also included two staff recommendations: (1) formation of a DRBC Flood Advisory Committee and (2) implementation of a basin-wide, river flood-warning improvements program. The commissioners received a briefing on the status of this new, basin-wide flood coordination initiative at their January 2000 meeting. This presentation is available for viewing on the DRBC web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc.

The commissioners moved quickly on the staff recommendations by adopting a resolution at their March 2000 meeting to create the Flood Advisory Committee. This committee will have an interstate, basin-wide perspective for the coordination of flood-loss-reduction activity in the basin. Its initial activity will be identifying flood forecasting and warning improvements for the main stem Delaware River and its major tributaries. The still-to-be-named

committee members also will be tasked to recommend additional strategies and programs to improve flood-loss reduction in the basin, including planning activities, such as flood-plain management.

The goals of the basin-wide, river flood-warning improvements program will

The DRBC recently unveiled a new, expanded flood information section on its web site.

be to improve the precipitation and stream-gauging network, complete flood-stage forecast mapping, and increase public understanding of flood preparedness. Program goals will be coordinated by the Flood Advisory Committee.

The DRBC also recently unveiled a new, expanded flood information section on its web site. Topics include *Why Do Floods Occur?*, *What You Can Do To Protect Yourself and Your Family*, *Flood Loss Reduction*, *Flood Information for Kids*, and *Summary of Hurricane Floyd in the Delaware River Basin*, as well as useful links to other web sites.

Rapidly rising waters of the Delaware heaved huge slabs of ice into Port Jervis, N.Y., during flooding in 1981. The ice punched through cinder block and brick walls, destroying or seriously damaging many structures.



COURTESY OF THE MINISINK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY; PHOTO BY R.G. TARBELL

DRBC Takes Action To Control Delaware River Toxics

The DRBC took action at its January 2000 meeting to ensure that stream-quality objectives for certain toxic pollutants in the tidal Delaware River are met as part of a continuing program to protect human health and aquatic life.

Two of the pollutants, 1,2 dichloroethane (DCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE), have been identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as "probable human carcinogens." Both are solvents used in the manufacture of chemicals and in the dry cleaning business.

"The action taken by the commissioners on January 26 is aimed at protecting the health of some two million people living in southern New Jersey, Delaware, and southeastern Pennsylvania who rely on the Delaware River for drinking water," DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier said. She added that it also is intended to safeguard aquatic life, noting that thousands of people eat fish caught in the river.

The commission ruled that allocations of waste assimilative capacity are necessary to maintain the stream quality objectives for the two substances in a 38-mile reach of the Delaware from Trenton, N.J., downstream to just above Philadelphia International Airport. It also determined that

allocations of waste assimilative capacity are necessary for acute and chronic toxicity in certain individual discharges in a 85-mile stretch of the river from Trenton downstream to the head of the Delaware Bay, near Liston Point, Del.

Assimilative capacity is the ability of a water body to dilute, or break down, a pollutant to a point where it does not exceed a stream-quality objective. Acute and chronic toxicity indicate the combined effect of multiple pollutants on aquatic life.

Commission staff will provide a numerical value for the assimilative capacity for DCE and PCE which can be used by New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania in establishing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) as appropriate under the federal Clean Water Act. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant or pollutants that can be discharged on a daily basis into a river or stream without exceeding that water body's assimilative capacity.

Staff also was directed to establish wasteload allocations (limits on pollutants contained in a discharger's effluent) or other effluent requirements for DCE and PCE. Acute and chronic toxicity load allocations will be set for individual discharges that have been shown to cause an exceed-

dence of the stream-quality objectives. The allocations will be referred to the environmental regulatory agencies in the three states for use in developing effluent limitations, schedules of compliance, and other permit requirements.

Under the resolution adopted by the commission, Executive Director Collier will require dischargers of DCE and PCE to collect one year of effluent (discharge) data to measure the magnitude and variability of these pollutants. This will be accomplished before wasteload allocations are established for individual discharges.

The actions taken by the commission are intended to ensure compliance with stream-quality objectives, or water-quality criteria, adopted by the commission in 1996.

Technical issues relating to these actions were debated by members of the commission's Toxics Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from the environmental regulatory agencies in the four basin states, the regulated community (municipal and industrial dischargers), the environmental community, academia, agriculture, fish and wildlife management, and public health. Commission staff will continue to work with the advisory committee in studying the potential for cumulative impacts of toxicity.

Fish tissue contamination by other toxic pollutants, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), in the Delaware River has been highlighted in recent years by the issuance of fish consumption advisories. Anglers have been warned either not to eat or to reduce consumption of such species as recreational-sized striped bass, catfish, white perch, and American eel.

These other pollutants currently are being studied by commission staff for future actions that may be necessary to ensure that stream-quality objectives also are achieved.

Additional information, including the adopted resolution and executive summary of the public hearing response document, is available on the DRBC web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc or by calling the commission.

Pumpout Sites for Boaters Available from the DRBC

With warmer weather just around the corner, the commission would like to remind boaters that it has created maps depicting the locations of sewage pumpout stations along the tidal reach of the Delaware River and Delaware Bay.

In addition to pinpointing the fifteen stations (eight in New Jersey, four in Delaware, and three in Pennsylvania), the free maps provide telephone numbers for the marinas or boat yards where the facilities are located. Boaters are urged to call ahead for hours of operation.

The maps are featured on the DRBC web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc/pumpout.htm

and can be ordered by contacting the commission.

Raw sewage discharged from marine toilets, or heads, can spread disease, contaminate shellfish beds, and deplete dissolved oxygen levels, causing stress to fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from raw sewage ingested by shellfish can convey waterborne pathogens, such as hepatitis and typhoid.

Boaters seeking to locate pumpout facilities on waterways outside the Delaware River Basin may call 1-800-ASK-FISH, a toll-free number established by the Sportfishing Promotion Council.





Governors Whitman and Carper during the resolution signing ceremony.

Pennsylvania held their own workshops in May using an abbreviated format.

The purpose of the workshops was to gather information and ideas for developing a shared vision for the future of the Delaware River Basin, which drains portions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Delaware, as well as 21st-century directions for attaining this vision.

Each workshop used a focus group process where participants were divided into one of four interest groups—preservation/advocacy, commerce/utilities, recreation, and government. Several mixed groups also were conducted. Trained facilitators led these breakout groups through a three-hour process, where participants prioritized and described vision elements, challenges, and directions. The 26 breakout sessions held at the 10 workshops yielded lists for 71 priority vision elements, 826 challenges to be overcome, and 880 directions needed to overcome the challenges.

After the workshops were completed, the information was analyzed for themes. The 71 priority elements were consolidated into five vision statements that collectively describe a 21st-century vision—Ecological; Water Supply; Livable, Pleasing Places; Vibrant Economy; and Stewardship. The over 1,700 challenges and directions, in turn, yielded suggested directions grouped under the following headings—Good Science; Watershed Education; Watershed Image and Marketing; Land Resources; Water Management; and Working Better Together. These are not stand-alone directions, but are packages that collectively will attain the five vision statements making up the 21st-century Delaware River Basin vision. Each represents a collection of related activities that should, or could, be

initiated by agencies, organizations, and/or citizens of the basin.

The information and insights generated from the workshops were used to develop the September 1999 report, *21st Century Visions and Directions for the Delaware River and Its Watersheds*. This publication is available on the DRBC web site or by calling the commission.

Governors' Summit

The Governors' Summit, held September 29, 1999, at the New Jersey State Aquarium in Camden, was the second step in the process. Its goal was to highlight basin-wide planning efforts and reaffirm the commitment of the four states and key agencies to continue efforts to protect the waters of the basin.

The highlight of the summit was the signing of a "Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin" by Governors Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey and Thomas R. Carper of Delaware. Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and New York Governor George E. Pataki also signed the document, but were unable to attend the summit. They were represented by the top officials in their state environmental agencies, James M. Seif and John P. Cahill, respectively.

In the resolution, the governors called for the DRBC to develop a new comprehensive water resource plan for the basin. They challenged the basin community to play an active role in drawing up the visionary blueprint for the watershed's future and called for the creation of a broad-based watershed advisory council to assist the DRBC. The commission adopted a resolution at its October 1999 meeting creating this advisory council, and members should be announced late spring/early summer 2000.

The resolution also was signed by Brigadier General M. Stephen Rhoades, Commander, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II Administrator Jeanne Fox; then-EPA Region III Administrator Michael McCabe (who now serves in Washington as EPA's Deputy Administrator, the federal agency's number two official); and National Park

Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust.

Each of the basin states presented a "Flowing Toward the Future" award to recognize a person or persons who have made significant efforts to benefit the natural resources of the Delaware River Basin. The award winners included: Peg and Hal Haskin (New Jersey); John C. Bryson (Delaware); Ruth M. Jones (Pennsylvania); and Raymond M. Christensen (New York).

Watershed-wide Conference

The final "Flowing Toward the Future" event was the watershed-wide conference held November 15-17, 1999, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia. This conference was designed to build upon the first two events, helping to establish directions and models for cooperative action that will sustain the river, its tributaries, and its watersheds into the 21st century and beyond.

The summit reaffirmed the commitment of the four states and key agencies to protect the basin's waters.

Conference sponsors included the Delaware Estuary Program, Heritage Conservancy, NPS, William Penn Foundation, U.S. EPA, PECO Energy, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the Port of Philadelphia and Camden.

The organizers of the "Flowing Toward the Future" process included the DRBC, the basin's four state environmental agencies, Alliance for a Sustainable Future, Delaware Estuary Program, Heritage Conservancy, NPS, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Upper Delaware Council, U.S. EPA, and Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin. New Jersey Future and the Stroud Water Research Center also helped to organize the Governors' Summit and November conference.

Additional information about "Flowing Toward the Future" can be obtained at DRBC's web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc or by contacting the commission.

DRBC Co-Sponsors May 2000 Student Summit

Middle and high school students and teachers studying aspects of the Delaware River Watershed are invited to share research and stewardship initiatives on local watersheds at the Delaware River Watershed Education Student Leadership Summit May 7, 8 and 9, 2000, at the Tuscarora Inn in Mt. Bethel, Pa.

The conference, "Flowing Toward the Millennium," will include keynote speakers, student presentations, watershed discussions, creative activities, and special seminars relating to leadership, mapping, chemistry, and biology. Students also will enjoy a "Bike and Boat" experience on the Lehigh River organized by the Wildlands Conservancy. Special teacher workshops are planned during the conference.

"The commission is very pleased to cosponsor the 2000 Student Summit, and

we hope students and teachers from all four Delaware River Basin states will participate," DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier said. "I look forward to being one of the speakers and meeting the students and teachers."

Schools are invited to send teams of two to six students to represent their watersheds at the summit. These "river ambassadors" are encouraged to prepare a 20-minute oral presentation and display about their local stream for the event. One or more designated adults from the school district must be in attendance and responsible for students during the conference.

The cost is \$100 per person, which includes meals, lodging, field experiences, and workshops. For those who only want to attend the student presentations on

May 8, the cost is \$20 per person (lunch included).

Sponsors and supporters include the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of State Parks, Wildlands Conservancy, "host school" Easton (Pa.) Area High School (teacher Robin Reese and student director Jamie Parris), and the DRBC.

Financial assistance is being provided by DCNR, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Fund, and Lucent Technologies.

For more information, contact Estelle Rupert, DCNR Bureau of State Parks, at (610) 796-3688. Additional details also will be available on the DRBC web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc.

Web Site Additions

www.drbc.net Now Points to DRBC Internet Site

The DRBC's web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc has grown dramatically since its inception. Some users, however, have told us that it's sometimes a challenge to locate the site using Internet search engines. In response to this feedback, a new address—www.drbc.net—was recently established and will be added to all major search engines. This new page "points" the user to the DRBC's web site, which continues to be hosted by the State of New Jersey. The commission would like to thank the New Jersey Office of Information Technology for its excellent service.

Efforts continue to improve and expand the content of the DRBC web site. It is truly a work in progress with new information appearing almost daily. We encourage you to visit it often and invite your feedback. Following are two recent additions.

Basin Water Use

The DRBC is compiling a water use database for the period 1990–96. A preliminary analysis for the potable water supply data can be viewed on-line or downloaded. The data, currently undergoing quality-control review, will allow DRBC staff to compile a profile of water use in the basin, develop consumptive use estimates, complete water demand forecasting, and evaluate the effectiveness of water conservation programs. The database includes monthly ground-water and surface-water withdrawals, location of each withdrawal, and use categories (such as public water supply, industry, power, golf courses, and mining). Preliminary findings indicate

that water use is declining in Pennsylvania and Delaware, and increasing in New Jersey and New York State. Overall, the basin's population is increasing while water use is decreasing, which may reflect positive results from water conservation efforts.

List of Watershed Associations and Other Organizations in the Delaware River Basin

The DRBC has a link on its home page to this useful listing, which was compiled by the Delaware Estuary Program. You will find maps that allow you to zoom in to a sub-basin to help you find local watershed associations and related organizations, along with information to assist you in contacting them. You can also use the message board to post e-mail messages to watershed associations. If you know of a group that is not listed, please notify Delaware Estuary Program Coordinator Forsyth Kineon (609-883-9500, ext. 217; fkineon@drbc.state.nj.us).



River Basin Washington Project

Congressional Task Forces Formed

The Northeast-Midwest Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based, nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization, has created the River Basin Washington Project (RBWP) to help advance interstate watershed management within the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac river basins. In particular, the project seeks to educate members of Congress about river basin issues and increase their legislative profile. The RBWP works closely with the DRBC, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

In cooperation with the project's efforts, several members of Congress have created three bipartisan task forces in the U.S. House of Representatives. The House Delaware River Basin Task Force is co-chaired by U.S. Reps. Sherwood Boehlert (R-N.Y.), Robert Borski (D-Pa.), Michael Castle (R-Del.), and Rush Holt (D-N.J.). Twenty members of Congress already have joined this task force. The House Susquehanna River Basin Task Force is co-chaired by U.S. Reps. Boehlert, George Gekas (R-Pa.), Wayne Gilchrest (R-Md.), Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), and Paul Kanjorski (D-Pa.). U.S. Reps. Thomas Davis (R-Va.), Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Constance Morella (R-Md.), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the House Potomac River Basin Task Force. The RBWP and House task force members are hopeful that senators

will decide to create a Senate Mid-Atlantic River Basin Task Force.

The RBWP is organizing briefings on Capitol Hill and congressional staff trips to the river basins, as well as compiling a database of basin-related projects and priorities. It will organize efforts to promote and acquire funding for these projects in Congress.

The Northeast-Midwest Institute, formed in the mid-1970s, is dedicated to economic vitality, environmental quality, and regional equity for Northeast and Midwest states. It fulfills its mission by conducting research and analysis, developing and advancing innovative policy, providing evaluation of key federal programs, disseminating information, and highlighting sound economic and environmental technologies and practices.

To learn more about the project, including the first edition of its quarterly newsletter, visit the Institute's web site at www.nemw.org/waterquality.htm.



FLOW MGMT., *continued from page 1*

River Basin. This study will identify and examine flow augmentation issues for the main stem Delaware River and its major tributaries affected by DRBC operating plans. It will pull together existing information on flow relationships and will identify additional information, indicators, and modeling tools that can be used to resolve the issues. The study will then provide specific examples for several tributary reaches, showing how the recommended tools can be applied to priority flow augmentation issues. Its purpose is not to recommend policy, but to provide up-to-date decision-making capability for policymakers.

Following the recommendation of a committee that evaluated proposals from three consultants, the commission at its January 2000 meeting authorized staff to contract with Water Resources Management, Inc., of Columbia, Md., to complete the study. Work is expected to begin this spring.

The committee was made up of representatives from the four basin states, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York City, and two members of the DRBC staff.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Water Snapshot 2000, April 14-30, 2000

This popular, basin-wide, water-quality sampling event that takes a "snapshot" of the waters of the Delaware River Basin will be celebrating its fifth year this spring. It serves as an important educational, outreach activity around Earth Day, April 22, bringing attention to the need for water-quality monitoring and providing much-deserved recognition to those volunteers who participate in water-quality monitoring programs throughout the year.

DRBC staff members are already making plans to return to two events they participated in last year to educate the public about Water Snapshot 2000. "These two events over three days last April provided us with an excellent outreach opportunity," DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier said. "Children and adults alike seemed to enjoy the chance to learn from DRBC staff and take some hands-on, water-quality measurements."

The events are the Stroud Water Research Center's "UpStream Festival" in Avondale, Chester County, Pa., on April 15 and the Shad Festival in Lambertville, N.J., on April 29-30. Information on these two events is available by visiting their web sites at www.stroudcenter.org and www.lambertville.org.

Water 2000 Festival, June 1, 2000

The festival is being hosted by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Wesley College. It will be held in Dover, Del., at the college for some 500 seventh grade students from throughout Delaware. The DRBC is a festival sponsor. The theme of the event is "Protecting Our Watersheds." For more information, contact Nancy Rolli (302-739-4506; nrolli@dnrec.state.de.us) or Carol Murphy (302-739-4860; cmurphy@dnrec.state.de.us).

Delaware River Sojourn, June 16-24, 2000

The Delaware River Sojourn combines canoeing, camping, educational programs, historical interpretation, and more. The event was born out of a desire to introduce people to the Delaware River, to celebrate and increase awareness of the river's unique natural, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational characteristics, as well as to educate individuals and organizations on the importance of conserving our natural resources.

This year, the sojourn will be extended into the estuary in conjunction with "Op Sail 2000," the event where tall ships will be sailing up the river.

Plans are still being finalized, so visit the sojourn's web site at www.nps.gov/upde/sojourn for updated information, or contact the DRBC.

Schuylkill River Sojourn, June 2-9, 2000

To put your name on a list to receive a brochure, contact Eva Bocian at the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor (610-372-3916; evab@schuylkillriver.org).

Lehigh River Sojourn, June 10-16, 2000

For more information, contact Shirley Kline at the Wildlands Conservancy (610-965-4397, ext. 14).

The DRBC web site's home page will feature convenient links to each of the three sojourns as soon as additional information is available, so visit it often. See you on a river in June!

And the Winner of "Name That Beast" Is ... "Della-Wary!"

In the last edition of *DRBCurrents*, readers were invited to name the Delaware River creature photographed by DRBC Environmental Scientist Robert C. Kausch in October 1998. It was taken in late afternoon from the New Jersey shore of the Delaware, just downstream from the Bulls Island Bridge. The photo has not been retouched.

The winning name was submitted by former DRBC staffer Bob Everest, who will

be receiving a "Della-Wary" T-shirt. The names "Delahoaxie" and "Basin Bessie" tied for second place, and "Deli" and "Della" tied for third. All suggested names were reviewed and voted upon by a committee of commission staff.

The DRBC thanks the contestants from the four basin states and Connecticut who took the time to submit names for the beast.



EXEC. DIR. CORNER, *continued from page 2*

(and expensively) treat water to meet rigorous national and state drinking-water standards and then lose it through leaks.

One challenge facing us at the dawn of the 21st century is to develop systems where rainwater runoff isn't channeled to a river or stream through a network of culverts and pipes and lost to the ocean, but is returned to the ground where it can replenish our wells and help irrigate our crops. We need to treat storm water as a resource, not as waste.

The Delaware River Basin serves the most densely populated and industrialized area in the United States. Huge demands are made on its water resources, which are at the mercy of weather's whims. This summer, our water supplies will only be recharged by rainfall. We need to make good use of this precious resource. So please, plan accordingly and save some for tomorrow.

To receive a copy of the DRBC's new water conservation flyer, contact the commission or download it from the DRBC web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc.



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"A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure."

— U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes
1931 Delaware River Diversion Case