

From: Frederick Tutman<info@paxriverkeeper.org>
Sent:
To: fred@paxriverkeeper.org
Subject: Happy New Year!

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Patuxent Riverkeeper. Don't forget to add info@paxriverkeeper.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



On behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, members and boosters we thank you for your support all year round for the work of protecting the Patuxent River and its people and communities. Happy 2017!

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM PATUXENT RIVERKEEPER:

Many thanks for your help making 2016 one of our busiest and most productive years ever! Lately the most persistent question we have heard from members and visitors at Riverkeeper Center in Nottingham is: how will the outcome of the recent national election outcomes effect our ongoing work? Early Presidential appointments look challenging for many of the issues we have traditionally worked on such as coal waste discharges, fossil fuel expansionism and destructive infrastructure, diversity, inclusion, enforcement of environmental laws and much more. But partisanship has never played a role in our efforts, and we hold any and all political parties to the same litmus test insomuch as whether governmental initiatives to protect and restore the Patuxent make good sense, make a difference, and can alter the future course of a river that presently has a D- grade for water quality. True, there may be lots of things important in addition to clean water, but few as vital or as precious as the water without which--life in this world could not exist. When we send probes to Mars, the most hopeful sign we seek is the presence of water! Clean water remains the bottom line, the gold standard ,and the foundation for all that we know in a prudent and viable society. Thirteen years into the Patuxent Riverkeeper journey, we are consistently amazed by the many voices, vistas and stories this amazing river has to share with those willing to listen and likewise the insinkable spirit of those who refuse to give up on its future. Saving the Patuxent is not only a cause worth fighting and struggling for, but truly we cannot imagine any sincere effort to protect this river that does not involve fighting or struggle at least some of the time. So, whomever is in the Statehouse, the White House or any of the nearly one million "houses" located in this watershed, we will continue to fight for what is right and to help turn the tide against the sheer momentum of years of indifference, sloth, foot dragging and bureaucracy that have all but failed to save this priceless gift that belongs to all of us. In the spirit of that unifying struggle,we wish you and yours peace, happiness, useful (sustainable) work and clean water in 2017. Many thanks for your support in past years and we look forward to earning your support again in 2017!

Happy 2017 New Year on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff of Patuxent Riverkeeper



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IMPORTANT NOTICE: We are changing our office phone number....

Due to persistently unreliable phone service in our rural location, we have cancelled our "old school" analog phone number and are in the process of transitioning to a VOIP (Internet) driven system---now that we finally have broadband internet service in the area. We don't yet have the new main number up and running but hope to wrap it up during January 2017. In the meantime, our toll free hotline is still working and you can reach Patuxent Riverkeeper at 855-725-2925.

Sorry for the inconvenience. When ready, our new number will be posted on our web site, Facebook and in our subsequent email advisories.



Fighting unreported wastewater discharges, bad permits, weak enforcement.

How effective can we possibly expect restoration efforts to be if the regulatory establishment keeps issuing fresh permits to pollute these waters? How about when they would rather "mitigate" than "regulate"? PrK members and Board Members worked and lobbied the State and Counties to clarify and improve diligence and public notification after sewage spills and also labored to improve an overhaul poorly framed permits. PrK continues to rally citizen engagement and promote activism to get better policies and outcomes from the existing regulatory systems.



Member, Al Tucker and Board Member Barbara Sollner-Webb at MDE

Local Grassroots Advocacy and Support.

Grassroots means "locally determined" and the heart of Prk's advocacy work is in our numerous collaborations with local communities all over the Patuxent watershed to raise citizen power and determinism over their clean water future. During 2016 we maintained a running portfolio of various legal actions aimed at enforcing environmental laws, obtaining reparations from pollution violators and protecting vulnerable communities from harm. Additionally we investigated and resolved scores of citizen pollution complaints while attacking willful violations at the source-- challenging polluters to stop, leveraging reparations, fines and civil penalties in order to make polluting the Patuxent economically perilous for the perpetrators. In 2016 we successfully defended in the courts, a polluter that had filed a lawsuit against our organization for reporting



pollution to the government. We also worked with activists in Brandywine, MD to pursue resolution of environmental and civil rights inequities created by multiple toxic hazards concentrated in an overburdened community.

Monitoring and vigilance

Our day-to-day vigilance, pollution investigations and aerial flyovers help us add a "citizen-eye" to the process of policing the river and curtailing the onslaught of violations and pollution sources

that continue to degrade the river. We periodically conduct upriver nutrient surveys carried out by citizens to detect pollution hot-spots so we can work to reduce and eliminate them. You can sign up to help with the 2017 survey:

info@paxrivereeper.org. Also through the

generosity of two of our members in 2016 we added a new patrol boat to our fleet that when taken out of storage in Spring 2017 will increase the frequency, range and safety of our regular river patrols.



Aerial view of a Patuxent construction site



New Paxriverkeeper patrol boat

Community Building

As a community based organization we offer year 'round opportunities and a water side venue for watershed folk to assemble, connect and celebrate their common connection to the Patuxent River. Signature events like our Annual Oyster Roast/Potluck for members and Native American Storytelling events help us play a deeper role in a mobilized and informed citizen's lobby for clean water. Added to this are our newsletters, report cards, e-advisories, published articles, speeches, live river webcam and various works to promote conservation and clean water in the Patuxent River!



Oyster eaters and vegetarians alike connecting at Nottingham Center

Service Projects & Restoration

Trash cleanups, tree plantings, water testing, and invasive species removal are just some of the ways PrK plays a support role in helping volunteers, researchers and others make a difference and build stewardship and activism to protect the natural resources of our region



Paddling Events, Trips and a Waterfront Visitor's Center!

Our prime location on the Patuxent Waterfront affords the perfect setting to outfit trips, organize tours and outings, plus opportunities for our members and the public to gain river access, rent boats and safely utilize the vast but endangered natural resources of the Patuxent watershed. Every year we help hundreds of regular folks who just wanted to get on their river with boat rentals, trip support and advice and more. In 2016 we refurbished the dock at our Nottingham Headquarters and we significantly added to our rental fleet with 20 brand new kayaks and with new canoes expected in before Spring of 2017.



**Thanks for your membership and/or donation to help this unique and important work continue and grow.
Happy New Year!**

DONATE NOW

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