

From: Patuxent Riverkeeper [info@paxriverkeeper.org]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 11:01 AM
To: nancy@paxriverkeeper.org
Subject: News From Patuxent Riverkeeper



18600 Queen Anne Road; Rear Barn; Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Patuxent Riverkeeper News and Events

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Dear Nancy,

Here are some events and notes of interest to the Patuxent Riverkeeper community. Please let us know of any errors that should be corrected. We invite suggested additions to future advisory calendars. If you know of upcoming events that should be listed in these advisories, please let us know about them: info@paxriverkeeper.org.

Behind Schedule - But Still Moving! Stand By for New Address and Phone Numbers

Patuxent Riverkeeper has been in the middle of a big move these past few weeks. Hence we have been a little quieter than usual and preoccupied with getting setup at the new location. The new office will be in the historic port town of Nottingham (South of Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary) in southern Prince George's County on the Patuxent waterfront. The new location will serve as a water-trail center to serve paddlers and other visitors to our watershed. The move will require that we change our phone numbers, mailing address and many other key aspects of our day-to-day operations...for the better. Better programs, better access, a better watershed organization to serve our members and the watershed community.

new office

Stand by by for our forthcoming office warming celebration announcement!

PrK Convenes Brand New Board of Directors

Patuxent Riverkeeper filled three vacant slots on our board with three new faces representing some new interest groups (at least new on our BOD). New additions are Will Biddle (Community activist); Vernice Travis Miller (activist and consultant); and Tracy Lloyd-McCurty (Attorney). These new Board members are filling seats vacated in the past few months by Larry Silverman and Nancy Davis who had served lengthy terms on our Board (for which we are grateful). The new Board brings even deeper grassroots and environmental justice acumen to our organization. Will Biddle is a former schoolteacher and longtime watershed resident who hails from Davidsonville. He has been previously involved the Patuxent Roughnecks crew and in various good works for the River and in his community. Tracy Lloyd-McCurty is a lawyer who works for a national non-profit organization that seeks to bring justice and equity to food and farm policy in rural communities and for people. Vernice Travis-Miller is a longtime environmental advocate who currently serves on Maryland's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities; she also works as consultant. Others still serving on our Board include Dr. Walter Boynton (Marine Biologist), Dr. Ralph Eshelman (Paleontologist), Richard Dolesh (Parks Policy Administrator) and James Gee (CPA). Also this year, PrK created its first ever Senior Advisory Board which includes Senator Joseph Tydings, Senator C. Bernie Fowler (retired); David Harrington (Former State Senator), and Tom Horton (journalist & author).

Farewell Good Friend

Bill Johnston, one of the organizers of the original Patuxent Charrette passed away in

January of this year. Bill had both a law degree and a PhD in physics and was instrumental in working with then Calvert County Board President C. Bernard ('Bernie') Fowler to organize the historically famous 'charrette' on Patuxent River water quality--this led to the October 1977 lawsuit by the Southern Maryland counties, forcing the EPA to require upriver Howard County to stop construction of the planned Savage River sewage treatment plant until improvements in discharged water quality were made. Bill's background as an attorney helped, no doubt. The Circuit Court of

Appeals upheld the suit in 1980. He is survived by his wife Christina.

Court of Appeals Win x2

Patuxent Riverkeeper was a successful plaintiff in a bid to obtain standing to challenge a state issued wetlands permit. In controversy was a box culvert crossing a headwaters stream that feeds Western Branch, a tributary of the Patuxent. Riverkeeper lost standing in Circuit Court, appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals where we won a stunning and comprehensive decision that clarifies the test for citizens seeking standing in permit challenges statewide in Maryland Courts. The developer opponents filed for reconsideration, which was denied. Our opponents subsequently filed for vacature arguing that the State statute omitted an express right of appeal for permit challenges from State Courts. The Appellate Court denied the latest petition in March and the historic decision stands, giving renewed power to citizens to challenge and insist on better such permits in the future. The MD General Assembly also passed new legislation this year that resolves the ambiguity surrounding whether citizens have the inherent right to appeal such permit disputes from the State Courts. A stellar win for Riverkeeper and for citizen plaintiffs statewide.

Big Fish Story

Local angler Paul Smith caught a 4 lbs small mouthed bass in the Patuxent near Bowie. This unusual catch was pleasant surprise for Paul who has been fishing for over 35 years and can remember once seeing a huge "pig" bass he could not hook. He used to catch crappie and shad which he never sees anymore but he does recall watching 80lb stripers breed near Croom with small males sliding over them. And what of the impressive Bass? Paul released him and so he is back in the Patuxent waiting to be caught again someday by a persistent angler.

Fishing for Cars in the Pax?

In January of this year, a car crashed through the barricades at the fishing ramp at Hill's Bridge (next to Route 4, near Upper Marlboro) and plunged into the River. Anne Arundel County brought in divers and contracted a salvage company to accomplish the removal of the vehicle. Rumored to be a stolen car, there are varying and conflicting accounts surrounding the circumstances and causes of this mishap. Divers found no human inside the car. The safety barrier to the fishing ramp has since been repaired.

Upcoming Events

Calvert County 4th Annual Green Expo

Saturday, April 28th, 10am - 5pm

Annamarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center

There will be speakers, displays, food & drink, demonstrations, live music and various companies and agencies present dedicated to creating a greener environment in Calvert County. They will show you how, why, and where we can all help. Not only to turn your environment into a green environment, the

vendors can help you save money and energy in the future. Visit www.calvertgreenexpo.org for more information.

Sanctuaries Along the Chesapeake
April 2-July 2, 2012 at Thos. Moser's DC Showroom

3300 M Street NW - Washington, D.C.
202-338-4292, thosmoser.com

Sanctuaries Along the Chesapeake, features pastels of the Chesapeake Bay and its many tributaries by Roxanne Weidele. Through the medium of pastel chalk, Weidele uses both her palms and fingers to "sculpt" her admiration for this wetland landscape, revealing its vivid colors. Weidele, as an avid Patuxent kayaker and hiker, uses her outings as inspiration to create pastels, which translate her deep appreciation and connection to these waterscapes.

Potomac Island Getaway

Okay. It's not on the Patuxent, but it is still a good cause to help the trail crew that originally inspired the Patuxent Roughnecks! Join the Cadillac Crew and Potomac Conservancy on a summer island getaway/work trip. Tenfoot Island is a 15-acre island in the Potomac River, upstream of our launch site, Algonkian Park in Loudoun County. Kayaks will be available to paddle to the island, but bring your own canoe/kayak if you have one. We will camp on the island on Saturday; cabins are available on shore. Our objective will be to construct/repair several campsites, campfire rings and reopen the island trail system that is currently overgrown. We will also construct a privy/pit toilet. To learn more and to register for the trip, contact the Skipper (Bruce Agnew; Bruce.Agnew@vdot.virginia.gov) or Gilligan (Fred Tutman; fred@paxriverkeeper.org) for details.

Invest in Rivers, Invest in River Watchdogs

This is a huge and challenging year for Patuxent Riverkeeper. New offices, new Board members, fresh river improvement initiatives and fresh challenges. Our eighth year of empowering river communities, building a bigger choir and responding to citizen calls for help in seven counties. Your contributions make it all possible. Your membership dues and occasional donations help keep gas in the boats, enforcement actions going forward, the phones ringing and the wheels turning in scores of unsung deeds to help keep the business of protecting one Maryland's most important waterways on the front burner for citizens, legislators and policy makers. Our vigilant presence and our independent voice helps make the Patuxent a scary place for polluters and wonderful place for all who love her now and into the future. Please donate to support this cause. You can make a donation online and there are also three ways for you to save money while supporting your Patuxent Riverkeeper. Call (301-249-8200 x7) or email (info@paxriverkeeper.org) for more information on any of these exciting ways to help support this important work:

- **Tax credits for cash...** Get enhanced tax credit! Donate to support the Patuxent Water Trail. Donations totaling \$500 or more within the same taxable year are eligible for Community Investment Tax Credits" worth an added 50% deduction from your state income tax bill. Reserve yours early as we have a finite amount of tax credits the State will allow us to offer to our members! Can't afford \$500 this year? No problem, any of your donations in support of our work are appreciated and are fully deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.
- **Tax deductions for boats...** Do tax breaks float your boat? Donate your floatable functioning boat to Patuxent Riverkeeper for a tax deduction for the full sales price. With boat sales sluggish due to an even more sluggish economy, many seeking to sell a boat are having a difficult time doing so. Donate it to Patuxent Riverkeeper instead so you can take advantage of a tax deduction for the appraised value. We work with local Marinas and national boat brokers to recondition and resell these boats under favorable terms. Various criteria and conditions apply. Call us for more information.
- **Energy savings for you...** Reduce your carbon footprint! Select Viridian as your home or business energy provider. Viridian offers renewable energy with absolutely no disruption to your existing service delivery or billing system. They also donate a portion of your monthly electric bill to support the work of Patuxent Riverkeeper.

Sincerely,
Patuxent Riverkeeper

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