

From: Patuxent Riverkeeper< info@paxriverkeeper.org>
Sent:
To: fred@paxriverkeeper.org
Subject: Summer is in the air?

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 the environmental health of its people and communities.

Just a simple reminder of some upcoming events and activities on your river that can enhance your own connection to this amazing water resource and also support the community of citizens fighting to conserve it. Hope to see you on the Patuxent!



The marshes are slowly turning green!



And the rain keeps coming down!

EARLY SUMMER GREETINGS FROM PATUXENT RIVERKEEPER:

As flowers bloom and kayakers pop up at Patuxent Riverkeeper Center hoping to paddle between the frequent rain drops, the torrential rains have kept us busy bailing out our boats, chasing down stormwater issues in the watershed, and gearing up for the busy summer ahead.



According to our member, *Sandy Hastings in Mechanicsville*, it is the wettest May she has recorded in 35 years at 11.59". The next closest was May of 2008 at 10.68". It was almost the warmest too with an average high of 79°. Past readings from Sandy had an average of 80° in 1991 and 79° in 1004.

Meanwhile, we have some fresh advocacy work ongoing in the courts,

various complaints in the watershed being investigated, and things are thankfully pretty busy right now in our work on the Patuxent River. We will definitely schedule at least one or two Roughnecks trips this summer, some outdoor events are shaping up (stay tuned); some fresh partnerships and river projects, and some guided evening and weekend paddles. In the meantime, herein is some news and information that hopefully will be of interest. We have a much more detailed summer printed newsletter in the works. If you are dues paying member you will get one automatically. So consider renewing your membership if you have not already done so this year. Cheers and see you on the Patuxent!

[New Summer Caretaker at Nottingham!](#)



Seth!

Our 2018 Caretaker at the Nottingham office is Seth Ramsey, an environmental management major at Virginia Tech (with a minor in Forestry). Seth is living on site and pitching in with maintenance, kayak and trip arrangements all while pursuing an internship upriver at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Welcome

Got a Paxriverkeeper Maryland license plate?

We created these plates working with MD/MVA back around 2008. We still see them around and they have become bonding fodder whenever two people with these plates encounter one another in the same parking lot. For a short time when they were new, people appreciated having a low number plate as a status symbol--which reflected they were among the first to order the plates. Believe it or not, they are still manufactured by paid prison labor here in the Old Line State. We felt it was time to remind folks these custom plates are still available to bonafide members of Patuxent Riverkeeper. If you want a plate, send us an inquiry and we'll send you the proper paperwork to fill out. Sporting this plate on your car says: (1) You live in the Patuxent Watershed and care about its future; (2) You support the community based, grassroots work of Patuxent Riverkeeper; and (3) You support useful work for the prison population.... info@paxriverkeeper.org



Safety Boating volunteers needed!

The Great American Backyard Camp Out will be on June 23, 2018 at Patuxent River Park (Prince George's County) Each year, Patuxent Riverkeeper rallies volunteer paddlers to come out each year and help from

1pm until 4pm at Patuxent River Park (Selby's Landing).

The County park makes canoes and kayaks available to campers and patrons, many of whom are first time or inexperienced paddlers.

PaxRiverkeeper volunteers offer basic instruction and mentoring to the newbies and paddle along them in some instances in order to help them build confidence on the water. We could use your help sharing what you know about the river with people you don't yet know! This rewarding and fun service experience is a great way to get onto the river while giving something back to others. Please sign up to help:

info@paxriverkeeper.org



[NRG Appeals the closure of Brandywine Facility](#)

Earlier this year, Patuxent Riverkeeper along with citizens in the Brandywine region successfully convinced the Prince George's County District Council to deny the renewal of the zoning exception for the Brandywine Coal waste site operated by NRG. The site had been operating continuously for about 44 years, although it was originally created as a "temporary" disposal site back in the 1970's.

We recently learned that NRG petitioned in the circuit court for a legal "stay" of the closure order and appealed the decision to cancel their special exception. Patuxent Riverkeeper will join the County's defense of this case and we are working with the effected community to develop our



legal strategy. Extraordinarily, after using the site continuously for over 40 years and subjecting the surrounding neighborhood to various risks from contaminated well water, flying coal dust and traffic problems from the waste hauling trucks, the operator now probably intends to argue in court that the County and the community lacks the legal right to eject this onerous use from the Community!?! Stay tuned for more on this remarkable case! We welcome donations to support the legal expenses associated with litigating this important legal case to protect people, communities and their river.

[Riverfront Webcam is back-online](#)

After an absence of several months, we finally have the webcam back on-line with thanks to Marty Atias at ATS Communications in Silver Spring. ATS got us a new and better camera, programmed it and worked with other specialists to



integrate it into our web site. Changes and upgrades in our IT infrastructure required making some technological changes. The live webcam broadcasts 24/7 images from our waterfront on the Patuxent so you can check the weather and other conditions. Check it out at; www.paxriverkeeper.org/webcam

[Sacred Waters 2018 was a success!](#)

Our April season opener, "Honoring Our Sacred Waters" reunited members from past similar gatherings. People learned about native plants, took boats onto the river, ate marvelous pot luck dishes, and participated in a couple

"Teach Ins" where activists shared practical knowledge and tactics for how to build stronger communities with clean water. Other similar events are in the works and we hope you will continue to attend and support these unique grassroots gatherings!



[Check out the You-tube Series: Why I became a Riverkeeper](#)

Fred Tutman has been compiling a series of impromptu videos (if it is even possible for "series" to be impromptu). Each clip takes the form of video blog discussing various aspects of our work at Patuxent Riverkeeper and the personal context attached. Check them out. The link here is for the first in the series. There are two more of them you can readily find on You-tube. Enjoy!



[Why I became a Riverkeeper video #1](#)

Thanks for your membership, donations and support for the cause of a clean Patuxent River. See you on the river soon!

[▶ DONATE NOW](#)

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