

Nature's

VOICE



Vol. 43 No. 3 — Winter 2008

The Newsletter of the Delaware Nature Society

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A Teen Naturalist's Point of View...."What DNS means to me"

Until this summer, I hadn't thought I would find myself covered in sand, mud, and saltwater slime, desperately hugging a tiny island in the Delaware bay, holding back the tide with tears, sweat, dry sand, and defiant screams. Sure, I thought I might get a little dirty, perhaps I even imagined swimming once in a while, telling the kids to stay away from sharks, that sort of thing. But I guess you can't do anything half-way with a dozen nine to twelve year old campers.

During the school year I miss a lot of things about Ashland. Probably, what I miss most is the freedom of being outside every day, living, breathing, being a part of the real world around us. But sometimes I think I miss the enthusiasm more. "The tide is an inexorable force of nature", I tried to explain early on. "You can't hold it back" Somehow, I still ended up shoveling sand.

Last summer was my fifth one working as a counselor for DNS. I worked mostly with 9-12 year olds, generally pretending to be a fictional character of some kind, albeit one who was really into teaching about nature. In the past, I mostly taught 5-6 and 7-8 camps, so this summer was different, but enjoyable. I also went on an awesome week-long canoe camping trip in the Adirondacks as a part of the Teen Naturalists and cleaned snake cages every Sunday (a job I also do throughout the year). What does all this mean? Simply, I've ended up spending a lot of time with the Delaware Nature Society.

Over the years, Ashland has meant different things to me. First, it was a place where I got to play Harry Potter as I worked with the Wizards and Lizards camps. Then it became a place where I could connect with people who cared about nature and kids and teaching the way I did. It has been the place where I learned how to let go and just have fun, the place where I learned to be optimistic again, where I was able to keep my "sense of wonder" alive. But this summer, I realized what DNS has really been all these years. As we pulled into the Ashland parking lot late at night after a week of Adirondack paddling, it felt like nothing less than home.

By Maya Koretzky, Summer Counselor and Teen Naturalist (pictured above)



The Delaware Nature Society

a nonprofit membership organization, fosters understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world through education, preserves ecologically significant areas, and advocates stewardship and conservation of natural resources.

Three main program and experiential sites are maintained: Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Coverdale Farm in Greenville and Abbott's Mill Nature Center (with its preserved, working mill) in Milford. We own or manage more than 1000 acres of wildlife habitat for education and biodiversity, such as Burrows Run and Flint Woods Preserves in New Castle County, Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve and areas of the Milford Millponds Nature Preserve in Sussex County and land surrounding Cooch-Dayett Mills in Newark. Additionally, DNS is the Delaware affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), offering input on national issues that concern citizens in our region.

Nature's VOICE

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Check out our New Blog!

See what is new at the Delaware Nature Society several times each week! Go to our website at www.delawarenaturesociety.org and click on the Blog link.

You'll find photos, nature observations, program and trip recaps, environmental happenings, and natural history tidbits. Have a question for a naturalist?

Submit your comments and inquiries on the blog, and subscribe so that you are alerted to new posts, appearing frequently each week.

This Issue's Cover Photo:

Autumn view of the covered bridge at Ashland before it was restored in early 2008.
Photo by Rod Hampton.



Other Photo Acknowledgments:

We wish to thank the following photographers for their contributions to this issue:

Derek Stoner, John Harrod, Jason Beale,
Joe Sebastiani, Rod Hampton, Helen Fischel,
Catherine Owens, Dave Pro, Jim White,
Judy Montgomery



Forget Google , Use GoodSearch !

Want an easy way to support the Delaware Nature Society? Try Goodsearch.com! Goodsearch is a search engine much like Google or Yahoo, but with a philanthropic side. The site donates 50% of its revenue to charities and schools designated by its users. The profits are generated through advertising, so there is no cost to the users and benefiting organizations! In the "Who do you Goodsearch for?" field, select the Delaware Nature Society as your charity of choice and every time you search, Goodsearch will donate to DNS. So the next time you Google, think Goodsearch instead!



Thank You to Our Summer Counselors who volunteered for an amazing 2,500 hours!

Each summer, the Delaware Nature Society staff enjoys working with some incredible counselors during summer camps. Forty enthusiastic, hard working teens helped us in the summer of 2008 with every aspect of our camp day. Working at Coverdale Farm, Ashland, and beyond, counselors are depended on for a variety of activities ... greeting campers, reading stories, making snack-time more fun, mixing lemonade, holding hands on a long trail,

making campers smile, pointing out a groundhog's tunnel, building campfires, helping milk the cow, sweeping floors, telling jokes, water play, patiently helping with cutting and pasting and so much more. Counselors fill an important place in our camp schedule – our programs are fuller, richer and happier because of their help!

This year we want to thank these teen counselors:

Colin Bartley, Philip Botta, Adam Carl, Kenny Conlin, Jimmy Curran, Daniel DeBusto, Katy Deputy, Daniel Diaz, Tom Gorko, Ainsley Graham, Melissa & Matthew Griffin, Lindsay Hazen, Bridgette Hood, Kelsey Irelan, Caitlin Hepps Keeney, Angela Kokoszka, Maya Koretzky, Kate McConachie, Vivien McIndoe, Nick Mielnikiewicz, Laura Nagle, Melanie Parisi, Guinevere Pitcher, Lauren Powell, Danielle Radocosky-Pentoney, Emma Rice, Hope Roe, Andrew Rombach, Sophie & Lillia Schmidt, Laurel Squadron, Wendy Suh, Sarah Veale, Mary Vinciguerra, John Walls, James White, Chris Whitney, Margretta Willemin, Juliette Wurm.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!

Do you know a teen who may be interested in becoming a counselor in 2009? Summer camp counselors are 14 – 17 years old, and volunteer to help for at least 3 weeks. Contact Joe Sebastiani - joe@delawarenaturesociety.org for more information.

Is Your Garden Certifiable . . . as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat™?

Your property, big or small, urban or rural, can attract wildlife including birds, butterflies, and bullfrogs. The Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program, conducted through a partnership between the Delaware Nature Society and the National Wildlife Federation, provides official certification for properties that have a simple combination of food, water, cover and places to raise young to meet the needs of wildlife.

Ready to certify as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat™?

Visit www.delawarenaturesociety.org/bwh_certification.html to print out and complete the registration form and return it to the Delaware Nature Society. In a few weeks you will receive a personalized certificate recognizing your yard as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site, as well as valuable information to enhance your habitat.

Need some help creating your habitat?

We can help you! The Delaware Nature Society's Habitat Steward volunteers can provide you free assistance to help evaluate your property and find ways to attract wildlife to it.

Want to encourage neighbors to do the same?

Purchase a beautiful backyard habitat sign to post indicating the garden is a habitat friendly environment that also helps improve water quality.





Ten years ago, my wife and I moved into a house with a one-acre yard. The yard was partially wooded with the remainder in mowed grass. The prior owners mowed all of it, including among the large trees in the woods. My plan for the yard was to let most of the acre return to wildlife habitat by not mowing, planting native vegetation, and removing exotic invasive plants. After a decade of work, this one-acre has become an incredible wildlife habitat and is an oasis of small trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, and vines.

Through the winter, it is enjoyable to just sit and watch the wildlife. A wide variety of birds find the dense vegetation to their liking, and feed on the native seeds, berries, and hidden insects among dead leaves and in furrows of bark. We feed the birds a variety of seed-foods to boost our avian population.

Other animals can be seen in the backyard at this time including Gray Squirrels and White-tailed Deer. You are probably thinking that you don't want these animals in your yard because of their destructive habits. Squirrels will eat your bird seed and the deer will munch your valuable plants. My solution is to feed the squirrels corn and keep bird feeders out of reach from leapers in the trees as well as baffling the pole to thwart them from below. Deer are kept off prized saplings and shrubs by caging the ones I care most about. We are now at a tolerable level of infringement by these two creatures.

During the winter months, Red Squirrels and Flying Squirrels are sometimes seen in our yard. They come for the corn, but also walnuts, acorns, and hickory nuts that have fallen from the larger trees. Traveling to enjoy nature is fun and rewarding, but don't forget that nature is in your backyard too, no matter where you live.

I encourage you to be an environmentally friendly nature enthusiast. Watching wildlife in your yard and neighborhood reduces the amount that you travel in a car, thereby reducing your fossil fuel consumption.

What can you do to make your own wildlife sanctuary?

Maintain a feeding station with a diversity of feeders and seed types. I include a tube feeder and platform feeder with a mix of

sunflower, safflower and peanuts as well as a tube feeder of this-tle seed. Additionally, a suet cake in a cage with a tail-prop extension works well. Place your feeding station so that you can see it from the indoors, but not so that it endangers the birds by facilitating window strikes. Research has shown that placing the feeding station within 3 feet or more than 20 feet from windows is the best method to prevent window strikes.

Plan a part of the yard that you will take out of the regular mowing cycle. Make a landscape design and research the native species to plant. If you need help developing your plan, you can arrange to be visited by a volunteer habitat steward from the Delaware Nature Society by calling John Harrod at 302-239-2334 ext. 142. Don't forget to ask him about certifying your backyard as a wildlife habitat and see page 3 for additional information regarding the Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program.

Clear out invasive exotic plants from wild areas in the yard or from your planned natural area. A list of invasive exotic plants can be mailed to you from the Delaware Nature Society. Create brush piles from the cut plant material and make tepee-like structures on the edges of the yard. Birds will flee to these spots when disturbed as well as sleep in them.

Herbaceous invasive exotics like Garlic Mustard that are green in mid-winter can be pulled by hand or sprayed with Roundup at this time.

Plant native species of trees and shrubs in your planned natural area if the soil is not frozen. I have rescued native saplings from friends and relatives who are doing some winter weeding. Also, I have collected natural seeds from wildflowers as well as acorns, hickory nuts, etc. Some of these seeds I have sown

over the years are now small trees or thriving colonies of wildflowers.

I am especially proud of the Butternut tree that I planted from seed that is now about 15 feet tall.

Enjoy the winter watching backyard wildlife. A little cover, food, and water will provide wildlife with the necessary elements of habitat in your yard. Enrich your life with wildlife sightings that you made possible by creating an attractive backyard to a wide variety of birds, small mammals, and other species.





Volunteering at DNS

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Outreach Support

Love what the Delaware Nature Society has to offer? Help us reach out to others by attending marketing and promotional events alongside DNS staff members!

Handyperson

Put your tinkering tendencies to good use! We're always looking for knowledgeable individuals to help us maintain our many facilities throughout the state.

Volunteer Property Management

Help us maintain a watchful eye on a portion of our property while enjoying the great outdoors at the same time! Learn about invasive species management, take part in habitat restoration projects, and help us track rare species that are thriving on our properties.

Administrative Support

Calling all serial organizers (you know who you are...): Satisfy your left-brained disposition while helping keep our administrative offices spick-and-span.

Data Analysis

Nurture your inner geek! We are looking for number crunchers to help us with data entry and analysis for our initiatives in stream health and rare species tracking.

Bird Banding

Attention bird enthusiasts: DNS is seeking a volunteer with an active bird banding license who would be interested in helping us lead an educational program based on bird banding.

Volunteer Guide Corps - Ashland

Help bring science and nature to life for thousands of school children by leading programs at Ashland Nature Center. Opportunities are weekdays during the day, commitment is very flexible, and training is provided.

Volunteer Guide Corps - Coverdale Farm

Help teach farm animal and agriculture programs to thousands of school children by leading programs at Coverdale Farm. Opportunities are weekdays during the day, commitment is very flexible, and training is provided.

For more detailed information about the above opportunities and to learn about other engaging and educational volunteer positions with the Delaware Nature Society, please contact Catherine Owens, Volunteer Coordinator by email at Catherine@delawarenaturesociety.org or by phone at 302-239-2334 x111.

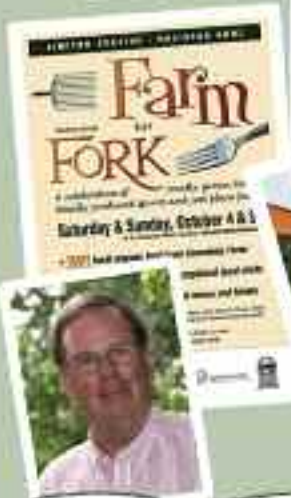


Our Year in Review

A glance at DNS

1,132 Summer Camp registrants!

450 school
into 1



Otters were active in the Isaac Tract and Lindale Tract during the spring



Swamp Pink in Cedar Bog bloomed for first time in 10 years



Coverdale Farm...hatched
delivered ~ 15 - 20
calved 1 beef calf, 1
lambled 6 - 8



DNS manages and maintains over 1100 acres of land, 31 buildings, and 7 staff residences

Milford High School Cross-country Team established XC course at the Blair's Pond Tracts

415,8
from



Volunteers donated over 2100 hours of their time to make HMF a success

Young Waterfowlers and Campers helped pick up over 600
up as a result of Coastal
at Bombay Ho



Beavers dammed up Johnson Branch leading to lowest pond water levels in recent memory



DNS offered 104 Summer Camps



in 2008 with some Amazing and Fun Facts!

children ground wheat berries flour at Cooch-Dayett Mills



Solitary Sandpiper was seen at the newly prepared Morton Pool – 1st sighting in recent years



Volunteers helped prepare the Morton Property for programmatic and public use



3,052 hours were spent enjoying Summer Camp

ed ~ 400 chicks, 20 piglets, dairy calf and lambs.



Over 30 Bird Nest Boxes were installed at Ashland Nature Center and Middle Run Natural Area



130 volunteers planted 1000 native trees at Middle Run Natural Area



00 gallons of water were collected in rain barrels distributed in 2008



44 new member families joined at the Harvest Moon Festival



295 Members Programs & Trips offered



versation in Action 0 lbs. of trash washed out flooding ok.



Stream Watch Summer Intern collected and counted 3,214 aquatic insects.



31 Volunteers planted 275 native trees at Burrows Run



Approximately 75 vegetables, flower and herbs were grown in the Coverdale Farm's 1.5 acres of garden and crop teaching areas.



Summer Camp 08

Over 100 summer camps took place through Ashland and Abbott's Mill Nature Centers as well as Coverdale Farm this past summer.

More than 1,200 camp spaces were gladly taken by children 3 to 15 years old. In order to run a successful camp, 35 camp instructors worked through the summer with 40 very helpful teenage counselors and 5 engaging and fun interns.



A new crop of camps were offered this summer including Conservation in Action and Breeding Bird Atlas Camp for 11 to 15 year olds; Camp Perseid, Young Naturalists, Geology-Mining-and the Environment, and Survivor at the Cape for 9 to 12 year olds; Bucktoe Creek Rangers, Nature at the Mill, and Naturalists in Training for 7 & 8 year olds; Fun in Nature at the Old Mill and Walk and Talk like Animals for 5 & 6 year olds; and Windows on the Wild for 3 & 4 year olds.

We thank you, the parent, who decides to send your child to a Delaware Nature Society summer camp. The feedback you provide about the experience your child has helps to craft and improve our camps each summer. Enjoy some of our favorite parent comments to sum up the summer camp season of 2008.



“Excellent programs – Highly recommended to friends!!”

“I love your camps. Frankly, it is quite inconvenient for my children to attend them because I live in Newark, but I actually think it is worth the commute because they are so well done. My older son is really learning to become a naturalist as a result of his participation with DNS. The Instructors are always excellent and the kids have a fantastic time.”

“We love the camps at Ashland! My son will be attending for years to come! You have great programs and I love the “attitudes and spirits” of the counselors; they make it fun and enjoyable. Not to mention the education my son gets from the camps! Can’t say enough great things about Ashland – thank you!”

“My son truly enjoyed being on the Brandywine and being able to “capsize” his canoe.”

“Both of my kids love the hikes and all of the learning experiences. Neither wants the day to end when I come to pick them up. I could tell my kids learned a lot because we hike regularly, and they were more knowledgeable about things outdoors. This was really great!”



“I wish I were going to camp!!!”

“My son enjoyed everything about the camp. He has never enjoyed a summer camp more. This was his first sleep away and it worked very well for him as well. He will be back for summer camps next year for sure.”

“As always I recommend your camps to everyone. The quality of your instructors far exceeds that of other camps.”

“My son really enjoyed the animal exploration and hiking at Ashland and feeding and tending to the animals at Coverdale. Both camps we attended were great. Outdoor exposure to animals...we don’t interact with that everyday.”

“Our two kids have been going to DNS camps for 8+ years. They have never not liked one. They are great, fun, engaging camps. Consistently some of their most favorite camps.”

“This was the most positive feedback that I have gotten from him about summer camp, ever.”

“I wanted to pass along how great the instructors have been at all the DNS camps we’ve attended over the years. This summer was no exception.”

“We will likely move in the spring and I know it will be very hard for us to find anything comparable to the quality we’ve experienced in DNS camps. This is a great organization and we are proud to be members.”



*by Joe Sebastiani,
Members Program Team Leader*



Online Changes Coming to DNS

Tired of returning paper envelopes and using a stamp to renew your membership? Wish you could sign up for programs online? Would you enjoy getting your Nature's Voice newsletter through email? As an environmental organization working hard to conserve our natural resources, using less paper is the obvious choice for us, and we hope you will support us in this effort.

Over the next few months, we will be collecting email addresses from our members wishing to receive e-communications. In addition, we will begin sending email notifications regarding special events and programs, registration confirmations, surveys, and volunteer opportunities.

Another exciting feature is the new "Voice It!" program. You can sign up to receive advocacy-related updates regarding issues such as land preservation, wildlife protection, and General Assembly action. Our Environmental Advocate, Brenna Goggin, will be emailing "action alerts" and will help coordinate between members of the public and their legislative representatives.

In early 2009, members will have the ability to register (real-time) for programs, renew membership, update contact information, and input data for Technical Stream Monitors. Current members will be sent a log-in and password and non-members will be able to join in order to take advantage of this member benefit.

Please be aware that once program registration is available on-line, we can no longer guarantee first come / first served processing for mailed and faxed registrations. This is especially important for summer camp registration as camps fill quickly. Walk-in registrations will still be processed same day as long as space is available.

If you are interested in receiving e-communications from the Delaware Nature Society, please go to www.delawarenaturesociety.org and click on the update your email link on our homepage, where you can select the types of emails you would like to receive. To ensure receipt of DNS emails, please add informz@delawarenaturesociety.org to your address book.

Family Unplugged

A new series for families to enjoy nature, unwind, and learn outdoor activities that will benefit your entire family for years to come.

Are you looking to spend more family time outdoors? Would you like to experience nature together? Not only will you have a great time, but your children will be inspired and gain a valuable, real-world experience with our fun environmental activities. Look for this new series in the upcoming January through April program brochure.

If you are interested in receiving information about this new series, please call Fiona Smith, Registrar, at 302-239-2334 ext. 134.

Technical Monitoring Data Now on the Web!

Now, a visit to our website includes important information on the health of local streams and rivers collected by volunteers in our Technical Monitoring program. It's just a click away to view maps, photos, site descriptions and even graphs and tables of the data collected for the past several years. From school groups to watershed groups around the country, this data is used for a variety of purposes. You can even find out the water quality for streams in your neighborhood. Data use and access has become an important part of volunteer water quality monitoring goals nation-wide. It is no longer enough just to collect data but programs must make the data available. Once again our program is on the cutting edge of volunteer monitoring.

Since the Delaware Nature Society's inception in 1964, one of the organization's hallmarks has been the ability to inspire

people to take action to help protect the environment. Our most successful citizen action effort to date is our Technical Stream Monitoring program. Technical Monitoring is a nationally recognized example of the acceptance and use of citizen science data by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Technical Monitoring Program was established in 1995 to provide reliable physical and chemical baseline data on the four sub-watersheds of the Christina River Basin in northern Delaware. The Program now includes 38 monitoring sites in the Greater Christina River Basin, five sites located in the Mispillion River Basin (added in 2003) and five sites located in the Appoquinimink River Basin (added in 2007).

Volunteers monitor assigned sites on a monthly basis, measuring temperature,

dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrate nitrogen, orthophosphate, alkalinity, conductivity, and salinity (in tidal reaches). If you are interested in joining this program, contact Ginger North, 302-239-2334, ext. 100 or ginger@delawarenaturesociety.org. This project was made possible by a DuPont Clear into the Future Natural Resource Conservation and Restoration Grant Program.





School Programs: Meaningful Outdoor Experiences



The environment offers a special opportunity for teaching science and other curricular content in an engaging way, and the Delaware Nature Society can help teachers take advantage of this wonderful natural resource. School Programs with DNS are an excellent opportunity to immerse your students in science and discovery and to provide them with an experience they will always remember. Field Studies at DNS sites and Outreach Programs at the schools' sites are offered through Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Coverdale Farm in Greenville, and Abbott's Mill Nature Center in Milford. Through these programs, DNS offers hands-on, experiential education to students and teachers that complement classroom curriculum, are connected to state and national standards,

and engage all learners. Studies have shown that participating in outdoor education programs can improve student achievement, reduce behavioral problems, and connect students to a tangible, real-world topic of study.

For an expanded experience, overnight programs are available through DNS's Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin and Abbott's Mill Nature Center in Milford. Each School Overnight includes three field study programs that teachers select to fit their curricular needs. To make selecting programs even easier, they can choose one of our thematic overnights to study Ecosystems, Watersheds, or Schoolyard Habitats.

Overnight programs also include evening and morning hikes through a variety of habitats, an evening live animal presentation, a campfire, and a tee-shirt craft. All programs are led by experienced instructors, and the schedule builds in time for you to plan your own activities such as crafts, songs, journals, or games.

The cost of an Overnight program is \$35 per student with the Ashland Nature Center, and \$25 per student through the Abbott's Mill Nature Center. Overnights during January-March are only \$20 per student. There is no fee for adults, and scholarships are available.

As another option, DNS also provides Extended-Day programs. Teachers can bring classes to Ashland or to Abbott's Mill for a special day of field experiences. With an Extended Day, groups arrive at 9:30 a.m. and stay until 8:00 p.m. Activities include two hands-on field studies, a live animal presentation and an evening hike or campfire. The cost of an Extended Day program is \$20 per student with Ashland Nature Center and Abbott's Mill, and scholarships are available. Ask about our Native Americans Extended Day at Ashland in November and December.

Contact our staff to learn more about School Overnights or Extended Day programs with the Delaware Nature Society or to find out how to register your school for the spring. For Ashland, contact Judy Montgomery, School Overnight and Outreach Coordinator, at judym@delawarenaturesociety.org or 302-239-2334, extension 127. For Abbott's Mill contact Jason Beale, Abbott's Mill Nature Center Manager, at Jason@delawarenaturesociety.org or 302-422-0847. Or visit our website, www.delawarenaturesociety.org.

Ashland Nature Center is the perfect place to explore the outdoors, learn more about the wonders of nature, and develop an appreciation for preserving the environment for the future.

The overnight trips provide young people with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy educational experiences and build community with their fellow classmates in a beautiful, safe setting.

Technology and nature – what a powerful combination!

The new digital cameras offer students the opportunity to develop photography skills as they learn to view and appreciate nature through the lens of a state-of-the-art digital camera.

Beth Johnson and Mary Weigand, 5th grade teachers @ Unionville Elementary School, Kennett Square, PA



Voice It! –The Delaware River Deepening Project

A new and disturbing position – one that can undermine the future authority of Delaware to protect its environmental resources – is being advanced by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps, along with the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, proposes to deepen the main shipping channel of the Delaware River from 40 to 45 feet. Twenty-five miles of the channel lie entirely within Delaware’s boundaries. To conduct such activities, the Corps needs a wetlands and subaqueous lands permit from the state. The required Delaware permit has not been issued and the Corps is now suggesting that it may proceed without it. Such an approach would effectively eliminate all of Delaware’s regulatory control over their operations. Legal responsibility for any needed remediation of damage to our state’s environmental assets would be unclear and resolution could take many years. Furthermore, successful disregard of Delaware regulations would have implications for states nationwide.

This project has been in the spotlight since the Corps’ 2001 application for the Delaware permit. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) held two Public Hearings in December 2001. They generated widespread public comment, concern and opposition. After the Public Hearings, the Hearing Officer submitted a 156-page assessment of the application to DNREC Secretary John A. Hughes. It detailed more than 50 issues that were inadequately addressed and recommended that the application be denied.

From then until September 2008 neither DNREC nor the Corps did anything of consequence regarding the application. Not one issue or recommendation on the Hearing Officer’s list was addressed. Yet recently, with only two months to go in Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s term of office and after almost five years of inactivity, the Corps has met with DNREC to discuss its application. Something is happening. What?

Pennsylvania interests, including Governor Edward G. Rendell, are pushing hard for the project to move forward. Deepening the main shipping channel can benefit those upriver interests, but not Delaware interests. The Delaware River, Bay, estuary and vicinity are priceless Delaware assets. Our landmark Coastal Zone Act was created in 1971 with the express purpose of protecting these assets. It not only protects Delaware’s environmental and recreational interests, but also provides significant income from shellfishing, finfishing, birding, boating, and other commercial and recreational pursuits.

Our river is precious. If the Corps and the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority want to dredge in our state’s waters, we must insist that they commit to do so in an environmentally acceptable way and that they follow our state’s established permitting procedures. The Delaware Nature Society continues to urge Governor Minner and Secretary Hughes to reject the Corps’ current dredging application. They and PRPA have the option of submitting a new application meeting Delaware’s entirely reasonable and fair environmental requirements.

by Dick Fleming, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

SUMMER FUN
starts with the
Delaware Nature Society!

We offer over 100 Week-Long Summer Camps
for kids Ages 3 – 15. For more information, visit
www.delawarenaturesociety.org

CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

Did you know DNS offers hands-on, experiential education programming to students and teachers that complement classroom curriculum, are connected to state and national standards, and engage all learners?

Sign your class up today.

We can help plan your program!

TRAVEL WITH DNS . . .

...TO FARAWAY LANDS

Texas and Mexico: Brushland to Cloud Forest

February 12 – 21, 2009, Led by Jeffrey Gordon

Join us for an amazing transect of wildlife, habitat and culture in the Texas and Mexico borderlands.

Explore places like Padre Island National Seashore, Laguna Atascosa NWR and cross the Tropic of Cancer and head for the eastern flank of the Sierra Madre Oriental to the world's northernmost patch of cloud forest.



...TO EARTH'S MOST AMAZING LANDSCAPES

The Wonders of Iceland

May 24 - May 31, 2009

Led by Smithsonian Journeys, Host: Joe Sebastiani

An Island of dramatic contrasts, Iceland is a landscape forged by fire and ice. See the sights of the city of Reykjavik and its beautiful countryside and tour the scenic landscape of the Reykjanes Peninsula. Travel to the "Golden Circle" to visit Thingvellir National Park, the hot springs of Geysir, the two-tiered Gullfoss Waterfall, and Skaftafell National Park.



...TO AMERICA'S WILD PLACES

The Heart of Denali National Park

September 6 - 13, 2009, Host: David Toman

Discover the unspoiled wilderness in Alaska's 6 million acre national park! Marvel at the boreal forest and sub-arctic tundra wildlife. Lodge at the exclusive Camp Denali with spectacular views of North America's tallest peak! Return to Anchorage on one of the most scenic railways in the world. Deposit of \$500 (non-refundable) is due by January 30, 2009.



Come Travel with us! Whether you are looking for weekend getaways or an adventurous trip abroad, DNS sponsors a variety of travel adventures! For all the details, check out the travel section of the DNS website at www.delawarenaturesociety.org/edu/travel2.html

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