



PARTNERSHIP *for the* **DELAWARE** **ESTUARY**

Connecting people, science, and nature
for a healthy Delaware River and Bay

2015
ANNUAL
REPORT



MESSAGE *from the* BOARD CHAIR

Every stream matters when it comes to clean water.

This is something I've always believed. And in my first year as chair of the Board of Directors, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) enlisted photographers across the region to help drive that point home.

In the spring, PDE launched the *Every Stream Matters* photo contest. Over 200 submissions were received from every part of our 7,500 square mile estuary region. From those, 12 were chosen as winners in four categories – Splash of Fun, Urban Waters, Wild & Scenic, and Schuylkill Shots.

Photographers submitted pictures of birds perching on piers, kids dancing along the banks of rivers, and boats bobbing in the bay. One of my personal favorites is a photo of the Burlington Bristol Bridge at sunset. This photo was even chosen as the People's Choice Award at the Experience the Estuary Celebration.

In thinking over my remarks to summarize 2015, this theme and photo contest seemed to be the right fit. Everyone needs clean water. To ensure that our children and grandchildren have access to clean water, every stream *must* matter.

As you will see, 2015 was a great year at PDE. Throughout this report you will see photos from the photo contest and from PDE work projects and events. Together, they show the Estuary's beauty today and its hope for tomorrow. Thank you again for all that you do for PDE and to make sure that every stream matters!

Joni L. Powell
Joni L. Powell

2015 Board Chair

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Colleen Arnold – Aqua Pennsylvania
David Bushek – Rutgers University Haskin Shellfish
Research Laboratory
Laura Copeland – Philadelphia Water



Photo by Jerry Franklin



Photo by Barry Plimpton

MESSAGE *from the* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's 1996. I've been out of college for a few years and am working as a conservation and easement planner in the Brandywine River Watershed of the Estuary.

That year Atlanta hosted the summer Olympics, Prince Charles and Princess Diana got divorced, Mad Cow disease hit Britain, and DVDs were invented. It's also the year that the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) was founded and the year the Delaware Estuary was recognized by Congress as an estuary of national significance.

Fast forward 19 years and we're on the cusp of a hallmark anniversary. In 2016 we'll celebrate our 20th year as a nonprofit organization and National Estuary Program. And I can't help but feel incredibly proud of everything that has been accomplished since 1996.

Working together with partners in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Philadelphia, and the Delaware River Basin, we've protected thousands of acres of wetlands and forests and kept countless amounts of pollution out of our waters. In the process, we've engaged millions of people, from teachers and students, to decision-makers at the local, state, and national level, and residents from the headwaters of the Schuylkill River Watershed to coastal towns around Delaware Bay.

But some of our most important and exciting work is happening today. And none of this work would be possible without you – our wonderful supporters! As you read this report, I hope you'll feel proud, knowing that you helped make 2015 a success at PDE, and that you'll be energized for the year ahead celebrating 20 years working to make *Every Stream Matter* in the Delaware Estuary.

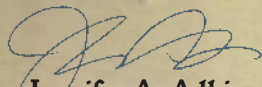

Jennifer A. Adkins
Executive Director



Photo by Wil Scott

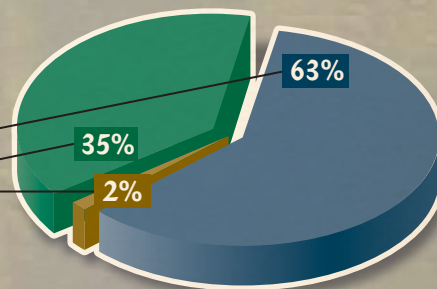


2015 AUDITED STATEMENT *of* ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

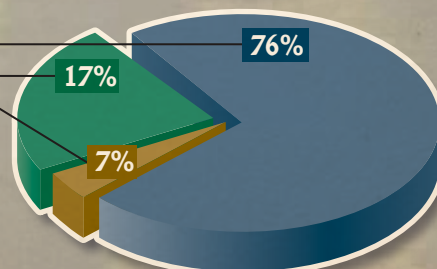
Support and Revenue:

Government Grants.....	\$1,301,736
Contributions and Grants.....	\$ 735,906
Other Revenue.....	\$ 41,346
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE.....	\$2,078,988



Expenses:

Program.....	\$1,514,883
Management and General.....	\$ 349,066
Fundraising.....	\$ 132,053
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$1,996,002



Change in Net Assets.....	\$ 82,986
Net Assets at December 31, 2014.....	\$1,586,304
Net Assets at December 31, 2015.....	\$1,669,290

* Audit not complete at time of printing.

Children learn about horseshoe crabs at Pennsylvania Coast Day in Philadelphia.

URBAN WATERS

Today, over 80% of Americans live in urban areas. Though seemingly far from natural spaces, urban communities are full of opportunities for people to connect to nature at local parks and waterways.

In September, thousands flocked to Penn's Landing and the Fairmount Water Works in Philadelphia for the 16th **Pennsylvania Coast Day Celebration**. The Delaware River provided a beautiful vista during a day of crafts, learning activities, and much more. Getting people on the water, many for the first time, is a primary goal of Coast Day. Hundreds did just that, paddling in kayaks and swan boats and riding the RiverLink Ferry and the historic Patriot yacht.

This summer, 24 teenagers from Camden, NJ and Wilmington, DE hit the streams with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) in search of freshwater mussels as part of a job training program. Kids from the **Green Jobs Program** spent an afternoon in the Brandywine Creek in Delaware learning about how freshwater mussels clean water. They were trained to search for the burrowing freshwater mussels, which live underwater. PDE is a proud participant in this program, which exposes urban youth to various environmental experiences and career options.

Teenagers in the Green Jobs Program find freshwater mussels in the Brandywine Creek in DE.

Watershed Workshop Teachers search for macro-invertebrates in Delaware.

SPLASH of FUN

Not surprisingly, some of our fondest memories take place outside. The beautiful Delaware Estuary provides a playground full of endless possibilities for those both young and old, connecting people to nature. In 2015, over 22,000 visited EcoDelaware.com to plan outdoor excursions.

In August, 27 teachers attended the Delaware Estuary **Watershed Workshops**. During the four workshop days, the teachers learned hand-on ways to engage students and bring "estuary education" into their classrooms. The workshops were full of fun activities including nature walks, dissecting oysters in a lab, and touring local wetland and living shorelines sites. These trips enhanced the practical lessons and activities that are designed to be easily transitioned to classrooms.

In April, PDE and the City of Wilmington hosted an **Earth Day Celebration** in downtown Rodney Square. Thousands helped us celebrate the 45th anniversary of Earth Day and learned new ways to live an "eco-friendly" lifestyle. The day featured native plant giveaways, fun crafts, and a tree planting in honor of Arbor Day. Dozens of "green" vendors and exhibitors also helped make the day a success.

School kids show off their native plants at the Wilmington Earth Day Celebration.

Background photo by Aaron Maffei

WILD and SCENIC

The Delaware Estuary contains many wild and scenic spaces. While beautiful, these spaces are often the most fragile and in need of restoration and scientific study.

This year the **Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program** moved into southern Delaware, the Schuylkill Watershed in PA, and Camden, NJ. Freshwater mussels can live up to 100 years, and each animal can filter up to 20 gallons of water a day. Despite their benefits, these animals are threatened by a number of factors including dams, stormwater, and poor water quality. While we found some species at most sites, we were particularly pleased to find multiple species in tributaries to the Delaware River.

Marshes are some of the most wild and scenic places in the Estuary. A healthy marsh cleans and filters water, provides a home for fish and birds, and protects communities from storms. In 2015 we gathered data from 42 sites across the estuary as part of the **Mid Atlantic Coastal Wetland Assessment**. Scientists are using these data to figure out which coastal wetlands are unhealthy and how restoration may improve them for more fish, cleaner water, and better protection from storms.



Assessing reintroduced freshwater mussels in the St. Jones River in Delaware.



In May, Schuylkill Scrub volunteers picked up trash near King of Prussia, PA.

Assessing wetlands in the Dennis Creek Watershed in New Jersey.

SCHUYLKILL SHOTS

The Schuylkill River is the largest tributary to the Delaware River. This mighty river provides drinking water to over 2 million people and is beloved by many for the recreational opportunities it provides.

The **Schuylkill Scrub** is a 3-month long, watershed-wide cleanup. In its 6th year, over 29,000 volunteers participated in 1,000 cleanups across the watershed. This effort, which works with the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania, seeks to prevent trash from making its way into our streams and to keep our land litter-free and beautiful. Over 1 million pounds of trash was removed from the Schuylkill River Watershed in 2015 alone.

In 2015, PDE worked with Philadelphia Water on the **Green Cities, Clean Waters** art contest. Over 1,300 students submitted drawings and videos which focused on ways to keep trash out of the water and reduce pollution in Philadelphia. Four of the winning drawings were transformed into temporary street art stickers and were placed throughout Philadelphia. These stickers will help educate thousands of people about the importance of keeping our cities green and our water clean!

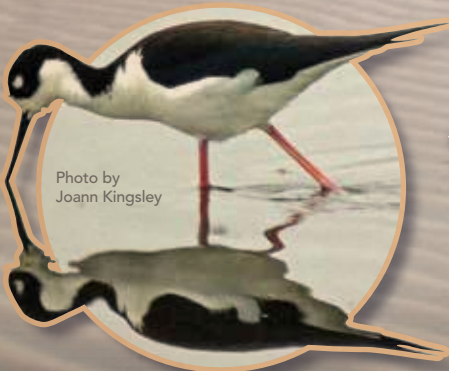


Photo by Joann Kingsley

A student artist shows off her Green Cities, Clean Waters art contest award.



Students help install a Green Cities, Clean Waters temporary street art sticker in Philadelphia.





Delaware River Watershed Initiative

This initiative by the William Penn Foundation focuses on land protection and restoration in key areas to improve water quality. In parts of the Schuylkill River Watershed and southern New Jersey, PDE is working with businesses, farmers, and homeowners to protect and conserve water.



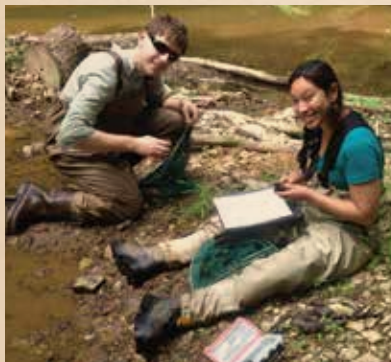
Christina River Watershed Cleanup

In April, PDE hosted 73 volunteers at our Christina River Watershed Cleanup site on the Wilmington Riverfront. Over 23 tons of trash, tires, and recyclables were removed from the river that day!



Rain Garden

In July, a rain garden was planted at W. Reily Brown Elementary School to help control excess storm water. This outdoor classroom will help teach students, teachers, and community members how rain gardens can help manage stormwater.



Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program

In 2015, PDE put electronic tags on 90 freshwater mussels in southern Delaware. Since 2011, over 1,200 freshwater mussels have been tagged and monitored for their health and growth. Over 50 volunteer surveys have been completed to identify streams where mussels can still be found.

1

2

3

4

MAP of the DELAWARE

The Delaware Estuary portion of the Delaware River from the head of tide at Trenton, NJ to the mouth of the river at Delaware Bay. An estuary is a tidal waterway where fresh water from the river meets salt water from the ocean.



ARE ESTUARY

Delaware River Basin spans 134 miles
J to the mouth of the Delaware Bay,
where fresh and salt water mix.



Stormwater Tour

Stormwater is the number one source of water pollution in the United States. The Schuylkill Action Network hosted a bus tour of stormwater management projects, including rain gardens, buffers, and stormwater basins.



Photo by
Diane Granger



Spokesdog Competition

In December, a new "spokes-dog" was crowned at the Philly Water's Best Friend competition. Look out for our winner, Shorty, who will work to end "poo-llution" in the city of brotherly love!



Experience the Estuary Celebration

Over 325 people joined PDE at our biggest fundraiser of the year! Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the live music, fresh Delaware Bay oysters, and live and silent auctions.



Living Shorelines

In 2015, PDE enhanced our one-year old living shorelines by adding plants to help stabilize the installations. At the Mispillion River site, we were pleased to find that baby oysters have begun to attach to our oyster castles.



Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit

In January, PDE hosted 300 scientists and educators at the 10th anniversary summit. The 3-day meeting included over 100 presentations and posters sharing information and updates about the status of the Delaware Estuary.



Delaware River Sail
In September, PDE and 40 friends set sail on the AJ Meerwald tall ship. This 1928 restored oyster schooner sailed up the Delaware River outside of Burlington, New Jersey.

2015 FUNDERS, SPONSORS, *and* DONORS

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary thanks everyone who supported our work over the past year with contributions, grants, event sponsorship, cooperative agreements, and donations.

GRANTS, CONTRACTS, & PROJECT FUNDING SUPPORT

3Mgives
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
Barnegat Bay Partnership
Christmas Shop Foundation
City of Wilmington
Delaware Coastal Program
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Department of Transportation
Delaware Museum of Natural History
Delaware Nature Society
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Dogfish Head Craft Brewery
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Esri
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National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
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The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Chapter
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New Jersey Recovery Fund
Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Philadelphia Water
Rutgers University
Salesforce Foundation
Sovereign Consulting
Sunoco Foundation
University of Maryland Finance Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wakefern Food Corporation
Welfare Foundation
The William Penn Foundation
Wilmington Flower Market

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CESP)

Atlantic City Electric and Delmarva Power
Logan Generating Plant
Mannington Mills
New Castle County
Noramco, Inc.

2015 DONORS

(Campaign year – January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.)

\$1,000 and Above

Jen Adkins & Andy Cloud
Curtis W. McGraw Foundation
Michael & Rebecca Gudgeon
Susan S. Kilham
Charles & Diane Lawrence
Gus Mergenthaler
Christine Neely
The O'Connor Family
Austin F. Okie
George F. Phelps
PSEG Match Program



Removing Trash from the Delaware River
In August, PDE served as the local partner for a Living Lands and Waters cleanup of the Delaware River. Thanks to all the cleanup volunteers!

\$500 to \$999

Richard P. Brown, Jr.
Roy Denmark & Judy Hykel
Tom & Melina Ei
Marc & Sharon Gold
Gross Graphics
Kathy Klein & David Paul
Alison Kraus
Andrew & Kathleen Moody
O'Brien & Gere
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Thomas C. Roberts
Rose Schilling
Tracey Whitesell & Terrance Huettl

\$250 to \$499

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Photo by Martha Gery

\$150 to \$249

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Bruce M. Hashinger III
Michael Hogan

Tidewater Utilities Inc.
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William J. Wilson, Jr.
Wilmington Tug, Inc.
Young Environmental LLC
Edward Zalewski
Diane Zilka



Lifetime Achievement Award
Congratulations to Dr. Susan S. Kilham who was awarded the Delaware Estuary Jonathan Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit!

Eric Lienhard & Heidi Splane
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Long
William Mayne
The Oyster House
Jeffrey J. Pantazes
Carol & Dave Pollison
PSEG Officer's Gift
Allen Reese & Joseph M. Hengel
Kash Srinivasan
Rick & Susan Taylor
Julie Varner & Tom Chegwidan
Whibco Inc.
Wilmington Montessori School
Gus Wolfe & Laura Classen
Lisa Wool

James & Elizabeth Holt
Robert W. Horsey
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Pennoni Associates
Sam Profeta
Gary & Sherrie Robinson
Joanne & Jerry Rufft
Joe & June Satterfield
Patricia Saybolt
John W. Schneider
Schuylkill County Conservation District
Jonathan & Gwyneth Sharp

Up to \$75

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Atlantic County Utilities Authority
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Bernie Bittner
Don & Becky Brill
Calvan Environmental
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Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District
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Marianne B. Cinaglia
Kim C. Cloud
Marti Coats
Dorothy Colburn
Marjorie Crofts & David Carter
Jason & Lisa Cruz
Kevin Donnelly
Jim Eisenhardt

\$75 to \$149

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Robert G. Bachand
Shaun & Jamie Bailey
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Steven & Margaret Castorani
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Kel Elkins & Sari Rothrock
 Patricia L. Elkins
 Enform Graphic Productions Inc
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 Dominick Granato
 Christine Haftl
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Cheryl Hendershott
 Bryan & Amy Herz
 Mrs. William Hill
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 Bob Howell
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 Luisa Lassova
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 Janet Louise
 Donald MacBride
 Laura Madara
 Meg Malloy
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 Suzanne S. Marinell
 Carole M. Mattessich
 Paul W. McCloskey
 In Recognition of Michael Baker
 International Colleagues

Sandra J. Miller
 Kerri & Joe Morris
 John Morrison
 Walter Mugdan
 Cindy Murdough
 Bill Muszynski
 Naamans Creek Watershed Association
 Martha & Kevin Narvaez
 New Castle Sailing Club
 Jim Oppenheim & Dina Toto
 David Othmer
 Harry & Nancy Otto
 Paul Overbeck
 In Memory of Mary Padeletti
 Honorable Karl J. Parrish
 Louis J. Picciani

Joyce E. Pillsbury
 Pinelands Nursery
 Lynn & Joseph Pokrifka
 Pompeston Creek Watershed Association
 Anthony & Regina Radocaj
 Kirk Raper
 Al Readinger
 Charles Reed
 Roger & Valerie Rider
 Jessica Rittler Sanchez
 Stephen E. & Karen A. Rombach

Barbara T. Ross
 Joshua Rossman
 Jennaalee Rufft
 William Saley & Marcia Hanson
 Charles W. & Nancy M. Sapp
 Jeanette Scanlon
 Richard Schultz
 Judith Schwank
 Cecily & Geoffrey Selling
 Savio Shi
 David & Cindy Small
 Gary Snyder
 Carol Spiker
 Ann Tegnell
 Virginia Thompson
 Carmen Tierno
 David Velinsky & Susan Johtz
 Pam & Howard Venzie
 Shelby Wagner
 Bill & Pat Ward
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Weihrer
 Paul Wesighan
 Jack Williams
 Judy L. Winkler
 Charles D. Wright



Oyster Lift Fund

Thank you to our guests at the 2015 Experience the Estuary Celebration for helping us reach our funding goal for a hydraulic lift for our Oyster Shell Recycling Program. This program will kick off in 2016, so stay tuned!

2015 DELAWARE ESTUARY SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT SPONSORS

The Academy of Natural Sciences of
 Drexel University
 Alpha Analytical
 Barnegat Bay Partnership
 Delaware City Refining Company LLC
 Delaware Coastal Management Program
 Delaware Department of Natural Resources
 and Environmental Control
 McCabe & Associates
 Mid-Atlantic Coastal Wetlands Assessment

National Oceanic and
 Atmospheric Administration
 New Jersey Department of
 Environmental Protection
 Pennsylvania Department of
 Environmental Protection
 Pennsylvania Sea Grant
 Philadelphia Water
 PSEG Nuclear LLC
 Rutgers University Marine &
 Coastal Sciences
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 University of Delaware Sea Grant

Funding support also provided by the
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2015 EXPERIENCE THE ESTUARY CELEBRATION SPONSORS

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 Drexel University
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 Monroe Energy
 New Castle Conservation District
 New Jersey American Water
 Pennoni
 Philadelphia Energy Solutions
 Philadelphia International Airport
 Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
 Philadelphia Water
 PSEG Nuclear LLC



Eric Lienhard
 PDE would like
 Eric Lienhard, of
 the 2015 Experi

to offer our sincere thanks to
our auctioneer extraordinaire at
the Estuary Celebration.

Ramboll Environ
RT Environmental
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Rutgers University, Haskin
Shellfish Research Lab
Sovereign Consulting Inc.
Sunoco Logistics
Tidewater Utilities, Inc.
Urban Engineers, Inc.
Veolia

2015 Experience the Estuary Celebration – Friends of the Delaware Estuary

Delaware River Basin Commission
Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Pinelands Nursery
Tri-State Bird Rescue
University of Delaware Water Resources Agency

2015 Experience the Estuary Contributors and Volunteers

David J. Athey
Auletto Caterers
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Dave Bushek
Kurt Cheng
Carol R. Collier
Roy E. Denmark, Jr.
Robert K. Dobbs, Jr.
Tom Ei
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John Kennel
Alison Kraus
Danielle Kreeger
Eric Lienhard
Kimberly Long
Ming Liu
Dan Martin
Gus Mergenthaler
Josh Moody
Thomas J. O'Connor
Joni L. Powell
Dee Ross
Sweet Amalia Oyster Farm



Photo by Donna Davis

2015 Silent and Live Auction Contributors

1812 Productions
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Sharon Alexander
David Athey
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Shannon Freeman
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Kathy Klein
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Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo
Kimberly Long
Longwood Gardens
Dan Martin
Gus Mergenthaler
Moore Brothers Wine Company

National Constitution Center
New Castle Sailing Club
Newark Natural Foods
NHL Enterprises, L.P.
Northbrook Canoe
Octoraro Native Plant Nursery
OPERA Delaware
The Oyster House
Painted Stave Distilling
Peco's Liquor Store
Philadelphia 76ers
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Philadelphia Museum of Art
Philadelphia Phillies
Philadelphia Rock Gyms
Nick Pliantios
Joni L. Powell
Dee Ross
Joanne Rufft
Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Lab
Saucony Creek Brewing Company
Leo Sewell
David Small
Juliana Stankiewicz
Sheri Stiles
Tetra Tech, Inc.
Julie Varner & Tom Chegwidan
Virginia Vassalotti
Victory Brewing Company
Vintage Rod
Marianne Walch
West Chester Golf & Country Club
Laura Whalen
Whitewater Farm Bed & Breakfast
Wilmington Blue Rocks
Wilmington & Western Railroad
Fred Wood
Lisa Wool
Richard Worth



Living Shorelines Castle
PDE's science team and some volunteers ham it up on
one of the living shorelines oyster castles on a Delaware
Bay beach.

PARTNERSHIP *for the* DELAWARE ESTUARY

2015 STEERING COMMITTEE

Joni L. Powell, Chairwoman – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
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Shawn M. Garvin, Regional Administrator – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Kelly Jean Heffner, Deputy Secretary for Water Management – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Daniel Kennedy, Assistant Commissioner for Water Resource Management – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Howard Neukrug, Water Commissioner – Philadelphia Water
David Small, Secretary – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Steve Tambini, Executive Director – Delaware River Basin Commission

2015 ESTUARY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (EIC)

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 – Ed Ambrogio, Megan Mackey
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 – Nesmarie Negron, Irene Y. Purdy
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Sarah Cooksey, John Kennel
Delaware River Basin Commission – Kenneth Najjar, Thomas Fikslin
Drexel University – Susan S. Kilham, Ph.D., STAC Chair
National Park Service – Joe Dibello
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Jay Springer, Dorina Frizzera
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Lori Mohr, Andy Zemba
Philadelphia Water – Stephanie Chiorean, Amy Liu
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Gregory Breese

2015 STAFF

Executive Team:

Led by Jennifer A. Adkins, Executive Director
Gus Wolfe, Director of Finance & Operations
Beth Haas & Andrée Tyagi, Office Managers

Education & Outreach Team:

Led by Lisa Wool, Program Director
Shaun Bailey, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Melissa Bittner & Michelle Hoover, Program Specialists
Tom Davidock, Senior Coordinator, Schuylkill Action Network
Jeffrey Long, Watershed Outreach Specialist
Dee Ross, Watershed Outreach Coordinator
Sari Rothrock, Watershed Planning Specialist II
Virginia Vassalotti, Schuylkill Action Network Specialist

Science & Restoration Team:

Led by Dr. Danielle Kreeger, Science Director
Sarah Bouboulis, Science Planning Specialist
Kurt Cheng, Shellfish Specialist
LeeAnn Haaf, Wetland Specialist
Ryan Kelleher & Spencer Roberts, Science Interns
Joshua Moody, Restoration Coordinator
Allison Ostertag, Habitat Specialist
Angela Padeletti, Senior Science Coordinator

Development Team:

Led by Debbie Heaton, Director of Development
Dee Durham, Coordinator of Grants
Elizabeth Horsey, Coordinator of Individual Giving

2015 SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC)

Standing Representatives

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Kristen Koroncai & Kelly Somers – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
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David Wolanski – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program, leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.



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