



FIELDREPORT

Mid-Atlantic Region | Fall-Winter 2017-18



Pipelines in the Parks?!

by Lukas Gschwandtner

The development of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, as a means to access previously untapped oil or gas reserves has sparked proposals to build pipelines throughout the Mid-Atlantic region to transport natural gas. Pipelines proposed through national parks have the potential to damage some of America's most beloved places. Often, construction includes permanent deforestation of rights-of-way corridors. Pipelines are not just visual blights—they fragment habitat and provide avenues for invasive species to intrude into park interiors. They can rupture and leak, polluting soil and water. Pipelines can harm people, too. Over the past 20 years, more than 1,300 injuries and over 5,000 significant pipeline incidents—including explosions, fires and leaks—were reported.

The Atlantic Coast and the Mountain Valley pipelines are proposed to cross the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Virginia. Hikers along the trail would

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Clean Water in Mid-Atlantic Parks Under Siege

Pennsylvania's Water Crisis Threatens National Parks

by Amanda John

From Dingmans Falls in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to Brandywine Creek in First State National Historical Park, Pennsylvania is home to beautiful, ecologically vibrant and economically important waterways flowing through and around its 19 national parks. As special interests like the oil and gas industry spend more money to gain influence in Harrisburg, these waterways become increasingly threatened.

According to data the state reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Pennsylvania has the most impaired waterways of any state in the country. In fact, it has more than twice as many miles of waterways classified as "impaired" (19,000) as the next-worst state, Michigan. A May 2017 Natural Resources Defense



Council report also found that Pennsylvania ranks third—behind Texas and Florida—for most reported safety violations of the water we drink.

The Pennsylvania legislature and Governor Wolf have a responsibility to act in the best interest of their constituents. They must protect our drinking water sources and the

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Top: This summer, NPCA and partners hosted the first annual Susquehanna River Rally in Harrisburg, calling on state decision makers to take immediate action to address Pennsylvania's water crisis by funding key clean water programs. ©Nate Lotze **Above:** Dingmans Falls at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area ©Svecchiotti | Dreamstime

FIELD REPORT

FALL-WINTER 2017-18

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Maryland, Pennsylvania,
Virginia, West Virginia

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Staff News



WELCOME

Sharon Davis (**left**) and
Courtney Brown (**right**)
to the Mid-Atlantic team!

Mid-Atlantic interns
Lukas and Krista (**above**)
enjoy a day at Antietam
National battlefield,
where they learned
about agriculture in
our national parks.

©NPCA



NPCA's new Middle & Upper Delaware Program Manager, **Sharon Davis**, joined NPCA in June. Sharon works to promote the Scenic Wild Delaware River geotourism project, along with other park advocacy matters in the middle and upper Delaware River region. Her office is located in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

Courtney Brown joined NPCA in July as director of development for the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions. Previously, Courtney worked in development for Friends of the Earth, NARAL Pro-Choice America and People for the American Way.

A senior at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, **Lukas Gschwandtner** studies environmental science and policy. This summer he helped develop the "Pipelines in the Parks" campaign, which outlines the threats that pipelines pose to national parks. He also worked to secure funding for Chesapeake Bay programs.

Krista Albu is a senior at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, majoring in environmental studies. She worked with the Mid-Atlantic team this summer to develop outreach strategies to more effectively engage park advocates while also diversifying our park advocate community.

HAVE A PHOTO OR COMMENT TO SHARE?

We welcome photos from members enjoying national parks, particularly those in the Mid-Atlantic region. We also appreciate feedback on our *Field Report*. Share your digital photos, comments, and ideas with us via **email at midatlantic@npca.org**

MUSIC AT THE MONUMENT

Interview with Judy Xanthopoulos and Darryl Haley

by Krista Albu

For Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council members Darryl Haley and Judy Xanthopoulos, national parks serve many purpose—protecting beautiful landscapes, getting people into the outdoors, and promoting recreation and health. In turn, Darryl and Judy’s passion for parks has led them to serve some of America’s most special places in a variety of ways.

After Darryl began working with NPS’s Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative to inspire and foster diversity in the parks, the couple created “Music at the Monument,” a summer concert series at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds. The series aims to foster connections among veterans, youth, seniors and our national parks. For more information, including schedules, see www.musicatthemonument.com.



Based in Luray, Virginia, Judy is an economist specializing in public finance and environmental economics, and Darryl is a retired professional athlete with degrees in business and computer science. Their backgrounds, combined with their energy and enthusiasm, inform their advocacy for national parks.

After early exposure to public lands, Darryl and Judy traveled around the country visiting many national parks. “One of our most memorable moments was when we brought some young men to the Grand Canyon to perform [jazz and hip-hop],” said Judy. “It was their first visit to a national park and to the Grand Canyon. Seeing the way it transformed them was wonderful.”

Judy and Darryl have been strong advocates for our national parks through NPCA, working on a range of issues from clean air to youth outreach. “We both feel that protecting, preserving and promoting access to the national parks is a vital mission,” said Darryl. “It dovetails with our program, Music at the Monument, holding concerts in national parks and monuments to encourage people to visit these spaces.”

Thank you, Judy and Darryl, for your dedication to our national parks.

Above: Darryl Haley and Judy Xanthopoulos ©Judy Xanthopoulos

Marching for Parks in Washington, D.C.



Above (left): Washington Monument ©Lunamarina | Dreamstime **Above (right):** In April, Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council members and staff joined the People’s Climate March on the National Mall to highlight our national parks, which need our support and protection from the damaging effects of climate change. ©NPCA www.npca.org/issues/parks-in-a-changing-climate

Clean Water in Mid-Atlantic Parks Under Siege

Pennsylvania's Water Crisis Threatens National Parks

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waterways that support local economies, recreational enjoyment and resilient communities. Despite this imperative, over the course of this legislative session, leaders in Harrisburg have:

- 1) Developed a budget proposal that would cut millions of dollars from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, and would gut DEP's permitting authority over sources of water contamination, such as coal mine pollution, pipelines and gas wells;
- 2) Advanced a House Resolution undermining core programs that have worked to protect clean water for more than 30 years;
- 3) Passed a bill that reduces protections for streams from underground coal mining; and,
- 4) Squandered opportunities, like Growing Greener 3 legislation, to sustainably increase funding to restore the Susquehanna watershed.

The waters that sustain our national parks and their gateway communities deserve better from Pennsylvania's leaders.

The waters that sustain our national parks and their gateway communities deserve better from Pennsylvania's leaders. You can help by calling your legislators and asking them to protect our parks and communities by taking action to address Pennsylvania's water crisis. Find their contact information here: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>



Above: Advocates at the Susquehanna River Rally call for immediate action to protect Pennsylvania's water. ©Nate Lotze

Pipelines in the Parks?!

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see the pipeline corridors for miles. Another proposed project, the Eastern Panhandle Expansion in Maryland, not only would impact the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, it could threaten the Potomac River, the drinking water source for more than six million people.

Some members of Congress seek to fast-track the pipeline approval process, making it harder for NPS and local stakeholders to influence where pipelines are built. In July, the House passed H.R. 2910, a bill that would severely limit the ability of government agencies to partici-

pate in the permitting process for pipeline construction by giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission deference in granting permits. The bill would limit time for environmental review and give eminent domain authority to pipeline companies. NPCA supports responsible energy infrastructure development, so we oppose H.R. 2901

and other efforts to fast-track or build pipelines that could harm national parks without allowing for reasonable public review.

Learn more about NPCA's energy work here: www.npca.org/issues/responsible-energy



Above: Hikers along the Appalachian Trail would see miles of permanent right-of-way clearing at Kelly's Knob if the Mountain Valley pipeline is built—as simulated in the above image. ©Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Clean Water in Mid-Atlantic Parks Under Siege

Chesapeake Funding Challenges

by Stephanie Heidbreder

The Chesapeake watershed is home to more than 50 national parks, 18 million people and a unique regional partnership that since 1983 has directed Chesapeake restoration. After recognizing the impact of development, agriculture and industry on the region's health, the seven jurisdictions of the 64,000-square-mile watershed—Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, West Virginia and the District of Columbia—committed to a restoration blueprint.

The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program supports this restoration blueprint to ensure progress towards mutually agreed upon pollution reduction goals. This is the nation's premier watershed restoration partnership, with EPA offering critical funding for science, research and on-the-ground cleanup efforts.

Following the Trump administration's budget proposal to eliminate funding for the Chesapeake and other watershed programs, the Chesapeake's bipartisan congressional delegation has been working to keep annual funding levels at \$73 million. This amount supports priority projects at the state and local levels to restore the health of the watershed.

In July, a key House subcommittee voted to fund the Chesapeake Bay Program at \$60 million for fiscal year 2018, an 18 percent cut from the previous year. As budget negotiations continue in the Senate, the region's congressional leaders remain committed to funding the Chesapeake program.

Officials also are working to reauthorize and fully fund the Gateways and Watertrails Network for the upcoming year. Administered by the National Park Service (NPS), the Gateways Network provides technical and financial assistance grants to communities to expand public access along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Senator Cardin (D-MD) and Representative Sarbanes (D-MD03) introduced legislation (S. 1430 & H.R. 3063) to reauthorize the Gateways program through 2023. Appropriators must continue these efforts if they hope to counter the one-million-dollar cut proposed by the administration.



Ending the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Gateways and Watertrails Network would undermine years of progress towards restoration and public access goals. At stake are the water we drink, the recreational, fishing and tourism industries, and the health of our national parks.

Above: National park wildlife like this Great Blue Heron depend on clean water to live and to thrive. ©Flownaksala | Dreamstime **Below:** The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and home to over 50 national parks and 18 million people. ©Flownaksala | Dreamstime

TAKE ACTION

Please contact your congressional delegation to ask them to support continued funding for Chesapeake programs and protections.

For more information, see www.npca.org/fundchesapeake, or contact Stephanie Heidbreder (see staff listing).



Upcoming NPCA Events in the Mid-Atlantic

Contact midatlantic@npca.org or check out <https://www.npcap.org/events> for more information on any of these events.

For more information about events in your area sponsored by the National Park Service, go to www.nps.gov, click on "Find a Park," and search for the park by name or state. For an updated list of NPCA-sponsored events in the region, go to www.npcap.org/midatlantic and click on "Events and Travel." • For updated information about NPCA's advocacy campaigns, contact any of our offices (see p.2)



OCTOBER 28

Volunteer Event at Kenilworth Aquatic

Gardens: Join NPCA and the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens for a service event where you can help remove invasive plants, pick up trash, work in the ponds and assist with other park projects.

Washington, DC

WINTER TBD

Valley Forge Workshop: Stormwater & Climate Change Impacts:

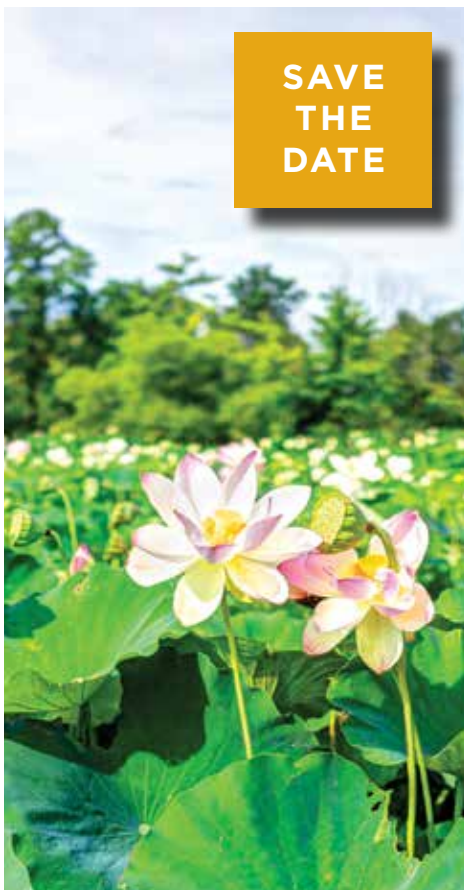
This winter, NPCA, NPS and key partners will host a public workshop on the impacts of stormwater runoff on Valley Forge's natural and historic resources. As a result of increased upstream development and growing intensity and frequency of storms, this issue falls at the top of the concern list for Valley Forge stewards and advocates. Come out to the workshop to learn more about the issue and how you can help!

NOVEMBER 14

DC Speakers Series Event: Join NPCA's Government Affairs staff to discuss the current state of national park policy from inside the Washington beltway. A shifting congressional landscape, combined with an unpredictable administration have increased the challenges of working with decision makers to support parks and protect them from harm. Hear from NPCA's Washington, DC lobbyists about current park politics and how you can be a part of it. **Washington, DC**

APRIL 11, 2018

Salute to the Parks: This annual event celebrates America's national parks, calls attention to their needs, and honors organizations and individuals that advocate for the preservation of our national parks. **Washington, DC**



SAVE
THE
DATE



Top: Valley Forge National Historical Park ©Olivier Le Queinec | Dreamstime **Middle Right:** Students have fun at Kenilworth Aquatic Garden's NatureFest Spring Break Camp. ©NPCA **Middle Left and Bottom:** Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is home to many plants and animals, including lotus flowers and the green heron. Photos by Kristi Blokhin and Joseph Scott Photography



Latest News and Action Re: Funding our Parks

The National Park Service Legacy Act

Identical bills, S. 751 and H.R. 2584, would provide \$500 million annually to address the \$11.3 billion NPS repair backlog. This money would fund critical projects such as the restoration of deteriorating trails, crumbling roads like River Road in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania, and deteriorating bridges like Arlington Memorial Bridge between D.C. and Virginia.

Above: Parks including Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provide significant community quality-of-life and economic benefits.
©Anton Foltin | Dreamstime

Annual Appropriated Funding

Meanwhile, NPS needs sufficient annual funding to take care of our parks, keep the repair backlog from growing and greet visitors. With park visitation at an all-time high in 2016, NPS had only 89 full-time staff for every 100 staff in 2011. Both the Trump administration's proposed FY18 budget and the U.S. House-approved budget would slash NPS funding. A September agreement between President Trump and congressional leaders delays FY18 budget decisions until December. The administration also is preparing its FY19 budget proposal for release next February.

TAKE ACTION

Annual Funding

Ask your U.S. senators and representatives to fund parks sufficiently so that NPS can protect America's history and heritage.
www.npca.org/parkfunding

Repair Backlog

- **Thank Mid-Atlantic sponsors of S. 751:** U.S. Sens. Mark Warner (D-VA) (lead), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Joe Manchin (D-WV).
- **Thank Mid-Atlantic sponsors of H.R. 2584:** Reps. Robert Brady (D-PA01), Evan Jenkins (R-WV03) and Alex Mooney (R-WV02).
- If your senators/representative have not sponsored the backlog repair bill, ask them to do so.
www.npca.org/legacyact



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The River Unites Us

The Scenic Wild Delaware River (SWDR) geotourism initiative seeks to sustain and promote the natural, cultural and recreational resources of a region anchored by four national parks in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The SWDR interactive travel website, www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com, features over 700 local, regionally authentic businesses and attractions. In September, the SWDR Geotourism Council including NPCA hosted “The River Unites Us,” a conference that featured local business owners discussing how they benefit from—and protect—clean, abundant water, regional planners discussing the economic benefits of open space and preserved areas, and tourism leaders discussing how they promote the region’s values anchored by national parks and the Delaware River.

The SWDR geotourism initiative seeks to sustain and promote the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the region.



Above: The Scenic Wild Delaware River region is especially beautiful during fall colors, shown above at the confluence of three states at Port Jervis, New York, Matamoras, Pennsylvania, and Sussex County, New Jersey. ©Mihai Andritoiu | Dreamstime



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