

# Delaware River Sojourn

Connecting Paddlers to Conservation

Mark Zakutansky

Chair, Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee

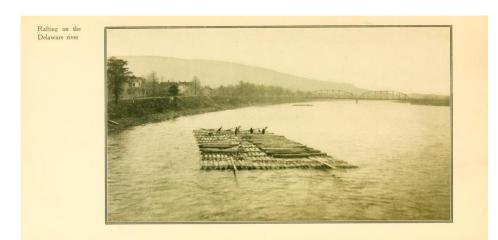


#### The Delaware River - The Birthplace of America (and canoeing!)

- Daniel Skinner log rafts in 1764
- Washington crosses the Delaware River
  - December 25, 1776
- 1885: Philadelphia Source Water Protection Plan
- Canoe Clubs Founded

1903: Mohawk Canoe Club

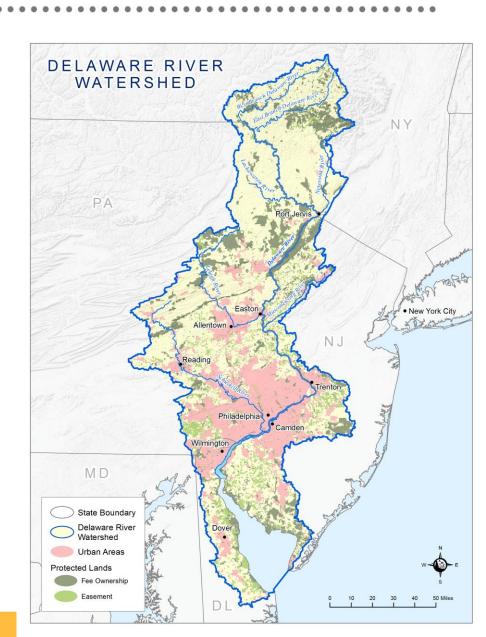
1905: Philadelphia Canoe Club





#### About the Delaware River Water Trail

- Geography
  - 4 States: NY, PA, NJ, DE (tidal)
  - 4 Sections:
    - Upper
    - Middle
    - Lower
    - Tidal
  - 220 miles of non-tidal water trail and 110 miles of tidal
  - 12,500 square mile watershed
  - 800 square miles of Bay
  - 200 tributary rivers and streams



### All about Paddling on the Delaware River Water Trail

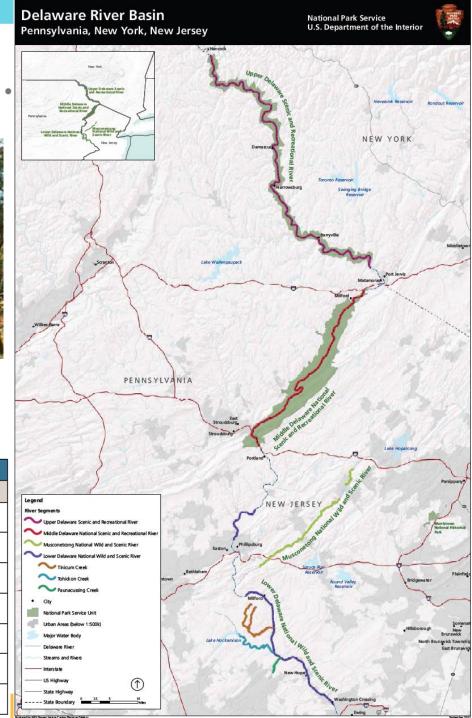
- Designated Recreational Value
  - 400 miles of main stem and tributaries designated under Wild & Scenic
  - Upper Delaware River alone sees 100,000+ paddlers/year
  - Middle Delaware through Delaware Water Gap NRA offer accessible experiences
  - Lower Delaware has heavy use from paddlers, tubers and motorized users



# Wild & Scenic



RIVER SEGMENT	ORV CATEGORY				
	Cultural	Ecological	Geological	Recreational	Scenic
Upper Delaware River	•	•	•	•	•
Middle Delaware River	•	•	•	•	•
Musconetcong River	•	•	•	•	•
Lower Delaware River	•	•	•	•	•
Tinicum Creek	•		•		•
Tohickon Creek	•	•	•	•	•
Paunacussing Creek	•				•



# Management Partners (examples)

- State Agencies (Parks, Forests, Rangers, and Police)
- Federal and Quasi Federal Agencies:
  - NPS (Delaware Water Gap, Upper Delaware and Wild & Scenic sections)
  - Delaware River Basin Commission
  - Coast Guard
  - Army Corps of Engineers/others
- Private:
  - Campgrounds
  - Outfitters/Liveries
  - NGO's
- Entities
  - Scenic Byway
  - Tourism Agencies
  - NatGeo StewardshipCouncil



# Delaware River Sojourn



#### WHAT IS THE DELAWARE RIVER SOJOURN?

#### Delaware River Sojourn

- 7-8 day sojourn
- Registration
  - \$80/day (adult)
  - \$50/day (youth)
  - First Time Paddlers \$10 discount
  - FREE (youth scholarships)
- 100-120 people/day
- 2017 Numbers (820 total paddling days)
  - Day 1: 110 people (13 youth)
  - Day 2: 105 people (12 youth)
  - Day 3: 125 people (26 youth)
  - Day 4: 119 people (28 youth)
  - Day 5: 82 people (8 youth)
  - Day 6: 100 people (21 youth)
  - Day 7: 79 people (19 youth)









#### Delaware River Sojourn

Beautiful scenery, organized execution, and wonderful safety team made the sojourn a wonderful vacation option! (Anonymous Sojourner 2017)



One reason I go on sojourns is to learn about programs, projects, and to meet people from other organizations who are doing grant funded or other projects on the river. Especially valuable was seeing the National Canal Museum and going on the informative canal boat ride, and learning about the grant funded improvements at Hugh Moore Park in Easton. (*Anonymous Sojourner 2017*)



#### Delaware River Sojourn - Connecting Paddlers to Conservation

#### 2018 Organizational & Agency Partners:

- Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition
- National Park Service Upper Delaware
- National Canoe Safety Patrol
- Delaware Highlands Conservancy
- PA Fish and Boat Commission
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
- Martins Jacoby Watershed Association
- Friends of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Brodhead Watershed Association
- National Geographic Scenic, Wild Delaware River
- State of NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Management
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Bureau of State Parks
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Musconetcong Watershed Association
- Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow
- Burlington Quaker Meeting House Center
- D&R Greenway Land Trust
- D&R Canal State Park
- Friends for the Abbott Marshlands
- Tulpehaking Nature Center









# Delaware River Sojourn - Connecting Paddlers to Conservation

#### Corporate, Non-Profit and Foundation Supporters







#### pennsylvania **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION** AND NATURAL RESOURCES

























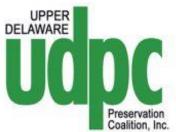




















### Delaware River Sojourn - Connecting Paddlers to Conservation

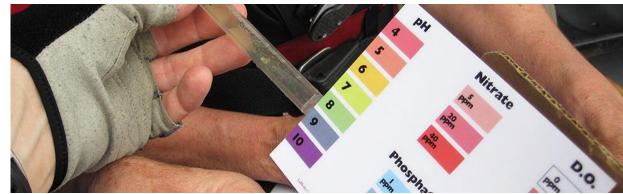
#### How we do it:

- Youth Scholarships
- Stewardship Day River Clean-Up
- Educational Programs during the Day & Evening
- Conservation Organizations Assist in Day Planning
- Lord/Lady High Admiral Award
- Literature/Tabling/Press Events
- Outreach to Raise Profile of the Watershed



























Mitzi Addabbo, of Bethlehem, paddles her kayak on the final day of the eight day Delaware River Sojourn on Saturday at the Delaware River Access in Bordentown. [WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/ PHOTOJOURNALIST]



Michael Padlock, of Levittown, prepares his kayak.
[WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/PHOTOJOURNALIST]



Kayakers paddle onto the river. [WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/PHOTOJOURNALIST]



David Simon, of Bethlehem, gives kayakers a last minute safety session. [WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/PHOTOJOURNALIST]



Clayton Longenecker, left, of Honesdale, helps Linda Mead, of Princeton, with her life vest. [WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/PHOTOJOURNALIST]



A woman prepares her canoe for the river. [WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/PHOTOJOURNALIST]

