



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

WINTER 2017



Connecting People to Nature—Urban/Youth Conservation Opportunities By Elizabeth Freiday

Partners for Fish and Wildlife staff met with the American Littoral Society (ALS) and the Facilities Manager for the Upper Deerfield Township Schools to lay out the design for three rain gardens to be installed at three schools in the township. The current drainage system for each location outlets into a parking lot and picks up contaminants before filtration into the ground. The new rain gardens will bypass the parking lot for 80 percent of storm events allowing runoff water to directly infiltrate the ground. The planned gardens are currently mowed lawn and will be located at the front of each school to maximize visibility. ALS will also work with the school to use the area as an outdoor classroom for lessons on water quality, wildlife and pollinators ecology. Congressional District 2.



Supporting our Workforce By Eric Schrading

Alicia Protus recently joined the Endangered Species Program in January. She studied conservation biology at SUNY ESF in upstate New York and conducted an honors thesis on the visitation patterns of mammalian predators at exclosed piping plover nests. She was previously a FWS directorate fellow at the VAFO supporting the development of IPaC. Alicia created the species resource need profiles and effects pathways for the Appalachian monkeyface, slabside pearlymussel, oyster mussel, smooth coneflower and swamp pink. The addition of new species into IPaC builds the program's capacity to assist with Section 7 consultation work, which in turn reduces the consultation workload of ES biologists. Presently, she is excited to begin her new role as the NJFO species lead for the bog turtle, Indiana bat, and northern longeared bat.





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Strategic Conservation at Risk Species

By Alicia Protus

Alicia Protus participated in the annual NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife winter bat survey at Hibernia Mine in Morris County. The population survey results were consistent with those obtained the previous year at Hibernia, albeit still only a small fraction of prewhite nose syndrome reports. They recaptured several little brown bats for the first time since they were banded in 2010 and 2011. Five bats were also resighted doing well after previously being cared for by a wildlife rehabilitator. Congressional District 11.



Strategic Conservation Partnership Building

By Elizabeth Freiday

NJFO staff attended the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program kickoff meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leaders from NGOs, state conservation organizations, and other federal agencies gathered to discuss the Draft Restoration Plan Framework and the Program Governance documents. Partners from the four States that encompass the Delaware River Basin participated. The overall consensus was that the members of this new coalition are supportive of the initiative, whether the program receives federal funding or not. NJFO has previously worked with many of the partners in the room via the *Partners for Fish and Wildlife* program, and new potential partners were identified. Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12.



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At Risk Species: Concurrent Oil Spills on the Hudson River **By Clay Stern**

NJFO biologists are working with the United States Coast Guard Sector New York in response to two dielectric fluid leaks on the Hudson River; one in Jersey City, New Jersey, the other on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, New York. In both cases, oil is leaking from concrete encased pipes buried approximately 15 feet below the river bottom in approximately 45 feet of water. The rate of discharge is a few gallons per hour; however the exact points of the releases have not yet been located. Repairs will likely take several weeks if not several months to execute. Among the other actions taken, emergency Section 7 consultation procedures have been initiated ahead of spring emergence of federally listed bats. Congressional District 10.

Strategic Conservation At Risk Species **By Eric Schrading**

NJFO met with Frank Luna, Chief of Staff for Congressman MacArthur on Jan 25. The NJFO discussed office priorities with Mr. Luna and provided a quick tour of the office to meet staff. We hope to be able to have the Congressman attend a site visit at one of our *Partners for Fish and Wildlife* projects in the Spring. Congressional District 3.



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Sharing Our Story By Katie Conrad

NJFO staff attended portions of the Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit, which brings together scientists, land managers, educators, and the public to present and discuss topics on the Delaware Rive and Bay. NJFO staff presented a poster in partnership with the Nature Conservancy on living shoreline and oyster reef restoration work done in the Delaware Bay with funding from the Hurricane Sandy disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013. Several other partners, including the American Littoral Society and Partnership for the Delaware Estuary presented their research based on restoration projects conducted partnership with the NJFO. Congressional District 2.

Gandy's Beach Living Shoreline Project
Katie Conrad¹, Moses Karkowski²
¹U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ²The Nature Conservancy

Introduction
The Delaware Estuary is a highly productive and diverse ecosystem that provides a variety of ecosystem services to the surrounding region. However, the estuary has been degraded by human activities, including land development, agriculture, and urbanization. The Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit was held in 2016 to discuss the challenges facing the estuary and to explore potential solutions. One of the key topics discussed was the need for living shoreline restoration projects to improve the health of the estuary and provide natural protection against coastal erosion and flooding.

Project Goals
The primary goal of the Gandy's Beach Living Shoreline Project was to restore the natural functions of the shoreline and provide natural protection against coastal erosion and flooding. The project also aimed to improve the habitat for native species and provide educational opportunities for the public.

Methods
The project involved the installation of a living shoreline structure consisting of oyster reefs, shell mounds, and native plants. The structure was designed to mimic natural processes and provide a variety of habitat types. The project was implemented in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Results
The project has resulted in the installation of a living shoreline structure that is expected to provide natural protection against coastal erosion and flooding. The structure has also improved the habitat for native species and provided educational opportunities for the public.

Conclusions
The Gandy's Beach Living Shoreline Project has demonstrated the potential of living shoreline restoration projects to improve the health of the Delaware Estuary and provide natural protection against coastal erosion and flooding. The project also provided educational opportunities for the public and improved the habitat for native species.