

# Water Ways

July 2009

(717) 948-6780

August 2009

www.susquehannarivertrail.org

## Great River Adventure - GRA



Island Hoppers Hopping Between Islands  
Courtesy of W Webster

A sunny, warm Saturday, June 27 and a full river saw 119 kayakers and canoeists enjoying a happy adventure on the Susquehanna River between Fort Hunter Park and City Island, Harrisburg. SRTA, joined by the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg (CCGH)

sponsored eight categories of river races for paddlers.

In addition, four guided pods of Island Hoppers stopped at four islands or launch areas along the route to learn more about the river and its attributes, some of which were edible!

These 101 participants were of all skill levels, in all kinds of canoes and kayaks, and ranged from 4 to 69 years with concentrations at both ends of the age range.

The day ended with a picnic, awards and music at the Susquehanna Outfitters boat/bicycle rental shop on City Island. A drawing for a Perception Express kayak from Wildware Backcountry, won by Jane Webster, and a water purification unit from American Rivers, won by Angela Watson, were surprise extras for the event.

Participants received canvas tote bags listing the names of all the sponsors and contained embroidered SRTA caps for all paddlers, bottled water, an Odwalla bar energy snack and various flyers. Each participant was also given a free membership in the SRTA for the balance of 2009.

The planning committee lead by John Meister and including Jim McNulty, Brook Lenker, Pat Reilly and Bruce Bishoff, have the following volunteers to thank for helping to make it happen:

Registrars: Betty and Bruce Bishoff, Linda, Keith and Sarah Danner, Dave Ehrhart, Barb Horst, Bob Michener, and Mikki Williams

Starter and Time Keeper: John Meister

River Guides: Joe and Quinn Frassetta, Pat Meister, Jennifer Tamm, Arlene Taylor, Jane and Will Webster

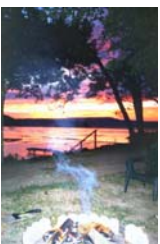
Station Speakers: Molly Anderson, Brook Lenker, Bert Myers, Pat Reilly and Bill Weigle

Finish Line Hosts: Jim McNulty, Jill Miller, Steve Oliphant

Plans are already underway for a fourth annual Great River Adventure on June 26, 2010. Join us for a great day on the river.

## July 30 Meeting – Change of Date and Venue

Recording Secretary Keith Danner will welcome SRTA to have the July Business meeting at his riverside camp. See side bar on this page for directions. Please note the change of date also. Danners' camp is directly onshore from our island campsite 93 which he and his wife Linda maintain for SRTA. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck picnic. Some business issues will be discussed too!



Meeting Site

### UPCOMING SRTA MEETINGS

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Thursday July 30

*NOTE: Change of date and location!*

Danners' River Camp\*  
Halifax

Grandview Dr. at Rt. 147

Business Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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Pot Luck Picnic

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Thursday August 27

Susquehanna Room\*  
Ranch House Restaurant  
Amity Hall

Business Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

β β β β β β β β β β β β β β Attendees

may arrive early and purchase dinner to be served in the meeting room

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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\*Ranch House Restaurant: Located in Amity Hall on the west side of US 11/15, 1 mile north of the interchange with US 22/322

## River Trail Featured in Susquehanna Life Magazine

The summer 2009 issue of *Susquehanna Life* magazine, published by recent island steward Erica Shames, features 27 pages of articles and photos about the stretch of the river where SRTA manages its water trail. Included are work by SRTA's liaison with DCNR, Brook Lenker, John Capwell and Ms. Shames. These articles describe members Cindy Dunn from DCNR and Mark Lawrence from WKOK, as well as stakeholder organizations such as the Susquehanna Sojourn, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition. SRTA is honored to be associated with other river valley boosters of their quality and enthusiasm. Read the issue and enjoy!

### Island Update

Taking advantage of good water levels at the end of June, Island Steward Joe Zaleski used the SRTA jon boat to deliver two fire rings to Island 73. This popular island now has two campsites, the new one, 73a, being located on the opposite (upstream) end of the island from 73 (now 73b). This is not yet indicated on the printed SRTA Trail Guide.

Only Islands 81a, 82 and 101 remain in need of permanent rings – which are on order. However, Island 101 is under consideration for relocation to a nearby, more spacious island. A ring is being ordered in anticipation of establishing a new campsite to replace 103. This latter island is no longer in use as a result of the removal (i.e. vandalism) of a key tree at the head of the island. Without that protection, the spring river levels are washing away the island!



Fire Ring Ready for Installation

The 125 lb. fire rings, anchored in the ground with 80 lbs.+ of concrete are not expected to disappear any time soon. Ask any of our stewards who have hauled rings and concrete to the islands via canoe or kayak.

### FabriDam Portage Under Consideration

On June 22, a conceptual design meeting was held for the stakeholders of the main stem of the Susquehanna River. The engineering firm of Gannett Flemming presented design proposals for a nature-like fishway around the west side of the inflatable dam (*FabriDam*) at Sunbury.

The earlier plans for a fish ladder on the east side of the dam are on hold for financial reasons. The new proposal would also provide a park-like setting for a graceful rock strewn passage with pedestrian viewing access. Funding for this project has more current possibilities.

Migrating fish use their sense of smell to determine their home waters. At the location of the dam, the waters of the North and West Branches of the river have not begun to co-mingle, producing a two-color river for a number of miles downstream. Without separate fish passages carrying water from both branches, some fish will not smell their opportunity to migrate to their spawning grounds.

The planners were open to the suggestion by boaters in attendance that a safe above-dam shore-line passage could probably be marked by buoys to allow boats to approach the dam and be hand-carried on a short groomed pathway around the dam. We can hope for the best as they go back to their drawing boards!

We could hope that the dams at Williamsport and Lock Haven could also be considered for similar fishways/portages, although not with the need for one on each shore.

### Do You Want to Sell a Bridge?



The Governor's Yacht Stops at Island 83a  
Courtesy of R Ferrell

The Brooklyn Bridge would be too big for the job, so Cumberland County received a grant to consider purchase of a surplus bridge from PennDOT to provide a pedestrian river crossing between Wormleysburg and Harrisburg's City Island. It would replace the spans of the former Walnut St. bridge that were swept away by an ice dam breakage in the '90s.

The proposed foot bridge would provide walkers from the west shore with direct access to Susquehanna Outfitters, a renter of boats and bicycles that manages a hand launch ramp on the edge of a city parking lot on the island, just upstream of the Dock St. dam.

### Celebrate with Millersburg, a Susquehanna Rivertown

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ned Smith Center Nature and Arts Festival will take place on July 25<sup>th</sup> in MYO Park in Millersburg, a river user-friendly town midway along the water trail managed by SRTA. We will have an information booth at the festival to encourage even more recreational boaters to use the river and visit the island campsites/stopovers that we maintain. We hope to see you there!



Susquehanna River Trail Association, Inc.  
PO Box 62023  
Harrisburg PA 17106-2023

1st Class  
Stamp

➡➡➡➡ LIST OF TRAIL GUIDE VENDORS ⚡⚡⚡⚡

Copies of the Susquehanna River Water Trail Map (Middle Section) are available at the following locations:  
(Links to further information are provided on the SRTA website home page)

Bellefonte – Tussey Mt. Outfitters  
Binghamton NY – Eureka! Camping Center  
Harrisburg – Wildware Backcountry  
Lewisburg – Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau  
Lock Haven – Rock River & Trail Outfitters  
Marysville – Blue Mountain Outfitters

Montoursville – Country Ski & Sports  
Montoursville – Lyon Camping and Supply  
State College – Eastern Mountain Sports  
Sugar Run – Endless Mountain Outfitters  
Sunbury – Southside Bait and Tackle  
Wilkes-Barre – Country Ski & Sports  
Wrightsville (Long Level) – Shank’s Mare

**Secure credit card purchases may also be made by internet** through Hike-advice.com – by going directly to their order page via the SRTA website: [www.susquehannarivertrail.org](http://www.susquehannarivertrail.org) More in-store locations will be announced on the SRTA website as they become available. There is also a limited supply of flat, un-folded trail guides.

**Contributions and Gifts-in-Kind**

Unless otherwise designated, additional contributions to SRTA made by members and readers will be directed toward development of island trail facilities. Example: Purchase and installation of “flood proof” fire rings at all campsites.

John Lake

Kim Vinson

**New Memberships and Renewals**

Brent Baver

John Lake

Kim Vinson

Sam Black

Tanya Milheim

Cory Wilt

Shamokin Dam Borough

104 Participants in 2009 GRA Event