

BRANDYWINE SHAD 2020
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Brandywine Conservancy
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DIRECTORS

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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Rivers
Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
Delaware Nature Society
NOAA
Partnership for The Delaware Estuary
Stroud Water Research Center
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
US Fish & Wildlife - Partners
for Fish & Wildlife

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REMOVAL OF DAM ON BRANDYWINE RIVER TO ENABLE SHAD MIGRATION

First Step in Restoring the Brandywine to Pre-Colonial Free Flowing State

(WILMINGTON, DE, November 14, 2018) Shad, the silver-bellied, tasty, fighting fish that fed colonial America, are ready to return from the Atlantic to their ancient homes up the Brandywine River, as Wilmington, Delaware prepares to remove the 112-year-old West Street Dam.

The city is improving its water supply by replacing the two transmission mains that make up the deteriorating dam allowing the dam to be removed and the creek bottom restored to its natural state, says Vincent Carroccia, Deputy Commissioner of Wilmington's Department of Public Works. Work is scheduled to begin shortly and should be done by November 2019.

Shad, like salmon, are anadromous: they live at sea but return to the freshwater rivers and creeks of their birth to spawn. The Brandywine was one of the premier fishing rivers of the Lenape and the early Swedish, Dutch and English settlers, until 11 dams that powered mills along the river blocked their passing.

"Tens of thousands of shad used to swim up the Brandywine every year," and shad fishing was a familiar way to put dinner on the table, says Jim Shanahan, a Director of Brandywine Shad 2020, a coalition of 12 groups working to reopen the river so native fish can reach the Brandywine Valley into Pennsylvania. Founding members include The Brandywine Conservancy, which conducted a feasibility study; the Hagley Museum and Library; and the University of Delaware Water Resource Center.

Outdated dams are falling and freeing streams all over America -- more than 1,200 since the 1990s, and a record 86 just last year. "Restoring rivers to their

(MORE)



RESTORING THE PHENOMENON OF MIGRATORY SHAD TO THE BRANDYWINE

(cont'd)

free-flowing state improves the overall health and bio-diversity of the entire river corridor" says Gerald Kaufmann Ph. D., Director of the University of Delaware's Water Resource Center, who oversaw the removal of a White Clay Creek dam in 2014 that allowed shad back into that vigorous stream.

"The restoration and preservation of the Brandywine watershed is central to our mission, so it was natural for us to study shad restoration," according to Ellen Ferretti, Director of the Brandywine Conservancy. "We are excited about working with our fellow organizations to make it happen."

Dams made the first American industries possible, and three remain on the grounds of historic Hagley, where officials are reviewing fish ladders, rock ramps and notching that may allow fish to pass upstream without compromising the property's historic and educational character, says David Cole, Executive Director.

"We have a long way to go," says Hunter Lott III, a Director of Brandywine Shad 2020, "but with the organizations we have on board I am confident we will succeed in enabling shad migration up the Brandywine for the first time in over 300 years".

About Brandywine Shad 2020

Brandywine Shad 2020 is a consortium of 12 local, regional and national conservation minded organizations that are working together to enable the annual migration of anadromous fish including American Shad on the Brandywine River by restoring the river to its pre-colonial free-flowing state.

About the University of Delaware Water Resource Center (DWRC)

Established in 1965, DWRC is one of the 54 National Institutes for Water Resources at land-grant universities with a mission to support research, education, and public outreach programs that focus on water supply, water management, and water quality – issues of considerable importance to Delaware citizens who are concerned about the future of our water resources, For more information, visit www.wrc.udel.edu

About The Brandywine Conservancy

The Brandywine Conservancy protects the lands throughout the Brandywine Valley, developing new conservation approaches and assuring access to majestic open spaces and dependable water supplies for generations to come. For more information, visit www.brandywine.org/conservancy.

About the Hagley Museum and Library

Hagley Museum and Library interprets the unfolding history of American business, technology, and innovation, and its impact on the world, from our home at the historic DuPont powder yards on the banks of the Brandywine in Wilmington, Delaware. For more information, visit www.hagley.org.

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