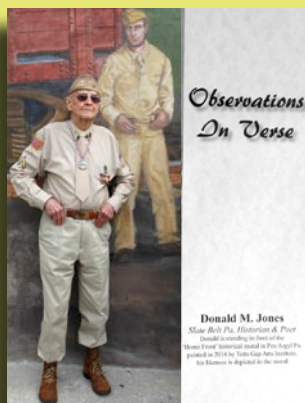


# A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*



## THE WIND

A wind stirs the dust and bends a tree  
Here is a wind that one can see.  
When it hums through the wires reaching the ears  
Making music; it's a wind that one hears.

At times nothing more than a gentle breeze  
The tender flowers it seems to tease.  
While the blossom's fragrance is wafted along  
The gentle wind is our windsong.

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## The River Unites Us:

Stories about the Scenic Wild  
Delaware River by those who know it best

Sharon Davis  
Delaware River  
Program Manager  
NPCA

This month's column features husband/wife  
team Richard Evans and Linda Lohner.  
Richard Evans is an Ecologist at Delaware  
Water Gap National Recreation Area. Linda  
Lohner teaches biology and leads the  
Environmental Club at Wallenpaupack High  
School (PA) and is also a volunteer in the park.

**The River Unites Us:** You two have worked as a team  
to coordinate the Eco-Camp at Delaware Water Gap  
National Recreation Area (DEWA). Tell us how that came  
together, who is involved and what the Eco-Camp is do-  
ing?

**Richard Evans and Linda Lohner:** The EcoCamp is

a one-week summer day camp for  
students in grades 6-12. When invasive  
Rusty Crayfish were discovered in  
one of DEWA's streams, Rich wanted  
to conduct a survey of crayfish to find  
out ASAP if Rusty Crayfish occurred  
elsewhere in DEWA. However, we  
didn't have the time to complete the  
survey ourselves, and we didn't have  
the time or funding to hire someone  
else. Linda suggested bringing students  
to DEWA to help us catch crayfish.  
They could contribute to an important  
scientific study and also learn about  
the National Park Service (NPS) and  
DEWA. The EcoCamp idea was born!  
We expanded it to include other activi-  
ties like collecting dragonfly nymphs  
for the Dragonfly Mercury Project (a  
joint NPS and U.S. Geological Service  
project) and participating in the River Cleanup. Rich plans  
the field studies, and Linda makes the arrangements with  
students, parents, and school district. DEWA's Interpre-  
tation, Education, and Partnership Division provides hip  
waders for students and general program support.

**TRUU:** As a geotourism program, the SWDR focuses on  
educating about the value of protecting and preserving  
our region's natural, cultural and historic resources. How  
does your work with students fit with that focus?

**RE & LL:** Perfectly. The most meaningful and lasting  
education comes through authentic hands-on experience,  
and that's what the EcoCamp is all about. Students learn  
about the ecological impacts of invasive Rusty Crayfish  
by catching crayfish and seeing that where Rusty Crayfish  
are abundant the native crayfish have disappeared. They



Richard Evans and Linda Lohner

learned it takes hard work to keep the river free of trash  
by participating in the River Cleanup. They experience  
the beauty and wonder of places like Dingmans Falls, and  
at the same time see how the invasive Hemlock Woolly  
Adelgid insect has caused the decline and loss of the  
hemlock forest there. They learn about mercury pollution  
and different kinds of dragonflies by collecting dragon-  
fly nymphs from lakes and streams for the Dragonfly  
Mercury Project. They learn about the history of the area  
while visiting places like Millbrook Village. The students  
love it, and they share what they've learned with their  
family and friends.

**TRUU:** What are the most pressing issues facing the  
Park's and surrounding resources?

**RE & LL:** Invasive species are at the top  
of the list. Rusty Crayfish and Hemlock  
Woolly Adelgid are just two examples  
among many. Emerald Ash Borer is  
spreading through our area and will likely  
kill most of our mature ash trees. Numer-  
ous invasive plants like Japanese Bar-  
berry, Japanese Stilt Grass, and Japanese  
Knotweed are eliminating native plants  
and changing habitats in forests, fields,  
wetlands, and shorelines. Other pressing  
issues include protecting the water quality  
of our rivers, streams, and lakes; protect-  
ing rare and fragile habitats from visitor  
impacts; and minimizing and adapting to  
the pervasive and increasing impacts of  
climate change.

**TRUU:** How can regular citizens and  
park visitors be engaged to support and  
advocate for protection of our resources?

**RE & LL:** Don't spread invasive species! Stay on desig-  
nated trails, follow the rules, and practice "leave no trace"  
when visiting natural areas. Take environmental concerns  
into account when voting. Email your representatives  
about your natural and cultural resource concerns.

**TRUU:** Finally, tell us some of the "Must See and Experi-  
ence" places that you recommend for travelers that can  
be found at [www.scenicwilddelawareriver.com](http://www.scenicwilddelawareriver.com)

**RE & LL:** So many! A nice day on the Delaware River  
can't be beat! Dingmans Falls is one of many beautiful  
waterfalls in the area. Grey Towers is a beautiful place  
to visit and learn about the history of Conservation in the  
U.S. We always get a nice pie or other treat at The Village  
Farmer and Bakery when we're in Delaware Water Gap.

This column is syndicated by the **Blue Valley Times**



[www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)

### About The Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Project:

Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism is one of only 23  
geotourism programs created by National Geographic  
worldwide. Working collaboratively in the 3 states along the  
middle & upper Delaware River region, the Program promotes  
and sustains the region's resources for long-term economic  
and environmental vitality. NPCA helps staff this program.  
Visit the interactive travel website showcasing local experiences at

[www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com](http://www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com)



For more information contact Sharon Davis, [sdavis@npca.org](mailto:sdavis@npca.org) or tel: 570.460.4468