



Ruth Marvel Jones

December 8, 1932 - February 13, 2025

Sad news. Ruth Jones recently passed away

Ruth M. Jones of Dingmans Ferry, PA, died peacefully at home on February 13, 2025, after a brief decline. She was 92 years old and lived her entire life along her beloved Delaware River. Ruth proudly claimed the title “Queen of the Delaware” and said the river was her playmate, her playground and her best friend.

Born on December 8, 1932, in Portland, PA she was the only child of Ernest and Edna Olschewsky. Ruth grew up at Camp Karamac, just upstream from the Delaware Water Gap, where her parents were caretakers of the Karamac summer resort. She roamed around the river, swimming, fishing, and exploring the hills and streams of the area. Ruth was a child of nature and became a force of nature.

Ruth was known for leading hikes on the nearby Appalachian Trail along Dunfield Creek to the top of Mt. Tammany. She would get her children out of bed early to hike to the creek, catch their trout limit, and then send them off to school.

Life in this pastoral place was shattered in 1969 when the federal government took the land by eminent domain for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Not only was their home taken, but their livelihood was as well

Ruth would paddle the river on her days off. Her goal was to hit 400 miles every year. She knew the river intimately and became troubled by the accumulating trash. She picked up what she could but needed help. Kittatinny Canoes organized the first annual river clean up in 1990. Ruth kept meticulous records of debris collected by hundreds of volunteers who would gather for several days each summer. So far, they have retrieved over 9,000 old tires and 450 tons of trash. Today the river is a more beautiful place because of these caring people.