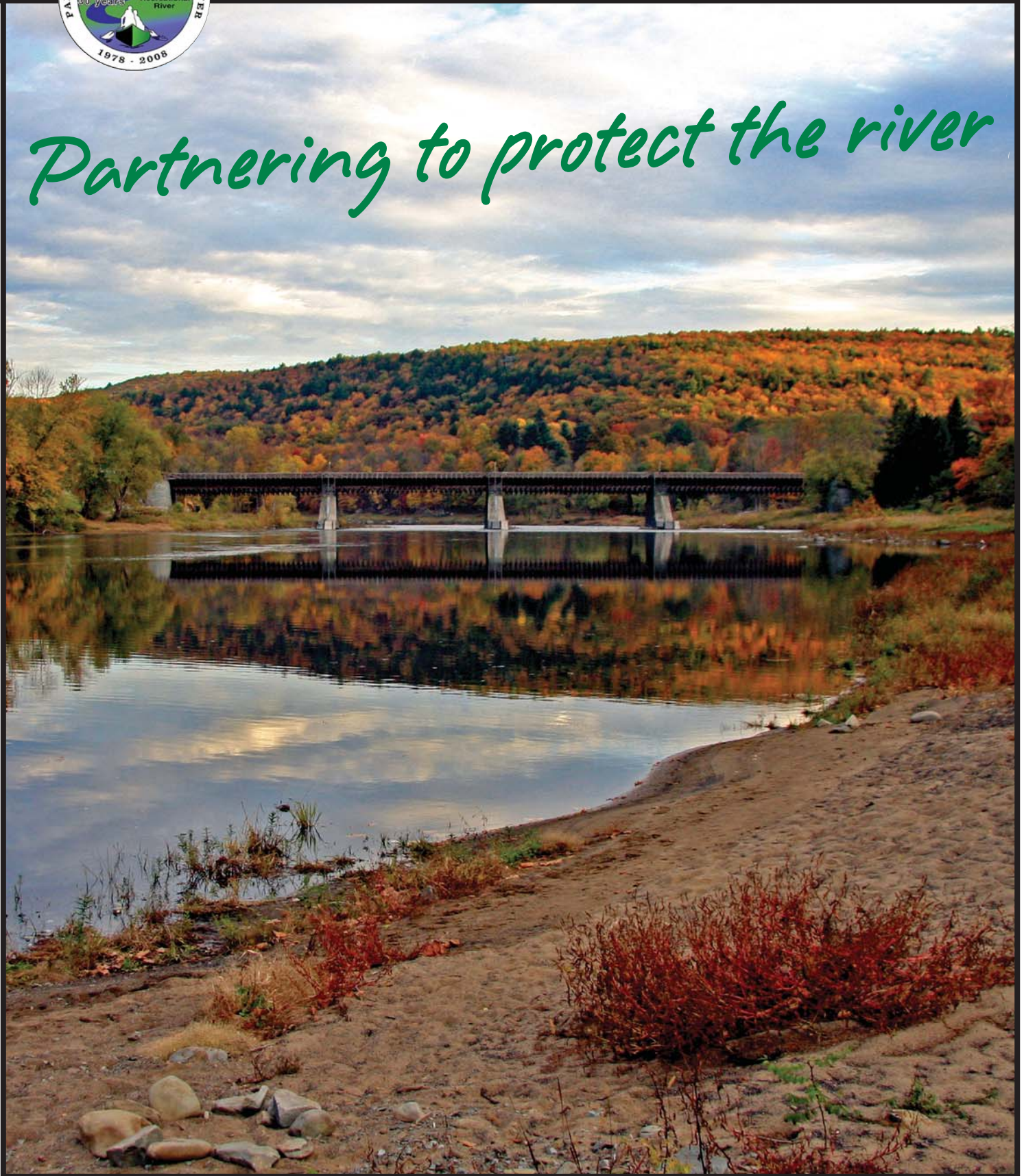




Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the
Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Partnering to protect the river



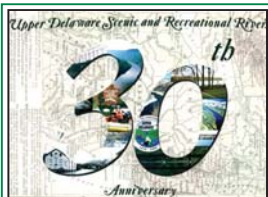


Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River



contents

- 3 River of Compromise
- 4 The River Runs Through It
- 6 The River Management Plan
- 8 The Rare and Over Abundant: Endangered and Invasive Species of The River Valley
- 10 High School Art Contest Winners
- 13 Q & A with Vidal Martinez
- 14 Partnerships: The Secrets of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's Longevity
- 16 History of The Upper Delaware River
- 17 Places to go
- 18 A Handy Guide to Safely Enjoying the Upper Delaware River Region



page 10

Over 50 area high school students submitted original artwork depicting the rich natural resources and cultural history of the Upper Delaware River Valley in the 30th anniversary poster contest. A Delaware Valley Arts Alliance jury selected the winners.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Upper Delaware
Scenic and Recreational River
274 River Road, Beach Lake PA 18405



In Reply Refer to:

October 23, 2008

Dear Friends of the River,

I recently had the pleasure of driving up the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, and as I broke over a hilltop, the valley opened before me in full autumn regalia. The setting sun bounced off of the bright yellows, oranges and reds before it landed as diamonds on the water's surface. It was breathtaking. It is my first autumn on the Upper Delaware, and that memory will never be forgotten. The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is one of the most beautiful places in the world.

It gives me pause, as we are inclined to do at this time of year, to be thankful for what we have at the Upper Delaware. The law that established the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River as a unit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System is 30 years old, and as we mature together, we consider our nearly 400 partner agencies and organizations who work tirelessly together to *keep* this one of the most beautiful places in the world. Who are our partners? The list begins with the Upper Delaware Council, and it extends through the 15 towns and townships, five counties and two states with their agencies who play a role. It includes the Delaware River Basin Commission and federal agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It includes Scouts and 4-H Clubs, historical groups and community organizers. There are scores of volunteer organizations who pitch in wherever they are needed...and when a new need arises, a new organization forms to help.

But it is obvious that unsung heroes contribute also. Last year at the National Park Service alone, we logged over 10,000 hours of volunteer service, a new record. Residents volunteer for community cleanups, spruce ups and fundraisers. Ambulance Corps and Fire Departments volunteer to help in emergencies. Families volunteer to "adopt a highway."

Thank you. All of you. Each of you. Each hour contributes to the overwhelming beauty of the Upper Delaware. I am humbled to be in your service.

Sincerely,

Vidal Martinez
Superintendent

How to Contact Us

National Park Service
Upper Delaware Scenic and
Recreational River
274 River Road
Beach Lake, PA 18405
www.nps.gov/upde

Office of the Superintendent
570/729-8251

Natural Resources Management
570/729-7842

Cultural Resources Management
570/685-4871

Interpretation
570/685-4871

Protection
Call 911 in emergencies
Chief of Protection
570/729-7134
Milanville Ranger Office
570/729-7862
**Barryville Ranger Office
& Dispatch**
845/557-0222

Maintenance
570/729-7137

Administration
570/729-7136

The Upper Delaware Council
845/252-3022
PO Box 192
211 Bridge Street
Narrowsburg, NY 12724
www.upperdelawarecouncil.org



Islands punctuate the Upper Delaware North of the Callicoon Bridge.

Photo by David B. Soete[©]

River of Compromise

With eight New York towns, four Pennsylvania townships, and numerous agencies of the two states, as well as the National Park Service (NPS), the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) involved in its management, the Upper Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River is truly a unique creation.

The current NPS Superintendent of the river corridor, Vidal Martinez, who has 32 years of federal government service, discovered the difference from other NPS areas as soon as he arrived on the job in February of 2008.

He said, “The difference is significant in that the whole concept of this style of management has to do with working with the townships in helping to conserve and protect the scenic and recreational values of the river corridor and the Upper Delaware River.”

When a situation arises that might threaten the river, the UDC and NPS voice their concerns to the appropriate officials.

One recent example of working together to try to prevent a direct threat to the river valley is the

effort mounted against the New York Regional Interconnect (NYRI). This project originally proposed to run a High-Voltage, Direct-Current electrical transmission line on a 190-mile path that would parallel the Upper Delaware River corridor on the railroad right-of-way.

Strong objections raised by the NPS and UDC, among other organizations and individuals, resulted in the private investment company moving its nominated route slightly east of the corridor boundaries in its application before the New York State Public Service Commission.

“This fight isn’t over yet but we remain committed to urging compliance with the River Management Plan, which characterizes a project of this scope as an incompatible use,” said William Douglass, Executive Director of the UDC.

With the changing demographics of the river valley, the role of the NPS and the UDC has shifted slightly. Sandy Schultz, the NPS Assistant Superintendent, said the emergence of more environmental organizations in the area has allowed the NPS to remain more in the center of

the dialogue among various groups in the river valley with different points of view. She said that with the advent of active citizen groups such as the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition and Catskill Mountainkeeper, the NPS is no longer viewed by many as being extreme in its role of protecting the river. Now that the UDC has been in business for 20 years, and the NPS has been in the valley for 30 years, much of the initial suspicion about the federal effort has been abated.

Douglass said, “The skepticism is not completely gone, but over the years there have been fewer and fewer problems. There are still issues out there, but in general, things have calmed down. The River Management Plan is working; nobody’s property has been taken. Those who were really afraid of it, I think, have realized that the Park Service is not here to take their land—that’s just not going to happen, and that’s the real success story here.”



Photo by David B. Soete[©]

The river at Narrowsburg: Serene and welcoming at the deepest point.

The River Runs Through It

In the post-World War II era, the economy was booming and new construction was underway across the nation. It was national policy to promote construction of dams on some rivers. But by the 1960s, many felt that some rivers in the country should be protected from development to ensure that they remain “free-flowing.” In 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, to protect selected rivers from dams and other construction projects. The act noted that the selected rivers “possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values,” and these rivers and their immediate environs “shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.” The Upper Delaware River was one of the initial Study Rivers for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This led to a lengthy period of study that involved input from governments and organizations and residents because the river means many things to many people, and there were many stakeholders to be consulted and considered during the study...

- the towns and local residents have interests related to the river in terms of earning a living, pursuing recreation, or enjoying its scenic beauty.

- the Upper Delaware receives releases from two reservoirs that serve New York City.
- the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), representing the four states through which the Delaware flows, has jurisdiction over certain aspects of the river.

Some property owners were suspicious of the federal government because in the '60s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began acquiring land, some by eminent domain, for the Tocks Island Dam, to be built upstream from Delaware Water Gap. Many former residents complained bitterly that the government had taken their land without adequate compensation. Some of those people who were moved off their land settled upstream in the Upper Delaware River valley (Ultimately, the proposed dam was never built, and the project was abandoned. The land is now the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Fearing a repeat of that kind of land acquisition, residents organized and petitioned their representatives in Washington to become heavily involved in shaping the future of the Upper Delaware River valley. They also urged very limited government land acquisition.

In July 1976, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation,

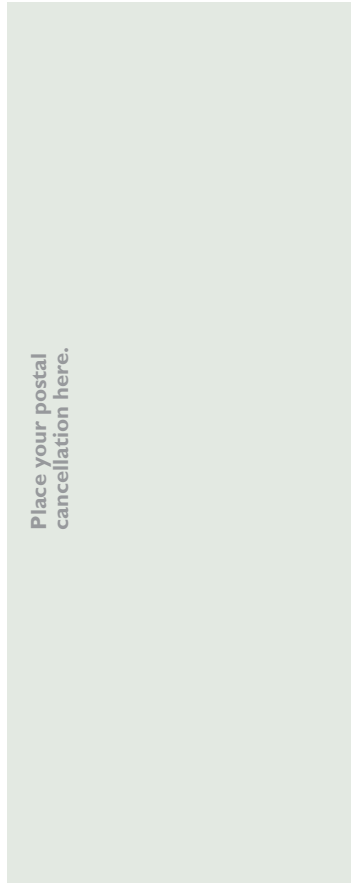
an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, released an exhaustive study identifying the resources of the Upper Delaware. The report documented the “outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational and cultural values” of the Upper Delaware:

- **Scenic Values:** Rich variety of riparian vegetative screening of development, fields and pastures add variety to an already interesting landscape, and overall tranquil scenic beauty.
- **Recreational Values:** Developed recreation resources; camps and campgrounds; hunting and fishing preserves; public recreation—state parks, forests and game lands; opportunities for canoeing, fishing, swimming and sightseeing; and related river activities.
- **Fish and Wildlife:** Outstanding habitat for both a cold and warm water fishery; anadromous species such as shad and the American eel; large and small wildlife species; waterfowl and upland game populations; reptiles and amphibians.
- **Cultural Values:** Including archeological sites of the early Native Americans, and historic sites depicting the timber industry with rafting of logs, farming of cleared land, and the Delaware and Hudson Canal.



Photo by David B. Soete®

The Upper Delaware begins at regal Point Mountain, where the East and West Branches meet.



Clearly, there were many natural and cultural resources worthy of protection in the river valley.

In 1978, Congress designated "The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River." The legislation assigned administration to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service and directed that the NPS should work with representatives of both states, local governments in both states, the DRBC and the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council—which was comprised of concerned citizens—to create a river management plan. Land the federal government could acquire was limited to a total of 450 acres of "land and interests in land for access, development sites, the preservation of scenic qualities or for any other purpose..." with the exception that the federal government could acquire an additional 1,000 acres if it were so designated in the river management plan. That language guaranteed that the river area would not be owned by the federal government as is the usual case for national parks, but instead would be a groundbreaking partnership with NPS and many other interested stakeholders.



Photo by David B. Soete®

The Upper Delaware River valley is home to a great variety of aquatic birds, including this great blue heron.



Photo by David B. Soete®

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway follows the river along New York State Route 97.

When John Hutzky was appointed as the first National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in November 1979, he was tasked with overseeing the formation of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan (RPM). He was entering uncharted territory.

The process for creating this plan was far different. Normally, the NPS would buy the land required for a natural park. In this case NPS was ordered by Congress to work with state and local governments, other agencies and community groups to develop a plan in which federal jurisdiction would be limited to the river surface and a small amount of property, while the vast majority of land remained privately owned.

Many residents along the river were extremely skeptical about the intentions of government officials regarding the acquisition of land. In the '60s, thousands of acres of land had been acquired, some of it by eminent domain from unwilling sellers, for a planned "Tocks Island Dam" in the Middle Delaware River. In earlier decades New York City condemned thousands of acres of land to create the Neversink, Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs, which ended with many homesteads forever covered by water.

With that historical backdrop, the challenge for the NPS was to convince residents of the Upper Delaware Valley that their primary mission was to protect the natural resources of the area, and not take land by condemnation. This was especially difficult because a 1970s Bureau of Outdoor Recreation report recommended federal acquisition of land for a quarter mile on either side of the river (This recommendation, however, was not included in the enabling legislation for the Upper Delaware). On the other hand, not all residents and local officials were opposed to the NPS. Some were pleased that the NPS brought policing services to the river to help enforce local laws. At the time, many people from outside the area would travel to the river for recreation, and behave badly.

Visitors would litter and relieve themselves on private property, and there is a story repeated by residents that one woman came home to find a naked man using her phone.

The NPS helped to quell that sort of activity and some residents were grateful that the NPS had "cleaned up the mess in the river." Additionally, the NPS was responsible for cutting the number of drownings on the river. The year before the National Park Service arrived, there were ten drownings on the Upper Delaware.

In 1980, the creation of the RMP began. NPS personnel from the NPS Denver office, working with local officials from the five counties, the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), and with input from a group of local county planning professionals called the Upper Delaware Clearinghouse, drafted two river management plans, both of which were soundly rejected by local residents. The general consensus was that the Denver planners did not understand the importance of the concept of home rule. Major concerns of the residents included over-regulation, the use of eminent domain, loss of local control, and issues such as the right to fish, hunt and use the river corridor as families had for generations.

With the third attempt at drafting the plan, the Denver planning people withdrew from the process. Many local residents and politicians were brought into the process more deeply, and the group of seven Pennsylvania townships and eight New York towns along the river formed the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) in 1981, which became involved to a very important degree.

Several community groups were pushing various agendas for the plan at the time. At least two influential groups were pushing for "de-authorization" of the Upper Delaware, a scenario under which the NPS would simply leave the valley.

A California land rights activist, Charles Cushman, had come to the area, and promoted showings of

the film "For the Good of All." The film told the story of the actions of the Army Corps of Engineers and the NPS regarding the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in Ohio in the late '70s and early '80s. According to testimony Cushman later gave to Congress, the number of homes purchased by the federal government to create the area was well over 300. He said, "The small community was destroyed, schools closed, their tax base eroded by unnecessary land acquisition." The film gave support to those calling for "de-authorization."

There were also other concerns. The owners of the various canoe livery services along the river were resistant to the NPS requiring the liveries to operate under licenses. Smaller liveries feared they would be squeezed out.

And there was vandalism aimed at the NPS. In February 1984, five vehicles in the NPS motor pool were painted with black swastikas.

By July of 1984, five towns and townships had endorsed de-authorization, while other towns came out in support of the Upper Delaware legislation. COUP hired a consulting firm at NPS expense to assist them in re-writing the plan.

Foresight Consulting Group conducted a survey and found that "of those who responded, large majorities state preferences for 'zero' or 'slower than current rates of growth' rates of development along the river, and management of land by town governments."

Rewriting the plan was contentious, dealing with such complex and thorny issues as the rights of towns or townships choosing not to participate in the plan. On August 9, 1985, the new draft plan was submitted to the towns and townships for review. Several towns voted to withdraw from COUP and thus future participation in the plan.

The first public hearing on the plan was scheduled for June 4, 1986, at the Damascus School. More than 300 people attended, with a large majority of them opposed to the plan. As the meeting was called to



Contributed photo

The National Park Service was met with skepticism and outright opposition by some in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The Final River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, adopted in 1986, includes the following Goals and Objectives which are still adhered to today:

1. Protect and maintain the unique scenic, cultural, and natural qualities of the Upper Delaware River corridor, including its rare and endangered plant and animal species and rare natural habitats.
2. Maintain and enhance the corridor's social and economic vitality and its diversity, consistent with efforts to protect the recognized values of the river corridor.
3. Conserve the resources of the Upper Delaware primarily through the use of existing local and state land use controls and voluntary private landowner actions consistent with local land use ordinances.
4. Protect private property rights, and allow for the use and enjoyment of the river corridor by both year-round and seasonal residents.
5. Provide for planned growth, consistent with local ordinances, to ensure optimum use of existing public services, while maintaining and conserving the essential character of the river valley.
6. Maintain and improve fisheries and wildlife habitat to ensure the continued public enjoyment of hunting, fishing and trapping, consistent with state laws.
7. Foster a public recognition of the Upper Delaware River Valley as a place with its own identity, continuing history, and a destiny to be shaped by its residents.
8. Provide for the continued public use and enjoyment of a full range of recreational activities, as is compatible with the other goals.
9. Encourage maximum local government official, private landowner, private group, and citizen involvement

in the management of the Upper Delaware.

10. Develop and implement an interim plan for the protection of public health and safety due to the presence of a toxic landfill located adjacent to the river in the Town of Tusten, and advocate the prompt cleanup and removal of its contents.

(In the Upper Delaware Council's second Five-Year Operating Program Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service covering 2002-2007, four new goals were added to this list):

11. Ensure that no new landfills are located within the Upper Delaware corridor, and that existing landfills either within or beyond the corridor boundaries do not threaten the corridor's ecological health and integrity.

12. Carefully manage the transport of hazardous materials and toxic substances through the river corridor to minimize the risks to human health and the river corridor's ecology. Emergency services and communication, especially for hazard warnings to recreational users, should be elevated to the highest level of preparedness.

13. Protect and enhance the Upper Delaware River's outstanding values: its free-flowing nature, excellent water quality, and aquatic ecosystem.

14. Provide for the effective and continued operation of the Upper Delaware Council as a community-based, non-profit organization working in close contact with its members and the property owners of and visitors to the river valley.

order, an organized disruption began and cowbells and other noisemakers were sounded, and chants of "No park, no plan, no way," broke out. The noise continued for 90 minutes, preventing anyone from speaking. Eventually representatives of CAC, COUP and NPS left the podium.

A second meeting ended the same way.

Meetings on June 6 and 7, however, were brought to order, and testimony from 74 individuals was taken, with 256 written comments received. Later that month, COUP sent a letter inviting the 15 eligible towns to participate in a new Plan Revision Committee. Nine of the fifteen towns and townships chose to participate, and the committee held several hearings through October 23.

Some of the early meetings were disrupted by anti-plan activists, but the NPS requested assistance from the Tusten Town Police, and the disruptions ceased.

It was during this period that tensions ran highest in the community. The River Reporter newspaper had been supporting the NPS and the adoption of a River Management Plan, drawing the ire of groups and individuals who favored de-authorization. In August of 1986, the home of the publisher and editor of the paper was burned to the ground. While no one was ever charged with setting the fire, many residents remain convinced to this day that the fire was connected to the paper's support of the NPS.

An anti-plan resident also lost a building to fire at about the same time, but there is some ambiguity about whether that fire was connected to the NPS controversy.

The Plan Revision C committee made some 400 changes to the plan over the next year to try to strike a balance among all of the entities involved.

Among the most important clauses in the revised plan were:

- An imperative to local government to retain control through the establishment of the

Upper Delaware Council, which would have primary responsibility for coordinating and overseeing the plan.

- Protection against over regulation by using only existing local, state and federal laws to protect the river.
- Providing landowners with protections against the use of eminent domain by implementing a multi-step process that would be followed before eminent domain could be used.
- Emphasizing the need to maintain the local economy through the use of alternatives to fee title land acquisition.
- Limiting the total amount of NPS land acquisition for management purposes to not more than 124 acres on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis only.
- Revision of the plan and guidelines to ensure continuation of such traditional activities as recreation, hunting, fishing, trapping, timbering and agriculture.
- Providing towns with alternatives and flexibility that allowed them to meet the plan guidelines in their own way.

The River Management Plan also includes a Land and Water Use Guidelines supplemental section based on management principles and objectives set forth in the 1968 U.S. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Guidelines provide direction for all cooperating governments—local, state and federal—to determine those land and water uses which: are clearly appropriate in the Upper Delaware River Valley; those uses which might, with conditions, be deemed appropriate; and those which might pose a threat to its resources and therefore are considered incompatible.

Local governments that adopt land use regulations based on these Guidelines are deemed to be in "substantial conformance" with them. Implementation of these Guidelines is accomplished through the use of existing legal authorities, with

maximum flexibility allowed.

The overarching purpose of the Land and Water Use Guidelines is to assure that actions on all levels of government contribute to a true, partnership-based management of the Upper Delaware by protecting the health, safety and welfare of river corridor residents, while also protecting and enhancing the unique characteristics of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The plan was adopted in November 1986, and the UDC was officially incorporated on February 18, 1988. Eligible for membership were the eight New York towns and seven Pennsylvania townships bordering the river, the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council.

The voting membership includes representatives of eight New York towns: Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Cocheton, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland and Deerpark; four Pennsylvania townships: Damascus, Lackawaxen, Shohola and Westfall; and the two states. The Delaware River Basin Commission and the National Park Service are non-voting members.

As of this writing, three townships in Wayne County, PA—Berlin, Buckingham and Manchester—remain eligible for membership in the UDC but have not yet chosen to join.

The CAC, which was established in 1978 to advise the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and NPS about issues pertaining to the management of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, expired on February 6, 1999.

For more information on the River Management Plan and its Land and Water Use Guidelines, contact the Upper Delaware Council at P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY 12764; phone (845) 252-3022; or on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

The Upper Delaware River region is rich with varied flora and fauna that exist in a delicate balance affected by many factors. While some species are able to thrive and out-compete native species, others struggle to meet precarious habitat needs. Learn more about several of the endangered and invasive species of the region here.



Japanese knotweed

Contributed photo

Invasive Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) defines invasive species as organisms introduced into a non-native ecosystem and which are likely to cause harm to the economy, environment or human health. Invasive plants and animals have many impacts and can degrade, change or displace native habitats in their competition for various resources.

According to the FWS, when non-native species are introduced into an ecosystem in which they did not evolve, their populations sometimes explode. Normally, species evolve together into an ecosystem with checks and balances—such as predators, herbivores, diseases, parasites, other competing organisms and environmental factors—that limit the population growth of any one species.

However, when an organism is introduced into an ecosystem in which it did not evolve naturally, it no longer has those limits. The resulting unnaturally large population can then have severe impacts because it disrupts natural communities and ecological processes. Suddenly, native species must compete for favorable habitat and resources like food, water and shelter. The invasive species can decrease the diversity of the ecosystem, making it more susceptible to diseases and natural disasters and can even cause extinction of other species. Following are several examples of invasive species affecting the Upper Delaware River region.

Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

This herbaceous perennial plant can be seen throughout the region. It begins to emerge each growing season as “asparagus-like” stalks in late April or early May. The hollow, bamboo-like, reddish-brown stalks typically reach their full height of 10 feet by the end of July. The whitish and fragrant flowers are often in full bloom by late August. The leaves of the plant are broadly egg-shaped with pointed tips and square bases. This plant is typically found in degraded habitats such as roadsides and riverbanks. Japanese

knotweed produces roots called rhizomes, which allow a single plant to colonize a large area in little time. It spreads very easily to new locations when tiny pieces of stem fragment or rhizomes get washed downstream after being cut or uprooted by flooding. As a result of knotweed’s ability to regenerate from stem and root fragments and its astounding growth rate (young shoots can grow as much as three to four inches a day), it quickly colonizes scoured shores and river islands after flooding, and forms extremely persistent and dense thickets, known as monocultures, which exclude almost all other types of native vegetation from growing.

Native to eastern Asia, Japanese knotweed was introduced to England in 1825 for use as an ornamental plant. Today it can be found in 38 states across the U.S. Historical records show Japanese knotweed arriving in the Upper Delaware River Region sometime around 1979.

Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

This beetle, which made its way to the United States as larvae inside wood packing material from China, attacks many different species of hardwood trees in the United States, including maples, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, mulberry and black locust. It kills the trees by boring into the trunks and branches. Trees damaged by this pest have round entry and exit holes about half an inch in diameter and may have sawdust piled up at the base. Sap may flow out of these holes.

The adult beetle can be up to one inch long with a glossy black body with white spots. The very long antennae are black with distinctive white bands. Adults can be seen from May through November. Adults should not be confused with the Whitespotted sawyer, which is native to North America.

The Asian longhorn beetle was confirmed in New York State in 1996 and has been found at several locations in New York City and Long Island, though it is not currently found in the Upper Delaware River region. To prevent its transmission to other areas, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) imposed an emergency regulation in September 2008 against importing firewood into New York unless it has been treated (kiln-dried) to eliminate pests. The ban also prohibits the movement of untreated firewood within New York more than 50 miles from its source. To protect the trees of the Upper Delaware, leave firewood at home. Do not transport it to campgrounds or parks. Only buy firewood that has been harvested locally or treated for pests. Burn all firewood brought to the campsite.

Northern snakehead (*Channa argus*)

This aggressive fish is native to China, Russia and Korea, and one we hope never to see get established in the Upper Delaware River watershed. They are voracious predators, feeding on a variety of other fish, frogs, crayfish and aquatic insects and can grow to over 30 inches in length.

Snakeheads have the potential to greatly harm native fish populations. They are highly invasive, and could inhabit any of our streams and lakes. They can tolerate water with lower levels of dissolved oxygen than our native fish species, can breathe air, and may survive for days out of water in damp conditions.

Northern snakeheads were found this past summer as close as Orange County, NY. In its early stages, it was eradicated this past August in a concerted effort by DEC biologists, who isolated and poisoned sections of the treatment area. These fish likely appeared as the result of illegal introductions. Importation and interstate transport of snakeheads is prohibited under the federal Lacey Act, and New York and Pennsylvania also prohibit the possession, sale and live transport of snakehead fish (genus *Channa* and *Parachanna*) and their viable eggs.

If you see or catch a snakehead, report it to DEC’s Region 3 fisheries office at 845/256-3161 or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission at 570/588-6388 or the National Park Service at 570/729-7842. If caught, do not release the fish. Kill, freeze and report your catch. Take a digital photo if possible.

Didymo algae (*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Didymo is a freshwater microscopic diatom found in streams and rivers in much of North



Transmitter fitting on bald eagle

Contributed photo

America. Commonly called “rock snot,” this aquatic nuisance algae increasingly poses a threat to aquatic ecosystems because it forms extensive mats on streambeds. Didymo attaches to the streambed by stalks which have a rough texture similar to wet wool and mimic strands of toilet paper, as opposed to other algal species which feel “slimy.”

In August 2007, Didymo was confirmed to be present in the East Branch of the Delaware River. There are no feasible methods of eradication known, but efforts have been made to educate the public about practices such as cleaning waders and equipment between outings in hopes of minimizing chances of its spread.

Hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsuga*)

A small aphid-like non-native invasive insect, the Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) was introduced in the United States in 1951 and appeared regionally after destroying hemlock forests from Virginia to New Jersey. Adelgids feed at the bases of hemlock needles causing the needles to die. Defoliation and mortality of hemlocks can follow, sometimes in as little as four years, with a heavy infestation. Believed to be native to Japan and China, experts think that hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) probably came to the United States on imported ornamental hemlocks. The adelgid was not a serious problem in its native lands because of an abundance of predatory beetles that kept it in check.

Hemlocks dominate most ravines of tributaries that flow into the Upper Delaware River, providing shade and cooler water inputs, and stabilizing these streams' hydrologic regimes while making them less likely to dry up during the summer months. Research and monitoring conducted at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area since 1993 has indicated that hemlock-shaded streams are three times more likely to have native brook trout than drainages with deciduous tree canopies. Along with this species are entire natural communities of birds, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates linked to these environments for thousands of years with evolved interdependencies.

The potential for controlling HWA is thought to lie in the introduction of predatory beetles, which have been released at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and other places in the Eastern United States. Besides biological controls, spraying individual trees with insecticidal soaps and oils, or injecting them with a systemic insecticide that kills the adelgid, may be feasible options. Aerial applications of pesticides to kill HWA are not appropriate, because hemlocks often grow near sensitive stream areas.

Endangered Species

In 1973, the United States Congress created the Endangered Species Act, one of the world's strongest and most effective wildlife conservation laws, in order to reverse the trend of human-caused extinctions threatening shared ecosystems. The Act has continued to evolve, and today protects many species of fish, wildlife and plants. It declares that these species possess aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational and scientific value and pledges to conserve them.

Individual states also protect such species. Their classifications as endangered or threatened help to prevent further population declines.

Listed below are a few species whose populations are at risk in the Upper Delaware River region.

Miner's lettuce (*Montia chamissoi*)

This very small and rare herbaceous perennial plant is classified as an endangered species in Pennsylvania. It sends out long slender runners and produces two- to five-centimeter pink petals on two to seven flowers in May through August each year. Miner's lettuce can be found on moist,

rocky ledges, riverbanks and streambanks from low to high elevations of coastal valleys and mountains.

Dwarf sand cherry (*Prunus pumila*)

Considered a threatened species in New York, dwarf sand cherry is a colonial shrub that produces creeping stems radiating outward from the original plant. The stems may be three-to-five meters long, and they root prolifically where they contact the ground. The simple leaves are four to 10 centimeter long and narrow, finely toothed and whitish on the undersides. This plant may be identified in any season, though it might easily be overlooked in winter when the leaves are gone.

In New York, dwarf sand cherry is most often found on the islands and banks of large rivers, where scouring ice prevents trees and large shrubs from persisting. The prostrate, ground-hugging stems of this subspecies appear well adapted to these unique habitats.

Quillwort (*Isoetes riparia*)

This grass-like, emergent aquatic plant with dark green stiff leaves can be found in lakes, ponds, streams and river shores. Quillwort is classified as an endangered species in New York and is infrequently found in shallow water and shores of slow-moving rivers and streams, and intertidal mud flats. This plant ranges from southern Quebec and Ontario, south through Eastern New York and Western New England, down to the coastal plain of North Carolina. The best time to find quillwort is in late June through early October when the vegetative stems are present. Certain populations of this plant have been negatively impacted by pollutants, run-off, boat traffic and other changes to their associated waterways.

Dwarf wedge mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)

The dwarf wedge mussel is a small freshwater mussel that rarely exceeds one and a half inches (38 mm) in length. Once found at 70 locations in 15 major Atlantic Coast drainages, its numbers have declined drastically, and it is now found at only about 20 sites in seven Atlantic Coast drainages. Its Federal status, as well as its status in Pennsylvania and New York, is endangered.

In 2000, a United States Geological Survey team, funded by the NPS, documented their presence here in three populations spread out over



Contributed photo

This thriving eaglet is part of an Upper Delaware River valley success story.

a 22-mile section of the Upper Delaware River. The Delaware River has nine species of freshwater mussels, or 64 percent of the 14 species known to the Atlantic slope. Historically, North America was home to 297 species of freshwater mussels, by far the highest diversity in the world. Today, they are the most rapidly declining animal group in the United States, with 70 percent of their species either extinct, endangered, threatened or potentially justifying federal protection.

While not very charismatic animals, freshwater mussels are not insignificant. They make up the greatest animal biomass in the Delaware River, and play an important, integral role in its ecosystem. A freshwater mussel can filter up to five gallons of water a day, and collectively they act as a filtration system for the river, contributing to water quality and clarity. Estimates are that the mussels found in the Delaware River filter its water volume several times over before it reaches Delaware Bay.

continued on page 12



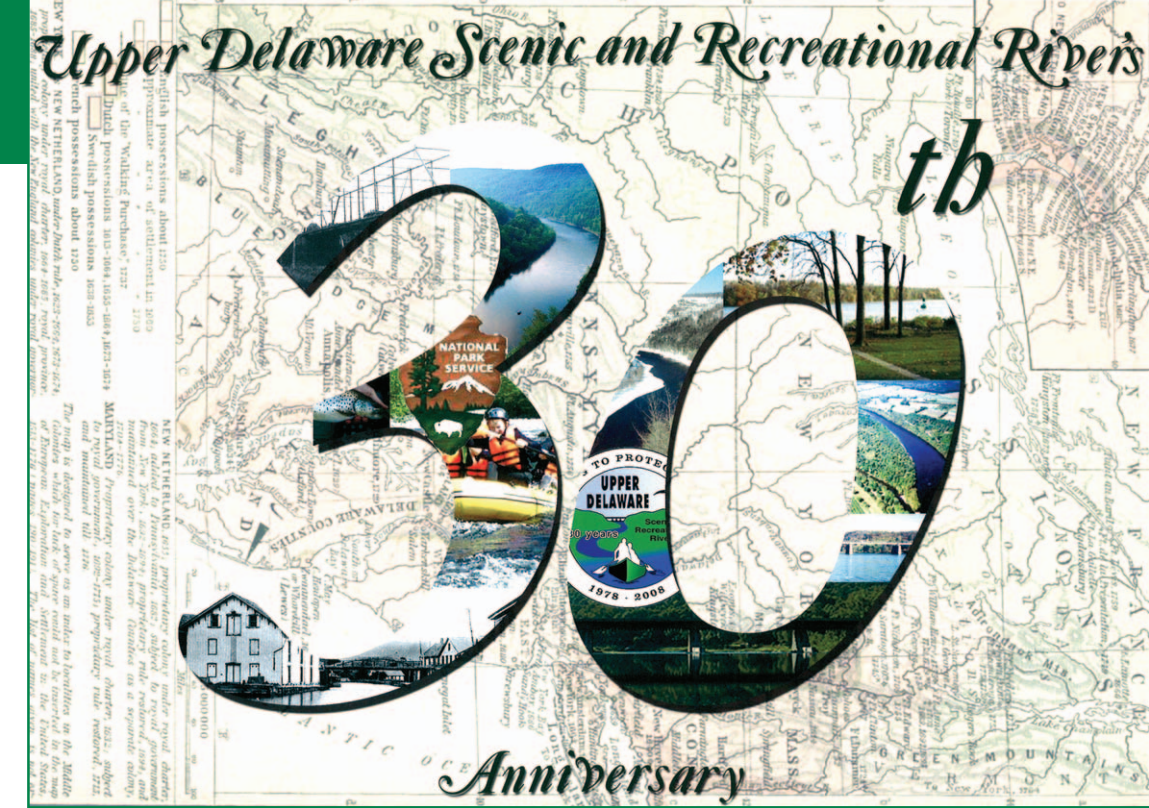
Photo by David B. Soete

The deceptively beautiful purple loosestrife and a common egret make for a striking riparian scene.

Did You Know?

Known as "The Gateway to the Delaware River," Hancock, New York, is famous for its bluestone and timber industries. Louisville Slugger baseball bats were made from Hancock timber for over 85 years and its bluestone was used in building the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty.

Spawned in the Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean, the American eel migrates as a juvenile to fresh water where they grow into adults. As a traditional food source for Native Americans, smoked eels are still a local delicacy.



GRAND PRIZE-\$200—Annelise Babula, Eldred Jr-Sr HS, Grade 12

Art Poster Contest Winners, 30th Anniversary Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River



1ST PLACE-\$100—Hannah Garrison, Delaware Valley HS, Grade 12

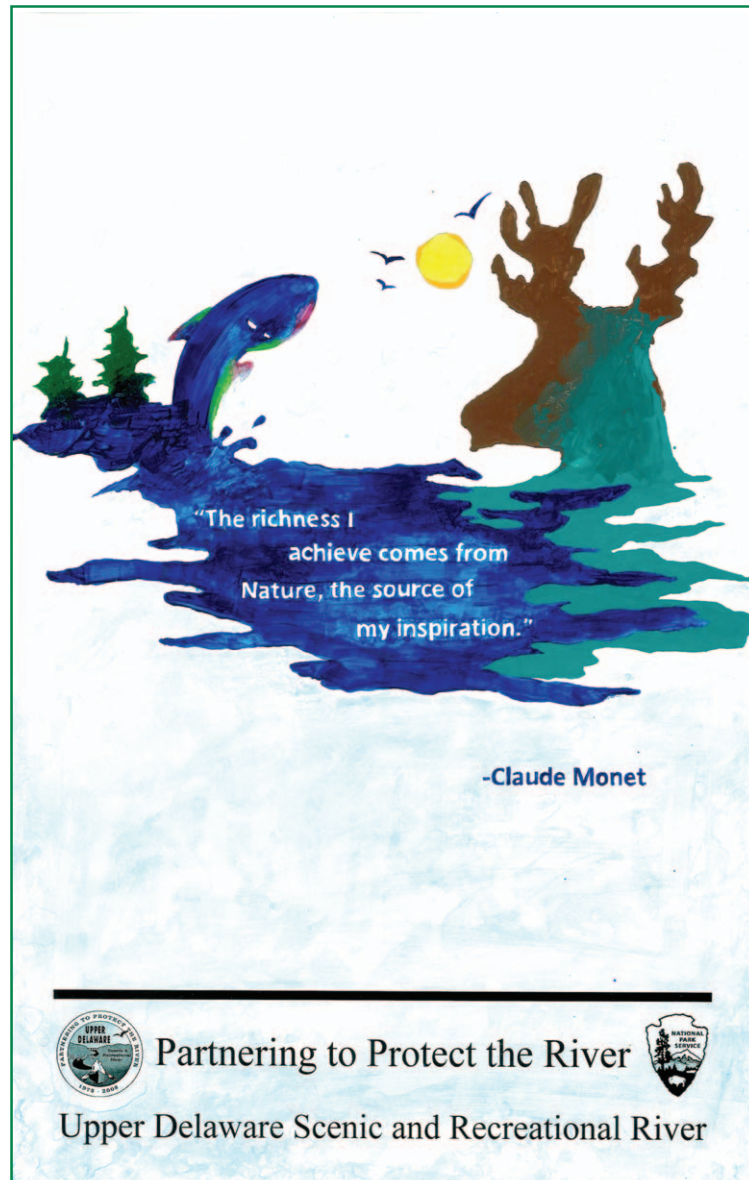


2ND PLACE-\$75—Alexa Vogel, Delaware Valley HS, Grade 11



3RD PLACE-\$50—Jenna Gangel, Sullivan West HS, Grade 12

HONORABLE MENTIONS—\$25 each



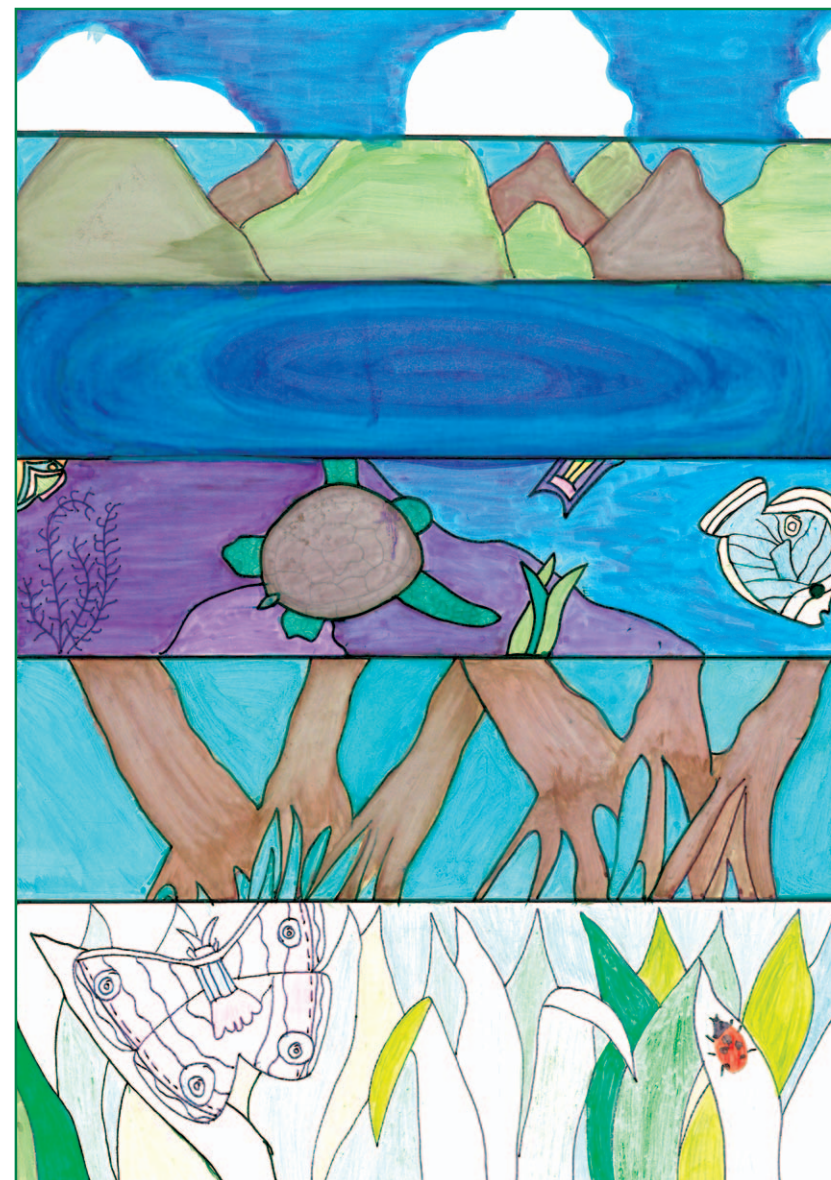
Amber Murphy, Port Jervis HS, Grade 12



Heather McGinley, Delaware Valley HS, Grade 12



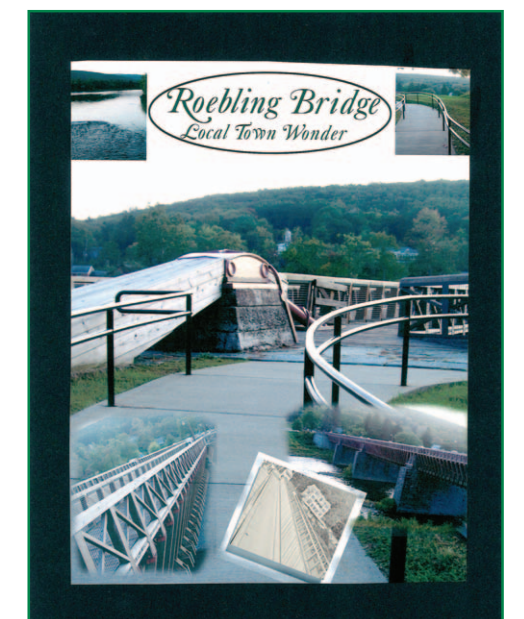
Ariana Wagner, Delaware Valley HS, Grade 11



Jamie Rivera, Port Jervis HS, Grade 11



Sharyn Beodeker, Delaware Valley HS, Grade 11



Nick Mehedin, Eldred Jr-Sr HS, Grade 10



Katie Hull, Port Jervis HS, Grade 10



Jessica Van Orden, Delaware Valley HS, Grade 11

POSTER CONTEST SPONSORS:

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Catskill Hudson Bank
Narrowsburg, NY

Il Castello
Barryville, NY

Alice's Wonderland
Greeley, PA

JoAnne Merritt
In Memory of Angus Ross,
NPS Natural Resource Specialist

continued from page 9



Photo by David B. Soete©

The magnificent bald eagle has made a comeback in the valley, with 16 breeding pairs in 2008.

American Bald Eagles: A Success Story

After nearly disappearing from the United States, the bald eagle is now considered to be flourishing and was removed from the federal threatened and endangered species list, though it continues to be protected under both New York and Pennsylvania law. The bald eagle, native only to North America, was one of the original species protected since 1973 by the Endangered Species Act after widespread use of the pesticide DDT nearly caused the majestic bird's extinction.

The legal protections given the species, along with a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the general use of DDT in 1972, accelerated eagle recovery through captive breeding programs, reintroductions, law enforcement efforts, protection of habitat around nest sites and land purchase and preservation activities.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to delist the bald eagle was based on the bird's dramatic recovery. In 1963, the lower 48 states were home to barely 400 nesting pairs of bald eagles. After decades of conservation effort, they are home to some 10,000 nesting pairs, a 25-fold increase in the last 40 years.

Bald eagles will continue to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Both federal laws prohibit "taking"—killing, selling or otherwise harming eagles, their nests or eggs.

Eagle populations will be monitored for at least five years, as required by the Endangered Species Act. If at any time it appears that the bald eagle again needs the Act's protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can propose to relist the species.

Did You Know?

In addition to "Partnering to Protect the River", the National Park Service offers many programs and services, including

- Providing information and education to the public about the Upper Delaware River, including programs about river safety, boating, fishing, Zane Grey, Roebling Bridge, the Delaware and Hudson Canal, Upper Delaware Native Americans, plants, animals and birds, among many others
- Assisting visitors in emergencies and providing law enforcement on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, at 16 accesses along the river, and at NPS-owned sites throughout the corridor

As part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River stretches 73.4 miles along the New York – Pennsylvania border. The Upper Delaware is the longest free flowing (undammed) river in the Northeast, and one of the longest and cleanest free flowing rivers in the Eastern United States.

The American Shad are a saltwater fish that migrate from the Atlantic Ocean up the Delaware River to spawn in the spring. Fish reach the upper portions of the river by early to mid May. After spawning many of the weakened adult Shad die, usually in late June and into July.

Volunteer Programs at National Park Service

Over the years, the National Park Service has been assisted by volunteers made up of groups and individuals. These people have assisted the Service to do things that its limited budget could not cover.

There are two main volunteer programs:

- The Park Ranger Internship Program enlists college students during the summer to the NPS Division of Interpretation. Duties include staffing river access sites, presenting river safety talks, providing area information to river users, performing river patrols and presenting educational programs to park visitors.
- The second volunteer program occurs at the Zane Grey Museum where volunteers present tours and talks, answer questions and operate the sales outlet, work with the museum collection, historic properties, archival collections and various other efforts.



National canoe safety patrol volunteers.

For information about the NPS Volunteer Program, contact Ingrid Peterec at 570/685-4871.



Q & A

Canoeing on the West Branch of the Delaware River.

Photo by David B. Soete®

A Conversation with the Superintendent

Vidal Martinez stepped into the role of the National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in February 2008.

Question: What challenges did you face when you arrived?

Answer: When I arrived at the beginning of February, I was immediately faced with weather and closure issues. I quickly realized that the honeymoon period was over, as I was rudely awakened by the sheer number of complex issues facing the Upper Delaware.

I knew about the non-federal lands concept of the Upper Delaware, and the extensive work with partners. I also knew about power lines, and how that project could affect the river, and that one of the challenges that faced the NPS was the need to communicate the importance of wearing life jackets while on the river.

However, when I walked in that door, it seemed that the floodgates opened with development issues that could have a profound impact on the river itself, as well as the overall complexity of protecting the river through the use of local land use controls. So these are the kinds of issues that I was immediately confronted with.

Question: How is the NPS dealing with the possibility of natural gas drilling in the region?

Answer: Gas drilling has emerged as an activity that could greatly change the character of the river valley and the surrounding region. We're still uncertain as to what the long-term impacts will be on the river corridor. We know that it is spreading into the region, and there are several areas outside the river corridor that are starting to concern us.

We need to find out the impacts, and that's where we need to work with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to ensure that the regulatory requirements, through their permit process, will protect the river. The DRBC will address issues of water extraction on surface water, groundwater and tributaries that will affect the river corridor.

So, we are relying on the DRBC. That's totally different from a traditional or typical park setting where a NPS manager would have more control because of park-owned land.

Question: Working with so many partners: the UDC, DRBC, seven townships in Pennsylvania and the state government, eight towns in New York and that state government, the DEP in Pennsylvania and the DEC in New York, is it frustrating because it can take a rather long time to get things accomplished?

Answer: It can be challenging. The fact remains that we have home-rule governments here. That's what we signed up for, and that's what the idea was with the River Management Plan: that the towns and other partners would collectively support the goal of protecting and preserving the scenic and recreational values of the river corridor. And so those were the key points, that there are appropriate practices and compatible land uses that won't compromise the river corridor. Many partners now feel that it's a plus that the Park Service is here. In the past, that wasn't so. But as time goes on, it appears that there has been a change in perspective to believing that the NPS and the Upper Delaware Council are meaningful organizations trying to do the right thing.

Question: This past spring, you got your first chance to go out and paddle on the river. How did you like it?

Answer: The experience is breathtaking. It presents a different perspective, and shows the reason why we're doing what we're doing. It really becomes pretty apparent as you're seeing the beautiful scenery, the untouched areas, the bald eagles soaring through the air and the different types of landscapes. And the experience of being on the river—it's not a beach, or a lake—it's a moving body of water and each different part of the river that you go through is a new experience.

It's not like seeing it from the road. When you're on the river, you're getting worthwhile experience, and I think the young people today need to divorce themselves from the TV and the electronic games for a while and step out with their moms and dads and get outdoors. And the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is a great place to do that.

Did You Know?

The Delaware River's deepest point is in Narrowsburg, New York, at an astounding 113 feet deep. It was once thought to be a long - drowned "plunge pool" from a glacial waterfall or possibly even a pothole scoured out by erosion with the smooth rocks at the bottom being the tools that did the job.



Photo by David B. Soete[©]

Ten Mile River Access along the Upper Delaware.

Partnerships – The Secret of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s Success

Forming productive partnerships among the many groups that cherish the river has been the secret to the success of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, according to Sandy Schultz, Assistant Superintendent of the National Park Service (NPS).

“These organizations and individuals have built trusting relationships because they have a common purpose—protecting and improving the Delaware River,” Schultz said.

The NPS and the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) comprise the epicenter of these partnerships, encouraging and enlisting the services of various groups in fulfilling the mandates of the River Management Plan, a document whose purpose is to conserve, protect, maintain and enhance the river corridor’s resource values and social and economic vitality.

“When we asked our staff to name the organizations and groups that are our partners, they came up with 400 names,” said Carla Hauser Hahn, NPS Program Specialist. Though it would be impossible to name all these in this article, we can highlight a few groups that contribute to these unique relationships.

Besides the obvious partners, NPS, the UDC, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and the local municipalities along both

sides of the river, others are briefly highlighted here.

The National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP)

This group pre-dates even the federal designation of the river in 1978. “Back before we had learned about the designation, a group of canoe clubs in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, saw the need to lessen the deaths that had been occurring along the river,” said Richard Rhodes of the NCSP. “So we began to organize and train rescue teams and have continued to do so in cooperation with the NPS. Since our beginnings, we have lessened the deaths of those using canoes to zero or near zero.”

The volunteer group will focus next year on educating swimmers about river safety.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC)

DHC is a land trust whose purpose is to conserve the forests, farms and waters of the Upper Delaware River region by acquiring conservation easements, or land, from willing landowners. Founded in 1994, DHC met its goal of protecting 10,000 acres in 2007, and has set a new goal to protect an additional 10,000 acres across the region by 2012.

The Kittatinny Canoes River Cleanup

An annual volunteer effort organized by Kittatinny Canoe Livery owner Ruth Jones, this

cleanup enlists volunteers who search the river and remove trash and debris that mars the beauty of the river.

The Delaware and Hudson Transportation Heritage Council (DHTHC)

This partnership includes public, private and non-profit organizations committed to promoting the appreciation, preservation and restoration of the historic resources of the Delaware and Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad. Many sections of the D&H Canal towpath, once used by mules for pulling canal boats, have been transformed into unique recreational trails.

The partnership includes Wayne County Historical Society and Museum, the Neversink Valley Area Museum, the Waymart Area Historical Society, the Ellenville Public Library and Museum, the Sullivan County Historical Society, the Century House Historical Society and the Hudson River Maritime Museum, the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy, the Upper Delaware Council, and the National Park Service.

The Eagle Institute

One of the cherished resources of the Upper Delaware River are the bald eagles, who draw large crowds of viewers. The Eagle Institute is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the eagle and its habitat. The Institute is uniquely located near the largest wintering eagle habitat in the northeast, encompassing the Upper Delaware



Photo by David B. Soete©

Hancock, NY fishing access.



Photo by Sandra Schultz©

Erica Benoit zipping her life jacket before entering the river at Narrowsburg.

River watershed in New York and Pennsylvania and the lower Hudson Valley of New York. The group fulfills its purpose through education, research and public awareness.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway

The Byway was established in 2002 to enhance the economic vitality and preserve the scenic values of the communities along New York State Route 97. The designation involved three counties and 8 municipalities. Signs identify the route that traverses the valley from Port Jervis in Orange County, NY, through six towns of Sullivan County to Hancock, NY, in Delaware County. Research and data collection along Route 97 indicates that significant historic, cultural, natural, recreational, scenic and archeological qualities exist within the byway corridor.

The Delaware River Sojourn

"This event, like no other, symbolizes the true life and charm of the river," says NPS Assistant Superintendent Sandra Schultz. Since 1995, the annual Sojourn takes people—from children to seniors—on an organized, seven-day canoe journey with camping in established campgrounds on the banks of the river.

"Being on the river changes your view of its importance," she said. "You fall in love with the river the more time you spend on it, in a boat and sleeping on its banks. It's so important that we bring decision-makers on the river to experience it, not intellectually, but emotionally and spiritually."

Zane Grey's West Society

Fulfilling their mission to "promote interest in

and knowledge of the eminent American author, Zane Grey and his works..." the Zane Grey's West Society collaborates with the National Park Service at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA. Contributions to the museum have, among other things, helped restore the "summer kitchen." Members volunteer during "Zane Grey Days" where visitors—children in particular—are introduced to the stories of the Old West through programs and hands-on projects. Other members contribute their extensive knowledge about the author and his life and prepare for new exhibits at the museum.

The Cochetcon Preservation Society

The 1850s-era train station, originally located at the site of Cochetcon Mills, is being restored by the Cochetcon Preservation Society and will serve as a companion to the proposed Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center on New York State Route 97. The visitor center will be owned and operated by Sullivan County in a similar fashion as they operate the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg. In addition to rest rooms and tourist literature, the visitor center will contain office space for the Byway organization and the Preservation Society.

The Upper Delaware River Roundtable

The Roundtable is a network initiative to foster communication and collaboration between regional partners and stakeholders in the Upper Delaware River Valley and provide tools and

educational activities for governmental entities. An early accomplishment of this initiative, which began September 2007, was the creation and continual updating of a regional map of the river valley which shows existing development, proposed subdivisions over 20 units and preserved lands from the Delaware Water Gap, PA to the headwaters of the Upper Delaware in Delaware County, NY

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

A volunteer partnership of diverse stakeholders with an interest in invasive species management in the Catskill and Delaware region, CRISP promotes prevention, early detection and rapid response, and limited broader control of invasive species to protect natural resources. In addition to conducting public outreach and management activities, CRISP supports research about ecological impact and effective controls of invasive species.

These groups and many others will be celebrating the river's anniversaries at the Upper Delaware EXPO to be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the Damascus School on Route 371 in Damascus, PA. Admission is free.

Providing Public Access

"Please Respect Private Property Rights." This message appears at every opportunity, both in publications and signage throughout the valley. National Park Service (NPS) staff must explain that the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is different from many other NPS sites. Of the 56,000 acres comprising the "cooperative" management area, NPS is limited by the River Management Plan to acquiring no more than 124 acres. After 30 years, NPS owns 30.6.

Yet, nearly 250,000 visitors come to National Park Service-managed facilities at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River each year, and river users at 16 public accesses are introduced to the experience of fishing or boating via agreements. It is impossible to enjoy the Upper Delaware River without experiencing Upper Delaware partnership success first-hand.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, both agencies with complimentary missions to the National Park Service, provide 14 accesses that allow visitors to use the river. The Town of Hancock, NY and the Boy Scouts of America at Ten Mile River, NY, provide the other critical two.

The National Park Service stepped in to fill the need for adequate amenities, law enforcement, education and information. Three-panel bulletin boards inform and educate, while National Park Service Interpretive rangers talk to visitors at accesses with higher visitation. Law Enforcement Rangers educate visitors about safe and appropriate river use. And in the background, our maintenance and administrative staff sees to our visitors' comfort and the river's cleanliness by providing trash pickup and toilet facilities, either directly or through separate agreements with the local municipalities.

Providing a seamless experience to our guests, together we are "Partnering to Protect the River," orchestrating the best the incomparable Upper Delaware has to offer.

For more, please see <http://www.nps.gov/upde/planyourvisit/>



John Hart interpreting traditional woodworking used on the Roebling Bridge.



Canal remnants can be observed along NYS Route 97 south of Minisink Ford.

Contributed photos

The Upper Delaware River – Rich in History

The history of the Upper Delaware River is a saga of singular ventures, new inventions, disappointments and positive regeneration.

The singular events and new inventions were the building of the Delaware and Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad, and the construction of the nation's first railroads, initiating a daring precedent for entrepreneurs across this nation to follow, building a nation that would become the economic and ideological model for the rest of the world. It all started here.

The disappointments came as the nation developed in new directions, away from dependence on rivers for transportation, on wood and forests, on tanneries, acid factories and blue stone, leaving the communities along the Delaware River to wither until the construction of the Greater New York and Erie Railway, transforming the area in later years into a tourist area, attracting people because of its unspoiled beauty.

The regeneration has come in recent years with the designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, the arrival of the National Park Service, and the establishment of the Upper Delaware Council with a management plan for the future.

It is this history and regeneration that we are commemorating during this year when we celebrate not one, but three significant anniversaries: 40 years of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 30 years of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and 20 years of incorporation of the Upper Delaware Council.

"It wasn't always beautiful in the area," said Mary Curtis, Town of Delaware historian and former NPS Historian. "If you could have seen the denuding of the wonderful pine forests that happened during the rafting period, the bodies of the hemlocks stripped of their bark and strewn all around, and the smell of the tanneries and the acid factories, you wouldn't want to live here."

Despite all this, the history of the Upper Delaware is rich.

The Lenape Tribes

The Native American Lenape, also known as "the Delaware," who inhabited the Delaware and Hudson River valleys in the 17th century when the European settlers arrived, were a loosely organized band of indigenous people sharing the same culture and language. They were hunters, fishers and farmers who stayed close to their lands. Their homes were sturdy structures of saplings and bark, and dugout canoes were their principle means of travel. They were largely a peaceful people.

At the time of the European settlement, their numbers are estimated to have been about 15,000. By the mid-1700s diseases such as measles and smallpox, for which the Lenape had no immunity, dwindled their numbers, and pressure by the Iroquois Confederacy and the more educated and venturesome colonists forced the tribe to move away.

The early white settlers

"The roads in those early days were mud ways," Curtis said. "When the railroad came in, it created the towns along the river that we have now."

The first settlers came from Connecticut. "One of the British kings gave the Yankees claim to the land going west—overstepping New York and beginning again in Pennsylvania," Curtis said. "The main families had names like Skinner, Tyler, Calkins and Thomas. They set up a settlement they called Cushetunk, meaning place of the red rocks. The place was present day Cochecton."

Another group of settlers came from the south and settled in Tusten. "They were massacred by a group of marauding braves from the Susquehanna Valley and their settlement didn't last," she said.

The German immigrants of the 19th century brought much of the architecture of the valley; they expanded farming and the boarding house industry, the tourism of the 1800s.

Zane Grey

Born in Zanesville, Ohio, Zane Grey (1872-1939) came East to attend the Dental School at the University of Pennsylvania on a baseball scholarship. Following graduation, he played semi-pro baseball while he practiced dentistry.

Zane Grey began his writing career relating stories of his experiences fishing along the Upper Delaware River. On one of these outings in 1900 he met his future wife, Lina Elise "Dolly" Roth, who persuaded him to leave both baseball and dentistry to write full-time, which he did by fall of 1904, when he purchased property on the confluence of the Delaware and Lackawaxen Rivers where he lived and wrote until 1918. Zane and Dolly's three children were born during the Lackawaxen era.

Early in his marriage, Grey traveled to the American West. The harsh landscapes and determined people Grey encountered on these expeditions and in the many that followed would color his descriptions of people and landscapes for the rest of his life.

Grey's first successful novel, *The Heritage of the Desert*, was followed by his most noted work, *Riders of the Purple Sage*, which launched his stellar career writing the classical novel of the "Old West." Ultimately the prolific author's books would become the inspiration for over 100 classic black-and-white films of the "Old West."

Though he moved his family to California in 1918, the family retained the house in Lackawaxen, visiting when they were on the East Coast. The ashes of both Zane and Dolly Grey were interred in the cemetery near their home in Lackawaxen, fulfilling their wishes to rest together along the Delaware River where it all had begun and them.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal

This canal was the first in this nation built as a private venture. Constructed from 1825 to 1829 by immigrant Irish and German laborers, it gave the area a unique mix of ethnicities. The canal was used to transport anthracite coal from the mines of northeast Pennsylvania to Kingston, New



Contributed photo

Zane Grey

York, where it was then transported along the Hudson River to New York City, depending first on the Gravity Railroad that carried the coal from Carbondale over the Moosic Mountains to Honesdale where the railroad ended and the canal began. As part of the effort, what is considered the first steam locomotive engine, the Stourbridge Lion, began operating.

The Roebling Bridge – Delaware Aqueduct

As the canal wended its way toward the Hudson River, its operators realized the necessity of carrying the coal barges over the rapidly flowing Rivers, so they commissioned a German immigrant engineer, John Roebling, to construct four suspension aqueducts in 1845 (the other three aqueducts were abandoned and succumbed to the elements over the years). The aqueduct operated for

50 years until the canal was closed in 1898 and it was converted to a roadway bridge.

Although not the first suspension bridge built in America, the Roebling Bridge is now the oldest surviving suspension bridge in the country. It was purchased by the National Park Service in 1978 and restored over succeeding years.

The Railroad

The fast-paced Industrial Era brought with it the Steam Locomotive, an equally fast-moving transportation system. Supplies and materials of ever increasing quantities were needed throughout the world, and people were again broadening their horizons. The Upper Delaware valley was a crossroads for that new system. Many railroads crisscrossed the Catskills and Poconos. Each of the quaint hamlets along the river once hosted a railroad station. Among the

cargo carried were travelers, most of whom escaped the cities to spend their summers on family farms here during the heyday of the railroad and the budding tourism industry. Only the Norfolk Southern and Central New York railroads still traverse the Upper Delaware today.

Tourism

Since the advent of the railroad, tourism has been a major industry in the Upper Delaware region. More recently, however, nearly 250,000 visitors come to experience the natural beauty of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in particular, while thousands more tour the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway and the shops, trails and cultural stops throughout the valley. Ecotourism is a burgeoning industry. "Everything old is new again."

Places to go



Photo contributed by National Park Service

Zane Grey Museum



Photo contributed by National Park Service

D&H Canal



Photo by David B. Soete®

Tusten Mountain Trail

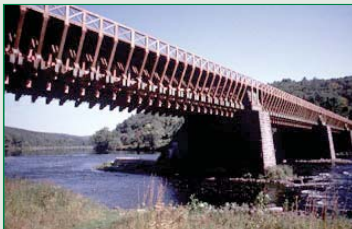


Photo contributed by National Park Service

Roebling Bridge



Photo by David B. Soete®

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway



Photo by David B. Soete®

Recreation on Upper Delaware



For additional information, please contact:
UDC: Laurie Ramie, (845) 252-3022 or laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org
NPS: Sandra Schultz, (570) 729-8251 or sandra_schultz@nps.gov

Please Join Us

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Thirty-Year Retrospective

Saturday, November 8, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Central House Family Resort, Beach Lake, PA

Please join the National Park Service and Upper Delaware Council, Inc., as we examine the thirty years since the 1978 designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and look at the road ahead as the Upper Delaware Region faces unprecedented challenges.

The \$25 registration fee includes a continental breakfast, buffet luncheon, and two snack breaks. A social hour will follow.

The registration deadline is Friday, October 31.

Make checks payable to "UDC" and note "Retrospective" in the subject line.
Mail to Upper Delaware Council, Inc., P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192.



Contributed photo

National Park Service personnel demonstrate water safety for young boaters.

Enjoying the Delaware River

A river trip should be exciting, but it can also be a dangerous experience. To avoid problems or injuries, it is important to prepare carefully for a safe trip.

The Delaware River does not have particularly hazardous rapids. At average water levels, the Upper Delaware has only a few Class II or II+ rapids. However, moving water can be deceptive and potentially treacherous, even for non-paddlers. More drownings on the Delaware River have been swimming-related than boating-related. In almost all cases, the victims were not wearing a properly fitted life jacket.

Follow the steps and information listed here to learn how to safely and comfortably enjoy the river.

Be Prepared

- Wear a life jacket and river shoes.
- Bring a spare paddle, a throw line and a first aid kit.
- Bring adequate drinking water.
- Protect yourself from heat-related illnesses.
- Heat cramps are the warning sign that the body is having trouble with the heat.
- Resting and drinking water will help prevent more serious illnesses like heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Do not drink river or stream water.

Be Aware of River Conditions

Call the Upper Delaware River Hotline at 845/252-7100. This recorded message is available 24 hours a day and is updated daily during the boating season. It provides the river height, air and water temperatures, boating conditions and general river safety information. Be aware of upstream releases and sudden changes in water depth and speed. River information is also available at www.nps.gov/udpe.

Be Ready for Changing Weather and Cold Water

Bring raingear. To protect against hypothermia, have clothing made of wool,

polypropylene, high-performance fleece or a wet suit. Immersion hypothermia is the numbing effect that cold water has on the body. Hypothermia is possible whenever the water temperature falls below 70° F. Loss of body heat is 25 times greater in cold water than in air of the same temperature.

Always Tell Someone Where You Are Going And When You Expect to Return

Arrange drop-off and pick-up points before you leave. Leave emergency phone numbers and vehicle description and tag numbers with someone who can report that you are overdue.

Avoid Mind-Altering Substances

Avoid alcohol and other drugs while on the river. Alcohol makes you more susceptible to heat-related illness. In an emergency, it slows your response. Never impair your judgment while on the river.

Laws on underage drinking, possession of illegal drugs, disorderly conduct and littering are strictly enforced.

Guard against sunburn

It's easy to get burned before you realize it on a cool, refreshing river. Knees, backs of hands, neck and tops of feet are most susceptible to burns. Be sure to apply waterproof sunscreen or keep your skin covered. Wear UV-protecting eye wear. Eyes can be sunburned too!

YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Always Wear Your Life Jacket

It's smart to wear a life jacket—while boating, tubing, fishing, wading or swimming on the river. By law, all children 12 and under must wear a life jacket while on the river in any vessel, including inner tubes. Every person in a boat or using an inner tube must have a life jacket within reach.

Use Proper Boating Techniques

- Kneel when canoeing in rapids to keep your weight low. This helps avoid capsizing. In rapids, aim for the downstream "V."
- When boating with a partner, paddle on opposite sides of the canoe. Hold on to your paddle, not the boat.
- Paddle around eel weirs. Avoid these large, V-shaped wooden and rock traps, usually constructed by late summer.
- Always be courteous on the river. You may encounter a variety of river users on your trip. Please respect their rights and act responsibly and ethically.

If You Capsize...

Don't panic. Stay upstream of the boat so it does not pin you against a rock.

Don't attempt to stand in rapids. Get on your back and keep your feet up and pointed downstream to push off obstacles.

Never swim against the current. Backstroke and let the current assist you to shore.

Don't Become a Statistic

Since 1980, when the National Park Service



Proper use of life jackets saves lives on the Delaware.

Photo by David B. Soete®



Photo by David B. Soete®

This mature buck is one of the magnificent animals sharing space in the forests and fields of the Upper Delaware River valley.

began river operations here, 56 drownings have been recorded on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Fifty-three were male. The average age is just 28. At least 20 percent of the deaths were drug- or alcohol-related fatalities.

- Over 65 percent of the drownings occurred while victims were swimming or wading. The number wearing a life jacket? Zero!
- The Upper Delaware includes swift currents, rapids, eddies, sudden dropoffs, slippery rocks and floating or submerged debris.
- There are no designated or life-guarded swimming areas on the Upper Delaware River.
- Wear a life jacket and appropriate footwear while swimming, wading or floating.
- Never try to stand in rapids. Your foot could get trapped between submerged rocks. The current could push you over and hold you under even if you are wearing a life jacket.
- Do not jump or dive from cliffs, rocks or bridges into the river; the water may be shallow and objects may be submerged.
- Never attempt to swim across the river.

Protect the River and Others around You

- Obey all regulations and respect all resources.
- Observe fishing limits and seasons.
- Display your fishing license properly; fishing regulations are enforced.
- Do not fish from any bridge.
- Respect private property. More than 85 percent of the land along the river is privately owned.
- Do not remove or deface cultural artifacts or natural features.
- Don't litter. Be sure to tie all gear—except life jackets—to your boat. Carry in, carry out. No glass containers on or near the river.
- If you have questions or need assistance look for National Park Service rangers or volunteers, who are there to help.

Angling Etiquette

- Keep only the fish you plan to use.
- Handle fish carefully to avoid injury.
- Follow fishing regulations.
- Observe safe angling and safe boating.
- Never stock fish or plants in public waters.
- Do not disturb nesting birds.
- Remove all mud and drain all water from boats before departing access site.
- Do not release live bait into the water.
- Dispose of water from bait bucket on land.
- Do not transport fish or aquatic plants from one body of water to another.
- Do not dispose of fish carcasses or by-products in the water.
- Properly dispose of used fishing line.
- Leave the area as clean as (or cleaner!) as you found it.

Eagle Etiquette

American bald eagles are not very tolerant of human activity and may be easily disturbed. Human presence can stress the birds and affect their overall health, feeding, roosting and nesting. Eagle watchers are asked to cooperate by not attempting to approach any eagle and by following the preferred eagle etiquette:

- Use binoculars instead of trying to get a little closer."
- Don't try to make a bird fly, as it will waste precious energy it needs to survive.
- Persons on foot are the most disturbing to bald eagles.
- It is illegal under federal and state laws to kill, trap, injure, take, annoy, harass, worry, or pursue (approach) a bald eagle.

For the least intrusive and most successful eagle viewing, please:

- Remain in your vehicle.
- Remain quiet. No loud music, yelling, door slamming, etc.

- Respect private property and restricted areas.
- Get out early in the day, between sun-up and 11:00 a.m., when eagles are most active.

Outdoor Etiquette

Practice the following Leave No Trace principles:

- Be prepared. Select gear and make plans by thinking about how it will impact the environment.
- Keep to existing roads, trails and footpaths.
- Carry in and carry out all your belongings, including trash.
- Leave what you find. Don't disturb natural features such as rocks and plants, nor alter campsites by digging, chopping or hammering.
- Minimize use of fire with lightweight camp stoves.
- Practice "Negative Trace." Clean up trash left behind by others.

Wildlife Viewing Etiquette

Opportunity abounds for observing wildlife throughout the region. Outdoor enthusiasts may encounter black bears, white-tailed deer, eagles, wild turkeys, porcupines, coyotes and much more. Care should be taken to avoid disturbing any wild creature. The following measures should be practiced:

- Approach wildlife slowly and maintain an appropriate distance.
- Use binoculars and telephoto lenses to get a closer view.
- Turn off headlights, car engines and alarms and cell phones.
- Don't chase wildlife whether on foot or in a motorized vehicle.
- Don't touch, swim with or feed wild animals.
- Talk quietly; don't make loud noises or imitate animal sounds.
- Sit still and move slowly. Sudden moves can alarm wildlife.
- Do not move or remove any creature from its habitat.
- One of the best ways you can assist wildlife is by protecting its habitat.

Emergency Contact Numbers for the Upper Delaware:

911

National Park Service: 845/557-0222

New York State Police:

Delaware County: 607/467-3215

Sullivan County: 845/292-6600

Orange County: 845/856-6500

Pennsylvania State Police

Honesdale: 570/253-7126

Blooming Grove: 570/226-5718

Cell phones may not work along the river.

Upper Delaware EXPO

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary
of the Upper Delaware Scenic
and Recreational River



**Join the National Park Service and
Our Partners in Celebrating 30 Years
of “Partnering To Protect The River”**

Upper Delaware EXPO

Damascus Elementary School, Route 371 & High School Road, Damascus, PA

Saturday, October 25, 2008

10 am to 4 pm

Opening Ceremony at 10:30 am

Winners of the 9th-12th Grade Art Contest will be Announced

Educational Programs Include:

Birds of Prey by the Delaware Valley
Raptor Center at 11 am & 1 pm

Resource Management through
the Years at 12:30 pm

Reptiles and Amphibians by the Pennsylvania
Fish & Boat Commission at 2 pm

K-9 Search and Rescue Unit by New York
State Environmental Conservation will have a
demonstration at 3 pm

Outside, throughout the day, river safety and
rescue demonstrations will take place

A photographic and art exhibition by
well-known photographer Dave Soete &
award-winning students will be on display

Exhibits by Upper Delaware partners will highlight
their collaborative contributions to the “partnering
to protect the river” philosophy

Boy Scout Troop #122 will have food
available for sale throughout the day

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To learn more about the Upper Delaware EXPO, visit the park's web page at
www.nps.gov/upde or call Education Specialist Ingrid Peterec at 570/685-4871