



**Upper Delaware Council
28th Annual
Awards Ceremony**

April 24, 2016

**Wolff's 1910 Banquet Hall at
Tennanah Lake Golf and Tennis Club**

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.
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UDC Awards Ceremony Program

3:00 p.m. Registration and Reception

Enjoy appetizers and a cash bar; browse exhibits

4:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

Fred Peckham, 2016 UDC Chairperson
Laurie Ramie, UDC Executive Director

4:10 p.m. Buffet Dinner Served

5:00 p.m. Keynote Address by Kristina Heister

Superintendent, National Park Service Upper Delaware
Scenic and Recreational River

5:15 p.m. Presentation of 2016 UDC Awards

6:30 p.m. Closing Remarks and Group Photo

Award recipients, please assemble at the front podium at the conclusion of the ceremony with your plaques and certificates. The UDC expresses appreciation to Scott Rando of Shohola, PA for serving as our event photographer.



The Upper Delaware Council, established in 1988, is a not-for-profit organization working in partnership with the National Park Service to coordinate implementation of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, designated by the U.S. Congress in 1978 as a unit of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Voting members are the two states (New York and Pennsylvania) and 13 local governments that border on the Upper Delaware River. These include the Towns of Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Cohecton, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, and Deerpark in NY; and the Townships of Damascus, Berlin, Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall in PA. The Delaware River Basin Commission is a non-voting member.

Keynote Speaker ~ Kristina Heister

The Upper Delaware Council is pleased to welcome National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister as our keynote speaker.

Kris took over the helm of the Congressionally-designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on July 14, 2014 as only the sixth park unit superintendent since 1978 and as the first woman to hold that title.

The Malvern, Pennsylvania native obtained a 1989 Bachelor's degree in Biology from Salisbury State University in Maryland and joined the National Park Service in April 1992 as a Biology Technician at Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP).

She earned a Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 1995 from Pennsylvania State University.

NPS posts followed at Appomattox Court House NHP, the Great Basin and Mojave Desert, and a return to Valley Forge in 2006 as Chief of Natural Resources.

She then received a leadership promotion as Chief of Natural Resources for the entire National Park Service Northeast Region, based in Philadelphia for two years prior to her Upper Delaware selection.

Kris was recognized with the Trish Patterson Student Conservation Association Award for Natural Resource Management in a small park for the Northeast in 2009 and received the 2013 Coldwater Conservation Professional Award from the State Council of Trout Unlimited.

She and her husband of 16 years, Fred Gender, reside in Boyds Mills, PA.

Upon accepting the superintendent's position two years ago, Kris said, "I love the Delaware River and the resources in the Upper Delaware region. I like the challenges associated with the management setting of this park, and knew that there was a highly qualified and dedicated staff here to help me."

"I feel that the Park Service



and the Upper Delaware Council are working for the same thing in terms of assuring that these resources are unimpaired for present and future generations, which is exciting. That shared vision is absolutely fundamental to everything that we do. I'm impressed at the dedication of the people who serve on the Council, many of whom have responsibilities to their towns and townships as well," she added.



Oaken Gavel Award ~ Alan F. Henry



The chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council is responsible for not only presiding over our monthly meetings, he or she also takes on the roles of chairing the Operations Committee, becoming a signatory on official documents and financial accounts, providing leadership to the board and staff, and setting the overall tone of the year's proceedings.

Alan F. Henry became the appointed UDC representative for Berlin Township, PA on Jan. 3, 2012, three years after he retired from a 32-year career with the National Park Service (NPS).

Al spent all but two of those years assigned to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

He was hired by the first local NPS Superintendent, John Hutzky, in 1979 to establish the newly-designated park unit's law enforcement program and retired on June 1, 2009 as its Chief Ranger.

The Beach Lake, PA native grew up on his family's 300-acre Village View Farm property where he continues to reside, graduated from Honesdale High School, earned a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Parks from Penn State University in 1976, and studied Outdoor Education at the University of Northern Colorado.

In addition to his extensive law enforcement credentials, Henry served as a combat medic with the U.S. Army Reserve from 1983-89, earned certification as a NAUI Divemaster, volunteered as a firefighter, and coached baseball and soccer locally.

Since retiring, Al currently guides river and hiking trips for Northeast Wilderness Experience, is employed as a firearms instructor at 3 B's Indoor Shooting Range in Honesdale, helps maintain the family property, and is a member of the Beach Lake Hunting and Fishing Club.

He and wife Karen Carlson are the parents of Dr. Alana Rickard, a pediatric physician residing in Beach Lake, and Dylan Henry, an attorney who lives in Ardmore, PA.

Al was unanimously elected by his peers to chair the Upper Delaware Council on Jan. 8, 2015. It was his second officer's role, having agreed to complete an unexpired term as secretary-treasurer from Aug. 1, 2013 through the end of 2014. He was re-elected to that same position for the 2016 calendar year.

Al is now a member of all three UDC standing committees for Water Use/Resource Management, Project Review, and Operations, and he chaired the Personnel Subcommittee during the recent search to fill the staff vacancy for Resource Specialist.

Throughout his tenure as 2015 chairman, Al demonstrated a commitment to following the guidelines of the River Management Plan in protecting the river's resources while safeguarding private property rights.

He asked tough but appropriate questions, brought his Upper Delaware "insider's knowledge" to bear to increase understanding of issues, and allowed everyone to have their say in a respectful environment.

For his diligence, support, and leadership, we present Alan F. Henry with the Oaken Gavel Award.



Magisterial District 22-3-04 Judge Ronald J. Edwards swore in Al Henry of Berlin Township, PA as UDC chairperson on Feb. 5, 2015.

Special Recognition Award ~ Quiet Light Films

After a year of development, Quiet Light Films recently completed work on a first-ever Interactive Park Tour for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The web-based tour is launching this month as a flagship activity to celebrate the National Park Service Centennial.

It allows website visitors to experience the extraordinary beauty of the Upper Delaware from wherever they are by clicking through five modules focusing on History & Culture, River Access Points, Wildlife & Ecology, Hiking Trails, and River Recreation, presented through a combination of still photos, short films, and text.

Quiet Light Films partners Eric Rowe and Jordan Lewis spent countless hours photographing and filming from both the ground and eagle's eye aerial views, creating and fact-checking content with NPS Upper Delaware staff, locating GPS coordinates, editing materials, and building the dynamic virtual tour website which is being housed at www.nps.gov/upde.

The objective was to bring greater awareness of the Outstanding Remarkable Values that make the Upper Delaware special in a way that was interactive, immersive, educational, and entertaining.

"Eric and Jordan not only fulfilled the concept and idea that was brought to them but took it to a whole new level that only their expertise, talent, and skill level could have achieved. Not only does the park benefit from this project but so do visitors to the area, the communities found within the Upper Delaware Valley, and all those that can't physically make it to the park," says NPS UDS&RR Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec.

In addition, Eric has actively volunteered with the National Park Service for over two years. He provided educational and interpretive programs to visitors as a Park Guide during the summer of 2015, served on the Centennial and Water



Jordan D. Lewis, Photographer and Classical Singer



Beauty + Truth + Art



Eric S. Rowe (and Jasmine), Digital Media Director & Photographer

Safety Committees, and has provided invaluable assistance in strategizing over ways to grow the park unit's social media platforms and digital content offerings.

Jordan and Eric co-founded Quiet Light Films in 2014 to take an organic, practical, and imaginative approach to the creation of beautiful and compelling media.

The company is dedicated to bringing forth cinematic projects of artistic and human value.

They have worked in media partnerships with government and the non-profit sectors to develop films, web/database solutions, and interactive content, and also produced independent films.

Contact them at 22 Hemlock Lane, Cobbs Lake Preserve, Lake Ariel, PA 18436; (570) 689-1369; or hello@quietlightfilms.com.

Special Recognition Award ~ Iris Helfeld

From Carol Ropke Wingert, Supervisor, Town of Tusten:

"Iris is a woman of amazing tenacity and that tenacity has served Tusten and its citizens well.

"From investigating to letter-writing campaigns, Iris takes the bull by the horns when she feels the public can make a difference.

"The time and effort Iris has devoted to causes such as the impending short-term closure of the Interstate Bridge and opposing the drug rehab at the Narrowsburg School building has made Tusten a better place and it will be a safer community due to these efforts.

"I look forward to working with Iris in the future on many upcoming projects that will benefit Tusten and its citizens.

"The town board along with myself applauds Iris and her dedication to our region for a well-deserved award this evening. Bravo, Iris!"



From Town of Tusten Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger:

"Since moving to our Narrowsburg community, Iris has embraced all aspects of our rural life. Her passion for her newly chosen country life extends beyond herself and her partner.

"She is always present at Town Board

meetings, sometimes even County meetings, and often finds herself volunteering in various ways to serve the community. It is rare for Iris to say no when approached to participate in a community event or to fill a void. Iris gives 110% of her efforts.

"Her tireless efforts were unsurpassed in the grassroots organization of Narrowsburg Organized for Responsible School Usage (NORSU) credited with the successful change of ownership of our former school.

"Currently she serves on the Zoning Re-write Committee and comes to the meetings prepared to share the information she has personally researched.

"When asked if her garden could be part of the 2014 ARC Garden Tour, without hesitation she said yes and then proceeded, with Mary, to make a beautiful garden spectacular!

"These are the ways of Iris Helfeld, 'making good spectacular.' For this, Iris deserves Special Recognition."

From Brendan Weiden of the Narrowsburg Union:

"Iris has proven herself to be a fierce defender of key features that make the Upper Delaware River Valley a great place to live and visit.

As a city girl, and having spent a full career (having risen to a senior position) in one of the most complex institutions in the nation, the NYC Board of Education, Iris learned early in life that you need to speak up when you want to be heard. You need to make convincing arguments when you feel strongly about something. And you need to be persistent and let your passions shine through.

As a protector of, and provider for school children, she recognized the need for a community of concerned people to work together and take action when larger forces seek to achieve their goals at the expense of those who either cannot speak for themselves, or who are not comfortable in speaking up.

We are all fortunate that Iris brought her considerable talents and high ideals from Brooklyn to the Upper Delaware River Valley.

As an avid gardener and lover of animals, Iris and her partner Mary transformed the under-loved Hulihan house on the bank of the Delaware into a showcase of beauty without changing the essential small town character of the neighborhood. Respecting the history of the house and that of the legacy family that previously lived there, they preserved a piece of local history for future owners to cherish.

Iris acted for the community's benefit in her support of environmental issues such as the threat fracking poses to our pristine drinking water, and the potential scar of power lines traversing the horizon.

But Iris took on her greatest challenge when she led a grass roots effort to resist the conversion of the old Narrowsburg School into a drug and alcohol rehab center.

Iris and the entire Narrowsburg/UDRV community recognize the need for D&A rehab in today's world and in this region in particular, but Iris knew that putting such a facility in the largest building in the middle of a small rural town was not in the best interests of the citizens or the region. Iris recognized that the movement to resist the D&A rehab center needed a leader, and she unselfishly volunteered to be that leader. Iris organized NORSU and became its spokesperson. She, with the assistance of a team of supporters who rallied around her, organized fundraising, issued public notices, created a website and Facebook page, conducted research on the D&A industry, conducted research on zoning and land-use issues, engaged the services of a consultant and attorney, organized a letter writing campaign to governmental and school groups, commissioned a community planning study, and most importantly spoke out about the issues. Iris' efforts, and those of the team of supporters she built, were extremely effective in galvanizing all of the UDRV citizens to resist the conversion of the School into the D&A rehab center. In the end, Iris and NORSU prevailed when the promoters of the D&A center decided they were not going to be successful in this community and they backed out.

Kathy and I had the pleasure of meeting Iris for the first time when she introduced herself at the first Sullivan West Central School District board meeting after the drug & alcohol center made public their offer to purchase the School. Iris demonstrated at that meeting all of the talents that make her an extraordinary 'protector' and community activist. In a polite yet deliberate tone, Iris spoke to the SWCSD board and the assembled citizens, and asked well researched, pointed questions. She maintained a calm professionalism that immediately conveyed the feeling that this smart woman knew what she was talking about, and was convinced that there was a better use for the School. Iris went on to speak at many other SWCSD meetings, Tusten town board meetings, Tusten Planning Board meetings, and utilized every other opportunity she could to communicate the issues. Iris' passion to find a better use for the School never dimmed throughout months of discovery and communication about the issues.

Iris is an asset to the entire Upper Delaware River Valley community, and she demands the respect and support of all of its permanent citizens and visitors, as she continues to help build a better community for all."

Cultural Achievement Award ~ Sunshine Hall Free Library

100 Years: 1916 - 2016

A thoroughly modern library serving the rural Towns of Highland and Lumberland receives the Cultural Achievement Award for an organization.

What is now the Sunshine Hall Free Library started out as a community reading room and gymnasium in 1901 located on an adjacent property. It progressed to receiving its incorporation and State of New York Charter on July 1, 1916.

The current building is 96 years old, with pressed tin inside and a charming new facade that was five years in the making and features redwood vinyl siding, a new entranceway, a handicapped accessible ramp, replaced front windows and a back door, new signage and flower boxes, thanks to grants from Sullivan Renaissance and the state.

The library circulates over 12,000 items per year from its inventory of 20,000 print books, 1,100 each of audio books and videos, magazines and newspapers, and 170,000+ electronic materials that may be downloaded there or from home.

Computers and free WIFI are available to patrons, as are passes to the Museum at Bethel Woods, services such as tax preparation, faxing, and copying, and programs for adults and children including visiting authors and artists, a French Club, book sale, Pre-School Story Time, family game nights, and a Summer Reading program.

Nominator Paul E. Mitchell wrote, "The Sunshine Hall Free Library is a priceless resource for communities in the Upper Delaware River corridor.

"In 2016, Sunshine Hall will be celebrating 100 years of dedicated service. Highlighting 2015 was the magnificent exterior renovation of the building. It has greatly enhanced the look and feel of Eldred, and has been widely praised.

"But what goes on inside Sunshine Hall is the



The Sunshine Hall Free Library is located at 14 Proctor Road in Eldred, next to the Post Office. Phone (845) 557-6258; email eld@rcls.org, or visit www.sunshinehallfreelibrary.org. Hours are 12-4:30 on Tuesday and Wednesday, 12-6 on Thursday, 11:30-4:30 on Friday, and 10-3 on Saturday. Its library card is recognized at all 47 libraries within the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS).

real treasure! The library offers a wide range of services for the 21st century. This includes Internet access, on-line borrowing from the vast RCLS system and downloading e-books.

"The local collection is superb and constantly enhanced. The staff is knowledgeable, professional, friendly, and passionate about books. Thus, Sunshine Hall provides a center for the surrounding communities. There are regular presentations and workshops as well as story time, open to all."

Patricia Kennedy has been the library's director since 2008. Judy Kopf is a part-time bookkeeper.

Their work is supplemented by volunteers and an active Friends of the Sunshine Hall Free Library group which meets monthly from April through November to lend its support and plan programs, many of which are made possible through Delaware Valley Arts Alliance grants.

The Board of Trustees includes President Sarah Mitchell, Joanne Boehm, Shain Fishman, Kari Margolis, Tanja Mc Kerrell, Glenn Pontier, and Karol Sundholm.

To celebrate the library's 100th anniversary, a "Century of Sunshine" gala will take place on June 30 at The Carriage House in Barryville.

Tickets are available to the public at \$40 for the silent auction beginning at 6 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. buffet dinner, toast, a short history presentation, recognition of school essay contest winners, a group sing-along to "You Are My Sunshine", and dancing to a live band.

The Friends are also collecting advertisements and messages for a commemorative journal.



Cultural Achievement Award ~ Nellie Burnham

As a practitioner of fiber arts, Nellie Burnham is an accomplished artisan, student, and teacher.

But that's not all that makes this 86-year-old Lake Muscoday resident special, according to those who know her well.

Nellie is the last surviving founder (with Phyllis Barth, Dolores Quinn, and Cindy Heyn) of the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild who began meeting in their homes in 1976 after encountering each other at craft fairs to exchange their knowledge about making threads and cloth.

The Guild has not only persevered for 40 years, it is thriving with approximately 40 enthusiastic members that welcome all comers.

They meet monthly on the third Saturday from April through November at the Damascus Township Hall. The typical itinerary includes a "show and tell" session to share personal projects and seek help with any problems, a business meeting, potluck luncheon, and afternoon programs on topics as varied as repairing antique spinning wheels to techniques for dyeing fibers.

There are also advanced study groups to improve specialized skills for particular crafts such as weaving in which Nellie participates. This August, members will demonstrate at the popular Wayne County Fair.

The emphasis is on teaching and providing support, says Irma Schilling, who joined the Guild in 1979 and calls herself "the oldest of the bunch" at the age of 89.

"It's a practical way to use your hands. It's a lot of fun and amazing what can be accomplished," she says.

Irma considers Nellie to be a source of inspiration to all.

Nellie grew up in Cooks Falls and graduated from Cornell. She taught home economics at Roscoe Central School and was active in the 4-H program since she was a child herself. As an adult volunteer, she would often mentor multiple 4-H clubs.

"She is very intelligent and still always a teacher. You have to mind your Ps and Qs with her. She has done a lot of traveling. She has received grants to go overseas and teach," Irma says admiringly.

Eileen Bruetsch first met Nellie when Eileen took over Director Ethel Poley's position at the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg. For many years, the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild demonstrated at the Fort on several summer weekends.



Contributed photos by Katt Judd

"Nellie was my Home Ec teacher, Homeroom advisor and 4-H leader, and taught me how to survive. I can not think of one former student who, when you mention Miss Burnham, does not have a story of gratitude. She, on the other hand, is the most humble person I know. Her whole life has been devoted to others. She is most happy when she is doing for others and passing on the skills she has spent a lifetime learning everywhere in the world - literally. She has traveled to places all over the planet learning new ways to dye, spin, knit and weave. This is after surgeries that would have slowed most others down. To this day, Nellie is still teaching and supporting others of like mind." ~ Nominator Katt Judd of Hancock



"She's a fountain of information and a wonderful, welcoming person if you're interested in textile arts. She loves to share her knowledge and just lives to weave," Eileen says.

When the Guild's 35th anniversary was noted in the August 4, 2011 issue of *The River Reporter*, Nellie was quoted as saying, "Memories, friends, learning, and good times is what WWSG has come to mean to me. We have this knowledge. We may as well share it. We're always open to new members as long as they're willing to learn."

The Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild is planning a 40th anniversary dinner in Damascus on September 17 which will include a speaker, fashion show, and raffle.

Recreation Achievement Award ~ Glenn Pontier

Glenn Pontier applied his skills as a community organizer to significant effect as executive director of Sullivan Renaissance for 15 years.

His work has dramatically enhanced the aesthetic appeal of Upper Delaware River Valley communities for residents and visitors alike.

Perhaps more importantly, Sullivan Renaissance instills a sense of pride in place and creates a camaraderie among its participants who take advantage of the organizational support, resources, and competitive funding that this beautification and community development program principally financed by the Gerry Foundation offers.

Glenn retired on December 31, 2015 from his position that began in 2000 when he was hired by the Gerry Foundation as Director of Communications, responsible for helping to plan, create, and publicize Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and its programs ancillary to the world-renowned performance venue and museum, including a Harvest Festival and Sullivan Renaissance.

In 2005, he transitioned to directing Sullivan Renaissance. Duties included developing new initiatives, preparing and administering an annual budget, supervising staff, collaborating with outside agencies, coordinating public relations and information campaigns, representing the program, creating and reaching out to new community groups, overseeing grant monitoring, and soliciting sponsorships.

Sandra Gerry characterized Glenn in a news release upon his retirement as “an anchor for Sullivan Renaissance” in expressing gratitude for his dedication and initiative to move the program forward.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce bestowed its Distinguished Service Award on Glenn at its May 3, 2015 Pride Awards Gala in recognition of his county-wide influence.

“Through Glenn Pontier’s strong leadership, Sullivan Renaissance has visually benefited the river towns immensely,” says Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cohecton Representative and Secretary/Treasurer of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

Glenn will be sworn in on April 25 as the new chairperson of the committee which oversees that non-profit organization’s Enhancement Concept Plan dedicated to the economic enhancement, safety, and promotion of New York State Route 97. The majority of the highway from Hancock to Port Jervis running through the three counties of Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange was legislatively added to the New York State Scenic Byways System in 2002 based on a grassroots application process.

Formerly representing Sullivan Renaissance on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee as a non-voting member, Glenn was appointed by the Town of Highland on January 5, 2016 to serve as its voting delegate.

Additional volunteer positions are his memberships on the Board of Directors for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County since 2011; the Sunshine Hall Free Library Board of Trustees and the Sullivan Renaissance Steering Committee, both since the start of this year; Sullivan Peace and Justice; Camp Speers Eljabar YMCA; and former service on the boards of the Sullivan ARC Foundation, Sullivan County Public Health Advisory Board, and Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP.

After graduating from Clifton High School in 1964, Glenn earned Bachelor’s degrees in History and Speech from Hope College in 1968 and studied theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Prior to coming on board with the Gerry Foundation, Glenn earned his journalism credentials by helping to establish and manage The River Reporter newspaper in 1978 as its editor for 17 years. He was News Director at WVOS Radio from 1995-1998, then Director of Communications for the Sullivan County Office of Public Information for the next two years.

Glenn and his wife, Aricela, reside in Barryville within the Town of Highland.



Volunteer Award ~ Shaun Sensiba



"You can call him an anchor or the keystone, it doesn't really matter. Every organization has a member that is the glue that holds it together. Shaun is all of that and then some for multiple organizations in the Delaware Valley. Every organization Shaun has been, and is, part of is better off because of his diligent effort and attention to details. Long Eddy is fortunate to have him and his family as active, engaged volunteers, and I am fortunate to call him my friend." ~ *Travis O'Dell, president, Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley*

Wisconsin native Shaun Sensiba earned a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Michigan and has spent his entire professional life involved in finance. Prior to moving with his wife Kerri Lee and their three children to Long Eddy in 2002, Shaun worked for IBM as a financial executive for 13 years in Silicon Valley, California.

"Since his arrival, Shaun has made a huge impact in the region. Interest in all aspects of life here in the Catskills and interaction with his community and environment has made him one of our area's most impressive contributors. Part of what Shaun can offer is what he brings to life - passion for all things outdoors: fishing, canoeing/kayaking, hiking - and his desire in mentoring others, especially youth, and creative involvement on the volunteer level in many organizations," says Linda English, a fellow member of St. Patrick's Church and Sullivan Renaissance community group.

An overview of Shaun's volunteer activities includes:

Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley - Treasurer of the organization and newsletter editor of "The Echo", for which he writes well-researched articles based on his immersion into the history of the Basket region through personal learning and consultation of the archives at the organization's museum in Long Eddy. Shaun is renowned for the comprehensive tours he gives of the community which includes stops at 10 historic signs that feature interpretive information on the logging and bluestone industries, acid factories, the Delaware River and local ferries, railroad, hotels and boarding houses, houses of worship, and past leisure times.

Sullivan Renaissance - Shaun's partnership with Don Downs and other local residents began more than a decade ago with the goal of enhancing open spaces in Long Eddy. Last summer, their project at St. Patrick's Church and the Long Eddy Post Office was awarded first place in the beautification contest. Other accomplishments included creating a children's park and picnic area adjacent to the Hoolihan Brook in 2005 as a prize-winning effort, and Shaun's coordination of a 2006 project to restore the World War II Honor Roll at the Long Eddy Cemetery.

Trout Unlimited - Serving as treasurer for the Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Shaun actively supports teaching young anglers the art of fly fishing on the Willowemoc and fostering an appreciation for stream conservation. He is an annual participant in TU's Trout in the Classroom program, working with fifth grade students at Sullivan West Central School in Jeffersonville to raise these native fish and release them into the Callicoon Creek.

Education - Shaun is a past member of the Sullivan West Central School District Board of Education and president of the Triquart Foundation, Inc., which grants scholarships to college-bound students from Sullivan West residing in the Towns of Fremont and Hancock.

Church - The Sensibas are congregants of St. Patrick's Church in Long Eddy and Shaun serves as a Trustee with the joint parish of Holy Cross Church in Callicoon. He acts as a reader/lector at Mass and has taught weekly youth religious education classes. Shaun is also a committee member of the "Making All Things New" Cluster Core Team representing Holy Cross/St. Patrick in a collaborative network of Catholic churches in Western Sullivan County.

Community Service Award ~ Sue Currier

Sue Currier has provided effective, enthusiastic leadership as executive director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy since 2003.

Her time with the non-profit land trust organization will soon come to an end after announcing her intentions to retire this year.

Sue has pledged to the Board of Directors that she will stay on until they hire her replacement to ensure a seamless transition.

As the chief executive officer, Sue has been responsible for all DHC operations and programs, with particular focus on land preservation initiatives including conservation easements and long-term stewardship of protected lands.

Skills with membership development, fundraising, educational programming, financial management of its \$600,000 annual operating budget, staff supervision, recruiting and assigning volunteers, community outreach, and public relations are also required.

The Ottawa, Canada native earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's in Business Administration from McMasters University then spent two decades working in the telecommunications industry.

After 10 years in the high tech world, Sue took time off to travel, spending time on six continents, and found tremendous satisfaction volunteering with conservation groups.

Barbara Yeaman of Milanville had founded the grassroots Delaware Highlands Conservancy in 1994. Its mantra is "conserving our natural heritage & quality of life in partnership with landowners and the communities of the Upper Delaware region."

"Sue's dedication and commitment to conservation is well-known throughout the Upper Delaware River region and has been instrumental in helping the Conservancy grow to what it is today."

~ Don Hamilton,
National Park Service



"It's a team effort," says Sue Currier, pictured second from left, with Delaware Highlands Conservancy staff members, from left to right, Amanda Subjin (and daughter Juniper), Bethany Keene, Simon Knox, Mary Anne Carletta, and Jennifer Sherwood.

DHC grew from tentatively hiring one full-time employee in 2003 - Sue - to having a cohesive team of six professional staff members, dedicated contractors, and a large contingent of volunteers.

During Sue's tenure, DHC has protected more than 14,000 acres, secured 80+ easements, established offices in Hawley, PA and Kauneonga Lake, NY, gained national accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance in 2011, and successfully merged with the Eagle Institute to share resources and increase programming in 2012.

The Conservancy has created numerous productive partnerships with conservation-oriented entities on both sides of the river in its territory of Sullivan and Delaware Counties (NY), Pike and Wayne Counties (PA).

Programs focusing on recreation and sustainable economic development through promotion of farms, forests, and ecotourism services by initiatives such as Shop Local Save Land, Green Lodging Partnership, and Clear Choices, Clean Water have all made positive headway.

Sue herself says, "The Delaware Highlands is home. Yes, the land is beautiful - but it is the people that make our region and our organization so very special. I love the Conservancy and I'm proud of what we accomplished as a team. I look forward to interacting with the Conservancy and with the community in new ways after my retirement."

Outstanding Community Achievement Award ~ Shohola Township Planning Commission



Shohola Township Planning Commission (left to right): Secretary Diana Blume; Solicitor Jason Ohlinger; Peter Wulfhorst, chairperson; Peter Kestler; Gary Hoeper; Aaron Robinson; and Roger Saumure

To obtain a copy of Shohola Township Zoning Ordinance No. 79, contact: Shohola Township Municipal Building 159 Twin Lakes Rd. Shohola, PA 18458 (570) 559-7394 shoholatwp.org

A five-year process to update zoning codes in-house saved Shohola Township, PA thousands of dollars that would have been paid out to consultants, while producing documents that were grounded in a core understanding of community needs.

The Shohola Township Planning Commission, consisting of citizen volunteers Peter Wulfhorst, Aaron Robinson, Peter Kestler, Roger Saumure, and Gary Hoeper, and facilitated by Secretary Diana Blume and Solicitor Jason Ohlinger, initiated a review of Shohola's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) on Jan. 21, 2010 and began tackling its Nuisance Ordinance on Nov. 17, 2011.

The Shohola Township Board of Supervisors adopted the revised SALDO two years later on Jan. 19, 2012, with Nuisance Ordinance adoption following on Aug. 9, 2012.

Having made these changes, the Planning Commission then needed to open up the overall Zoning Ordinance to address it for consistency. That process officially began on May 17, 2012 and was completed with adoption of Zoning Ordinance No. 79 on Feb. 11, 2016.

The Commission's goals were to make the codes more user-friendly and comprehensible for the public, address current land use trends, expand opportunities for small business and job growth, maintain a high quality of life for Shohola residents, and protect the township's exceptional natural resources without compromising the legal rights of private property owners.

To accomplish that, the Planning Commission convened monthly, three-hour workshops to supplement their regular meetings. They ultimately dedicated over 1,000 hours of time in meetings, not counting the untold hours of research that members did individually at home to prepare.

"This whole effort was symbolic of how a small township can define its own values and growth to develop a common sense, locally appropriate Zoning Ordinance," reflects Shohola Township Upper Delaware Council Representative Aaron Robinson.

The UDC has recommended that the National Park Service determine that the new ordinance is in substantial conformance with the Land and Water Use Guidelines in the River Management Plan.

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award ~ Salvatore Lombardo and Joshua R. Turner

One good deed of helping to clean river trash led to another on July 20, 2015 when Sal Lombardo and Josh Turner saved the life of a stranger.

The pair were participating in Kittatinny Canoes' On and Under the Delaware River Clean-up as representatives of Adams Outdoor Advertising in Stroudsburg, for which Sal is the Northeast Pennsylvania general manager and Josh is in sales.

Sal of Tobyhanna has volunteered for the clean-up every year, while it was the first time for Mountain Top resident Josh.

Shortly after lunch, they paddled their canoe through Butlers Rift, upstream of the Hawks Nest.

Spotting some trash on the PA side, they pulled over at the rapids.

It was then that they saw a father and son flip their canoe. The man had no life jacket on and they observed him slip under the water without any struggle to get his head above. His wife was screaming and attempting to hold him up by one arm.

Sal jumped into the water to reach the man while Josh brought the 13-year-old boy to shore as they abandoned their canoe carrying their personal effects to the current.

"There was no question in our mind that we were going to help him," Josh says.

The 55-year-old victim, Michael Koprowicz of Allentown, was in cardiac arrest, unconscious, and nearly two feet under water.

They got the heavy man to shore but faced the challenge of having only a tiny ledge of rock against a sheer cliff on which to lay him down.

Josh and the victim's wife Robyn began performing CPR rescue breaths and compressions as the family group that had been enjoying a river trip from Pond Eddy to Mata-



Adams Outdoor Advertising co-workers Josh Turner, left, and Sal Lombardo

moras in three Kittatinny canoes hovered anxiously.

"Everything turned into slow motion. He was completely purple. His sons were screaming, 'Dad, wake up! We're not going to lose you'," Josh says.

Koprowicz finally began spitting up water and breathing on his own after about four minutes.

Due to the inaccessibility of the area and the lack of a cell phone signal there to call for help, Sal and Josh commandeered a passing raft to float him downriver about one mile toward Cherry Island, where the Sparrowbush Fire Department's jetboat met them.

Port Jervis Ambulance transported the victim from the Sparrowbush Access to Bon Secours Hospital in Port Jervis.

"His wife called me from the hospital and said he would come through fine. For him to be pretty unscathed like that was a miracle," Sal says.

In an interview that National Park Service Upper Delaware

Scenic and Recreational River Protection Ranger Ron Babus conducted with the family at the hospital, he learned that they had all been wearing life jackets when they started their trip but Koprowicz had removed his after saying it was rubbing against him and giving him a rash in the 90-degree heat.

Sal and Josh were deemed heroes when they received an Extraordinary Personal Action Award from their regional American Red Cross chapter in Sept. 24, 2015.

Having never used the CPR training he had gained in a college class until then, Josh counters, "If anyone was the hero, it was his wife. For her to be that calm was quite a sight."

Sal's take is this: "I think God put us in the right place at the right time. He [the victim] was pretty much dead. I'm a father myself and to see his kids screaming was intense. Their whole lives would have turned upside down if this turned out differently. I still get very emotional thinking about it."

Distinguished Service Award ~ John S. McKay

John McKay's 27 years on the board of the Upper Delaware Council nearly parallels our organization's history.

His involvement in Upper Delaware management and resource issues actually preceded the UDC's establishment.

John was tapped to represent the Pike County Commissioners on the 16-member Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council.

After the UDC was established in 1988, the Lackawaxen Township Board of Supervisors appointed John late that year to serve as an alternate to its inaugural UDC Representative Ed DeFebo.

He filled that role through 1994, when he assumed the UDC representative's position. He proceeded to hold that title continuously through the end of 2015.

During his tenure, John was elected by his peers to leadership seats as UDC chairperson in 2005, and four annual stints as vice-chair in 1995, 1999, 2000, and 2007.

He was a valued member of the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee who contributed thoughtful ideas and welcomed expanding his knowledge.

Community service has always been important to John, whose family history in the Upper Delaware dates back to the 1840's.

Great-great-grandfather James Salden had a large hand in creating the Old Village of Mast Hope, which is where John moved to in 1978 after graduating from Georgetown University in 1976 and working briefly at the Library of Congress in Washington.

John's first job as a full-time resident was producing a 13-volume, illustrated Pike County Historical Survey collection.

He was an elected member of the Lackawaxen Township Board of Supervisors from 1988 to 2004 and served on the township Planning Commission for 10+ years.



Brian Stuart of Greeley, a fellow former Lackawaxen Supervisor who served 13 years on the UDC as a 2nd or 1st alternate, had close dealings with the honoree.

"John was a dedicated and committed leader and always someone you could go to deliver results. His vision was communicated clearly and he was an absolute pleasure to have served with," Brian reflects.

Family gets his equal attention: wife Jane; and their children Nicholas, 29; David, 27; and Elizabeth, 25.

The McKays operate McKay Enterprises - which designs and builds custom log homes, and manages timber, bluestone, and a certified tree farm - and own Sylvania Tree Farm guest cottages.

Much of the family works and plays together, with the river re-

sources as the backdrop that motivates John's passions.

"We've always been a very close family, especially all working together which can be stressful but we like everything we do. Because we're so connected with the land here and the river that runs through it, he wanted to work in the interest of keeping the river pristine. He has instilled in me the same appreciation," son Nick says.

"He's not someone who likes to be in the spotlight. He spends most of his time on the land. He's just always working, kind of selfless like that. I wish he WOULD relax a little bit and take it easy," he adds.

Even recent serious health problems haven't dimmed John's work ethic, caring, or sly sense of humor.

"He's getting back to his old self," Nick says.



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