

The Upper Delaware

A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA

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available on-line or by mail!**

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Happy 30th Anniversary, Upper Delaware Council!

Three Milestones Celebrated in 2018

The 30th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), 40th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River designation, and 50th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act mark a time for reflection, celebration, and recommitment.

After a year of struggling with two federal funding delays that nearly forced a shutdown, responding to an unfounded probe that questioned the UDC's finances since its inception, coping with 30 years of largely status quo budgets that have resulted in reduced staffing and programming, and striving to maintain an equal partnership with the National Park Service in the col-



MAKING HISTORY: At the Upper Delaware Council's "Flowing Toward the Future" conference held Nov. 13, 1989 in Matamoras, PA, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, who served under two presidents and participated in drafting the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, hailed the cooperative management of the Upper Delaware River which was borne out of reconciling different points of view. "That's what your organization is all about," he said, "and I've just been wondering when you get a little further down the road, whether this shouldn't be written up, whether this doesn't represent a model for the country. This is important work that you are doing. I suspect that what you are working on is a story that at some point the whole nation needs to hear and to understand." (UDC File Photo)

laborative management of the Upper Delaware, the UDC seeks to redefine its role as it looks back on three decades representing local and state interests.

The UDC evolved from a nucleus of concerned river valley residents and the many grassroots organizations which formed in response to federal overtures made in the 1960's to stake a presence in the Upper Delaware region.

The Upper Delaware River was classified for study under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act approved by President

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Jensen's Ledges (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT: U.S. President Jimmy Carter enjoyed fly-fishing on the Upper Delaware River, as guided by Ed Van Put at right, in September 1984. The late Phil Chase, who served as the Town of Deerpark's UDC Representative from 1994 to 2011, guided First Lady Rosalynn Carter in fishing at Dark Eddy. (UDC File Photo)

Carter Signs Delaware Into Scenic Rivers System McHugh Provision Is at Last Law of Land

(Article dated November 16, 1978 from an unattributed newspaper in the UDC archives)

The Upper Delaware became a part of the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers last Friday when President Carter signed into law the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978.

The legislation included a measure sponsored by Congressman Matthew F. McHugh to establish the Delaware River from Hancock to Sparrow Bush, N.Y., as a component of the national system of federally protected rivers.

In signing the legislation, the President said: "This bill is the most significant conservation legislation to pass the 95th Congress. This new law reaffirms our Nation's commitment to the preservation of our heritage - a commitment which strives to improve the quality of the present by our dedication to preserving the past and conserving our historical and natural resources for our children and grandchildren."

The designation of the Upper Delaware River for federal protection from uncontrolled use and development marks the conclusion of a process that began in 1968, when Congress created the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System. At that time, the Upper Delaware was named in the legislation as a river to be studied for possible later inclusion in the system.

"I am gratified that Congress took action this year to protect the Upper Delaware," said McHugh. "Exhaustive studies showed that degradation of the river was inevitable if protection were not provided. The measure I sponsored provides that protection, but at the same time safeguards the rights and interests of the people who live and work along the river corridor."

McHugh's bill strictly limits the Secretary of Interior's right to acquire property. It also creates a Citizens Advisory Council - to be composed of inhabitants of counties and communities along the river - which will participate in developing the management plan for the river corridor.

The companion measure to McHugh's bill in the House was introduced in the Senate by Senator Daniel P. Moynihan. The legislation was supported both in the House and Senate by numerous members from the states of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Designation of the Upper Delaware River in the national system had been recommended by President Carter in his 1977 Environmental Message to the Congress. The omnibus bill which he signed on Friday, November 10, establishes seven other rivers as part of the national system, and designates 17 others to be studied for possible inclusion at a later time.

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National Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation Recognizes Upper Delaware As Special Place

By Kristina M. Heister, Superintendent,
National Park Service Upper Delaware
Scenic and Recreational River

In the days of fur trappers and pioneers, free-flowing rivers were the lifeblood of commerce, transportation and fisheries across America.

Today, they are critical yet often-overlooked sources of clean water, critical habitat, and rejuvenating recreation for Americans seeking a break from the frenetic world of technology and reconnection with the deep flow of time and nature.

In 2018, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act - the law that ensures that rivers such as the Delaware will remain clean and free-flowing.

Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on October 2, 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

With passage of the Act, Congress declared that *"the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other select rivers...in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes."*

Select Few Qualify

The Upper Delaware River is one of the few rivers in the nation to meet the standards for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Of the approximately 3.6 million stream/river miles in the U.S., less than one-quarter of one percent - 12,734 miles - are protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These miles include some of the most primitive and breathtaking landscapes in North America. By comparison, more than 75,000 large dams across the country have modified at least 600,000 miles, or about 17%, of American rivers.

In 1978, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as both a unit of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and a unit of the National Park System.

The purpose of the legislation is to preserve the *"outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural...and other similar values..."* present along the Upper Delaware.



This unit of the National Park System extends 73.4 miles from Hancock, NY to just above Sparrowbush, NY and encompasses 55,574 acres of land (approximately 1/4 mile on each side of the river).

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

There are many reasons the Upper Delaware River corridor is a special place.

As the least developed section of the last major river on the East Coast that is undammed the length of its main stem, the Upper Delaware has extraordinary ecological integrity and excellent water quality, and provides outstanding habitat for aquatic, riparian, and adjacent terrestrial life.

It also provides drinking water for over 15 million people.

The free-flowing condition of the main stem of the Delaware River maintains connectivity to and from the Atlantic Ocean that is essential for sea-run migratory species such as the American shad and American eel, and supports the last commercial silver eel fishery on the East Coast.

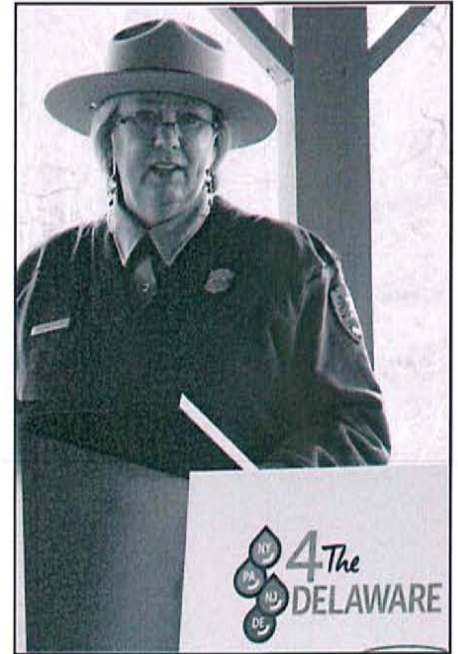
The river provides visitors and local residents outstanding recreational opportunities within close proximity to the most densely populated region in the United States.

Visitors to the area enjoy spectacular scenic views from the river and while driving along the state-designated Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (New York State Route 97), which largely parallels the river from Hancock to Port Jervis, NY.

As with so many rivers, the history of the river is shared with our cultural heritage.

The Upper Delaware River Valley preserves a rich cultural heritage that includes outstanding examples of mid-Atlantic riverside communities that have retained qualities and values of earlier times; structures such as the Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct (Roebling Bridge), North America's oldest existing wire cable suspension structure that carried the Delaware and Hudson Canal over the Delaware River; and the home of famous western novelist Zane Grey, who embodies the inspiration of rivers in art and literature.

Between 1980 and 2017, the resources



Superintendent Kris Heister addressed participants at the April 27 Upper Delaware River Summit sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and Friends of the Upper Delaware River in Hancock to introduce the *"#4 The Delaware"* campaign to showcase the ecological, environmental, and economic value of the river in all four watershed states. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

of the Upper Delaware have attracted over 10 million visitors to sites managed by the National Park Service. These are people that not only enjoy the river but also play a critical role in the economic vitality of the area as they spend their money for lodging, food, boating, second homes, and other amenities.

Economic Impacts

The Delaware River Basin as a whole is estimated to contribute \$25 billion to the region's economic through jobs in the maritime, agricultural, tourism, hunting, fishing, and wildlife industries, and is directly and indirectly responsible for 600,000 jobs representing \$10 billion in annual wages.

Closer to home, the cold water fishing and boating industry (Deposit to Callicoon) alone generated a net value of \$414 million to the local economy of the Upper Delaware region in 2014.

Not included in these figures is the amount provided specifically by the National Park Service to support local communities.

Since the designation of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in 1978, the National Park Service has contributed over

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30 Years Honoring River Valley Heroes:

Distinguished Service Comes Full Circle

For the first time in the Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) history, the non-profit organization bestowed its highest honor on an individual for the second time.

George J. Fluhr was the inaugural 1989 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award after the first year of the UDC's operation, which may never have happened if not for his influential role in facilitating a compromise between local and federal interests.

As Shohola Township Supervisor from 1977-2008, UDC chairperson in 1992 and 2009, UDC representative or alternate from 1988 until his retirement in 2018 at the age of 81, author, preservation advocate, historic commemorations coordinator, and his ongoing roles as historian for the township and Pike County, to mention just a few of his accomplishments, Fluhr's legacy of service and invaluable contributions to the Upper Delaware River Valley warranted the full circle salute.

The 30th Annual Awards Ceremony attended by 113 guests April 22 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA represented a particularly historic year of landmark anniversaries.

"It was 50 years ago when Congress first enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This legislation was intended to preserve and protect the free-flowing condition and exceptional qualities of specific rivers in our nation. It was to insure that both present and future generations could experience and enjoy these natural treasures," said UDC 2018 Chairperson Aaron Robinson.



ADVOCACY AWARD: UDC 2018 Chairperson Aaron Robinson presents U.S. Congressman John Faso (NY-19) with the Advocacy Award in recognition of Rep. Faso's support for the sustainability of the Upper Delaware Council and the watershed. (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)



2018 HONOREES: Receiving accolades at the April 22 UDC Awards Banquet were, seated from left: Town of Tusten Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert; GIS Specialist Dr. Shannon Thol; George J. Fluhr of Shohola; Carol Ann MacMaster of the Equinunk Historical Society; Sam Rowe of Hancock; National Park Service Biologist Jessica Newbern; and former UDC Secretary Cindy Odell. Standing from left: Park Ranger Sean McNeil; Cinthia Arlette Ibarra Varela; Park Ranger Kevin Reish; UDC 2017 Chairperson Jim Greier; and American Legion Ambulance Service President and EMT Lou Pine. (Photo courtesy of David B. Soete)

son (Shohola Township).

"And 40 years ago, there was an arranged local marriage by the same well-known matchmaker. Once again, it happened to be Congress.

"Married was the U.S. Department of the Interior and the 15 townships that formed this river corridor. It was by virtue of Congress's 1978 designation of 73.4 miles of the Upper Delaware River to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

"As when any strangers get married, it's hard work. There are bumps and there is wonder and joy.

"What really counts in making a happy marriage is not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility.

"In the beginning, the roles of this married couple had to be sorted out. And for sure that process hasn't ended and continues on today. But seeing that we are all still around, the 'Death Do Us Part' aspect of the wedding vows hasn't been an option. In fact, the long-term goal to maintain and improve the environs of the river and its majestic corridor has succeeded," Robinson said.

Keynote speaker Gay Vietzke, director of the National Park Service's Northeast Region which includes 1,361 national parks, heritage areas, and other sites in



Mary de Los Angeles Belezairre of Mt. Vernon, NY, who shared the Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award with four other recipients, was unable to attend the UDC ceremony. (Contributed photo for souvenir program)

13 states and employs over 3,000 people, said, "The success of the UDC and local communities in implementing local controls that protect river resources has allowed the National Park Service to focus on improving the visitor experience, keeping river users safe, and promoting the discovery of the river through volunteerism."

"While as with any partnership there are still some difficult times, we are able to work through the challenges to ensure the best outcome for the river and the local community. We have certainly proved that we are stronger together than we would be individually. Our unique partnership should stand as an example nationally that it is

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possible to realize the vision of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by encouraging river management that crosses political boundaries, promotes public participation to develop goals for protection, and develops partnerships to coordinate and implement conservation strategies," she added.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Award, the UDC presented the following:

Advocacy Award - U.S. Congressman John Faso (NY-19), for being a champion of federal funding and support for the UDC and the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program over the past year;

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award - Citizens Cinthia A. Ibarra and Mary Belezair of Mt. Vernon, NY, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Park Rangers **Kevin Reish and Sean McNeil**, and American Legion Ambulance Service President **Louis E. Pine**, for their July 3, 2017 rescue of a father and son who nearly drowned while swimming at Minisink Ford;

Community Service Award - Samuel N. Rowe, Jr. of Hancock, NY for his strong tenure as the Town of Hancock Supervisor from 2002-2018 and his advocacy work for the river through the Upper Delaware Tailwaters Coalition;

Community Service Award - Town of Tusten Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert for her ongoing public service to the Town of Tusten, her fundraising success, and weather emergency coordination;

Cultural Achievement Award - Carol Ann MacMaster of the Equinunk Historical Society, for her outstanding efforts as curator, office manager, membership chair, and genealogist at the Calder House Museum;

Volunteer Award - Dr. Shannon Thol of



Gay Vietzke, National Park Service
Northeast Regional Director,
2018 Keynote Speaker

Honesdale, PA, for donating over 400 hours of expertise to developing a Geographic Information Systems framework for the Upper Delaware corridor;

Special Recognition Award - Biologist Jessica Newbern of the National Park Service, for advancing the study and protection of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's natural resources;

Special Recognition Award - Cindy Odell of Honesdale, PA, for her critical support staff role with the Upper Delaware Council as secretary from August 29, 2011 through February 16, 2018;

Oaken Gavel Award - James A. Greier, representative for the Town of Fremont, NY, for his leadership and service as UDC chairperson in 2017.

A souvenir program with descriptions and photos of the 2018 recipients is available upon request to Executive Director Laurie Ramie at laurie@upperdelaware-council.org or (845) 252-3022.



FIRST AWARDS: The UDC's 1st banquet was held Feb. 4, 1989 in Matamoras with 125 guests. Front row: UDC Chairman Frank Hartmann (Deerpark); M.C. Phil Fitzpatrick (Westfall); Sandra Speers, NPS; Dick Rhodes & Chris Nielsen, National Canoe Safety Patrol; Larue Elmore, Citizens Advisory Council; and Jules Robinson, Recreation Achievement. Back row: Mike Henke, Outstanding Community Achievement Award, Town of Delaware; NPS Super-intendent John Hutzky; consultant Chuck Hoffman; Mike Reuber, NPS; George J. Fluhr, Distinguished Service; Edward J. Petras, Cultural Achievement; and Ted Waddell, NPS. (UDC File Photo)

Awards Ceremony Keynote Speakers

1989 - J. Glenn Eugster, Division of Park and Resources Planning, National Park Service Northeast Regional Office

1990 - U.S. Congressman Matt

McHugh, 26th District-NY

1991 - Dr. James R. Grace, deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources

1992 - U.S. Congressman Ben Gilman, 22nd District-NY

1993 - Pennsylvania Representative Jerry Birmelin, 139th District

1994 - U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr., 26th District-NY

1995 - Roger Fickes, director, Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks

1996 - Marie Rust, National Park Service Northeast Regional Director

1997 - Irene B. Brooks, Delaware River Basin Commission Pennsylvania Rep.

1998 - New York State Senator Charles D. Cook, 40th District

1999 - U.S. Congressman Don Sherwood, 10th District-PA

2000 - New York State Senator John J. Bonacic, 40th District

2001 - Mike Stevens, WNEP TV-16

2002 - New York State Assemblyman Jake Gunther, 98th District

2003 - David E. Hess, PA Senate Office of Policy Development and Research

2004 - U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr., 22nd District-NY

2005 - Michael Bedrin, PA Department of Environmental Protection Northeast Region Director

2006 - U.S. Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly, 19th District-NY

2007 - Pennsylvania Representative Michael T. Peifer, 139th District

2008 - New York State Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch, 107th District

2009 - Ed Zygmunt, field representative for U.S. Congressman Chris Carney, 10th District-PA

2010 - New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, 98th District

2011 - Pennsylvania Representative Sandra J. Major, 111th District

2012 - U.S. Congresswoman Nan Hayworth, 19th District-NY

2013 - George J. Fluhr, UDC Historian

2014 - U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson, 19th District-NY

2015 - Daniel A. Devlin, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Director

2016 - Kristina Heister, NPS Upper Delaware S&RR Superintendent

2017 - U.S. Congressman John Faso, 19th District-NY

2018 - Gay Vietzke, NPS NE Region

Acceptance Remarks Of George J. Fluhr

Ladies and Gentlemen: The war is over, but the vigilance continues.

My grandfather's house in Shohola, once a stage coach stop, was about 2 miles from the Roebling Bridge, which incidentally was a bridge much longer than it was an aqueduct. I still remember about 75 years ago lying in bed at night listening to the sounds of cars crossing the old bridge's rickety floorboards. And I also remember the shock, and valley-wide reaction, when it was proposed that the old bridge be turned into a pedestrian walk, as it also was proposed that private land be turned into public land. And I remember the anger.

I know from history that there have been proposals to dam the Delaware for over 150 years. I can remember the Army Engineers taking a large portion of Pike County, along the Delaware, south of Milford, to create a lake and a dam at Tocks Island. But they changed their plan and we

"You who live, work, and visit within the corridor are part of the heritage which the Upper Delaware Council protects."

saw instead the confiscation of the land, the forced removal of people, and the destruction of beautiful century-old homes.

I remember engineers surveying on the rocks below Barryville with plans for a dam there which would leave all of Barryville under water, and a lake between Shohola and Lackawaxen to provide water to New York City.

I remember attending the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's Conference at Grey Towers in 1969 (50 years ago next year) and heard talk of the plan to confiscate all the land along the river between Hancock and Mill Rift. And I remember the thousands of hippies vacationing, leaving garbage, damaging local property, and in some cases drowning while spending summer vacations on private property along the Upper Delaware.

I became a township supervisor and discovered our township boundary extended to the river's center line. There was no way to patrol the river and the shoreline. I did make a suggestion to a friend whose property had been trashed that he put up a sign CAMPERS WELCOME \$25 A NIGHT. I was joking but it solved his problem.

The most hated plan was simple. Our American government would confiscate all the land for a couple of miles back on both sides of the river from Hancock to Mill Rift. And I remember the Park Service writing a



DOUBLE HONORS: The Pike County Commissioners, represented by Steve Guccini, left, and Matt Osterberg, right, joined UDC Chairperson and Shohola Township Representative Aaron Robinson to present their Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr with a proclamation recognizing him as "a citizen extraordinaire" and "senior statesman" for his service to Shohola Township and for chronicling the history of the county. (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

plan in Denver, Colorado which infuriated local people.

It took many years, many meetings, many dedicated public officials, and many private citizens traveling to meetings all over the 72-mile corridor for many years. And I remember the meeting disruptions, the threats, the guns, the hate, and the fear that permeated the area for many years.

It was the Upper Delaware Council that began the road to peace. Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior under two Presidents, at a dinner like this one back in 1989 told us that, with the formation of the Upper Delaware Council we, with the Park Service, were setting a model for the whole country.

For the first time in history, the American

government gave up its right to condemn land unless a local government does not keep its contract. And although the Park Service manages the surface of the river, under no circumstances can the federal government ever have more than 124 acres of land.

I began by saying that vigilance continues. Your towns and townships appoint your representatives to the Upper Delaware Council. Talk to them, encourage them, and take an interest in what is being done. You who live, work, and visit within the corridor are part of the heritage which the Council protects.

Thank you for this award; and the privilege of remembering those who have struggled to protect their own land for half a century.

MILESTONES, continued from Page 1

Johnson on Oct. 2, 1968. Evaluation by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation followed, ultimately resulting in Congress designating a 73.4-mile stretch of the Upper Delaware from Hancock, NY to Mill Rift, PA as the 19th component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System on Nov. 10, 1978. The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service, arrived one year later to begin interim administration.

The Upper Delaware enabling legislation called for the development of a River Management Plan to solidify the compromise of gaining federal protection of the bi-state river while honoring local stewardship for the 95% of the land within the 55,574.5-acre corridor boundary that remains privately owned.

The first two plans drafted by NPS staff from Denver in concert with a Citizens Advisory Council appointed in 1978 and county planners that banded together as the Upper Delaware Clearinghouse were trounced by local residents as not respectful of home rule. The Denver personnel withdrew and, in 1981, the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) formed to more broadly represent local interests and tackle a re-write.

Among some calls for de-authorization of the federal designation, protests with chants of "NO PARK, NO PLAN, NO WAY!", vandalism incidents, anti-NPS signage, and noisy public meetings that could not be brought to order, COUP persevered. A new draft plan was presented to towns and townships on Aug. 9, 1985, public hearings were convened and written testimony taken, a Plan Revision Committee made 400+ changes over the next year, and a new draft was released in January 1986.

The Plan was adopted by COUP in November 1986. Approval by the U.S. Secretary of

Please see MILESTONES on Page 10

Technical Assistance Grants Assist Members To Fulfill Goals of the River Management Plan

The Upper Delaware Council has awarded approximately \$857,188 from 1988 to 2018 to help member municipalities accomplish 249 projects that address goals identified in the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*.

Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) are available for non-construction projects conducted by member towns, townships, and the river valley counties in NY and PA.

The UDC decides each year how much of its federal funding provided through the National Park Service (NPS) to allocate to this competitive program. No matches are required. Multiple applications are allowed. Municipalities may work with subcontractors. Reimbursement payment is provided.

Due to implementation of new rules by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget which affected the financial terms of the UDC Cooperative Agreement with the NPS, there was no TAG program in Fiscal Year 2010.

In Fiscal Year 2018, the eligible project scope was narrowed to focus on initiatives directly related to land use planning, zoning revisions, comprehensive and master

plan updates, codification of local laws, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) planning.

The UDC solicits applications by the end of August and schedules a special meeting of the Project Review Committee on the 2nd Tuesday of September to review proposals with the applicants.

Recommendations from the Project Review Committee are provided to the full Council to act on a resolution at its regular first Thursday meeting in October.

Contracts are executed and the projects must be completed within 10 months by the following August to enable close-out of administration within the same Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. A mid-term progress report is due by a specific date as well.

As the UDC organization became operational in 1988, TAG funding was directed to consulting firm Hoffman, Williams, Lafen, and Fletcher to produce first versions of a: Design Handbook (\$21,100); Visitor Information Map & Guide Brochure (\$10,228); Hazardous Materials Risk Assessment (\$7,224); and Local Government Directory for the River Corridor (\$2,968).

Based on their applications, municipalities have cumulatively benefitted from TAG funding as follows:

Town of Hancock - \$27,900
 Town of Fremont - \$37,859
 Town of Delaware - \$67,298
 Town of Cochection - \$47,190
 Town of Tusten - \$84,278 (note: a \$12,000 grant for Managing Natural Gas Development Impacts in 2008 was jointly awarded to Delaware, Cochection and Highland; while a 2003 grant for \$4,667 to Develop a Ridgeline Overlay District was jointly awarded to Lumberland)
 Town of Highland - \$73,303
 Town of Lumberland - \$133,289
 Town of Deepark - \$67,309
 Berlin Township - \$10,352
 Damascus Township - \$16,301
 Lackawaxen Township - \$36,390
 Shohola Township - \$64,820
 Westfall Township - \$47,896
 Sullivan County - \$50,805
 Pike County - \$25,700

Delaware, Orange, and Wayne Counties could participate. Buckingham and Manchester Townships would only be eligible to apply if they joined the UDC.

A complete directory of TAG projects and awards over the past 30 years can be found online at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org/grant-program/. Guidelines, forms, and deadlines are also posted on the UDC's website.

UDC Funds River Clean-ups Too

The Upper Delaware Council introduced a river and shoreline clean-up grant program for member municipalities in 2014 which has now doled out a total of \$9,360.58.

After the National Park Service had discontinued its trash removal contracts with local governments, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur responded to the UDC's concerns by allocating \$3,000 in April 2014 for the Council to incentivize communities to address river-related litter problems.

The UDC established criteria to facilitate the organization of clean-ups in the river and along the banks, with priority given to projects that would engage adult and youth volunteers, show local investment, and reflect a commitment to become self-sustaining. Respect for private property rights is paramount during clean-ups.

Expenditures based on applications and project outcomes were: 2014 - \$3,000; 2015 - \$3,812; 2016 - \$5,472.98; 2017 - \$3,975; and pending reimbursement requests in 2018 - \$5,835.58.



PLAN DRAFTERS: The UDC held a board retreat on Sept. 29, 2001 at the Beach Lake Inn to discuss the endurance of the River Management Plan and hear insights from six individuals who contributed to the plan's contentious development and re-writes from 1980-86. Panelists were, from the left: Rick Lander, former Town of Tusten, NY Supervisor; Chuck Hoffman, a principal with Hoffman, Williams, Lafen, and Fletcher which provided consulting services in the early years; Mike Gordon, National Park Service retiree; planning consultant Tom Shepstone; Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks retiree Roger Fickes, and the 1988 inaugural chairperson of the UDC, Phil Fitzpatrick from Westfall Township. (UDC File Photo)

River Valley Story Shared Through Newsletter

By Linda Drollinger, UDC Secretary

The first issue of *The Upper Delaware*, a special edition published in January 1988, was all about the newly-completed River Management Plan: what it was designed to do, how it would be implemented, and how and by whom its goals would be accomplished.

Also featured in that issue was a front page article describing how the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act had saved Shohola Creek from a hydropower dam project that would have included construction of two dams by a New Jersey developer. Had the project gone forward, it would have threatened Upper Delaware wildlife habitats, including those of bald eagles and all species of fish.

One hundred issues have been published since, this being 101.

Each chronicled annual Upper Delaware events: the UDC spring awards banquets; UDC summer picnics; Delaware River Sojourns; UDC raft trips; winter Eagle-fests; summer Riverfests; and National Park Service Zane Grey Festivals.

Many issues also spotlighted attempted incursions on the river's ecosystem and watershed, landfills, cell towers, solar arrays, gas pipelines, natural gas drilling, and high-voltage power lines among them.

Some issues focused on the grassroots activism of organizations and volunteers who perform river cleanups, staff visitor centers, and raise money, awareness and support for river conservation efforts.

At least one issue every year describes

UDC Roster Changes

Since publication of the Spring/Summer issue, the Upper Delaware Council welcomed the appointments of Evan Padua as Town of Tusten UDC Alternate, effective May 1, and Nadia Rajsz as Town of Lumberland UDC Representative, effective June 13.

Padua, a licensed fishing guide, is serving in his first capacity as a board member and has joined the Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

Rajsz formerly served on the board for 12 non-consecutive years from 2000-2007, and again from 2010 to 2015, during which time she was elected as UDC chairperson in 2004 and 2012, and vice-chair in 2003 and 2011.

She also represents District 2 on the Sullivan County Legislature, for which she serves as vice-chairperson.

Please note that "The Upper Delaware" Fall/Winter issue will be released on Oct. 1. Plans are in the works to increase publication to three times per year.



NEW AND OLD: After being in the planning stages for more than two decades, a modern Pond Eddy Bridge is taking shape to replace the 1904 historic interstate crossing shown at right. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation says the \$17 million project is on schedule to be ready for traffic by December 2018 after work began summer of 2016. Bridges are a frequent subject of updates in "The Upper Delaware". (UDC July 9, 2018 Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Technical Assistance Grants awarded to towns and townships to expand and improve the ability of local governments, and the UDC to develop information and programs for the achievement of the River Management Plan.

Although *The Upper Delaware's* attention has always been centered on the river, it has not ignored the two ribbons that parallel it: Scenic Byway Route 97 and the Erie Railroad.

In fact, *The Upper Delaware* may be the single best source for Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) history. *The Upper Delaware* has captured all the historical milestones, from recognition of Route 97's unique vistas to its state designation as a scenic byway to UDSB's proactive efforts to protect, preserve and enhance the beauty of Route 97 and its role in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The Bridges of Madison County may be better known, thanks to the popularity of the film by that title, but the bridges of the Delaware River from Hancock to Port Jervis play a pivotal role in the lives of all who live on one side of the river and work or play on the other.

In the past 30 years, all of the 11 bridges (10 of them interstate and one of them - Roebling Bridge - federal) have undergone repair, rebuilding or replacement, and the work done on each one has been

duly recorded in *The Upper Delaware*. The coverage has been so thorough that news organizations routinely ask editor Laurie Ramie for updates on bridge repair.

The Upper Delaware has not confined its reporting to places, things or events; it has also consistently presented profiles of the people who generate ideas, work to resolve issues, and envision a brighter future. They have included UDC members, municipal officials, local historians, artists, and community planners.

The work of some of the many scientists and engineers who have conducted educational presentations at UDC monthly meetings has also been celebrated in *The Upper Delaware*.

In summing up *The Upper Delaware's* mission, four words come to mind - history, science, technology and innovation.

The newsletter's purpose has been to reveal new insights coming to light from each, to show how they are inextricably intertwined, and how in concert they are contributing to the evolution of the Upper Delaware Valley, its land, water and people.

Archival issues of *The Upper Delaware* are available digitally to peruse on our website at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org and in print copy form upon request. The UDC maintains an ongoing index of articles featured in each issue.

Delaware River Sojourn 'Still Wild After All These Years'

The 24th Annual Delaware River Sojourn held June 15-23 adopted the theme of "Still Wild After All These Years" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

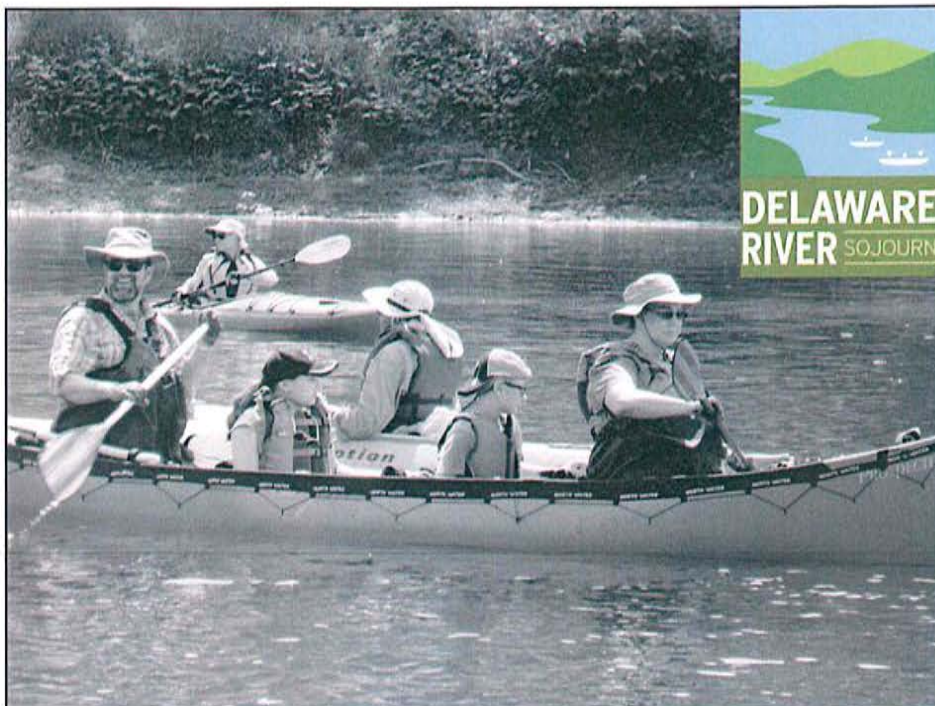
The Sojourn combines the experiences of guided paddling excursions with interpretive programs, camping, and camaraderie, for all skill levels. Over 60 miles of the main stem Delaware were paddled in 2018, along with tributaries on the Lackawaxen River in PA and the Crosswicks and Watson Creeks in NJ.

As campers began arriving June 15, the Sojourn and NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River hosted a river clean-up from Buckingham to Lordville.

In the Upper Delaware section, maximum numbers of paddlers enjoyed Day 1, Equinunk to Callicoon, PA (105); Day 2, Callicoon to Narrowsburg, NY (100); and Day 3, Lackawaxen River (101), with camping and livery services provided by Northeast Wilderness Experience.

Konrad's Kitchen of Yulan provided traveling catering services to the Sojourn.

Visit www.delawareriversojourn.com for photos, sponsors, and future events.



PADDLING FAMILY: Participating in their third Delaware River Sojourn was the Nelson family from Woodbridge, NJ, including Kelley, 10-year-old Sophia, 8-year-old Gabriel, and Barbara, leaving the Skinners Falls Access after a lunch stop. (UDC June 17, 2018 Photo by Laurie Ramie)

New Initiatives Set Path to Cleaner, Healthier Watershed

By Kelly Mooij, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed co-chair, New Jersey Audubon vice-president of Government Relations

While the Delaware River is America's founding water, unfortunately it's been neglected for years.

Pennsylvania is among four states that include portions of the Delaware River Watershed, along with New Jersey, Delaware, and New York. In Pennsylvania, 17 of the state's 67 counties are entirely or partly within the watershed. The Delaware also supplies drinking water to the City of Philadelphia and over 15 million people across the watershed, which is 5% of the U.S. population.

Thankfully, new initiatives taking place within the Delaware River Watershed are providing a pathway to a cleaner, healthier watershed for the people and wildlife that call it home.

Since 2012, securing funding for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program has been a top priority for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, a network of over 125 non-governmental organizations dedicated to protecting the natural resources of the Delaware River.

This past March, dedicated federal funding for the Delaware River was finally approved when the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program received \$5 million as part of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus spending bill approved by Congress.

The Delaware River Basin Restoration Program is a non-regulatory program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and includes efforts to implement conservation, stewardship and enhancement projects that conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve and maintain water quality, sustain and enhance water management and reduce flood damage, and improve recreational opportunities and public access in the river basin.

Additionally, in April, the William Penn Foundation announced more than \$40 million in new funding for the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI), which stands among the country's

largest non-regulatory conservation efforts to protect and restore clean water. The DRWI is a collaborative effort of 65 non-governmental organizations working together to revitalize the Delaware River Watershed. As the lead funder to date, the William Penn Foundation's investment in the DRWI now totals more than \$100 million. Both the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program funds and the DRWI funds can be leveraged for greater impact for use on projects within the watershed.

Not only is it important to invest in our waterways to defend public health, but the Delaware also is a huge economic driver for the Mid-Atlantic region. In fact, according to a report from the University of Delaware, the Delaware River brings in about \$20 billion annually in economic activity. The Delaware River provides ecosystem goods and services that brought in \$21 million in 2010. The Delaware Basin also supports 600,000 direct/indirect jobs with \$10 billion in wages in the coastal, ecotourism, ports, farm, water and wastewater, and recreation industries.

Another key strategy for safeguarding the Delaware River began earlier this year when the National Wildlife Federation, along with partners in the four watershed states, launched the "4theDelaware" campaign, which urges the governors of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York to strengthen collaboration and expand support for the Delaware River.

While progress has been made to restore the Delaware, there are still critical issues facing the watershed, like polluted waterways, loss of wildlife habitat, invasive plant and animal species, and the effects of climate change.

Gov. Cuomo, Gov. Murphy, Gov. Wolf and Gov. Carney must come together to stand up for the Delaware. By prioritizing the Delaware, these governors can ensure that the strides currently being made are sustained over the long-term, and that the health and economic value of the river are forever secured.

The Great Law of Peace

Poem by Mort Malkin, Milanville, PA

No match for the Missouri,
the Columbia, or Snake -
the Delaware never stops

for a single dam from source
to sea, but on the way it
welcomes many creeks and brooks,

the notorious Ten-Mile
among them. The Delaware
remembers the Aqueduct

of John A. Roebling and the
paddlers of birch bark canoes
to the huge white pine where rests
the intricate wampum belt
of the Great Law of Peace of
the five Iroquois nations.

We live it these days by our
lately Constitution, though
William Penn had told it so.

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the Interior followed in October 1987.

An Upper Delaware Council consisting of voluntary membership from the eligible 15 municipalities that border along the river, the State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Delaware River Basin Commission in a non-voting capacity (the Citizens Advisory Council expired in 1999), would be created to oversee the coordinated implementation of the Plan's goals as well as the Secretary's Land and Water Use Guidelines.

The UDC was officially incorporated on Feb. 18, 1988 as a 501(c)(3) organization.

The initial roster included eight municipalities: Hancock, Delaware, Cochection, Lumberland, and Deerpark (NY); Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall (PA). The final three NY towns - Highland, Fremont, and Tusten - all joined in 1990. In 2008, PA townships Damascus and Berlin signed on. Buckingham and Manchester have not.

Funding would come from a line-item appropriation in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's budget in the amount of \$300,000 based on five-year renewable Cooperative Agreements.

Intentions for each state to contribute \$100,000 for the UDC's operation never materialized despite the approvals of a NYS Executive Order and PA Code.

At the heart of the River Management Plan is the directive that all partners will act consistently with its goals and objectives.

The Land and Water Use Guidelines provide direction for all levels of government to determine which developments in the river corridor are clearly appropriate,



PAST SUPERINTENDENTS: Displaying a bipartisan Congressional certificate recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River designation at a Retrospective held Nov. 8, 2008 was an illustrious gathering that included, from the left: William E. Douglass, the first executive director (1989-2012) of the Upper Delaware Council which was then marking its 20th anniversary; Ed Zymunt, aide to Congressman Christopher P. Carney (PA); Chris White, aide to Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr. (NY); Sandra S. Schultz, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Assistant Superintendent since 1983 (through her 2010 retirement); Cal Hite, NPS superintendent from 1995-2001; Vidal Martinez, NPS superintendent from Feb. 2008 to that present time; Dave Forney, NPS superintendent from 2002-2008; John Hutzky, first NPS superintendent from 1979-1995; Marvin Rappaport, aide to retired Congressman Matt McHugh (NY); and Frank Connor, associate regional director for administration, NPS Northeast Region. Seventy-four guests attended the day-long symposium held at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA to discuss the Upper Delaware's historical evolution, present operations, and future challenges. Following Martinez's departure on Oct. 23, 2009, Sean McGuinness was named Upper Delaware superintendent from Feb. 4, 2010 through Jan. 24, 2014. Malcolm Wilbur served as acting superintendent for a six-month period starting Jan. 27, 2014. Kris Heister began her term as the current NPS superintendent on July 14, 2014. (UDC File Photo)

appropriate with certain conditions, or incompatible as a threat to the resources.

Local governments that adopt land use regulations based on the Guidelines are deemed to be in substantial conformance when their projects are reviewed. Existing legal authorities and flexibility are key.

"The Upper Delaware Council's most important role is providing a forum for all parties to meet and discuss river corridor-related issues. Our greatest strength is in our collective voice and actions," says Laurie Ramie, UDC executive director since 2012 who joined the staff in 1997.

The UDC provides technical assistance, public outreach, education, and Upper Delaware regional representation.

Prepared to act as advocate, critic or facilitator as the subjects require, the UDC continuously monitors new developments, legislation, studies, and governmental policies to assess potential impacts on the Upper Delaware's resources; safeguards private property rights; and upholds the far-sighted vision of the River Management Plan to protect and conserve the area for present and future generations.



FAMILY LEGACY: Two of the Upper Delaware Council's stalwarts, George Frosch (Hancock: 1988-2002), at left, and Lew Schmalzle (Highland: 1994-2006), look over a scrapbook prepared for the UDC's 10th anniversary in 1989. George's nephew, Fred Peckham (Hancock), and Lew's daughter, Ginny Dudko (Deerpark), honor their legacies by serving on the board. (UDC File Photo)

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\$13,436,700 to the community to support the activities of the Upper Delaware Council, provide technical assistance to local towns and townships, provide for removal of trash along the river, and assist local law enforcement departments within the river corridor.

Collaborative Management

While the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act safeguards the free-flowing character and water quality of the river, as well as the scenic, recreational, cultural, geologic and natural resource values that led to its designation, it does not prohibit development or give the Federal government control over private property.

The Act encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River represents a collaborative management structure between the National Park Service and the Upper Delaware Council to ensure the involvement of local communities, two states, and the Delaware River Basin Commission in decision-making and implementation of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan.

Protection is achieved both through voluntary local stewardship, and through regulation and programs of federal, state, and local governments.

In the Upper Delaware River Corridor, over 95% of the land is in private ownership and the public is our partner in protecting the river.

The Act prohibits federal support for actions such as the construction of dams or other in-stream activities that would harm the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, or outstandingly remarkable resource values.

The foundation for stewardship by local landowners and river users is a set of Land and Water Use Guidelines specifying standards for local zoning ordinances which are implemented and enforced by local municipalities.

Recreation, agricultural practices, residential development, commercial develop-



ZANE GREY FESTIVAL: The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River celebrated 2018 as The Year of the Bird by having a live birds of prey program at the 14th Annual Zane Grey Festival held July 14 on the grounds of the NPS Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA. Bill Streeter from the Delaware Valley Raptor Center in Milford, PA, displayed and discussed a great-horned owl (shown above), a red-tailed hawk, and a peregrine falcon, all birds that had been injured and rehabilitated. Birds that are not able to be released back into the wild participate in the educational programs. (UDC Photo by Pete Golod)

ment, and other uses that are consistent with the Act and the associated Land and Water Use Guidelines will continue; but it's a delicate balance.

Experience and Be Inspired

You are the future of the river. Too often in today's society we find ourselves at odds thinking that we can't have clean water and scenic character AND commercial development and economic vitality.

This thinking is just wrong. A shared vision, strong land stewardship ethic, proper design, siting and operation of commercial facilities, implementation of best management practices, and sensitivity to the needs of the river and the people make it all possible. We must walk the path together to ensure a vibrant future for the next generation.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, get out

along or on the Upper Delaware and experience and be inspired by the incredible scenery, clear water, and the sights and sounds of eagles soaring overhead, fish dancing in pursuit of a mayfly, and water flowing over the bedrock of time.

Ask yourself whether you'd like your grandchildren to be able to have that same experience 50 years from now and how you can contribute to the stewardship of this amazing resource.

In the words of famed photographer Ansel Adams, "Let us have a splendid legacy for our children... let us turn to them and say 'this you inherit and guard it well, for it is far more precious than money... and once it is destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price'."

Visit www.wildandscenicrivers50.us for more information and resources on the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail linda@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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*Working together to conserve the Upper
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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

D&H Canal Festival Set

The 6th Annual Canal Festival will take place at the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31 located at 179 Route 6, one mile west of Hawley, PA, on August 18 from 10-4.

The event will feature canal-era music, sing-alongs, reenactments, guided walking tours on the Canal Towpath, blacksmithing, quilting, weaving, spinning, and wood carving demonstrations, historical exhibits, an archaeology dig, children's games, a canal store, food, and an old-time bake sale.

Visit www.waynehistorypa.org.

Hancock Offers Music

The 2018 Summer Nights LIVE! on the Square series continues with two performances at the Hancock Town Square from 7:30-9 p.m.

The Suitcase Junket will bring his bag full of hand-made instruments to the Square on August 17, performing his brand of raw and edgy Americana and Roots rock.

On August 31, Celtic rock group Cleg-horn will close out the season with a high-energy performance.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy these free, outdoor shows.

Big Eddy Film Festival Back

The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance will present the 7th Annual Big Eddy Film Festival, coming to the Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg, NY on September 14-16.

It will offer new films shot locally, an opening night party, feature-length movies, documentaries, shorts, a Meet the Film-makers cocktail party, panel discussions, and Work in Progress screenings.

Visit www.bigeddyfilmfest.com.

Sustaining the Delaware

Save the date of September 19 for a workshop sponsored by the Scenic Wild Delaware River initiative on "Preserving, Protecting, and Promoting Our Natural, Historic and Cultural Assets", to be held at the historic Blainstown Theater (Roy's Hall) in Blainstown, NJ.

Presentations in the areas of Green Communities, Revitalization through Historic & Cultural Preservation; and Sustainable Agriculture are being planned.

Potential panelists are welcome to contact Sharon Davis at sdavis@npca.org or Tatiana Orlov at torlov@npca.org.

Registration information will be shared.

Spotted Lanternfly Outreach Campaign

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Agriculture and Markets (DAM) have started an outreach campaign encouraging New Yorkers to look for and report sightings of the spotted lanternfly (SLF), a new invasive threat.

SLF was first found in Pennsylvania in 2014, and efforts to detect the invasive planthoppers have increased after a single, dead SLF adult was found in New York in the fall of 2017.

SLF is an invasive pest from Asia that feeds on more than 70 plant species including tree-of-heaven, maples, apple trees, grapevine, and hops. SLF feedings can stress plants, making them vulnerable to disease and attacks from other insects. SLF also excretes large amounts of sticky "honeydew" which attracts sooty molds that interfere with plant photosynthesis.

For identification details and images, visit www.dec.ny.gov or the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture website at www.pda.pa.us/spottedlanternfly.