Upper Delaware Council Annual Awards Directory

**Distinguished Service Award**
The Upper Delaware Council’s highest honor, given to individuals who have acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River. “Lifetime” achievement in assisting with the Plan’s implementation, dedicated work on a particular project, or outstanding representation of one’s community all qualify.


**Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award**
Given when applicable since 1995 to individuals and organizations whose heroic actions result in the direct saving of a life or lives in the river corridor and its environs, in memory of NPS Ranger Robin M. Daniels, who died in 1989 while responding to an emergency ambulance call.


**Outstanding Community Achievement Award**
Given to the town, township, or county that took significant action to protect or enhance the river corridor during the past year.


**Partnership Award**

*Given to government agencies instituting new programs or policies that protect the Upper Delaware River and support the principles of the River Management Plan (formerly Certificate of Merit, 1989-97).*


**Community Service Award**

*Presented to the individual, community, sportsmen’s or conservation group, or other entity that has taken action during the past year to protect the river corridor or its valuable resources, or to improve management of the corridor as a whole.*


**Cultural Achievement Award**

*Given to organizations and individuals whose work has protected, enhanced, or interpreted the cultural resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.*

2023 – Ramona Jan & the Yamslingers. 2022 – Dave Lieber & Jin Zhang, Cocheecton Pump House; and Juan & Carmen Rigal, Nutshell Arts Center. 2021 – Rocky Pinciotti (1); The Delaware Company (2). 2020 – Big Eddy Film Festival (1); Wayne County Historical Society’s 1888 Spencer Tractor Restoration (2). 2019 – Forrest W.

**Recreation Achievement Award**

*Given to organizations and businesses making an outstanding effort to educate river users about water safety, conservation, litter control, river etiquette, and property rights; or contributing to recreation safety and management.*


**Volunteer Award**

*Given to individuals or organizations that have donated their time and energy to protect or enhance the quality of life in the river corridor.*


**Special Recognition Awards and Tributes**

*Given to recognize those individuals who have made substantial contributions to enhancing the communities and protecting the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.*
Advocacy or Public Service Award

Given when applicable to elected officials who go above and beyond to actively support the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreation River, its communities, and/or the Upper Delaware Council organization.

2020 – PA Representative Jonathan Fritz, Representative Mike Peifer, and Senator Lisa Baker.  2019 – n/a. 2018 – U.S. Congressman John Faso (Advocacy Award); 2017 – U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (Public Service Award);

Oaken Gavel Award

Given to the past year’s chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council for serving with distinction.


Best Friend Award (retired in 1996). Given for contributions to the “Friends of the Upper Delaware”: