

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.

2023 – James A. "Jim" Greier. **2022** – William J. "Bill" Rudge. **2021** – Kevin Reish. **2020** – Harold G. Roeder, Jr. **2019** – John J. Bonacic, retired NYS Senator. **2018** – George J. Fluhr. **2017** – Ed Wesely. **2016** – John S. McKay. **2015** – Glenn H. Voss. **2014** – Don Hamilton. **2013** – Dr. Peter J. Kolesar and James Serio. **2012** – U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey. **2011** – Peter E. Nye. **2010** – Alan Bowers and Charles Wieland. **2009** – NYS Senator John J. Bonacic. **2008** – Sandra S. Schultz. **2007** – Michael F. Reuber. **2006** – Wayne Elliot. **2005** – David J. Lamereaux. **2004** – Douglas N. Hay. **2003** – Benjamin A. Gilman. **2002** – Thomas J. Shepstone. **2001** – Bruce MacMillan. **2000** – John T. Hutzky. **1999** – Joseph M. McDade. **1998** – Malcolm "Angus" Ross. **1997** – George Frosch. **1996** – Larue and Gertrude Elmore. **1995** – V. Edward Curtis. **1994** – Francis E. Hartmann. **1993** – Luis Alvarez, Glenn Peter Clouse, and Robert Weber III. **1992** – Edward C. Sykes. **1991** – Robert V. Everest. **1990** – Phil Fitzpatrick. **1989** – George Fluhr.

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.

2023 – Nancy Lauby & Tom Zibinski. **2022** – Sam Macri. **2021** – Sparrowbush Engine Company. **2020** – Rangers Paddy McCarthy and Tim Freeman (posthumously) (1); Jeff Dexter for the Damascus Township Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and James Moss, Johnny Smith and Andy Moss, for the Equinunk Volunteer Fire Company (2). **2019** – NYS Forest Ranger Richard Franke, Jr. **2018** – Cinthia A. Ibarra and Mary Belezaire, NPS Rangers Kevin Reish and Sean McNeil, Louis E. Pine, American Legion Ambulance Service. **2017** – Michael K. Smith. **2016** – Salvatore Lombardo and Joshua Turner. **2015** – Eric J. Mankowski. **2014** – Rayna, Connor & Madison Maguire, Raymond Nelson and Melissa Browning. **2013** – n/a. **2012** – Peter Van Slyke. **2011** – Lumberland Volunteer Fire Dept., Port Jervis Fire Dept., Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corp., Sparrowbush Engine Co., Huguenot Fire Co., Westfall Township Volunteer Fire Dept., Mill Rift Fire Dept., Matamoras Fire Dept., and Regional EMS. **2010** – Marc Anthony. **2009** – Cody Wellman. **2008** – Thomas Ziser (1); and Shohola-Barryville Bridge Construction Crew (2). **2007** – Robert W. Weber III, NPS; Patrick Connolly, NPS; Callicoon Volunteer Fire Department; Welcome Lake Fire & Dive Rescue Team; and Equinunk Volunteer Fire Company. **2006** – Charles Hallock, Jr. and John Von Steenburgh, Highland Lake Fire Dept. (1); NPS Rangers Vince Pareago and Kevin Reish (2). **2005** – NPS Ranger Larry Neal, NYSP Trooper Peter Bizjak, Lake Huntington Fire Dept., Town of Cochection Volunteer Ambulance Corps. **2003** – Robert Maas, Steve Crum, Jason Hettler, Anthony Lupardo, Thomas Loewke, Vincent Boyd, Troy Parucki, and Jason Mattice (1); Andrew and Matthew Boyar (2). **2002** – Dr. Patrick Haslett and Oluwatobi Haslett. **2001** – James J. Hanson, Jr., Christopher Hall, Mark Cooke. **2000** – Laurene McKenna. **1999** – Mary Anne Danielsen and David Sauro (1); Donald de la Pena, Sr., Donald de la Pena, Jr., Bill Asnip, Paul Bjorklund, Daniel Morris, and Barbara Moreau (2). **1998** – Zbigniew Weresa. **1997** – Matthias Southwick (1); Paul Pratti (2). **1996** – Wes Gillingham, Ralph Huebner, Rob Arms, Stephen Donahue, Kevin Walsh, Oscar Ortiz, Cynthia Curtis, Dennis Doherty, Joseph Elmendorf, and Tara Hargrave. **1995** – Alan J. Barnes.

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.

2023 – Damascus Township Parks and Recreation Committee. **2022** – n/a. **2021** – Town of Highland, NY. **2020** – n/a. **2019** – Wayne County Commissioners. **2016** – Shohola Township Planning Commission. **2015** – Damascus Township, PA. **2014** – n/a. **2013** – n/a. **2012** – Town of Tusten. **2011** – n/a. **2010** – n/a. **2009** – n/a. **2008** – n/a. **2007** – Shohola Township, PA. **2006** – Town of Deerpark, NY. **2005** – Hamlet of Barryville, NY. **2003** – Shohola Township 2002 Sesquicentennial. **2002** – Sullivan Renaissance. **2001** – Town of Tusten, NY. **2000** – Town of Fremont, NY. **1999** – Lackawaxen 200th Celebration Committee (Lackawaxen Township, Pa.). **1998** – Sullivan First! Initiative (Sullivan County, NY). **1997** – City of Port Jervis. **1996** – Reflection Lakes Sewer Project

(Manchester Township, Pa.). **1995** – Shohola Township, Pa. **1994** – Town of Highland, NY. **1993** – Wayne County, Pa. **1992** – Town of Highland, NY. **1991** – Shohola Township, Pa. **1990** – Town of Lumberland, NY. **1989** – Town of Delaware, NY.

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).

2023 – Highland River Access Upgrade. **2022** – n/a. **2021** – Trust for Public Land, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Sullivan County, and Town of Delaware (Callicoon Riverside Park). **2020** – Dr. Heather Galbraith, Carrie Blakeslee, Jeff Cole, and Barbara White from the USGS Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory. **2019** – Kris Gilbert and Danielle Besso, NYS Department of Transportation, Region 9. **2017** – Debra Conway, Dorene Warner, Town of Highland, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. **2016** – n/a. **2015** – The Weather Project by NACL Theatre, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, and the Town of Highland. **2014** – Upper Delaware BioBlitz. **2013** – Upper Delaware River Water Safety Campaign by National Park Service, National Canoe Safety Patrol, and Stuart Communications. **2012** – Common Waters Fund, The Pinchot Institute for Conservation. **2011** – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s Bureau of Fisheries and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. **2010** – Multi-Municipal Gas Drilling Task Force. **2009** – NYS DOT Region 8 and McNamee Construction Corp. **2008** – Town of Highland Eagle Observation Shelter: Highland Renaissance, The Eagle Institute, the Town of Highland. **2007** – NYS Department of Transportation, Region 9. **2006** – Japanese Knotweed Initiative. **2005** – Dr. William A. Lellis and the USGS Northern Appalachian Research Lab. **2004** – Visioning Committee of the Upper Delaware Corridor. **2003** – Calkins Creek Growing Greener Project. **2002** – PENNDOT Maintenance District 4-6, Wayne Highlands School District, and Damascus Township, PA. **2001** – Route 97 Scenic Byway Committee. **2000** – Flowing Toward the Future. **1999** – National Park Service Celebrate ’98 Team. **1998** – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. **1997** – Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). **1996** – National Park Service Northeast Field Area. **1995** – NYS Department of Transportation. **1994** – State of New York; PA Game Commission. **1993** – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. **1992** – DRBC. **1991** – DRBC. **1990** – DRBC; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **1989** – National Park Service.

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.

2023 – Tom & Cecilia Coacci ; Richard H. Lowe III. **2022** – John Pizzolato. **2021** – Andy Boyar. **2020** – Nancy Furdock. **2019** – Brandi Merolla, Tusten Energy Committee chairperson. **2018** – Samuel N. Rowe, Jr. ; Carol Ropke Wingert, Town of Tusten Supervisor. **2017** – Pennsylvania Environmental Council (organization) ; Vanessa DeGori (individual) **2016** – Sue Currier. **2015** – Tusten Energy Committee; and Jeff Skelding & Sherri Resti. **2014** – Lee Hartman. **2013** – Delaware River Youth Education Program by the Hancock Community Education Foundation. **2012** – Philip D. Chase. **2011** – Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. **2010** – Dorene Warner. **2009** – Pike County and Wayne County Offices, Penn State Cooperative Extension. **2008** – Pat Camuso. **2007** – Equinunk Watershed Alliance. **2006** – Allan Schadt (1); Charles E. Knapp (2). **2005** – Milford Magazine. **2004** – Lackawaxen River Conservancy (organization); Richard B. Crandall (individual). **2003** – Shohola Creek Watershed Conservancy. **2002** – Laurie Stuart. **2001** – Pike County Conservation District. **2000** – Trooper Ben Johnson and the Towns of Cohecton and Tusten Highway Departments. **1999** – Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter (org.); Henry McKean and Carl Vogt (ind.). **1998** – Earl Pardini and Helle Henriksen. **1997** – Andrew Bartsch (posthumously). **1996** – Sandra Schultz. **1995** – Donald Knealing. **1994** – Huguenot Fire Department, Town of Deepark, and National Park Service. **1993** – St. James Redeemers. **1992** – Citizens for Tusten, Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, and Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. **1991** – Phil Chase. **1990** – The River Reporter. **1989** – National Canoe Safety Patrol.

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 Yarnslingers. **2022** – **Dave Lieber & Jin Zhang, Cohecton 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.

“Frosty” Myers, sculptor. **2018** – Carol Ann MacMaster of the Equinunk Historical Society. **2017** – Elaine Giguere (individual); and Wayne County Historical Society (organization) **2016** – Sunshine Hall Free Library, Eldred (organization); and Nellie Burnham, Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild (individual). **2015** – Sally Talaga. **2014** – The Delaware Company. **2013** – Battle of Minisink Commemorations by the Sullivan County Historical Society and the Sullivan County Division of Public Works Department of Parks, Recreation & Beautification. **2012** – Tusten Historical Society. **2011** – Town of Lumberland Cultural Series. **2010** – Carla Hauser Hahn. **2009** – Gloria R. Krause. **2008** – Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History. **2007** – Norma Schadt. **2006** – Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance. **2005** – Gerald DaBrescia. **2004** – Braman Arts Conservatory. **2003** – Mary Curtis. **2002** – Peter Osborne. **2001** – Frank V. Schwarz. **2000** – Equinunk Historic District. **1999** – D & H Transportation Heritage Council (org.) and Kitty Womer (ind.). **1998** – Elaine Giguere. **1997** – PA Dept. of Transportation. **1996** – Delaware River Sojourn Historical Pageant (org.) and Austin D. Smith (ind.). **1995** – Vernon Leslie, Ph.D. (posthumously). **1994** – Cochection Preservation Society; and Shohola Railroad & Historical Society. **1993** – Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. **1992** – Floyd Campfield. **1991** – Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance. **1990** – Equinunk Historical Society. **1989** – Edward Petras.

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.

2023 – Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee. **2022** – Corrine Hinton (1); Dan Santoro (2). **2021** – Knotweed Management Project (1); Keep Hawley-Honesdale Beautiful (2). **2020** – Dan Plummer, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (1); Bill Streeter, Delaware Valley Raptor Center, Inc. (2). **2019** – Pam Reinhardt, Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter. **2017** - Operation Safe River (Lackawaxen Twp. Fire Commission). **2016** – Glenn Pontier. **2015** – n/a. **2014** – Susie Kaspar and Peter Brandon Diefenbach, NPS UDS&RR Water Safety School Outreach. **2013** – Sullivan County Trailkeeper.org and “Take a Hike! Trails of the Upper Delaware River Valley” Projects. **2012** – Kittatinny Canoes Zip Line. **2011** – Paul Weamer, “Fly Fishing Guide to the Upper Delaware River”. **2010** – Cliff Robinson, Jr., Delaware & Hudson Canal & Gravity Railroad Conservancy. **2009** – Business Owners of Lackawaxen Township. **2008** – Tom Freda, Callicoon Canoe Regatta. **2007** – Delaware River Water Trail Guide. **2006** – Town of Lumberland Circle Park. **2005** – Northeast Sports, Ltd. **2004** – Sullivan County Community College Professor Tom Ambrosino and his Fall 2003 Graphic Arts Class. **2003** – National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. **2002** – The Eagle Institute. **2001** – The Scenic Delaware River Paddling Club. **2000** – Greater NY Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Town of Tusten, and National Park Service. **1999** – Michael Padua, Sweetwater Guide Service. **1998** – NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. **1997** – Anthony Ritter, Gone Fishing Guide Service. **1996** – Delaware River Sojourn. **1995** – Three Rivers Canoe Corp. **1994** – Ten Mile River Enterprises. **1993** – Red Barn Campground & Canoe Rentals. **1992** – Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America. **1991** – Dave Jones, Kittatinny Canoes. **1990** – Dave Jones, Kittatinny Canoes. **1989** – Jules Robinson, Wild & Scenic River Tours.

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.

2023 – Cathy Daboul. **2022** – Cameron Forehand. **2021** – Ed Jackson. **2020** – Star Hesse. **2019** – Steven Schwartz. **2018** - Dr. Shannon Thol. **2017** – Scott Rando. **2016** – Shaun Sensiba. **2015** – Ginny Fiero. **2014** – Isaac Green Diebboll. **2013** – Jerold Yavarvosky. **2012** – n/a. **2011** – John and Yoke Bauer DiGiorgio. **2010** – Ed Jackson. **2009** – Bill Walters (individual); Craig, Janet and Tara Olver, owners, Tall Timber Tree Farm (group). **2008** – Twin & Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy. **2007** – Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition, Inc. **2006** – National Canoe Safety Patrol. **2004** – George T. Krause. **2003** – Ken Baim. **2002** – George Banta. **2001** – Donald Downs. **2000** – Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) river patrol. **1999** – Delaware Highlands Conservancy. **1998** – Damascus Manor Community Center, Inc. **1997** – Chris Nielsen. **1996** – Wayne County Dive & Rescue Team. **1995** – Joseph Bertolini. **1994** – Matthew J. Freda. **1993** – Lew Schmalzle. **1992** – Geraldine Howson. **1991** – Barbara Yeaman. **1990** – Roland Flora. **1989** – Clint Rodell.

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.

2023 – Rosie Starr ; Nathaniel Pereira-Mendoza. **2022** – Liam Mayo, River Reporter. **2021** – WJFF Radio Catskill 90.5FM (1); Bonnie Sheard, NPS (2). **2020** – Carla Hauser Hahn, NPS management assistant (1); John Ogozalek (2). **2019** – Larry D. Neal, Jr., NPS chief ranger. **2018** – Jessica Newbern, NPS biologist (1); Cindy Odell, UDC secretary (2). **2017** – Grace Johansen (posthumously), LouAnn Joyce, Lauren Schlagenhaft, and Tina Spangler (1); Connie Lloyd, NPS interpretation ranger (2). **2016** – Iris Helfeld (1); Quiet Light Films (2). **2015** – Kelly O. Maloney (1); Mikki Uzupes, Bold Gold Media (2). **2014** – John B. Niflot (posthumously). **2013** – David B. Soete, UDC resource specialist (1); Susan Beecher, Pike County Conservation District (2); Gary Letcher, author (3). **2012** – William E. Douglass, UDC executive director (posthumously) (1); Anne Willard, The River Reporter (2). **2011** – Kathleen Michell, Narrowsburg (1); Dorothy Moon, NPS cultural affairs. (2). **2010** – Barb St. John White, USGS (1); Bob Hare, NPS seasonal. (2). **2009** – Steve Israel, Times Herald-Record (1); Jeffrey C. Cole, USGS (2). **2008** – Trout Unlimited (1); Dry Stone Conservancy (2). **2007** – Boy Scout Troop #122, Damascus, PA (1); Narrowsburg Beautification Group (2). **2006** – Debra J. Reimer (1); Linda Slocum (2). **2005** – Christopher Cappello (1); Sally Zegers, Hancock Herald (2); Frank T. Dale, author (3). **2004** – Colin Apse. **2003** – Richard Egan (1); Narrowsburg EagleFest (2); Joel Robinson (3); Dr. Richard Tortoriello. (4). **2002** – Jim Serio (1); Dennis Wilson (2); Lumberland Environmental Management Council (3). **2001** – NYS Senator John J. Bonacic and Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III (1); Clarke Rupert, Delaware River Basin Commission (2); Karen Bliss (3); Kurt and Luitgard Mueller (4). **2000** – Congressman Ben Gilman and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1); Richard C. Albert (2); Peter E. Nye, NYS DEC Endangered Species (3); Paul Kargo, Blue Ridge Communications (4); Paula S. Valentine, NPS interpretation ranger (5). **1999** – Bill Harkness (1); Cal Hite, NPS superintendent (2); Peter Becker, News Eagle (3). **1998** – Tom Hill, Town of Lumberland (posthumously) (1); Gerald Hansler, Delaware River Basin Commission (2); Martin Borko, Citizens Advisory Council (3). **1997** – DJ Jahn. **1996** – John Hutzky, NPS superintendent (1); Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley (2); Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History (3); Dawn Joyce (4); Kyle Myers (5). **1995** – Charles Morrison, NYS DEC (1); Bernard Kozykowski (2); John B. Niflot (3); Tracey Wadson (4); DJ Jahn (5). **1994** – Assemblyman Jake Gunther (1); Senator Charles Cook (2); Congressman Maurice Hinchey (3); Robert White (4); Micheline Cavallacci, Brigit Gulino, and Joseph Toohey (5); David Hulse, The River Reporter (6); Laurie Ramie, Sullivan County Democrat (7); Jan Cheripko (8); GTE (9). **1993** – Richard C. Albert, DRBC (1); Chris Wallingford and George Frosch, Lordville Bridge (2); Ethel Poley (posthumously) (3). **1992** – Bob Bendick (1); Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council (2); Congressman Ben Gilman (3). **1991** – Malcolm “Angus” Ross, NPS. **1990** – U.S. Congressmen Matt McHugh and Ben Gilman. **1989** – Larue Elmore, Citizens Advisory Council (1); George Frosch, Town of Hancock (2).

Advocacy or Public Service Award

Given when applicable to elected officials who go above and beyond to actively support the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational 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.

2023 – Andy Boyar, Town of Highland. **2022** – Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township. **2021** – Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cohecton. **2020** – Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware. **2019** – Aaron I. Robinson, Shohola Township. **2018** – James A. Greier, Town of Fremont **2017** – Fred Peckham, Town of Hancock **2016** – Alan F. Henry, Berlin Township. **2015** – Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland. **2014** – Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township. **2013** – Nadia Rajsasz, Town of Lumberland. **2012** – Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cohecton. **2011** – Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware. **2010** – George J. Fluhr, Shohola Township. **2009** – Alan Bowers, Westfall Township. **2008** – F. Gerald Mackin, Town of Hancock. **2007** – Charles Wieland, Town of Tusten. **2006** – John McKay, Lackawaxen Township. **2005** – Nadia Rajsasz, Town of Lumberland. **2004** – Bruce Selneck, Shohola Township. **2003** – Lew Schmalzle, Town of Highland. **2002** – Larry Richardson, Town of Cohecton. **2001** – Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware. **2000** – Phil Chase, Town of Deerpark. **1999** – Alan Bowers, Westfall Township. **1998** – Charlie Wieland, Town of Tusten. **1997** – Lew Schmalzle, Town of Highland. **1996** – George Frosch, Town of Hancock. **1995** – Edward C. Sykes, Town of Delaware. **1994** – Larry Richardson, Town of Cohecton. **1993** – George Fluhr, Shohola Township. **1992** – Tom Hill, Town of Lumberland. **1991** – Ed DeFebo, Lackawaxen Township. **1990** – Francis Hartmann, Town of Deerpark. **1989** – Phil Fitzpatrick, Westfall Township.

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

1996 – Richard and Carolyn Egan. **1995** – Kathy Smith. **1994** – Tom Van Orden. **1993** – Lori McKean.