

# The Upper Delaware

*The quarterly newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River*

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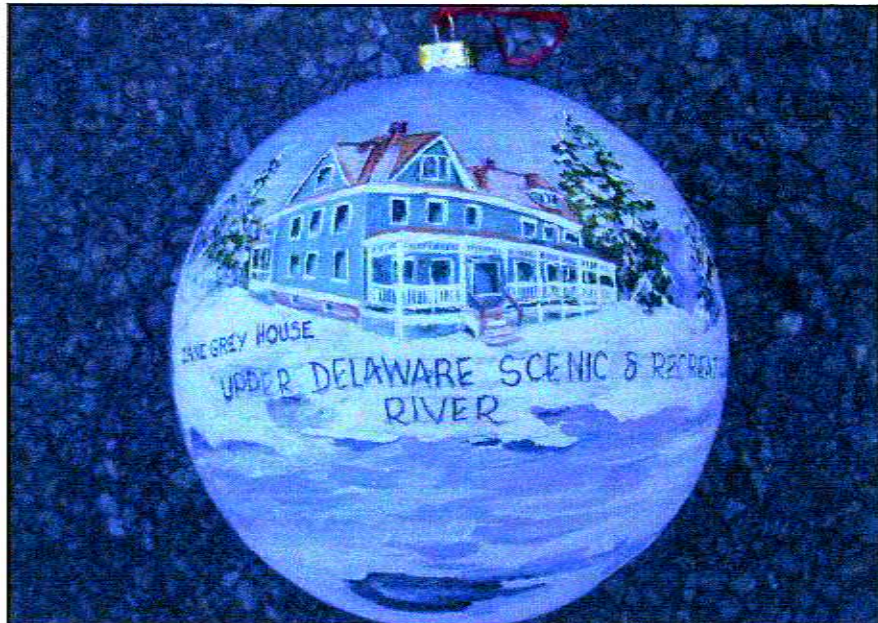
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**The Upper Delaware  
welcomes submissions and  
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**ON DISPLAY:** An ornament depicting a wintry scene along the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in the Lackawaxen, PA-Minisink Ford, NY area, painted by volunteer artist Audrey Hauser McCullough, was the local National Park Service unit's contribution to the White House's 2007 Christmas tree. (Contributed Photo by Carla Hahn, National Park Service UPDE)

## ***Upper Delaware Shines On White House Tree***

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River gained recognition in Washington, D.C. this holiday season among 347 hand-crafted National Parks ornaments to decorate the official White House Christmas tree.

The intricately-painted acrylic ball depicts a familiar wintry scene along the Upper Delaware River, featuring western author Zane Grey's house, Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct, and a bald eagle in flight.

First Lady Laura Bush chose "Holiday in the National Parks" as the 2007 theme for the White House festivities, including the ornaments to grace the 18-foot Fraser fir showcased in the Blue Room.

Each of the 391 U.S. national parks and sites was invited to contribute a hand-painted ornament by October 1.

National Park Service Upper Delaware

Scenic and Recreational River Program Specialist Carla Hauser Hahn of Callicoon, NY suggested her sister for the task.

Callicoon Center native Audrey Hauser McCullough of Kingston, NY is a renowned china painter, member of the International Porcelain Artists Association, and a world traveler for her art.

As a bonus for her volunteer effort, McCullough was invited to join Hahn in representing the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River at a Nov. 28 White House reception hosted by the Bushes.

Once the expected 60,000 visitors finish touring the White House holiday decorations, the park ornaments will be preserved in the National Archives.

An exhibit featuring prototypes of the Christmas ball can be viewed at the NPS Information Center in Narrowsburg, NY. ❖

*Most land along the Upper Delaware River is privately owned. Please be considerate and don't litter or trespass. Thanks!*



## Upper Delaware Profile: David C. Forney

Following a five-year tenure as superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River that capped off a 33-year National Park Service (NPS) career, David C. Forney retired on January 3, 2008 with plans to document his own roots.

"The first thing I am going to do is write our family history from a Civil War perspective," Forney said as he prepared in December to exit his final NPS post.

The 55-year-old Pennsylvania native is returning to his King of Prussia, PA home after having been a steward of eight national park areas.

Forney's introduction to the Park Service came in 1973 when he got a seasonal job as an interpreter at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Full-time assignments followed his 1975 graduation from East Stroudsburg University at Gettysburg National Military Park, the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the C&O Canal National Historic Park, Valley Forge National Historic Site (NHS), Lowell NHS, and Little Rock Central High School NHS in Arkansas.

On July 1, 2002, Forney became only the third superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River since its 1978 Congressional designation.

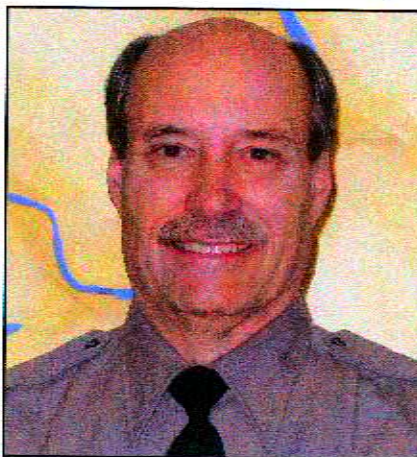
The Upper Delaware immediately fulfilled his appreciation for natural resources.

"The great scenic qualities of the river corridor are unsurpassed and it seems every turn in the road or on the river offers a unique perspective. The context of river, mountains and small communities is a formula for lasting impressions," Forney said.

"My best wildlife experience was on an Upper Delaware River Sojourn where I watched an eagle actually swim to the shore with its wings to secure a captured fish," he recalled. "Shared experiences like that will always return folks to enjoy such superb surroundings."

Forney credits the hard work of "a great staff" for accomplishing much over the past five years.

"The interpretive program has been expanded considerably with new teacher workshops, student activities, and environmental programs such as 'River Readings'. We have incorporated new outreach techniques to recruit and maintain a valued volunteer base. I think the most significant



Dave Forney, National Park Service

transformation has been our resource management program, which now makes qualitative, quantitative and predictive analysis for new initiatives and projects, such as defining sustainable flows and ecological standards for the Delaware River. In this role, we are able to directly contribute to the overall goal of protecting the Delaware River," he said.

Forney believes that the cooperative management concept of the Upper Delaware may be its greatest strength.

"You can not mention accomplishments without citing partnerships. I think the Upper Delaware is exceptionally fortunate to have such great organizations as the Upper Delaware Council, National Canoe Safety Patrol, The Eagle Institute, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, the Visioning Committee, and numerous others working to vigorously promote education and dialogue. With so many challenges and issues facing the Upper Delaware, communities have recognized that they are vulnerable to changing landscapes and there is a need to take action if the Upper Delaware is to remain an inviting, natural area," he said.

Forney will continue advocating for the environment, may seek employment with a non-profit organization, and looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Kathy, and their sons, David, 26, and Shaun, 24.

As for what advice he would offer to the next UDS&RR superintendent, Forney said, "The most important factor is to work with the communities, people, and organizations to protect the outstanding resources of the river valley. I think the communities want the same as the National Park Service does - to assure that the Upper Delaware remains unique and unspoiled with sustainable growth, that our rural character is protected, and that we have a healthy Delaware River." ❖

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**The Upper Delaware** is a free quarterly publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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### Correction to Last Issue

In the article "Feds to Study, Re-map Flood-prone Region" (Fall 2007), we inaccurately reported the specific name of the waterbody that flash-flooded on June 19, 2007 in the Colchester and Roscoe area, causing four deaths. It was Spring Brook, a tributary of the Beaverkill River. ❖



# Nuisance Algae Invades Upper Delaware River

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has confirmed the presence of the aquatic nuisance algae *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo) in the Delaware River and its tributaries.

Didymo - also known as "rock snot" - does not pose any threat to human health but its outbreaks do impact native organisms and fish populations.

"The discovery of Didymo in New York State waters is extremely troubling. It can have a significant impact on aquatic life," said William Rudge, Natural Resources Supervisor for DEC Region 3 and New York State's representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

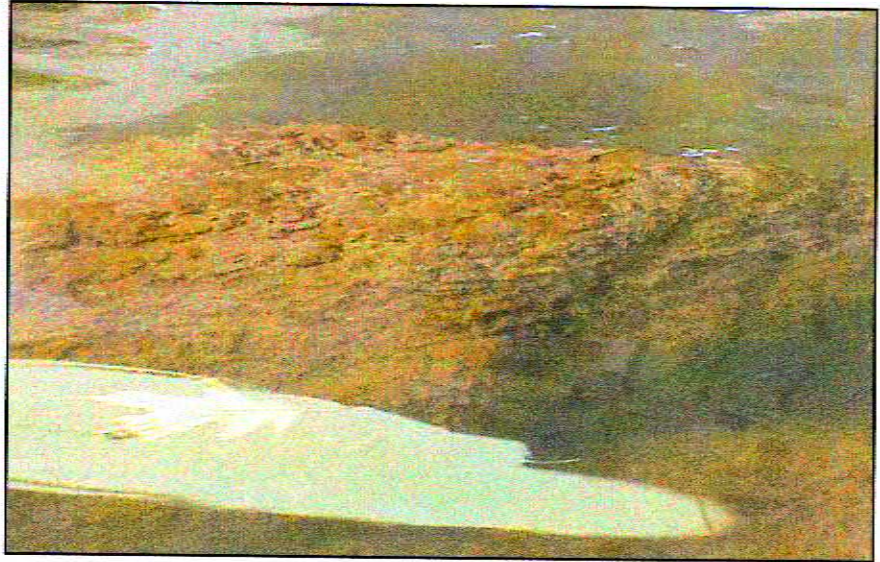
Didymo has historically been limited to cold, nutrient-poor, northern waters in Europe and Asia. But its range and tolerance has expanded over the years.

It has been documented in U.S. western states, Quebec, Vermont, and New York, (including the Batten Kill, White, and Connecticut Rivers), and now in the Delaware.

This particular algae securely attaches to stones, feels like wet wool, and is colored beige, brown or white, but not green.

Alarming, there is no proven method for controlling or eradicating Didymo once it infests a water body. Microscopic cells absorb into and adhere to damp items, living on for months to be easily transported.

The DEC and others are reaching out to the public to help prevent the spread.



**ROCK SNOT:** This Didymo infestation was found in the East Branch of the Delaware River, just above the confluence with the Beaverkill, in a thick mat that covered much of the river bottom. It's also in the West Branch and mainstem Delaware. (Contributed Photo by Don Hamilton, NPS)

"We are urging all water recreationists to take precautions. You need to clean your gear and dry it before moving from one water body to another," Rudge said.

The DEC recommends a Check, Clean & Dry protocol that has various scrubbing, soaking, or freezing treatments depending on the item's absorbency.

The National Park Service's Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and Delaware Water Gap National

Recreation Area have applied for a technical assistance grant to further study and devise strategies for dealing with Didymo.

Anyone spotting local outbreaks of Didymo is asked to report the potential locations to Don Hamilton at NPS by calling (570) 729-7842.

Visit [www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia](http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia) or [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) (search box: "didymo") for more information and photos of the troublesome algae. ❖



**STONE ART:** While the historic Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct ably withstood battering flood waters in '05 and '06, a retaining wall on the Minisink Ford, NY side was not so lucky. The National Park Service called upon the Dry Stone Conservancy to make repairs. After 35 work days, the new wall stood 22 feet high with 210 tons of stone in its facade. In photo on the right, NPS Superintendent Dave Forney, left, and Dry Stone Conservancy Master Mason Neil Rippingale of Scotland celebrate the Dec. 7, 2007 completion of the project. (UDC Photos by David B. Soete)



# NYRI Revisits Eminent Domain Issue as National Interest Energy Corridor Debated

The firm proposing to run a high-voltage electric transmission line from Oneida County to Orange County, down a 190-mile path that impacts the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley, has asked the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) for relief related to eminent domain, without which the project may prove to be "not economically feasible."

In its Dec. 10 petition to the PSC, New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI)

requests a declaratory ruling on the constitutionality of the 2006 NYS Transportation Corporation Law amendment and its applicability to its transmission project.

The U.S. District Court on Nov. 8 dismissed NYRI's lawsuit challenging the validity of that legislation which was co-sponsored by Senator John J. Bonacic.

NYRI President Chris Thompson has reportedly said that it would not be feasible to build the line without obtaining property

rights through eminent domain. He further stated that abandoning the project would forfeit the Canadian-backed company's alleged \$11 million investment to date.

U.S. Congressmen Maurice Hinchey, John Hall, and Michael Arcuri suggested in a letter to the agency that NYRI is attempting to make an end-run around the state.

"NYRI now seeks from the PSC what it was unable to obtain in federal court. It is our view that the burden of action lies with NYRI as a result of its responsibility to comply with state law, and that there is no need for the PSC to respond to a superfluous request for an interpretive ruling of that law," they wrote.

In a newsletter issued by NYRI on Dec. 6, however, the company "agrees that the PSC is the preferred regulatory forum for evaluating transmission projects such as NYRI's" and dismisses the theory that NYRI would rather pursue federal approval as "a myth."

Critics are concerned that the U.S. Department of Energy's Oct. 5 decision to designate a Mid-Atlantic National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) will facilitate the NYRI project under the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Both the governors of New York, which has 47 of 62 counties in the corridor, and Pennsylvania, with 52 of 67 counties included, denounced the NIETC as a federal infringement on states' rights.

Sullivan County representative Chris Cunningham of Communities Against Regional Interconnect (CARI) said, "The DOE failed to consider meaningful input by thousands of individuals and groups that responded to the request for comments."

Congressman Hinchey also blasted the DOE's public comment period as "nothing more than a public relations stunt" which did not result in any modification of the April 2007 draft NIETC despite the overwhelmingly negative reaction to it.

The DOE's two NIETC designations for the Mid-Atlantic and Southwest regions would be effective for 12 years.

After receiving 72 requests for a re-hearing on the NIETC order by the Nov. 5 deadline, however, the DOE on Dec. 4 granted additional time for their evaluation. No timetable was given for that consideration.

NYRI officials noted in a Dec. 10 news release that the company would submit a Supplemental Filing in response to the PSC's request for studies of alternative routing options and environmental/economic impacts "in the coming weeks." ❖



**BRIDGE OPEN:** As viewed through the old Erie Railroad trestle on the Pennsylvania side, the new Shohola, PA-Barryville, NY Bridge was completed this fall. A dedication ceremony will be held this spring. (Contributed Photo by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation)

## Shohola-Barryville Bridge Overcomes Flooding Delays

The newly-constructed Shohola-Barryville Bridge awaits only the installation of a custom, ornamental pedestrian railing later this winter to be considered fully complete. A public dedication ceremony will be scheduled in the early spring.

The \$9.5 million bridge over the Delaware River connects Route 434 in Pike County, PA with New York State Routes 55 and 97 in Sullivan County, NY.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation went to bid on the project in December 2003. The contract was awarded to Fahs-Rolston Paving Corp. of Binghamton, NY.

While the company originally estimated completion in late 2006, construction was significantly delayed by three record floods that struck the Upper Delaware River in a two-year period.

The six-span bridge was built slightly upstream from the former Shohola-Barryville crossing. Traffic flow was maintained on the old bridge until a single lane of the new bridge opened up on Oct. 24, 2006. The 1941 bridge was demolished that winter to make room.

The new structure has two 12-foot lanes and two 8-foot shoulders. Its architectural treatments - which include stained, molded concrete piers and abutments - reflect native blue-stone elements. A series of overlooks offer pedestrians the opportunity to enjoy the scenic landscape and view signage recalling the area's history. ❖



# PennDOT Stockpile Investigated for Hazardous Materials

A stockpile site in Shohola that was in custody of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) since 1967 is under investigation for the possible presence of hazardous materials.

On Nov. 2, 2007, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 shut down all activity on the site until there is a determination about what may be buried in Stockpile #6, which is located on Pennsylvania State Gamelands #180 within the Townships of Shohola, Lackawaxen, and Blooming Grove.

PennDOT District 4-0's lease with the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the 9.66-acre property expired in July 2007.

During clean-up operations that would precede the property's return, reports surfaced that potentially hazardous materials had been buried there over the years.

PennDOT claims that the stockpile was essentially abandoned for regular use by its employees in the late 1980s. They acknowledge, however, that it was used periodically as a mobilization site by contractors working on state roadways.

The DOT met on July 20 with representatives from the PA Game Commission, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Pike County Conservation District, and others to agree upon a plan for discovery and remediation.

They hired environmental consultants Skelly & Loy, Inc. of Harrisburg to excavate; perform and analyze soil and water tests; dispose of materials; and assist in site mitigation.

The project began on Sept. 24 at an expected cost of about \$500,000.

Among the findings reported as of Nov. 9 were approximately 289 drum carcasses of residual tar and paint, 500 tar blocks, 60 tons of petroleum-impacted soil, 3 tons of unidentified soil that had a mothball odor, a scrap wood pile measuring 20x20x6 feet, 210 tires, 57 tandem truckloads of millings, 7 full roll-offs of garbage/debris and additional containers of scrap metal, 1,005 tons of asphalt capping, and 75 tons of residual tar soil generated during the excavation.

Shohola Township Representative Nelia Wall briefed the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) on the clean-up Nov. 1. She pointed out that wetlands on the site drain into the Shohola Creek which eventually empties into the Delaware River. With no security in place, Stockpile #6 has been subjected to clandestine dumping over the years.

UDC staff participated in a site visit the next morning which was arranged by the zoning officers of Shohola and Lackawaxen.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and EPA opted to take independent water and



**TESTING SITE:** Soil and water samples were recently taken at the site of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Stockpile #6 located on Pennsylvania State Gamelands along Rt. 6 near Rt. 434, one mile west of Shohola Falls in Pike County. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

soil tests.

*Pike County Dispatch* columnist Pat Camuso of Lackawaxen has been leading the public and media charge to compel PennDOT to aggressively test for buried toxins since he received an anonymous tip in June of 2007 alluding to hazardous materials at Stockpile #6.

On Nov. 13, excavation took place at an area of concern where ground-penetrating radar indicated the presence of unknown

material. Skelly & Loy dug three test pits which revealed "nothing more than rock, likely to contain iron which would trigger the radar scan," according to a PennDOT fact sheet.

At press time, PennDOT was awaiting the issuance of a categorical exclusion document from its environmental unit that would demonstrate that it has addressed issues through a corrective action plan to the satisfaction of the DEP. ♦

## Federal Flood Prevention Study Funded

Congress Members Maurice Hinchey, John Hall, and Kirsten Gillibrand secured final Congressional approval Dec. 19 of a \$700,000 federal study to identify ways to prevent future flooding of the Upper Delaware River Watershed.

The Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct the study in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and other state/local agencies, which will provide matching funds.

The study will seek strategies to reduce flood damage and restore the environment to help prevent future losses of life and property.

At least \$300,000 of the appropriation will be used to address the chronic flooding problem along Little Beaverkill Creek in the hamlet of Livingston Manor and Town of Rockland.

"Repeated and devastating flooding over the last several years has made it clear that serious flood control is a high priority in the Upper Delaware watershed. This study is the first step toward determining the best ways to protect communities in

Orange and Sullivan Counties," said Hall.

The funds are part of the Omnibus Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008. ♦

## Delaware River Sojourn Sets 2008 Paddle Dates

The 2008 Delaware River Sojourn will take place on June 22-28.

The theme will be a celebration of the Delaware as a National Wild and Scenic River.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the 30th anniversary of the designation of both the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (Middle Delaware), and the 8th anniversary of the designation of key segments of the Lower Delaware River.

In that spirit, the Sojourn will commemorate the inherent fact that as the decades pass, the River still, and always should, remain.

For event information and day plans, visit [www.delawariversojourn.org](http://www.delawariversojourn.org). ♦

*The Upper Delaware*



# UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activities from late September to mid-December 2007, include:

## **FLEXIBLE FLOWS**

The UDC attended a Dec. 18 public informational meeting in Matamoras, PA hosted by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) on proposed regulation amendments to implement a Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP).

On Sept. 26, 2007, the five parties to the 1954 Supreme Court decree (NY, PA, NJ, DE, and New York City) reached consensus to replace the interim fishery releases program and temporary spill mitigation program that both expired on Sept. 30.

The FFMP, negotiated over the last three years, is intended to provide a more adaptive means for managing the Cannonsville, Pepacton, and Neversink reservoirs for competing uses.

It would largely eliminate the reservoir storage banks previously used for habitat protection purposes and instead base releases on storage levels. The new spill mitigation component does not include specified void targets or permanent voids, but is intended to reduce the likelihood that all three reservoirs could be full and spilling coincident with a major storm or thaw.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis and PA Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty each lauded the plan.

"Flood control, the trout fishery, biodiversity and recreation opportunities all can be aided while assuring adequate drinking water to millions. This new water release protocol could serve as a national model," Grannis suggested.

McGinty said that while improvements to the reservoir operations are ongoing, "this agreement offers a technically feasible option today that protects citizens downstream from undue risk."

Written comments on the FFMP are being accepted through Jan. 18. The full text may be viewed at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net).

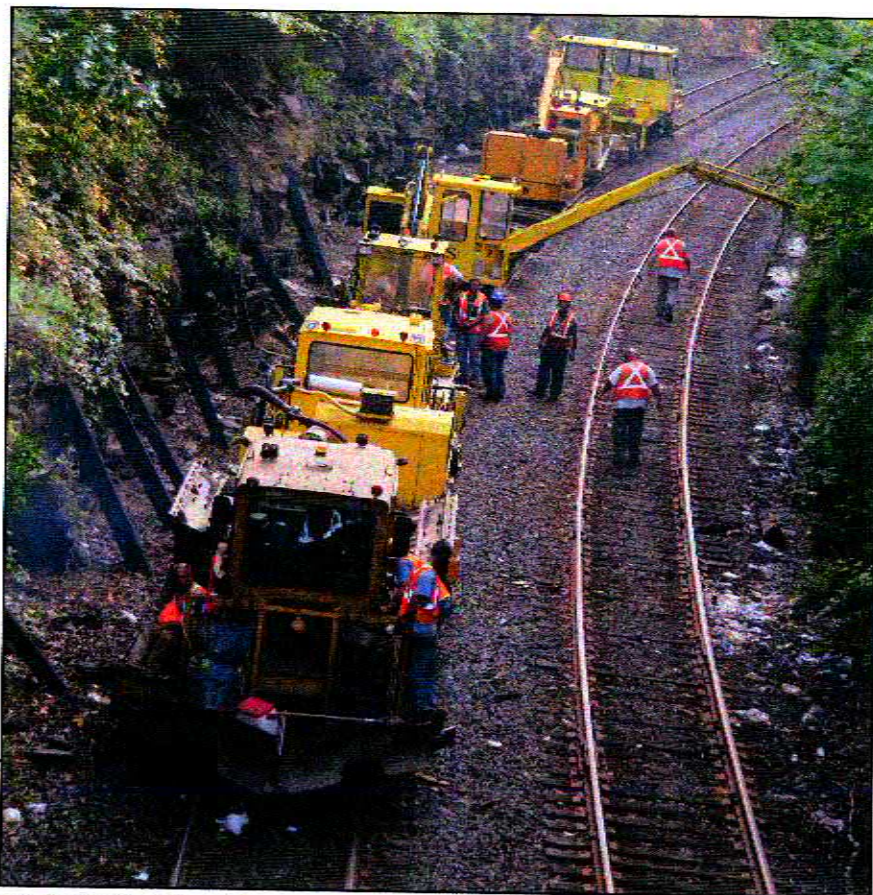
## **DELAWARE GREENWAY**

The NYS Senate unanimously on Oct. 22 passed Sen. John J. Bonacic's revised legislation to authorize the creation of an Upper Delaware River Greenway.

Approval is now needed in the State Assembly. The UDC participated in meetings with Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther on Oct. 31 and with Sen. Bonacic on Nov. 2 to discuss the legislation's status.

## **PA RIVERS REGISTRY**

The UDC and National Park Service are encouraging an expansion of the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Registry membership



**WORKING ON THE RAILROAD:** New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway crews worked this fall to install new railroad ties, as shown here along the tracks in Narrowsburg, at a rate of 125 ties per mile. Environmental concerns were raised at the Upper Delaware Council's Oct. 16 Water Use/Resource Management Committee about the railroad's practice of stockpiling the creosote-laden ties rather than relocating them for disposal due to the shipping expense involved. The UDC is researching the regulatory issues. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

that currently includes Shohola, Lackawaxen, and Westfall Townships to include the northern Wayne County municipalities located within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River region as well.

Registry listings improve grant funding opportunities through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

## **BYWAY PROJECTS**

The Federal Highway Administration announced on Dec. 6 the awarding of a \$12,400 grant to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) for an Invasive Plant Species Educational Campaign and Interpretive Signage Project.

With administrative assistance from the UDC, byway applicants recently completed 10 local improvement projects under a \$60,000 grant provided by Sen. Bonacic.

The list of accomplishments is available at [www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](http://www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org).

## **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

10/11 - Presentation by Michael Frank of

The Heritage Conservancy, "Opportunity Knocks: Open Space is a Community Investment", in Hawley, PA

10/22 - Congressman Chris Carney (PA-10th District) Town Hall meeting, Hawley

10/29 - Delaware River Greenway Partnership Forum: "Compatible Waterfronts for Small Communities", Lambertville, NJ

## **PROJECT REVIEWS**

The UDC submitted comments to the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) Region 9 on Oct. 30 based on its proposal to replace a Route 97 highway bridge over the Ten Mile River in the Town of Tusten at in the spring of 2012 at a cost of \$4.1 million.

The Sullivan County Legislature funded a \$45,000 mitigation project in September to create a floodwater relief channel in Callicoon that will allow an alternate path to the Delaware River when waters rise more than two feet above normal levels.

UDC staff visited the work site and will monitor the channel's effectiveness. ♦



## New NPS Super Due in February

National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach announced on Dec. 19 that Vidal Martinez has been selected as the next superintendent



Vidal Martinez

of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Martinez is expected to begin his assignment in February 2008. He succeeds David Forney, who retired on Jan. 3. Sandra Schultz has been serving as acting superintendent during the transition.

Since Aug. 1, 2000, Martinez served as superintendent of two NPS sites, George Washington Birthplace National Monument near Colonial Beach, VA and the Thomas Stone National Historic Site in Port Tobacco, MD.

The native New Yorker brings 32 years of federal service to his new assignment.

Martinez began his NPS career in 1975 giving tours at Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and other popular national parks in New York City. From 1981-87, he worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an Outdoor Recreation Planner.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation from the City University of New York and a 1989 Master's degree in Recreation Planning and Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Martinez and his wife, Zoraida, have four children ages 22, 21, 10, and 4, and two grandchildren living in Spotsylvania, VA.

"The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is an outstanding natural resource. I look forward to working with the riverside communities and the park staff to preserve the river and offer recreational opportunities for our visitors," said Martinez. ♦



**RESTORE THE VIEWS:** The New York State Department of Transportation will begin work this spring to clear vegetation and litter from the scenic overlooks along the Hawk's Nest section of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway on NYS Route 97. (UDC File Photo by David B. Soete)

## Hawk's Nest Repairs Set for Spring

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) will tackle a big spring cleaning project when crews begin clearing vegetation and debris from the six scenic overlooks located along the Hawk's Nest section of the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.

The DOT expects to complete the job in September 2008. While traffic will be maintained throughout the project, intermittent lane closures are anticipated.

The plan calls for cutting overgrown vegetation that is obstructing views of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River some 200 feet below, and removing accumulated litter in those areas.

Contracted workers will descend the face of the retaining wall to access each location, with hand-held power equipment lowered over the edge by rope or cable.

The vegetation, mainly consisting of tree saplings, will be cut at the base with the roots left in place to avoid destabilizing the

soils on the steep hillsides.

Chippers will be parked at the paved pull-offs to process the cut vegetation prior to loading trucks for its removal.

The DOT consulted the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) Committee, the Town of Deerpark, and others to review its scope of work proposal last fall.

In a Nov. 13, 2007 comment letter, UDSB, Inc. commended the DOT for its aesthetic objectives that "will vastly help to protect and revitalize this important feature of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway for the traveling public."

The UDSB Enhancement Plan references the famously panoramic Hawk's Nest view as "where the grandeur of nature is complemented by the beauty of man's craftsmanship."

The DOT has also programmed a capital improvement project for 2010 to address the deteriorated condition of certain stone wall sections of the Hawk's Nest. ♦

## New Subscribers and Address Changes Welcomed

If you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our free newsletter, we will be happy to add them to the mailing list. Please also advise us of any address changes to help update our records. Return this notice to the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail [udcramie@hvc.rr.com](mailto:udcramie@hvc.rr.com).

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

### New Newsletter Format

Starting with this issue, "The Upper Delaware" is presented in a folded format designed to save on postage costs.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) has also initiated work on a website which will enable offering the newsletter as a downloadable document. Subscribers will then be offered the option of receiving it by mail or electronically.

The website is being developed under a \$10,000 grant secured by New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, which will also support the UDC's sponsorship of a River Valley Land Use seminar for planning and zoning board members in late March. Call (845) 252-3022 for details. ♦

### EagleFest Takes Flight

The 7th Annual EagleFest, sponsored by the Delaware Valley Eagle Alliance, is set for Saturday, Jan. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. throughout Narrowsburg, NY.

Activities include live birds of prey demonstrations, guest lectures, films, a poster auction, children's activities, eagle art, and guided observation.

Visit [www.dveaglealliance.org](http://www.dveaglealliance.org) or call (845) 252-6509 for the full itinerary. ♦

### UDC Updates Brochure

The UDC will release a revised "Visitor Information Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania" brochure in April of 2008.

River valley businesses in the categories of Accommodations, Restaurants, Liveries and Campgrounds, and Bait & Tackle Shops are being contacted to update their free listings by Jan. 31.

The guide features a fold-out map of the river corridor and all public access points between Hancock, NY and Mill Rift, PA, along with 12 informational panels.

Contact Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or [udcramie@hvc.rr.com](mailto:udcramie@hvc.rr.com) for information. ♦

### '08 Anniversaries Abound

Two thousand and eight marks the 40th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the 30th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's legislative designation, and the 20th anniversary of the Upper Dela-

ware Council's incorporation.

Special activities are being planned by the National Park Service and Upper Delaware Council to recognize these auspicious milestones. ♦

### PA Coldwater Conference

The 2008 Keystone Coldwater Conference to be held Feb. 22-23 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA will focus on "Headwater Ecosystems: Protection, Management and Research." Call (814) 359-5233 or visit [www.coldwaterheritage.org](http://www.coldwaterheritage.org). ♦

### Seek Award Nominations

The public is welcome to submit nominations by Mar. 21 for awards that will be presented at the UDC's 20th Annual Dinner to be held on Sunday, Apr. 27, at La Salette Restaurant in Hancock, NY.

The awards recognize individuals, organizations, communities, and agencies that have contributed to the protection or enhancement of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River region.

To request a nomination form or event information, call (845) 252-3022. ♦