

The Upper Delaware

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

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**The Upper Delaware
available on-line or by mail!**

This newsletter may now be accessed on-line, in full color, at the UDC's website, www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. Please indicate via the return coupon on Page 7 whether you'd like us to discontinue sending your copy by mail. Thank you.



GAS DRILLING DEBATE: Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Communications Manager Clarke D. Rupert, seated at left at the table, explains the DRBC's authority in regulating natural gas drilling activities in the Delaware Watershed to Bernard Handler of Damascus, PA, standing, and all others in attendance at a packed Upper Delaware Council monthly meeting on September 4 in Narrowsburg, NY. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Energy Projects Create Friction in Upper Delaware

The New York Regional Interconnection (NYRI) electrical transmission line, natural gas exploration, and two gas pipeline expansion projects continue to raise questions about potential long-term impacts on the Upper Delaware River Valley region.

NYRI Clock Ticking

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) officially began its review of the \$2.1 billion NYRI power line proposal when the agency deemed the private investment company's Article VII application complete as of August 8, 2008.

NYRI submitted its original Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need request to develop a 1200 megawatt electric line on a 190-mile path from Marcy to Rock Tavern on May 31, 2006.

Citing various deficiencies, PSC issued three requests in July 2006, March 2008, and June 2008 for supplemental filings.

If the Commission does not make a ruling on the application within one year - or rejects it - NYRI can appeal its case to the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"We are very pleased by the PSC's decision [to proceed with its review] and were optimistic all along that we would be judged fairly by the merits of our project," said Chris Thompson, president of NYRI.

"NYRI is historic on many levels, as it will be the first major transmission upgrade from upstate to downstate New York in more than 20 years, and we believe that this latest development brings us another step closer to helping New York relieve system congestion and increase reliability while providing important local economic development opportunities and environmental benefits," Thompson added.

The seven NY counties along NYRI's proposed route, however, have banded together under the Communities Against Regional Interconnect (CARI) organization to oppose the power line in an effort supported by state and federal legislators, and the majority of citizens along the path.

Please see ENERGY on Page 4

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Jay Shafer

Glen Spey, NY native Jay Shafer was elected to serve his first term on the Lumberland Town Board this year and, with that, came his Jan. 3, 2008 appointment to represent the town on the Upper Delaware Council (UDC).

"I just decided it was time to help my town since I lived there all my life," he says.

Shafer worked for two years on the committee that drafted the recently-adopted Town of Lumberland Master Plan and served a one-year stint on the Lumberland Planning Board before deciding to run for town council on the Republican ticket.

While Shafer says that he's still learning the ropes, he is intrigued by the work being done to uphold the tenets of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and to protect the valley from harm.

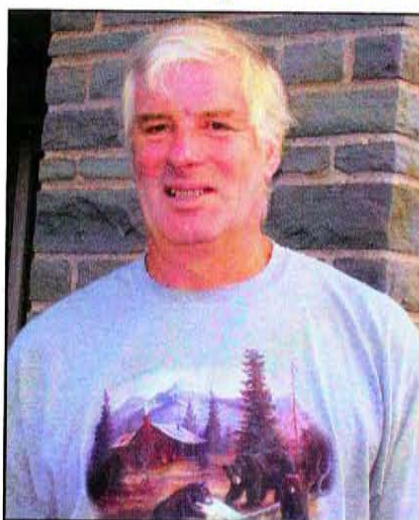
"I want to keep the river natural. I lived through the start-up of the liveries and saw all the chaos that was taking place here. I wasn't a supporter of the National Park Service coming in because I thought it would mean a loss of local control, but they've shown their mettle since," the 57-year-old says.

Shafer lives on the same property where he and his two brothers and one sister grew up. His parents moved to Glen Spey in 1945 when they married after the war.

Shafer's father, originally from Binghamton and employed locally at the Skydyne manufacturing plant in Port Jervis for 27 years, had discovered the area through hunting with his dad and served as president of the Fontanalis Fly Fishermen group for a time.

Shafer graduated from Eldred High School in 1969 and earned an Applied Science Degree from Orange County Community College in 1971.

He was originally interested in becoming



Jay Shafer, Town of Lumberland

a fisheries biologist, having worked for two summers at Eldred Preserve's former trout hatchery, but went in a different direction after getting his first job with a masonry contractor.

At the age of 21, Shafer and his brother Jack started their own home building business.

Shafer Brothers Construction continues to operate 35 years later, specializing in masonry work and log homes in particular over the past decade.

Shafer typically puts in 55-hour weeks, working Mondays through Saturdays, in addition to his busy schedule of evening meetings for the town and the UDC. He is also the town's alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

When he has leisure time, Shafer enjoys hunting and trout fishing.

He is the president of the Glen Spey Rod & Gun Club, a member of the Pioneer Club in Schroon Lake, NY, and has taken annual elk hunting trips to Montana since 1982.

Jay and Linda Shafer have been married for 23 years. Linda, who works in jewelry sales at TJ Maxx in Montague, NJ, grew up in Goshen but her family had a summer home in Glen Spey.

The couple have four children combined and four grandchildren.

Tom, 38, is employed by the Sullivan County Division of Public Works. Debbie, 35, works in the radiology department at Orange Regional Medical Center. Both live in Glen Spey.

Shafer's two youngest daughters are in college. Jene, 22, is studying medical technology at Thomas Aquinas College, while 20-year-old Megan is a music major at SUNY New Paltz.

"That's why I'm still working so hard," Shafer jokes. ♦

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The Upper Delaware is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) 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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River Rec Maps Out

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is offering updated and revised Delaware River Recreation Maps for sale.

The set consists of 10 full-color, water-proof maps that provide an overview of a particular reach of the river. Noted are public access locations, channel depths, stream flow characteristics, mileages and reference points, areas of caution, dams, and recreation opportunities.

Each map is 36 by 11-1/4 inches in size. Shipping and handling is included in the \$25 price per set. Make checks payable to "Delaware River Basin Commission" and send to: DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628. ♦

Damascus Township Joins UDC

The Damascus Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on July 21 to join the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC), becoming the non-profit organization's first Wayne County, PA member.

UDC 2008 Chairperson Alan Bowers of Westfall Township, PA expressed his delight at the long-desired action.

"Unity among the river valley municipalities is important as we continue advocating for the conservation of our resources and the protection of the quality of life that we enjoy here. I thank the Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Damascus for their decision to work with us," he said.

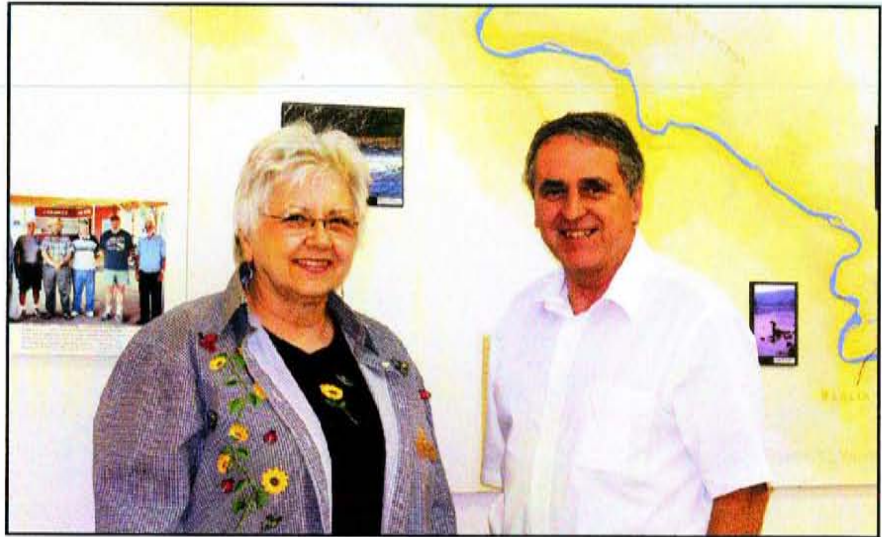
Damascus Supervisors Jeff Dexter, Charles Grady and Jason Roberts had attended UDC meetings as observers.

On July 21, they invited UDC Executive Director William E. Douglass and Shohola Township UDC representative George J. Fluhr to attend their board meeting to make a public presentation and discuss membership issues.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Dexter noted that the supervisors "did our homework" before the township exercised its option to join the UDC.

A survey taken over the winter of 2007 for development of the East Central Wayne County Comprehensive Plan revealed that 67% of Damascus Township residents and 75% of non-resident respondents favored joining the UDC.

"People had been asking us, 'When are you going to do it?' We attended meetings, asked questions, and came away impressed with the types of discussions and



NEW REPRESENTATIVE: Damascus Township on August 18 appointed Dolores A. Keesler, shown above with UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass in the office's conference room, as its first-ever representative to serve on the Upper Delaware Council board. Robert Gross was named as the township's alternate representative. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

the amount of information that was available. You have everyone there together at the table. We feel it's important to keep ourselves educated, present our views, and have our say in what goes on in the river valley," Dexter said.

As outlined in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River finalized in 1986, full membership in the UDC would consist of the 15 towns and townships that border on the river, along with the State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Del-

aware River Basin Commission, National Park Service, and the former Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council.

Damascus Township becomes the UDC's 12th local member.

The Wayne County, PA Townships of Berlin, Manchester, and Buckingham remain eligible to join.

The UDC is the oversight body responsible since 1988 for the River Management Plan's coordinated implementation among local, state, and federal stakeholders in the river valley. ♦

UDC Awards \$30,000 in Technical Assistance Grants

The Upper Delaware Council awarded seven Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) valued at \$30,000 at its Sept. 4 meeting.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has funded since 1988 to \$639,692 for 180 projects by its member municipalities.

Combined requests totaled \$58,800, competing for a \$30,000 funding pool that the UDC budgeted for Fiscal Year 2008.

TAGs are available for non-capital projects that address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River.

This year's TAG recipients are:

- ♦ Towns of Tusten, Cochection, Delaware, and Highland, NY (jointly) - \$12,000 to undertake a multi-municipal study, "Managing Natural Gas Development Impacts: Strategies to Protect Town Infrastructure and Land Use," to be conducted under the guidance of the Sullivan County

Division of Planning and Environmental Management and with a target completion date of April 30, 2009;

- ♦ Town of Hancock, NY - \$5,000 to develop a Town of Hancock Site Plan Review Local Law, in consultation with the Delaware County Planning Department, that will help to assure adequate reviews of potential impacts from proposed development projects;

- ♦ Town of Fremont, NY - \$3,000 to review and update the Town's zoning laws to conform to the new Comprehensive Plan;

- ♦ Pike County, PA - \$3,000 to facilitate the development of the Matamoras Borough-Westfall Township Regional Comprehensive Plan and an Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Plan, under the coordination of the Pike County Office of Community Planning over an 18-month period;

- ♦ Town of Delaware, NY - \$2,500 to update the Town of Delaware Zoning Law

to address and develop standards for alternative energy sources, including, but not limited to, geothermal, solar, and wind energy devices;

- ♦ Town of Lumberland, NY - \$2,500 to compile and print the Town of Lumberland's Final Comprehensive Master Plan;

- ♦ Damascus Township, PA - \$2,000 to combine and print Damascus Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance, and the Multi-municipal (Damascus, Manchester, and Oregon Townships) Comprehensive Plan, into one document.

Visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org to access a complete directory of the UDC's Technical Assistance Grants awarded over the past 20 years, and to obtain program guidelines and various forms. Contact UDC Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete at udcsoete@hvc.rr.com or (845) 252-3022 with any further questions. ♦

Congressman John Hall (NY-19th District) said recently, "NYRI has never demonstrated that its power line will benefit anyone but its foreign investors. NYRI must prove that it is absolutely necessary before a massive, 200-mile-long High Voltage Direct Current line steamrolls over local property rights, state authority, and environmentally sensitive areas."

At a pre-hearing conference on Sept. 8 in Utica, CARI's attorney asked the PSC to hold public statement hearings in all seven affected counties. At press time, two hearings were scheduled for Oct. 21 in Oneonta and Oct. 22 in Utica, with plans for a third date in southern New York unsettled.

While NYRI's proposed route now avoids crossing into the federally-protected Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's boundaries, the 10-story-tall towers and large rights-of-way clearances would still traverse eight river valley towns. (See the chart below.) Less than a half-mile section through the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area and Rio Reservoir in the Town of Lumberland is proposed for underground burial in this area.

Company officials have said that they are leaving it up to the PSC to determine the optimal route for the NYRI power line.

Natural Gas Drilling

Renewed interest in accessing the natural gas deposits believed to be lurking inside the Marcellus Shale that underlies much of northeastern Pennsylvania and southern New York has landowners, local municipalities, state agencies, and watershed regulators scrambling to be prepared.

While leases for mineral rights continue to be privately negotiated, no drilling operations had commenced in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor as of late September.

In addition to state environmental per-

River Management Plan Weighs In On Natural Gas Exploration Activities

The River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, finalized in 1986 and endorsed by local, state and federal stakeholders, addresses natural gas exploration activities in its Land and Water Use Guidelines section.

The home-rule plan emphasizes that, while criteria are offered for various land and water uses within the river corridor boundaries, each town or township retains the authority to meet the overlying principles and objectives in its own way.

Given the available technologies two decades ago, the plan's authors recognized the potential for gas drilling but envisioned these projects on a smaller scale.

The Guidelines state under Principle E - Conserve River Area Resources, "New major oil and gas transmission lines and refining/production facilities for other than local service will not be located within the river corridor excepting for individual wells, (subject to conditional use review), lines constructed to provide service to or collect from individual customers or wells. This does not prohibit maintenance of existing facilities or the location of new lines within existing rights-of way."

The Guidelines list major oil and gas lines as "incompatible uses" anywhere in the river corridor. The "major" rating is described as "any pipe or conduit used for the transmission of natural gas, oil or other fuel which is 1,000 feet or longer and is under pressure of 125 lbs. per square inch or greater. This does not apply to natural gas, oil, or other fuel distribution lines for residential, industrial and commercial use."

Oil or natural gas exploration activities such as drilling or seismic testing, or any new operation which extracts petroleum-related products such as crude oil or natural gas from the earth, are cited as potentially "appropriate special uses/conditional uses."

mits, gas companies intending to drill anywhere in the Delaware watershed basin will need approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).

The DRBC has legal authority over water quality and quantity issues pertaining to withdrawals of 100,000 gallons per day over a 30-day average.

In their regulatory purview, the DRBC will analyze the sources of water used for natural gas mining, plans for on-site operations, the chemicals used in the hydrofracturing process, and treatment and disposal intentions for the recovered water.

Since the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempted the gas industry from meeting Clean Water and Clean Air standards, major oversight falls to the states.

NY and PA are reviewing their laws, procedures, and staffing levels to handle the expected onslaught of gas drilling activity.

Towns and townships are assessing what aspects of drilling they can control, such as road damages and wastewater storage. A \$12,000 Technical Assistance Grant that the Upper Delaware Council

awarded on Sept. 4 to four NY towns will yield recommended strategies to protect town infrastructure and land use from natural gas development impacts, and will be useful to all communities.

As environmental activists push for moratoria, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection wants a ban on gas drilling in a one-mile protective perimeter of six Catskills reservoirs.

Pipeline Expansions

To prepare for the speculative extraction of natural gas in the region, two existing pipelines are on their way to getting bigger.

Construction of the Millennium Pipeline, which is replacing the 12-inch Columbia Gas Transmission's A-5 line with 30-inch diameter steel pipe on a 182-mile route through eight New York State counties, remains on track for a commercial in-service date of November 2008.

In September, crews were concentrating on crossing under 239 streams along the Corning to Ramapo pipeline pathway.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., which runs through Pike and Wayne Counties in Pennsylvania, plans to request permission in May 2009 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to install looping segments of 30-inch pipeline for approximately 125 miles across PA and to improve the capacity of its compression facilities.

While the exact route hasn't been selected, the company would like to begin a two-phase construction in July 2010.

Shohola Township has expressed initial concerns over taking land for rights-of-way and potential negative impacts on roads and emergency response preparedness. ♦

NYRI Proposed Route

<u>County</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Oneida	31.0
Madison	11.3
Chenango	44.5
Broome	08.5
Delaware	24.0 *
Sullivan	37.5 *
Orange	33.2 *
Total Mileage	190

* River valley towns affected (by # of miles): Hancock, 15.1; Fremont, 7.5; Delaware, 4.9; Cohecton, 9.6; Tusten, 0.6; Highland, 7.0; Lumberland, 3.6; and Deerpark, 10.4.

To Comment on NYRI:

Review NYRI's application at local libraries or on-line at www.nyri.us. PSC hearings are broadcast live on the Internet at www.NewYorkAdmin.com. To comment on "Case 06-T-0650: NYRI Transmission Line Proceeding", write to: Jaclyn A. Brilling, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350; call the PSC 24-Hour Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120; or submit an on-line form at www.AskPSC.com.

Upper Delaware Anniversary Events Planned

Under the theme of "Partnering to Protect the River: 1978-2008", an Upper Delaware Expo will take place on Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Damascus School, Rt. 371, Damascus, PA.

The expo will highlight the activities of the National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and its partner organizations during a day of free programs, demonstrations, and exhibits of interest to all ages.

Commemorative tote bags with lapel pins will be given away to the first 500 families when the doors open at 10 a.m.

Free postcards will be available for the U.S. Postal Service to postmark on-site with a special pictorial cancellation created for the 30th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

An opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m. will include welcoming remarks by NPS Superintendent Vidal Martinez, a slide show of Upper Delaware images, and the presentation of awards from the art contest in which students in grades 9-12 at seven NY and PA school districts created 11 x 17-inch posters interpreting the river valley.

The 12 winning posters will be on display with an exhibit of regional photography by Upper Delaware Council (UDC) Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete.

Programs include two live birds of prey



Postal Cancellations Oct. 25 and Nov. 10
presentations by the Delaware Valley Raptor Center at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; a 12:30 p.m. slide lecture on the NPS Resource Management program; a 2 p.m. encounter with reptiles and amphibians courtesy of Dave Kaneski from the PA Fish & Boat Commission; and a 3 p.m. K-9 Search & Rescue demonstration by trainer Scott Steingart and Buck from the NYS Environmental Conservation Police K-9 Unit.

There will also be ongoing equipment inspections, river safety tips, informational booths, hands-on activities, and many surprises inside and outside the school.

Damascus Boy Scout Troop #122 will offer refreshments for sale in the cafeteria.

A complete itinerary will be available at www.nps.gov/upde and in a supplement of

The River Reporter newspaper to be published on October 23.

On Saturday, November 8, the NPS and UDC will co-sponsor "Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: A 30-Year Retrospective."

The symposium will be held at Central House Resort in Beach Lake, PA, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the cost of the facility rental, continental breakfast, refreshments, and a buffet lunch.

The program provides an opportunity for the general public to learn more about the evolution, current operations, and future of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The history and impacts of the 1968 passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Nov. 10, 1978 Congressional designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and the 1988 establishment of the Upper Delaware Council will be analyzed by veterans of those often controversial times.

Panelists will also discuss the Council of Upper Delaware Townships, River Management Plan, NPS operations, the unique conservation partnership model, New York City Delaware Basin Reservoirs, floods and flows, resource threats, and 21st century relevance. Call (845) 252-3022 or (570) 729-8251 for further details. ♦



SOJOURN CELEBRATES: The 14th Annual Delaware River Sojourn on June 22-28 had "Conserving Our Wild and Scenic River" as its 2008 theme. The 40th anniversary of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act's passage was even feted in a cake, pictured above, from Peck's Markets featuring a 3-D river scene that was served at the Upper Delaware section's kick-off dinner at Lander's Campground in Narrowsburg on June 22. After 43 Sojourners completed a seven-mile afternoon paddle from Narrowsburg to the Ten Mile River Access on Day 1, they enjoyed a private tour of Sullivan County's Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg. Pictured at right, Carla Giuffrida of Yulan, NY demonstrates wool spinning to Sojourners (left to right) Monica Kelly of Mays Landing, NJ; Sara Hulanick of Egg Harbor Twp., NJ; and Jane and Dave Simon of Bethlehem, PA, who are also founding members of the Sojourn's Safety Patrol team. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activities and river valley issues from mid-June to mid-September include:

RAFTING RESULTS

The UDC's 20th Annual Family Raft Trip held on August 3 from Lander's Minisink Ford to Pond Eddy, NY Bases attracted 101 participants, including 89 adults and teens, and 12 children age 12 and under.

VISITOR CENTERS

The National Park Service and Town of Lumberland are collaborating to develop a mobile Mongaup Interpretive Center on town property at the intersection of NYS Route 97 and County Route 31.

NPS secured \$253,165 to purchase two modular units that will serve as a visitor contact facility with restrooms.

The proposed \$910,000 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center on NYS Route 97 in Cochection is also moving forward with Sullivan County filing notice to serve as lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review Act process.

PPL POWER LINE

PPL Electric Utilities selected Alternative Route B, which follows an existing 230kV line that runs north of Lake Wallenpaupack and through the Delaware State Forest, for a proposed 500kV upgrade to its Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line.

If the PA Public Utilities Commission approves the route that would cross the Delaware River at Bushkill, PPL hopes to complete the project by May 2012.

The UDC opposed Route A, which would have bisected Lackawaxen and Shohola Townships, in a July 3 letter to PPL.

GREENWAY VETOED

NYS Governor David Paterson on August 5 vetoed legislation that would have created an Upper Delaware River Greenway Council, citing "flaws" in its pro-



CLASS PHOTO: Before launching Day 2 of the 2008 Delaware River Sojourn on June 23, the 52 paddlers gathered for a group shot underneath the Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge. The 14-mile paddle from Callicoon to Narrowsburg featured stops at the DEC Cochection Access for a New Jersey Boundary Line Dispute program by Peter Osborne of the Minisink Valley Historical Society and lunch at Lander's Skinners Falls Base before navigating the rapids. The Upper Delaware section honored NYS Senator John J. Bonacic and Sullivan Renaissance founder Sandra Gerry as its 2008 Lord and Lady High Admirals. Visit www.delawareriversojourn.org for additional coverage. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

posed governance structure.

Paterson felt that state agency officials or governor appointees should hold the voting majority on the Greenway Council rather than local municipal members.

He also disagreed with: giving the Council authority to subcontract with private organizations for its management; a failure to specify how a final Greenway plan would be approved; and the absence of criteria in the bill to dictate how grants and contracts would be awarded.

While stating that "The Upper Delaware River is among the State's finest natural

resources", the governor expressed "significant concerns" over providing the Council with "unfettered authority, particularly in the absence of State oversight."

Sponsors of the legislation, Senator John J. Bonacic and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, planned to meet with river valley municipalities to assess the issue.

WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION

The UDC's Project Review Committee approved a support letter on June 24 for a grant application by the Sullivan County Division of Planning & Environmental Management to the NYS Department of State for an approximately \$150,000 project to develop a Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor.

If approved, the 18-month work plan would begin in January 2009.

SCENIC BYWAY

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. expressed support in a Sept. 5 letter for the designation of a 17.5-mile section of NYS Route 97 between Sparrowbush and Minisink Ford as a component of the proposed "D&H Canal Corridor Heritage Trail."

POND EDDY BRIDGE

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced plans to initiate this fall the work of a Design Advisory Committee to consult on construction of a new, \$12 million Pond Eddy Bridge. The project is expected to be bid in 2010. ♦

Didymo Infests Main Stem Delaware River

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced at the end of July finding the invasive algae didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in the West Branch of the Delaware River downstream from the Cannonsville Reservoir, indicating that the main stem of the Delaware River is now infested as well.

This is the latest recorded incident of this aquatic nuisance species, also called "rock snot", in New York State. Didymo had already been verified in the Batten Kill and the East Branch of the Delaware River downstream from the Pepacton Reservoir. The main stem of the Delaware River is considered to be infested due to exposure from its East and West Branch tributaries.

The discovery of didymo in the Delaware tailwaters is particularly troubling due to its status as one of the premier trout fisheries on the East Coast and its proximity to other famous trout streams such as the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc Creek. Anglers tend to fish multiple streams and could unknowingly transfer the didymo cells. For a picture of didymo and Check-Clean-Dry tips, see www.dec.ny.gov/environment/dec/36890.html.

While didymo poses no threat to human health, it can alter stream conditions by choking out many organisms that live on the bottom. There are currently no known methods for controlling or eradicating didymo once it infests a water body. ♦

Newsletter Changes Announced

"The Upper Delaware" newsletter will reduce its publication schedule from quarterly to twice a year and increase its page count from eight to 12 in 2009.

The changes are designed both to save on the non-profit organization's printing and postage costs, and to encourage readers to access the newsletter on-line at the Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) new website at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Approximately 10,350 subscribers from all over the United States receive the free newsletter by mail.

"The Upper Delaware" has disseminated information about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in New York and Pennsylvania since the advent of UDC operations in 1988.

In 2009, a 12-page newsletter will be released in the Spring on April 1 and the Fall on September 1.

The UDC has ordered the production of 11,000 print copies per issue during the upcoming transition year, with intentions to streamline the mailing list by 2010.

Subscribers who would prefer to read the newsletter on-line, in full color, and discontinue their print copies are asked to complete and return the form below.

While the UDC is unable to circulate the newsletter document or link electronically at this time, a press release is provided to regional newspapers to remind the public when each new issue is available.

The UDC's website, which officially launched on July 4, 2008, includes an archive of past newsletters in addition to current news, publications, maps, directories, photos, links, and grant forms.

To offer comments on these newsletter changes, please contact Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie, as noted below. ❖



REVOLUTIONARY BATTLE: The 229th anniversary of the Battle of Minisink was commemorated on July 19 at the Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY. Members of the Navasink Long Rifles who presented a program on the colonial militia included, from the left, Charlie Redner, Anthony Domingo, and Kai Moessle. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



RIVERFEST ART: Delaware Valley Arts Alliance volunteer Debra Rovitz displays an acrylic painting on fabric titled "Quiet Waters" created by National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Assistant Superintendent Sandra Schultz to the audience of potential bidders assembled for the popular poster auction fundraiser at the 18th Annual Riverfest on July 27. The event celebrating art, music, and ecology took place on Main Street in Narrowsburg, NY. The Upper Delaware Council shared an informational booth with the Delaware River Basin Commission. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

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 laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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Upper Delaware Council
P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192
Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359
www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

*Working together to conserve the Upper
Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*

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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Three standing committees, Water Use/Resource Management, Operations, and Project Review, meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month 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'

Learn Map Use 10/18

The Sullivan County Division of Planning & Environmental Management will sponsor "Introduction to the Regional Development Map" on Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lumberland Town Hall in Glen Spey.

The free program is targeted to members of planning and zoning boards who would like to learn how to effectively use the development map initiated by the Upper Delaware River Roundtable, National Park Service GIS Division, and eight county planning departments in NY, PA, and NJ.

To register, e-mail planning@co.sullivan.ny.us or call Heather Jacksy at (845) 794-3000, ext. 5028. ♦

Flood Funding Sought

Congressmen Maurice Hinchey (NY) and John Hall (NY) secured House Appropriations Committee approval of \$835,000 to continue a flood mitigation study in the Upper Delaware River Watershed and to develop a flood alert system for the region.

If approved in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would receive \$600,000 to identify ways to

prevent future flooding in the watershed as a supplement to the \$700,000 allocation approved last year, while \$235,000 would go toward implementation of a Delaware River Enhanced Flood Warning System. ♦

NPS Studies Stream Life

Starting this fall, scientists from the National Park Service and Pennsylvania State University will undertake a monitoring study of benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) communities from a dozen selected streams throughout the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

BMI's are small invertebrate organisms in the water that can be seen without a microscope. Examples are arthropods (insects, arachnids, and crustaceans), worms, clams, and snails. As a primary source of nutrition for many aquatic and terrestrial animals, they are considered to be indicators of an ecosystem's integrity.

The scientists will collect, identify, count, and compare the varieties of BMI's to assess the effectiveness of resource management programs, gain early warning signs of any impending threats, and monitor changes over time. ♦

Welcome to Watershed

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has sponsored fabrication of "Welcome to the Delaware River Watershed" highway signs as part of its new *Remember the River* campaign aimed at increasing the stature of the Delaware River in the minds of the public and decision-makers.

Other elements of the campaign include production of a five-minute movie about valuing the Delaware River, a brochure, river bracelets and lapel pins, and a new *Remember the River* web page which can be accessed through www.delawareriverkeeper.org. ♦

2009 EagleFest Coming

The Delaware Valley Eagle Alliance has set the date of Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009 for its 8th Annual EagleFest.

The event featuring live bird demonstrations, guest lectures, films, art, exhibits, a poster auction, guided outdoor viewing, and more, will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at venues in Narrowsburg, NY.

Visit www.dveaglealliance.org or call (845) 252-6509 for further information. ♦