

The Upper Delaware

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

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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.



PROMOTIONAL PADDLE: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett took a kayak trip on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from the Darbytown Access in Damascus Township to the Zane Grey Access in Lackawaxen Township on Aug. 23 to promote recreational tourism and preservation of natural resources. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

PA Governor Tom Corbett Visits Upper Delaware River

After spotting 11 eagles, taking an unexpected dip into the water, and navigating past numerous protesters, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett concluded his inaugural kayak trip on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River August 23.

His goal was to spotlight the river valley's natural resources and tourism potential.

"As Pennsylvanians, we sometimes take our beautiful surroundings for granted, so this summer, I'm taking out the kayak and experiencing them first hand. I encourage residents across the state to do the same," Corbett said.

After his 3 1/2-hour morning paddle from Darbytown to Lackawaxen, the governor toured the National Park Service's Zane Grey Museum and attended a luncheon at The Inn at Lackawaxen sponsored by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.

He was accompanied on his two-day tour of the Upper and Middle Delaware regions by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Rick Allan, Depart-

ment of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer, and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director John Arway.

Meeting him en route were organized protesters who took to the river and its banks hoisting signs and chanting messages urging Gov. Corbett to safeguard the Delaware River from natural gas drilling.

Addressing the topic at a press conference on the museum grounds, Corbett touted PA's long-standing record of stringent regulations on hydraulic fracturing operations.

"What I want to see is for us to grow the economy. There is a balance that has to go on. We're going to do the best job we can to protect the environment," he said.

Corbett told news crews that it had been a pleasurable trip, particularly enjoying the scenery and eagles. The only mishap was losing his footing once after having to walk his boat through a shallow section.

"I'm glad there were no cameras there when I went into the water," he joked.

Upper Delaware Profile: Alan Henry

Al Henry brings a unique perspective to his appointed role as Berlin Township, PA's Upper Delaware Council (UDC) representative since Jan. 3, 2012.

First, he is a river valley native, raised and still living on his family's 300-acre Village View Farm property in Beach Lake.

Secondly, his 32-year career with the National Park Service brought him back to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River only two years after he signed on for the typically nomadic lifestyle.

Thirdly, Henry was hired by the Upper Delaware's first NPS Superintendent John Hutzky in the fall of 1979 to establish the new park unit's law enforcement program and successfully negotiated those turbulent early years when the federal presence was often met by open hostility.

Proud and unbowed, he retired 30 years later on June 1, 2009 as Chief Ranger.

The 58-year-old has been busy with individual pursuits since then but accepted the challenge when his brother, Berlin Supervisors' Chairman Paul Henry, asked if he would serve on the UDC.

"My personal mantra is always to protect the river and its environs, public health, and safety. I think I have a lot to offer. There are times that some of my knowledge, skills and ability would be advantageous," Henry felt.

"I think the Council has a very important role in the whole Upper Delaware concept. With the past and present leadership, they've been doing an admirable job. From what I've experienced, it's a good bunch of people and we're making headway. There's a good mix," he says.

The Water Use/Resource Management Committee member offers this advice to his fellow board members:

"I think the folks need to realize that they're appointed by the elected officials and be more cognizant of that. We need to stay away from personal agendas and be more transparent. The Council needs to remain focused but neutral to meet its goals," he says.

A high priority should be placed on reassessing the 1986 document that serves as the Council's "bible".

"It's paramount that the River Manage-



Alan Henry, Berlin Township, PA

ment Plan be reviewed. It has to be a living document. It can't be static. A lot has changed. A plan is only as good as it is updated and maintained," he says.

The Honesdale High School graduate earned a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Parks from Penn State University in 1976 and studied Outdoor Education at the University of Northern Colorado.

"I've always had a keen interest in doing outdoor and wildlife education. I moved into Protection because it was the easiest way to get into the Park Service," he notes.

Henry's first NPS job was as a seasonal ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in 1977, before a stint as a seasonal river ranger at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Henry was assigned to the Regional Law Enforcement Specialist unit when he met Hutzky.

"I told him, 'You need to hire me'. He did and I was here within a week. I couldn't have been more fortunate to get a position in my backyard. I loved the west but I wanted to come back," Henry says.

In addition to his extensive law enforcement credentials, Henry served as a combat medic with the U.S. Army Reserve from 1983-89, NAUI Divemaster, baseball and soccer coach, and volunteer firefighter.

Since retiring, he has worked as a state constable, a guest teacher in the local school district, security guard, and guided river and hiking trips for Northeast Wilderness Experience, while helping maintain the family property, hunting, fishing, and playing string instruments.

His wife of 28 years, Karen Carlson, is the Food Service Director at Wayne Highlands School District. Daughter Alana is a doctor in her first year of pediatrics residency at Geisinger Medical Center, while son Dylan is in his third year of law school at Villanova University.

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Correction: Fishing Registry

A news brief in the Spring/Summer 2012 "The Upper Delaware" stated that anglers fishing the Delaware River for "migratory fish from the sea" must sign up with free registries in New York State and Pennsylvania. While this is accurate for NYS, PA residents are not obliged to register as recreational marine anglers. They only require a fishing license.

Staff News: Ramie Named Director; Soete Retires

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) promoted Laurie Ramie as its executive director and bid goodbye to David B. Soete as its senior resource specialist as he retired after 23 years on the job.

The UDC board unanimously approved a resolution on June 7, 2012 naming Ramie as director of the non-profit organization.

The Hortonville, NY resident had been serving in an acting capacity since Dec. 5, 2011 in anticipation of the Jan. 1, 2012 retirement of William E. Douglass, who had a 22-year tenure as executive director.

Ramie has 15 years of experience with the UDC as Public Relations/Fundraising Specialist starting April 21, 1997.

She grew up along the St. Lawrence River in Ogdensburg, NY and earned a 1988 Bachelor's degree in Psychology with an English (Writing Concentration) minor from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Prior to joining the UDC, Ramie spent 10 years in community journalism. She was lastly employed by Catskill-Delaware Publications as editor of the *Sullivan County Democrat* newspaper.

David B. Soete retired from the UDC effective September 30, 2012.

"It has been an honor to work with such a dedicated group of board members and staff, now and throughout the last 23 years, all with the purpose of conserving our area's most important national treasure, the Delaware River with its many outstandingly remarkable values," Soete wrote in



RIVERSIDE CHAT: Laurie Ramie, who was officially promoted as UDC Executive Director effective June 9, 2012, was interviewed by Steve Tanczyn of PA Eyewatch News 13 during Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett's Upper Delaware River visit. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

an April 23 letter announcing his plans.

The Honesdale, PA native began as UDC Senior Resource Specialist on October 1, 1989 after earning a 1976 Bachelor's degree in Forest Science from Penn State and being employed by the Wayne County Department of Planning for 12 years.

In a resolution of appreciation approved on Sept. 6, the board thanked Soete for his "professional contributions and personal dedication" to the Council's mission, while wishing him "a happy, healthy, and relaxing retirement" as he pursues his passion for

photography.

In addition to coordinating the UDC's technical reviews of zoning plans, ordinances and local laws; preparing draft comments on development proposals; and monitoring activities with potential impacts on the river corridor's resources, Soete maintained the UDC's website and compiled a popular list-serv of articles focused on numerous Upper Delaware topics.

For an announcement of the UDC's new Resource Specialist hiring, please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.



SOETE RETIRES: A cake presented to Senior Resource Specialist Dave Soete at the Sept. 6 Upper Delaware Council meeting featured one of his river photos. He retired Sept. 30, 2012 after 23 years. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

UDC Educates About River Management

"Working with the River Management Plan (RMP) for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" was the subject of a training workshop co-sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council and the National Park Service on March 24 in Narrowsburg.

"We want to make everyone aware of the River Management Plan and how important it is to the river valley," said UDC Chairperson Nadia Rajs (Town of Lumberland) as she greeted the 43 workshop participants primarily representing local governments, planning and zoning boards, UDC members, and NPS management staff.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Sean McGuinness noted, "The key words are cooperation and partnership. The common cause is the river and our quality of life so we can pass this river along to future generations to enjoy. The point of this workshop today is: how can we work together in a more collaborative way?"

Presentations were given on the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the 1978 Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River enabling legislation, the history and use of the RMP and the Land and Water Use Guidelines, the roles and responsibilities of all the players in this federal-state-local partnership, and "fables and facts" regarding the UDC and NPS. (Please see the UDC's April 4 news release at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for a complete report of the speakers and proceedings.)

The Council has identified the need to introduce or re-orient people to the content and applicability of the RMP and Guidelines, as well as to provide information about the value of the UDC, as a top educational priority for Fiscal Year 2013 that began Oct. 1, 2012.

It is a component of the UDC's new Five-Year Operating Program for FY 2013-2017 that was adopted Sept. 6. To help prepare it, a June 23 Strategic Planning Workshop facilitated by Alan Sorensen from Planit Main Street took place with 18 participants. The Five-Year Plan is available for review on the UDC's website, posted under "Publications".



AROUND THE BEND: Seventy-eight paddlers participated in the June 25 leg of the Delaware River Sojourn, pictured after their lunch stop in Narrowsburg, NY. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Sojourn Offers River Adventures

The week-long 18th Annual Delaware River Sojourn kicked off with two days of paddling on the Upper Delaware River June 24 and June 25.

The Sojourn combines the experience of a guided paddling excursion with interpretive programs, camping, and camaraderie.

"This year's theme, 'Adventures on the Delaware', helped to highlight the fun one can have on and along the Delaware River, for example, paddling sections with rapids and hiking local trails," said Richard Egan of Damascus, PA, who chaired the 2012 steering committee comprised of representatives from federal, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and individ-

ual volunteers, all of whom work and/or live in the Delaware River Basin.

Itineraries for the Upper section were coordinated by Egan, a volunteer with the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Resource Management Division, and DeJay Branch from the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition.

Day 1 featured an eight-mile paddle from the Callicoon, PA Access to the National Park Service's Milanville, PA office, which served as the primitive camping facility for those who opted to spend the night.

At the kick-off luncheon catered by the Milanville General Store, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Sean McGuinness and Chief of Resource Management Don Hamilton were surprised with recognition as "Lord High Admirals" in the tradition of respected log-raft industry pioneer Daniel Skinner.

Programs offered were "Understanding Didymo" by Jessica Newbern of the NPS and "Birdwatching" by Peter Wulforst of Penn State Extension, Pike County.

Day 2 featured a 12-mile paddle from Milanville to the Ten Mile River Access, south of Narrowsburg, NY.

Programs included an inspection of the Campfield eel weir and "Hiking Trails in the Upper Delaware" by Jamie Myers of the NPS, who led Sojourners on a post-take-out hike of the Tusten Mountain Trail.

Local livery services were provided by Northeast Wilderness Experience, with shuttles by Haun Transportation.

For information on 2013 Sojourn plans, visit www.delawareriversojourn.com.



ADMIRALS: 2012 Delaware River Sojourn Chairman Rich Egan, center, honored NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Sean McGuinness, left, and Chief of Resource Management Don Hamilton as Lord High Admirals at the June 24 kick-off program. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Grant Projects Benefit Valley

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. recently completed administration of three New York State grant projects based on funding secured for the non-profit organization by Senator John J. Bonacic.

A \$50,000 grant subsidized a NYS Route 97 Landscape Enhancement Project.

In Phase 1, planning consultant Fred F. Suljic of Lackawaxen, PA researched and produced a Landscape Enhancement Plan of the designated Upper Delaware Scenic Byway corridor between Hancock and Port Jervis, identifying areas that could be improved through selective clearing to open up the scenic viewshed.

Five properties identified in that plan were selected as demonstration sites for Phase 2, with vegetative trimming done by Jesse G's Nursery Sunspot Landscape of Glen Spey, NY. The Rt. 97 properties were located in the Towns of Highland (2), Lumberland, and Deerpark (2).

Under Phase 3, the Towns of Delaware, Tusten, and Lumberland, Village of Hancock, and City of Port Jervis completed local beautification projects following submission of proposals to the UDSB board.

A \$25,000 grant funded a "Feasibility Study and Design Concept for an Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center at Sullivan County's Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg, NY."

Working with the Sullivan County Division of Planning & Environmental Management and a Visitor Center Subcommittee, Studio d'ARC Architects of Pittsburgh, PA completed the study over a four-month period in December 2011. State reimbursement was received on July 20.

UDSB, Inc. partnered with the Sullivan County Visitors Association (SCVA) to implement a second \$25,000 grant for a "Marketing Campaign to Promote the Tourism Appeal of the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway."

Leveraging SCVA's Matching Funds program, \$31,223 in byway advertisements were placed from June 2011-July 2012 in newspaper and magazine media outlets.

In other grant news announced in August, the New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program awarded \$125,000 to Sullivan County for planning work to address existing and potentially new Upper Delaware River access points and to create water trail signage.

The Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program awarded \$326,250 to Orange County to acquire 17 acres of beach property off Hook Road in Sparrowbush to use for public access.

Civil War Railroad Disaster Remembered

Hidden up a steep, dirt driveway behind a former church which is now a private residence lie the remains of two Confederate soldiers who lived through the Civil War, only to die in a horrible train crash on their way to a northern prison camp.

How they came to rest in Barryville, NY after the massive collision that occurred one and a half miles west of Shohola, PA is a strange tale, equally tragic and inspiring.

Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr shared the story in a ceremony organized by the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of New York, Ellis Camp 124, on July 15 at Barryville's Old Congregational Church cemetery:

"On July 15, 1864, 148 years ago, an Erie Railroad train carrying about 833 Confederate prisoners and 125 Union Guards to the prison camp at Elmira, NY, collided with a coal train between Shohola and Lackawaxen.

"About 48 prisoners and 17 guards were killed. The dead were buried near the wreck site where their bodies remained until 1911 when they were taken to the National Cemetery at Elmira. At that time it was reported that no trace remained of the train wreck. This occurred about two miles from here.

"The Civil War had been going on for three years. At Point Lookout, Maryland, 10,000 Confederate prisoners of war were waiting to be moved to the prison camp at Elmira, NY.

"The first group, 833 in number, had been sent by boat to New York City. From there they were taken to Jersey City and they got on an Erie Railway train at 4:00 in the morning. After several delays, they got to Port Jervis at 1:00 in the afternoon. Another hour got them to Shohola.

"Four miles west of Shohola, the Hawley branch of the Erie Railroad met the main line. Down the branch line was sent the coal from Pennsylvania's mines.

"On July 15, 1864, another train was taking 50 cars filled with coal to New York over the same track, and a dispatcher at Lackawaxen should have stopped that train.

"At 2:45 in the afternoon, the trains - on the same track - met. There was a terrible crash followed by the screaming and crying of injured men.

"The first car of the prison train had contained 38 prisoners. It was crushed into a space of six feet, with only one prisoner left alive.

"From the other cars came screams and pleas for help from both prisoners and guards. Bodies had been crushed, mangled, and impaled. Many limbs were sev-



SALUTE THE FALLEN: Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Ellis Camp 124, from left to right, Bruce Crandall of Goshen, NY; Gordon Mathsen of Lords Valley, PA; John Dickerson and Jeffrey Albanese, both of Goshen; and Ray Brown of Fort Montgomery, NY, pay tribute during the Shohola Railroad Disaster Memorial Observance held at the Old Congregational Church Cemetery in Barryville, NY on July 15. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

ered; a few bodies were decapitated.

"Help arrived quickly from all over the area. They worked until dark removing the dead and injured.

"A trench 75 feet long was dug for the bodies. About 40 Confederate soldiers, four to a coffin, were buried. The 17 guards, each in his own pine box, were buried nearby, with wooden markers over the graves.

"They remained buried there 47 years, when they were moved to the National Cemetery in Elmira.

"The injured and uninjured were taken to the village of Shohola, where they were cared for in the railroad station, the hotel, and a large field. Next day they were taken in another train to the Elmira prison camp.

"The two Confederate soldiers buried here were too close to death to travel to Elmira. They were cared for by the Hickock family of Barryville, who buried them here, and when the other bodies were moved, they were apparently forgotten, except by Minerva Drake Austin who had helped care for them at Mr. Hickock's home, and later by her grandson Austin Smith, who brought flowers and Confederate flags faithfully for many years.

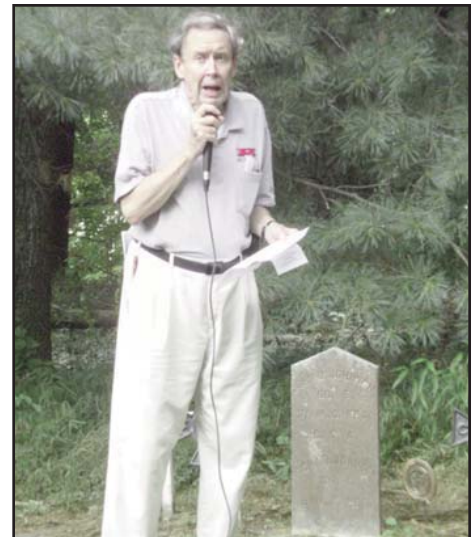
"And now these soldiers are remembered by you who are here today," Fluhr's remarked concluded.

Michael Bennett, secretary of the Col. Ellis Camp, SUVCW, said it is important to continue this memorial service.

"Our history is not ours so much as it belongs to the generations not yet born," he said. "We owe this to our ancestors who fought to save the nation."

Shohola Township Volunteer Fire and Rescue Chaplain Rolf A. Buchmann gave an opening prayer, while Nadege Hoyer sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and bugler Brian Krauss performed "Taps".

Following decoration of the graves, a walk along the train tracks to point out the blind curve point of the collision took place.



TRAGIC TALE: Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr recounts the July 15, 1864 train wreck near Shohola, PA that killed nearly 50 Confederate prisoners and 17 Union guards en route to a Civil War prison camp in Elmira.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-March to mid-September, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

COMPUTER GRANT

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc. awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Upper Delaware Council to assist in upgrading its computers. The Council had applied to replace four desktop computers dating back to 2004 that had not been possible to do previously due to static operational funding.

In addition to using the Windows XP operating system, the old computers suffered from debilitating speed and functionality; software for critical programs such as maintaining the UDC's website and producing this newsletter was outdated; and keyboards, monitors, speakers, and printers had been saved from prior years or obtained through piecemeal surplus needs.

The Norcross grant, supplemented by a FY 2012 budget allocation investment, enabled the UDC to contract with Chorba Consulting, Inc. of Beach Lake, PA to purchase four commercial-grade Dell personal computers and peripherals including printers, external hard drives, back-up batteries, and a wireless router. Installation took place on August 7-8.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation primarily funds non-profit grassroots organizations to supply their "tool-kit" needs.

LETTERS & RESOLUTIONS

On May 3, the UDC sent letters to NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo and PA Governor Tom Corbett requesting consideration of \$100,000 allocations in the FY 2013 state budgets for UDC operating aid, as envisioned in the River Management Plan. The funding would be dedicated to enhance land use planning and project review services, public outreach, and supplement the Technical Assistance Grants program.

The Council also contacted both governors on April 5 to express concern over their reduced funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission. NYS decreased its payment by 40% while PA instituted a budget freeze on 40.7% of its payment.

Resolutions were passed on June 7 approving the UDC's FY 2013 \$304,000 budget and its Annual Work Plans for the Council's three standing committees.

Letters were approved on July 5 to support state grant applications for the Town of Tusten's Narrowsburg Esplanade Revitalization Project and a Pond Eddy River Access Parking Study.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The UDC received nine applications for its FY 2013 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program by the Aug. 31 deadline. The combined request was for \$44,485, with a funding pool of approximately \$32,900 available.

Applications were reviewed at a special meeting of the Project Review Committee meeting on Sept. 11, and their grant recommendations were expected to be voted upon at the Oct. 4 full Council meeting.

The FY 2012 TAG program concluded on July 24 with the completion of five projects by the Town of Deerpark (Update and codify Town Zoning Law, \$4,500); Sullivan County (Develop a hiking trails website, \$2,100); Town of Lumberland (Produce a cemeteries brochure, \$1,194.19); Pike County (Public education campaign related to natural gas exploration, \$1,000); and Shohola Township (Expand township website, \$2,700).

From 1988 to 2012, the UDC has awarded \$687,492 in TAG funds to advance 201 projects related to implementation of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Proposed zoning law revisions by the Towns of Lumberland, Fall/Winter 2012



UDC RAFT TRIP: Rafters participating in the Upper Delaware Council's 24th Annual Family Raft Trip on August 5 emerge from under the NY-PA Interstate Bridge in Callicoon to start their 10-mile journey down the river to Skinners Falls. A total of 75 guests, including 17 children, boarded rafts provided by Lander's River Trips. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Highland, and Delaware, and Lackawaxen and Shohola Townships, were evaluated this period.

The Project Review Committee also continued its chapter-by-chapter reading of the 1988 Project Review Workbook that offers procedures and checklists for consistent corridor project reviews.

MEETINGS & PRESENTATIONS

NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief Ranger Joe Hinkes gave an update on the status of emergency communications in the river valley at the April 5 UDC meeting.

On April 17-20, the National Park Service hosted an "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" (ORV) Workshop for all units of the Delaware River Basin, including the designated Upper, Middle, and Lower sections of the Delaware and its tributaries, as well as agency partners including the Upper Delaware Council.

The four-day program at the Best Western Inn in Matamoras, PA was held to clarify the descriptions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System ORVs for the Delaware as a whole. Examples of resource values are scenic, recreational, ecological, geological, cultural, free-flowing condition, and water quality. A report has been produced to define and evaluate the ORVs, and identify river-related issues for each river segment.

Representatives for Millennium Pipeline requested to meet with the UDC on May 17 to preview its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission application to build a Hancock Compressor Station on Hungry

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

The Upper Delaware

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

Hill Road in the Town of Hancock, located just outside the river corridor two miles north of Long Eddy. If approved, the 15,000 hp compressor to increase natural gas carrying capacity is proposed to go into service in November of 2013.

The UDC was invited to speak at the orientation of 20 seasonal staff for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on May 31 at NPS headquarters in Beach Lake, PA.

The Council had informational booths at the July 14 NPS Zane Grey Festival in Lackawaxen, PA and the July 22 Narrowsburg RiverFest sponsored by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

An Upper Delaware River Charette to help develop the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan took place on July 31 and Aug. 1 in Hortonville, NY. Design plans to enhance river access areas in Barryville, Old Tusten, and Long Eddy were offered by consultants and a report will be compiled of recommendations from focus groups for overall waterfront revitalization opportunities from Hancock to Port Jervis.

NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Assistant Carla Hahn gave a presentation on the River Management Plan while UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie discussed the Council's draft Five-Year Operating Program at the Aug. 2 Upper Delaware River Roundtable meeting.

WU/RM ACTIONS

The Water Use/Resource Management Committee (WU/RM) sent emergency requests for thermal releases from the Delaware River Basin reservoirs on June 20 and July 9 to protect the coldwater fishery during prolonged heat events.

Deputy Delaware River Master Marie Stewart responded to the committee's request for information on the protocol and procedures for future appeals in a July 17 letter and offered to attend a WU/RM meeting to offer further explanation once her USGS office in Milford, PA is fully staffed.

The WU/RM Committee had put out a call to recruit advisory members to serve in a non-voting capacity and offer expertise in subject areas within the group's purview.

After receiving a small number of responses by the requested June 12 deadline, members opted to instead arrange for informative presentations by invitation.

At the Aug. 21 meeting, Lackawanna District Forester Nicholas Lylo of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, discussed his agency's programs and services.

Len Grover and Jamie Knecht from the Wayne Conservation District attended the Sept. 18 WU/RM meeting to address Pennsylvania's new floodplain regulations.



ANTI-DRILLING PROTEST: As the fog dissipated on the morning of Aug. 23, protesters opposed to PA Governor Tom Corbett's policies on natural gas development lined the riverbank across from the Darbytown, PA Access to express their views with signs and slogans as he prepared to paddle by on his kayak trip. "Don't Drill the Delaware!" was heard among the chants. A handful of gas exploration proponents were on hand. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Natural Gas Still on Simmer

As the region continues to wait for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and New York State to finalize their regulations for the development of natural gas Marcellus Shale reserves, three test wells drilled in Wayne County, PA in 2010 were recently plugged.

Newfield Exploration Co. took action in mid-August to close the vertical wells at the Crum, Teeple, and Woodlands Management sites located in Damascus and Manchester Townships without revealing any findings about their evaluation of the geology's production feasibility.

The company plans to keep its leases active and will restore the sites to the standards required by Pennsylvania law and the legal agreements negotiated by the Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance.

The DRBC has yet to reschedule a vote on its regulations which were originally published on Dec. 9, 2010, with a revised draft issued Nov. 8, 2011.

The five Commissioners postponed a Nov. 21, 2011 meeting to allow for additional review time.

Until regulations are adopted, a moratorium on natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin remains in place.

New York State released its draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Statement (dsGEIS) pertaining to oil and gas development in 2009 and followed up with draft regulations for high-volume hydraulic fracturing on Sept. 28, 2011.

In June, reputable reports circulated that Governor Cuomo's administration was considering a plan to limit hydraulic fractur-

ing to Southern Tier counties along the PA border including Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben, and Tioga, and that it would only be allowed in communities that express support for gas drilling.

At press time, there was no confirmation of that potential strategy or a timetable announced for release of final regulations.

A legal challenge filed in April by seven Pennsylvania municipalities, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and others against the Commonwealth's controversial Act 13 resulted in granting an injunction while the decision is under appeal.

The Appellate Court ruled on July 26 that PA cannot require local municipalities to allow gas drilling in areas that would conflict with their zoning rules. Act 13 also established Shale Gas Impact Fees to be split between counties and the state.

Governor Corbett countered in press reports, "The legislation does not embrace total pre-emption. It seeks to balance the state's prerogative to establish and enforce environmental standards with the proper function of local zoning, ensuring that one industry is not given special - or unfair - treatment."

Among the UDC's NY member towns, three have banned gas drilling through their zoning laws (Tusten on 11/28/11, Lumberland on 4/11/12, and Highland on 7/10/12); three have approved resolutions expressing support for the industry if done safely and responsibly (Delaware on 6/20/12, Hancock on 7/10/12, and Fremont on 7/11/12); while Cochection and Deerpark haven't taken official positions.

UDC Bestows 24th Annual Awards

The Upper Delaware Council held its 24th Annual Awards Ceremony on Earth Day, April 22, at The Carriage House in Barryville, NY.

Seventy-seven guests attended as 10 awards were presented to those who have protected the resources and enhanced the quality of life of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley.

Sponsors of the UDC's 2012 "Ride the Delaware" theme were: Kittatinny Canoes; Cedar Rapids Outfitters; and Northeast Wilderness Experience.

Following an hors d'oeuvres reception and buffet dinner, Congresswoman Nan Hayworth delivered the keynote address.

Dr. Hayworth was elected in 2010 to represent the 19th Congressional District, which covers all or parts of five New York State counties including Orange in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The Bedford resident and ophthalmologist serves on the House Financial Services Committee, co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional Common Ground Caucus, and is a contributing member of over 16 task forces and caucuses.

Rep. Hayworth said that she was "a member of the big freshmen wave sworn into the federal government in 2011."

"As a Republican, one of my concerns is smaller government. The federal government should exercise restraint in what it does and allow individuals to lead their lives to the fullest," she said.

"The environmental concerns of this country, I take very seriously. I feel the federal government has a crucial role to play in environmental protections. If you look at



EARTH DAY GATHERING: Pictured at the UDC's April 22 Awards Ceremony at The Carriage House in Barryville were, standing from the left: UDC 2012 Chairperson Nadia Rajsz; Peter Van Slyke; Philip D. Chase; Chris White; Dave Jones; Will Price; and Larry H. Richardson. Seated from the left: Carol Coney; Anne Willard; Congresswoman Nan Hayworth; Carol Wingert; and Ruth Jones. (UDC Photos by David B. Soete)

the amount of resources that the federal government has, the big challenge we have is that mandatory spending programs are eating up the federal budget," Hayworth said.

"You as members of this community who treasure the Delaware River, the time and energy and effort you put in are priceless, but inevitably, there are going to be costs. All of you should look at how state and fed-

eral governments allocate resources so we can honor our obligations but make sure we're doing that intelligently," she urged.

Rep. Hayworth personally congratulated each of the UDC's honorees.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey in recognition of his principled and effective advocacy for constituents of the U.S. House of Representatives' 22nd Congressional District from 1992 to 2012, including his support for critical issues, legislation, and funding programs benefiting the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The passionate environmentalist and progressive Democrat will retire on Dec. 31, 2012, capping off 38 years of public service that began in the NYS Assembly in 1975 and yielded an impressive list of achievements detailed in the presentation.

Due to a schedule conflict, District Aide Chris White accepted on Hinchey's behalf.

An emotional reception awaited Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award recipients Peter Van Slyke of Deposit.

The National Canoe Safety Patrol volunteer was surprised to find that two of the four individuals he rescued from two cap-sized canoes at Skinners Falls had traveled from Queens to express appreciation.

Cynthia Wanek said, "We would like to mention that in the Catholic religion, St. Peter is the patron saint of fishermen. On

Please see AWARDS on Page 9

The Upper Delaware



LIFESAVER: Mike and Cynthia Wanek of Astoria, NY attended the banquet to personally express their appreciation to National Canoe Safety Patrol volunteer Peter Van Slyke, center, of Deposit, NY for single-handedly rescuing their group of four, including a disabled friend, when their two canoes flipped Aug. 13, 2011 at the Skinners Falls rapids.



HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT: Tusten Historical Society President Grace Johansen, left, accepts the Cultural Achievement Award from UDC Chairperson Nadia Rajsz for her organization's creation of the "Take a Walk into Narrowsburg History" program.

AWARDS, continued from Page 8

August 13th, Peter Van Slyke was our saint and angel. Anita, Laura, my husband and I are forever grateful to Peter. And to all the men and women who volunteer their time to make the Delaware River safer for families to enjoy, we also thank you."

The Partnership Award was presented to the Common Waters Fund, a "forest-to-faucet" initiative coordinated by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Over \$700,000 has been distributed to 100 private forest owners representing 46,000 acres in an eight-county area of NY, PA, and NJ since Feb. of 2011 to promote healthy forests in the Upper Delaware River Basin which, in turn, protects water quality throughout the Delaware River watershed.

Pinchot Institute Director of Conservation Programs Will Price accepted.

Philip D. Chase, 80, of Port Jervis, NY received the Community Service Award.

Chase, who retired on Sept. 1, 2011 from a 17-year tenure as the Town of Deerpark's UDC Representative, was lauded for his contributions as an environmental activist, educator, and sportsman.

The Town of Tusten won the Outstanding Community Achievement Award for the thorough, public process by which it re-wrote its Zoning Law. Town Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert and Zoning Re-Write Committee Chair Carol Coney accepted.

Kittatinny Canoes received the UDC Recreation Award for expanding their Adventure Sports Center in 2011 by opening the river valley's first dual racing, 3,000 foot-long zip line at their Barryville base. Owners Ruth and Dave Jones accepted.

The Cultural Achievement Award went to the Tusten Historical Society for publishing a booklet, "Take a Walk into Narrowsburg

History", that corresponds to a self-guided tour of 33 of the hamlet's historically significant structures and sites.

Anne Willard, then the assistant editor at *The River Reporter*, was given a Special Recognition Award for writing compelling, well-researched and thought-provoking editorials on topical issues of consequence to the Upper Delaware River region.

A special award was reserved for William E. Douglass "in sincere appreciation for your invaluable contributions to the successful legacy of cooperative management for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and to the Upper Delaware Council as its Executive Director from March 13, 1989 to Dec. 31, 2011."

2011 UDC Chairperson and Town of Cochection Representative since 1989, Larry H. Richardson, received an eagle statuette representing the Oaken Gavel Award for his dedication and leadership.



Rep. Nan Hayworth, keynote speaker

Groundwater Study to Help Fish, Habitat

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) began conducting groundwater discharge research at three locations on the Upper Delaware River this summer.

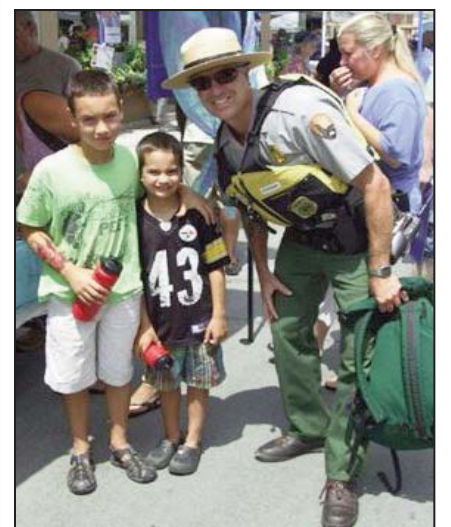
The objective is to determine the influence of groundwater influx on fisheries and aquatic resources.

Crews measured stream flows near Frisbie Island, Hankins, and Callicoon to geophysically map the riverbed and installed sensors to collect ongoing data.

Results would show where groundwater is likely discharging to the surface. This has indicators for various species, habitat stability, and water quality.

Donald Rosenberry, a USGS hydrologist, told *The River Reporter* for an article in its Sept. 6-12 issue, "Groundwater provides a constant cold temperature year-round, so it offers a thermal refuge for fish and other animals when the river gets warm."

"As a country, about 40% of the water we consume comes from groundwater. In rural areas, that percentage is much larger. The concern is that as we use more groundwater to supply our homes and infrastructure, there may be less groundwater discharging to the river," Rosenberry said.



AT RIVERFEST: National Park Service Ranger Kevin Reish dressed in protective river gear and handed out water bottles promoting use of life vests during the 22nd Annual Narrowsburg RiverFest on July 22 as part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's 2012 water safety campaign that also includes bilingual signage at access points, ads, yard signs, web exposure, and demographic research. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)

New Trail Resources Help to “Take a Hike!”

“Where can we go hiking around here?” is a common question heard in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Thanks to two separate initiatives, new resources are available to offer prospective hikers some suggestions.

The National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River has published a brochure titled, “Take a Hike! Trails of the Upper Delaware River Valley”.

First copies of the 8-1/2 by 14 inch color pamphlet debuted in late June after being in the planning stages for over a year.

“We continually have visitors coming to our offices asking where they can hike. In this brochure, these are the places that we commonly refer people to,” said Jamie Myers, a biologist with the Upper Delaware’s Resource Management Division who also handles the park unit’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) work.

“It’s been very popular. We’re going to need a re-print,” she added.

Six trails are featured in the brochure, with descriptions; locations by map, narrative, and GPS coordinates; length and duration; and difficulty levels provided.

Included are Bouchoux Trail, also known as Jensen’s Ledges, in Lordville, NY; Damascus Forest Trail on MacCubbins Road in PA; Tusten Mountain Trail south of Narrowsburg, NY; Cobey Pond Trail on PA Games Lands 316 in Masthope, PA; the Minisink Battleground Park Trail System in



EARN BADGE: Hikers who complete all six trails listed in the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s brochure can receive this free patch.

Minisink Ford, NY; and Mongaup River Trail in the Town of Deerpark, NY.

“The Park Service doesn’t own these properties so we are working cooperatively with other agencies to promote their use,” Myers said.

The site stewards involved are the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Damascus Township, the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Pennsylvania Game Lands, and the County of Sullivan.

As an incentive in support of First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move!” exercise campaign, the Park Service offers a color-

ful, embroidered patch designed by Myers to anyone who hikes all six trails listed in the brochure.

A checklist is provided to fill in the date hiked for each trail indicated and return it in person or by mail to the NPS offices indicated on the form.

The first individuals to claim their patches were Jenny Hoffman and John Margeson of Barryville, NY.

Myers coordinated the project but said it was very much a staff-wide effort.

The Protection and Interpretation Divisions helped to compile the information, and park rangers have been leading guided walks on these trails.

The Maintenance Division will assist with signage and construction of brochure boxes this winter. Administration has been supportive of the funding required to subsidize the patches and in-house printing.

Pick up a “Take a Hike!” brochure at any NPS office in Beach Lake, Lackawaxen, Milanville or Barryville, or call (570) 685-4871 to request a copy.

Sullivan Trailkeeper

The Upper Delaware Council helped fund, through a 2012 Technical Assistance Grant, the development of a website focusing on hiking trails in Sullivan County, NY.

The Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management coordinated the project in partnership with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Morgan Outdoors, Sullivan County Visitors Association, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and Sullivan Renaissance.

Consultant Chris Andreola of ADC Studio designed the website to offer an easy way for tourists and residents to access maps and information about hiking trails in Sullivan County online.

The partners generated text and coordinated volunteers to gather GPS data and notes of relevance to hikers.

The URL www.TrailKeeper.org launched on Sept. 19.

“Sullivan Trailkeeper” is a one-source outlet that currently lists 20 hiking trails in Sullivan County, while encouraging site visitors to write in to recommend any additional publicly-accessible spots that may be undiscovered.

The site offers directions to trailheads, ratings of terrain difficulty, a “Hiking 101” section, and a directory of amenities including where to find hiking gear, restaurants, lodging, shopping, and attractions.

It highlights three regions: Delaware River; Catskills; and Shawangunk Ridge.

The trails will be updated on a biannual basis by the project partners.



EARLY EDUCATION: Philip, 3, and Juliet, 5, Fitzpatrick of Barryville, NY, grandchildren of the late Phil Fitzpatrick, the Upper Delaware Council’s first chairperson and Westfall Township, PA Representative, learn how a rescue rope bag works from National Canoe Safety Patrol member Steve Gales of Long Eddy, NY during the National Park Service’s Zane Grey Festival held July 14 in Lackawaxen, PA. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

In Memoriam...



Dick Rhodes (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Dick Rhodes, age 76

Richard Rhodes of Lackawaxen, PA, a co-founder of the National Canoe Safety Patrol highly-trained volunteer group operating on the Upper Delaware River since 1979, died on April 17, 2012.

"Dick", a 40-year Industrial Engineer, was a key figure in Delaware and Lackawaxen River Sojourns, among many other events.

A Celebration of Life service took place on June 8 at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Rowland, PA. Donations to the Richard Rhodes River Rescue Scholarship Fund can be made at NCSP, P.O. Box 91, Lackawaxen, PA 18435 or on-line.

Marge Hillriegel, age 82

Margaret T. Hillriegel, a former chairperson of the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) and active participant in drafting the River Management Plan, died on April 4, 2012 in Callicoon, NY.

"Marge" was a former Town of Fremont Council member, real estate broker, 4-H leader, bus driver, mail carrier, EMT and first aid teacher.

Burial was in Damascus, PA's Hillside Cemetery, with arrangements by Stewart-Murphy Funeral Home of Callicoon.

Upper Delaware Bridges Re-evaluated

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald and top aides traveled to Sullivan County on June 27 at the initiation of Senator John J. Bonacic to hear concerns over plans to replace the historic Pond Eddy Bridge.

Bridge preservationists have argued against the justifications provided for demolition vs. rehabilitation, as well as the scope and cost of the proposed 40-ton bridge for which the DOT agencies have programmed \$10.5 million, and impacts on the river below during construction.

Critics particularly question New York's investment due to the limited population of approximately 26 properties served on the Pennsylvania side of the one-lane bridge, suggesting that PA should build a road for its landlocked residents instead.

Those supporting construction of a new bridge agree with the engineering reports that rehabilitation is not a viable option in terms of costs, longevity, the ability to retain the bridge's rare Petit Truss appearance or to sufficiently upgrade the seven-ton weight limit for safe passage of emergency and service vehicles.

The outcome of the June 27 meeting was that McDonald pledged to discuss alternatives for the Pond Eddy Bridge with her PA counterpart and report back in six months.

At the May 16 annual meeting of the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission held in Binghamton, McDonald had called for an evaluation of whether historic preservation funds, rather than capital project investments, were available to address the needs of all 10 Delaware River crossings under the commission's shared maintenance responsibility.

She suggested in a statement read by NYS DOT Region 9 Director Jack Williams that it's time to consider revising the commission's agreement that dates back to 1936 and was last amended in 1988.

While that work is underway, Williams said, "We still owe it to the safety of the traveling public to carry on."

The Commission proceeded to approve a \$49,340,000 schedule of contract lettings



RALLYING CRY: New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, right, and Troy Bystrom from the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition, spoke during a May 19 rally sponsored by Friends of the Pond Eddy Bridge. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

for seven bridge projects, while acknowledging that only about half of those funds are currently allocated by the states.

"As the bridges age, they become much more demanding. By them being unique, the repairs are expensive. We still need to take care of them," Williams said.

Capital projects approved were:

Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy, PA (1904) - \$9.5 million for construction in 2013-14;

Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA (1901) - \$8.5 million major rehabilitation in 2017 following repair work that closed the bridge to traffic from April to July;

Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA (1954) - \$3.992 million to replace decking and sidewalks, and paint in 2014;

Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA (1961) - \$500,000 in 2013 to acquire rights-of-way and prepare for a two-phase rehabilitation in 2014 at \$7.26 million and in 2017 at \$4.4 million;

Kellams, NY-Stalker, PA (1990 re-build) - \$3.6 million steel grate decking replacement and other repairs;

Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA (1952) - \$5,108,000 in 2015 to address the asphalt wearing surface, replace joints, and patch the deck's underside;

Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA (1939) - \$3.4 million to paint all steel truss members in 2015.

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 cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees, 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'

Water, Water Everywhere

Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) will host their 3rd annual, by-invitation "Water, Water Everywhere: Future of the Upper Delaware River" meeting on Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the River Run Restaurant, West Branch Angler Resort, Hale Eddy, NY.

Primary focus will be discussing ways to improve the current reservoir release program in a way that will benefit the entire Delaware River System.

For more information, call FUDR at (607) 363-7848 or e-mail sherri@fudr.org.

Common Waters Forum

"Common Values for Common Waters: A Celebration and Vision for the Future" will take place on Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA.

The Common Waters Delaware River Partnership is sponsoring the forum recognizing five years of accomplishments and looking toward a collaborative future.

The program will include presentations, break-out sessions, lunch with a keynote

speaker, and an opportunity to view The Nurture Nature Center's exhibit, "Science on the Sphere". For details, please e-mail partners@commonwatersfund.org.

Fish Poachers Beware

Legislation authored by Rep. Mike Peifer to decrease the illegal taking of high-value fish from area waterways is working its way through the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The bill would create a new category of offenses within the Fish and Boat Code for serious poaching violations and allow the Fish and Boat Commission to revoke a person's fishing or boating privileges for up to five years, from the current two years.

"Here in the Lake Wallenpaupack and Delaware River areas, we regularly experience substantial, illegal takes of highly sought-after trophy species of fish to sell on the black market. These fisheries are vital to our regional economy. It's high time we put a stop to these crimes," said Rep. Peifer (R-139th District).

House Bill 2293 was referred from the Game and Fisheries Committee to the Appropriations Committee as of June 25.

Upgrade Flows Forecasting

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will provide the National Weather Service (NWS) with up to \$1 million to help speed development of state-of-the-art forecasts of water flows through streams in the NYC water supply region.

By 2013, DEP intends to roll out a \$5.2 million Operations Support Tool monitoring and modeling system that will help the agency make more informed decisions about operating the system to ensure reliable, high quality supplies by retaining water in advance of dry conditions and releasing water before wet conditions.

NWS will use DEP funds to hire additional staff to continue developing ensemble forecasting capabilities that are scheduled for nation-wide readiness in 2014.

Discovery Newsletter Out

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has re-designed its monthly electronic newsletter. Subscribe to "DEC Outdoor Discovery" at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43433.html>.