

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!

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SHUT DOWN: The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River closed its Narrowsburg Information Center on Sept. 30, 2013 after 32 years of seasonal operation as a result of federal sequester impacts. (Contributed Photo)

Sequester Cuts Hit Home

The Narrowsburg Information Center that the National Park Service (NPS) opened on June 8, 1981 to serve Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River visitors and residents is the latest casualty of federal government sequestration.

NPS terminated its lease effective Sept. 30 as part of a cost-savings plan to cope with an expected 8% budget reduction for Fiscal Year 2014 which began Oct. 1st.

"We lost \$300,000 and there have to be consequences," explains Upper Delaware Superintendent Sean McGuinness.

"The Management Team made the decision so we can keep rangers on the river for water safety and visitor contacts. That, along with resource protection, is our highest priority," he says.

NPS rented the 37 Main Street storefront from the non-profit Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA), which shared the space.

The center was open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer season, staffed in recent years by volunteers, and

offered regional information; Eastern National sales items related to local history, recreation, and nature; children's activities; air conditioning, and a public restroom.

McGuinness estimates that the closure will save \$15,000 on rent, utilities, and security, which had to be subsidized year-round despite the seasonal operation.

While regretting the loss of the Narrowsburg presence, McGuinness points out that the center accounted for just 1% of the Upper Delaware's reported 263,254 visitors to its sites in FY 2012.

"It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to the National Park Service, our tenants since 1981," says DVAA Executive Director Elaine Giguere.

She recalls that the Upper Delaware's first superintendent, John Hutzky, was attracted to the 19th century building, the old Arlington Hotel, for its historic character, as well as advocating for the Narrowsburg centralized location along the river

Please see CUTS on Page 3

Upper Delaware Profile: Patricia Jeffer

As a New Jersey transplant who transitioned from Upper Delaware visitor to permanent resident just four years ago, Patricia Jeffer says she has found her dream home.

"There's something about the whole area that is so peaceful. I feel like I get to live in a vacation house all year round," she says.

With a stake in 500 acres of property in Shohola Township that has been in her husband's family since 1967 and includes more than a mile fronting the Upper Delaware River, a natural flowing trout stream, and a four-acre man-made pond, Jeffer also feels a sense of stewardship.

Her first exposure to the region was coming up for winter sleigh rides and weekends spent with family or friends.

Jeffer, 67, grew up in Oakland and lived in Midland Park, NJ. She graduated from Franklin Lakes High School and studied art at Montclair State University for two years with an idea of becoming a teacher before realizing she didn't have a passion for it.

What really interested her was architecture, but she had been discouraged from pursuing that during her school years.

When she took a part-time course in Architectural Drafting at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ, however, "it really knocked my socks off."

Professional work followed as an architect's apprentice, working for general contractors, doing estimating, serving as a building inspector and zoning officer, and coordinating construction permitting.

She also volunteered with the Midland Park Zoning Board for over a decade.

In 2000, Patricia and her husband of 42 years Bob, a mason contractor, built their house that she designed using her architectural experience.

"We owned property here for quite a few years before we built a house. The actual site was the biggest thing to us. We're both nature people," she says.

Both retired now, the couple stays busy spending time with family that includes two



Patricia Jeffer, Shohola Township, PA

sons, Jerry in Stroudsburg, PA and Rob in Hawthorne, NJ; and daughter Ronda in Albany, NY. They have three grandchildren.

They are also keen on tending to their property, such as completing a Forest Stewardship Plan through the Common Waters Fund to compile an inventory of natural assets and develop a vision for its sound management of their land.

Jeffer enjoys landscaping and gardening, growing both vegetables and flowers, and is a member of the Grey Towers Horticultural Team in Milford and the Shohola Area Lions Club.

The couple travels extensively, including an 18-day European Baltic cruise this spring that fulfilled a fantasy by allowing them to trace their Dutch ancestry, a 10-day road trip to New Mexico last year, and an upcoming elk hunting jaunt to Wyoming and Colorado.

"We try to get away for three weeks in the winters but are always antsy to get back," she says, where snowmobiling awaits in the season when they can't boat, swim, and fish.

On Jan. 3, 2012, the Shohola Township Board of Supervisors appointed Jeffer as its representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

As an invested property owner and with her background in land use, Jeffer felt she could contribute to the organization. She had been a devoted reader of "The Upper Delaware" newsletters throughout the years and was interested in learning more through direct interaction.

"I see the UDC as a way to bring all these communities together so you can have an intellectual discussion about what is good for the river," she says. "It's been enlightening and there is so much to know. I feel I'm still learning!"

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.,
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192

Phone: (845) 252-3022; FAX: 252-3359

www.UpperDelawareCouncil.org

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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Executive Director &
Newsletter Editor.....Laurie Ramie
laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org
Resource Specialist.....Travis O'Dell
travis@upperdelawarecouncil.org
Secretary.....Cindy Odell
cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org



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Committees Flip Order

The Upper Delaware Council has changed the starting time order for two of its standing committees that regularly meet each fourth Tuesday of the month.

Effective Sept. 24 for an experimental six-month period through March 2014, the Project Review Committee will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Operations Committee will convene following adjournment of Project Review at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Water Use/Resource Management Committee continues to meet on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m., and the full Council meets on the first Thursday at 7 p.m.

corridor and a gateway to Pennsylvania.

"Their departure from Main Street and from Narrowsburg will be felt by citizens and visitors, young and old, who learned about wildlife and the importance of the Delaware River; the tourists who were very anxious to find great fishing holes or spot an eagle; and the businesses who gained from the NPS's familiar brown information signs pointing to Main Street," Giguere says.

Town of Tusten Councilman and Upper Delaware Council Alternate Anthony Ritter also lamented the closure.

"This 75-mile federally designated Scenic and Recreational river valley has an abundant amount of history and recreational opportunities that should be communicated to locals and visitors alike. One wouldn't think of visiting the Blue Ridge Mountains, Bar Harbor or Yellowstone without a visitors center. In fact, one of the National Park Service's items in their Mission Statement is to 'educate park visitors and the general public about their history and common heritage'. Education, history and tourism play an important role in any designated National area and I am very disappointed and saddened by their decision," the licensed fishing guide, realtor and 25-year local resident says.

NPS Ranger Connie Lloyd, who managed the center since 1982, says it was "a wonderful experience to be part of the Narrowsburg community and to be part of all the changes and growth that have come to Narrowsburg over the past 30 years."

"Through the difficult time of government sequestration, we will continue to move forward in completing the National Park Service mission. We will always continue to be a part of town events," she pledges.

In addition to the Narrowsburg Information Center shut-down, the NPS Upper Delaware's main sequester plan includes:

- Increase spring and fall furloughs for law enforcement rangers for up to four pay periods and reduce winter activities;
- Leave vacant the positions of one full-time interpretive ranger and one seasonal maintenance employee;
- Eliminate the Protection Division Administrative position and the Information Technical Specialist after that incumbent retires is mid-2014; and
- Reduce Cooperative Agreement funding to the Upper Delaware Council by an additional 3% over the FY 2013 level of 5% imposed in March 2013.

That \$24,000 cut resulted in decreasing 2014 Technical Assistance Grant awards by \$5,000; decreasing outside consulting services by \$13,835; and decreasing capital expenditures by \$5,165 in a revised budget that the UDC approved on July 11.



RANGERS MARRY: Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Katherine (Szupillo) Grindle, both 27, are shown above at their National Park Service Corwin Farm reception following their Aug. 10 wedding at St. Francis Xavier Church in Narrowsburg and, below, on the job as Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River seasonal park rangers. (Contributed Photos)

Love Blooms in Upper Delaware

Seek an adventurous career and find romance in the process? Score!

Katherine Szupillo of Rockland County and Chris Grindle of Rochester first crossed paths while pursuing Bachelor's degrees in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary-Environmental Studies at SUNY Buffalo. It was during an intensive field course called Ecology of Unique Environments when the pair spent two weeks camping in the Everglades with no running water or electricity that they really got to know each other. Undaunted by roughing it, they both signed up for a one-month internship at the Fackahatchee State Strand Preserve over winter break and started dating as they graduated college in 2008, with Katherine earning an additional Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences-Ecology and Evolution. They're now pursuing Master's degrees.

Katherine had been volunteering at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River through the National Canoe Safety Patrol for several years before she was hired as a seasonal park ranger in 2009. Chris came aboard as an intern before graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy at Hocking College in Ohio. He is now in his third year as a seasonal law enforcement ranger at Upper Delaware.

Engaged in Feb. 2012, the couple opted to marry in the river valley they love and honeymooned at Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota/Canada.



Diverse Presentations Enlighten Council

The Upper Delaware Council and Water Use/Resource Management (WU/RM) Committee continue to seek information on many diverse topics to better inform discussions and decisions.

On April 16, the WU/RM Committee teleconferenced in Scott Wells and Dennis Wischman of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Region 4 Bureau of Fisheries to discuss the operation of the Lordville River Access Site.

Students from the Ecological Sustainability Program at Lackawanna College projected the effect that the Principles of the Upper Delaware Land and Water Use Guidelines could have on the river corridor region's economy and environment in the year 2063 during a presentation of their classroom project findings on May 2 to the full Council.

A delegation of UDC representatives traveled to Milford on May 8 to meet with Deputy Delaware River Master Marie Stewart and learn about the operation of that U.S. Geological Survey office, when Stewart was not able to come to the UDC due to sequester impacts.

Thomas Murphy, Jr., chief of the New York City Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply, Reservoir Releases Policy Development, and chairman of the Delaware River Basin Commission's Regulated Flows Advisory Committee, addressed the Council on June 6 with a presentation on "Operating New York City's Water Supply System."

On August 1, the UDC heard a report on the "Health of the Delaware River Fisheries" from Jerre Mohler, the Delaware River



NYC DEP: Thomas Murphy, Jr. explained the operation of New York City's reservoir system at the UDC's June 6 meeting.



50-YEAR VISION: Students from Lackawanna College's Land Use Planning and Sustainable Development course, from the left: Sean Brown, Kyle Hannel, Elizabeth Heesh, Orlando Marrero, and Michael Lopez, addressed the UDC on May 2. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service since 2008.

Susan Beecher from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation offered a presentation on "Adjusting to a Changing Climate - Risks & Opportunities for the Upper Delaware

Region" at the Oct. 3 UDC meeting.

All of these presentations are summarized in the archive of meeting minutes that are posted at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, with videos and report links occasionally available.

Capitalizing on River's Natural Economies

Building synergy between the natural landscape and the economy of the Delaware River Region was the topic of a spring conference hosted by the Common Waters Partnership.

The May 14 Natural Economies conference sponsored by the non-profit Regional Planning Association attracted approximately 60 participants to The Riverview Inn in Matamoras.

Keynote speaker Dr. Jerry Kauffman from the University of Delaware Water Resources Agency reviewed the findings of his Oct. 2011 study, "Socioeconomic Value of the Delaware River Basin in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania".

The study determined that the Delaware River Basin contributes \$25 billion annually from recreation, water quality, water supply, hunting/fishing, ecotourism, forest, agriculture, open space, potential Marcellus Shale natural gas, and freshwater port benefits.

Through those activities, the basin is responsible for 600,000 jobs with \$10 billion in annual wages.

Kauffman recommended managing the river basin as an industry.

"I'm preaching capitalism. It's about investing in your natural assets. The payoff will be worth the investment," he said.

Other speakers offered case studies on how to balance nature and commerce.

The consensus from breakout discussions was that the Delaware River Basin suffers from an identity and funding crisis. Branding ideas to market the "Upper Delaware" as a region were debated. Rallying around a collaborative project such as developing a trail system that links basin communities together and preserves open space received attention.

A conference summary is available at www.commonwatersfund.org.



BREAKOUT: Rob Pirani from the Regional Planning Association facilitates a discussion with Leslie Morlock, NPS; Patty Elkis, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; Shirley Masuo, Pro-Pike-PA; and Lesley Knoll, Lacawac Sanctuary, at the May 14 conference at the Riverview Inn.

On 80th Anniversary: Scouts Celebrate Civilian Conservation Corps

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on August 4 at its headquarters camp located at 1481 Crystal Lake Road south of Narrowsburg, NY.

The CCC was a New Deal program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) to provide work opportunities for unemployed young men during the Great Depression and to deploy his "Tree Army" to establish natural resources conservation programs throughout the United States.

Enrollees received room, board, clothing, and medical care along with \$30 per month - \$25 of which had to be sent home - in exchange for working seven hour workdays followed by classes teaching academic and trade skills.

The history of FDR, the Ten Mile River Scout Camp, and the CCC are intertwined. As New York State governor, Roosevelt helped acquire in 1927 the 10,000 acres of woodlands in southwestern Sullivan County that remain the camp base for the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America.

In October 1933, CCC Camp 65 set up operations at Ten Mile River near Turnpike Lake. Its crews from Yaphank on Long Island, Masonville, NY, and military veterans from Barre, VT, built roads, fire trails, and communication lines around the 54-mile Scout camp boundary, primarily for forest fire control.

The CCC camp disbanded on April 30, 1936. Its dozen buildings were transferred to Ten Mile River Scout Camps and used until the late 1950s.

The last remaining structure - a pump house - was dedicated with a plaque on Aug. 4. Guests were invited to take a walking tour of Camp Ten Mile River which indicated the location of former facilities on a map, view a 50-minute documentary on the CCC inside the museum, and browse local exhibits from organizations including the Upper Delaware Council.

There was also a panel discussion of CCC historians including Jonah Triebwasser, an attorney, radio talk show host, and professional actor who has portrayed FDR in many movies and appearances; Peter Osborne, author of four books on the CCC and owner of the Pienpack Company; Diane Galusha, journalist and author; and John Dowd, the Ten Mile River Scout Museum's foremost expert on the local CCC camp.



NEW DEAL: President Franklin D. Roosevelt (aka actor Jonah Triebwasser of Red Hook, NY) recalls the 1933 establishment of CCC Camp 65 at what is now Ten Mile River Scout Camp after being escorted to the podium by scout Tyler Margotta, 18, of Yulan, at right. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Pond Eddy Bridge Replacement Advances

A new interstate bridge at Pond Eddy could be open in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$11.5 million, according to the latest timetable announced for replacement of the 1904 structure.

A report of the negotiated plan approved



Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy, PA Bridge

by the Departments of Transportation from Pennsylvania and New York, which must jointly finance the project, was provided at an Aug. 29 final meeting of the Pond Eddy Bridge Design Advisory Committee.

Consultant Paul DeAngelo of Skelly & Loy announced that the new bridge will be a two-span truss with a single travel lane of 15'8" and a 5' raised sidewalk on one side.

The inside width of the bridge will be 22'4", narrower than originally planned. It will be constructed to handle legal loads, up to 40 tons, compared to the current 7-ton weight limit restriction.

The single center-pier bridge will be built approximately 35 feet upstream of the current, 1904 alignment of abutments.

The committee expressed preferences

for select aesthetics, including gray color, a bluestone effect for the concrete wall pier, and a relatively open railing system.

Final design work involving right-of-way negotiations, securing of state and federal permits, and environmental reviews, is expected to take two years. The company hired to oversee that process, SAI Consulting Engineers of Lemoyne, PA, was on hand at the meeting.

Construction is targeted to begin in 2016 and could take 15 months. A full-length causeway will be required due to the lack of access of the PA side for equipment staging, but is not expected to be required in the river for the entire time.

A pre-application meeting with permitting agencies is due to be convened this fall.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activities and river valley issues from April to mid-September 2013, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

COMPRESSOR STATION

Millennium Pipeline Co.'s Environmental Assessment filing to build a 15,900-horsepower natural gas-fired compressor station on a 35.8-acre parcel that the company owns in the Town of Hancock prompted an April 1 letter from the UDC reminding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that the review made absolutely no reference to the federally designated river corridor that is located about 4,200 feet away from the site.

This close proximity should be considered to assure that "all potential direct and indirect impacts from the proposed project have been satisfactorily addressed to protect the special rural character of this region," the letter urged.

As of Sept. 5, FERC had yet to act on Millennium's application to construct and operate the Hancock Compressor Station, which the company had originally targeted to have in service by Nov. 1, 2013.

PA NITRATES POLICY

The UDC unanimously approved a May 2 letter to the PA Department of Environmental Protection opposing the Sewage Facilities Planning Module Review for On-lot Sewage Systems Proposed in High Quality and Exceptional Value Watersheds, a policy that was ultimately overridden by legislative action.

Approximately 95% of Wayne and Pike Counties fall under these special protection water classifications, where "current measures to protect the water quality in the river basin are successful."



LOCAL BLUESTONE: From April 23 through July 7, 2013, bluestone mined from Holbert Bros. Quarry in Lackawaxen, PA was featured in an art exhibition entitled "Human Nature" at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. Artist Ugo Rondinone shaped 16- to 20-foot tall natural slabs into nine abstract human figures. Rondinone reportedly has a home overlooking the Upper Delaware River near Barryville and was introduced to the Holbert Quarry by project assistant Matt Nelson of Barryville. Additional photos from the exhibition are available at PublicArtFund.org.



GATEWAY ARCH: Workers on Aug. 3 directed a crane installing the arched sign for the "Town Square, Hancock, New York: Gateway to the Upper Delaware". The sign was created by Chris Smith of Craft Fabricators for the new public park that was formerly a supermarket then a brownfield site. The Hancock Partners plan to officially dedicate the Town Square on October 5 at 1 p.m. during their Fall Festival from 10-4. (Photo courtesy of Sally Zegers, Hancock Herald)

"There is a fine line between protection and over-regulation," the letter continued, pointing out how the proposed policy could threaten the region's economic vitality by applying an arbitrary point system and requiring cost-prohibitive practices to fix a problem that doesn't exist locally.

Gov. Tom Corbett signed Act 41 on July 2 stipulating that properly design septic systems are automatically in compliance with PA's anti-degradation requirements, which must be approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

THERMAL STRESS RELIEF

The summer brought several prolonged incidents of extreme temperatures that caused the UDC to renew its call for the adoption of a reservoir release protocol to proactively and systematically address future thermal events on the Delaware River's main stem that threaten the fishery and local economy.

"This request would utilize the Interim Excess Release Quantity for one of its stated purposes - protection of the cold water habitat below the reservoirs - to provide relief in the face of soaring air temperatures and dangerously high water temperatures. These cold water releases are not only important to the health of the cold-water fishery on the Upper Delaware River, they are also important to the recreational industry as well as the high water quality and outstanding biodiversity of the region," the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee wrote July 17 in an appeal to the NY and PA Decree party rep-

resentatives.

DRBC FEDERAL FUNDING

The U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was scheduled as of Sept. 19 to start reviewing H.R. Bill 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013, which would allocate federal funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission, among other provisions.

The U.S. Senate passed a similar bill by a vote of 83-14 on May 15, 2013.

The UDC pointed out in an Aug. 1 letter to Congressmen Chris Gibson (NY), Sean Patrick Maloney (NY), and Tom Marino (PA) that, "for 16 of the last 17 years, the federal government has failed to fund its apportionment of the Commission's annual budget, while continuing to enjoy the same authorities and privileges as its fellow signatory parties. The cumulative federal shortfall of nearly \$11 million threatens to severely curtail the agency's operational effectiveness. The 20% 'fair share' allocation would be \$715,000."

The DRBC has been a non-voting member of the UDC since 1988.

PRESERVING ORAL HISTORIES

Concerned about the condition of cassette tape recordings of 133 subjects who were interviewed about their lives and memories for an Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Oral History Project conducted during the 1980-2001 tenure of retired Park Historian Mary Curtis, the UDC board in May inquired

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

about and advocated for their preservation.

Superintendent Sean McGuinness announced on Sept. 5 that equipment has been purchased to digitize the tapes as a cultural resource. A total of 26 tapes have been transcribed, while 28 of the 133 currently have no signed releases.

NPS FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

2013 UDC Chairman Jeff Dexter, Executive Director Laurie Ramie, and Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell were invited to participate in an intensive, facilitated workshop on April 29-May 1 for National Park Service staff to collectively draft a Foundation Document designed to provide direction and guidance for this park unit.

The document, which is due to be finalized by the end of the year, will replace the General Management Plan.

The purpose statement describing the core mission reads, "The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River protects, conserves and enhances the free-flowing character, exceptionally high water quality, and the scenic, recreational, ecological,

cultural, and geologic values of the Upper Delaware River valley through collaborative partnerships."

PROJECT REVIEWS

The UDC in April began using a streamlined form for towns and townships to inform the Council about their river corridor projects that are subject to review under the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

Comment letters were issued on: Town of Delaware Zoning Law Amendments (5/28); Holbert Quarry permit, Lackawaxen Township (6/20); Butler parcel and Hawk's Nest Cafe, Town of Deepark (6/25); two communication towers, Damascus Township (6/25 & 8/1); Town of Tusten Zoning Law Amendments (7/23); NYS DOT rock scaling project, Town of Lumberland (8/27); and the Town of Hancock was presented with a draft Substantial Conformance Report for preliminary review (9/5).

NEW OFFICER

A special vote took place Aug. 1 to name a UDC secretary-treasurer successor to the late John B. Niflot. Berlin Township Representative Alan Henry was elected to fulfill the office for the balance of 2013.

Developments in Natural Gas Issues

On May 2, the New York State Third Appellate Division in Albany ruled in the cases of Cooperstown Holstein Corp. v. Town of Middlefield and Norse Energy Corp. v. Town of Dryden that municipalities do have the right to adopt zoning laws that prohibit hydraulic fracturing in certain areas, while lacking authority to regulate drilling procedure.

The unanimous court decision stated, "We hold that [current law] does not preempt, either expressly or impliedly, a municipality's power to enact a local zoning ordinance banning all activities related to the exploration for, and the production or storage of, natural gas and petroleum within its borders."

The Towns of Tusten, Lumberland, and Highland have enacted such bans, while the Towns of Delaware, Hancock, and Fremont have approved resolutions expressing support for the gas drilling industry if the operations are done responsibly.

Drilling advocates from the Joint Landowners Coalition of New York expressed their disappointment by stating, "These decisions continue to wreak havoc in our towns, displacing most town business with issues that should be decided at the state level... New York cannot have a 'not in my back yard approach' to energy development."

The issue isn't settled yet. On August 29, the NYS Court of Appeals granted an appeal motion to hear these lawsuits at that top judicial level, as Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration continues to weigh whether to allow "fracking" in the state. No date has been offered for the NYS Health Department to finish its review of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's regulatory blueprint, which the governor has said is crucial.

In Pennsylvania, Hess Corp. and Newfield Exploration Co. notified the Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance in mid-July that they were terminating their local leases worth \$3,000 per acre as a business decision that some attributed to the three-year moratorium on Marcellus Shale development as the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) works on its regulations. The Alliance said the pull-out will cost its members at least \$187.5 million that would have supplemented the approximately \$150 million they received up front for about 70,000 acres of land through the negotiated master lease.

PA Governor Tom Corbett was among several Commonwealth officials who wrote to the DRBC on June 28 to "convey a profound sense of frustration and disappointment on behalf of my constituents due to the inaction of the [DRBC] in finalizing standards with respect to the safe and responsible development of natural gas."

Commission Chairperson Michele Siekerka of New Jersey responded on July 10 with a list of actions that the DRBC staff and signatory parties have been taking since Nov. 2011, adding, "I and my colleagues are continuing to confer in good faith and with forward momentum within and outside of our regularly scheduled business meetings to reach consensus on a path forward that provides for the development of a potentially valuable energy source while protecting the vital water resources within the Basin."



UDC Offers T-Shirts

The Upper Delaware Council is offering for public sale royal blue T-shirts designed in-house which feature a map of the New York-Pennsylvania territory included in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's national boundary on the back, shown above, and the UDC's Land-Water-People circular logo on the front left chest area.

The 50/50 heavyweight cotton blend shirts are available in all adult sizes for a \$15 donation to support the non-profit organization's conservation mission.

For delivery by mail and shirt sizes in excess of 2XL, please add \$2.50.

Contact UDC Secretary Cindy Odell at cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org, (845) 252-3022, or stop by the office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY.

Strides Across the Delaware Sponsors

"Strides Across the Delaware", the 5K Run/Walk to celebrate the Upper Delaware Council's 25th anniversary, took place on September 28 in Equinunk, PA-Lordville, NY. Race results will be posted online at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org and coverage provided in the next newsletter.

The UDC thanks the following sponsors for their generous contributions: The River Reporter, \$500+ in advertising services and raffle prizes; Joe Hunt & Associates, \$250; Wayne Bank, \$100 and water bottles; American Electric, \$100; Wayne County Ready Mix Concrete Co., \$100; Wayne Memorial Health System, \$50 and flashlights; Just-in-Time Contracting, Inc., \$50; Cafe Devine, bottled water; Sneaker King, gift bags & coupons; EnviroVentures, donation of one portable toilet rental; and raffle prizes from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, and the Callicoon Theater.

Food and beverages were supplied by the Equinunk Watershed Alliance and the Equinunk United Methodist Church loaned the use of their field.

UDC Marks 25 Years of Awards

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) gathered on April 28 for the 25th consecutive year to pay tribute to those who have protected the natural resources and enhanced the quality of life in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

"We will never run out of honorees for as long as people continue to value this special place that forms our common bond," UDC 2013 Chairperson Jeffrey R. Dexter of Damascus Township told the 87 guests assembled at The Lackawaxen Inn.

To commemorate its 2013 milestone year, the UDC projected a retrospective of organizational photos from 1988 to present during the reception, presented inscribed pocket flashlights with whistles and compasses to guests, displayed proclamations received from elected officials, debuted its newly-designed river valley t-shirts for sale, and arranged having a birthday cake for dessert.

Tracing UDC History

The UDC also called upon Pike County and Shohola Township Historian George J. Fluhr - who was a charter member of the Council board, served as chairman in 1992 and 2009, and received the UDC's first Distinguished Service Award in 1989 for his integral roles with the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships and River Management Plan development - to deliver an anniversary message.

Fluhr traced the history of the Council back 25 years before its 1988 establishment, discussing the settlers to the river valley, the early industries that sprung up around their labors, and the condition of the landscape.



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING: George J. Fluhr of Shohola displays his gift of a Pond Eddy Bridge photo by David B. Soete as presented by UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie, right, in appreciation for his delivery of a 25th anniversary overview at the awards banquet.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: The recipients of the UDC's highest honor share a laugh with UDC Chairman Jeff Dexter, center. Dr. Peter Kolesar of Eldred, left, and James Serio of Hancock, right, were recognized for their years of research into developing a new management protocol for releases from the Delaware River Basin reservoirs. (UDC Photos by Scott Rando)

He recalled attending a meeting in 1969 of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation at which a proposal was made to preserve a free-flowing Upper Delaware River by prohibiting dams and, by purchasing through condemnation, several miles on each side of the river to create a national park.

The federal plan evoked the memory of the failed Tocks Island Dam project in the Middle Delaware, creating fear, dissent, and even some violence.

"For almost 20 years, a fragmented local leadership which included some very fine

people, struggled through disrupted meetings, bitter criticism, the loss of elections, and even the loss of lifetime friends," Fluhr said.

"Finally, in 1988, 25 years ago, a different management plan, written here in the valley with the involvement of New York towns and Pennsylvania townships, business groups, hunting and fishing groups, and even volunteer private citizens, created the Upper Delaware Council in a very unique plan," he said.

Fluhr explained how the Upper Delaware was unique at the time by becoming a unit of the National Park System but not a national park. There would be no land condemnation and the federal government would limit itself to owning less than 3/10 of 1% of the corridor's 55,575 acres.

Local governments would be responsible for protecting the local ecology and scenery through zoning.

"The federal government got what it wanted, and our local citizens kept what belonged to them - some of the most beautiful land on earth. Moreover, the National Park Service agreed to manage the surface of the river. With over a quarter million users annually and the risks many of these users take, and their garbage, policing of the river was recognized as a task which local governments neither wanted nor could afford, even though it was in their jurisdiction," Fluhr said.

"For the past 25 years, the contract has been kept and the Council has met the

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challenge of preserving the river and corridor, and avoiding confiscation," he said.

Fluhr reviewed the UDC's mission, the responsibilities of the partners involved in the River Management Plan, and accomplishments.

"In the Upper Delaware Council, the local governments, state governments and the federal government have a unique forum where they can discuss, argue if necessary and, in compromise, find solutions," he said. "So happy birthday, UDC. And with the Roebling Bridge as our centerpiece, we look forward to another 25 years of a beautiful, peaceful valley."

Honors Bestowed

The Class of 2013 recipients honored at the UDC's 25th Annual Awards Ceremony in Lackawaxen, PA were:

Distinguished Service Award - Dr. Peter J. Kolesar and James Serio, for their volunteer research and advocacy to develop a mathematical, science-based protocol for increased coldwater releases to alleviate thermal stress on the Upper Delaware River fishery;

Partnership Award - National Park Service, National Canoe Safety Patrol, and Stuart Communications, for coordinating the successful and multifaceted 2012 Upper Delaware River Water Safety Campaign;

Recreation Achievement Award - Sullivan County Trailkeeper.org and "Take a Hike! Trails of the Upper Delaware River Valley", as new resources to facilitate and promote hiking as a recreational activity;

Cultural Achievement Award - Sullivan County Historical Society and the Sullivan County Division of Public Works, Department of Parks, Recreation & Beautification, for organizing annual commemorations of the July 22, 1779 Battle of Minisink of the American Revolution;

Volunteer Award - Jerold Yavarkovsky of Lake Huntington, NY, for his contributions to the Town of Cocheton's planning and zoning boards, youth group, ambulance



2013 WINNERS: Gathering on the deck of The Lackawaxen Inn after the UDC's 25th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28 were, from left to right: Raymond Mei, National Canoe Safety Patrol; Kristin Porter, Sullivan County Parks, Recreation & Beautification; Bethany Keene, Delaware Highlands Conservancy; Jamie Myers, NPS Upper Delaware; Kevin Reish, NPS Upper Delaware; Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management; Gary Letcher, author; Susan Beecher, Pike County Conservation District retiree; James Serio, Distinguished Service Award; Erin Burch, Catskill Mountainkeeper; Jerold Yavarkovsky, Volunteer Award; Nadia Rajsasz, UDC 2012 chairperson; Tina Appley, Hancock Community Education Foundation's Delaware River Youth Education Program; David B. Soete, UDC retiree; and Dr. Peter Kolesar, Distinguished Service Award.

corps, historic preservation, free math tutoring, and literacy causes;

Community Service Award - Hancock Community Education Foundation, for starting a Delaware River Youth Education Program in March 2012 to educate 5-9th grade students in their after school program about their community's environmental issues and natural resources;

Special Recognition Award - David B. Soete of Honesdale, PA, for his dedicated service to the Upper Delaware Council as its Senior Resource Specialist from Oct. 1, 1989 through his Sept. 30, 2012 retirement and his outstanding photography legacy;

Special Recognition Award - author Gary Letcher, for releasing a completely updated, third edition of "A Paddler's Guide to the Delaware River" (Rivergate Books of Rutgers University Press) in Feb. 2012;

Special Recognition Award - Susan Beecher, for her superlative leadership of the Pike County Conservation District from

Sept. 1989 through her Dec. 31, 2012 retirement; and

Oaken Gavel Award - Nadia Rajsasz, UDC Town of Lumberland representative, for her service as 2012 Council chairperson.



ELECTED OFFICIALS: Two members of the Sullivan County Legislature, Cora Edwards, left, and Kathleen LaBuda, right, flank Town of Lumberland Supervisor and UDC Oaken Gavel Award recipient Nadia Rajsasz.

Citations Given

The UDC received special greetings and proclamations in recognition of its silver anniversary from:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett;

U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson;
New York State Senator John J. Bonacic;

Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Baker;
New York State Assembly Members Aileen Gunther, Cliff Crouch, and Annie Rabbitt; and

Pennsylvania Representatives Mike Peifer and Sandra Major.

25th Annual UDC Raft Trip Attracts 93

The Upper Delaware Council's 25th Annual Family Raft Trip on August 4 drew 93 individuals to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, helping to fulfill the UDC's goal of promoting awareness and stewardship of the river through direct contact with the recreational resource.

The turnout included 79 adults and teens, and 14 children ages 5-12.

Rafters launched from the Ten Mile River Access south of Narrowsburg, NY and floated an eight-mile stretch to Luke's Landing at Kittatinny Campgrounds in Barryville, NY. Kittatinny Canoes provided the rafts, paddles, life vests, and shuttle transportation.

The raft trip was complemented this anniversary year by a first-ever, land-based recreational event with the "Strides Across the Delaware" 5K Run/Walk held Sept. 28.



DELAWARE RIVER SOJOURN: The 19th Annual Delaware River Sojourn: “Our Remarkable River” took place June 22-29. Above, 87 participants launch from the Ten Mile River Access. NPS Ranger Kevin Reish, shown at right with Sojourn Committee Chairman Richard Egan of Damascus, PA, was named Day 1 Lord High Admiral for his coordination of the Upper Delaware’s Water Safety Campaign. Day 2 saw 111 paddle from Zane Grey Access to Jerry’s Three Rivers Campground, while 97 enjoyed a Lackawaxen River run on Day 3 with Ken Bailey as Admiral.



UNKNOWN SOLDIER CEREMONY: Pike County, PA Sheriff Phil Bueki, guest speaker for the Grave of the Unknown Soldier of the Battle of Minisink ceremony held July 20 on Scenic Drive in Lackawaxen, chats with Kai Moessle, center, of the Navasing Long Rifles and historic re-enactor Paul Brennan, right.



ZANE GREY FESTIVAL: Ethan Kuhn, whose great-grandfather built the white house on the Zane Grey Museum property, helps Angali Mazurek, 6, of Woodbridge, NJ with a carpentry project during the National Park Service’s 8th Annual Zane Grey Festival held July 20 in Lackawaxen.



CANAL PARK: Aug. 24 was the grand opening of Wayne County Historical Society’s Delaware & Hudson Canal Park at Lock 31, located along PA Rt. 6 between Honesdale and Hawley. Under the leadership of Sally Talaga, WCHS has been developing the 10.5-acre former Daniels Farm and Hintze’s Hotel property and canal towpath with historic accuracy since 2001 through a series of grant-funded projects. For more details, visit wchs-lock31.org.



BATTLE OF MINISINK: At right, the 234th anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Minisink on July 20 featured a Historians’ Roundtable at the newly-dedicated “Tusten Pavilion” at Sullivan County’s Minisink Battleground Park, named in memory of Lt. Colonel Benjamin Tusten, M.D., who died in the battle on July 22, 1779. Gathering for a program in advance of the commemoration at the monument were, from left to right, Sullivan County Historian John Conway, Anthony Domingo of Navasing Long Rifles, Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr, Frank Salvati of Port Jervis, keynote speaker Peter Osborne, and Mark Hendrickson, two of the co-authors of “So Many Brave Men: A History of the Battle at Minisink Ford.”



WATERSHED MUSEUM: Robert F. Kennedy Jr., above, was the keynote speaker for the May 22 opening of “Tunnels, Toil & Trouble: New York City’s Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story”, the new permanent exhibit at the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville, NY. Visitors are immersed in the fascinating story of the water system’s development, which began with “The Takings.” Call (845) 985-7700 for open hours.

UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie

In Memoriam..



John "Jack" B. Niflot

John "Jack" B. Niflot died June 22, 2013 at home in Mileses, NY at the age of 78.

Mr. Niflot was the Town of Fremont's alternate (1994-97) then representative (1997-2013) to the Upper Delaware Council, serving as secretary-treasurer for 10 non-consecutive terms, as well as chairing the Personnel Subcommittee and serving on the Operations Committee.

He was born Feb. 10, 1935 in Binghamton to Jack I. and Florence (Trudeau) Niflot. He graduated from Delaware Valley High School in 1953 and served in the U.S. Army's Infantry Radio Signal Corps in Alaska from 1957-59.

Mr. Niflot was employed from 1964-1992 as an advertising designer and printing pressman for the *Sullivan County Democrat* newspaper in Callicoon.

He was the founder, president, and newsletter editor since 1980 of the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley, which operates a museum in Long Eddy and was recognized by the UDC in 1996 for its historic preservation work.

Mr. Niflot was a charter member and past



Edward J. DeFebo, Sr.

Edward J. DeFebo, Jr., died on July 25, 2013 at home in Lackawaxen, PA at the age of 80.

Mr. DeFebo was Lackawaxen Township's first appointed representative to the Upper Delaware Council and served an 11-year tenure as a representative or alternate from the organization's 1988 inception

president of the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, and received that organization's first-ever Merit Award in 1982 for individual achievement related to local heritage.

Elected to the Fremont Town Board in 1994, Mr. Niflot served as a councilman for 19 years. He was a trustee of the Fremont Center Community Church. Hobbies included photography, collecting historic postcards, and military miniatures.

He was the co-author with Robert R. Harris of "Dear Sister: The Civil War Letters of the Brothers Gould", published in 1998, and provided research materials for a recent book by William Klaber about local history figure Lucy Ann Lobdell.

Interment was at the Rock Valley Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Basket Historical Society, P.O. Box 198, or to the Fremont Center Community Church, c/o 57 Church St., both in

through 1999.

He was elected to chair the UDC in 1990 after serving as vice-chair in 1989, then filled the roles of secretary-treasurer in 1992 and vice-chair in 1993.

The 1991 recipient of the Oaken Gavel Award also chaired the Council's Water Use/Resource Management Committee for four years.

Mr. DeFebo was born May 17, 1933 in Berwick, PA to Warren and Mary (Silvetti) DeFebo. He graduated from Berwick High School, Lycoming College, and the Pennsylvania State Police Academy, serving as a state trooper in the Daleville, Honesdale, and Milford areas. He also served his country in U.S. Army Military Police.

Mr. DeFebo was a Lackawaxen Township roadmaster/supervisor for 12 years and the township's police chief.

He and his wife owned and operated Jungle Jim's Tavern for 22 years.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Janice (Weeks) DeFebo; sons Edward, William, and Charles; brothers Karl and Michael; sister Rita; sister-in-law Nancy; eight grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Interment was at Lackawaxen Cemetery. Donations may be made to St. Ann's Church, P.O. Box 86, Shohola, PA 18458.

Long Eddy, NY 12760.

The Sullivan County Historical Society will present Mr. Niflot posthumously with its "2013 History Preserver Award" at their annual dinner to be held on Oct. 26 at The Rockland House in Roscoe.

Neil Robert "Bob" Levin

Neil Robert "Bob" Levin died April 11, 2013 at home in Sparrowbush, NY at the age of 80.

The former Deerpark Town Councilman served on the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, the River Management Plan Revision Committee, and was the 1988 Deerpark UDC representative.

Mr. Levin was in the furniture business and owned Hawks Nest Realty.

Arrangements were handled by Gray-Parker Funeral Home, Port Jervis. Call (845) 856-5191 for a complete obituary.

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 meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., 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'

DRBC Director to Retire

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Executive Director Carol R. Collier announced on Sept. 12 that she will be retiring effective March 12, 2014.

"I have served as executive director for 15 years and believe that is long enough for the good of the person and the position," Collier said. "It has truly been an honor to serve the basin community."

Collier was sworn in as the third director of the interstate-federal compact agency on Aug. 31, 1998.

"Before I retire in six months, my hope is that the DRBC will be able to complete a number of actions," she said. "These include adoption of the PCB standard and implementation strategy for the Delaware Estuary, progress toward a one-discharge permit program, reinstatement of fair share funding from the federal government and New York State, and defining a strategy for natural gas in the basin."

Water, Water Everywhere

The 4th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere - Future of the Upper Delaware River Conference" will take place Oct. 15

and 16, 2013 at the West Branch Angler Resort, 150 Faulkner Road, Hancock.

The conference is hosted by Friends of the Upper Delaware River in partnership with the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition.

It will provide an update on developments in science, policy, politics, and advocacy affecting the Upper Delaware River watershed.

Registration is \$30 for one day or \$50 for both. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please visit www.fudr.org for details.

2014 Zane Grey Fishing Tournament in Works

Planning is underway to organize a Zane Grey Hometown Fishing Tournament and Community Fair in July 2014 as a fun, recreational event to help commemorate the 2014 Bicentennial of Pike County, PA.

The event would honor Zane Grey, the "Father of the Western Novel" and world record-holding angler, who resided in Lackawaxen from 1905-1918.

His home is now a public museum operated by the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

(open in October on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the fall season closing on Sunday, Oct. 20).

Ideas include having a small mouth bass fishing contest, awards ceremony, a river-side parade, fly tying and casting demonstrations, Zane Grey readings and programs, a Paint-a-Pike auction, school art contest, entertainment, and vendors.

The family-friendly community fair would take place on the museum grounds, across Scenic Drive from the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Zane Grey River Access.

Preliminary partners include the Pike County Historical Society, Zane Grey's West Society, the National Park Service, and the Upper Delaware Council.

For information, contact Lori Strelecki at The Columns Museum in Milford, (570) 296-8126 or pikemuse@ptd.net.

Clean-up Results Noted

The 145 volunteers who participated in Kittatinny Canoes' 24th Annual Delaware River Clean-up on July 22-23 on and under the river and along the shorelines from Barryville, NY to Smithfield Beach, PA recovered 6.88 tons of trash, 95 lbs. of aluminum cans, and 132 tires.