

The Upper Delaware

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

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In This Issue...

UDC Reaches Out to Public

Page 1

Upper Delaware Profile:

Kristina Heister, NPS

Page 2

New DRBC Director Takes Oath

Page 3

**BioBlitz Finds Unique Species;
Upper Delaware River in Verse**

Page 4

UDC Bestows Annual Awards

Page 5

UDC Activity Highlights

Pages 6 and 7

Weather Project Play a Success

Page 8

**Presentations Add to Knowledge;
Studies Show Tourism Impact**

Page 9

Tips for Communication Towers

Page 10

Work Set on River Bridges

Page 11

News, Views, and 'To Do's'

Page 12

**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.



ENJOYING THE RIVER: Launching beneath the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge as part of the Upper Delaware Council's 26th Annual Family Raft Trip on Aug. 3 was Wayne County, PA Director of Planning Craig E. Rickard, at rear, his sons Ethan, 11 (center) and Colin, 13, and in-laws Ethel and Ed Jefferis of Phoenixville, PA. The paddle from Lander's River Trips Skinners Falls Base to Ten Mile River attracted 80 rafters. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



UDC HONORS: The Upper Delaware Council held its 26th Annual Awards Ceremony at Henning's Local in Eldred, NY on April 27 to pay tribute to those who have acted to enhance the Upper Delaware River Valley and protect its resources. Pictured from left to right are: Town of Fremont Supervisor George Conklin, who accepted a Special Recognition Award on behalf of the late John B. Niflot; Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19), keynote speaker; Lee Hartman, Community Service Award; Steven Schwartz, Upper Delaware BioBlitz, Partnership Award; Isaac Green Diebboll, Volunteer Award; Susie Kaspar and Peter Brandon Diefenbach, Recreation Achievement Award; Don Hamilton, Distinguished Service Award; John Conway, The Delaware Company, Cultural Achievement Award; and Jeff Dexter, 2013 UDC chairperson, Oaken Gavel Award. Read more about the banquet on Page 5. (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Kristina Heister

A 22-year veteran of the National Park Service with a strong background in natural resources began her new position as Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent on July 14, 2014.

Kris Heister is only the sixth individual to hold that title in the 36 years since the park unit was designated.

When the Upper Delaware vacancy was announced following the Jan. 24, 2014 retirement of Sean McGuinness and the Northeast Region's appointment of Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur for a six-month period, Heister applied immediately.

"As a life-long resident of Pennsylvania, I have many fond memories of canoeing the Delaware River with my family and jumping off the (now gone) rope swing at the Narrowsburg Bridge," she says.

Heister is a native of Malvern, a suburb of Philadelphia. She shared her household with three siblings, her biology teacher father, and her mother who ran an environmental day camp and recycling center.

"There were always turtles in the bathtub, roosters in the shower, and we had sheep, ponies, and dogs. I grew up loving animals and the outdoors," Heister recalls.

Originally interested in nursing or teaching, Heister graduated in 1989 with a B.S. degree in Biology from Salisbury State University in Maryland.

"It was kind of a natural transition that I decided to become a biologist," she says.

She worked as an inspector for the Montgomery County, PA Health Department before joining the National Park Service in April 1992 as a Biology Technician at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Heister went on to earn a Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 1995 from Pennsylvania State University.

"What appealed to me about the National Park Service is that we all believe really strongly in our mission, plus we get to work in all these fabulous places with great people," she says.

Her posts have included Appomattox Court House NHP, the Great Basin and Mojave Desert ("I went there sight unseen and loved it!"), a return to Valley Forge in 2006 - this time as the Chief of Natural Resources - then two years in that same capacity for the entire NPS Northeast Region based in Philadelphia.

Heister was responsible for leading a multidisciplinary team of experts to promote science-based management in parks and increase park involvement in decision-making through establishment of advisory groups such as the Natural Resource Advisory Committee.

The Upper Delaware is Heister's first superintendent's job and she has been



Kris Heister, National Park Service

enjoying it.

"I love the Delaware River and the resources in the Upper Delaware region. I like the challenges associated with the management setting of this park, and knew that there was a highly qualified and dedicated staff here to help me," she says.

Heister began immersing herself in "Upper Delaware 101" through reading, listening, observing, and reaching out since Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell announced her selection on May 28.

"I believe transparency is very important and that we're making great strides working with landowners and the public. The attitude at the Upper Delaware Council is conducive to candor and I want to have an open, honest, and trusting relationship. The first step to good decision-making is to have all the ideas on the table. That's the foundation of partnerships," she says.

At Valley Forge, Heister created a network of partnerships to integrate work being done with local non-profit organizations, youth programs, volunteers, the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program and the Parks for Every Classroom project.

She intends to explore ways to increase youth involvement at the Upper Delaware similarly, noting, "If we want to create future stewards of our national parks, we need to do that."

Other objectives that Heister is exploring with her approximately 25-member team at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are to enhance NPS partnerships, improve visitor orientation services, review the condition and uses of facilities, bring Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities in-house, and restructure staff

Please see PROFILE on Page 3

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

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PROFILE, continued from Page 2

positions for optimum productivity.

Heister gained renown for heading up an interdisciplinary effort to develop a highly controversial White-tailed Deer Management Program at Valley Forge among other career projects that required innovative leadership and building coalitions.

She received the Trish Patterson Student Conservation Association Award for Natural Resource Management in a small park for the Northeast Region in 2009 and was presented with the 2013 Coldwater Conservation Professional Award by the State Council of Trout Unlimited for her community work.

Working in partnership with the UDC to oversee the coordinated implementation of the River Management Plan is a concept that Heister immediately embraced.

"I feel that the Park Service and the Upper Delaware Council are working for the same thing in terms of assuring that these resources are unimpaired for present and future generations, which is exciting. That shared vision is absolutely fundamental to everything that we do. I'm impressed at the dedication of the people who serve on the Council, many of whom have responsibilities to their towns and townships as well," she says.

Besides her family's many visits to the Delaware River for recreation, Heister had another connection in that her mother grew up in Roebing, NJ and her grandfather worked for the Roebing Steel Co. which manufactured the cable used on the world-famous Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct that connects Minisink Ford, NY and Lackawaxen, PA and is owned by NPS.

Heister met her husband, Fred Gender, in 1992 when she began her NPS career. They wed in May of 2000. With a degree in secondary education for Biology, Gender has taught school, done construction, and worked in fly shops as he accompanied his wife on her assignments over the years.

"If you want to move up through the Park Service and acquire different skill sets, you move around. Fred is a jack of all trades but the love of his life is fishing. He is thrilled to be here in the cradle of fly-fishing. We're in it for the long haul," the 48-year-old vows.

Long before her local residency, Heister, Gender, another couple, and their three dogs had a 10-year tradition of taking one-week canoe trips down the Delaware.

The couple plans to purchase a home in the river valley after selling the house they had bought in Coatesville, PA in Dec. 2013.

Until they can reunite under one roof with their two cats and a dog, Heister is renting a small apartment in Narrowsburg, NY.

Hiking, canoeing, swimming, and reading are pastimes when she isn't working.



DRBC DIRECTOR: Steve Tambini addresses the audience at his Aug. 14 swearing-in ceremony held at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, NJ for his position as Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission. (Contributed Photo by Clarke Rupert, DRBC)

DRBC Executive Director Takes Oath

Steve Tambini was sworn in as the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) new executive director on August 14 during a ceremony held on the banks of the Delaware River. The DRBC is a non-voting member of the Upper Delaware Council.

"I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege to be the Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission. I truly look forward to working with you to uphold the Basin Compact and collectively manage this magnificent resource," Tambini said.

He was administered the oath of office by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin, who is the first alternate for Gov. Chris Christie on the DRBC. Also present and providing remarks were Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary E. Christopher Abruzzo, the first alternate for Gov. Tom Corbett on the commission, and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bliss, the first alternate for Brigadier General Kent D. Savre, the DRBC's federal member. Tambini also received welcoming remarks from the signatory states of New York and Delaware.

"I commit to working with Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the federal government to carry out my oath of office, while meeting our common goals and your unique needs," Tambini said. "Together, we will plan for a sustainable future to meet the region's water demands while balancing the need for greater water efficiency. We will use the expertise of the commission's signatory members, DRBC staff, and our many partners to protect, maintain, or improve the basin's water quality."

Steve Tambini is only the fourth executive director in the DRBC's 53-year history. He succeeds Carol R. Collier (appointed in 1998), who retired in March 2014; Gerald M. Hansler (appointed in 1977); and James F. Wright (appointed in 1962).

Tambini, 55, is a native of New York and a long-time resident of Burlington County, NJ. He brings over 30 years of experience in water supply engineering and water resource planning, management and operations to the DRBC.

His previous work on both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey sides of the Delaware River has allowed him to develop and build relationships with regulators and stakeholders throughout the basin.

He holds a B.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering, both from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. He is a registered professional engineer in New Jersey and New York.

The DRBC is a federal/interstate government agency responsible for managing the water resources within the 13,539 square-mile Delaware River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The five commission members are the governors of the basin states and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government. For more information, please visit www.drbc.net.

BioBlitz Finds 884 Unique Species At Ten Mile River Scout Camp Site

Hundreds of community members took advantage of the opportunity to interact with over 60 scientists and amateur naturalists participating in the 2nd annual Upper Delaware BioBlitz.

This year's site was an approximately 500-acre section of the 12,000-acre Ten Mile River Scout Camp in the Town of Tusten owned by the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America.

The habitat-rich property, partially located within the national park unit, featured open meadows, forested areas, the Delaware River, Ten Mile River, three lake types, wetlands, and an 1,100 foot contour on the ridge above Rock Lake to explore.

At noon on June 28, scientific teams began collecting, identifying and cataloguing every living thing visible to the naked eye for a 24-hour period.

The primary goal of a BioBlitz is to compile a snapshot survey of the life on a particular property as an indicator of the biodiversity of the area.

The public was invited to the site on June 29 to witness the inventorying process and participate in programs including electrofishing and water monitoring demonstrations, aquatic insect and mayfly identifications, walking tours to spot birds and wildflowers, an edible mushrooms hunt, and a ceremony to announce the winners of the "Photos of Nature in the Upper Delaware Watershed" online contest.

As of Aug. 31, the species count stood at 884, with 123 "first occurrences" reported.

The breakdown by type of the 884



HERP HYPE: Dr. Thomas LaDuke of East Stroudsburg University, leader of the Herpetology Team, shows a tiny ring-neck snake to kids at the 2014 Upper Delaware BioBlitz as two of his former students, Heather Umstead, left, and Kelly Murman, center, observe in the Base Camp Collections Tent on June 29. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

unique species was: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects, mussels, snails), 82; Birds, 85; Botany (plants), 247; Bryology (mosses, lichens and worts), 154; Fish, 25; Fungi (mushrooms and molds), 103; Herps (reptiles and amphibians), 24; Invertebrates (terrestrial insects, worms, snails), 145; and Mammals, 19.

The first occurrences, meaning the first

time that a particular species has been recorded in publicly accessible information for Sullivan County, NY, represented 73 different plants, 45 mosses and liverworts, and five species of invertebrates.

The data will be publicly available to help future scientists understand what was living on the site at this particular time, including rare or endangered species.

More than 25 volunteers helped run the event in collaboration with the BioBlitz 12-member steering committee. There were about 250 visitors to the site during the public portion of the event.

Funding and support for the 2014 BioBlitz were provided by: Catskill Mountainkeeper, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Delaware Highlands Mushroom Society, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Fox Foundation, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Northeast PA Audubon Society, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Open Space Institute, Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, Sullivan Renaissance, The Nature Conservancy, Thompson Sanitation, Trust for Public Land, Upper Delaware Council, and Verizon Wireless.

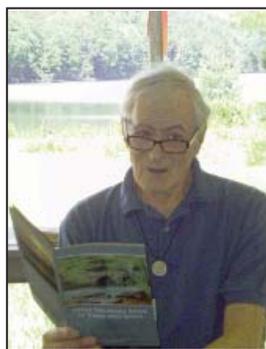
Further details and photos are available at www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com.

Malkin Shares Upper Delaware Verses

Mort Malkin of Milanville, PA has compiled poetry and illustrations inspired by his natural surroundings into a book entitled, "Upper Delaware River in Verse and Image."

It's believed to be the first time that Eastern National, which provides educational products and services for America's National Parks, has published a poetry collection focused on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Malkin was encouraged to pursue the project by former NPS Superintendent Sean McGuinness, and worked with Connie Lloyd and Bonnie



Mort Malkin

Sheard on production.

"I wanted to show the beauty of nature and the wonders of the Delaware, and make people aware that this is a national trea-

sure that we should protect," he says. "I've lived in the area for 14 years and the inspiration is there every day."

David B. Soete contributed photographs to supplement Malkin's color illustrations.

The 6x9-inch, 25-page book is available for \$5.25 at the Zane Grey Museum store in Lackawaxen, PA or call (570) 685-4871.

Malkin is available to do public readings, at which time he brings along his original, large-scale illustrations and extra book copies.

He may be reached at (570) 729-1244 or by email at mortmalkin@yahoo.com.

Upper Delaware Council Bestows Annual Awards

Upper Delaware Council 2014 Chairperson Andrew Boyar offered a poetic call to action at the UDC's 26th Annual Awards Ceremony held at Henning's Local in Eldred, a hamlet within the Town of Highland for which Boyar serves as town supervisor.

"Stand on the banks of the Upper Delaware and you cannot but be awed by its magnificence and majesty. This force of nature in our backyard needs and deserves good stewardship. The UDC strives to preserve and protect this national treasure for future generations," Boyar told the 81 guests.

He characterized the 2014 recipients of UDC awards as "an amazing roster of doers and achievers."

The top honor, the Distinguished Service Award, went to Don Hamilton, Chief of Resource Management for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, for his ongoing professionalism, career accomplishments, and commitment since 1993.

The Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award was presented in absentia to Rayna Maguire, her children Connor and Madison, and family friends Raymond Nelson and Melissa Browning, all of Staten Island, for their collective efforts in successfully rescuing Rayna's New York City firefighter husband, Paul, following a medical mishap while canoeing on the Upper Delaware River on July 20, 2013.

The Partnership Award went to the Upper Delaware BioBlitz, the biodiversity cataloging event that took place June 28-29, 2013 on a 63.5-acre site located at the confluence of the Delaware's East and West Branches in Starlight, PA.

Lee Hartman of Equinunk, PA won the Community Service Award for his dedication over the past three decades as a con-



ENTERTAINMENT: The talented Kehagias siblings of Damascus, PA - Elektra, 7, and Leo, 11 - provided Early American music during the banquet reception.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson was presented with a gift, "Eagles Soaring Over Narrowsburg" by UDC 2014 Chairperson Andrew Boyar, pictured at left, and UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie, as taken by acclaimed photographer David B. Soete, right, of Bethany, PA. A diverse exhibit of river valley landscapes and wildlife photographs by Soete, who retired from the UDC in 2012 after 23 years as Senior Resource Specialist, is currently on public display at the Council's Narrowsburg office at 211 Bridge St. during weekday business hours. (UDC Photos, this page, by Scott Rando)

servationist and pioneer flyfishing guide.

The Cultural Achievement Award went to The Delaware Company, a historic support non-profit organization founded by John and Debra Conway of Barryville, NY under the motto, "Growing our future from the roots of our past."

Susie Kaspar of Lakeville, PA and Peter Brandon Diefenbach of Narrowsburg, NY shared the Recreation Achievement Award for leading the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's 2013 Water Safety School Outreach Campaign.

A 25-year-old Callicoon, NY resident, Isaac Green Diebboll, received the Volunteer Award for the "Access Government" project he launched in 2013 as a component of his North School Studio and for his work with the Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development.

A Special Recognition Award paid tribute to John B. Niflot (1935-2013), who served as UDC Town of Fremont Representative for 19 years, including 10 terms as secretary-treasurer; town councilman from 1994-2013; and founder, president, and newsletter editor of the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley based in Long Eddy since 1980.

Damascus Township, PA Supervisor Jeff Dexter was lauded for his leadership of the UDC in its 25th anniversary year of 2013.

In his keynote address, U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19) discussed his reach across political aisles to representatives of fellow Delaware River Basin states,

his establishment of a Watershed Advisory Group to gather information and provide advocacy on New York City reservoir flow management policies, the importance of regional tourism as an economic engine, and his conservation concerns.

"This is an honor for me to be here. We're kindred spirits. The things you are passionate about, I am as well. We're utterly aligned in what my role is. You have a voice and we're going to work together going forward," Rep. Gibson pledged.

A souvenir booklet with a biography of Congressman Gibson, complete descriptions of the awards, and photos of each recipient, was compiled by UDC staff and is available upon request.



Don Hamilton, Distinguished Service Award

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-March to mid-September 2014, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

UDC PRESENTATIONS

The UDC was invited to a Gathering of Northeast Region Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers on April 10-11 at Central House Resort in Beach Lake, PA to share lessons and successes of the 1% of rivers in the United States that are designated as Wild & Scenic, with the Upper Delaware's status as a model for this program.

Executive Director Laurie Ramie met with incoming seasonal staff for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River May 15 as part of their orientation.

Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell briefed the Town of Lumberland Planning Board May 6, the Town of Highland Planning Board June 4, and the Shohola Township Planning Commission July 17, on the UDC's project review procedures.

O'Dell was also a presenter at a Sept. 3 planning seminar sponsored by Sullivan Renaissance at the Cochecton Town Hall on "Tips and Tools to Preserve Scenic Views" discussing the availability of a National Park Service methodology to objectively inventory and evaluate scenic views in a community.

RIVER CLEAN-UPS

Thanks to a special allocation of \$3,000 by the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, the UDC was able to award funds to incentivize river and shoreline clean-ups that took place in Damascus and Lackawaxen Townships, and the



CONSTITUENT MEETING: A contingent from the Upper Delaware Council met with U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson on Aug. 13 at his 19th District Office in Ferndale to brief him on river valley issues and introduce the new superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Pictured clockwise from front center are Rep. Gibson; Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland; Rep. Gibson office summer intern Anthony Gagliardo of Neversink; UDC Chairperson Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland; Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochecton; Jeff Dexter, Damascus Township; and NPS Superintendent Kristina Heister. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Towns of Highland and Lumberland this summer.

UDC LETTERS

4/3/14 to PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Ellen Ferretti regarding two broad-

band communication towers proposed by Verizon Wireless in Damascus Township within the river corridor boundaries as potentially intrusive to scenic values;

5/1 to New York City Mayor Bill deBlasio encouraging his administration to adopt an open, collaborative, and transparent process for Delaware River Basin reservoir management decisions that impact downstream communities;

5/1 to NYS Department of Transportation with support for the Town of Tusten's Pedestrian Links and Sidewalk Improvement Project grant application to the Federal Transportation Alternative Program;

6/18 to National Park Service Upper Delaware Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur questioning the decision to remove their trash receptacles from river access sites;

7/3 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on Draft Addendum IV to the Fishery Management Plan supporting continuation of the local silver eel fishery;

8/28 to the NPS Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program in support of the Common Waters Partnership's Aug. 1 application for professional planning assistance to explore the implications of seeking National Water Trail designation for the Delaware River;

9/4 to UDC NYS member towns advising them of partial exemptions available to property owners as a local option for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of historic barns.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development projects reviewed or discussed included:

- the increased height from 180 to 199 feet of a proposed emergency communication tower in the Town of Tusten for the Sullivan County 911 System;
- approval from the NYS Department of Environmental



HANCOCK STATION: The National Park Service organized an educational Natural Gas Summit that included a Sept. 16 tour of Millennium Pipeline Co.'s Hancock Compressor Station online since March 31, above, and active gas operations in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

Conservation of a five-year permit granted with conditions to the Little Joseph Realty LLC Sand and Gravel Mine, Rt. 97, Town of Cochecton;

- notice of a six-month moratorium set by Berlin Township in May on sign installations pending adoption of a sign ordinance;
- issuance of a June 9 letter to the Town of Delaware stating that helipad plans at the Hermann Division of Catskill Regional Medical Center in Callicoon conform with the River Management Plan;
- review of an application in Damascus Township for a Special Exception Use under Floodplain Development Standards to construct a two-car garage;
- determination that sawmills are an appropriate use in the Town of Tusten's recreational river zone based on an application by Big Dog Sawmill for an area variance and special use permit; and
- approval of an Aug. 26 letter finding no discrepancy with the special use placement of a pre-fabricated shed at Knights Eddy Campsites in the Town of Lumberland.

UDC GRANTS

As all outstanding 2014 Technical Assistance Grants were completed by the Aug. 22 deadline, the UDC Project Review Committee held a special meeting Sept. 9 to review 13 applications requesting a total of \$49,438 for the 2015 program, for which \$30,000 is allocated. The full Council was expected to vote on the committee's recommendations on Oct. 2.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2014-06: Enact a Member Participation Policy; 2014-07: Adopting a Fiscal Year 2015 Budget (projected \$310,100 expenses and \$305,300 revenue); 2014-08, Adopting the FY 2015 Work Plan for the Water Use/Resource Management Committee; 2014-09, Adopting the FY 2015 Work Plan for the Project Review Committee; 2014-10, Adopting the FY 2015 Work Plan for the Operations Committee; and 2014-11, Hiring a Consultant for the Preliminary Review of the 1986 Final River Management Plan.

OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS

The UDC contracted with Environmental Planning & Design, LLC of Pittsburgh to facilitate and prepare a technical review of the 1986 River Management Plan, and hired W Design of Barryville to update its 1990 Design Handbook, with both projects due to be completed by the Sept. 30 end of Fiscal Year 2014. Additional information will be provided in the next issue.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

UDC staff participated in: "Stop Eurasian Boar and Early Detection of Invasive Species" on 4/8 hosted by Delaware County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Hancock; NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Annual Meeting, 5/14 in Binghamton; Viewshed Analysis Training, 5/19-21 at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; a NYS DEC informational meeting 6/30 on proposed regulatory changes to the American Eel Fishery Management Plan; National Parks



OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS: Ron Coldon's Signs and Designs of Yulan, NY applies a vinyl logo to the new commercial grade front door at the UDC office that was part of an energy-efficiency upgrade prompted by a New York State Energy and Research Development Authority audit done on April 16. Other projects based on the report's recommendations for long-term energy savings were to insulate the attic and exposed piping, weather-strip windows, replace an air conditioning unit with a heat/air pump, and install four ceiling fans. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Conservation Association meetings related to their Delaware River National Parks Business Survey to assess community economic impacts on 7/31, 8/14, and 9/24; the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition Conference 9/12 at West Branch Angler Resort, Hale Eddy, which introduced the organization of communities and entities located below the New York City reservoirs that share a mission "to develop and implement science-based initiatives and policies that enhance the local economy, the cold water fishery, and mitigate flooding in the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters"; and a 9/22 presentation of the "Estimate of Tourism Visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway" report by Fairweather Consulting, which is available at www.upperdelaware scenicbyway.org.

NATURAL GAS

In judicial decisions, the NYS Court of Appeals on June 30 affirmed a ruling for the Towns of Dryden and Middlefield that local governments have home rule authority to ban natural gas operations through zoning, and two lawsuits brought against Governor Cuomo, the NYS DEC, and State Health Department challenging NY's delay in finishing its environmental analysis of shale gas development that began with a July 2008 moratorium were dismissed on July 14 over legal standing issues.



CANAL DAYS: National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Seasonal Ranger Tim Oset describes the lifestyle of families working on the Delaware & Hudson Canal in the 19th century to fourth graders from the Western Wayne School District on May 9 during the annual Canal Days educational programs held at Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct in Lackawaxen, PA and Minisink Ford, NY. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



6



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4

"It was a labor of love and it came from everyone, the artists, the community and our partners." ~ Director Tannis Kowalchuck, NACL Theatre



3



2

**The Weather Project
Community Play & Expo**
August 9, 2014
Yulan Firemen's Ball Field

Culminating a year-long project to bring art, science, and community together to engage the public about climate change, NACL Theatre of Highland Lake, NY coordinated a one-night special production that involved 73+ participants on stage, behind the scenes, and as contributors to the "The Weather Outside My Window" art show. Visit www.NACL.org/weatherproject for further details.



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CREATIVE TALENTS: 1. Real-life NASA research scientist Elaine Matthews, far right, has provided technical assistance for this initiative and agreed to participate in the play, with Sunny Thomas, Bryan Ritchey and Gabriel Pinciotti portraying science students. Behind them are chorus members Kazzrie Jaxxen, Janet Burgan, and Kimberly Ferstler. 2. River Dancers Isabel Braverman, Corinna Grunn, and Carrie Mellinger, added an elegant presence. 3. The Fossil Fuel Gang - John Higgins, Laylage Courie, and Robert Montagnese - elicited boos from the crowd as they glorified in consumptive excess. 4. Cass Collins and Nora Brown emoted and amused as Cloud Collectors. 5. Laura Moran portrayed the Mermaid, counting and mourning the extinction of species done in by habitat changes. 6. Chorus Director Janet Burgan leads the entire cast in song for an uplifting end to the show. The Weather Project Play was directed by Tannis Kowalchuk, with Mark Dunau as a contributor writer, Mimi McGurl as dramaturg, Rolf Sturm as musical director, and costumes by Karen Flood. The production manager was Josh Poston, with Zoot providing technical direction. John Tomlinson curated the art show. Workshops took place in puppetry, still-walking, writing, music, and design leading up to the enthusiastically-received free performance. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Presentations Increase UDC Knowledge

The Upper Delaware Council benefitted from varied presentations this period.

At the April 3 meeting, Ralph "Bud" Cook, the Northeastern Pennsylvania director of The Nature Conservancy, addressed the board about a new Watershed Protection Program targeting the Delaware River.

Cook noted that the William Penn Foundation based in Philadelphia is investing \$35 million for a multi-year initiative to protect or restore critical sources of drinking water for 17 million people.

The Foundation established eight sub-watershed clusters to develop collaborative plans to implement local conservation strategies and monitoring.

Given that the Pocono Kittatinny Cluster features some of the highest existing water quality in the river basin, the local region's efforts will be aimed at water and forest conservation through stewardship incentives and technical assistance to municipalities for zoning.

Funding will be distributed competitively.

The blight of the invasive plant species Japanese Knotweed was the subject of a May 1 presentation by NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Bio-



EMERGENCY RESPONSE: At its August 7 monthly meeting, the Upper Delaware Council heard a presentation from NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief Ranger Joe Hinkes on Emergency Response in the River Valley. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

logist Jamie Myers.

She noted that Knotweed is easily dis-

persed by water, soil, and people and quickly invades the river banks, crowding out native vegetation.

Targeting the underground structure of the plant is the best chance to mitigate it.

NPS Law Enforcement Supervisor Joe Hinkes attended both the June 17 Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting and the Aug. 7 full Council.

In light of a May 25 drowning near the Corwin Farms Ranger Station in the Town of Lumberland, Hinkes reviewed that incident and the Park Service's ongoing "Wear It!" themed water safety campaign.

There has not been a single drowning fatality since 1980 on the Upper Delaware River of a person properly wearing a life jacket. Multiple strategies to emphasize the importance of life jacket use while swimming, boating, fishing, or floating are continually assessed and expanded.

Hinkes also provided the UDC with a River Valley Emergency Management Briefing covering bi-state communications, cooperation among responders, interactions with Central New York Railroad and the New York City Reservoir System, training exercises, and emergency planning.

Sullivan County Associate Planner Heather Jacksy provided an update July 3 on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor, which includes developing a plan, designing river access improvements, and installing bridge signage.

The Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition was introduced at the Sept. 4 UDC meeting. See more on Page 7.

Studies Show Economic Impact of Tourism

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 228,464 visitors to NPS-managed sites within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in 2013 spent \$9,287,000 in communities near the park unit. That spending also supported 95 jobs in the local area.

Most visitor spending in the overall analysis was for lodging (30.3%), followed by food and beverages (27.3%), gas and oil (12.1%), admissions and fees (10.3%), and souvenirs and other expenses (10%).

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists from the U.S. Geological Survey. The report, which provides details by individual park and state, is available for review at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>.

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), a nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to enhancing national parks, also retained an economist and conducted a Delaware River National Parks Business Survey this summer.

Their goal was to engage residents and businesses in and around the Upper Delaware and Delaware Water Gap to develop a better understanding of their economic connections with the surrounding communities and any challenges from that proximity.

A focus group meeting took place July 31 at the Upper Delaware Council office with a follow-up session scheduled for late September to discuss preliminary survey results.

Visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (NYS Route 97) was quantified through a study conducted by Fairweather Consulting, funded by an Upper Delaware Council (UDC) Technical Assistance Grant through the Town of Lumberland.

The final report released in July calculated that 283,000 to 341,000 visitors come to the state-designated byway corridor annually for outdoor recreation-related activities. It describes the various types of leisure travelers to tap and compares the amount of spending to the amount of selling in the region to identify unrealized economic opportunities.

A public presentation of the findings took place on Sept. 22 in Narrowsburg, jointly sponsored by UDSB, Inc. and UDC.

A study of the economic impact of the Upper Delaware River's coldwater fishery commissioned by Delaware County Economic Development and Friends of the Upper Delaware River also had UDC funding, determined a net value of \$414 million in economic activity, and may be accessed at www.shepstone.net/FishingStudy.pdf.

The first Green Tourism Conference to explore ecotourism in the Catskills and Pocono Mountains region was held April 7-8 at Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon. A second conference is already planned for April 14-15, 2015 at Woodloch Resort, Hawley, PA.

UDC Workshop Offers Tips and Trends:

Siting Communication Towers in the Scenic River Valley

The 40 participants at the Upper Delaware Council's March 29 workshop on "Siting Communication Towers in the Scenic Upper Delaware River Valley" learned about telecommunications trends and techniques for municipalities to deal with that industry.

The three-hour workshop in Narrowsburg attracted local government officials, planning and zoning board members, and interested citizens from both sides of the river.

Orange County, NY Planning Commissioner David Church has helped draft model tower ordinances as well as a Conservation & Design Guidebook for the Shawangunk Ridge, which The Nature Conservancy lists among the 100 Most Sacred Places in the World.

"It was a very high sensitivity issue there, like the Delaware Valley. There was a concern there would be a proliferation. It's a question of impact," Church said.

For many years, towers were not specifically addressed in local zoning codes.

Church acknowledged "some significant preemption by the federal government" when it comes to regulating utilities, adding, "There's still a role for local government but you're constrained in some ways."

Municipalities can prepare themselves, with or without zoning enacted, he suggested. The key is to balance a community's resource values with societal needs.

"You will get no modern business activity without telecommunications as part of the public infrastructure. It's essential," Church said.

He recommended that communities start by identifying and mapping their most important natural resources.

"What is it that you care about? You need to get consensus on that. If you care about scenic resources, you're generally in the business of protecting public places," he said.

Different methods may be pursued after this identification process occurs. A community could adopt locally non-binding guidance describing how development should proceed, take an overlay approach, or draft a local law for site plan review.

If a community opts to address allowable uses through zoning, that requires developing definitions, a purpose statement of public need or intent, and an application process.

Also speaking was Frank Yoder, who has managed Pennsylvania's statewide radio network since 2007 as Broadband Services Manager with the Pennsylvania State Police.

Yoder complimented the UDC on leading an effort to consider the potential cumulative impacts of telecommunications towers on the river valley region.

"I do appreciate and admire your holistic view approach. I don't get to see that much," he said.

His network largely completed the construction of 250 towers to improve high-speed Internet connections throughout the Commonwealth in 2010.

"We recognize in public safety that these things are ugly. There's no way around it," Yoder said. "It's certainly within the right of the community or region to ask for things that minimize visual impact."

One tip he offered was that a monopole painted gray, white, or light blue tends to reduce the visual intrusion, although it's more expensive than the traditional lattice tower.

When dealing with tower applicants, Yoder suggested that communities hire a consultant to represent their interests in navigating through the complex, multi-agency process; develop a relationship with agencies such as the State Historic Preservation Office to alert them to local needs and contacts; request visual simulations, bal-

loon tests and/or computerized viewshed analyses as a negotiating tool; and encourage co-location of antennas on towers for the benefits of reducing infrastructure and that multiple tenants split ongoing maintenance expenses.

Dick Comi, who has over 30 years of telecommunications experience first working for the telephone and wireless industries before becoming co-owner in 1997 of The Center for Municipal Solutions which "works the other side of the street" as a consultant to local governments, was the final workshop speaker.

To provide a scope of the industry's prevalence, Comi offered the example of AT&T as "just one provider" announcing that they plan to install 50,000 more tower sites throughout the country.

"It's the largest infrastructure development going on right now," he said.

"We won't see towers going away in our lifetime but we will continue to see upgrades in technology. It has a long way to go. Eventually there won't be any landlines for residential users. The usage is going to wireless," Comi predicted.

He listed what municipalities cannot do to distinguish that they have some opportunity for control over all other aspects.

The "can't do" list includes: 1. Discriminate among service providers; 2. Prohibit towers (zone out) in a community; 3. Take an unreasonable amount of time to make a determination; 4. Deny an application if they verifiably meet the federal regulations for radiofrequency (RF) emissions; and 5. Deny an application without a substantial written record.

Where towers are sited, how they look, lighting, screening, setback requirements, and more can be addressed through a local law, ordinance or regulation, regardless of whether zoning is in place.

Comi advised hiring an attorney with some expertise in telecommunications to draft the regulatory instrument, developing an application process that takes the required action deadlines into account, and bringing a consultant on board to guide the review at the applicant's expense.

Sources of revenue available from wireless companies are site facility rentals, application fees, and assessed values.

Rural areas are indeed in their scope. "You've got a very pristine area, folks. You better damn well protect it because the industry is going to come in eventually. Look out because they will put their towers where they want them, not where you want them. Protect your communities," Comi advised.



FOND FAREWELL: Upper Delaware Council Chairman Andrew Boyar, right, presented Malcolm Wilbur with a letter of appreciation unanimously approved on July 3 for Wilbur's exemplary service as Acting Superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from Jan. 27 to July 13, 2014. The former Milford, PA resident assumed a new position as Associate Regional Director for Administration and Information Technology for the NPS Midwest Region based in Omaha, NE. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



GRAND PRIZE: Jordan Metzger, 14, of Milford, PA takes a seat in her brand new Old Town canoe as the grand prize winner of the Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby, for which prizes were awarded at the July 12 Zane Grey Festival in Lackawaxen. Standing from left to right are: NPS Ranger Susie Kaspar; winners Karol Sundholm of Eldred, NY; Hunter Shampine, 13, of Long Eddy, NY; Will Reeve of Milford; Judges' Coordinator Andy Boyar; and winners Aidan Sensiba, 14, of Long Eddy, and Lee Hartman of Equinunk, PA. The bi-state fishing derby ran from April 12 through July 6, targeting rainbow, brook & brown trout, and small-mouth bass caught and released live on the Delaware and Lackawaxen Rivers and tributaries. The derby honoring renowned author and angler Zane Grey was part of the 2014 Pike County 200th anniversary events. See the July news releases page at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for complete derby results and more information. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Delaware River Sojourn Celebrates 20 Years



DROP OF WATER: The 2014 Delaware River Sojourn celebrated "Sharing the Journey for 20 Years" with over 100 people participating each of the first two days on the Upper Delaware June 22 and 23. Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Ranger Jessica Newbern presented a program titled "One Drop of Water" during a lunch stop at the Mongaup Access.



Work Set for Local Bridges

Two Upper Delaware River bridges maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) are due to be replaced or repaired by 2018.

The contract to build a new Pond Eddy Bridge is expected to be let in April 2016, with construction taking place in 2017 and possibly lasting for 15 months.

The estimated cost to replace the 1904 single-lane, timber-decked bridge approximately 50 feet upstream of the current structure is \$11.9 million.

The new bridge design calls for curved steel trusses, a 14-foot single lane with a six-foot sidewalk that could be converted into a travel lane, and a 40-ton capacity.

PennDOT found the bridge to be structurally deficient in 1993 and imposed a 7-ton weight limit.

The historic truss bridge is being marketed for adaptive re-use elsewhere; otherwise, it will be demolished.

The UDC expressed concern in a Sept. 18 letter over the potential impacts that the causeway to be constructed across the river for equipment staging may have on boating safety and fish migration.

The 1954 Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge is due for a \$10 million major rehabilitation, according to plans previewed by PennDOT on Sept. 18.

In the Fall of 2012, an inspection found that 32% of the bridge deck was in a state of advanced deterioration, which led to down-posting the weight limit, doing emergency repairs, and restricting travel to one lane since 2013.

The anticipated schedule is to do environmental clearance this fall, finalize the design phase by 2016, advertise for bids, then complete work from Spring 2017 to Fall 2018.

The open grid deck, 5-foot sidewalks, and railings will be replaced, repairs will be made to the substructure, and the entire bridge will be painted.

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'

25th KC River Cleanup

Kittatinny Canoes marked the 25th anniversary of its "On and Under the River Clean-up" on July 21-23, with 228 volunteers plucking litter along 62 miles of river and shoreline from Barryville, NY to the Delaware Water Gap.

This year's haul was 8.92 tons of trash, 99 lbs. of aluminum cans, and 244 tires.

Hancock Names Highway

A portion of New York State Route 97 beginning at the western boundary of the Village of Hancock and ending at the Delaware/Sullivan County line was formally dedicated as the "Hancock Veterans Memorial Highway" on Aug. 19.

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation on Nov. 10, 2013 approving the designation in tribute to service members from the Town of Hancock lost to various wars and conflicts.

New highway signage was unveiled by Town of Hancock Supervisor Sam Rowe, who had initiated the request, in a ceremony also attended by bill sponsors, NYS Senator Thomas Libous and Assemblyman Cliff Crouch.

Tusten to Go Solar

The Town of Tusten signed a contract with Atlantech Solar of Suffern, NY in July to install and maintain a 165-kilowatt solar system at the Town Barn on NYS Route 97. Final approvals and permits are now being sought.

If successful, the project could save the town an estimated \$634,000 (40%) in electricity bills over a 25-year period through use of a Power Purchasing Agreement involving federal energy tax credits.

The several hundred solar panels to be installed on posts, at no cost to the town, would power all municipal buildings, facilities, and streetlights.

Common Waters Grants

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation's Common Waters initiative was awarded a three-year grant to expand its efforts to support and maintain regional water quality in Sullivan, Pike, and Monroe Counties.

The grant is part of a \$35 million campaign by the William Penn Foundation to protect and restore critical sources of drinking water for 15 million people.

Eight clusters of sub-watersheds were

established, constituting approximately 25% of the total Delaware River Basin across four states.

In the Poconos-Kittatinny Cluster, the Pinchot Institute and Common Waters will focus on land and water protection projects in priority areas, and development of an outreach plan to promote understanding of the economic value of forests and water.

The Common Waters Partnership also received a \$6,000 grant from the Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative to implement a program called "Confluence", which aims to enhance tourism to the Delaware River watershed by collecting and sharing stories from local people.

UDC Offers T-shirts

Royal blue t-shirts featuring a map of the NY-PA Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River region on the back and the Upper Delaware Council's Land-Water-People logo on the front left chest area are available for a \$15 donation in all adult sizes to support the non-profit organization's conservation mission.

Contact Cindy Odell at (845) 252-3022 or cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org to order.