

The Upper Delaware

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

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Thank you for your interest.



EAGLE RELEASE: A rare opportunity to witness the release of a rehabilitated yearling eagle occurred on April 27 in Milanville, PA. The injured fledgling was found on the ground near NYS Route 97 in the Town of Cochection with two fractures in her left wing on July 22, 2016 and reported to the National Park Service. Twelve weeks after surgery, she was able to tentatively fly in an enclosure at the Delaware Valley Raptor Center. Director Bill Streeter determined that she was ready to return to the wild in the spring. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

DRBC Regulations Propose to Ban Gas Drilling in River Basin

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will release revised draft regulations by Nov. 30, 2017 that are expected to prohibit natural gas drilling in Wayne and Pike Counties, and end the de facto moratorium that has been in place since 2010.

After New York officially banned high-volume hydraulic fracturing state-wide on June 29, 2015, the two Pennsylvania counties in the Upper Delaware appear to be the only area of the basin still able to develop Marcellus Shale gas reserves.

The rulemaking will also address storage, treatment, disposal or discharge of hydraulic fracturing-related wastewater where permitted and provide for the regulation of inter-basin transfers of the industry's associated water and wastewater.

The approval to proceed with publishing

the rules came at a Sept. 13 DRBC meeting at which New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware Commissioners voted yes; New Jersey abstained; and the federal government representative voted no.

PA Rep. Jonathan Fritz (111th District) was frustrated by Gov. Tom Wolf's vote.

"Our communities deserve to have the same type of opportunities occurring in other parts of the state. With natural gas prices on the rebound and a resurgence of drilling activity bound to take place throughout the rest of the Commonwealth, Wayne County landowners will continue to be locked out," Rep. Fritz said.

Gov. Wolf issued a statement saying he was pleased to see the DRBC take this step forward after years of study.

Please see DRILLING on Page 11

Upper Delaware Profile: Michael Barth

Michael Barth learned a lesson back during his time in the Boy Scouts that he adopted as his personal motto in life: "Do a good turn daily."

His role as the Upper Delaware Council Representative for Westfall Township, PA merely adds to a long list of Barth's community outreach efforts.

The 51-year-old grew up in Port Jervis and graduated from that city's high school in 1984 before enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

He served for six years as an Aviation Electronics Technician, primarily based in Jacksonville, FL but also sailed three cruises aboard the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy.

While he enjoyed working on helicopters, an injury he sustained led Barth to his medical discharge.

He went to work for New York Telephone (now known as Verizon) as a cable splicer and officially retired on October 1, 2017 after 25 years with the utility company.

Even while working at his full-time job, Barth made time for the activities that are special to him.

The former Eagle Scout who earned his badge cleaning up the Old Erie Turntable in Port Jervis is the Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 75 in Shohola.

He is the current first vice-president and spent 30 years as finance officer for American Legion Post 139 in Milford.

Barth belongs to the VFW Naval Ship Post and the Elks Lodge, both in Port Jervis.

Seven years ago, he founded and serves as chairman of the Pike County Friends of the National Rifle Association, which includes organizing an annual banquet to raise funds for youth shooting programs.



Michael Barth, Westfall Township, PA

Barth has also served as Westfall Township's constable for 19 years, largely consisting of serving legal papers on behalf of the court system.

The Westfall Township Board of Supervisors appointed Barth on Aug. 4, 2014 to fill the UDC alternate position which had been vacant since 2009.

After UDC Representative Chuck Pranski resigned in July 2015, Barth stepped up to the plate effective Aug. 3, 2015.

Barth combined having worked five successive summers starting in 1980 for Lander's River Trips hauling boats and other duties at the Minisink Ford base with his own great memories of recreating on the Delaware as his motivation.

"I grew up on the river. We used to take 3-day trips and camp out. Somehow it seems that the river doesn't get used as much it did," he says, adding that observation from the perspective of his father having a house just below the boat ramps in Matamoras.

When he began attending UDC meetings, Barth was surprised by the breadth and diversity of the issues that are in the organization's scope.

"You don't realize how involved the UDC is and all the aspects of what goes on with the river that we have a say in," he notes.

Barth estimates that he attends 15 meetings per month based on all his memberships and interests.

"Somebody has got to do it," he jokes.

He met his future wife, Dorothy, in high school and the couple has been married since 1991. She is employed by the YMCA in Huguenot, NY.

The Barths have two sons: Joey, 22, who does demolition work in New York City; and Jacob, 18, an Eagle Scout and 2017 graduate of Delaware Valley High School who is following his father's path into the Navy.

An avid motorcyclist, Barth is a member of the American Legion Riders. He also enjoys camping, fishing, and hunting through the Matamoras Rod & Gun Club and the Lost Camp Hunting Club.

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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New NPS Regional Director



Gay Vietzke, formerly superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C., began duty as regional director for the National Park Service Northeast Region in September.

Based in Philadelphia, the Northeast Region includes 83 national parks as well as national areas, landmarks and sites in 13 states with more than 3,000 employees and a \$320 million+ budget.

She served as the Northeast Region's deputy regional director from 2011-15.

River Designation Anniversaries Abound in 2018

With just a little over one-quarter of 1% of U.S. rivers included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Upper Delaware enjoys a lofty status as being among those 12,734 miles of 208 rivers chosen for protection.

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) on Oct. 2, 1968 to preserve the free-flowing condition of rivers in the nation that possess certain outstandingly remarkable values, and to protect those rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

A 73.4-mile segment of the Upper Delaware in New York and Pennsylvania was the 19th addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System on Nov. 10, 1978.

A key aspect of the designation was that protection would occur through voluntary stewardship by landowners and river users, and relevant governmental regulations and programs, with a limitation on federal government land ownership.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) was incorporated on Feb. 18, 1988 as a non-profit organization to oversee coordination of the partnership-based implementation of the Final 1986 River Management Plan.

As preparations are underway to mark the series of milestone anniversaries in 2018, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program based in Washington, D.C. assigned one of its two Youth Engagement Fellows to the Upper Delaware for an 11-month tenure that began in mid-July.

Kelleen Lanagan, 26, of State College, PA, is hosted by the National Park Service (NPS) and residing with the family of Damascus Township Supervisor and UDC Alternate Steve Adams during her stay.

Armed with a 2013 Bachelor's degree in Geoscience and a 2017 Master's of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction, both from Penn State, Lanagan previously taught English to grades K-6 in South Korea for a year before applying for the Fellowship position.

Her role is to develop projects that engage youth, but that covers a wide spectrum "from toddlers to age 35."

"It's really about community engagement and getting stewards prepared for the next generation," she says.

Lanagan was happy to get some on-the-ground experience working in a designated Wild and Scenic River setting.

"I didn't know of the national park presence here. It's a gorgeous area," she says.

Lanagan is pursuing several avenues to highlight the Upper Delaware's resources and get folks involved.

She is working on a Trail of Geology to interpret unique landforms through a self-



1968: Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (50th)
1978: Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River designated (40th)
1988: Upper Delaware Council established (30th)



PLANNING EVENTS: As one of only two Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Youth Engagement Fellows selected in the U.S., Kelleen Lanagan is based at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River for 11 months. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

experiences on rivers; Inspire action and stewardship of America's waterways; and Grow capacity for sustaining and protecting the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems.

Visit www.nps.gov/upde for information.

guided brochure and signage for public sites, hopes to organize a local river sojourn in 2018, has provided input on NPS educational programs and water safety approaches, and recently coordinated river clean-up, Tusten Mountain Trail restoration, and a Mile-a-minute invasive weed mitigation projects in Lackawaxen for National Public Lands Day Sept. 30.

The goals in promoting the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are to: Invite a new generation to discover America's waterways; Increase first-hand

UDC Updates Upper Delaware Visitor Map & Guide Brochure

The Upper Delaware Council announces the availability of the "Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Map and Guide for New York & Pennsylvania."

The popular, full-color brochure was first published by the UDC in 1989 and had last been revised in 2013. A shipment of 35,000 copies was received on August 29.

The educational outreach guide features a 17 x 22-inch map of the federally-designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor, stretching 73.4 miles from Hancock, NY to Mill Rift, PA.

Surrounding the map is a directory of businesses located within the river corridor boundaries. These listings, provided as a public service, pertain to the visitor-oriented categories of Accommodations, Restaurants/Food, Liveries and Campground, and Bait & Tackle Shops.

Ten local businesses voluntarily contributed a total of \$650 to help the UDC offset its printing costs:

River Champion (\$200) - Cedar Rapids Campgrounds, River Trips, Restaurant & Bar in Barryville, NY.

River Partners (\$100) - Sylvania Tree Farm Country Lodging and Camping in Masthope, PA; Lander's River Trips based in Narrowsburg, NY and Lander's River Cafe in Callicoon, NY; and Indian Head Canoes, based in Barryville, NY.

River Boosters (\$25) - 1870 Roebling Inn on the Delaware, Lackawaxen, PA; ECCE Bed & Breakfast, Barryville, NY; Peck's Market Inc., Callicoon, NY; Hagemann's Tackle, Shohola, PA; Cafe Adella Dori, Callicoon, NY; and Smith's Colonial Motel, Hancock, NY.

Twelve informational panels offer tips on river safety, recreation, fishing, boating, camping, eagle watching, hunting, tourism information, emergency contacts, directions, and conservation agency contacts.

A chart of river accesses identifies the amenities offered at each public area, with numerous reminders throughout the guide to respect private property by using available public and commercial recreational facilities.

Printing and design services were contracted from Spencer Printing & Graphics of Honesdale, PA, while the brochure features contributed photography by UDC Resource Specialist retiree David B. Soete of Honesdale.

To request free individual copies or obtain a bulk supply for distribution, please call (845) 252-3022, email info@upperdelawarecouncil.org, or stop by the office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY.

UDC Honors River Valley Achievers

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) welcomed 94 guests to its 29th Annual Awards Banquet on April 23 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA.

Congressman John J. Faso of Kinderhook, who won election on Nov. 8, 2016 to represent New York's 19th District which includes all or part of 11 counties in the Capital Region, Hudson Valley, Catskills, and Central New York, served as keynote speaker.

The attorney and former Republican leader of the New York State Assembly congratulated the UDC for successfully coordinating "a unique local-state-federal relationship" that "nurtures a wonderful, beautiful watershed."

He called for "good-faith arbitration" to resolve the June 1 expiration of the Flexible Flow Management Program and avoid negative impacts for fisheries and recreation that a reversion to the 1983 release levels for the New York City reservoirs would bring.

Rep. Faso also said he supports funding for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program and planned to invite U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to visit the Upper Delaware River to discover its ongoing needs and accomplishments.

The UDC honored those who have enhanced the quality of life or protected the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Distinguished Service Award - Naturalist, educator, conservationist, writer, photographer, historic preservationist, and monarch butterfly expert all describe **Ed Wesely** of Milanville, PA.

A co-founder with Barbara Yeaman of the Butterfly Barn which operated through 2013 as a nature center on the banks of the Upper Delaware River and of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy land trust in 1994, Wesely's appreciation of natural wonders and local history, and the selfless sharing of his knowledge with youth and the general public, earned him the UDC's highest honor.

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving



TOP AWARD: Distinguished Service Award recipient Ed Wesely of Milanville, PA was in Virginia when the UDC's banquet took place but collected his plaque upon his return in the spring. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: U.S. Congressman John J. Faso (NY-19) was presented with a framed photo of Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct by Upper Delaware Council Executive Director Laurie Ramie, right, for serving as keynote speaker at the UDC's 29th Annual Awards Ceremony. (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

Award - **Michael K. Smith** of Point Pleasant, NJ was recognized for his July 3, 2016 rescue of a drowning swimmer at Skinners Falls during a recreational weekend visit to the Upper Delaware River.

Public Service Award - Retired NY 19th District Congressman **Chris Gibson** was honored for his exemplary support of the Delaware River Basin during his 2010-2016 tenure that followed his decorated 24-year Army career and preceded his decision to move on to academia.

Community Service Award (organization) - The Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program started by the **Pennsylvania Environmental Council** Northeast Office in 2007 has benefitted several properties in Wayne and Pike Counties, at no cost to the property owners.

Community Service Award (individual) - Milanville 1850 General Store co-owner **Vanessa DeGori** was honored for her successful petition drive to re-open the 1901 Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge after it was indefinitely closed for repairs and offering charitable aid to those in need locally.

Recreation Achievement Award - Coordinated by the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission, **Operation Safe River** implemented a safety markers program along the Lackawaxen River to facilitate emergency response when needed.

Partnership Award - The production of a new brochure, "Revitalizing the Monarch Butterfly", as a joint project of the **Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.**, **Town of Highland**, historian/writer **Debra Conway**, and W Design Creative Director **Dorene Warner**, along with an awareness-raising

campaign about pollinator species, was honored for collaborative work.

Cultural Achievement Award (ind.) - Retiring June 30, 2017 after 41 years of leadership at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, **Elaine Giguere** was honored for her artistic legacy and regional contributions, including co-founding the Tusten-Cochecton Library, launching *The River Reporter*, and serving on many boards.

Cultural Achievement Award (org.) - The **Wayne County Historical Society** based in Honesdale, PA made history itself in 2017 by celebrating its 100th anniversary as a community-focused educational institution with an ambitious series of events.

Volunteer Award - **Scott Rando** of Shohola Township's donation of time to natural resource agencies studying bald eagles, amphibians, and scientific endeavors in the Upper Delaware River Valley, as well as his excellent nature photography skills shared through social media and a local newspaper column earned his recognition.

Special Recognition Awards - "Tusten's Colorful History: A Delaware River Town Comes of Age", a book initiated by the late **Grace Johansen**, and completed by her daughters **LouAnn Joyce** and **Lauren Schlagenhaft** with assistance from **Tina Spangler** achieved merit; and appreciation was expressed to **Connie Lloyd** of Beach Lake, PA, for her 34-year career with the National Park Service preceding her Dec. 2016 retirement as Interpretation Ranger.

Oaken Gavel Award - The UDC paid tribute to Town of Hancock Representative **Fred Peckham** for his 2016 leadership as chairman, after joining the board in 2008.



2017 HONOREES: The Upper Delaware Council held its 29th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 23 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. Seated from left to right: Palmira Miller, coordinator of Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Community Illegal Dumpsite Clean-up Program; U.S. Congressman John J. Faso, keynote speaker; Elaine Giguere, former executive director of the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance; Debra Conway, Revitalizing the Monarch Butterfly brochure coordinator; Vanessa DeGori of the Milanville General Store; Connie Lloyd, National Park Service Interpretation Ranger retiree; and Carol Henry Dunn, executive director of the Wayne County Historical Society. Second row, from the left: Lou Ann Joyce and Tina Spangler, "Tusten's Colorful History" book; Scott Rando of Shohola, PA; John Kerkowski and Al Petrillo of the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission for "Operation Safe River"; Dorene Warner of W Design, Monarch Butterfly brochure; and Janet Sweeney, vice-president of Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Top row: Fred Peckham, Town of Hancock, 2016 UDC chairman; Lauren Schlagenhaft, "Tusten's Colorful History"; Glenn Pontier, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. chairperson, and Jeff Haas, Town of Highland supervisor, for the Monarch Butterfly brochure; and Tom Colbert, Wayne County Historical Society Board of Trustees. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

UDC Members Complete Grant Projects and River Clean-ups

Upper Delaware Council member municipalities completed six projects under the Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program and four clean-ups through the River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants program in Fiscal Year 2017.

Since 1988, the UDC has awarded a cumulative total of \$845,605 in TAGs to fund 247 projects that advance the goals of the River Management Plan.

The tally for 2017 TAGs reimbursement was \$33,537 after spending adjustments, including the Town of Hancock withdrawing its \$2,500 award project as of July 11.

Projects accomplished were:

Berlin Township - \$5,000 to inventory its stormwater culverts and add them as a Geographic Information Systems layer to Berlin's base township map;

Town of Lumberland - \$3,105 to pur-

chase, install, and obtain training on Town Highway Department software and develop a 10-year plan for road maintenance;

Town of Deerpark - \$2,757 to create and print a "Historic Markers of the Town of Deerpark" brochure;

Town of Tusten - \$8,000 to codify Town Laws and Ordinances, phase one;

Shohola Township - \$4,675 to create and print the book, "Shohola Boarding Houses: Postcards from the Past"; and

Town of Highland - \$10,000 to update and replace the Town Zoning Law.

2018 TAG projects are being restricted to planning and zoning uses with a decreased funding earmark of \$15,100. Awards were expected to be approved at the Oct. 5 UDC meeting.

The UDC awarded \$3,975 for clean-ups based on four applications submitted for

the fourth year of this environmental project started after the National Park Service discontinued its municipal trash contracts.

Damascus Township collaborated with youth from the Damascus United Methodist Church's Helping Hearts and Hands Youth Mission Camp and the Calkins Ag 4-H Club for river clean-ups from Callicoon, PA to Skinners Falls, NY.

The **Town of Deerpark** collected and disposed of more than 30 bags of garbage along the shore of the New York State Route 97 Hawk's Nest over two days.

The **Town of Highland** contracted with J.P. Lang to clean up refuse by foot patrol and canoe along the river and at the Eagle Observatory access in the town.

The **Town of Lumberland** contracted with Ann Steimle to conduct its river and shoreline clean-up within town boundaries.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from mid-March to mid-September 2017, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

RIVER RELEASES

At press time, there was no resolution among the five Decree Parties who need unanimous consent to avoid reverting back to a 1983 Delaware System operating regime that would reduce the river's flow to a virtual trickle.

Action is necessary after the interim Flexible Flow Management Program developed in 2007 expired on May 31 with no renewal or replacement.

The Decree Parties, minus the State of New Jersey, instead announced on June 1 that New York City would voluntarily release additional water from its reservoirs to protect the river's ecological health and enhance flood protection.

That temporary contingency plan, however, will soon come to an end with a ramp-down of releases that would decrease the 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) recorded at Cannonsville on Aug. 20 to 45 cfs on Oct. 10 and 33 cfs on Nov. 1. Also gone would be any spill mitigation to safeguard people and property against flooding.

The UDC wrote to the Decree Parties on Sept. 7 urging them "to take immediate action to finalize an agreement...and avoid the devastating impacts on our ecosystem and economy that a reversion to the 1983 operating plan would wreak on the Upper Delaware River Valley." The full letter is posted at upperdelawarecouncil.org.

UDC FUNDING

The UDC narrowly avoided having to shut down after the \$127,890 balance of its FY 2017 federal funding was frozen when U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke ordered a review of all National Park Service Cooperative Agreements valued at \$100,000 or more in mid-April.

Without any other income source or carry-over options, the UDC's federal dollars were depleted by May 24. Only a small pot of unrestricted funds enabled operations to continue until access to the account from which the UDC applies monthly for reimbursement of its expenses was restored on July 20.

Changes at the NPS Northeast Region Contracting Division also required the UDC to significantly revise its forms, documents, and reporting procedures eight months into the fiscal year.

Support for the UDC was independently expressed by numerous elected officials, conservation organizations, and governmental entities during the funding crisis.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Frontier Communications agreed in April



PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP: A happy foursome of Linda Crews and David Williams from Marshalls Creek, PA, and Eunice and Robert Taylor for Milford, PA, joined the Upper Delaware Council's 29th Annual Family Raft Trip on Aug. 6, paddling from Kittatinny Canoes' Staircase Rapids Access in the Town of Lumberland, NY to the lively's Matamoros Base in Westfall Township, PA. The public outreach event attracted 137 guests. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

to do an engineering assessment of the UDC's proposal to install hard-wired call boxes in an 11-mile area along NYS Route 97 paralleling the river in the Town of Lumberland that is devoid of cellular service if help is needed for emergencies.

The phone company confirmed in a June 29 call that the proposal is feasible and provided estimated costs of \$4,000 per unit and \$30 per month for service.

The UDC has been exploring alternative technologies, contacting potential collaborators, and investigating funding sources.

UDC LETTERS

4/6, Requesting from NYC DEP a timetable for action to improve its public emergency notification system for incidents involving the Delaware Basin Reservoirs; 4/6, Support for Orange County's application to NYS for a Countywide Resiliency Planning Grant; 4/10, Questioning the DRBC on the "de-facto" moratorium on natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin; 5/4, Asking the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission to install river height signage on bridges for public information (denied); 6/1, To Secretary of the Interior Zinke on impacts on the UDC from the indefinite delay in accessibility to FY 17 federal funding account; 6/1, Missed opportunity for water safety education through Sullivan County Visitors Association ad campaign; 7/6, Letters to NY Governor Cuomo and PA Governor Wolf regarding the failure by the states to contribute the anticipated 40% share of UDC

operating aid since 1988; 7/6, Comments on the NPS Zane Grey House Cultural Landscape Restoration Plan to demolish three deteriorating structures; 7/6, Support for Sullivan County's Highland Access Construction Phase state grant; 7/18, Comments to Sullivan County Democrat on a life jacket usage editorial; 9/7, Preserve the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge; 9/7, UDC \$50,000 Project Funding Proposal for 2018-19 NYS Budget Consideration; 9/9, Inquiry to NPS UPDE Superintendent over the return of \$30,000 in FY 17 funds to the Northeast Region.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Damascus Township: Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Alternative Energy Systems; letters issued on picnic patio in flood plain, recreational cabin construction, and single-family dwelling building permit.

Town of Cocheton: Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Renewable Energy Systems.

Town of Hancock: Investigation of complaint for Lordville construction that was not submitted to the UDC for review.

Town of Delaware: Site check of berm constructed across Callicoon Creek diversion channel done without permits; Special Use Permit for Seminar Hill Cidery.

Town of Highland: Special Use Permit application by Datys/Lander's River Trips for a new river landing in Barryville; Draft Zoning Law Update.

Town of Tusten: Subdivision Regulations
Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

Zoning Ordinance Amendments; Local Law to Establish Regulations for the Development of Solar Energy Systems.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

In addition to serving on committees including Common Waters, Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council, DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee, NPS Water Safety Committee, Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan Project Advisory Committee, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, Catskill Region Invasive Plant Species Partnership, and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, non-UDC meetings and events included:

- 3/29, 6/2 & 8/19 - Sullivan County's Highland Access Improvements meetings
- 5/9 - 2017 American Planning Association Regional Transect Mobile Workshop from New York City to Narrowsburg Union with Upper Delaware presentations
- 5/18 - "Unlock the Power of the Arts, Culture & Creativity: Placemaking and Rural Brownfields Redevelopment Boot Camp"
- 5/24 - NY/PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission annual meeting
- 6/7 - "Building Watershed Resiliency in the Upper Delaware Region"
- 6/17 - Delaware River Sojourn Day 1
- 7/15 - Zane Grey Festival booth
- 7/17 - Kittatinny Canoes' River Cleanup
- 7/20 - Meetings with staff from the NPS Office of Risk Management to assess the UPDE Drowning Prevention Program
- 7/23 - Narrowsburg RiverFest booth

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2017-#03: Approving 2017 River Clean-up Grant Awards; #04: Adopting a Revised FY 2017 Budget and Work Plan; #05: Accepting a Quote for Brochure Printing Services; #06: Accepting a Revised Quote for Brochure Printing Services, #07: Adopting a UDC Member Participation Policy; #10: Awarding FY 2018 Newsletter Printing Services Contract; #11: Adopting FY 2018 Budget, Narrative and Work Plan. Resolutions #08 and #09 were deferred for further review.

POSITION PAPERS

The UDC on Aug. 3 conceptually adopted a position paper on "Select Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Systems: Solar, Wind, Geothermal and Hydropower" which concludes that commercial solar is a conditional/special use while the others are considered incompatible in the river corridor.

A position paper to address another new land use, "Evaluation of Cideries in the Upper Delaware Corridor", was introduced at the Aug. 22 Project Review Committee.

Discussion over how to implement those recommendations into the Land and Water Use Guidelines of the 1986 River Management Plan continues.

Construction Underway on Interstate Bridges

Work began in earnest on the \$6.7 million rehabilitation of the 1953 Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge, which has been reduced to a traffic signal-controlled single lane since August 2013 following emergency repairs after an inspection found advanced deterioration. Three overnight closures on Aug. 28-30 were needed to install a steel median.

Savings from the original projected cost of \$11.6 million were realized by the discovery of some design redundancies.

The same contractor that is building the new Pond Eddy Bridge, D.A. Collins Construction Co., will replace the steel grid deck, sidewalks, railings, various bridge elements, and paint it, with project completion expected in September 2018.

The \$18.9 million replacement of the 1904 Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy PA Bridge will proceed through a second construction season since it began July 2016, with a target of opening the modern bridge for traffic by December 2018. Demolition of the historic, timber-deck structure 55 feet downstream will be the final step to occur in Fall 2019.

An estimated \$4.5 million repair to the 1990-rebuilt Kellams, NY-Stalker, PA one-lane suspension bridge will begin in April 2018 and require full closure for three months. During this time, a 22-mile detour to the Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge will be in effect.

Plans are to replace the open grate steel deck and steel beams, repair damage to the abutment, guiderail and other components, and to return after Labor Day 2018 to paint it.

At the May 24 annual meeting of the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission held in Dunmore, PA, the Department of Transportation regional directors noted that the overhead clearance portals installed on the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville PA Bridge had to be repaired three times in a six-month period.

The so-called "headache bars" are not deterring oversized vehicles from crossing the 4-ton, single-lane, timber-decked bridge as intended.

Engineers are currently developing a "Statement of Purpose and Need" document to investigate the customary options to replace, rehabilitate, or remove the historic bridge. The Upper Delaware Council has advocated for its preservation.

Longer-range projects include replacing decks on both the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge in 2019-20 and the 1953 Cocheton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge in 2020, and painting the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge in 2021.

In the meantime, Central New York Railroad's Bridge No. 2 from Mill Rift, PA to Sparrowbush, NY - which is not under the Commission's purview but forms the southern boundary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor - has received funding from New York and Pennsylvania to strengthen the four-span steel deck truss.



CANAL DAYS: George Ross Mackenzie Elementary School of Glen Spey, NY fourth graders Mason McKerrell and Mikayla Thiele hold a replica of the lock that operated when the Roebling Bridge pictured behind them served the Delaware & Hudson Canal. National Park Service Ranger Susie Kaspar, center, provided the program during the annual Canal Days on May 10. Kaspar was honored as Lady High Admiral of the 2017 Delaware River Sojourn June 17 for her dedication to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)

Battle of Minisink Monument Unveiled

One year ago at the 237th anniversary of the Battle of Minisink, Sullivan County Historian John Conway announced a fundraising project by The Delaware Company non-profit organization to build a monument which, for the first time, would list the names of the 46 men killed in the only Revolutionary War battle to take place in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

On July 22, The Delaware Company's Executive Director Debra Conway and Sullivan County Director of Parks, Recreation and Beautification Brian Scardefield lifted a tarp to reveal the finished product.

Thanks to generous community donations and a Sullivan County Legislature Plans and Progress grant, visitors to the Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford will ascend the hill to find a bluestone monument with a bronze plaque "Honoring those Patriots who sacrificed their tomorrows for America's tomorrows."

The landscaped tribute served as the backdrop for the 238th commemoration.

Conway said he was honored to host the first visit in many years to Sullivan County by the current New York State Historian.

Devin Lander delivered the keynote address, observing, "We need the context of history to tell us where we've been and where we're going. History is essential to



IN TRIBUTE: Teresa and Elektra Kehagias from The Delaware Company participated in the July 22, 2017 unveiling of the new monument to the 46 American patriots who lost their lives during the Revolutionary War's Battle of Minisink on July 22, 1779. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

our daily lives."

Program participants included Sullivan County Manager Joshua Potosek and Legislator Nadia Rajsz; Tusten-Highland-Lumberland VFW Post 6427, Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363, 143rd NYS Volunteer Infantry, 5th NY Infantry, and The Navasing Long Rifles; National Soci-

ety Daughters of the American Revolution Beaverkill, Old Mine Road, Minisink, and Wayne Chapters; Rev. William Chellis (United Methodist Church, Kenoza Lake) and Rev. Bonnie Sheard (River Fellowship, Cocheton); and Elektra Kehagias to sing "Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier" and play "Ashokan Farewell" on violin.



Douglas City Days Recall Long Eddy Founding

One hundred and fifty years ago, the Hamlet of Long Eddy located in the Town of Fremont was known as Douglas City.

The incorporated name of what held the distinction of being Sullivan County's only city stuck for 11 years from 1867 to 1878 before it was officially dissolved.

The Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley organized a whole weekend of events July 14-16 to celebrate

Long Eddy's historic roots.

In 1867, plans were pitched to turn an already prosperous Douglas City into an industrial center by building a dam on the Delaware River and establishing a power plant; however, floods and freshets washed away those would-be enterprises, according to walking tour guide Shaun Sensiba.

Much community spirit was evident as natives and guests participated in activities ranging from a square dance on Depot Street called by UDC Chairperson and Town of Fremont Representative Jim Greier and wife Rita of Little Texas Ranch to literary readings by authors and novelists who are connected to the area.

There was also a parade; demonstrations and displays of logging, bluestone quarrying, casting and fly-tying; a hike to Jensen's Ledges; salute to veterans; antique item appraisals; eight musical acts; crafts, games, art, a film screening, and more.

The Basket Historical Society offers annual memberships for \$16 which provides a subscription to their newsletter "The Echo", continuously published since 1980.

For information, contact Basket Historical Society at P.O. Box 198, Long Eddy, NY 12760 or baskethistsociety@gmail.com.



MAKING HISTORY: Founded by the late Jack Niflot in 1980, the Basket Historical Society operates a seasonal museum, above, on NY Rt. 97 in Long Eddy. A fun event for Douglas City Days was a rubber duck race July 16 on shallow Hoolihan Creek, which flows next to the museum property. At left, folks wait at the finish line to declare the winner for the sold-out contest. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Upper Delaware Study Assesses American Shad

By Pete J. Golod, UDC Resource Specialist, and Don Hamilton, NPS Upper Delaware Resource Management Chief

Anyone who has spent time fishing or boating on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River has likely crossed paths with an important component of the river's ecosystem, the American shad.

American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) are anadromous fish native to the Delaware River and the Atlantic Ocean, and their historic runs up coastal rivers once numbered in the tens of millions of fish.

They are key components of an age-old cycle of biomass interchange between rivers and the ocean, central to transporting nutrients and energy between these two realms, completing an ecological link that is beneficial to both systems.

Historically, the Delaware had the largest annual commercial shad harvest of any river on the Atlantic Coast, and several times that of any other river.

In the late 1890s, American shad harvest estimates on the Delaware ranged up to 19 million pounds, or approximately 5 to 6 million fish. And those harvested fish were only a fraction of the total run.

Indeed, those past shad runs made quite an impression on local residents.

"I've looked in that river when the shad used to run full force. You'd stand on the bridge and look down, and you could not see the water for the shad. It was just one solid mass of fish and just very dark. You wouldn't even know this was water. We don't get runs like that anymore," said the late Russell "Doc" Homer of Lordville, NY in an interview dated Dec. 3, 1987.

In the free-flowing Delaware, such cycles that have occurred for thousands of years are still relatively intact, contributing to the ecological integrity that is exceptional among the large river systems of the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern U.S.

As the last major river on the Atlantic Coast undammed the entire length of its main stem, today's Delaware River American shad run remains strong compared with other Atlantic Coast rivers, but nearly an order of magnitude less than what they used to be here.

Each spring American shad make their annual migratory run from the Atlantic Ocean up the Delaware River to spawn.

These hearty fish may have traveled 12,000 miles at sea during their lifetimes, with summer feeding forays extending into the Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Their spring spawning runs often take them another 330 miles up the main stem Delaware and into the East Branch, and even the Beaverkill system.



SHAD SEINING: The National Park Service is in the third year of its American shad study, utilizing a seining method above to collect samples at sunset. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

Historically, they also ran up the West Branch of the Delaware, but are now deterred by cold water releases.

American shad are serial, broadcast spawners, dispersing eggs that tumble along the riverbed, taking 6-12 days to hatch, depending on water temperatures.

In four to six weeks, they'll resemble miniature versions of adult shad.

Millions of young shad spend the first five months of their lives feeding and growing in the sustaining nursery habitat of the Delaware River, where they provide a tremendous food source for other river inhabitants.

Outmigration to the ocean in the fall as three to four inch-long fingerlings provides a plentiful food source for ocean fisheries as well. Predation occurs at all life stages, and only about one out of every 100,000 shad eggs survives to become an adult spawning shad.

For all their preserving nature, however, American shad have been experiencing historic population decreases over the past couple of decades throughout their Atlantic Coast range.

To help better understand the vital role that the Upper Delaware River plays in the life cycle of American shad, the National Park Service's Resource Management Division started an ongoing study to assess the river as an essential spawning and nursery habitat for American shad.

The project has involved identifying sampling sites and evaluating methods for sampling young-of-year (YOY) American shad populations in the Upper Delaware.

Three sampling methods have been implemented: visual snorkel surveys; passive collection using fyke nets; and active collection using beach seining methodology.

Utilizing a bagless, 300 feet long by 12 feet deep beach seine has proved to be the most effective method for NPS biologists to collect shad for the study.

As shad are rather light-averse, especially in a clear-flowing river like the Delaware, the hauls are started at sunset.

Four seine hauls are completed at 30-minute intervals at pre-designated sites.

The seine net is deployed off the beach, by boat, in a large rectangular pattern extending out into the deepest part of the river, one end of it anchored on the beach as the net is paid out and the other end brought back to shore.

Once all the net has been deployed, the upstream and downstream staff/poles are walked to the middle of the shoreline at a staging area where the net is hand-pulled onshore.

It is essential to have personnel wading out into the river, keeping the "cork" or float lines spread out, creating a "wall", with the lead (bottom) lines being hauled in by personnel onshore.

The collected fish are placed in tubs and sorted by species. The first 25 fish of each species are randomly selected and measured by fork length on a fish measurement board in millimeters.

The purpose of this data collection is to ascertain the abundance (total shad caught) and size distribution (nearest tail length). Each net "set" and retrieval is scored for efficiency and the areal extent of each set is calculated with GPS. Water quality and weather are also recorded.

The overall goal of this project is to establish a Juvenile Abundance Index for young-of-year American shad in the upper river, something that hasn't been done before. Now in the 3rd year of the study, the NPS has already learned a great deal.

Presentations to the Board Prove Informative

Drowning is the #1 cause of unintentional visitor deaths throughout the National Park Service (NPS), and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) has unfortunately contributed 69 fatalities to those statistics since 1980.

NPS UPDE Ranger and Water Safety Program Manager Kevin Reish and Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec advised the Upper Delaware Council on April 6 that the common factors found in these cases help inform their prevention strategies.

The typical victims at UPDE have been 18-30 year old males swimming on Friday evenings or Saturday at nine identified problematic locations, with causal factors that include peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, river conditions, underestimating the river, or being unfamiliar with the environment.

The UPDE Water Safety Team won the national 2017 Achieving Relevance Through Safety, Health & Wellness Award in recognition of their scientific, educational, and practical multi-pronged approaches to reduce drowning deaths.

At the May 4 UDC meeting, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. Executive Director Jeff Skelding reported on the progress of drafting an Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan primarily for Delaware County.

The grant-funded project is due for completion in Dec. 2017 with continued input from the public and a Project Advisory Council on which the UDC serves.

Recommendations in the non-regulatory document will address such items as flood mitigation, early warnings for emergencies, resiliency to changing weather patterns, improving river flows and water tempera-

tures, infrastructure needs, enhancing recreational opportunities, and prioritizing protection and restoration projects.

The UDC's campaign to improve the notification process for emergency incidents involving New York City's reservoirs brought Department of Environmental Protection's Paul Rush to the June 1 meeting.

Rush provided an overview of the agency's Dam Safety Program which seeks to ensure the reliability of New York City's water supply and public safety.

Capital improvements, maintenance, regular inspections and surveillance, and emergency planning are components.

Rush stated that DEP intends to invest resources into its emergency outreach process and is actively considering the UDC's suggestion to utilize sirens such as the system that NYC paid to install on the Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County.

Results of an analysis being undertaken by Schnabel Engineering under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements for DEP's Cannonsville Dam license are expected by mid-2018 and will address how to improve the speed of downstream emergency notifications.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 4 Fisheries Manager Chris VanMaaren attended the UDC's July 6 meeting.

He shared a presentation that had been initially provided at an April 19 meeting in Hancock to gather public feedback on the status of the coldwater trout fishery.

VanMaaren said he's interested in learning what value people place on target species, harvest vs. catch rates, size structure, and sustainability.



FISHERY OBJECTIVES: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 4 Fisheries Manager Chris VanMaaren spoke about trout fishing regulations at the July 6 UDC meeting. (UDC Speaker Photos by Laurie Ramie)

He noted that the DEC is being lobbied to expand the catch and release sections of the Delaware River, but said that data about whether the fishery is in decline has been lacking since 2006.

NYS is working with Pennsylvania fisheries managers to study abundance and track movements of individual tagged fish.

If any proposed regulation changes do result, there will be formal public comment.

A historic overview of the Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad was offered by Cliff Robinson, Jr., chairman of the D&H Transportation Heritage Council (DHTHC), at the Aug. 3 UDC meeting.

The 1828-1898 operation remains significant due to its entrepreneurial innovations and legacy on NY-PA regional history.

DHTHC.org is producing a series of 15-minute DVDs to educate the public.

Town of Deerpark Emergency Management Director John F. Flynn was the UDC's Sept. 7 speaker.

Flynn informed the Council about repairs made to the Sparrowbush Fire Department siren system that the Orange County 911 Center can now activate with a special tone for river flooding, as well as other local emergencies.

The Cuddebackville Fire Dept. will have its siren system on-line later this year.



DROWNING PREVENTION: Ingrid Peterec, second from left, and Kevin Reish, right, who spoke at the April 6 UDC meeting, were joined by Jamie Myers to check out the National Park Service's first life jacket loaner station geared toward swimmers at Kittatinny Canoes' Luke's Landing Base in Barryville, NY July 20. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)



Cliff Robinson, Jr.



DAM SAFETY: Paul Rush, deputy commissioner for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, addressed the UDC on June 1 about improving emergency communications below the reservoirs.

In Memoriam: Philip D. Chase

Philip Donovan Chase, who served as the Town of Deepark Representative to the Upper Delaware Council for 17 years, died on May 9, 2017 at the age of 85.

"Phil" was born on July 31, 1931 in Port Jervis, NY to the late Alvin D. and Ruth (Wiggins) Chase.

He graduated in 1950 from Port Jervis High School, where he was the senior class president, quarterbacked the football team, pitched for baseball, and lettered in basketball.

Phil earned a Bachelor's degree with honors from Cornell University in 1954, and continued his athletic career with Cornell's Sprint football team.

After several years of ROTC commissioned service for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Phil started a teaching career in Warwick, NY before transitioning to the Port Jervis Central School District.

During his 29-year tenure there, Phil chaired the science department, taught high school sciences, and coached many successful athletic teams including football, baseball, wrestling and golf, while never experiencing a losing season.

He was later inducted into the inaugural Port Jervis School District Hall of Fame.

After retirement, Phil acted as a marshal for many NYS Golf Association tournaments and four U.S. Open tournaments.

He was the president of the Hudson River Golf Association for 13 years. Phil himself won numerous tournaments, including the NYS Senior Championship.

An avid outdoorsman, Phil enjoyed fly-fishing and hunting, and became a champion for environmental causes.

Phil enjoyed 47 anniversaries with his wife, the late Merle (Root) Chase, after they married on June 23, 1956.

From 1965 to 1978, Phil teamed with Merle as editor to write an Outdoors column for the *Times Herald-Record*.

The Town of Deepark appointed Phil as its UDC representative in 1994, a role from which he retired on Sept. 1, 2011.

He served as the UDC vice-chair in 1998



Phil Chase (2011 Photo by David B. Soete)

and chairman in 1999, and provided leadership to the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee for many years.

Before he joined the board, Phil won the UDC's 1991 Community Service Award for his environmental activism focused on improving Delaware River flows and fisheries as director of the Catskill Waters Coalition and vice-chair of the Save the Delaware Coalition united in opposition to the Tock's Island Dam.

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center chose him to guide First Lady Rosalynn Carter when she and President Jimmy Carter fished at Dark Eddy on the Delaware River.

He later joined the Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. Board of Directors.

Survivors include daughter Carol Chase of Port Jervis; sons Robert of Hoboken, NJ; Alvin of Westtown, NY; and Barry of Cranberry Township, PA; three sisters; four grandchildren; cousins, nieces, nephews, and in-laws. He was predeceased by his son, Bruce.

Funeral services took place May 12 in Sparrowbush. Arrangements were with the Knight-Auchmoody Funeral Home.

DRILLING, continued from Page 1

"Today, we are acting to protect a watershed that supplies drinking water to more than 15 million people in one of the most densely populated areas of the country. I believe this resolution preserves water quality and water supply for the residents of the watershed, and will protect this precious resource for generations to come," Gov. Wolf said.

No action on the revised draft rules will be taken until a public comment period with at least one hearing concludes.

Nearly 69,000 comments were submitted over four months in response to the DRBC's original publication of regulations on Dec. 9, 2010, which led to the issuance of revised regulations on Nov. 8, 2011.

The DRBC's resolution states that Commission members have continued to confer "in good faith" since then, evaluating the "diverse views" of stakeholders as well as evolving scientific literature.

"The combination of hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling and related activities for extracting natural gas from tight shale formations presents risks, vulnerabilities and impacts to surface and ground water resources across the country," it asserts.

On March 23, the U.S. District Court granted the DRBC's motion to dismiss a case that the Wayne Land and Mineral Group, LLC filed challenging the Commission's authority to review natural gas facilities on their private land holdings.

The plaintiff appealed that ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on April 7, for which a decision is pending.

Visit www.nj.gov/drbc for announcements regarding the release of the natural gas development regulations and the opening of the public comment period.

Pipeline Seeks Permits

The NYS DEC is deciding whether to grant two permits for Millennium Pipeline Co.'s Eastern System Upgrade Project that would lay 7.8 miles of pipe, build a compressor station in Highland and add capacity to the station in Hancock.

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'

Roebling Bridge Work

Maintenance work on the National Historic Landmark Roebling Bridge began Sept. 11 and will continue through Nov. 15 to repoint the New York abutment and landings at the start of the wooden towpaths, and to repair the sidewalks.

The Towpath Trail under the bridge and the New York parking lot will be closed throughout the construction period.

One walkway will remain available at all times for pedestrian use and the Pennsylvania parking lot will be open.

Economy Researched

With funding from the William Penn Foundation, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is undertaking a new economic research project in the Upper Delaware region.

NPCA will build on existing initiatives, studies, and plans, and has contracted with Michele Archie of The Harbinger Consultancy, who authored NPCA's 2015 "Making Connections" report which focused on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The results of the participatory research

project are expected to be publication(s), success stories, and development of prospects for economic development, conservation efforts, and quality of life.

Visitation Increases

The National Park Service attributes an 8% increase in visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from 243,246 in 2015 to 264,362 in 2016 to the "Find Your Park" national and local centennial celebration engagement.

Those recreational visitors spent an estimated \$11.5 million, supporting a total of 130 jobs and \$13.8 million in economic output in the unit's gateway communities.

Help Butterfly Habitat

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. is accepting non-profit grant proposals for ideas that support the goals of their "Monarch Butterfly: Fostering the Flyway by the Byway" initiative.

Applications are considered on a monthly basis for projects that support pollinator species and their habitat needs.

To request the guidelines and a one-

page application form, please contact info@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Train as Eagle Monitor

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will hold its Eagle Watch Volunteer Training Day on Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Upper Delaware Visitor Center, 176 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen, PA.

The Eagle Watch program runs through January and February, weekends only. Volunteers cover morning or afternoon shifts. Main monitoring areas are the Delaware River at Minisink Falls and the Zane Grey Access in Lackawaxen, and the Mongaup Reservoir, though volunteers are also needed to help staff the field office, do workshops, and participate in events.

On site, volunteers collect data on wintering eagles and resident pairs. They educate the public on "eagle etiquette".

Every winter, up to 150-200 bald eagles migrate to this region, seeking a reliable food source and undisturbed habitat.

They begin arriving in December. Most head back to their nests by mid-March.

To register, call (570) 226-3164 or email info@delawarehighlands.org.