

The Upper Delaware

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

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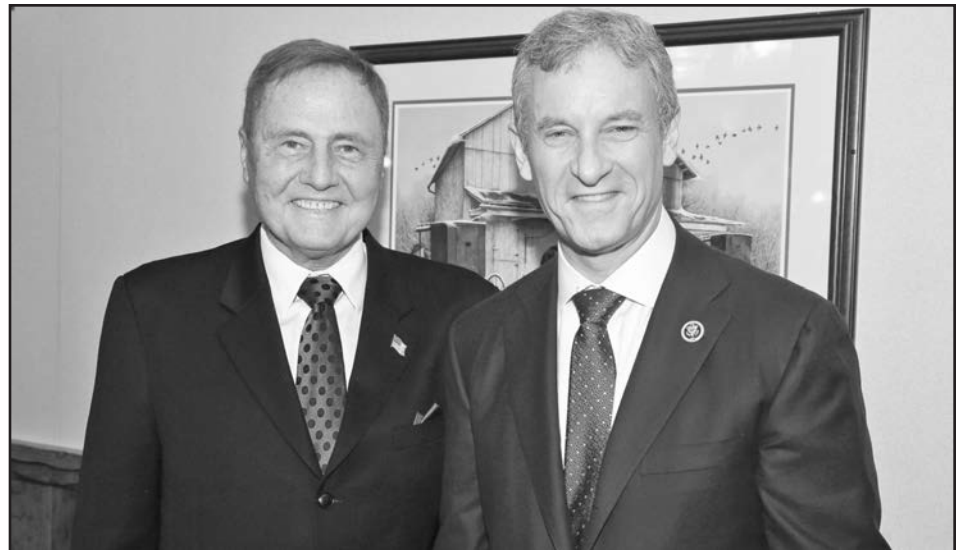
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The Upper Delaware
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ACROSS THE AISLE: Upper Delaware Council 31st Annual Awards Ceremony keynote speaker, U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright (D-PA-8th District), right, congratulated retired New York State Senator John J. Bonacic (R-42nd District), left, for receiving the 2019 Distinguished Service Award recognizing his 44-year public service career and steadfast advocacy for the Upper Delaware River Valley at the UDC's April 28 banquet held at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. (UDC Photo Courtesy of David B. Soete)

Upper Delaware Council Shines Spotlight on River Valley Heroes

U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright cut short his fact-finding trip to the South China Sea region as a member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee and booked a special flight to honor his commitment to speak at the Upper Delaware Council's 31st Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28.

"Everybody on this military trip kept asking me, 'What is this UDC?'," Rep. Cartwright said with a laugh as he recounted leaving the delegation a day early.

He noted, "I'm honored to be here with such great people united by a commitment to conserve and protect the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. For its 31 years, this partnership has made good on that important commitment, and I hope you will continue to do so for many more. I wanted to be here to congratulate all of the award recipients. Stewardship of our environment is a core value for me."

Having first been sworn into Congress in 2013 to represent PA's 17th District, Rep.

Cartwright won election in Nov. 2018 to the newly-created 8th District that includes all of Wayne, Pike, and Lackawanna, and parts of Luzerne and Monroe Counties.

"I am impressed by the Upper Delaware Council's unique partnership of governmental entities and agencies that manage the river. You're charged with the delicate balance of protecting the quality of the water, conserving the river for future generations, making it accessible for residents and visitors, and cultivating a healthy business climate. I congratulate you for a job well done on all planks," he said in joining the 94 guests at the awards banquet.

"Please know that I will always be a strong voice in Congress for measures that protect and conserve our natural resources while also enhancing economic opportunities. I am here to support your work. Funding for the UDC is on our radar now," Rep. Cartwright added.

The UDC bestowed awards in the following:
Please see HEROES on Page 5

Upper Delaware Profile: Roland Edwards, Jr.

Seeking less daily hustle and volume, Roland Edwards, Jr. moved from the Bronx to Pike County, PA in 2004.

"I needed a change from the city. We looked at a map and found Milford. We liked the not-fully country feel and the quiet, clean setting. It's still close enough to commute into the city if we chose to," Edwards says.

Fortunately, Edwards found employment with Ed Nikles Custom Builders in Milford and a great academic environment with the Wallenpaupack Area School District for his three children. They lived in Lackawaxen before moving to Milford in 2007.

Edwards grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

With an affinity for drawing and math, he earned a Bachelor of Architecture Degree after completing the five-year program at Pratt Institute for Architecture in 1987.

Lacking the time to pursue the licensing requirements to become a certified architect due to the need to support his family, Edwards went straight to work doing jobs for architects, interior designers, and engineers in the city.

For the past four years, Edwards has worked as a computer draftsman for v.baras Architect based in Port Jervis, NY.

From 2010-2012, he gained experience managing a pack & ship business with stores in Milford and Hawley that his daughter owned.

His interactions with chambers of commerce, customers, and business associates led to greater involvement in his community's arts scene and local government.

Edwards is a member of the Milford Enhancement Committee, an organizer of the Black Bear Film Festival, and serves on the board that coordinates the Milford Readers and Writers Festival.

He was at a meeting of the Westfall Township Board of Supervisors this past winter when it was announced that they were looking for an Alternate Representative to the Upper Delaware Council to fill a vacancy that had been in effect since August 3, 2015 when Michael Barth took over as Representative.

Was anybody interested?

"I raised my hand," Edwards says, while admitting that he didn't know exactly at the time what the UDC does.



Roland Edwards, Jr., Westfall Township

When he was appointed as UDC alternate in January 2019, Edwards began reading about the organization and attending monthly meetings when Barth wasn't available to get a feel for its topics.

"I appreciate the beauty of the Delaware. The river adds to that suburban, country feel. I've been finding out through these meetings that there are a lot of issues I never thought of. I feel the mission of the UDC is to protect the integrity of the river and surrounding area. There's a lot to be said for keeping our natural resources safe," Edwards says.

The 54-year-old has also thrown his hat in the ring to run for a seat on the Westfall Township Board of Supervisors.

He is competing for a six-year term in the November election.

Of particular interest to Edwards is addressing emergency services, road conditions, and economic development in the township which has a small residential population of about 2,200 but a lot of commercial activity.

"I understand both sides of being a constituent and in government, and how they have to work together to get things done. I've been called a diplomat often. I have the demeanor to get people together and come to a resolution," he says.

In his free time, Edwards enjoys photography, illustrating, adding to his comic book collection, cooking, and his two cats.

He recently traveled to destination weddings for his two older children in Vancouver and Mexico.

Edwards is the father of Selena, 32, who works for the ASPCA in New York; Brien, 27, an administrator at Lehigh Valley College; and Tyler, 20, who is studying actuarial science at Temple University.

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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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More "The Upper Delaware"

The Upper Delaware Council has transitioned to three issues of this newsletter per calendar year to offer more timely content as of 2019.

New editions will publish in early Spring (April), Summer (August), and Fall/Winter (December).

Delaware River Basin Commission Funding Cut After Governors Proclaim Watershed Support

DRBC Apportioned Contributions of Signatory Funding vs. 2020 Actual-to-Date:

United States: \$715,000 (20%) → \$0 - 13.3 million total estimated population served as of 2016, per DRBC calculations
Pennsylvania: \$893,000 (25%) → \$217,000 - 5,561,803
New Jersey: \$893,000 (25%) → \$693,000 - 2,606,900
New York: \$626,000 (17.5%) → \$359,500 - 4,619,265
Delaware: \$447,000 (12.5%) → \$447,000 - 725,545
100% Total = \$3,574,000. Estimated Shortfall = \$1,857,500.



GOVERNORS UNITE: Governors Tom Wolf (Pennsylvania), second from left, John Carney (Delaware), and Phil Murphy (New Jersey), joined by National Wildlife Federation President Collin O'Mara, left, who moderated the May 16 Delaware River Governors Leadership Summit at Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, display their signed proclamation of cooperation. Fellow Democratic New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo did not attend. (Photo Courtesy of Twitter)

After a fiscal year 2020 budget analysis of the four Delaware River Basin states, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) issued a statement on July 2, saying in part: "The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is the interstate and federal agency charged with overseeing water quality and quantity of the Delaware River Basin, which over 13 million people rely on for clean drinking water and to support our region's economy.

"Since 1996, the federal government has failed to support its share of the Commission's operating funds, except for partial contributions during two DRBC fiscal years - 2009 and 2010. Year after year, the four basin states have also fallen short in funding the DRBC, and fiscal year 2020 is unfortunately no exception.

"Collectively, the states' funding shortfall for fiscal year 2020 totals \$1,142,500, yet the states are relying on the Commission to ensure the future of the Delaware River.

"This shortchanging of the DRBC impacts the commission's ability to hire staff, conduct monitoring, and advance vital research that provides the scientific basis for water quality protections and flow management.

"We're disappointed and frustrated that after placing Pennsylvania's full member contribution to the DRBC in his budget - the sum of \$893,000 - and just weeks after pledging alongside the Governors of New Jersey and Delaware to support the Commission, Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania signed into law a fiscal year 2020

budget that provides less than 25% of the Commonwealth's agreed upon contribution to the DRBC.

"This is all the more bewildering considering that more than 43% of Pennsylvanians reside in the Basin, and that the Commonwealth comprises more than 50% of the Basin's land area. In contrast, Delaware's budget signed by Governor Carney last week includes the First State's full 'fair share' contribution to the DRBC, as it consistently has since 2012.

"In the face of new water quality and flow management challenges associated with changes in our climate, now is the time to invest in the DRBC and secure our water resources for the generations to come," said CDRW Director Sandra Meola.

The federal budget is not yet finalized.

Call for Federal Resources, Oppose Fracking in Basin

Governors from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware signed a proclamation at a rare get-together May 16 focused on discussing Delaware River policies.

Despite a petition drive and an encouraging letter which the Upper Delaware Council agreed to co-sign, the New York State governor did not participate in the Delaware River Governors Leadership Summit held in Philadelphia.

The proclamation recognizes "the advantage of working together to make the Delaware River Basin the national model for sustainable economic development, drinkable clean water, healthy fish and wildlife populations, outdoor recreation, and nature-based climate resilience."

Media reports stated that the three governors each cited the need for more federal resources to work on long-term planning and environmental protection strategies.

Governors Tom Wolf (PA) and John Carney (DE) also publicly joined Governor Phil Murphy (NJ) in supporting a full ban on hydraulic fracturing and associated water transfers in the Delaware River Basin. Governor Andrew Cuomo prohibited fracking in New York State in June 2015.

Passage of the regulations requires a majority vote of the five DRBC members.

The summit was an outgrowth of the #4theDelaware campaign coordinated by the National Wildlife Federation.

DRBC Natural Gas Rules in Limbo

The Delaware River Basin Commission continues to wrestle with draft regulations proposed in November 2017 which would prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas throughout the watershed. The public comment period closed March 21, 2018.

At the DRBC's June 12 meeting, Delaware Riverkeeper Network Deputy Director Tracy Carluccio said, "We know fracking is ruining communities and health studies are showing more devastating health effects as fracking continues and spreads in the Marcellus Shale. We also know the heavy economic costs of fracking's harms are piling up, with the public paying the price of water pollution, lost resources, and long term environmental degradation. Where would up to 15 million people who rely on the Delaware go for water? The risks are too great, the full ban must be approved right away."

To the contrary, PA Representative Jonathan Fritz (R-111th District) has sponsored legislation and testified against the DRBC's moratorium, questioning the agency's authority in water pollution and protection enforcement matters, and calling for the entitlement of impacted landowners to receive compensation for the alleged act of eminent domain, which Upper Delaware River Basin Citizens, Inc. characterizes as "stealing" their rights.

Quest to Balance ‘Yo-Yo’ Water Releases

By Pete Golod, UDC Resource Specialist

Whether you are a local angler, a livery owner, a river-resident, or a visiting recreationist, we all know how essential water heights, flows, and temperatures are to the Upper Delaware River.

Many local organizations including the Upper Delaware Council, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR), and Trout Unlimited have been actively engaged in calling for more water releases at the right time and to address the frustrating ‘yo-yo’ water releases from the NYC reservoirs into the Upper Delaware River system.

On October 21, 2017 the Decree Parties, which consist of the four basin states (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware), and New York City adopted the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Plan (FFMP), which governs the management of the New York City reservoirs in the Upper Delaware River Basin.

On March 14, 2018 the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) re-established the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF) under the Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC), which evaluates and augments conservation releases in the Upper Delaware River Basin.

RFAC tasked SEF with evaluating two policies established in the 10-year FFMP.

In meetings that began on October 4, 2018, SEF’s objectives included:

1) Development, adoption, and implementation of a Thermal Mitigation Bank using NYC Reservoir water to cool water temperatures within the Delaware River main stem reach of Hancock, NY downriver to Lordville, NY. The proposed bank would attempt to mitigate excessive warming of main stem waters from days with high air temperatures (heat waves) which cause heat stress on the cold water fishery of the Upper Delaware below the NYC Reservoirs.

2) Review the efficiency of the FFMP’s established Rapid Flow Change Mitigation Bank which addresses water releases from the NYC reservoirs, known as ‘directed releases’, which are made to ensure the 1750 cfs (cubic feet per second) minimum flow target requirement at Montague, NJ is met.

SEF determined that it was essential to address Thermal Mitigation as a priority. It was agreed to focus primarily on an Interim Policy and a Simple 75°F policy.

The Interim Policy includes a phase-1 period during which a single day at 75°F triggers a release of water from the thermal bank, and a phase-2 period in which two consecutive days at 75°F, or a single day at 77°F, triggers a thermal release.



GO WITH THE FLOW: Speaking at a July 10 public meeting in Hancock on draft protocols to control warm water temperatures and erratic water releases on the Upper Delaware River were, from the left, Amy Shallcross, manager of Water Resource Operations, Delaware River Basin Commission; Dr. Peter Kolesar, professor emeritus, Columbia University; Mark Klotz, director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water; Jennifer Garigliano, chief of staff, New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply; and Jeff Skelding, executive director, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

The Simple 75°F policy has a single stress trigger of 75°F that applies throughout the summer season from May 1 to Sept. 30. The amount of water in the thermal bank is set at 2,500 cfs days beginning at the start of the water year (June 1), which is consistent with the Interim Policy, and if not exhausted this bank amount carries over to May of the following year.

Simply put, the Simple 75°F policy states that if water temperatures at the Lordville, NY gauge are predicted to reach 75°F New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will call for a thermal release out of Cannonsville reservoir designed to keep the maximum water temperatures at Lordville below 75°F.

After a great deal of work, modeling, and discussion, a general consensus was met amongst the active SEF members to recommend the Simple 75°F policy.

The proposed Simple 75°F program is a one-year pilot program with additional recommendations and modifications expected by the following 2020-2021 water year.

Jennifer Garigliano, chief of staff, Bureau of Water Supply, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, stated she did not expect an issue with the Decree Parties providing their concurrence for the Simple 75°F program. Additionally, at the time of press New York has already implemented and used the Simple 75°F program within the Upper Delaware River.

Sharing his thoughts on the Thermal Mitigation Protocol, Dr. Peter Kolesar said, “We have certainly come a long way in

improving Upper Delaware River ecological conditions since we began our research in 2005. Just compare the flows on July 25, 2005 when, with the reservoirs at 95% capacity and air temperatures at 86°F, the release from Cannonsville was only 125 cfs with yesterday, July 11, 2019, when with the reservoirs at 92% capacity and air temperatures at 83°F, the release from Cannonsville was 725 cfs.”

Regarding the Rapid Flow Change Mitigation Bank Analysis, PA Fish and Boat Commission Fisheries Biologist Daryl Pierce said, “As part of SEF’s evaluation, we are reviewing the efficacy for these banks for supporting the downriver aquatic communities and ecological processes; and, evaluating potential alternative operational changes related to the two mitigation banks to better optimize water management for benefiting the downriver aquatic communities and ecological processes.”

So, what does it all mean? SEF’s work has not ended; the Thermal Mitigation Program is only the beginning, and as FUDR’s Executive Director Jeff Skelding stated, “It’s a measure of significant progress that the Decree Parties recognize the importance of taking care of the Upper Delaware River and establishing these important new protocols that address high water temperatures and erratic water releases. We think it’s a great start with more improvements to come as we learn more about this great river and the enormous contribution it makes to the recreational economy of the Upper Delaware region.”

ing categories:

Distinguished Service Award – **John J. Bonacic**, retired New York State Senator for the 42nd District as of Dec. 31, 2018, for his Upper Delaware River advocacy during 20 years in the NYS Senate over a 44-year public service career, including the New York Regional Interconnect battle and securing \$390,000 in Legislative Member Items for NY river towns cumulatively.

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Ranger **Richard “Rick” Franke, Jr.** of Livingston Manor, for assisting in the rescue of 11 people during a joint patrol with the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on Aug. 4, 2018.

Partnership Award – **Kris Gilbert and Danielle Besso**, NYS Department of Transportation Region 9, for spearheading the Upper Delaware Corridor Signage Program in Delaware and Sullivan Counties.

Outstanding Community Achievement Award – **Wayne County Commissioners**, for efforts by Wayne County, PA Commissioners Brian Smith, Joseph Adams, and Wendell Kay to save the historic Hankins Pond Dam from demolition.

Cultural Achievement Award – **Forrest W. “Frosty” Myers** of Damascus, PA, subject of “The Art and Times of Frosty Myers” prize-winning 2018 documentary.

Recreation Achievement Award – **Pam Reinhardt** of Hankins, NY, for coordinating Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter’s “Trout in the Classroom” youth and educator engagement program at Sullivan West Central School for 11 years.

Volunteer Award – **Steven Schwartz** of Equinunk, PA, for coordinating the Upper Delaware BioBlitz events and his environmental activism.

Community Service Award – Town of



2019 HONOREES: Gathered at the 31st Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28 were, seated from left: U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright; Kris Gilbert and Danielle Besso, NYS Department of Transportation, Region 9; Brandi Merolla, Tusten Energy Committee; Pam Reinhardt, Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter; and Aaron Robinson, UDC 2018 chairperson. Standing: Steven Schwartz; retired NYS Senator John J. Bonacic; NYS DEC Forest Ranger Richard Franke, Jr.; and Wayne County Commissioners Brian Smith, Joseph Adams, and Wendell Kay. (UDC Photos Courtesy of David B. Soete, above and below)

Tusten Councilwoman **Brandi Merolla** of Narrowsburg, NY, for her accomplishments chairing the Tusten Energy Committee.

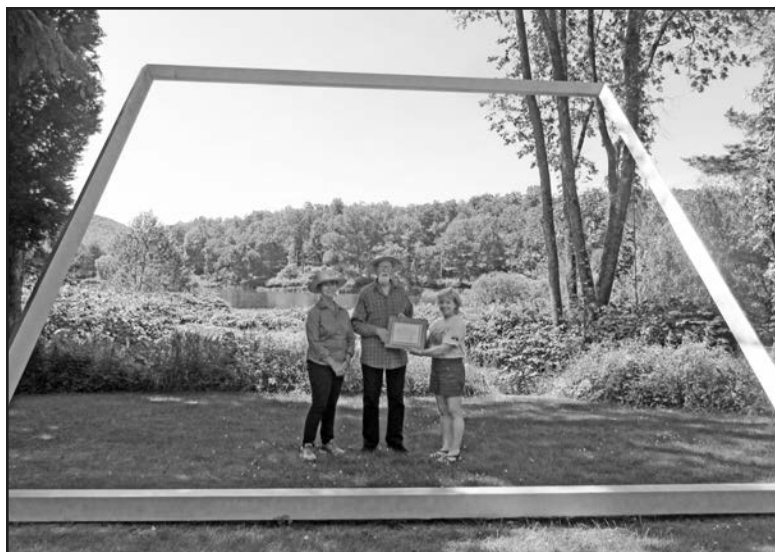
Special Recognition Award – **Larry D. Neal, Jr.** of Beach Lake, PA, for retiring as Chief Ranger of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on Dec. 31, 2018 after a 28-year career with the National Park Service.

Oaken Gavel Award – **Aaron I. Robinson** of Shohola Township, PA, for his leadership as 2018 chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council.

A 14-page souvenir program detailing the honorees’ accomplishments with color photos is available digitally or in print form by contacting the UDC at (845) 252-3022 or laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

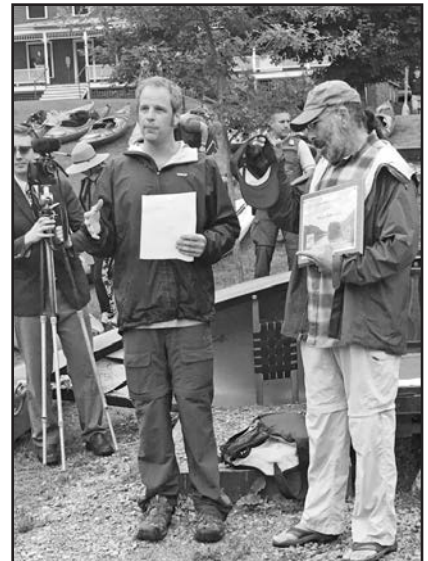


LIFESAVER: National Park Service Ranger Kevin Reish, right, congratulates NYS DEC Forest Ranger Rick Franke for helping to rescue 11 people from the Upper Delaware River on August 4, 2018 during his first participation in a joint law enforcement patrol.



Forrest W. “Frosty” Myers received his Cultural Achievement Award June 23 at his Wild Turkey Sculpture Park in Damascus, presented by UDC Executive Director Laurie Rammie, right, and documentary producer, wife Debra Myers. Steven Schwartz, far right, was recognized as Lord High Admiral at the 25th Delaware River Sojourn June 16 by Jason Zarnowski of Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

(Left: Vicki Tripido; Right: National Park Service)



Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from mid-March to mid-July 2019, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

UDC FUNDING

The UDC endured a five-month gap in federal funding from mid-December 2018 until receiving the \$244,110 balance of its Fiscal Year 2019 allocation on May 28.

The delay was attributed to the U.S. Department of the Interior's review of the National Park Service's Operational Plan, which rendered the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River unit's budget provisional and subject to cuts.

On the states' funding front, NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and PA Representative Jonathan Fritz introduced \$100,000 appropriations for UDC operations in their respective fiscal year budgets but neither request was successful.

The 1986 River Management Plan envisioned 60% Federal/40% States cost-sharing to support the Council partnership. Neither state has contributed and the federal \$300,000 line item has been static.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Technical Assistance Grants (TAG): The UDC revised its Contract Criteria and Standard Rider documents for the FY 2020 TAG program, and petitioned the NPS in a 6/6 letter to expand the scope of projects eligible for federal funding.



PEACE & LOVE: The Upper Delaware River Valley got in on the 50th anniversary celebration of the 1969 Woodstock Festival in Bethel, NY this summer by participating in the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association's Trail of Doves, in which 50 5x7 foot fiberglass dove forms were offered to customize a unique design for permanent placement around Sullivan County. Lander's River Trips hired artist Michael Randels to paint its dove, which greets visitors to the Narrowsburg campground in a "1969" canoe. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Training: UDC Resource Specialist Pete Golod and NPS Community and Land

Use Planner Jennifer Claster led a 7/2 training session for Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Management staff in the use of the River Management Plan (RMP) and Land and Water Use Guidelines (LWUG); Golod participated in Pace University's local land use training program on 6/24 and 6/26 in Swan Lake.

Plan Amendments: An outline for a consistent methodology and justification to amend the RMP and LWUG through a Supplement was presented on 6/25 by Executive Director Laurie Ramie for consideration.

Town of Highland: On July 11, staff from UDC and NPS were tasked with detailing the changes that would be necessary to bring the 3/26 adopted 2019 Town Zoning Code into substantial conformance with the LWUG; a letter was directed to the National Park Service to advise that the UDC is unable to review Parcel #27.-9-1 construction due to insufficient documentation being submitted.

Town of Tusten: A substantial conformance review for Draft Zoning and Subdivision Law was conducted.

Damascus Township: The UDC received the NPS determination confirming its substantial conformance recommendation for the Parcel #13.8 floodplain variance.

Town of Delaware: The Public Service Commission approved the sale of the Callicoon Water Co. to the town.

Town of Lumberland: A substantial conformance review of Local Law #1, two zoning designation changes, was done.

The UDC continues re-evaluating its renewable energies position paper and updating the Project Review Guide.

UDC GRANTS

Aug. 30 is the deadline for completion of the UDC's Fiscal Year 2019 Technical Assistance Grant projects and submission of applications for the FY 2020 round.

The UDC's three approved River and Shoreline Clean-up

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7



MARKING HISTORY: The first marker in the United States produced under the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's new Historic Transportation Canals Marker Grant Program was dedicated in the Town of Highland on April 24. Town of Highland Co-Historian Debra Conway applied for the marker and the Town Highway Department installed it at the DEC Fishing Access along the NYS Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, one mile upriver of Barryville. Pictured after the unveiling, from the left, are Sullivan County Historian John Conway, Debra Conway, D&H Transportation Heritage Council Vice-President Bill Merchant of High Falls, NY, Sullivan County District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajsz, and Highland Town Supervisor Jeff Haas. Visit www.dhthc.org for a history of the canal which operated from 1828-1898. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

**HIGHLIGHTS,
continued from Page 6**

Grants to the Towns of Deepark, Lumberland, and Tusten must be closed out by Sept. 16.

WU/RM ISSUES

Water Use and Resource Management issues discussed this period included: the parameters for Upper Delaware River designations through existing state programs in NY and PA; monitoring the NYS DEC-permitted 17,000 gallons per day wastewater discharge from the redeveloped Eldred Preserve site into the Halfway Brook tributary; learning about the USGS Next-Gen Water Observing System with the Delaware River Basin as its pilot project; a NYS DEC update on the status of its property adjacent to the Town of Fremont River Access in Long Eddy; a proposal by Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter to improve accessibility to the Basket Creek River Access; a report on the Wurtsboro Lead Mine property in the Town of Mamakating which eventually drains to the Delaware River; and Sullivan County is obtaining legal access to the abandoned Barnes Landfill property in the Town of Highland to assess its condition for potential mitigation and redevelopment to put it back on the tax rolls.

UDC LETTERS

- 3/13/19 - To Tusten Planning Board, re: 3/18 public hearing on a use application for a neighboring commercial building
- 3/29/19 - To Congressmen Cartwright, Delgado, and Maloney, re: Sharing information on UDC federal funding delay
- 4/1/19 - To NY and PA Senators, Representatives, and Assembly Members, re: Follow-up to State Legislator Visits
- 4/4/19 - Support for Sullivan County's Highland River Access Improvement Project grant application
- 4/4/19 - UDC sign-on to encourage NYS Governor Cuomo to attend the Delaware River Governors' Leadership Summit
- 6/6/19 - To The Trust for Public Land, re: Callicoon Riverside Park proposal, cautioning about flood-prone property
- 6/17/19 - To Assemblywoman Gunther, re: Debriefing meeting request for state funding process review
- 7/3/19 - To Rep. Delgado, re: House approval of \$10 million for the FY 2020 Delaware River Basin Restoration Program

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Besides participating as members of various organizations and committees, additional UDC activities included:
- 3/19, Meeting with Rep. Cartwright's Chief of Staff Bob Morgan at the new PA Congressional District 8 office in Hawley
 - 4/9, NY-PA Joint Delaware Tailwaters Fisheries 3-Year Investigation Plan Update, Hancock
 - 4/26, NPS Annual Water Safety Partners at UDC office
 - 5/8, Annual Brochure Exchange by Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark
 - 5/13, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational Seasonal Orientation (UDC presentation)



CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado (NY-19) traveled to Narrowsburg to meet with Upper Delaware Council delegates on March 20. Pictured from the left are: Council 2019 Vice-Chair Jeff Dexter and Supervisor Steve Adams, both from Damascus Township; 2019 Secretary-Treasurer Al Henry, Berlin Township; Aaron Robinson, Shohola Township; 2019 Chairperson Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware; Sullivan County Legislator and Town of Lumberland Representative Nadia Rajsz; Fred Peckham, Town of Hancock; Congressman Delgado; Susan Sullivan, Town of Tusten; Larry Richardson, Town of Cochection; David Dean, Town of Deepark; and Roger Saumure, Shohola Township. They discussed the unique history, mission, and current challenges of the non-profit organization established in 1988 to coordinate administration of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on behalf of the federal-state-local partnership through a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service. Rep. Delgado said, "I'm here to listen and learn. Understand that you have an advocate in Washington." (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

7/10, Subcommittee on Ecological Flows Water Management Protocols public meeting, Hancock

7/13, NPS 15th Annual Zane Grey Festival, Lackawaxen

7/15, Kittatinny Canoes' 30th Annual River Cleanup, Barryville

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2019-#04: Granting Permanent Employee Status to Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas (5/2); #05, Approving River & Shoreline Cleanup Grants (5/2); #06, Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Kittatinny Canoes' On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup (7/11); #07, Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the National Canoe Safety Patrol (7/11); and #08, Appreciation to Carla Hauser Hahn Upon Retirement from the National Park Service (7/11).

CORRIDOR CLEANUP

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020, the UDC hopes to help organize a first-ever, coordinated litter cleanup event centered on the land surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Coverage of a July 30 roundtable meeting will appear in the next issue.

NPS TRANSITIONS

National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister announced at the April 4 UDC meeting that she had accepted a 120-day detail to serve as Acting Superintendent at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Upper Delaware Management Assistant Carla Hauser Hahn assumed leadership responsibilities until the May 12 appointment of Marilou Ehrler as Acting Superintendent through Aug. 10.

Ehrler is the Chief of Cultural Resources and historic architect at Gateway National Recreation Area, which spans 27,000 acres including Sandy Hook in NJ, Jamaica Bay and Staten Island in NY.

On Aug. 3, Hauser Hahn retired from her 39-year career with the National Park Service.

The UDC contributed input to the NPS Strategic Planning Survey on 4/5, which was the topic of an UPDE workshop on 4/30-5/2.

The latest Visitor Spending Effects Report released in May shows that 221,000 visitors to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River sites generated \$9.8 million in recreation income in 2018.

National Canoe Safety Patrol Marks 40 Years

The National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP) is going strong with a membership of 90 as the all-volunteer safety and swift-water rescue unit celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2019.

The Upper Delaware Council unanimously approved a resolution on July 11 to recognize “the invaluable contributions of the National Canoe Safety Patrol to protect and enhance the positive experiences of river users through the selfless service of its dedicated membership.”

Since 1979, the organization has worked through the National Park Service’s Volunteers-in-Parks program to provide potentially life-saving assistance as well as safety education to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River recreationists.

Members hail from nine states with an average driving time of 90 minutes.

Their training regimen includes boat-based rescues, basic knots and throwbags, boat pinning, policies and procedures for interacting with emergency services, rescue and river equipment, first aid, strainer drills, in-water mobility, and more.

Members are asked to serve four weekend days on active patrols per season.

2019 officers are Commodore Marc



SHARPENING SKILLS: National Canoe Safety Patrol members emphasized the importance of wearing life jackets at their May 2019 spring training. (Photo Courtesy of National Canoe Safety Patrol)

Magnus-Sharpe, Vice-Commodore Larry Palmer, Treasurer Jim Schulte, Secretary Chuck Haupt, Marketing Director Erika Poston, Training Director Peter Van Slyke, and New Member Liaison Lorraine Poston.

Their annual Spring Training took place on May 3-5 based at Kittatinny Canoes’ Lukes Landing in Barryville. The NCSP provided accompaniment for the 25th Delaware River Sojourn from June 14-22.

A special anniversary program including a tribute to 90-year-old co-founder Chris Nielsen will take place during the NCSP

2018 NCSP Statistics:

- ~ 70 patrols from Memorial Day to Labor Day on weekends and holidays
- ~ 6,202 contacts with river users
- ~ 247 rescues executed
- ~ 149 boat-over recoveries assisted
- ~ 16 calls to National Park Service Dispatch to request emergency aid

Fall Awards Dinner on Sunday, November 3, at Woodloch Pines Resort.

For ticket information, please contact the commodore at msmagnus@yahoo.com.

Catskill Mountainkeeper Hosts Wild & Scenic Film Festival

With a goal of using film to inspire activism, the Catskill Mountainkeeper



FILM FESTIVAL: Laura Silverman from The Outside Institute, seated, prepares to guide a Foraging Walk during Catskill Mountainkeeper’s Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Callicoon on June 15. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

introduced the Wild & Scenic Film Festival to the Catskills riverside hamlet of Callicoon on June 14-16.

Screenings of environmental and nature films on the subjects of Food, Farms & Pollinators; Water; and Climate and Fossil Fuels took place at the 1948 independently-owned Callicoon Theater.

Activities coordinated throughout the weekend at various locations by Megan Kinealy-Hill included filmmaker talks with Bonnie Hawthorne and Steve Buscemi (“Dreaming of a Vetter World”) and Jon Bowermaster (“Seeds of Change”); a roundtable discussion about the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River led by NPS Management Assistant Carla Hauser Hahn and Catskill Mountainkeeper’s Wes Gillingham; a reading by local author Evan Eisenberg from his book, “The Ecology of Eden”; a nature walk with Laura Silverman from The Outside Institute to learn about wild edibles; a riverside presentation by the National Park Service on aquatic insects as indicators of water quality; a student art show;

outdoor yoga; entertainment and parties.

Introducing Saturday’s film block, Catskill Mountainkeeper co-founder Ramsay Adams said, “I traveled to California to see this national festival and wanted to bring it to the Catskills ever since. So often, nature films are depressing. This is about hope and the future. We’re grateful to see all the partners in conservation here. We’re hoping to make it an annual event.”

The 2018 Shane Anderson documentary “Run Wild, Run Free: 50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers”, noted that only 0.12% (289 rivers and tributaries) of American waterways are designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, but grassroots momentum is building to add to the 14,000 river miles in the system.

Gillingham said there is interest in nominating the East Branch of the Delaware River and the Beaverkill River for this federal recognition and protection.

Hauser Hahn noted that the Upper Delaware was the 19th study river. The Scenic and Recreational River corridor extends from Hancock, NY to Mill Rift, PA.

Presentations Enlighten UDC Board, Public

Delaware River Master Robert R. Mason, Jr. and Deputy River Master Kendra Russell presented on the topic of **“How the Office of the Delaware River Master Directs Releases from the New York City Reservoirs”** at the April 4 Upper Delaware Council meeting.

The 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree assigned the River Master the duties to administer the Decree’s provisions for yields, diversions, and releases; conserve the waters; compile and correlate all available data on water needs of the Decree Parties; check and correlate pertinent stream flow gaging; observe, record and study the effect of development on the Delaware River and its tributaries upon water supply and other uses; and issue reports no less than annually.

Shepstone Management Company Planning Consultant Thomas J. Shepstone provided his **“Perspectives on the Upper Delaware Land and Water Use Guidelines”** on May 2, dating back to his first Upper Delaware meeting in July 1973 and including his roles contributing to the drafting of the 1981 Guidelines and 1986 River Management Plan.

He shared historical insights from working with the planning teams, reviewed the rationale for certain actions, and suggested that changes to address new land uses could be made through a Supplement rather than tackling the more arduous route of pursuing formal amendments.

At the June 6 UDC meeting, Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Executive Director Steve Tambini and Manager of Water Resource Operations Amy Shallcross discussed **“Flow Management for the Delaware River.”**

They clarified that while the Office of the Delaware River Master is responsible for management of the Upper Basin flows, the DRBC handles the Lower Basin.

Shallcross displayed the available water sources and discussed the competing objectives in the system. The DRBC operates under the 1961 Compact, which includes the four basin states and the federal government, whereas the Decree Parties are the four basin states and New York City.

A live demonstration to educate about the **“Habits and Habitats of Venomous Snakes”** was presented by Randy Stechert on July 11, based on his 50 years of experience in studying, surveying, and tagging snakes for conservation agencies, land developers, and homeowners.

Stechert offered facts and answered questions as the Council and audience got up close with a female non-lethal copperhead and male timber rattlesnake.

“These are the only two venomous snakes in this area,” he said, while detailing the breeds’ distribution and statistics.

Meeting minutes and copies of presentations, when available, are posted on the UDC’s website for the public.



TIMBER RATTLER: Randy Stechert of Narrowsburg, a reptile & amphibian specialist and environmental consultant, brought his 53-inch-long, male timber rattlesnake, along with a 24-year-old female copperhead snake, which represent the two breeds of venomous snakes which are found in the Upper Delaware River Valley, to the UDC meeting July 11. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



RIVER MASTER: Delaware River Master Robert R. Mason, Jr., left, and Deputy Kendra Russell, from the USGS, spoke on April 4, for which UDC Chairperson Harold G. Roeder offered thanks.



Thomas J. Shepstone, May 2 UDC meeting

Major Bridge Rehabilitations in the Works

While no capital construction work on the Upper Delaware River's 10 interstate bridges is set this summer, the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission is preparing to issue contracts in 2020 for major rehabilitations of the Damascus, PA bridges at Cochection, NY (1953) and Callicoon, NY (1961), to commence in 2021.

The commission held its annual meeting in Binghamton on May 29, presided over by New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Region 9 Director Nicolas Choubah marking his second week in that appointed position.

Options are currently being considered for the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge after an April 16 inspection revealed open cracks in the NY side abutment, damaged deck boards, and two ineffective sway bracing members.

Commissioners approved \$200,000 for repairs to that bridge, as well as \$400,000 for final design work for the Cochection-Damascus Bridge.

With a full rehabilitation estimate pegged at \$15 million for the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge, engineers are debating whether to replace the entire single-lane timber deck system instead.

PennDOT staff said their goal is to do what's necessary with repairs to keep the historic truss bridge functional and try to prevent closure in the future.

Preliminary design work for rehabilitation

and painting of the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge was authorized, but at zero dollars since the Pennsylvania DOT will handle the project in-house.

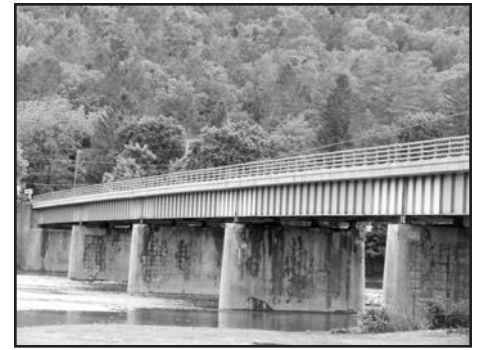
The highest expense for general maintenance among all 10 bridges was \$60,812 spent in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$53,000 approved in FY 2019 for the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge.

NYS DOT Assistant Regional Bridge Maintenance Engineer Mike Ford explained, "The bridge is in very poor shape so it's just an ongoing battle."

This year's inspection found large spalled areas with exposed and missing rebar on the substructure, bridge joint deterioration at all piers, a large spill in the upstream PA wing wall, scupper grate section loss, significant pavement deterioration with large potholes in the deck which are retaining water, the steel paint system is failing, many cracks on the wearing surface and pavement, asphalt in need of repair at the curb line, and the sidewalk rail and guiderail damaged.

Contract-letting is tentatively planned for Nov. 2020, but first comments from agencies including the National Park Service must be addressed and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for review.

At a Nov. 2, 2016 public information meeting, engineers had described plans to replace the superstructure and repair the substructure in a \$9.9 million job that was



CALLICOON CROSSING: An estimated \$10.6 million upgrade is planned for the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge in 2021. (UDC Photos this page by Laurie Ramie)

targeted for construction in Spring 2019.

NYS DOT Regional Planning Office Liaison Dave MacEwan said that cost is now estimated at \$10.6 million.

The rehabilitation plan for the Cochection-Damascus Bridge was also revised based on a decision to replace the deck rather than repair it.

Contract-letting is aimed at September 2020, with no projected cost yet given.

Commission members said they will offer an incentive to the winning contractor for Cochection to use pre-cast deck panels to complete the job before work at Callicoon begins to avoid an overlap.

They expect to allow one-way alternating traffic during the Callicoon bridge work to avoid requiring detours.

Delaware River Conservation Projects Funded

In the first round of conservation fund grants announced under the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) on March 22 in Wilmington, DE, the Upper Delaware claimed \$437,525 of the \$4.1 million pool administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) secured \$249,999.45 to



RIVERSIDE PARK: The former Upper Delaware Campgrounds, which never recovered from the 2006 floods, could see new life with multi-purpose use in Callicoon, NY.

Implement the Integrated Restoration Objectives of the Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan.

Projects will take place in the Towns of Hancock (culvert replacement), Colchester (Downs Brook restoration), and Deposit (bird watching platform), with the collaboration of numerous partners.

The Trust for Public Land received \$187,526 to Establish a Callicoon Riverside Park.

Working with the Town of Delaware, Sullivan County, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, they hope to acquire and subdivide the abandoned 47.5-acre Upper Delaware Campgrounds property in the hamlet of Callicoon to develop as a recreational park with nature trails, a public boat launch & fishing access, and a new wastewater treatment plant to be relocated out of a floodplain.

The second round of Delaware Watershed Conservation Grants is expected to be announced in mid-August.

Proposed Funding Increase

In a June 28 letter to the Upper

Delaware Council, Congressman Antonio Delgado (NY-19) reported that the House of Representatives passed a Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget that would provide \$10 million for the DRBRP, an increase of \$4 million from Fiscal Year 2019.

"Conservation programs do more than just preserve the spectacular natural beauty of our region - they also safeguard the natural resources upon which our community depends for recreational and industrial uses. Allowing federal conservation programs to expire degrades both the intrinsic and economic value of our rivers, mountains, and forests. The Delaware River, for example, generates more than \$400 million in economic value to our region every year," Rep. Delgado wrote.

Congressman Delgado also served as a special guest at FUDR's 12th Annual "One Bug" tournament opening dinner on April 26 at the old Louisville Slugger Bat Factory in Hancock, sharing his thoughts on angling, river protection, and his commitment to help the Upper Delaware region.



EEL KING: In 1988, the National Park Service documented Floyd Campfield's construction of his eel weir in a cultural heritage video as well as in a *Kaatskill Life* magazine article written by NPS Cultural Resource Specialist Mary Curtis. The retired NYS Trooper, center, is pictured with videographer Vince Mondillo. (Photo Courtesy of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River)



WATERSHED SIGNAGE: Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) Director Sandra Meola pointed out locations for proposed signage declaring "ENTERING Delaware River Watershed" along major roadways in New York State at a June 11 meeting hosted by the Upper Delaware Council. Stakeholders including the UDC, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, National Park Service, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, National Parks Conservation Association, and New York League of Conservation Voters are working with the NYS Departments of Transportation and Environmental Conservation, and the Delaware River Basin Commission, to mark the watershed's geographic boundaries to help motorists develop a sense of place and foster stewardship over protection goals. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

In Memoriam: Floyd C. Campfield, 82

Upper Delaware Council 1992 Cultural Achievement Award recipient Floyd C. Campfield of Narrowsburg, NY, affectionately known as the "Eel King", died on March 17, 2019 at home after a long battle with cancer.

He was born on July 3, 1936 to Carl and Agnes Gumpfer Campfield in Honesdale, PA; was predeceased by his wife, the former Jacoba Young, on Feb. 27, 2018, and is survived by four children: Floyd J. (and Anna) Campfield of Narrowsburg; Steven (and Georgia) Campfield of Narrowsburg; Teresa Campfield of Liberty, NY, and Tommie Campfield of Narrowsburg.

Floyd was a U.S. Army veteran who served with the Army Engineers for three years in the U.S. and Germany until 1958. Upon his discharge, he worked for the Narrowsburg Lumber Company.

In 1965, Floyd enlisted into the New York State Police and served for 20 years as a Trooper, with the majority of his career patrolling in Western Sullivan County.

In 1964, he constructed his first eel weir on the Delaware River and enlarged it over the years to become the most productive rack from Hancock to Port Jervis.

He harvested between 75-100 tons of eels during 40 years of weir operation.

Floyd was an avid collector of Native American Indian relics that he found in plowed fields along the river. He collected hundreds of arrowheads, pottery pieces, stone tools, and weapons, and donated the majority of his collection to the National Park Service and Fort Delaware.

Arrangements were by Harrison Rasmussen Funeral Home of Barryville, with burial at the Glen Cove Cemetery.

Clean Energy Towns

The Towns of Hancock and Highland were recently added to the list of "Clean Energy Communities" by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, joining Sullivan County, Orange County, the Towns of Tusten and Bethel.

Achieving the designation entitles communities to apply for clean-energy project grants and coordinators with no local cost share. Visit www.nyserda.ny.gov/ce for information on the round ending Sept. 30.

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 info@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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*Working together to conserve the Upper
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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'

Firefly Picnic Aug. 24

As the Delaware Highlands Conservancy celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2019, the land trust welcomes the public to attend its annual Firefly Picnic on Aug. 24 from 3-6 p.m. at its Bethel, NY property.

There will be a delicious catered meal, a Live Birds of Prey demonstration with Bill Streeter, a guided trail walk, and fun for all ages. The drawing for the raffle of an Old Town Heron 9'6" kayak will take place.

The picnic is free for active volunteers and children under 12, costs \$10 for DHC members, and \$25 for non-members. To register, please email jason@delaware-highlands.org. Reservations are required.

Find USGS Water Data And River Conditions

The Delaware River Dashboard is a viewer provided by the U.S. Geological Survey to show provisional real-time water data collected at USGS observation stations in context with weather-related data from other public sources. Bookmark it at: <https://webapps.usgs.gov/odrm/viewer/>.

Additionally, the National Park Service

offers a hotline to check on safety conditions of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River at (845) 252-7100.

Nature Photo Contest

"Confluence: Land, Water, and Wildlife" is the 2nd annual juried photo contest for the Upper Delaware River region, open to professional and amateur photographers.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy invites photographers to capture striking, nature-inspired photos in four categories: landscape, wildlife, macro, and water.

Entries must be received by Aug. 31.

See contest rules and submission guidelines at www.delawarehighlands.org.

Schoolhouse Rocks!

The Rock Valley Schoolhouse at 9589 County Road 28 in Long Eddy, NY continues its summer concert program with performances on Sundays at 4 p.m. by: Aug. 18, Phrogz Musical Collective; Sept. 1, So We Are (The Acoustic Amygdaloids); and Sept. 15, Yarnslingers, local writers sharing their true, first-person stories on the location-appropriate theme of "Teachers".

A \$10 donation is requested for upkeep

of the restored schoolhouse. Call Bobbie Oliver at (845) 887-6569 for information.

Big Eddy Film Festival

The 8th Annual Big Eddy Film Festival presented by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance is returning on Sept. 20-22.

The round-up of exciting new films to be screened at the Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg will be announced in August, along with panel discussions and opportunities to meet the filmmakers.

See www.bigeddyfilmfest.com, call (845) 252-7576 or check on social media.

UDC Stocked for Summer

The Upper Delaware Council has bi-state river map benefit t-shirts in all sizes and a comprehensive Map & Guide brochure.

Royal blue shirts with the Land-Water-People logo on front and an Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River regional map on the back can be ordered or picked up. Call (845) 252-3022 or email ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org. A \$15 donation is requested, plus \$2.50 to ship.

The free Visitor Information guide is available for personal use or distribution.