

The Upper Delaware

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

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**The Upper Delaware
available on-line or by mail!**

This newsletter may now be accessed on-line, in full color, at the UDC's website, www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. Please indicate via the return coupon on Page 7 whether you'd like us to discontinue sending your copy by mail. Thank you.



HELLO-GOODBYE: The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) welcomed incoming Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Sean McGuinness, right, on his first day of duty at the park unit during the UDC monthly meeting on Feb. 4. His arrival coincided with the last UDC meeting for Assistant Superintendent Sandra S. Schultz, center, who retired on March 31 after 37 years of federal government service. Dennis Reidenbach, left, regional director for the National Park Service Northeast Region based in Philadelphia, paid an official Upper Delaware visit to mark the occasion. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

National Park Service Sees Leadership Transitions

The Upper Delaware Council welcomed a new superintendent for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UDSRR) in February, then bid farewell in March to an individual whose work was critical to establishing this unit of the National Park System 32 years ago.

National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent Sean J. McGuinness succeeds Vidal Martinez, who ended his 18-month UDSRR tenure on October 23, 2009 to become superintendent at Prince William Forest Park in northern Virginia.

The move reunites Martinez with his immediate family residing in the area.

Coinciding with that transition, UDSRR Assistant Superintendent Sandra S. Schultz retired on March 31 after 37 years

of federal government service, 27 of which were based in the Upper Delaware.

New Challenge

McGuinness had served as deputy superintendent at Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island since July 2005.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from SUNY Fredonia, the Buffalo native joined NPS in 1977 straight out of college as a seasonal river patrol ranger at Grand Teton National Park.

"I fell in love with the 'green and gray' and knew I wanted to make it my career," the adventurous 55-year-old says.

Assignments followed at Tongass National Forest, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska, Natch-

Please see NPS on Page 10

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Susan Sullivan

As a woman dedicated to the internal exploration of mind, body and spirit, Susan Sullivan also believes in reaching out.

The various beneficiaries have been her Town of Tusten community, her yoga students, individuals battling substance abuse issues, and the local environment.

Since settling in the Upper Delaware River Valley in 1987, Sullivan went back to school, changed careers, and became a citizen activist in response to her concern over development pressures on this area.

The Queens, NY native had worked as a radio marketing consultant in Florida for 15 years before friends and the region's beauty attracted her to move here.

Her dismay at experiencing "bad urban development taking over" in Stuart, FL and a desire to provide her then 12-year-old son with a more rural lifestyle also figured into that decision.

Sullivan opted to leave the sales profession behind "to shift into something I felt would serve other people."

After studying at Sullivan County Community College and Empire State College, Sullivan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Counseling & Human Services in 1995.

She worked for the CMP Drug and Alcohol Commission in Wayne County, PA full-time through 2007, and recently returned part-time to her specialty of substance abuse counseling.

Simultaneously, Sullivan nurtured the interest she had developed in yoga during the mid-1980s with serious training to achieve instructor and mentor level status.

The 68-year-old is a registered yoga teacher, a certified practitioner of Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy, and a member of the International Association of Yoga Therapists.

Also of great interest to Sullivan is protecting the river valley's resources.

Responding to the environmental movement's 'Think globally, act locally' message, Sullivan began attending meetings of the Tusten Town Board, Planning Board, and Comprehensive Plan Committee.

She joined the Town of Tusten Conservation Council last year.

The group's current project is to invento-



Susan Sullivan, Town of Tusten

ry Tusten's open space and its natural, historic, and cultural resources to provide the town with a baseline and tools to make informed planning decisions.

On Oct. 13, 2009, the Tusten Town Board appointed Sullivan as its Upper Delaware Council alternate. She assumed the position of UDC representative in January of 2010.

"When gas drilling came into awareness, I began attending UDC meetings as a citizen. I came here for information and appreciated the public comment opportunities. I found out that I could say something directly to the head of the Delaware River Basin Commission," she marvels.

Sullivan believes that the UDC's duty is to serve as "a voice for the resources of the Delaware River corridor and the River Management Plan." Her job is to act as a liaison between her town and the UDC.

When she's not attending meetings, teaching yoga, participating in more training, or counseling clients, Sullivan enjoys gardening, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and particularly swimming.

She and her partner since 1991, Chris Holden, have also been busy renovating the 100-year-old house they share in Lava.

Sullivan's son, Michael Duffy, 36, lives in Montreal. He is a circus performance artist with a stiltwalker and aerial act who recently achieved his dream of being selected for the cast of Cirque du Soleil.

Sullivan says that her desire to affect change where she can motivates the energy and enthusiasm that she brings to her work and personal life.

"The environment is incredibly important to me. It is rewarding that you can protect your own piece of it. Anyone who lives here can have an impact," she says. ❖

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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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Annual Report Out

The Upper Delaware Council's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009 (covering Oct. 1, 2008-Sept. 30, 2009) is available in print brochure form or as a downloadable document at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. The report includes "A View from the Chair", activity highlights, objectives for FY 2010, financial data, and directories of grants and awards. ❖

UDC to Present 22nd Annual Awards April 25

New York State Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther will serve as keynote speaker at the Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony to be held April 25 at The Eldred Preserve.

The UDC annually honors individuals, groups, communities, and agencies that have contributed to the protection or enhancement of the Upper Delaware River Valley. This year's slate of honorees is posted at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Tickets are available at \$26 per person, with reservations due by April 15.

The Sunday banquet will take place at The Eldred Preserve Outdoor Resort, 1040 Rt. 55, Eldred, NY.

Festivities begin with a 3 p.m. hors d'oeuvres and cash bar reception. The buffet dinner menu to be served at 4 p.m. will offer garden salad, bread, a roast beef carving station, turkey rolls with stuffing and gravy, vegetable lasagna, rice pilaf, vegetable medley, coffee/tea, and cake.

Assemblywoman Gunther will deliver her keynote address during dessert, followed by the presentation of awards.

Gunther was elected in November 2003 to represent the 98th Assembly District, which includes all of Sullivan County and the Towns of Deerpark, Greenville, Minisink and Wawayanda, and the Cities of

Port Jervis and Middletown, in Orange County.

The Forestburgh resident carries on a tradition of public service initiated by her husband, Jake Gunther, who represented the 98th Assembly District from 1992 until his untimely death on July 9, 2003.

Assemblyman Gunther delivered the keynote address at the UDC's 14th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2002.

Aileen Gunther received her nursing degree from Orange County Community College and studied liberal arts at SUNY New Paltz.

The registered nurse and trained HIV counselor formerly served as the Director of Performance Improvement and Risk Management for Catskill Regional Medical Center.

Drawing on her 29 years of experience in the health care field, Gunther chairs the Assembly Subcommittee on Women's Health and has championed legislation aimed at expanding access to quality, affordable health care.

Her legislative initiatives also reflect her commitment to providing top-notch education from pre-K to college, lowering the local tax burden, creating and retaining jobs, sponsoring flood mitigation measures, promoting tourism, and preserving



New York State Assembly Member
Aileen M. Gunther, Keynote Speaker

the region's beauty.

Gunther is the proud mother of three children and has one granddaughter.

To make reservations for the UDC's 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony, contact Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie at P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY 12764, phone (845) 252-3022 or e-mail laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org. ❖

Eight Technical Assistance Grants Awarded

The Upper Delaware Council awarded \$16,700 in Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) on Sept. 3, 2009 for eight projects that will further goals and address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has funded since 1988 to \$656,392 for 188 projects.

Combined requests for Fiscal Year 2009 totaled \$44,600, competing for \$20,000 that the UDC had budgeted from its federal funding allocation via the National Park Service.

TAGs are available for research, planning, and studies conducted by the UDC's 13 member municipalities and the encompassing river corridor counties.

Buckingham and Manchester Townships would also be eligible to receive this member benefit if they joined the UDC.

The FY 2009 TAG recipients were:

Town of Cohecton, NY - \$4,000 to update the Town of Cohecton's Zoning Law to address green building standards, and the impacts of natural gas exploration and drilling on infrastructure and other community facets.

2010 TAG Program:

~Applications due by 4:30 p.m. July 30

~Special Project Review Committee

meeting with applicants: Aug. 10

~UDC Vote expected: Sept. 2

See www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for Guidelines, Forms, and a Directory of Grant Recipients, 1988 to present

Town of Lumberland, NY - \$3,500 to re-write the Town of Lumberland Zoning Law to coincide with the town's updated Comprehensive Plan.

Town of Tusten, NY - \$3,000 for mapping services to create a Town of Tusten Natural Resources and Open Space Inventory for local planning purposes.

Lackawaxen Township, PA - \$1,800 to produce and distribute two issues of a Lackawaxen newsletter that will be provided to all residents as an informational tool.

Town of Delaware, NY - \$1,700 to make all local laws and ordinances available to the general public on the town's website at www.townofdelaware-ny.us.

Pike County, PA - \$1,200 to update and print 2,000 copies of a revised Map/Brochure describing the benefits of Best Planning Practices and mapping

existing residential developments of 15 lots or more in Pike County dating back to the early 1900's.

Damascus Township, PA - \$1,000 for training and installation costs for an e-mail document server that will facilitate the work of the Damascus Township Planning Commission.

Shohola Township, PA - \$500 to assist with travel expenses and the printing of a water quality testing database related to a "Gas Wells and Private Wells" educational program to be presented by Penn State Cooperative Extension.

For information on the TAG program, contact UDC Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete at (845) 252-3022 or dave@upperdelawarecouncil.org. ❖

UDC Raft Trip Aug. 1

Save the date of Sunday, August 1, for the Upper Delaware Council's 22nd Annual Family Raft Trip. All are welcome.

The river section to be paddled is being determined. Lander's River Trips will provide the rafts, paddles, life vests, and shuttle transportation. Find itinerary details at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. ❖

Gas Drilling Concerns Aired

The polarizing controversy over natural gas drilling in the Upper Delaware River watershed was evident at a recent public hearing seeking comments on an application to explore the Marcellus Shale play in Wayne County, PA.

Stone Energy Corporation has applied to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) for approval to withdraw up to 0.7 million gallons per day of surface water from the West Branch Lackawaxen River in Mount Pleasant Township and to stimulate the existing Matoushek #1 vertical well in Clinton Township through hydraulic fracturing, using that same water source. Flow-back water would be exported to approved treatment facilities outside of the basin.

Following a Feb. 24 public hearing in Matamoras, PA at which 76 individuals testified over nearly five and a half hours, the DRBC has extended its deadline to accept written comments to April 12.

The draft dockets and a Power Point presentation by DRBC Water Management Branch Manager Bill Muszynski are available at www.nj.gov/drbc/notice_stoneenergycorp020910.htm.

The proposed drilling site is located within the Special Protection Waters drainage area of the Upper Delaware River.

On March 4, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) approved a comment letter offering six points for the DRBC's consideration that may be read at www.upperdelaware-council.org.

The UDC had also commented on Chesapeake Appalachia LLC's surface water withdrawal application for up to 1 million gallons per day from the West Branch Delaware River for the Cutrone site in Buckingham Township, PA, which was the first natural gas-related application to be received by the DRBC on May 22, 2009.

A July 15 public hearing drew 44 speakers and generated over 1,200 written comments. The DRBC then released a revised docket on Sept. 15 and scheduled a second hearing on Sept. 23.

However, Chesapeake rescinded its application on Oct. 20 in order to "reassess our approach to the situation", according to the company's withdrawal letter.

The DRBC eliminated its usual review thresholds to require all Marcellus Shale well projects proposed for the river basin to obtain approvals through its docket process, while the agency has been working since last May to develop specific regulations for these natural gas activities.

Stone Energy had already drilled and cased the Matoushek well for exploratory purposes when the DRBC notified the



DRBC HEARING: More than 200 people attended the Delaware River Basin Commission's Feb. 24 public hearing on Stone Energy Corp.'s Proposed Surface Water Withdrawal and Natural Gas Well Site docket for projects located in Wayne County, PA. Seventy-six people testified during the nearly 5 1/2-hour hearing held at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing in Matamoras, PA. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

company on June 8, 2008 that it was in violation to have proceeded only with a Pennsylvania permit.

The company agreed on Dec. 10, 2008 to pay a \$70,000 fine and to submit a formal application to the DRBC, which it did on Feb. 13, 2009 and supplemented with additional information on June 11.

Passions Erupt

While DRBC Deputy Director Robert Tudor asked participants at the Feb. 24 hearing to address the Stone Energy dockets only, the forum often became a divisive debate over the pros and cons of allowing natural gas drilling in the region.

Speakers expressed their feelings in prose, song, through tears, and with props in some cases to maximize their three minutes at the podium.

Common themes by those against gas drilling called for placing a moratorium on any approvals until the DRBC, Pennsylvania and New York State have fully developed their regulations and for conducting a study of the potential cumulative impacts from multiple well operations.

Those in favor of gas drilling asserted their private property rights to lease their lands, emphasized the economic benefits for the region, and argued that the technology is safe and well-regulated.

The owner of the property in question urged DRBC to approve the permit.

"Where I stand is, by not allowing that to be fracked, you're taking away an opportunity for me to derive an income from that land," said Louis Matoushek.

Addressing the majority who testified against drilling, Matoushek added, "What I'm interested to know is how many here do not stand any chance of financial gain from it? It's the same old story: not in my backyard. If I can't have it, you can't have it. What this will do for the area is phenomenal. This will create real jobs."

Winifred Olsen, president of the Lackawaxen River Conservancy, said that her organization is neither for nor against gas drilling but they are concerned about what effects the proposal to withdraw a high percentage of the total flow from the West Branch of the Lackawaxen would have on this stream tributary of the Delaware.

Olsen pointed out that Pennsylvania has named the Lackawaxen as its 2010 River of the Year "to call attention to the ongoing conservation needs and potential future threats to the river."

"We strongly urge the DRBC to defer approval of these applications until stringent protective regulations are put in place, and until the gas industry is made to comply with the regulations of the [Federal] Safe Drinking Water Act, from which it is currently exempt," Olsen testified.

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The Upper Delaware

James Barth of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) argued that exploitation of Marcellus Shale has not been tested and presents environmental unknowns.

"Drilling and fracturing on an industrial scale is not a manageable risk," he said.

Marian Schweighofer, executive director of the Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance, displayed a map showing the 62,000 acres-plus that they have leased to Hess Corp. and Newfield Exploration.

The Damascus farmer noted that fracking has been in practice for 60 years and asked the DRBC to apply science over "knee-jerk reactions that play to emotion."

She added that local property owners are responsible for the exceptional water quality that the DRBC seeks to protect, and that the Delaware River Basin Compact guarantees economic opportunity along with its equitable apportionment of water resources.

National Canoe Safety Patrol volunteer Priscilla Linden of Washington Crossing, PA appealed to the DRBC to "represent us as our environmental steward" against the gas companies which are motivated by "bald-faced profit with a public-be-damned attitude."

Kittatinny Canoes owner Dave Jones countered, "This is an industry that we need - the world, our country, our area. This is our future. In fact, I believe it's going to save our area. It is our private property right to harvest this gas."

Greg Swartz, a vegetable farmer from Damascus, said, "I make my living from the land and am deeply concerned that gas drilling in the watershed will ruin my business."

"Once we destroy our water, it's destroyed forever," warned Jessica Corrigan of Beach Lake, PA, proprietor of Northeast Wilderness Experience.

"This is going to set a precedent," said Bruce Ferguson from Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy. "There's no need to rush."

The DRBC has not provided a timetable for acting on the Stone Energy dockets.

Also pending is the final update of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement that will govern natural gas drilling activities in the Marcellus Shale formation.

The DEC had received 12,576 written comments to review as of Jan. 4. Two UDC comment letters sent on Nov. 5 and Dec. 3, 2009 are available on the UDC website.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection announced plans in February to open an office in Scranton to oversee the 5,200 new Marcellus Shale drilling permits expected this year and to hire 68 more permitting and inspection staff. ♦

UDC River Towns Complete Natural Gas Impacts Study

"Time is of the essence" for local municipalities to prepare for the impacts of natural gas development, concludes a study funded in part by the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) and coordinated by the Multi-Municipal Gas Drilling Task Force. Members presented their completed project to the UDC's Project Review Committee on Sept. 22, 2009.

The UDC awarded a \$12,000 Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to the NY Towns of Tusten, Cochecton, Delaware, and Highland on Sept. 4, 2008 to undertake the year-long study entitled, "Managing Natural Gas Development Impacts: Strategies to Protect Town Infrastructure and Land Use", under the coordination of the Sullivan County Division of Planning & Environmental Management. Subsequently joining in the \$31,800 study were the UDC member Towns of Lumberland and Fremont. The western Sullivan County Town of Callicoon also opted to participate at their own expense.

"This is the largest intermunicipal project to be undertaken in Sullivan County to my knowledge," said Dr. William J. Pammer, former Sullivan County Planning commissioner.

The study recognizes that "while gas development offers potential economic gains for property owners and local governments, municipalities need to plan for expected impacts to their land uses and capital assets."

Factors attracting natural gas companies to this region are the abundance of Marcellus Shale formations that underlie 36% of the Delaware River Basin, enhancements to gas extraction technologies including horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, proximity to the Millennium Pipeline to transport the gas, the number of large land parcels with low density development, and the potential use of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River as a water source.

"Nobody is under the disillusion that gas companies aren't coming here, but we still have to be able to live here," said Ben Johnson, then-Supervisor of the Town of Tusten, which served as lead municipality for the grant project.

Given that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has authority over the issuance and monitoring of gas drilling permits in that state and that the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has jurisdiction over water withdrawal requests, local municipalities are limited in their powers.

The study cites two major areas in which towns can exert influence.

The first recommendation is to actively participate in the DEC's update of the 1992 Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the Gas, Oil and Solution Mining Regulatory Program under the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act.

Secondly, the report recommends preparing for and mitigating impacts on local roadways, bridges and culverts by establishing a Road Use Agreement framework. Traffic associated with the construction and operation of gas well sites could overwhelm local roads that were not designed to handle a large volume of industrial trucks carrying heavy loads of materials and water.

The Task Force contracted with C&S Companies of Syracuse, NY to conduct an assessment of existing road conditions. Over a three-month period, the consulting engineers collected and analyzed data to develop a model Road Use Agreement (RUA).

"The main purpose of the RUA will be to provide a fair method to define the needed repairs and the reimbursable costs of those repairs that the gas developer will be responsible for," the report states.

It offers technical and procedural advice on implementing an RUA, as well as a model template to follow. The study report concludes with a three-page "tool box for action."

Among the recommendations given to the towns were to: continue meeting as a consortium; retain the services of a structural engineer and legal representative to act as a professional team on behalf of all the towns; and comment collectively on the dSGEIS.

"As a group, we're stronger than we are as individuals," agreed Task Force member and Town of Cochecton UDC Representative Larry H. Richardson. ♦

NYC DEP: Prohibit Drilling in Watershed

Claiming that natural gas drilling poses "unacceptable risks" to its unfiltered water supply, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection is calling for a ban on drilling in its upstate watershed.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, however, says that the pro-

hibition would be illegal since some 70% of the land is privately owned.

Senator John J. Bonacic challenged the City to buy residents' development rights if this use of their properties is denied.

The Delaware reservoirs supply drinking water for nine million New Yorkers. ♦

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-August 2009 to mid-March 2010, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

MANDATORY PFD

Following extensive debate, the UDC unanimously approved a Sept. 3 resolution supporting the National Park Service's proposal to develop regulations to make life jacket use mandatory for Upper Delaware River users during dangerous, high water conditions.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Vidal Martinez introduced the proposal last summer in response to the 56 drownings that have occurred on the river since 1980.

Fifty-three of the victims were not wearing any personal flotation device (PFD), while the other three individuals did not have them securely fastened.

The National Canoe Safety Patrol and numerous boat liveries along the Upper Delaware supported Martinez's call in the interest of increased public safety.

While the original proposal specified a reading of 6 feet or higher at the Barryville gauge on any given day at 8 a.m. to trigger the PFD requirement for all river users, UDC representatives noted the wide variation in flows and conditions from Hancock to Sparrowbush that made an arbitrary measurement of high water difficult.

Typical summer river levels are between 3 1/2 to 4 feet.

Discussion also took place about public notification procedures and enforcement.

NPS is continuing to investigate the matter and will request additional input from the UDC, according to Superintendent Martinez's successor, Sean McGuinness.

An update to the NYS Navigation Law took effect on Nov. 1, 2009 requiring everyone on board pleasure vessels less than 21 feet, operating between Nov. 1 and May 1, to wear USCG-approved life jackets or face fines ranging from \$100-\$250.

NYS GRANTS

The UDC closed out NYS FY 2007-08 Grant M070082 benefitting its eight NYS member towns with the receipt of the final reimbursement payments on Dec. 2.

Senator John J. Bonacic had allocated \$65,000 in aid to the towns and \$10,000 to the UDC for administrative services.

Projects that received \$8,125 each were:

Cochecton - salt storage building construction; Deepark - Sparrowbush Firemen's Park improvements; Delaware - electrical service at new town hall and Callicoon Creek Park; Fremont - design plans for a new municipal building; Hancock - Hancock Memorial Park develop-



BRIDGING HISTORY: Although the \$9.5 million Shohola, PA-Barryville, NY Bridge has been in full service since October of 2006, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation arranged a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 21, 2010 to mark its official reopening. Delays were experienced in the fabrication of the decorative railing for the pedestrian balconies that feature signage interpreting the area's history and scenic landscape. National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Assistant Superintendent Sandra Schultz, above, admired one of these panels that contribute to the modern bridge's unique look, which also includes stained and molded concrete piers and abutments reflective of the native bluestone. The four-span bridge with two 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders replaced a 1943 bridge at a slightly downstream crossing location. (Contributed Photo by Karen Dussinger, PennDOT)

ment; Highland - town hall climate control system; Lumberland - Glen Spey Cemetery gravesite identification building; and Tusten - town hall climate control.

The towns have until Aug. 31 to complete their projects under Sen. Bonacic's NYS FY 2008-09 Grant M080103 (\$75,000).

Project proposals for NYS FY 2009-10 Grant TM09050 (\$25,000) are due to the UDC by April 23.

NYRI ORDER

Congressman Maurice Hinchey (NY) lauded an Oct. 15 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order denying New York Regional Interconnect, Inc.'s request for a rehearing on ratepayer subsidies as an "unequivocal rejection" that "appears to be the final nail in the coffin of this ill-conceived project" to develop a 190-mile-long, High-Voltage, Direct Current electric transmission line from Marcy to Rock Tavern.

PPL LINE

PPL's proposal for a \$1.2 billion expansion of its Susquehanna-Roseland 500 kV electric line on a 101-mile path that would cross the Delaware River at Bushkill has been put on hold by the NPS Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area pending a fresh review of alternate routes.

HYDROPOWER STATIONS

The UDC sent a Jan. 7 letter opposing

New York City's attempt to fast-track its federal licensing application to build hydropower stations at Cannonsville, Nevversink, Pepacton and Schoharie Reservoirs "because of the level of controversy surrounding the project and the complexity of the resource issues." The city's exclusive rights to study and pursue this project end in early 2012.

BRIDGE SIGNS

The NYS Department of Transportation has offered to work with the UDC and National Park Service to develop pictorial representations on Upper Delaware River bridges to show high water and flood levels to help recreationists judge conditions.

FISHING LICENSES

As of Oct. 1, 2009, any angler age 16 and older fishing for "migratory fish from the sea" in the Delaware River or its tributaries must obtain a recreational marine fishing license from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This new regulation does not carry any reciprocity for Pennsylvania fishing license holders.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Elected as 2010 chairpersons for the UDC's three standing committees were: Water Use/Resource Management, Jim Serio; Operations, Harold G. Roeder, Jr.; and Project Review, Fred Peckham. ♦

Council Board Reorganizes for 2010

Town of Delaware, NY Representative Harold G. Roeder, Jr. was elected as the 2010 chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. during the UDC's annual meeting held Jan. 7 in Narrowsburg.

Town of Delaware Justice H. John Kramer officiated the swearing-in ceremony for Roeder, Vice-Chairperson Dolores A. Kessler of Damascus Township, PA, and Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot of the Town of Fremont, NY.

Harold Roeder has been a member of the UDC board since 1997. He previously chaired the Council in 2000 and served as its vice-chair in 2009.

Roeder, who moved to the Town of Delaware from Queens at the age of 12 in 1952, graduated from Delaware Valley High School before earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Performance from Ithaca College.

He previously worked as a music teacher at Roscoe Central School and Ithaca College, operated the Roeder's Pianos and Organs distributorship, and he currently holds a New York State license as a certified general real estate appraiser. Since 1992, he has been the proprietor of Roeder's Appraisal Service.

In March of 2009, the Delaware Town Board appointed Roeder as a town councilman to fill a vacancy. He subsequently won November's election to retain the seat through 2011.

The classically-trained Roeder enjoys serious music and dabbles in musical composition. He is also a sportsman who enjoys angling for trout in the Callicoon Creek,



ANNUAL MEETING: The UDC held its annual meeting on Jan. 7 at the Narrowsburg office. Elected as 2010 officers were, seated from the left: Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot, Town of Fremont; Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware; and Vice-Chairperson Dolores A. Kessler, Damascus Township. Standing, from the left, are: UDC Executive Director William E. Douglass; Dennis DeMara, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Bill Rudge, New York State; Jim Rodgers, Town of Fremont; Mel Decker, Town of Deerpark; Carol Collier, Delaware River Basin Commission; Jim Serio, Town of Hancock; John Sundholm, Town of Highland; George J. Fluhr, Shohola Township; Fred Peckham, Town of Hancock; Susan Sullivan, Town of Tusten; Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cocheton; Sandra Schultz, National Park Service; Jay Shafer, Town of Lumberland; Phil Chase, Town of Deerpark; and Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland. (UDC Photos by David B. Soete)

shooting sporting clays, and belongs to the Pleasant Valley Hunting Club.

Roeder and his wife, Donna, reside in Hortonville. They have three children (Hal, Katrina, and Brian) and nine grandchildren, one of whom is deceased.

The current membership of the UDC board was determined following 2010 municipal reorganizational meetings and recent appointments to fill vacancies.

The roster of representatives and alter-

nates as of press time, listed from north to south in the river corridor, is:

Town of Hancock - Fred Peckham, rep.; Jim Serio, alt.

Town of Fremont - John B. Niflot, rep.; Jim Rodgers, 1st alt.; George Conklin, 2nd
Town of Delaware - Harold G. Roeder, Jr., rep.

Town of Cocheton - Larry H. Richardson, rep.; Edwin Grund, alt.

Town of Tusten - Susan Sullivan, rep.; Tony Ritter, 1st alt.; Margaret Harrison, 2nd
Town of Highland - Andrew Boyar, rep.; John Sundholm, alt.

Town of Lumberland - Nadia Rajs, rep.; Jay Shafer, alt.

Town of Deerpark, Phil Chase, rep.; Mel Decker, alt.

Damascus Township - Dolores A. Kessler, rep.; Jeffrey Dexter, 1st alt.; Joseph Canfield, 2nd.

Berlin Township - Lillian Russell, rep.

Lackawaxen Township - John S. McKay, rep.; Brian Stuart, alt.

Shohola Township - Scott Rando, rep.; Nelia Wall, 1st alt.; George J. Fluhr, 2nd.

Westfall Township - Peter Kenny, rep.

State of New York - Bill Rudge, rep.; Michael Flaherty, alt.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Dennis DeMara, rep.

Delaware River Basin Commission (non-voting member) - Carol Collier, rep.

National Park Service (partner) - Dennis Reidenbach, rep.; Sean McGuinness, alt. ❖



NEXT AT BAT: 2009 Chairperson George J. Fluhr passes the gavel to 2010 Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr., who was sworn in on Jan. 7 by Town of Delaware Justice H. John Kramer.



AMERICAN STORYTELLER: The new exhibits at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA will be officially unveiled to the public on Saturday, May 22. (Contributed Photo by NPS)

New Exhibits to Open At Zane Grey Museum

By Dorothy Moon, Curator

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River will be celebrating the opening of the new exhibits at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA on May 22.

The opening culminates years of planning that led to the design and development of the exhibit. The exhibit recounts the life and experiences of "Zane Grey: An American Storyteller."

It begins with the early years of Zane Grey's life, proceeds to his early writing, the years at Lackawaxen, his adventures, his competitive spirit, the call of the West, his success as an author, his influence on American popular culture, his later life and his legacy.

One of the rooms has been re-created to look as it did during the time that Zane Grey lived and wrote in the house.

"We are excited to provide a more personal experience of Zane Grey's life for our visitors," said Sean McGuinness, superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The exhibit combines original artifacts from the National Park Service's Zane Grey collection and reproductions. There are audio and visual clips focusing on specific aspects of his life. The exhibit is self-guided so that visitors can enjoy it at their own pace. Please call (570) 685-4871 or visit www.nps.gov/upde for details about the grand opening and for the museum's operating schedule. ♦

Towpath Trail to Rebound from Floods

The Towpath Trail that runs underneath Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct in Minisink Ford, NY will re-open this spring following repairs from repeated flood damage.

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is planning a special event on June 5 to coincide with National Trails Day.

The half-mile-long walking trail parallels the former path of the Delaware & Hudson

Canal between the river and NYS Rt. 97.

The trail was restored and resurfaced by The Cutting Edge Group of Lake George, NY with an eye toward sustainability in flood conditions like those of 2004-05-06.

It remained closed since last fall to allow hardy turf grass, planted to help prevent future erosion, to become established.

Call Project Manager Carla Hauser Hahn at (570) 729-8251 for information. ♦

River Sojourns Being Planned

The 16th Annual Delaware River Sojourn will take place on June 20-26 under the theme of "Bridging the Delaware Valley: Connecting Communities."

The Sojourn combines boating, camping, and educational programs to foster stewardship of the Delaware River.

Participants can sign up for the entire week or the day(s) of their choice. The event is appropriate for novice and experienced canoeers and kayakers of all ages.

Shuttle transportation, a commemorative T-shirt, and most meals are provided.

The Upper Delaware section will offer three days of paddling from Ten Mile River, NY to Matamoras, PA June 20-22.

Event updates and itineraries are available at www.delawareriversojourn.org.

River of the Year

The Lackawaxen River has been named as the Commonwealth's "River of the Year" for 2010 by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"A recreational treasure renowned for its fly-fishing and canoeing, the Lackawaxen harbors a wealth of bird and animal species," said DCNR Acting Secretary John Quigley in announcing the decision.

The Lackawaxen River flows nearly 25 miles before joining the Delaware River in Lackawaxen, PA. Its watershed encompasses 600 square miles across 26 municipalities in Pike, Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties.

The Lackawaxen River Conservancy is partnering with numerous organizations to host a year's worth of educational, recreational and hands-on stewardship events.

Goals include sponsoring a May 22 canal clean-up, a June 12-14 river sojourn, a July 17 fundraising gala, an Aug. 21 dam tour and picnic, fall foliage train excursions on Oct. 9-10 and 16-17, and a Dec. 5 partnership appreciation dinner. All activities will be posted at www.lackawaxenriver.org.

Rising Nation Journey

The Lenape Nation will once again organize a three-week canoe trip down the Delaware River this summer to culminate with an Aug. 28 treaty-signing ceremony at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Rising Nation Journey will launch from Callicoon, NY on Aug. 1 and proceed to Cape May, NJ to raise awareness of the brotherhood between the Lenape Indian Tribe living in PA and the people that neighbor the Delaware River.

The event happens every four years.

For further details, visit www.lenapenation.org/risingnationjourney. ♦

Common Waters Partnership Crosses Borders

With a goal of encouraging cross-border collaboration and articulating regional values, a first-ever Community Land Use and Conservation Forum for the Upper Delaware River watershed took place Oct. 29.

The day-long event was coordinated by the Common Waters Partnership, comprised of public and non-profit organizations and agencies representing a nine-county area of NY, PA, and NJ upstream of the Delaware Water Gap.

Achieving clean water, healthy forests, and sustainable communities is the ultimate goal of Common Waters.

By offering expert speakers, case studies, brainstorming exercises, and networking, the forum provided an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about the threats and challenges facing the region, share information, and develop regional strategies.

Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Carol Collier cited the Upper Delaware Council as a model for effective, collaborative problem-solving that could be applied on a larger scale.



NETWORKING: Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Carol Collier chats with Martin Kunstmann, center, from the Damascus Planning Commission and Mike Uretsky, right, from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, at the Common Waters forum held Oct. 29 at the Riverview Inn in Matamoras, PA. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

"We need to spend some time looking at the bigger picture. If we keep our blinders on and just look at our own municipalities,

we're in trouble. If we don't figure out how to come together, the heart of this area will be cut out in pieces," Collier said.

Improving communications across political and social boundaries is key.

One outgrowth of the forum was the production of an "Atlas of the Upper Delaware Region" that provides a basin overview and statistical information covering the Upper Delaware to the Water Gap.

The publication will help community leaders and interested citizens to see the geographic and spatial relationships between human development and natural features in the Common Waters region.

Common Waters and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation ushered in 2010 with news that the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities approved their \$1.9 million grant application.

The "Healthy Watersheds Through Healthy Forests" initiative will link water consumers in downstream communities with water producers in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

The three-year project will develop a program that pays upper basin landowners to implement forest management practices and easements to help protect clean water.

A fact sheet describing the objectives is available at www.pinchot.org.

In March, Common Waters embarked on a project with the Upper Delaware River Roundtable to facilitate community exploration about Marcellus Shale issues.

The purpose is to discuss common interests in a neutral manner, pull together existing information about natural gas development and its impacts, and identify questions that need answers.

For more information, visit www.commonwaterspartnership.org. ❖



SOIL NAILS: Shohola Township won a \$494,417 federal stimulus grant for a project to correct stormwater and landslide damage on Rosa Road, located on the PA side of the Pond Eddy Bridge. In Nov. 2009, a crew from Soil Nail Launcher, Inc., based in Colorado, began drilling 292 steel rods under 300 linear feet of roadway using a declassified British military cannon mounted on an excavator. Grout was pumped into the bars, then a covering of wire mesh and concrete was installed to add strength. Equipment was brought in by rail. The repair shored up the steep slope leading to the river. Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies monitored the innovative stabilization project. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)



SAFETY FIRST: Vidal Martinez tries on his gift of a blaze orange vest and hat given by UDC Representative Dolores Keesler, left, at his farewell luncheon held Oct. 23 at Central House in Beach Lake, PA. The outfit, which came complete with a yellow rubber ducky, was designed to increase his visibility on the water based on his river safety message emphasis during his Feb. 4, 2008-Oct. 23, 2009 tenure as superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The good-natured Martinez is now superintendent of the National Park Service's 15,000-acre Prince William Forest Park in Virginia. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

NPS, continued from Page 1

ez Trace Parkway, Crater Lake National Park, and the Mojave National Preserve, where he was Chief Ranger until 2003, followed by a two-year stint in the Department of the Interior's Office of Law Enforcement and Security in Washington.

McGuinness gave up his 26-year law enforcement commission to pursue management positions within the Park Service.

He decided to apply for the UDSRR superintendency after consulting with his acquaintance Martinez and driving up for some unannounced reconnaissance.

"The whole package of the ruralness and sophistication, beautiful scenery, friendly people, and recreational opportunities was compatible with my lifestyle," he says.

Growing up along Lake Erie in an Irish family with six brothers, McGuinness developed a love for the outdoors that is reflected in his hobbies of paragliding, hiking, skiing, and sailing.

McGuinness has immersed himself in learning about the Upper Delaware's unique history, legislative mandate, cooperative management, and resource issues.

At Fire Island, he worked with 17 communities in the park's 3,000-acre boundary. McGuinness looks forward to reaching out to the people of the Upper Delaware's 15 NY towns and PA townships along the 73.4-mile river corridor comprised of 55,600 acres where more than 85 percent of the land is privately owned.

"It's not about me. It's not about today.

The Park Service's role is to protect and conserve the resources of this river valley for future generations," he says.

Reorganize Duties

With no current plan to fill the Assistant Superintendent's position vacated by Schultz's retirement, McGuinness and his division chiefs will absorb her duties.

Schultz had been a consistent public face and energetic force for NPS through the terms of five UDSRR superintendents.

The Lansdowne, PA native with degrees in Biological Sciences and Regional Planning started her federal career with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1973.

As an employee of the NPS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Schultz prepared the Legislative Support Data package that led to the 1978 Congressional designation of the UDSRR and worked with local groups to draft the 1986 River Management Plan.

She made the full-time transition from the Philadelphia office to UDSRR in July 1983.

Career highlights include Schultz's role as project manager for the reconstruction of Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct, her development of preservation plans for the Zane Grey Museum, creation of the Canal Towpath Trail, and fostering of partnerships dedicated to stewardship of the region's natural, cultural and historic resources.

The UDC presented Schultz with its Distinguished Service Award in 2008. Sandy and her husband, Ken Schultz, now reside in Accomac, VA. ♦

Report: Reservoir Operations Not to Blame for Flooding

Widespread river flooding would have occurred during the 2004, 2005, and 2006 storms regardless of the pre-event storage condition in the upper basin reservoirs, based on application of the new Delaware River Basin Flood Analysis Model.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Executive Director Carol Collier reported these findings at a Dec. 15 meeting of the Delaware River Basin Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force.

"The results of the flood analysis computer model developed by a federal interagency team for the commission, as well as a review of inundation mapping and structural surveys prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, indicate that operational changes to reservoirs alone will not substantially reduce flooding if we experience storms similar to the three major events in September 2004, April 2005, and June 2006," Collier said.

"We believe the results support the earlier conclusion of the Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force that no single approach will eliminate flooding along the Delaware River and that we must continue to focus efforts on implementing a combination of flood loss reduction strategies," she added.

Of the 13 reservoirs simulated in the model upstream of Trenton, NJ, five did not spill during any of the three storm events and thus can provide no further flood mitigation with additional pre-event void space.

For the eight reservoirs that did spill, the model results indicate that larger pre-event voids could have reduced flood crests, but much of the main stem would still have remained in the National Weather Service-designated moderate or major flood stage.

DRBC will continue to work with basin reservoir operators to evolve spill mitigation programs without diminishing the security of regional water supplies.

See www.drbc.net for detailed findings.

Congressman Maurice Hinchey on Dec. 10 won approval of his \$200,000 appropriation request for the DRBC to continue to upgrade the basin's flood warning system.

The OASIS computer model was also used to generate data to develop a Jan. 12 report by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, in collaboration with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, entitled, "Recommended Improvements to the Flexible Flow Management Program for Coldwater Ecosystem Protection in the Delaware River Tailwaters." ♦

In Memoriam...

Dick Albert

Richard "Dick" Albert, water resources engineer, author, and the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) first Basin Planner, died on November 17, 2009 at the age of 63.

Mr. Albert was the recipient of two Special Recognition Awards from the Upper Delaware Council in 1993 and 2000 for his scientific, literary, and career achievements.

In 1987, Mr. Albert published "Damming the Delaware: The Rise and Fall of Tocks Island Dam", still considered to be the definitive study of 200 years of Delaware River water management.

He published three other books and countless articles, and was a coveted speaker on environmental topics.

Mr. Albert worked for the DRBC from 1975 to 2000. He headed successful efforts to develop the Scenic Rivers Water Quality Monitoring Program and Special Protection Waters regulations that now serve as national models.

He also coordinated the 1991 Time of Travel Study that traced the dispersal of dye from Hancock to the Delaware Water Gap to determine flow rates and was the mastermind behind the "Flowing Toward the Future" 21st century sustainable basin visioning process in 1999.

After leaving DRBC, Mr. Albert was staff scientist and restoration director for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network from 2000 to 2009. He was also proprietor of Albert Scientific, marketer of the AL-SCI Gravelometer stream pebble classification tool that he invented.

Funeral services were held Nov. 23, 2009 in Ewing, NJ. Memorial donations may be made to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the Farm Sanctuary, or the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.



George Jerus

George Jerus, who had served as Westfall Township, PA's alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), died on February 15, 2010 at the age of 83.

Mr. Jerus was appointed to the UDC on Feb. 4, 2003 and filled the position through the end of 2009.

He also served on the Pike County Planning Commission, was Westfall's Building Appeals Officer, and an alternate on the Township Zoning Hearing Board.

The World War II veteran became an engineer and professor who helped write the New York City Building Code, developed curricula for the National Home Builders, and gained international attention as a structural expert consultant.

A private memorial service was held.



Chris Wallingford

E. Christopher Wallingford, a former Manchester Township, PA supervisor and secretary, died on February 13, 2010.

During the development of the 1986 Final River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Mr. Wallingford represented the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) on the Land Use Guidelines and Plan Oversight Committees.

He was also instrumental in advocating for the arduous 1992 reconstruction of the Equinunk, PA-Lordville, NY Bridge. The previous bridge had been closed since 1984 due to structural problems before being torn down in 1986.

The community activist worked as a carpenter, realtor, and former art director for an advertising firm in Manhattan.

Funeral services took place Feb. 20, with spring interment in the Pine Mill Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Equinunk United Methodist Church Building Fund, in care of Ruth Price, 1821 Pine Mill Rd., Equinunk, PA 18417.

Grant Projects Improve Scenic Byway Features

Seven municipal members of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB), Inc. completed projects that fulfilled community needs and stimulated economic development under a \$65,000 Legislative Member Item grant secured by Senator John J. Bonacic.

The Upper Delaware Council coordinated submission of the final reimbursement requests on Aug. 28, for which payments were received on Dec. 8.

A total of \$64,581.72 was spent:

City of Port Jervis - \$7,454.00 to assist the Fort Decker Museum roof replacement, install planters at the Neversink River bridge, and undertake a concert series at the Riverside Park Pavilion.

Town of Deerpark - \$8,176.61 to upgrade the NYS Rt. 97 Mongaup parking lot and paths to the Mongaup and Delaware Rivers.

Town of Highland - \$10,141.58 to reclaim and interpret D&H Canal Lock 69 environs in Barryville.

Town of Delaware - \$14,182.02 to enhance the Callicoon Creek Park, and install solar lighting and stone gardens to highlight five town welcome signs.

Village of Hancock - \$13,678.45 to improve the Pennsylvania Ave. Access boat launch and picnic area, and to design and affix to village vehicles 10 sets of logos and decals promoting Hancock's status as the northern gateway of the UDSB.

Town of Lumberland - \$5,462.50 to upgrade accessibility to the historic Lower Mongaup Cemetery in Glen Spey.

Town of Tusten - \$5,486.56 to purchase eagle and wildlife viewing telescopes for the Main Street Big Eddy Observation Deck and to provide support to the Narrowsburg Country Market.

UDSB offers individual and business memberships in the non-profit organization to help support its mission. Visit www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org for subscription information. ♦

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 laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Three standing committees, Water Use/Resource Management, Operations, and Project Review, meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

Celebrate Earth Day

The 2010 Pike Wayne Earth Day Festival will take place April 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center.

Learn more about local conservation organizations and agencies. For information, visit www.pikewayneearthday.org or call PPL at (570) 251-6196. ♦

Eagle Count Increases

A Jan. 17, 2010 mid-winter aerial bald eagle survey revealed record-breaking results for Southeast New York.

A total of 277 eagles (142 adults, 135 immatures) were spotted, eclipsing the previous high count of 238 eagles observed 10 years ago in 2000.

The aerial count included 96 eagles (46 adults, 50 immatures) along the main stem of the Delaware River. The Mongaup system featured 82 eagles. ♦

Come to 20th Riverfest

The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance will sponsor the 20th Annual Riverfest,

Narrowsburg's art, music and environmental festival on the Delaware River, on July 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main Street.

Artisans have until April 24 to submit their originally designed and produced work for consideration of the jury. Applications are available at www.ArtsAllianceSite.org. ♦

PA Promotes Recreation

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announces the availability of two new resources promoting recreation.

The PA Outdoor Recreation Plan will provide statewide policy direction for 2009-2013. Its update makes the state eligible to receive federal Land & Water Conservation Funds. See www.paoutdoorrecplan.com.

In an effort to provide hiking and biking information on one comprehensive website, PA offers www.explorepatrials.com. ♦

DEC Adds Map Tools

New and enhanced tools to help the public find wildlife, accessible recreation, boat launch sites, and more throughout New York are now available on the state

Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Mapping Gateway website at www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/212.html.

DEC has utilized technology available through Google.com to make it easier to web visitors to view user-friendly information specific to their interests without the need for complex, expensive geographic information system software. ♦

Bridge Work Slated

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has awarded a \$2,638,000 bridge rehabilitation contract for the 1938 Matamoras, PA-Port Jervis, NY Bridge to Minichi, Inc. of Dupont, PA.

The work is being financed with federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Repairs will be made to the steel structure, beams, and expansion joints, as well as painting to prevent further deterioration.

PennDOT expects the job to begin this spring. A detour will be in place with traffic traveling from NY into PA using Route 6. Traffic traveling into NY from PA will use Interstate Highway 84 as the detour route. ♦