

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.



REDUCE DROWNINGS: The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is implementing a comprehensive water safety program this season aimed at saving lives. Above, Ranger Kevin Reish, who is leading the campaign, and certified volunteer Bob Hare attempted a rescue at Staircase Rapids near Pond Eddy on Aug. 23, 2009 that turned tragic. The 36-year-old male rafting victim was not wearing a life jacket despite the exceptionally high and fast river conditions. (Photo by Sandy Long, contributed by National Park Service)

NPS Targets Water Safety

Why do so many adults resist wearing life jackets while on the water? What compels people to try to swim across the river?

Finding answers to these types of questions and figuring out the most effective means of countering risky behaviors is at the core of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's new water safety campaign.

Five drownings that occurred last summer from May 28 to Aug. 4 motivated NPS to embark on a self-funded comprehensive study to guide actions aimed at eliminating or reducing river fatalities.

The five male victims in 2011 ranged in age from 19 to 71. One drowned after falling out of an inflatable raft; three drowned in separate incidents of trying to swim across the Delaware River; and one drowned while fishing.

The common denominator was that none wore a life vest. There had been zero drownings in 2010. Since NPS began recording its statistics in 1980, there have been a total of 63 drownings on the Upper

Upper Delaware River Statistics

>1980-2011 = 63 drownings, involving:

>Age of Victims: 59% 18-30; 28% over 30; 13% under 18

>Genders: 95% male; 5% female

>Incidents: 52% swimming; 29% boating; 5% jumping from bridges; 14% other

>Days of week: 1) Saturday; 2) Sunday; 3) Friday

>Months: 1) August; 2) July; 3) June

>Locations: 1) Skinners Falls; 2) Mini-sink; 3) Narrowsburg; 4) Butlers Rift; tie for 5) & 6) Shohola Rapids, Mongaup Rapids; 7) Kunkeli Rapids; tie for 8) & 9) Colang Rapids, Cedar Rapids

Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

"To have these drownings happen is so disheartening. This is such a great river to experience. How can such a fun and beautiful place cause such heartache for friends and families when their loved ones don't come home?" asked NPS Upper Delaware Superintendent Sean J. McGuinness.

Please see SAFETY on Page 5

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Jeff Dexter

Jeff Dexter believes in missions - whether it's a career calling to conserve natural resources, a personal calling to help the downtrodden, or embracing a 20-year-old offer for his Wayne County, Pennsylvania township to become a member of the Upper Delaware Council.

"Having Damascus join the UDC was one of my goals in becoming a supervisor and later as chair," Dexter says of the township's July 21, 2008 decision.

"I followed the development of the River Management Plan from afar, intrigued by the uniqueness of the cooperation of both the citizens and federal government to apply the Wild and Scenic River regulations on private lands. I attended UDC meetings before the township joined the UDC. I am interested in seeing the UDC succeed in its mission," he says.

Dexter had served as first alternate since 2010 before being appointed as UDC representative in January of this year.

His fellow board members elected him as the Council's 2012 vice-chairperson on Feb. 2.

Dexter recently began his sixth year as a Damascus Township supervisor, including four years as chairman of the board.

He ran for office because "there was something I thought I could contribute", drawing from his career and personal experiences, and love for his community.

The 62-year-old grew up in Cochection, NY, where his father operated Lily's Propane Gas Service.

"Where I lived on Route 97, you could always hear Skinners Falls. I went swimming in it almost every day, all summer long," he recalls.

Dexter's family genealogy can trace back relatives who had lived at the Cushetunk Settlement. His grandmother had a farm in Damascus, PA, at which he spent nearly every weekend.

Dexter attended K-12 at Narrowsburg Central School, graduating in 1967, and earned a 1971 Bachelor's degree in Resources Management from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University including one year of study at SUNY Alfred Agriculture and Technical College.

"The idea of being inside drove me crazy. I wanted to be a forest ranger," he says.

In August of 1972, Dexter got his wish by becoming a ranger for the Arizona State Parks System, for which he ultimately worked 33 years before retiring.

"I loved it," he says of his various assignments at Yuma, Roper Lake, and Kartchner Caverns.

Disappointed at the way that Arizona was developing, Dexter said he was compelled to return home.



Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township, PA

He and his wife of 20 years, Linda, built a log home in Damascus.

The Dexters have three children, Kari, a physical therapist in Tucson, AZ; Bethany, a special education and high school English teacher in Schenectady, NY; and Jonathan, an officer with the Arizona Highway Patrol.

Dexter is the Volunteers-in-Mission Team Leader for disaster recovery projects through the Damascus Methodist Church, the sponsor's representative to the Northeast Council of the Boy Scouts of America for Troop 122 in Damascus, a member of the Penn State Extension Agricultural Board for Wayne County, is active with the Damascus Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and belongs to numerous local historical societies.

Since 2009, Dexter has led five missions for disasters ranging from hurricanes to flash floods in Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. Duties include fundraising, crew management, and physical labor.

As hobbies, he enjoys maintaining his 19 acres of property, whether working on his wood lot, building rock walls, picking blueberries, making maple syrup, or tending to the vegetable garden.

That's when he's not at meetings associated with Damascus Township or the UDC.

As a local native, Dexter believes that "the river is better than it was before the National Park Service came here."

He feels that the UDC plays an important role as a watchdog and partner organization.

"The UDC is very unique. It's virtually unheard of for any government agency to allow a citizens' group to oversee it. There's a lot of sharing that goes on from being part of the UDC," he 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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Director Bill Douglass Retires After 22 Years:

UDC Board and Staff Changes in 2012

Leaders of the Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) non-profit organization in 2012 were sworn in during a Feb. 2 ceremony officiated by three-time past UDC Chairperson Larry H. Richardson.

Taking the oaths of office were Nadia Rajs, Town of Lumberland, NY, as chairperson; Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township, PA, as vice-chairperson; and John B. Niflot, Town of Fremont, NY, as secretary-treasurer.

Rajs became a member of the UDC board in January of 2000 and served through 2007, including a prior term as chair in 2004 and vice-chair in 2003. She resumed her role as Lumberland's UDC representative in January 2010 and served as vice-chair last year.

Rajs was elected as Lumberland's town supervisor in 2010 after eight years as a councilwoman. In addition to many town-associated duties, Rajs is the April 2011-2012 chairperson of Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. non-profit organization and serves as president of the Ukrainian National Women's League in Glen Spey.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Biology with a Business minor from Seton Hall University.

Rajs is employed as an assistant professor at Orange County Community College and also works for Orange Regional Medical Center's laboratory department in Middletown, NY.

She and her husband, Michael, have two daughters, Deanna and Natalie, and reside in Glen Spey.

A major staff change was announced at



2012 LEADERSHIP: A swearing-in ceremony for new officers took place at the Feb. 2 UDC meeting. Seated are Secretary-Treasurer Jack Niflot, Chairperson Nadia Rajs, and Vice-Chairperson Jeff Dexter. Standing, from left to right, are: Alan Henry; David Dean; Harold Roeder; Andy Boyar; Alex Cena; Bill Rudge; Debra Conway; Fred Peckham; Richard Gore (Delaware River Basin Commission); Ginny Dudko; Tony Ritter; Patricia Jeffer; Susan Sullivan; George Fluhr; Larry Richardson; and Sean McGuinness. (UDC Photos by David B. Soete)

the Dec. 1 UDC meeting when William E. Douglass revealed that he would retire as executive director effective Jan. 1, 2012.

The Vestal, NY native and University of Pennsylvania graduate began his employment with the UDC on March 13, 1989 following an 11-year tenure as Director of Planning for Wayne County, PA.

At the Dec. 20 Operations Committee meeting, Douglass was presented with a scrapbook of reminiscences and photos contributed by colleagues and friends, as well as several proclamations from elected officials and every copy of "The Upper Delaware" newsletter from 1988 to 2011.

Douglass and his wife, Mary Ellen, reside in Oregon Township and are the parents of three children, Ian, Molly, and Zane.

The UDC board promoted Laurie Ramie to succeed Douglass as Acting Executive

Director, effective Dec. 5, 2011.

Ramie began work as the UDC's Public Relations/Fundraising Specialist on April 21, 1997. She continues to fulfill those responsibilities, which include serving as newsletter editor, grants coordinator for the UDC and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., special events planner, and a member of numerous committees for partner organizations and river valley projects.

A native of Ogdensburg, NY, Ramie earned a 1988 cum laude Bachelor's degree in Psychology with an English (writing) minor from SUNY Plattsburgh.

She worked in community journalism for nearly 10 years as a reporter and editor for newspapers in St. Lawrence and Sullivan Counties.

Ramie has resided in Hortonville, NY (Town of Delaware) since 1992. ❖



ACTING APPOINTMENT: UDC 2011 Chairperson Larry H. Richardson congratulates Laurie Ramie for being unanimously appointed as Acting Executive Director effective Dec. 5, 2011.



William E. Douglass

UDC to Present Annual Awards April 22

U.S. Congresswoman Nan Hayworth, M.D. (NY-19) will serve as keynote speaker at the Upper Delaware Council's 24th Annual Awards Ceremony to be held on Earth Day Sunday, April 22, at The Carriage House in Barryville, NY.

Reservations at \$25 per person are due by April 13.

The event is open to the public and will kick off at 3 p.m. with a reception offering appetizers and a cash bar.

Dinner at 4 p.m. includes mesclun salad, homemade breads, an array of entrees served buffet-style with roasted red potatoes and fresh vegetables, coffee or tea, and dessert.

The keynote address and presentation of awards will follow.

Congresswoman Hayworth was elected in 2010 to represent New York State's 19th Congressional District, which includes all or parts of Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties.

Hayworth serves on the House Financial Services Committee and is a contributing member of over 16 caucuses and task forces, including the bipartisan Congressional Common Ground Caucus that she co-chairs.



Rep. Nan Hayworth (NY-19th District)

For 16 years, Dr. Hayworth was employed as an ophthalmologist in her own solo practice and as a partner in the Mount Kisco Medical Group. She also served as an attending physician at Northern Westchester Hospital, and was an instructor and Assistant Clinical Professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

"Ride The Delaware"

Thank you to the following outfitters for providing sponsorship support of the UDC's 2012 Awards Ceremony:

Kittatinny Canoes & Campgrounds

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www.kittatinny.com

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www.cedarrapidsny.com

Northeast Wilderness Experience

(570) 352-3444

www.newwildernessexperience.com

As a public servant, Hayworth is a staunch fiscal conservative who firmly believes in the adage, don't spend what you don't have.

Top priorities in the 112th Congress are to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses and revive the economy through job creation. With her medical background, she supports creation of new health care policy that improves affordability and access while sustaining choice, quality, and innovation.

Hayworth was born in Chicago and raised in Munster, IN, the daughter of an immigrant and two World War II veterans.

She worked summers in a steel mill to help pay for college. Hayworth graduated from Princeton University summa cum laude in Biology in 1981, and top of her class in 1985 from Cornell University Medical College.

A resident of the 19th Congressional District since 1988, Hayworth and her husband, Dr. Scott Hayworth, live in Bedford with their two sons, Will and Jack.

The UDC has nine award categories available for public nominations that were due by March 19.

They include Distinguished Service, the Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award, Community Service, Cultural Achievement, Recreation Achievement, Outstanding Community Achievement, Partnership, Volunteer, and Recognition Awards to spotlight efforts to enhance the Upper Delaware River Valley and protect its many resources.

A list of this year's recipients may be viewed at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

To make reservations for the UDC banquet, please contact Cindy Odell at (845) 252-3022 or cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org. Advance payment is preferred.

The Carriage House is located at 3351 New York State Route 97 in Barryville. Visit www.theCarriageHouseNY.com or call (845) 557-0400 for directions or more information on the restaurant and inn. ❖

Pond Eddy Bridge Designs Reviewed

The Design Advisory Committee (DAC) was expected to offer its recommendation for a new Pond Eddy Bridge on March 29, while some groups continued to protest plans to demolish and replace the existing historic bridge.

The Federal Highway Administration, and Pennsylvania and New York State Departments of Transportation (DOT), will have the final determination on the Delaware River interstate crossing's future.

Plans call for the potential solicitation of bids in late 2012, with construction starting in 2013 and lasting for 15-24 months depending on the type of bridge built.

The DAC was established following the Dec. 6, 2011 execution of a Memorandum of Agreement to proceed with the bridge's replacement and as part of the Section 106 federal review process required for properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Its purpose was to provide stakeholder input to the agencies and their consultants on the bridge's structural configuration and aesthetic features. Three meetings were held on Dec. 7, 2011, Feb. 14 and March 29 (after press time). The Upper Delaware Council participated as a member.

The DOT engineers and consultants presented nine design options to the commit-

tee in concrete, steel, truss, arch, or hybrid styles. All would have a 40-ton weight capacity and be 30 feet wide with two lanes, compared to the current 7-ton post-and single timber deck lane on the 1904 Petit Truss bridge.

Prices ranged from \$7.7 million to \$16.06 million. A matrix was provided to compare such factors as 100-year life cycle costs and the need for specialty contractors.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) and Friends of the Pond Eddy Bridge (FOPEB) each offered objections.

UDSB wrote in a Feb. 10 letter, "We discussed whether a bridge of that proposed magnitude is justifiable considering the unique circumstances of this structure's use, its historical significance, and the rural setting of the Upper Delaware River Valley. Construction would also disrupt the boating season for an estimated two seasons."

FOPEB expressed concerns over bridge clearances, flow disruptions, the causeway required for construction, the poor condition of the road on the PA side, and if rehabilitation was studied impartially.

Shohola Township warned in a Feb. 9 resolution that extensive studies had taken place and further delay "will increase costs and put lives at risk" as the Pond Eddy Bridge continues to deteriorate. ❖

SAFETY, continued from Page 1

When the park unit's 2011 application for a National Park Foundation grant to undertake a water safety campaign was not awarded, McGuinness said they opted to commit \$10,000 in 2012 operating funds to forge ahead with the important project.

They joined forces with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in PA and NJ, which is contributing \$5,000 and hopes to find additional matching funds.

"Even though we're two separate units, it's one river flowing through. We want to come up with consistent messaging for both areas that resonates with our targeted groups," says NPS Upper Delaware Chief Ranger Joe Hinkes.

The project has attracted the attention of the NPS Northeast Regional Office and the NPS Office of Risk Management (ORM) based in Washington, D.C.

Both are providing technical assistance to assure that the safety campaign is based on sound sociological research and uses modern communication technologies.

Hinkes said that ORM Deputy Chief Dr. Sara Newman has been particularly helpful in providing guidance on which strategies to employ for the best chance of success.

"We have short-term improvements to implement but this is going to be a multi-pronged approach over multiple years. We all have our anecdotal evidence and assumptions of how these problems can be addressed, but to really be effective, we need the reach out for expertise and analysis," Hinkes says.

NPS is partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct studies for data collection that will include convening focus groups of diverse river users.

"Everyone matters here," McGuinness says. "One drowning affects all of us in the river valley. We're trying to get at the underlying behaviors. What causes people to put themselves in these situations?"

Increasing and extending patrols along the 73.4-mile designated waterway to help prevent drownings is a major objective.

Financial assistance from ORM will allow the hiring of two ProRanger interns from Temple University to help NPS staff carry out patrols and the campaign.

The Park Service continues to work closely with the National Canoe Safety Patrol, whose 70+ trained members have contributed over 112,000 volunteer hours since 1979, to further supplement its on-river presence.

There will be new, bilingual signage installed at traditional problem areas warning about the potential consequences from failing to respect the power and unpredictability of a wild, free-flowing river.

NPS will train boat livery personnel to

Please see SAFETY on Page 10



T-SHIRTS TELL TALE: A quilt made by Sandra Schultz of Accomac, VA shows the diversity of T-shirt designs from past Delaware River Sojourns as the paddling event gears up for the 18th year starting June 24. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

2012 Delaware River Sojourn Will Highlight Fun Adventures

The 18th Annual Delaware River Sojourn will take place on June 24-30. Its purpose is to heighten awareness of and appreciation for the ecological, historical, recreational, and economic significance of the Delaware River, which flows through New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The seven-day paddling trip combines canoeing or kayaking with camping, educational programs, and camaraderie. Participants can sign up for the entire event or for the day(s) of their choice. All ages and skill levels from novice to experienced are welcome.

The 2012 theme of "Adventures on the Delaware" will focus programs on all the fun one can have on and along the wild and scenic Delaware River.

The Sojourn is fully insured and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association. Members of the National Canoe Safety Patrol accompany the group each day.

Sojourners will spend their first two days in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River section.

The Day 1 itinerary on Sunday, June 24, features an eight-mile paddle from Callicoon, PA to Milanville, PA. Sojourners will gather at the National Park Service office in Milanville, which is also the site for the evening's rustic camp-out. A kick-off ceremony over lunch will take place prior to shuttles departing for the PA Fish and Boat Commission access in Callicoon for the launch. Dinner will be served in camp, with Peter Wulforth of Penn State Extension in Pike County presenting a program on bird watching.

On June 25, there will be a 12-mile paddle from Milanville, PA through Skinners Falls to the Ten Mile River Access near Narrowsburg, NY. NPS Biologist Jamie Myers will present a talk on Upper Delaware Hiking Trails, with an optional Tusten Mtn. Trail hike. Sojourners continuing on will proceed to Driftstone-on-the-Delaware Campground in Mt. Bethel, PA.

Registration will open later this spring. Visit www.delawareriversojourn.org to request being added to an e-mail list for the latest notifications and program updates.

The 2012 Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from various agencies, non-profit organizations, and the paddling community throughout the watershed, is chaired by Rich Egan of Damascus, PA. ♦

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from October 2011 to early March 2012, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The UDC awarded \$14,400 in Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) on Oct. 6 for seven projects.

Since 1988, the UDC has awarded \$687,492 to support 201 TAG projects by member municipalities and their counties.

The approved projects which must be completed by July 24, 2012 are:

Town of Deerpark, NY - \$4,500 to update and codify the Town Zoning Law;

Shohola Township, PA - \$2,700 to upgrade the township's website, including the addition of an emergency management component, and to prepare a handbook to facilitate the website's usage;

Sullivan County, NY - \$2,100 to develop a Sullivan County public hiking trails mapping project website;

Town of Highland, NY - \$1,500 to develop a system for early warnings and enhanced communications for use during emergencies;

Town of Highland, NY - \$1,400 to review and update the Town Zoning Law;

Town of Lumberland, NY - \$1,200 to produce a brochure documenting the six cemeteries in the town; and

Pike County, PA - \$1,000 to launch a multi-faceted public education campaign related to natural gas exploration in Pike County.

PROJECT REVIEWS

The UDC reviewed Eagle Creek LLC's Rio Dam Hydroelectric Project on the Mongaup River, revisions to zoning laws in the Towns of Tusten and Lumberland, a new Town of Highland Comprehensive Plan, and Site Plan Review and Flood Damage Laws in the Town of Hancock.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

On Oct. 28, "Water, Water Everywhere: Future of the Upper Delaware River" took place at West Branch Angler Resort. Coordinated by Friends of the Upper Delaware River, the conference focused on the implementation of the new Delaware River Basin reservoirs flows and releases program and explored refinements that may be warranted prior to the adoption of a new plan in June 2012.

The Common Waters Partnership met on Jan. 12 at the Pike County Conservation District office. Among the updates was that the Common Waters Fund since Feb. 2011 has awarded \$427,000 to 72 applicants involving 40,000 acres of property to produce Forest Stewardship Plans or implement practices in the Delaware watershed.



RIVER OF LIFE: Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee member Sandra Schultz presents Don Hamilton with his silent auction prize, a framed image she created for the 2011 Sojourn theme, during the Delaware River Celebration held October 19 in Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, PA, as fellow Sojourner Dejay Branch looks on in the background. Hamilton is the Natural Resource Specialist for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, where Schultz worked for 27 years prior to her March 2010 retirement as Assistant Superintendent. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

The Advisory Committee for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Local Waterfront Revitalization Program met on Feb. 24 and Mar. 12 to select consultants to organize a regional charrette to discuss a shared vision for riverfront development from Hancock to Port Jervis, and to compile the LWRP plan for which Sullivan County received an \$82,025 state grant to produce. A second state grant for \$125,000 awarded in Dec. 2011 will allow the LWRP committee to pursue the design of new or improved river access sites and water trail-type signage at the bridges.

The UDC and NPS co-sponsored a Mar. 24 training session, "Working with the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River", that will be reported on in the next issue.

CALL TO ACTION

NPS Superintendent Sean McGuinness challenged the UDC on Feb. 2 to assist the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River with meeting the goals that they have identified in "A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement."

The plan was released to set a vision as the Park Service prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2016.

The Upper Delaware unit will pursue five actions with help from its partners:

Create a new generation of citizen scientists and future stewards of our parks by conducting fun, engaging, and educational biodiversity discovery activities in at least

100 national parks, including at least five urban parks;

Support communities' efforts to expand access to water-based recreation and to protect and restore waterways across the country by establishing a national system of water trails;

Develop awareness among the American public of the many ways national parks contribute to the economic vitality of our nation. To do so we will complete a study on the economic value of the full range of NPS activities and programs (visitor spending, ecosystem services, community assistance, tax benefits, etc.) and promote the results;

Help students develop a deep understanding of park resources and the relevance of parks in their lives through a series of park education programs. To do so we will adopt a class of 2016 graduates (grade school, middle school, or high school) at every national park and develop a series of fun, educational, and engaging activities culminating in the NPS Centennial in 2016;

Provide multiple ways for children to learn about the national parks and what they reveal about nature, the nation's history, and issues central to our civic life. We will accomplish this by reaching 25% of the nation's K-12 school population annually through real and virtual field trips, residential programs, teacher training, classroom teaching materials, online resources, and

*Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7
The Upper Delaware*

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

educational partnerships.

RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS

The UDC approved the following letters and resolutions on the indicated dates. Copies are available upon request:

10/6/11 - Resolution 2011-09: Award Printing of "The Upper Delaware" to Courier Printing for FY 2012

10/6/11 - Resolution 2011-10: Approval of Technical Assistance Grants for FY 2012

10/25/11 - Letter to Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, support for Upper Delaware River Corridor Local Waterfront Revitalization Program NYS grant application

10/31/11 - Letter to Parks & Trails New York, support for D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy's Capacity Building Grant Application

11/3/11 - Letter to NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, requesting legal support assistance as outlined in the River Management Plan for the UDC's land use appeal vs. Lackawaxen Township, for which a hearing took place at the Pike County Court of Common Pleas on 12/9/11 and no ruling had been issued or settlement negotiated at press time

12/1/11 - Resolution 2011-11: Engaging Legal Services on a Per Project Basis, John J. Keating for NYS issues and Jeffrey P. Clemente for PA issues

12/15/11 - Letter to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., support for FY 2012 FHWA National Scenic Byways Program grant application for a new mobile website

1/5/12 - Letter to PA Department of Environmental Protection Pottsville Mining Office, requesting a public hearing on permit applications by Wayne D. Holbert for a 40-acre expansion of a bluestone quarry operation in Lackawaxen Township

1/5/12 - Resolution 2012-01: Signature of Corporate Resolutions/Bank Cards

1/5/12 - Resolution 2012-02: Agreement with Eckersley & Ostrowski for Audit and Accounting Services for FY 2012

1/11/12 - Grant application to Norcross Wildlife Foundation, to assist with the purchase of four desktop computers.

NEW MEETING TIME

As of March 2012, the UDC has changed the starting time for its monthly first Thursday full Council meetings from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m.

For details on new staff e-mail addresses, please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org to read the 12/27/11 news release.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Elected to chair the UDC's three standing committees for 2012 were: Water Use/Resource Management, Tony Ritter, Town of Tusten; Operations, Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland; and Project Review, Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochection. ❖

Spring/Summer 2012



UDSB VISITOR CENTER: Consulting architects produced this rendering of what an Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center at Sullivan County's Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History site in Narrowsburg could resemble. (Contributed Photo by studio d'ARC)

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Hopes to Advance Visitor Center

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) non-profit organization's board voted unanimously on January 23, 2012 to move forward with the proposal to co-locate the proposed UDSB Visitor Center at Sullivan County's Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg, NY.

In order to pursue construction, however, UDSB must seek new Congressional legislation to free up federal funding previously secured for the visitor center and find a way to fill in the gap between available grant funds and the facility's estimated cost.

U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey (NY-22nd District) has pledged his support to assist UDSB, Inc. with taking the action necessary to transfer \$510,000 approved in the 2005 federal Transportation Enhancements Act to develop the UDSB Visitor Center in Cochection and apply it instead to the Narrowsburg site that UDSB, Inc. and project sponsor Sullivan County identified in 2010 as more advantageous.

Sullivan County will be able to contribute the value of the land at its park facility toward the required federal grant match, while there is already a staffing and maintenance program in place that can be expanded through a partnership with UDSB.

New York State Senator John J. Bonacic (42nd District) secured a \$250,000 state grant for the UDSB Visitor Center capital construction project in Fiscal Year 2007.

The combined funding of \$760,000 falls short of the \$1.4 million estimated price tag for the design concept proffered by the architectural and engineering consultants that UDSB, Inc. and the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management retained to conduct a \$25,000 state grant-funded feasibility study.

Pittsburgh-based studio d'ARC Architects worked with representatives from UDSB, Inc., Sullivan County, Fort Delaware, and the Town of Tusten from September-December 2011 to assess site conditions, discuss programmatic needs, and create schematics that were refined as the process continued.

The proposed design calls for a 2,400 square-foot, L-shaped building that will be semi-submerged for heating and cooling efficiency, and situated with its front windows facing the Fort Delaware stockade. Outdoor steps will lead up to a walkable roof with a surface of recycled rubber pavers. This space will serve as an overlook to the Fort property and to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in the distance.

The building will be primarily constructed of steel and locally-harvested hemlock. Interior floors will be made of polished concrete. Visitors would enter a reception area, move into the gallery, and then into multi-use space. Roll-down doors allow the isolation of public restrooms. Two small offices and storage spaces for UDSB and Fort Delaware, a warming kitchen, and mechanical rooms complete the interior.

Exterior walkways will utilize crushed bluestone and parking areas will be ADA-compliant. An Upper Delaware Scenic Byway sign made of aluminum cut-out letters would be visible from NYS Route 97. ❖

Conservancy, Eagle Institute Join Forces

The Eagle Institute formally became a project of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) in February 2012 with a shared vision focused on healthy lands and clean waters vital for thriving wildlife habitats.

"Land trusts aren't usually in the mergers and acquisition business," joked DHC President Greg Belcamino, "but when this opportunity came to us, we realized it was really a perfect fit."

Formalizing the partnership will expand the capacity and leverage the resources of both organizations by joining together each group's dedicated members, volunteers, and supporters.

As a project of the DHC, the Eagle Institute will continue to operate its winter field office in Lackawaxen, PA, offer eagle education programs and guided viewing in NY and PA, and maintain its website.

The Eagle Institute has educated nearly 50,000 people in eagle watching etiquette and stewardship since Lori McKean founded the volunteer organization in 1998.

Since Barbara Yeaman founded the



ANNOUNCE MERGER: At a Feb. 10 press conference in Lackawaxen, PA, Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) Executive Director Sue Currier, DHC Board President Greg Belcamino, and the Eagle Institute President and Founder Lori McKean, from left to right, announced their organizational partnership. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Delaware Highlands Conservancy in 1994, the land trust has protected over 13,000

acres to date. The non-profit organization also advances a mission of promoting a locally sustainable economy, including the important outdoor recreation and eco-tourism industries.

Noting that the two groups had worked together numerous times throughout the years, McKean said, "This is a truly exciting endeavor and a great new chapter for the Eagle Institute."

DHC Executive Director Sue Currier said that harnessing the combined energy of all the supporters is vital in a time of trying to do more with less resources.

"We will reach more and more people with the message that eagles - and people - thrive when the lands and waters where they live are healthy and protected," Currier said.

"The Eagle Institute and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy are the best at what they do," said Sean McGuinness, superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, which provides the Eagle Institute's office space from December through March.

"We are excited to continue to work closely with these good people to conserve our natural resources and educate the public as to why it's so important to assure our lands, waters, and wildlife habitats are protected," he added.

For more information, contact DHC at its PA office in Hawley (570-226-3164) or its new NYS office in Kauneonga Lake (845-583-1010). Visit www.eagleinstitute.org or www.delawarehighlands.org, or send an e-mail to info@delawarehighlands.org. ❖



NEW WATER LAB: The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River paid tribute to the late Richard C. Albert on Oct. 14, 2011 by unveiling a commemorative plaque in the new Water Lab at their Milanville, PA office. Dick Albert's wife, Mary, at left, gratefully accepted the honor. Albert was employed as a supervising engineer and the first Basin Planner for the Delaware River Basin Commission from 1975-2000, then served as Staff Scientist for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network from 2000-2009. He spearheaded the establishment of the Special Protection Waters standards for the Delaware River, and was a dedicated water resources professional, author, inventor and teacher. Pictured above, Biological Science Technician Jessica Newbern and Natural Resource Specialist Don Hamilton show DRBC retiree Dave Everett, far right, how they download water quality information from a datasonde in the Water Lab. (UDC Photos by David B. Soete)

Marcellus Shale Drilling Stalled by Regulations

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) at press time had no timetable for when the adoption of Natural Gas Development Regulations that have been pending since 2010 will be considered.

Any applicant proposing to construct and operate natural gas wells within the 13,539 square-mile Delaware River Basin for production or exploration, regardless of which geologic formation is targeted and whether high-volume or low-volume hydraulic fracturing is contemplated, must secure a permit from the DRBC.

The DRBC originally published its draft regulations on Dec. 9, 2010. In February of 2011, they held 18 hours of public hearings at three locations.

Approximately 69,000 comments were logged by the closure of the public comment period on April 15, 2011.

Based on that feedback and discussions among the Commissioners, the DRBC released a revised draft of its Article 7 regulations on Nov. 8, 2011.

A special DRBC meeting set for Nov. 21, 2011 was abruptly postponed on Nov. 18 to allow additional review time by the five commission members. No new date has been announced.

One commissioner, State of Delaware Governor Jack Markell, issued a letter on Nov. 17 stating that his representative would vote no because the proposed regulations "lack critical details on how public health and safety would be protected."

"Once hydrofracturing begins in the basin, the proverbial 'faucet' cannot be turned off, with any damage to our freshwater supplies likely requiring generations of effort to clean up. In this case, it is more important to get it right, than to be fast,"

Pipeline Leak Fixed

The Millennium Pipeline which was shut down for nine months after the discovery of a gas leak resumed full operations on Oct. 13, 2011.

The pipeline runs in New York State from Steuben County to Rockland County, passing through the Sullivan County Towns of Fremont, Delaware, Cohecton, Tusten, Bethel, Highland, Lumberland, and Forestburgh.

On Jan. 11, 2011, a worker for pipeline operator Columbia Gas Transmission found a leak in a wetland in Oswego, which investigators determined had released more than 1.3 million cubic feet of liquid natural gas into a creek.

Three additional, faulty pipeline welds were found in western Tioga County and eastern Broome County during ensuing inspections and repaired. ❖



AWAITING ACTION: Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Executive Director Carol Collier reported at the Jan. 5, 2012 Upper Delaware Council meeting that the Commissioners had indefinitely postponed their decision on adopting Natural Gas Development Regulations. Pictured clockwise around the table are Fred Peckham (Town of Hancock), Alex Cena (Westfall Township), Bill Rudge (New York State); Collier; Sean McGuinness (National Park Service; partially hidden-Chairperson Nadia Rajs (Town of Lumberland); and UDC Secretary Cindy Odell. Visit www.drbc.net for updates. (UDC Photo by David B. Soete)

Gov. Markell wrote.

The DRBC's revised regulations apply protection of high value water resource landscapes and Special Protection Waters to the Upper Delaware River Corridor.

The rules acknowledge that, "In accordance with the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River ... natural gas exploration and extraction activities are deemed incompatible land uses at locations in the Upper Delaware corridor. Accordingly, natural gas development activity is prohibited in such areas without a variance."

Other changes reduced some setback restrictions between wells and waterways, while increasing the distance between well pads and water supply reservoirs or intakes. Gas well pads must be located 500 feet away from private wells and 1,000 feet away from public water supplies.

The new regulations replace the requirement of a \$125,000 bond per well with a financial guarantee of various bonds to cover capping and closing of wells, accidental spills, and restoration.

Following the effective date of the regulations, the DRBC will issue permits for no more than 300 gas wells within the first two years and an operational review of the program will be undertaken at the 18-month mark to assess the need for adjustments.

New York State also continues to wrestle with its natural gas regulations.

On Sept. 28, 2011, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued draft regulations for high-volume

hydraulic fracturing based on the agency's draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement released in 2009.

The Upper Delaware Council sent a comment letter on Jan. 5, 2012 which stated, in part, "We request that no permits for natural gas well pads, or ancillary facilities, be approved within the Congressionally-designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor. If an operator is able to demonstrate that no alternative practical means of mineral extraction exist, then any such proposals should be subject to site-specific State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) determination at a bare minimum."

The river valley Towns of Tusten, Lumberland, and Highland which have either banned or are considering banning gas drilling through zoning revisions, were bolstered by two Supreme Court rulings in March which upheld that municipal right.

In Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Corbett on Feb. 14 approved Act 13 which limits municipalities' use of zoning ordinances to control some aspects of natural gas drilling. Among other provisions, it establishes a Shale Gas Impact Fee for each well drilled on a 15-year sliding scale, to be split 60% county and 40% state.

While townships can't regulate gas drilling in their borders, they can enact restrictions on its industrial effects.

Gov. Corbett wrote to the UDC on Feb. 6 to explain his position in reply to the Council's Jan. 5 comment letter opposing the legislation's impact on home rule. ❖

Delaware River Celebrated

The Delaware River Basin in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware contributes \$25 billion to the annual economy and is responsible for supporting over 600,000 jobs with \$10 billion in wages, according to a recent socioeconomic value study prepared by Gerald J. Kauffman of the University of Delaware.

Kauffman presented his findings at the October 19, 2011 "Delaware River Celebration" which drew over 100 people to Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, PA.

The event honored the Delaware River's designation as Pennsylvania's 2011 River of the Year, the 50th anniversary of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), and the 100th anniversary of the day's host site, The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort.

As organized by the DRBC and Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, the forum featured two panel presentations with question and answer sessions on "River Basin Commissions - Why Do We Need Them?" and "Rollin' on the River: Recreation - A Winner for the Delaware, Local Economies, and You"; a raffle and silent auction to benefit the Delaware River Sojourn; a river art exhibit; reception and dinner.

"It is because of the cooperative effort of all of the groups represented here today towards the goal of a cleaner, healthier river system that the Delaware is Pennsylvania's 2011 River of the Year," DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier told the audience members representing government agencies, non-profit organiza-

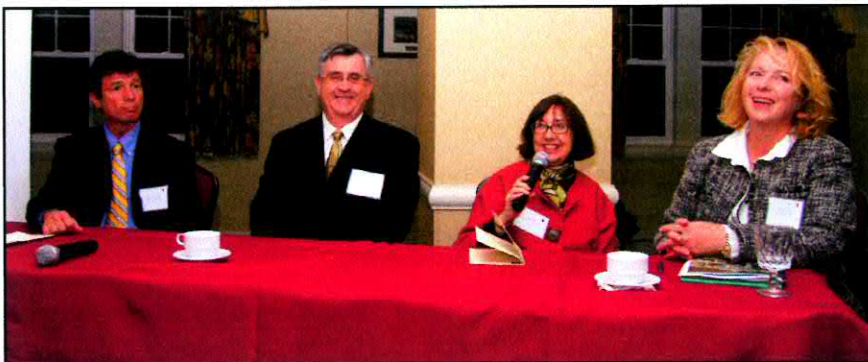


FEDERAL COMMISSIONER: Lt. Col. Philip M. Secrist III, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division, offered greetings on behalf of the Delaware River Basin Commission at the October 19 Delaware River Celebration held at the Shawnee Inn. (UDC Photos by David B. Soete)

tions, and the private sector.

"It is fitting that this is also the DRBC's 50th anniversary, a time to celebrate all that has been accomplished and look ahead to the future," she added.

The DRBC was officially established on Oct. 27, 1961 when the Delaware River Basin Compact legislation outlining management of water resources within the 13,539 square-mile basin was ratified by the four basin states and U.S. Congress. ❖



ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER: The panel discussing "Recreation: A Winner for the Delaware, Local Economies, and You" included, from the left, Jerry Kauffman, project director, Water Resources Agency - University of Delaware; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John Donahue; Land and Water Trail Projects Coordinator Celeste Tracy from the Delaware River Greenway Partnership; and Tri-States Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Charlene Trotter, who discussed the proposed Port Jervis Whitewater Park.

Donations Sought to Digitize Historic D&H Canal Maps

Funds are being raised to digitize a series of hand-drawn, full-color maps of the Delaware & Hudson Canal dating back to 1898 that have been located in the archives of the Canadian-Pacific Railroad Co. in Montreal, Canada. The estimated cost is \$6,000. Contact the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy at 119 Mandy's Road, Westtown, NY 10998 or e-mail Cliff Robinson at cliff_jr@dandhconservancy.org. ❖

SAFETY, continued from Page 5

deliver a revamped safety briefing to their customers and will reach out to camp counselors during their training sessions.

Educational programs in local schools and at community festivals are planned.

The website at www.nps.gov/udpe now includes a page devoted to river safety with messages targeted to children and adults. The text may be converted to Spanish.

Strategies to utilize social media sites, Quick Response codes with special apps, and video podcasts are being developed.

The NPS Gateway National Recreation Area has pledged to assist the Upper Delaware with getting the safety message out through New York City media markets in advance of metropolitan residents visiting this region for recreational purposes.

Stuart Communications of Narrowsburg, NY is assisting the Park Service with devising a local media campaign.

The Upper Delaware Council, livery operators, fishing guides, and emergency management agencies in the five counties of New York State and Pennsylvania have all been consulted for input and feedback.

"We are doing this for the safety of our public but we shouldn't lose sight of those responders who put themselves at risk, especially the strain it takes on volunteers. If we can reduce the number of emergency responses for water-related incidents, that will help everyone," Hinkes says.

"With last year's drownings, there was a level of frustration and a feeling of, what do we need to do to fix this? While there are many uncontrollable factors, we want to focus in on how we can positively affect individuals' behaviors. We want people to come here to recreate. It's important for the economics of the river corridor and the mission of the National Park Service. We are utilizing all our available resources to give people the tools and knowledge to be safe," Hinkes says. ❖

Railroad Upgrade Funded

Central New York Railroad has received a \$3 million grant from Pennsylvania's Transportation Assistance Program to repair a rail bridge and refurbish the tracks in Lackawaxen.

The total project cost is estimated at \$4.5 million and work will begin in 2013. Work includes steel repairs, timber replacements, and realigning track on both ends.

Central New York Railroad operates 124 miles of freight rail between Port Jervis and Binghamton, NY. It enters Pennsylvania in Lackawaxen.

The rail bridge crossing the Lackawaxen River was built in 1894, upgraded in 1907, and steel beams were added in the 1950s. It carries 20,000 carloads annually. ❖

Author Updates Delaware River Paddler's Guide

A completely revised resource for anyone who wants to experience the Delaware River in a kayak, canoe, raft, or tube was released in February 2012.

Author Gary Letcher and Rivergate Books of Rutgers University Press have published the third edition of "A Paddler's Guide to the Delaware River".

The 240-page paperback, originally published in 1985 with a revised edition in 1997, describes the river from the confluence of the East and West Branches at Hancock, NY to tidewater at Trenton, NJ, 200 miles downstream.

When Henry Hudson explored the Delaware River in 1609, he dubbed it "one of the finest, best, and pleasantest rivers in the world."

Today those same qualities make the Delaware one of the most popular rivers for recreational use in the United States.

Although in places a near-wilderness, the Delaware is easily accessible to millions of residents.

Register to Fish

Anglers interested in fishing the Delaware River for "migratory fish from the sea" must sign up with free registries in New York State and Pennsylvania.

Information from the registries is incorporated into the National Marine Fisheries Service database of recreational marine anglers. The database helps in efficiently obtaining fishing activity information, which is vital in setting quotas, size and bag limits, and fishing seasons each year.

Anglers age 16 and older must register each calendar year prior to any fishing activity. There is no lifetime sign-up. The resulting registration card must be carried with you at all times while fishing.

Licensed party or charter boat anglers and owners, and residents of Connecticut and Rhode Island who have marine fishing license from their state, are exempt.

To register, visit any location where fishing licenses are sold or contact your state's fishing regulatory agency. ♦

Reading "A Paddler's Guide to the Delaware River" is like traveling down the river with an experienced guide.

It's appropriate for novices out for an afternoon float, seasoned adventurers on overnight expeditions, or armchair travelers interested in the Delaware Valley.

The third edition includes all new maps with names for virtually every river feature, as well as many new photographs.

It describes access points, natural features, municipalities, and sites of interest on a river mile-by-mile basis.

Diagrams are provided of recommended routes through the most difficult rapids.

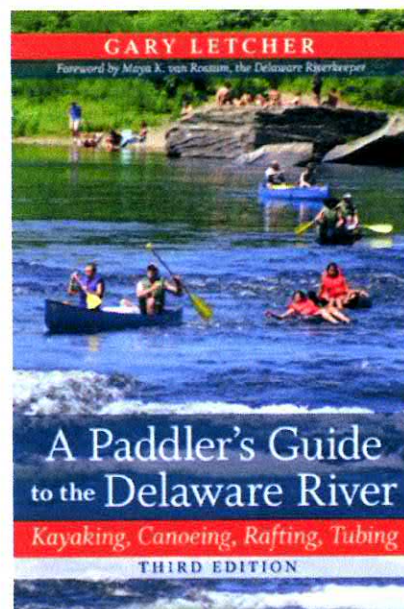
The book introduces some of the people, places, events and controversies that have marked the river from earliest times to the present day.

A "river guide" section spotlights ten trips of approximately 20 miles in length that could be paddled in one day.

An appendix offers a river trip checklist to remember the essentials, a list of important contacts such as how to obtain reports of river conditions, and a directory of outfitters and campgrounds, activities and interests.

Gary Letcher has been paddling the Delaware for over 40 years.

He led many a trip down the river as director of youth programs for the New



Jersey State Park Service and has served on the Board of Advisors of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

The book is available from online and regional booksellers. For a sneak peek inside the pages and more information, visit www.delawareriverguide.com. ♦

Petition Seeks to Upgrade River Status

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has initiated a petition drive requesting that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) upgrade the Upper and Middle Delaware region to "Exceptional Value" (EV) status.

This designation is reserved for the Commonwealth's cleanest and healthiest waterways, and provides for regulatory protection under the Clean Water Act. Currently there are 3,300 miles of streams in Pennsylvania that have EV status and about 23,000 miles that have High Quality status.

"Based on diverse and healthy water quality, the vast public lands in the region, the importance of the Delaware River as provider of clean water to 15 million Americans, and the incredible ecotourism that this region brings to millions of citizens, this action is needed to give this region the designation it deserves," the Riverkeeper said in its statement.

The Pike County Conservation District recently sent a letter in support of the EV designation but expressed its position that DEP should evaluate all tributaries on their individual merits. The district pointed out that the Upper and Middle Delaware are already designated as U.S. Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the Delaware River Basin Commission recognizes this part of the watershed as Outstanding Basin and Special Protection Waters. ♦

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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Zip+4 _____

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Check to be removed from our mailing list because [] I no longer wish to receive or [] I will access the newsletter on-line.



Upper Delaware Council
P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192
Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359
www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

*Working together to conserve the Upper
Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*

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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, 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'

Earth Day Festival Set

The annual 2012 Pike-Wayne Earth Day Festival will take place on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at PPL's Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Tafton, PA.

The festival is free of charge and will be held rain or shine. Learn about the conservation organizations working in Pike and Wayne Counties, PA, and enjoy fun and informative activities for all ages.

Contact PPL at (570) 253-7001 or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com. ❖

Training in Conservation

Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC), Sullivan Renaissance and the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management for a training workshop on Monday, April 30, from 5-8 p.m. at the CVI Building in Ferndale, NY.

The workshop will focus on conservation subdivision, conservation design and the legal tools necessary to implement these techniques. Planning and zoning board members may receive three credits toward their required New York State training cred-

its. Prior registration is required. Call the DHC office at (570) 226-3164 or (845) 583-1010. ❖

Events Recall Battle

The 233rd anniversary of the Revolutionary War's Battle of Minisink will be commemorated on Saturday, July 21, at Sullivan County's Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY.

A weekend frontier encampment, living history programs, and traditional commemoration ceremony are being planned. Contact Sullivan County Historian John Conway via www.sullivanretrospect.com.

The Town of Deerpark Museum Committee will host a July 21 morning bus tour tracing the route that Joseph Brant took during his raid on the Neversink Valley, beginning and ending at the Sparrowbush Memorial Park with stops at historic markers and for a picnic lunch. Contact Historian Norma Schadt at (845) 856-2702. ❖

22nd RiverFest on July 22

RiverFest, the Upper Delaware River region's most popular summer festival, will

celebrate its 22nd annual event with local music, original art and crafts, and information about the ecosystem.

It all happens Sunday, July 22, on Main Street in Narrowsburg, NY. Festivities begin at 9:45 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

RiverFest is presented by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance and sponsored by Catskill Regional Medical Center.

Visit www.artsalliancesite.org or call (845) 252-7576 for the full schedule. ❖

Save UDC Raft Trip Date

Save the date of Sunday, August 5, for the Upper Delaware Council's 24th Annual Family Raft Trip. The 2012 route is under discussion. Details will be announced through the local media outlets and online at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. ❖

EPA Protects Wetlands

Members of the public can help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency protect wetlands by reporting suspected violations of federal laws through a new website at www.epa.gov/region02/water/wetlands/violations before significant damage occurs. ❖