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.



ART & SCIENCE: Stu Starkweather (aka Brett Keyser) and Tannis Kowalchuk from the NACL Theatre perform during the "Visions for a Sustainable Future" Climate Change Symposium on Feb. 15 held at the Highland Senior Center in Eldred. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Harnessing the Power of Science, Art & Community

"Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

Whether rightfully attributed to humorist Mark Twain or his friend Charles Dudley Warner in an 1897 Hartford Courant editorial, the quip proved unfounded as nearly 60 fully engaged folks braved a persistent snowfall to attend a Climate Change Symposium on Feb. 15 in Eldred.

"We're all part of this climate mess we created. This is not about what we're against. This symposium is about 'for' actions and solutions," said Michael Chojnicki, president of the Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development (SASD) which presented the ambitious two-day event in partnership with NACL Theatre's The Weather Project and the Town of Highland.

"The most important weather there is, is whether or not we're part of the solution," the local architect added.

Day 1 offered three panel discussions on the weighty topics of "Climate Change: The Science, The Evidence, The Implications"; "How Do We Define Sustainability?"; and "What is Our New Model to Build a Sustainable Way of Life?", interspersed with performances by NACL experimental theater artists and a potluck lunch.

A half-day program on Feb. 16 honed in on case studies and information on passive houses, deep energy retrofits, and solar energy use for institutional buildings.

True to the solutions-based focus of the day, each of the 19 panelists was asked to offer at least one action to help citizens, businesses, communities, and policymakers become more resilient in dealing with undeniable climate changes caused both by nature and human-based impacts.

These tips are being collected into pro-

Please see CLIMATE on Page 4

Upper Delaware Profile: Debra Conway

"I started a relationship with the Delaware River very early on. It always seemed like a natural in my life," says Debra Conway, the Town of Highland's Alternate Representative to the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) since January 2011.

Conway grew up in Liberty, NY but relished all the time she spent at a cabin her family had on the river near Callicoon.

Since 1985, Conway has resided in Barryville. She has been actively involved in environmental and historic causes, contributing a diverse skill set that she developed as much from her life experiences as any traditional education and career path.

The Liberty High School graduate earned an A.A. degree in Humanities from Orange County Community College in 1972. An early marriage that didn't work out found Conway struggling to support her two daughters working as a dental assistant, computer programmer, accountant, and advertising saleswoman before her natural gift for writing was nurtured and she became the first female co-editor of the *Sullivan County Democrat*, a twice-weekly newspaper owned by Catskill-Delaware Publications, in 1984.

She parlayed that job into a 12-year career with the *Times Herald-Record* daily newspaper. From 1986-1998, Conway served as a reporter and authored two weekly columns, "Tapestry" about ethnic and cultural diversity, and the award-winning "Debbie Does..." in which Conway challenged herself to take on activities such as sky diving, firewalking, fly-fishing, rolfing, and stand-up comedy, then provide first-person accounts.

Conway was also creative director from 1986-1994 of Crown Associates, an advertising and public relations firm she started with business partner (and future husband) John Conway.

The couple, who wed on New Year's Eve 1988 during "John Conway's Saturday Brunch" WVOS radio program that she produced, formerly co-owned and operated Eddy Farm Inn and Sports Resort in Sparrowbush for nearly two years through 2000 and currently collaborate on History

Annual Report On-line

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) announces the on-line availability of its Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report.

The 14-page report covers the federal fiscal year period of Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013. It is available for review or download under the "Publications" tab at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

To request a printed copy, please e-mail info@upperdelawarecouncil.org or call (845) 252-3022.



Debra Conway, Town of Highland, NY

Prose, a company which focuses on producing corporate history publications.

Debra, who has also worked in real estate and as a freelance writer, has edited numerous books by John, who has been Sullivan County Historian since Feb. 1993.

For the past three seasons, Conway has served as director of the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History, an 18th century re-enactment of the Cushetunk Settlement operated as a Sullivan County park in Narrowsburg.

"My interest in history came out of my writing experience and research. I saw another value to history in the quirky little stories of what makes 'us' us," she says.

Her commitment to Fort Delaware and recognition of a need for additional support of historic landmarks in Sullivan County led the Conways to co-found The Delaware Company in Nov. 2012 as a non-profit friends organization. The group has hosted several fundraising programs and looks forward to expanding their outreach help.

In addition to her UDC service which includes chairing the Council's Personnel Subcommittee and being vice-chair of the Project Review Committee, Conway was appointed in January of 2014 as her town's alternate delegate to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

She co-founded the grassroots organization Highland Concerned Citizens in 2010, and served on her town's Committee on Energy & Environment and the Comprehensive Management Plan Task Force.

"This is my home," she explains simply about her level of community involvement.

Conway's daughters, Rebecca VanKeuren of Liberty and Sarah Beth Balmer of Lake Ariel, PA, have given her three grand-children in whom Conway says she is trying to instill her desire to fully appreciate and safeguard our natural surroundings.

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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.

2014 Officers

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ı	ChairpersonAnd Vice-ChairpersonPati Secretary/Treasurer	rew	Boyar
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Partner

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UDC Reorganizes

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. membership elected Town of Highland, NY Representative Andrew Boyar as its 2014 chairperson at the Jan. 9 annual meeting.

Patricia Jeffer of Shohola Township, PA will serve as Vice-Chairperson in her first elected UDC officer position.

Alan Henry of Berlin Township, PA continues the Secretary-Treasurer role that he assumed on Aug. 1, 2013 to fill an unexpected vacancy.

After the unanimous vote, Boyar said, "Mindful of our history, I hope we can all agree to commit ourselves to the fullest appreciation of the Upper Delaware River and the importance of our being the best caretaker of the river that we can be."

"Andy" Boyar has the distinction of being appointed as his town's first UDC representative when Highland joined the Council on March 15, 1990 during his leadership as Town Supervisor from 1981-1994, which included terms as Chairman of the Sullivan County Board of Supervisors in 1993 and 1994.

Boyar served as UDC alternate from 1991-93 before resuming his representative seat on the UDC board in January 2010 to coincide with a second elected tenure as Highland Town Supervisor.

In addition to his membership on the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee, Boyar served as vice-chair of the full Council in 2013.

Boyar earned a degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1969 and operates a law practice with a real estate emphasis based



COUNCIL MEMBERS: Gathered at the Feb. 6, 2014 Upper Delaware Council meeting were, seated from left to right: Vice-Chairperson Patricia Jeffer; Chairperson Andrew Boyar; and Secretary-Treasurer Alan Henry. Standing, in order: Bill Rudge; Nadia Rajsz; Malcolm Wilbur; Susan Sullivan; Carol Collier; Jenny Mellan; Tony Ritter; Debra Conway; Jeff Dexter; Virginia Dudko; Larry Richardson; Fred Peckham; Jim Greier; David Dean; and Harold Roeder, Jr. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

in Eldred, NY.

He is the father of three sons: Adam, Josh, and Matt; and has four grandchildren. Boyar serves as president of the Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter; vice-president and trustee for the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum; and is a member of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River, the Federation of Fly Fishers, and Ducks Unlimited.

The UDC welcomed new alternates in 2014 for the Towns of Cochecton (Sean Nearing replaced Ed Grund); Lumberland (Jenny Mellan filled a vacancy); and Damascus Township (Steven Adams took over for Joe Canfield).

Westfall Township appointed Joe Demalderis as its UDC representative on Feb. 11. He succeeds Alex Cena, who had departed in November 2012.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania lacked a UDC representative since the Oct. 2013 retirement of Dennis DeMara.

Timothy Dugan, District Forester for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Delaware State Forest District Office, attended his first UDC meeting on Mar. 6 after DCNR Secretary Ellen Ferretti announced his representative appointment effective Feb. 20.

Simultaneously named as PA's alternate was Rhonda Manning, River Basin Program Coordinator for the PA Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Interstate Waters Office. There had been no alternate in place since 2005.

Two 2014 National Park Service retirements brought new personnel for the UDC's federal partner. Dennis Reidenbach retired Jan. 1 as Northeast Regional Director and was succeeded on Feb. 11 by Michael Caldwell. Upper Delaware Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur took over for Sean McGuinness on Jan. 27.

Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Carol Collier retired Mar. 12. Her succession is described on Page 9.



TAKES OATH: Paula Brown, Constituent Services Representative for U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19), administered the oath of office to 2014 UDC Chairperson Andrew Boyar.

UDC to Present Awards April 27



Rep. Chris Gibson, Keynote Speaker

The Upper Delaware Council will hold its 26th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 27 at Henning's Local (formerly The Eldred Preserve), 1040 State Rt. 55, Eldred, NY.

Reservations are due by April 18.

Festivities start with a 4 p.m. reception offering appetizers and a cash bar. A buffet dinner with dessert will be served at 5 p.m. U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson, who has represented New York's 19th District since Jan. 1, 2013 after first winning election to Congress's 20th District in 2010, will

deliver the keynote address at 6 p.m.

Immediately following will be the presentation of awards to those who have contributed to the quality of life or protected the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley in nine categories.

Honored will be: Distinguished Service (Don Hamilton, National Park Service), Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving (Raymond Nelson, Rayna Maguire, Melissa Browning & Connor Maguire of Staten Island), Partnership (Upper Delaware BioBlitz, coordinated by Steven Schwartz), Community Service (Lee Hartman), Volunteer (Isaac Green Diebboll), Cultural Achievement (The Delaware Company), Recreation Achievement (Susie Kaspar and Brandon Diefenbach of the NPS Water Safety Campaign), Special Recognition (John B. Niflot, posthumously), and Oaken Gavel (Jeff Dexter).

Tickets are \$26 and available by completing the reservation form posted at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, stopping by the office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY, calling (845) 252-3022 or e-mailing cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.



EXPERTS GATHER: Participating on the sustainability panel at the Climate Change Symposium were, from the left, Ethan Cohen, chief planner, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management; Carol Ryan, North American support manager for Global Peace Initiatives, Words of Peace Global; John Conway, The Center for Discovery; moderator Stephen Stuart, co-executive director, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development; Dick Riseling, sustainable economic development consultant; Manna Jo Greene, environmental action director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater; Peter Pinchot, senior fellow, Pinchot Institute for Conservation; facilitator Sue Currier, executive director, Delaware Highlands Conservancy; Jannette Barth, economist, Pepacton Institute; Greg Swartz, Willow Wisp Organic Farm; and Jane Bollinger, Transition Honesdale member. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

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ceedings from the symposium that will be posted at www.sullivanalliance.org with a goal of inspiring informed action.

"We're sadly a society that functions more on crisis management than prevention. Participate in mitigation as we're planning for adaptation," suggested Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Green.

"The 900 lb. elephant in the room is that our lifestyle is too excessive, but we have an educated citizenry here. We have the capacity to make drastic change," said a hopeful Wes Gillingham, program director of Catskill Mountainkeeper.

"The take-away is: Do something!", said Dick Riseling, SASD co-founder and coowner of Apple Pond Farm and Renewable Energy Education Center.

Weather Project Pageant

The Weather Project will culminate on Saturday, August 9, with a Community Pageant outdoor theatrical performance at the Yulan, NY ball field directed by NACL Theatre Artistic Director Tannis Kowalchuk.

Weekly spring workshops are now being arranged to research, create art, and develop material for the exhibition.

Residents are encouraged to participate as performers, set builders, puppeteers, writers, musicians, choirs, designers, and technicians. Anyone age 12 and up with an interest in stilt walking can train with NACL to join the Wind Walkers Stilt Squad.

Expect lectures and demonstrations in the fields of weather and climate science, a

children's parade of recycled umbrellas, story sharing, and an art show with the theme of "The Weather Outside My Window" utilizing 1920s vintage windows available by contacting curator John Tomlinson at artisttomlinson@gmail.com.

For details on workshops, the pageant itinerary, and the numerous community collaborators involved, contact Kowalchuk at tannis@nacl.org, (845) 557-0694, or www.nacl.org/weatherproject.

Filmmakers Tina Spangler and Isaac Green Diebboll are making a documentary film about the year-long, innovative science and arts engagement project.

Support for The Weather Project is being provided in part by an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and by the NYS Council on the Arts.

Climate Smart Communities

In the river valley, the Sullivan County Legislature and the Towns of Tusten, Cochecton, Lumberland, Delaware, and Highland have signed the Climate Smart Communities Pledge initiated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2010 which sets goals to inventory emissions, decrease energy demand of local government operations, promote climate protection through landuse planning, recycle, support a green innovation economy, inform and inspire the public, and commit to an evolving process.

Visit www.midhudsoncsc.org to learn about Climate Smart Network's incentives and resources offered to pledge-takers.

2014 Water Safety Campaign Kicks Off



Get "caught" wearing a properly-fitted life jacket on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and you could win a t-shirt!

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's Water Safety Campaign has been a huge success for the past two years thanks to all the partners who have come to the table to share ideas, discuss successes and failures, and spread the word about the importance of wearing a life jacket whether swimming, boating, fishing, or floating.

Some of the highlights from last year's season included continuing the Wear It! lawn signs which were placed along major roadways of the river valley with support from the local community.

A "Wear It!" Public Service Announcement (PSA) was created and shown at the Cinemark Theater at the Stroud Mall in Stroudsburg, PA prior to the feature LIFE SAVED: Rangers retrieved John Stravalle's submerged canoe on Jan. 20

theater complex. The PSA was also made available to local commercial liveries to offer on their websites.

Visitors wearing a properly-fitted life jacket could be rewarded with a t-shirt proclaiming "A National Park Service Ranger caught me wearing my life jacket on the Upper Delaware River". These new t-shirts come in youth and adult sizes.



movie. This was a very effective way to reach hundreds after the Newburgh, NY resident fell overboard but was able to swim to the of movie goers each week during the summer at the 11- Lackawaxen shore, aided by his life jacket. (Contributed Photo by National Park Service)

During Water Safety Month in May, over 2,000 fifth grade students from schools within the river corridor were presented with a Water Safety Program with the hope that students would become the teachers and pass the messages along to family and friends during the summer season.

In 2014, the Water Safety Campaign is implementing several new ideas.

One is the "Life Jacket Safety" pledge card that visitors will fill out and return to any participating livery or at any National Park Service site to participate in a drawing for prizes that will be held at the end of

A Safety Intern with video production experience will be recruited to produce additional PSAs.

These will include a "River Safety Talk" video that will be shared with local liveries for use at their request. Another video demonstrating river conditions at various levels will be created to post on-line at www.nps.gov/upde.

For more information about the 2014 Water Safety Campaign, please contact Ranger Kevin Reish at (845) 557-0222.

Jacket Saved Life

Efforts by the National Park Service to inform the public about the benefit of wearing a life jacket paid off in an incident that occurred in the early evening of Jan. 20.

John Stravalle of Newburgh decided to go fishing just off the Lackawaxen Access.

While attempting to retrieve his anchor, the 51-year-old fell overboard.

Hampered by the 33-degree water temperature and his soaked clothing, he managed the difficult task of swimming to shore, where he crawled up the bank and got assistance from a homeowner.

Before launching, Stravalle happened to read a sign on the access bulletin board stating the regulation, "Mandatory Wear of Life Jackets. Nov. 1-April 30".

"This sign saved my life," Stravalle said. There has never been a drowning on the Upper Delaware of someone who was wearing a properly-fitted life jacket.

Upper Delaware Tourism Creates \$10 Million+ in Economic Benefit

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 255,586 visitors to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in 2012 spent \$10,152,000 in communities near the park unit. That spending supported 105 jobs in the local area.

"Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world," said Acting Superintendent Malcolm T. Wilbur. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides and to use the park unit as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy - returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service - and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.'

Upper Delaware Council Chairman Andrew Boyar commented, "The Upper Delaware River is a vastly underestimated economic engine in this five-county, NY-PA region and I'm not at all surprised that this independent study is beginning to reveal that fact. The untapped potential from river recreation-related industry and its spin-off effects is enormous."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists from the U.S. Geological Survey and National Park Service. The report shows \$14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of \$26.75 billion.

To download the report which includes information for individual parks and by state, visit http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activities and river valley issues from October 2013 to mid-March 2014, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

When Congress failed to reach a budget agreement for the new fiscal year, the federal government was shut down on Oct. 1, 2013 for the first time since 1995.

The impasse lasted until Oct. 17, resulting in a furlough of non-essential employees at the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the UDC receiving a suspension of work notice warning that costs incurred for activities performed under its federal Cooperative Agreement during the shutdown period were at risk of not being reimbursed.

After analyzing its financial position, the board opted to continue full operations through Oct. 25, at which time a closure plan would be implemented if necessary.

The Council sent letters on Oct. 7 to President Barack Obama, Speaker of the House John Boehner, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid describing the impact.

"We respectfully point out that this standoff at the federal level trickles down to cause potential suffering to programs, resources, local economies, and individuals at the grassroots level, outside of the governmental realm," the letters stated.

No replies were received.

The UDC did not receive any federal payments from September through mid-November, at which time 29.32% of its Fiscal Year 2014 allocation of \$276,000 (representing an 8% sequester cut) was released under a Continuing Resolution.

Modifications to the UDC's Cooperative Agreement then resulted in rationing out federal payments on a monthly basis from Jan. 15 to Mar. 15 until the balance of the appropriation was made accessible.

SUPERINTENDENT VACANCY

The UDC sent a letter to NPS Northeast Region Deputy Regional Director Michael Caldwell Jan. 3 suggesting the special qualities that an Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River superintendent should have to succeed, particularly to understand and embrace the cooperative

DHC Marks 20 Years

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will mark its 20th anniversary with a "Foods of the Delaware Highlands" Gala April 26 at The Settlers Inn, Hawley, PA.

The 5-9 p.m. dinner with fine wine pairings will feature live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$150. Call (570) 226-3164 or visit www.DelawareHighlands.org.



HARSH WINTER: January 2014 popularized the meteorological term "polar vortex" and did not spare the Upper Delaware Valley from its prolonged chilling effects. The river froze over twice, leading to this dramatic icy buildup looking south toward the Narrowsburg Interstate Bridge. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)

management model that is in place.

"The fact that over 90% of the 55,575.5 acres within the bi-state, five-county Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River designated boundary remains privately owned requires sensitivity by the superintendent to accept that land use stewardship is based at the grassroots levels and NPS jurisdiction is limited. Collaboration is therefore an absolute necessity," it stated.

Over the past 35 years, the Upper Delaware has benefited from consistent leadership with only five superintendents.

Maintaining autonomy as a park unit with its own particular character, needs, and interests remains critical.

On Feb. 19, three representatives from the Council participated in a Transitional Management Assessment Program interview with a Northeast Region team soliciting input to prepare a report to inform the competitive hiring process and provide to the incoming superintendent as a briefing on local issues and attitudes.

UDC PRESENTATIONS

Executive Director Laurie Ramie and Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell delivered statements on the UDC's behalf at two Flexible Flow Management Plan Input Listening Sessions convened on Oct. 1 at SUNY Sullivan by the Parties to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree (States of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the City of New York).

O'Dell and UDSRR Superintendent Sean McGuinness offered an Oct. 15 presentation on the UDC-NPS Partnership at "Water, Water Everywhere", a Friends of

the Upper Delaware River conference held at West Branch Angler in Hale Eddy, NY.

On Jan. 15, O'Dell provided an overview of the UDC's project review procedures for member municipalities as the kick-off speaker at a New York State Environmental Quality Review Act Revisions training conference hosted by the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development at The Sullivan in Rock Hill. NY.

UDSRR Administrative Officer Karen Henry previewed the National Park Service 2016 Centennial at the Mar. 6 Council.

COMMUNICATION TOWERS

The UDC reviewed plans for two emergency communication towers proposed for the Towns of Delaware and Tusten by the Sullivan County 911 System; and for two broadband towers proposed by Verizon Wireless in Damascus Township, declaring the latter proposal to be incompatible due to their river corridor locations.

On Mar. 29, the Council sponsored a free workshop, "Siting Communication Towers in the Scenic Upper Delaware River Valley", targeted to local government officials, planning and zoning board members, and interested residents to discuss the latest technologies, municipal authorities, and tools for negotiating with the industry. This topic will be covered in the next issue.

UDC LETTERS

10/3/13 to New York State Department of Transportation Region 9, re: Request by NYS Troopers to designate NYS Rt. 97 as an access highway for oversized vehicles

11/7/13 to Town of Fremont, re: Technical

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

assistance offered for development of the proposed private, international Windsor School at the former Delaware Valley Central School property near Callicoon

12/5/13 to Delaware River Basin Commission, re: Support for the evaluation of an Equitable Apportionment Plan for the Delaware Water System (see page 9)

1/21/14 to Marie Stewart, Deputy Delaware River Master, re: Recommendations for directing UDC correspondence to the Decree Parties

2/19/14 to the five Decree Party Principals, re: Seeking additional contact information for future correspondence

2/21/14 to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, re: UDC comments on proposed rulemaking for Aquatic Invasive Species Control

2/25/14 to NPS Acting Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur, re: Preparation requested of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps for the river corridor

3/6/14 to the Pennsylvania Environ-mental Quality Board, re: UDC comments pertaining to gas wells which may affect public resources from reviewing proposed PA Code Chapter 78 regulation changes

PROJECT REVIEWS

As the Project Review Committee continued its chapter-by-chapter review of the PR Workbook for updating purposes, comment letters were issued for river corridor

projects in Lackawaxen Township on Jan. 28 (conditional use) and Town of Delaware on Feb. 20 (side yard variance).

A 28-page report, "Substantial Conformance Review for the Town of Hancock", was approved on Oct. 22 to provide guidance on the town's zoning conformance status with the Land and Water Use Guidelines in the River Management Plan.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2013-15: Approving Fiscal Year 2014 Technical Assistance Grants;

2013-16: Appreciation to Dennis J. DeMara (see page 9);

2013-17: Approving FY 2014 Newsletter Printing Quote;

2014-01: Authorizing Annual Signatures for the Council's Banking Accounts;

2014-02: Authorizing Agreement with Eckersley and Ostrowski LLP for Audit and Accounting Services for FY 2014;

2014-03: Appreciation to Sean McGuinness (see page 9);

2014-04: Adopting Policies for Conflict of Interest and Employement Practices & Staff Code of Conduct;

2014-05: Appreciation to Carol R. Collier (see page 9)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Elected by their peers to lead the UDC's three standing committees in 2014 were: Tony Ritter, Water Use/Resource Management; Andrew Boyar, Operations; and Larry H. Richardson, Project Review.



RIVER ACCESSES: Andrew (AJ) Schwartz from Environmental Planning & Design, LLC of Pittsburgh describes potential improvements for six Upper Delaware River public accesses in Sullivan County during a Design Workshop held Feb. 27 at the Cochecton Town Hall. Sullivan County received a \$125,000 grant from the New York Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Project to hire consultants to research and propose site upgrades and signage for accesses on Ferry Street in Long Eddy, Callicoon adjacent to the Delaware Youth Center, Skinners Falls (Cochecton), Ten Mile River (Tusten), NYS Rt. 97 north of Barryville (Highland), and Pond Eddy adjacent to the interstate bridge. The UDC serves on the Waterfront Advisory Committee that began meeting on this project Nov. 19, 2013. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Natural Gas Roundup

As New York State and the Delaware River Basin Commission continued to work on releasing updated regulations for the natural gas industry, the UDC monitored the following developments:

-The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued approval on Oct. 4 for Millennium Pipeline Company to construct a 15,700 horsepower natural gas turbine on Hungry Hill Road, Town of Hancock. As work on the approximately \$40 million Hancock Compressor Station was underway, a gas pressure venting incident on Dec. 5 resulted in a temporary evacuation of a neighboring family. Millennium targeted an in-service date of April 1.

- A Delaware River Basin National Water Census 2nd Annual Stakeholder Update took place on-line on Nov. 21. Coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey, this scientific study begun in March 2011 seeks to answer the question of whether there is enough freshwater to meet both human and ecological needs, now and in the future. Due to sequester-caused delays, study completion is expected in 2015. See http://water.usgs.gov/watercensus.

- The Eastern Shale Group consisting of federal agencies and partners arranged educational presentations, including a Dec. 9 webinar by the National Park Service's Natural Sounds Night Skies Division identifying potential impacts from oil and gas operations and offering mitigations; and a Jan. 13 webinar quantifying natural gas production and consumption rates nationwide which noted that Marcellus Shale accounts for 18% of total U.S. natural gas production at 13 billion cubic feet per day.

- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court in a 4-2 decision on Dec. 19 struck down portions of Governor Corbett's Act 13, a 2012 law updating the rules governing PA's oil and gas industry. The court held that the law violated the PA Constitution by restricting local zoning rules.

- Representatives from the New York University School of Medicine came to the Town of Tusten on Feb. 1 to conduct a baseline survey on views about hydraulic fracturing and energy development for a study funded by a grant through the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Results will be shared in a future public meeting.

- The Joint Landowners Coalition of New York on behalf of its 70,000 members filed a lawsuit against New York State Feb. 14 seeking to compel the Department of Environmental Conservation to finalize the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement and rule on its allegation that Governor Cuomo lacks jurisdiction to orchestrate a delay in the regulations.

UDC Discusses Climate, Water Shares, And Economic Impacts of Recreation

Special presentations held during monthly Upper Delaware Council meetings provided information on diverse topics.

On Oct. 3, Susan Beecher of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and formerly the Pike County Conservation District presented on "Adapting to a Changing Climate - Risks and Opportunities for the Upper Delaware Region."

She discussed participation by a team from the Common Waters Partnership, including UDC Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell, in a Climate Solutions University Model Forest Policy Program.

Their research revealed that climate change in the Upper Delaware region includes: increased frequency and severity of extreme precipitation events; higher average annual temperatures; more winter precipitation as rain and earlier spring snow and ice melt; increased frequency, intensity and duration of heat waves; higher seasonal drought risk; and milder winters and longer growing seasons.

Risks and impacts to forests, water resources, people, and economies were studied, with stressors identified.

The effort produced a report highlighting six goals with strategies recommended to achieve the listed objectives.

At the Nov. 7 meeting, the Council welcomed Garth Pettinger from New York

Trout Unlimited who offered "Getting Our Fair Share of Water: An Equitable Apportionment Plan (EAP) for the New York City Delaware Water Supply System."

He discussed the proposal championed by the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition which links release and diversion quantities to the anticipated available water quantity based on reservoir level, inflow profile derived from hydrologic conditions of the previous three months, and the long-range hydrological forecast.

Proponents hope to see the EAP implemented in the next iteration of the Flexible Flow Management Program for the new water year which begins on June 1, 2014.

A study that the Upper Delaware Council helped fund with a 2014 Technical Assistance Grant to the Town of Hancock was previewed at the Feb. 6 meeting.

The Friends of the Upper Delaware River and the Delaware County Office of Economic Development retained Shepstone Management Co. to conduct a study of the economic impact of the cold water fishery and boating industry on the upper reaches of the Delaware River, including the East and West Branches.

Preliminary results from data that included real estate and a business survey indicated that the combined value is at least \$230 million, with the potential to add \$152



STUDY PREVIEW: At the Feb. 6 UDC meeting, consultant Tom Shepstone provided an overview of an "Upper Delaware River Coldwater Fishing and Boating Economic Impact Study". (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

million by having a more consistent water releases program that delivers a seasonlong coldwater fishery.

The sponsors hope that the study will help educate decision-makers about why these issues are important from an economic perspective.

Each guest speaker's Power Point presentation is posted with the relevant month's meeting minutes for public viewing at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Scenes from 'Strides Across the Delaware' Race

The Upper Delaware Council's 5K race, "Strides Across the Delaware", attracted 84 runners and walkers to Equinunk Sept. 28 as the final event to cap off the UDC's 25th anniversary in 2013.

The rural loop course included a crossing of the Equinunk, PA-Lordville, NY Bridge.

Participants received souvenir t-shirts, gift bags, a chicken spiedies meal served by the Equinunk Watershed Alliance, and an opportunity to win raffle prizes.

In all, 56 runners and 28 walkers came out to enjoy the beautiful fall day.

Contributors of donations, goods, services, and prizes were: The River Reporter; Joe Hunt & Associates; Wayne Bank;

American Electric; Wayne County Ready Mix Concrete Co.; Wayne Memorial Health System; Just-in-Time Contractors; Cafe Devine; Sneaker King; EnviroVentures; Scranton/-Wilkes-Barre RailRiders; Bethel Woods Center; and The Callicoon Theater.





TOP RUNNERS: Accepting their engraved pint glass prizes and certificates as the top 3 runners in male and female categories were, at left: Brad Myers of Damascus, PA (17.32.9); Christopher Miller of Hancock, NY (18.27.1); and Kyle Layton of Equinunk, PA (18.53.5); at right: Tracie Ostrander of Hancock (24.19.0); Alexa Santoro of Callicoon, NY (25.46.3); and Avery Ostrander of Hancock (26.08.9). (UDC Photos by Cindy Odell)



For a complete list of 5K results: http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org/ press/pdfs/5K results.pdf

FINE FORMS: Crossing the 5K finish line, at left, are NPS Ranger Kevin Reish and Superintendent Sean McGuinness; at right, Barry Lewis of Woodbourne, NY kept an 11.09-minute per mile pace to earn 1st place walker honors. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie, left, and Cindy Odell, right)



National Park Service Has Leadership Change

Retirements from the National Park Service, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Delaware River Basin Commission prompted changes to the Upper Delaware Council roster over the past six months.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Sean McGuinness retired on Jan. 24, 2014 after a 37-year career with the National Park Service, culminating with his final local assignment that began Feb. 4, 2010.

The UDC offered respect and thanks to McGuinness for his dedicated service to NPS and valuable contributions to the river valley in his role as only the fifth superintendent since the Upper Delaware's 1978 Congressional designation.

The Council "benefited from Sean's embracing of the Upper Delaware River corridor's collaborative management model; his engaging community-based leadership style; and his advocacy for the UDC as a Cooperative Agreement partner," stated a Jan. 9 resolution.

The Buffalo native who grew up in Lake View, NY joined NPS in 1977 as a seasonal river patrol park ranger at Grand Teton National Park, then held positions as forester, law enforcement ranger, chief ranger, and deputy superintendent at parks throughout the country, lastly at Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island prior to coming to the Upper Delaware.

On Jan. 27, Malcolm Wilbur began a maximum 120-day assignment as Acting Superintendent while the NPS Northeast Region initiated their hiring search for a permanent successor to McGuinness.

The 62-year-old has resided in Milford, PA for 12 years. Wilbur grew up in southwestern Ohio, holds a B.S. Degree in Outdoor Recreation Management from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, and joined the National Park Service in 1977 as a park technician at



Malcolm Wilbur, Acting Superintendent



RIVER MEMENTO: UDC Chairman Andrew Boyar, right, presents Sean McGuinness with a gift from the Council on Jan. 9 in appreciation for McGuinness's four-year tenure as Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Mall Operations in Washington, D.C.

Wilbur transitioned to administration in the National Capital Regional Office after three years. He served as Administrative Officer at Harper's Ferry Job Corps Center in 1984, at Cape Cod National Seashore in 1986, then at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 2002.

In 2010, Wilbur took on a one-year assignment to consolidate Contracting and Human Resources Services for 36 parks.

Immediately after that, he served as the Northeast Regional Office's Change Management Coordinator for the Financial Business Management Systems software conversion.

"The last two assignments I had were challenging and unique. This is a natural extension, more of a return to the traditional NPS career path. I have an appreciation for the positive impacts a superintendent can have in protecting the resources and serving the visitors. This area is all about collaboration, which I also appreciate. You get a lot more done partnering than alone," Wilbur said.

New DRBC Director

Carol R. Collier, who had been employed as executive director of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) since Aug. 31, 1998, retired on March 12, 2014.

The interstate/federal compact agency is a non-voting member of the UDC, with the director serving as Council representative.

The UDC presented Collier with a Resolution of Appreciation on Feb. 6, extolling her career achievements, and stating, "Carol promoted a holistic view of water



Carol R. Collier Dennis J. DeMara



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resources management as key to our economic and environmental future, and believed in making herself available to engage with stakeholders throughout the river basin and even international interests for mutual education benefits."

The DRBC announced that Steven J. Tambini, now Vice-President of Operations at Pennsylvania American Water, will succeed Collier effective Aug. 1, 2014.

DRBC Chief Administrative Officer Richard C. Gore is serving as Acting Executive Director in the interim.

Tambini, 54, resides in Burlington County, NJ and has over 30 years of experience in water supply engineering, water resource planning, management and operations. He becomes the fourth executive director in the DRBC's 53-year history.

Pennsylvania Retiree

Dennis J. DeMara served as the Commonwealth's UDC representative for nine years before retiring from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources's (DCNR) Bureau of Recreation and Conservation on Oct. 4, 2013.

Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby Helps Celebrate Pike County's Bicentennial



Zane Grey may be known for writing one of his most popular novels in Lackawaxen, PA, but the truth may be that he spent much time there because of the fabulous fishing.

Starting April 12 through July 6, the firstever Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby will take place.

The contest celebrates Pike County's 200th anniversary and honors Zane Grey as "The Father of the Western Novel", a world record-holding angler, and early proponent of catch-and-release fishing policies.

Game fish targeted are smallmouth bass, rainbow, brook and brown trout, caught on the Delaware River, the Lackawaxen River, their tributaries, and all the flowing waters of Pike County, and released live back into those waters.

Fish will be judged based on length, as measured on an official 24-inch ruler provided free of charge. Take a photograph of the fish on the ruler during the contest period and submit the image electronically to pikemuse@ptd.net.

Rulers are available in area fishing and tackle shops, The Columns Museum in Milford, the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, National Park Service offices

Zane Grey in Pike County. Pennsylvania

BIRTHDAY BOY: Actor Darren Fouse of Milford, PA portrayed Zane Grey during a Jan. 31 program at Pike County Historical Society's The Columns Museum marking Grey's 1872 birth date. The Pike County Commissioners officially proclaimed Jan. 31 as 'Zane Grey Day.' (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

throughout the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and on request by calling (570) 296-8126. For further derby details, visit www.nps.gov/upde.

Winners in various categories will be announced at the National Park Service's 10th Annual Zane Grey Festival to be held on July 12 on the museum grounds at 135 Scenic Drive in Lackawaxen, the author's beloved home from 1905-1918.

To help offset derby costs, a raffle is taking place for an Old Town canoe package donated by Johnson Outdoors Watercraft.

Derby organizers include the Pike County Historical Society, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Zane Grey's West Society, and the Upper Delaware Council, with assistance from Trout Unlimited local chapters and permitted fishing guides.

Established on March 26, 1814, Pike County has always been a sportsmen's paradise. Even the first Native American settlers knew the value of living on the

river and relied upon its bounty. Fast forward to modern day, the rivers of Pike County are just as popular, providing anglers with a multitude of fish to entice their jigs and rigs.

The namesake of War of 1812 hero Brigadier General Zebulon Montgomery Pike is being feted with a year-long series of events, including a Bicentennial Gala held Mar. 26, the Zane Grey Catch-and-Release Fishing Derby, and a major 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War Train Wreck by the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society on July 12-13.

The Pike County Commissioners have created two 200th anniversary keepsakes, each available for \$5 at county or local government offices or at The Columns Museum: a commemorative coin and a calendar highlighting scenes from each of the county's 13 municipalities.

For information on additional Pike County Bicentennial activities, please visit www.pikehistorical.org.

UDC Approves Technical Assistance Grants

The Upper Delaware Council awarded \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 Technical Assistance Grants, bringing the cumulative amount that the UDC has provided to its member municipalities since 1988 to \$745,394, helping subsidize 219 projects.

Allocations were approved on Oct. 3, 2013 with a project completion deadline of Aug. 22, 2014.

The nine grant projects approved were:

- ~ Town of Hancock \$5,168.01 to complete an economic study in conjunction with the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency and produce promotional materials to demonstrate how improved releases from the New York City Water Supply System will help stimulate the local and regional economy of the Upper Delaware River region.
- \sim Town of Lumberland \$5,000 to hire Fairweather Consulting to provide an estimate of tourism visitation of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in order to identify potential economic opportunities.
- ~ Shohola Township \$5,000 to produce a DVD and indexed pictorial library catalogue to help preserve the history of Shohola Township.
 - ~ Town of Tusten \$3,500 to create a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- ~ Town of Delaware \$3,000 to update the Town of Delaware's assessment records.
- ~ Town of Lumberland \$1,500 to create a master map of the Glen Spey Cemetery which will be available to the public in brochure and on-line format.
- ~ Berlin Township \$683.99 to purchase tax maps from the Wayne County Assessment Office and obtain a hanging file system to display them. [Completed 12/18/13]
- \sim Town of Cochecton \$656 to purchase topographic and soil maps for use by the town's assessor and building departments. [Completed 2/25/14]
- ~ Town of Highland \$492 to purchase topographic maps as a planning and development tool. [Completed 2/25/14]

A directory of UDC Technical Assistance Grants projects from 1988-2013 is available at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

20th Delaware River Sojourn Set

2014 marks the 20th year of the Delaware River Sojourn, a seven-day guided paddling trip combining canoeing/kayaking, camping, educational programs, historical interpretation, and more.

It is for novice to experienced paddlers of all ages; participants can sign up for the whole event from June 22-28 or the section(s) or day(s) of choice.

Born during the 20 years of the Delaware Sojourn? Take advantage of the "20 and Under Discount", which is 50% off the adult registration fee of \$80/day for adults and \$40 for youth (under 21), if registered before June 15. Add \$5 per person for ACA insurance if not a member and \$10 for registrations made after June 15.

In the Upper Delaware, Sojourners will paddle from Barryville, NY (RM 273.5) to Kittatinny Canoes' Staircase Rapids Ac-



SHARING THE JOURNEY
FOR 20 YEARS

cess (RM 264) on Sunday, June 22; and from Staircase Rapids to Kittatinny Canoes' Matamoras, PA Base (RM 257) on Monday, June 23. Camping on Sunday night will be at the Zane Grey House grounds in Lackawaxen, PA.

Visit www.delawareriversojourn.org to obtain an overview for each day and registration details.

Join Upper Delaware BioBlitz

A BioBlitz is an event where biology experts and volunteers gather to collect, identify, and catalogue every living thing visible to the naked eye on a demarcated property in a 24-hour period.

The 2014 Upper Delaware BioBlitz will be staged on an approximately 200 acre portion of the Ten Mile River Scout Camp at the confluence of the Delaware River and Ten Mile River in the Town of Tusten, Sullivan County, NY. The site represents the biodiversity of the Upper Delaware watershed with flowing water as well as wetlands, some higher ground as well as lowlands, mature mixed hardwoods, pines, and open fields.

The event will begin with the biologists gathering at the site to collect species at noon on June 28. They will continue their work through the night until noon of June 29.

The public is invited from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, to tour the site, meet the biologists, and participate in programs and demonstrations staged by the scientists and sponsoring organizations. It is an opportunity for children to look through microscopes, see live species, and view the collections in the context of the environment where they were found.

This year's event will build on the highly successful 2013 BioBlitz staged on the river-front Gales property in Starlight, Wayne County, PA at the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Delaware River.

During that event, more than 50 scientists and amateur naturalists collected, identified, and catalogued over 1,024 unique species. At least 60 species were recorded as "first occurrences" in Northeastern Pennsylvania, adding substantial data to the biological record.

Further information on the 2014 Upper Delaware BioBlitz, the teams of scientists, sponsoring organizations, and results of the 2013 event can be found at www.upperdelaware-bioblitz.com.

UDC 26th Annual Family Raft Trip Launches Aug. 3

Join the Upper Delaware Council on Sunday, August 3, for an exciting and scenic 10-mile raft trip on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from Skinners Falls to Ten Mile River Access.

The discounted cost is \$25 for ages 13-up and \$15 for ages 5-12.

Lander's River Trips will provide the rafts, paddles, life jackets, safety instructions, and return shuttle transportation.

Park at Lander's Skinners Falls Campground, 40 Skinner's Falls West, Narrowsburg, NY for checkin with the UDC between 9-10 a.m.

Minimum occupancy per raft is four people. Parties of less than four will be matched at the UDC's discretion. Participants should be in good physical condition. Children must weigh a minimum of 40 lbs, and be able to swim.

Kids 12 and under are required by law to wear life jackets at all times. Securely-fastened life jackets are stongly advised for all boaters and swimmers.

Pack a picnic lunch and plenty of drinking water. Dress to get wet, wear sunscreen and foot protection, and avoid bringing valuables. Small coolers and waterproof bags for items such as cameras and keys may be tied into the raft.

This average trip length is 4.5 hours, though the timing varies according to the river level, wind, and each group's desired pace.

Pre-register with payment by July 25 to Cindy Odell, UDC, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; phone (845) 252-3022 or e-mail cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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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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 meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

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

Green Tourism At Conference

A Green Tourism Conference on April 7-8 at the Villa Roma Hotel and Resort in Callicoon, NY will unite food service and lodging facilities, tourism agencies, "eco" product suppliers and recreational activity from the Catskills to the Poconos around the common cause of promoting ecotourism.

The conference will kick off April 7 at 5:30 p.m. with a "Taste of the Region" reception showcasing regionally produced foods and beverages, coupled with a silent auction of local artworks.

April 8 will be packed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with presentations of green initiatives, expert advice on activity packaging and marketing, green training programs, networking opportunities in the vendor exhibition area, and a luncheon during which businesses demonstrating exceptional sustainable practices will be honored.

Conference admission starts at \$99, with lodging available at an extra charge.

Contact Adrianne Picciano at (845) 798-

9468, go.green@hospitalitygreen.com, or visit www.delawarehighlands.org/greentourism.

EarthFest in Hawley

The first Hawley EarthFest will take place April 25-27. Activities include the Hawley Farmer's Market opening on Friday.

On Saturday, a Species Parade steps off at 10 a.m. with mimes, stilt walkers, puppeteers, and costumed species representatives walking around Bingham Park. Gather at 9 a.m. at the Senior Center on Park Place. Check the Facebook page.

Awards will be given at noon at PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center during the 2014 Pike-Wayne Earth Day Festival on April 26.

Visit www.hawleyearthfest.com for information on this free, family-friendly event.

Sunday will feature Yoga in the Park and a riverside hike at Bingham Park.

Byway Decals Available

Show your pride in traveling along or living near the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway with a logo decal that is newly available in sticker or magnet form, perfect for

display on vehicles and boats, and at area attractions, businesses, and homes.

The 4 by 4-inch decals, produced by Color Tek Designs of Glen Spey and funded in part by a 50% matching grant from the Sullivan County Historic and Cultural Assistance Program, feature either an opaque adhesive peel-off or magnet backing, and are UV and water resistant.

They may be ordered online for a \$3 donation at www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org (click on "Visit the UDSB Store" icon) or stop by the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg for pick-up.

The website store also offers memberships and local history-related books.

UDC Offers T-shirts

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

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