

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.

Upper and Middle Delaware NPS Units to Increase Law Enforcement Collaborations

Stating that there are "no plans to merge the two parks", National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) Superintendent Kristina Heister announced a restructuring to share additional law enforcement resources with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) by this fall.

"It is not an effort to combine UPDE and DEWA but does seek to increase operational efficiency, streamline communications, and ultimately, provide better service to the public," Heister says.

At its peak in 1981, the Upper Delaware employed 17 law enforcement rangers.

Upper Delaware currently supports five permanent (3 full-time and 2 subject-to-furlough) and one seasonal law enforcement ranger to cover 73.4 river miles, seven days a week.

"With our current staffing levels, stagnant projected budget allocations, and the volume of administrative and collateral duties our rangers have to complete, it is very difficult to provide adequate services in the summer months when we need it," Heister acknowledges.

One factor motivating the change is that Upper Delaware Chief Ranger Joe Hinkes has accepted the position of Operations Supervisor at Delaware Water Gap. He awaits his specific start date.

"Both DEWA and UPDE agree that the time is right to take this step because we currently have a unique opportunity before us to lay a foundation that will ensure that this collaboration will be successful and enduring," Heister says.

Given Hinkes' active experience working in both units, he will be in a position to design and implement appropriate training, orientation, and protocols that will enable law enforcement rangers from each unit to



RANGER INVESTIGATES: A Great Blue Heron was freed after getting tangled up in monofilament line at an unauthorized tilapia fish farm discovered on Big Island in the Town of Delaware in 2011. After receiving a Notice of Violation from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the operator was ordered to destroy the non-indigenous fish and remediate the site to its original condition. (Contributed File Photo)

be assigned patrols at either UPDE or DEWA on any given time period needed, though they will continue to primarily patrol their own respective areas.

Following Chief Ranger Hinkes' transfer, Upper Delaware will hire a Supervisory Park Ranger at a lesser pay grade to maintain its present staffing level.

That individual will report to the UPDE superintendent for administrative supervision and to the DEWA operations supervisor for technical supervision.

Additionally, while both NPS superintendents will retain management and budgetary control of their protection divisions, DEWA personnel will take over routine administrative functions for both units.

These tasks include filing reports, doing inventories, processing violation notices, preparing case files for court, and developing emergency planning documents.

Heister anticipates that sharing staff will provide additional opportunities for target-

Please see ENFORCEMENT on Page 8

Upper Delaware Profile: Timothy Dugan

Much like Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax", Tim Dugan speaks for the trees.

Trees are a life-long passion, although at the age of 34, he's still at the cusp of his professional career with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry.

His early promise for accomplishment was recognized back at the ripe age of 29 when the Pennsylvania Environmental Council honored him with a "40 Under 40" Award during that non-profit organization's 40th anniversary.

In January of 2014, Dugan became the youngest District Forester out of the 20 State Forest Districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Allentown resident supervises a staff of 31 from the Delaware State Forest District Office based in Swiftwater.

The district includes 84,000 acres of state-owned land in Pike and Monroe Counties.

It contains the largest leased campsite facilities within a PA State Forest, has seven designated natural and wild areas where only passive recreation is allowed, harvests around 250 acres of timber a year, and has trails established for hiking, ATV riding, and snowmobiling.

"It's a large mass of public land available to several major population hubs. We do see a significant amount of recreational activity, visitation, and use," he says.

Dugan joined the DCNR in October 2004, first as a Service Forester then as Forest Assistant Manager for the William Penn State Forest District in Berks and Lancaster Counties of southeast PA.

He had graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2003 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Forest Science.

For two summers during college, Dugan worked on an Oak Regeneration Assessment Study sponsored by Penn State and the Bureau of Forestry.

There wasn't much doubt that he would follow the advice of a high school aptitude test which recommended that he pursue



Timothy Dugan, Commonwealth of PA

forestry, wildlife or fisheries.

"Growing up, I enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and hiking. To earn my Eagle Scout badge, I did a reforestation project planting a couple thousand trees and organizing a clean-up on state game land," Dugan recalls.

Beyond the science of forestry, Dugan enjoys the educational aspect and providing assistance to landowners with a goal of promoting sustainable management.

"Over 60% of forests in PA are privately owned. We work with landowners, municipalities, school groups, other government agencies, and non-profits. If it deals with trees, we like to be the go-to people to get help. One of the great parts of my job is that there is always a diversity of work. There is a lot of outreach and partnership," he says.

The Certified Arborist also serves as the PA DCNR internal lead for the Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Landscape and was appointed on Feb. 20, 2014 as Pennsylvania's representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

"I'm honored to be on the Council and hope that I'm providing good, useful information. I've always enjoyed river systems and the forests that support those systems," he says. "I look forward to learning more about the River Management Plan."

Tim and Elizabeth, his wife since 2011 who works for Wildlands Conservancy, are the parents of Emily, age 1-1/2.

He is a member of the PA Forestry Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the Del-View Rod & Gun Club in Beach Lake, coming up since age 10. Dugan also enjoys gardening, preserving vegetables, golf, and introducing his daughter to the woods.

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.,
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192

Phone: (845) 252-3022; FAX: 252-3359

www.UpperDelawareCouncil.org

The Upper Delaware is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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[\[firstname\]@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:[firstname]@upperdelawarecouncil.org)



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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 UDC'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. Take a look at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Please contact Cindy Odell at (845) 252-3022 or cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org for ordering information.

Upper Delaware Council Elects Officers for 2015

The Upper Delaware Council board elected Berlin Township, PA Representative Alan F. Henry to serve as its 2015 chairperson at the annual meeting held Jan. 8.

UDC Representatives Susan Sullivan, Town of Tusten, NY, and Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township, PA, were elected vice-chairperson and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

Al Henry was appointed by the Berlin Township Board of Supervisors as its UDC delegate on Jan. 3, 2012.

He served as the Council's secretary-treasurer from Aug. 1, 2013 through the end of 2014, and was vice-chair of the Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

Henry is a native of Beach Lake, PA. He was employed by the National Park Service (NPS) for 32 years before retiring on June 1, 2009 as Chief

Ranger of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

He spent all but two years of his NPS career working in the Upper Delaware unit, where he was responsible for setting up the law enforcement program starting in the fall of 1979 and helped the first assigned Superintendent John Hutzky to establish the Congressionally-designated federal presence in the five-county, bi-state region.

The Honesdale High School graduate earned a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Parks from Penn State University in 1976 and studied Outdoor Education at the University of Northern Colorado before joining the NPS ranks in 1977.

He initially worked as a seasonal ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and served as a combat medic with the U.S. Army Reserve from 1983-1989.

In addition to extensive law enforcement credentials, Henry earned certification as an NAUI Divemaster, served as a volunteer firefighter, and coached baseball and soccer locally.

Following Henry's retirement, he worked as a state constable, guest teacher for the Wayne-Highlands School District, and a security guard at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

He continues to guide river and hiking trips for Northeast Wilderness Experience, helps maintain his family's 300-acre Village View Farm property in Beach Lake, and is



2015 ROSTER: Gathered at the UDC's Feb. 5 meeting were, seated: Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Dexter (Damascus), Chairperson Al Henry (Berlin), and Vice-Chairperson Susan Sullivan (Tusten). Standing from left to right: Brian Stuart (Lackawaxen), Steve Tambini (Delaware River Basin Commission), Fred Peckham (Hancock), Bill Rudge (New York State), Tim Dugan (Pennsylvania), Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland), Kris Heister (National Park Service), Tony Ritter (Tusten), Pat Jeffer (Shohola), Virginia Dudko (Deerpark), Andy Boyar (Highland), Jim Greier (Fremont), Dave Dean (Deerpark), and Larry Richardson (Cochecton). Absent were representatives or alternates from Delaware and Westfall. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

a member of the Beach Lake Hunting and Fishing Club.

Al and his wife, Karen Carlson, are the parents of Dr. Alana Rickard and Dylan Henry, Esq.

Vice-chairperson Susan Sullivan was elected to her first UDC office since the Tusten Town Board appointed her as an alternate on Oct. 13, 2009, then as its UDC representative in January 2010.

A certified practitioner of Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy, Sullivan teaches yoga at The Lodge at Woodloch in Hawley, PA.

Susan and husband Chris Holden reside in Lava. She has one son, Michael Duffy.

Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Dexter is a 2012 vice-chair and 2013 chairman who started with the UDC in January 2010 as a first alternate.

The Cochecton, NY native had a 31-year career working in the Arizona State Parks System before his 2003 retirement. He was elected to the Damascus Township Board of Supervisors in 2006.

Jeff and wife Linda are the parents of Kari, Bethany, and Jonathan.



TAKES OATH: Berlin Township Representative Alan F. Henry recites his 2015 UDC chairperson oath of office as administered by Magisterial District 22-3-04 Judge Ronald J. Edwards at the swearing-in ceremony held during the February 5 monthly meeting.

UDC to Present Awards April 26

The Upper Delaware Council will hold its 27th Annual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 26, at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA.

Daniel A. Devlin, the Pennsylvania State Forester and Director of the Bureau of Forestry, will serve as keynote speaker.

The banquet will begin at 3 p.m. with a reception featuring appetizers and a cash bar. A buffet dinner will be served at 4 p.m.

Director Devlin will deliver his address at 5 p.m., immediately followed by the presentation of awards to those who have acted to enhance or protect the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Dan Devlin has oversight responsibility for the management of 2.2 million acres of State Forest lands; forest fire management across the Commonwealth; forest insect & disease control and management; conservation of Pennsylvania's native wild plants including the PA Natural Diversity Inventory; and promoting the conservation of all Pennsylvania's forest land, both public and private.

He previously worked as a Reservation Forest Manager for the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs and as an Assistant State Forester and staff wildlife biologist for the



Daniel A. Devlin, Keynote Speaker

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Devlin received a B.S. in Forest Science and a M.S. in Wildlife Management from the Pennsylvania State University.

This year's award recipients are:

Distinguished Service Award ~ **Glenn Voss**, retired Chief Ranger, 1984-1999, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River;

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award ~ **Eric Mankowski**, Bethlehem, PA, for a July 26, 2014 rescue of a swimmer near Staircase Rapids;

Partnership Award ~ **The Weather Project**, coordinated by the NACL Theatre,

Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, and the Town of Highland;

Outstanding Community Achievement Award ~ **Damascus Township, PA;**

Community Service Award ~ **Tusten Energy Committee** (Brandi Merolla, chairperson; Star Hesse; Charles Blanchard; and Carol Wingert);

Community Service Award ~ **Jeff Skelding, executive director, and Sherri Resti, executive assistant, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.;**

Cultural Achievement Award ~ **Sally Talaga**, Honesdale, PA;

Volunteer Award ~ **Ginny Fiero**, NPS Watershed Stewards Program;

Special Recognition Award ~ **Kelly O. Maloney**, USGS Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory; and

Special Recognition Award ~ **Mikki Uzupes**, Bold Gold Media News Director.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$26 per person. Advance reservations are requested by April 17.

Please call (845) 252-3022, e-mail info@upperdelawarecouncil.org, or stop by the UDC office at 211 Bridge Street in Narrowsburg to reserve seats.

Clean Up the Delaware

For the second year, the Upper Delaware Council is offering River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants to its 13 member municipalities. Applications are due by April 24.

Priority will be given to organized clean-ups that involve adult and youth volunteers, show local investment, and reflect a commitment to become self-sustaining.

The goal is to help maintain the pristine quality of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Clean-up projects must be completed by August 21.

Lackawaxen River Safety to Improve

"Operation Safe River" will come to the Lackawaxen River this summer thanks to an initiative by the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission and Emergency Management Coordinator Al Petrillo, and support from the Township Board of Supervisors and the National Park Service.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kris Heister agreed to subsidize approximately \$1,000 for supplies to construct river mile markers that will aid search and rescue calls on the Lackawaxen. The signage will correspond with maps to more easily identify and find locations when river help is needed.

Technical Assistance Grants Awarded

The Upper Delaware Council awarded \$28,928 in Fiscal Year 2015 Technical Assistance Grants for 11 projects that help fulfill goals of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The latest grant round awarded on Oct. 2, 2014 and due for completion by August 21, 2015 brings the cumulative amount to \$774,322 that the UDC has provided to its member municipalities since 1988 to fund 230 projects.

The approved Technical Assistance Grants were:

Town of Delaware - \$6,670 to complete three phases of codification for all its local laws and ordinances;

Town of Fremont - \$4,018 to acquire and install a Building and Code Enforcement Software Program with training provided;

Shohola Township - \$3,900 to design and produce history-related kiosk panels;

Sullivan County - \$3,000 to contract with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy for an eagle educational and interpretive initiative;

Town of Lumberland - \$2,800 to create topographic maps, and to acquire and install Complaint Tracking software for the Code Enforcement Office;

Damascus Township - \$2,500 to revise the Township Communications Ordinance;

Berlin Township - \$2,312 to prepare and publish a construction manual for sanitary sewers and appurtenances, and to print new Sign & Subdivision Ordinances;

Town of Highland - \$1,500 to upgrade the town's website and draft a written social media policy;

Town of Fremont - \$1,134 to print and distribute "The Echo" newsletter as published by the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley;

Town of Tusten - \$552 to create topographic maps with parcel boundary lines and the river corridor boundary; and

Town of Highland - \$542 to create soil maps and update the town's zoning maps to include an overlay of the river corridor (completed project approved Feb. 5, 2015).

To access a directory of UDC Technical Assistance Grants, review program guidelines, and download forms, please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, or contact UDC Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell at (845) 252-3022 or udctravis@frontier.com.

NPS Gears Up for Centennial Celebration

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River will initiate activities this summer to gear up for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.

The goal of the NPS Centennial is to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.

Parks across the country will be celebrating by helping people "find their park" through social media, programs, activities, special events, sharing stories, and more.

"We invite all 15 towns and townships, five counties, and all our other partners within the Upper Delaware Corridor to join us in helping our shared community to connect to the exceptional resources - natural, cultural, and recreational - of this special



place," says NPS Superintendent Kristina Heister.

The Upper Delaware was one of 17 Northeast region parks selected to host a Centennial Volunteer Ambassador to help coordinate the local program.

This is a year-long, professional internship with salary and health benefits provided through the Student Conservation

Association for a person age 21-35.

Activities planned to date include "Favorite Views of the Upper Delaware." This first-ever photo contest to target the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley will launch on Memorial Day weekend and be conducted on Facebook.

Categories will include Scenery, Ecology, and Geology. There will be a special youth division and prizes for all.

On May 30, NPS Upper Delaware officials will throw out the first ball at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders game and have a Centennial exhibit among efforts to engage the regional public.

"Working for a Cleaner Delaware River" seeks to involve volunteers in sprucing up the river, banks, trails, and access sites.

An existing Adopt-an-Access program for business sponsorship will be promoted.

Dates and locations will be announced for a "Life Vest Trade-in" to facilitate river safety by swapping old personal flotation devices for brand new, free ones supplied by the National Park Service.

The Upper Delaware will start developing a "Virtual Visitor Experience" as a way to introduce a world-wide audience to the river corridor through digital media.

Special celebrations will also take place at the NPS Zane Grey Festival on July 18.

For additional information on the NPS Centennial, please contact (570) 729-8251 or Kristina_Heister@nps.gov and visit www.nps.gov/upde for updates.

New Strategies for Water Safety

More than 50% of the drownings that occur in the Upper Delaware River are swimmers. All of those victims had one thing in common: they were not wearing a properly-fitted life jacket.

Many people don't consider the danger when they boat, wade, or swim.

They don't realize that although the scenic river looks beautiful, its currents are powerful and can easily sweep away even a strong swimmer. Hidden rocks and eddies pose additional risk.

The National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River seeks to educate about those hazards through its 2015 Water Safety Campaign.

Each year, a committee with representatives from NPS, the National Canoe Safety Patrol, Upper Delaware Council, and other partners meets to strategize over ways to keep visitors safe and prevent drownings.

The core message is the "WEAR IT!" slogan from the National Safe Boating Council, expanded to emphasize life jacket use while swimming, boating, fishing, and floating.

The NPS Office of Public Risk Management and the U.S. Coast Guard are undertaking the fourth year of a Life Jacket Wear Rate Study as part of a science-based approach to address water safety.

The information gained helps the Upper Delaware committee to gauge the effectiveness of the "WEAR IT!" campaign and identify trends in life jacket use or neglect.

NPS created a Water Safety Talk public service announcement, and is having the safety orientation talk that all licensed liveries are required to give to their customers translated into several languages and printed on laminated cards.

Communicating with visitors about safety before they arrive is facilitated through the use of Facebook (updeNPS).

Information such as how life jacket wear is mandatory between Nov. 1 and April 30 for coldwater situations and also regulated for high water, any time the Barryville gauge hits six feet or more, is extremely valuable in real time. NPS also operates a River Hotline: (845) 252-7100 and posts messages at www.nps.gov/upde.

The "WEAR IT!" logo pops up on community lawn signs, reward t-shirts and giveaway items, and in exhibits.

NPS personnel expect to visit 2,000 fifth graders in May during Water Safety Month.

Contact Water Safety Campaign Coordinator Kevin Reish at (845) 557-0222.



WATERSHED STEWARDS: The NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River seeks volunteers who enjoy people and the outdoors to interact with visitors on summer weekends between June 13-Sept. 6. A mandatory training session will be held on June 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PPL Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA for registrants to review a Watershed Stewards Manual, learn about aquatic invasive species, and how to conduct interviews and boat inspections to help prevent the water-borne introduction or transport of these harmful species. Watershed Stewards will receive shirts and hats to wear while on official duty. Contact NPS Biologist Jamie Myers at (570) 729-7842 for information. Above, Seasonal Park Ranger Shannon Harding interviews National Canoe Safety Patrol member Dave Miller following his river trip. (Contributed Photo)

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-September 2014 to mid-March 2015, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

BRIDGES IN NEWS

The PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) invited UDC officials to a special briefing Dec. 18 about the status of the 1904 Pond Eddy Bridge replacement.

Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2016, proceed in four major stages using an in-stream causeway with traffic maintained on the existing bridge, and be completed in Fall 2019.

The estimated cost for the single-lane, two-span steel truss crossing to be located 55 feet upstream is \$17.5 million.

The UDC was in the process of reviewing the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 Permit authorization package received on Feb. 17 which contains the construction and boating safety plans.

On March 5, the UDC sent a letter to PennDOT District Executive George Roberts offering to facilitate a public meeting to discuss the community concerns raised in a petition drive over the timeline and work plans for rehabilitation of the Narrowsburg, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge to help address those issues transparently and alleviate any potential misconceptions about the \$10 million project.

LAND RESOURCES

The Water Use/Resource Management Committee pursued the formulation of a plan to address the educational and interpretive opportunities cited for the unusual, unique and outstanding landforms identified in the National Park Service's Delaware River Basin Outstanding Remarkable Values Geologic Report.

Potential projects include developing wayside exhibits at key public locations of land resources, dedicating articles and website pages to explain the significance of various formations, hosting presentations, and exploring the establishment of a "Trail of Geology" in collaboration with the Delaware Water Gap park.

At the committee's Feb. 17 meeting, NPS Chief of Resource Management Don Hamilton reported that the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River was awarded \$110,000 in NPS Inventory & Monitoring Program funding to conduct a Geologic Resources Inventory.

Covering the entire length of the river corridor, the resulting inventory will provide maps as well as reports on bedrock and surficial geology and geologic features.

UDC LETTERS

11/3/14 to Steven Schwartz, Pocono-Kittatinny Cluster Coordinator for the



ONE-LANE BRIDGE: The 1954 interstate bridge in Narrowsburg has been reduced to one lane controlled by traffic lights for two years after an inspection found that 32% of the deck was in a state of advanced deterioration, which led to down-posting the weight limit in winter of 2013 as an alternative to closing the bridge. Many bridge users and local residents in NY and PA are upset over the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's schedule to start the \$10 million major rehabilitation with a bid-letting in Fall 2016 and project completion set for Fall 2018, and concerned over how construction plans will affect traffic. The UDC has offered to host a public meeting with PennDOT to facilitate discussions. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Pinchot Institute of Conservation, expressing support to combine all the water quality monitoring data into a central repository related to the William Penn Foundation Delaware Watershed investment initiative;

11/10/14 to Central New York Railroad in Cooperstown questioning the condition of the access roadway along the railroad track starting at Railroad Bridge #2 in Mill Rift and extending approximately 10 miles to the Pond Eddy Bridge as a potential hazard to local emergency access;

12/4/14 to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joseph Martens with UDC comments and corrections on the 2014 Draft Open Space Conservation Plan;

1/8/15 to PA Department of Environmental Protection Regional Director Michael Bedrin requesting information on the DEP's parameters for monitoring and enforcement of the sewage effluent from the Mast Hope Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lackawaxen Township; and

1/23/15 to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to congratulate him upon his election and share information about the UDC's operations.

RIVER ACCESSES

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy

plans to purchase a flood-damaged residential property on Ferry Street in Long Eddy that would be conveyed to the NYS DEC to improve parking at the Long Eddy River Access.

Sullivan County received a \$35,150 grant to allow an upgrade of the Highland River Access site and to pursue additional improvements at accesses in Long Eddy, Callicoon, Skimmers Falls, Ten Mile River, and Pond Eddy.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development projects reviewed or discussed included:

- Lackawaxen Township's revision to its zoning code to modify definitions;
- Sullivan County Planning review request of a special use application for the Big Dog Sawmill in the Town of Tusten;
- Separate proposals for an archery range and a mini-golf course in the Town of Highland;
- A 10-site recreational vehicle campground in Damascus Township;
- Addition of "farm brewery" as a Special Permitted Use in the Town of Highland Code;
- Separate proposals for a real/estate law office, a two-room hotel suite, and an eat-

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

ing/drinking establishment in the Narrowsburg hamlet of the Town of Tusten;

- Amendments to Shohola Township's Zoning Code.

Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell gave presentations on the UDC's Project Review Procedures to Lackawaxen Township on Nov. 5 and the Town of Cochection on Dec. 18.

Additionally, the UDC's Project Review Committee continued its chapter-by-chapter refresher of the 1988 Project Review Workbook as meeting time permitted.

EEL FISHERY

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American Eel Management Board approved on Oct. 27 an addendum to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan which "allows the continuation of New York's Delaware River silver eel weir fishery under a transferable license cap, limited to nine permits annually."

The action allowed the NYS DEC to solicit applications for eel weir licenses with plans to issue up to nine permits by May 15 that will be valid through Nov. 30, 2015.

The permit limit is in response to stock assessments prepared in 2012 which showed a decline in the American eel population in U.S. waters during recent decades due to a combination of factors.

The UDC supported the continuation of the Delaware River's commercial silver eel fishery due to the relatively small impact of this culturally traditional local industry.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

The UDC provided sponsorship for the Equinunk Watershed Alliance's Strides II 5K Run/Walk held on Sept. 20.

UDC staff participated in meetings of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Upper Delaware River Corridor Steering Committee, Common Waters Partnership, Upper Delaware River Roundtable, Eastern Shale Group, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership, NPS Water Safety Committee, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, and the new Sullivan County Trail Committee.

Special meeting included: the 5th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere" conference hosted by Friends of the Upper Delaware River in Hale Eddy, NY on Oct. 14-15; National Parks Conservation Association FracTracker Alliance informational meeting on Nov. 15 in Narrowsburg, NY; "Sustainable Development Strategies" with Randall Arendt of the Natural Lands Trust in Monticello, NY on Nov. 17; NPS Interpretation Management Assistance Program Regional Team interview to assist with evaluation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's Interpretation

Program on Nov. 17; Delaware River Basin Water Census webinar update by the U.S. Geological Survey on Nov. 19; State Environmental Quality Review Act Educational Conference in Rock Hill, NY on Jan. 14; and a Western Orange County Trails Forum on Mar. 26.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2014-12: Approving Technical Assistance Grants for Fiscal Year 2015; 2014-13: Authorizing Signatories for New Banking Accounts at Jeff Bank; 2014-14: Award Printing "The Upper Delaware" Newsletter to Courier Printing for FY 2015; and 2014-15: Amend Contract with Eckersley and Ostrowski LLP for a FY 2014 Financial Review.

Also, 2015-01: Authorizing Annual Signature of Corporate Resolutions and Bank Cards; 2015-02: Authorizing Agreement with Eckersley and Ostrowski LLP for FY 2015 Financial Review; and 2015-03: Amending the FY 2015 Budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Having had professional archivists from the National Park Service inventory all UDC files last spring and provide a report of recommendations in September, the Council has been working with NPS Management Assistant Carla Hahn on developing a records retention, disposition, and scheduling system and strategies to better identify, organize, and store Council records dating back to the early 1980s.

The UDC's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014, released on Dec. 5, is available for on-line viewing at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or by request in print form.

Design Handbook Graphics Updated

Sullivan Renaissance awarded the Upper Delaware Council a \$300 Environmental Initiatives Grant to bridge a budget gap to print copies of the newly-updated "Design Handbook for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River".

The UDC worked with W Design of Barryville at the end of Fiscal Year 2014 to graphically transform the Design Handbook that was originally produced in 1990 with new color photos and illustrations, contemporary typography, and updated information, while preserving the text that summarizes the principles taken from the Land and Water Use Guidelines that are published with the 1986 Final River Management Plan.

The 36-page document provides guidance to undertake construction in the designated river corridor in ways that ensure harmony with the existing landscape.

It is geared toward builders, developers, and landowners planning construction activity, as well as local officials in charge of reviewing development plans.

One hundred color copies were printed in December and have been distributed to each of the local government and planning boards in the river valley.

The Design Handbook is available by contacting the UDC at (845) 252-3022 or info@upperdelawarecouncil.org, or for on-line consultation on the Publications page of the UDC's website.



CATSKILL WATERS: Donna Steffens, director of Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville, shows Congressman Chris Gibson (NY), center, and New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush the "Celebrating Catskill Waters: Past and Present" exhibit which opened on Oct. 9, 2014 to highlight swimming, boating, and fishing in Sullivan County. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

ENFORCEMENT, continued from Pg. 1

ed enforcement efforts and increased coverage across the entire length of the river.

Due to the limited authority and jurisdiction at Upper Delaware, those rangers do not gain experience with certain operations that are standard in other NPS units where the land is all federally owned. They are expected to develop professionally through their targeted DEWA exposure.

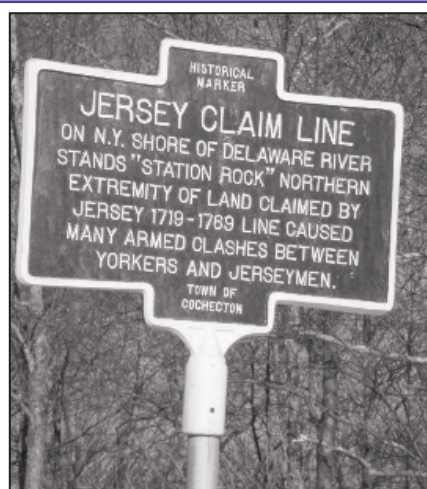
UDC Reaction

Recognizing the fundamental differences between UPDE and DEWA was of concern to the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) during briefings held Feb. 24 and Mar. 5.

"Is this the beginning of a creep to merge the Upper and Middle into one entity?" asked Cochection Representative Larry H. Richardson, emphasizing that the UDC is vehemently opposed to any loss of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River autonomy or services.

Heister replied that the regional goal is to be more efficient and cost-effective in areas that make sense, such as law enforcement and emergency services where numerous resources such as 24-hour dispatch services are already shared.

Delaware Representative Harold G. Roeder, Jr. said that the DEWA rangers may face a learning gap to understand implications of private property rights.



BORDER DISPUTE: This historical marker has been restored near the intersection of NYS Route 97 and County Route 114 in the Town of Cochection after a tractor-trailer wiped it out during an icy crash on February 12, 2013. Cochection Town Councilman and UDC Representative Larry H. Richardson located the cracked cast iron marker buried in snow at the bottom of the embankment. He arranged to have a new one replicated by Catskill Castings at a cost to the Town of Cochection of \$1,194 and installed by the NYS Department of Transportation Sullivan County Division in November of 2014. The sign interprets the NY-NJ border dispute. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



KEEPING THE PEACE: Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief Ranger Joe Hinkes, far right, oversaw a rally by protesters outside the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA during an August 23, 2012 paddling visit to the Upper Delaware by former Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett. (UDC File Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Hinkes responded, "We will do targeted orientation and enforcement. There would be National Park Service liability if they don't know their role. Any exchange or overlap will be done in a controlled manner."

UDC Chairman Al Henry of Berlin asked, "How enduring is this agreement?", noting that Hinkes as the familiar, trusted link between the two park units will obviously not occupy that position forever.

Damascus Representative Jeff Dexter

said in his experience, the smaller park never comes out ahead in these scenarios, while Hancock Representative Fred Peckham agreed, "I just question the allocation of resources."

Heister said that there is no binding directive and "if it's detrimental, we'll quit. We have not a lot to lose but a significant amount to gain."

The UDC was drafting a letter of support with recommendations and various cautions at press time.

Federal Minimum Wage to Apply

Holders of Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) permits to do business utilizing the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River must pay their employees at least \$10.10 per hour based on an increase in the federal minimum wage enacted January 1, 2015.

Executive Order 13658, as signed by President Obama, directed the Department of Labor to implement and enforce the new minimum wage for federal contractors.

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River received guidance from the Washington, D.C. office on January 28 that the Executive Order does apply in this unit.

The Upper Delaware has approximately 70 permit-holders under its CUA program.

The businesses include boat liveries, fishing guides, and camp operators.

"We are fully aware that this is going to be a burden on the liveries in particular," NPS Upper Delaware Superintendent Kristina Heister told the UDC at the Feb. 5 board meeting.

While complaints may be filed through her agency as a pass-through, Heister noted that NPS is not responsible for their investigation, or for enforcing or interpreting the Executive Order.

Those questions should be directed to the nearest Wage and Hour Division District Office of the Department of Labor.

The previous federal minimum wage was \$7.25 per hour.

The \$10.10 per hour wage will be in effect until January 1, 2016, at which time and annually thereafter, the Department of Labor will determine the rate.

Visitor Center Explored

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is exploring options to convert the first floor of the Zane Grey Museum into a visitor orientation center.

The museum would continue to exhibit the memorabilia of the author and world-record fisherman who resided in the Lackawaxen, PA home from 1905-1918.

Additional information will be shared.

New York State to Ban 'Fracking'

New York became the first state in the nation to issue a state-wide ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) when Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his administration's decision on this "emotionally charged issue" Dec. 17, 2014.

Cuomo said that the scientists and experts he relied on revealed too many red flags and uncertainties over cumulative impacts for his comfort level.

Acting NYS Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker was tasked in 2012 with conducting a review of the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for HVHF, which is a method of extracting natural gas or oil from shale deposits deep underground.

"I have considered all of the data and find significant questions and risks to public health which as of yet are unanswered," said Dr. Zucker at the year-end Dec. 17 Cabinet meeting held in Albany.

"I think it would be reckless to proceed in New York until more authoritative research is done. I asked myself, 'Would I let my family live in a community with fracking?'. The answer is no. I therefore cannot recommend anyone else's family to live in such a community either," he added.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joseph Martens noted that his agency has been studying HVHF for six years.

"DEC's own review identified dozens of potential significant adverse impacts of HVHF. Further, with the exclusion of sensitive natural, cultural, and historic resources and the increasing number of towns that have enacted bans and moratoria, the risks substantially outweigh any potential economic benefits of HVHF," Martens said.

The Towns of Tusten, Lumberland, and Highland had enacted local fracking bans.

"Considering the research, public comments, relevant studies, Dr. Zucker's report and the enormous record DEC has amassed on this issue, I have directed my staff to complete the final SGEIS. Once that is complete, I will prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State at this time," he added.

Martens indicated that DEC would incorporate the health study findings into its final Environmental Impact Statement document and release it for public comment in early 2015 to formally conclude the review.

As of press time, that action had not occurred; however, the DOH review is available at http://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf.

Conventional (low-volume) hydraulic fracturing is permitted under current state

regulations and not affected by the ban.

The threshold for "high-volume" drilling is 80,000 gallons or more of water per well. Shale gas wells typically require 7 to 13 million gallons of water per well.

The Millennium Pipeline Co.'s Hancock Compressor Station, which went into service on March 31, 2014 less than two miles from the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River boundary, is not affected by the state decision, according to a Millennium spokesman consulted Mar. 6.

"The Hancock Compressor Station safely and efficiently delivers clean natural gas to customers throughout the Northeast. The station was designed, and has been operational, well before New York took this most recent action and will continue to operate as planned, serving the area for many years to come," said Andrew Rush.

DRBC and Pennsylvania

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), which has New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the federal government in its Compact purview, imposed a moratorium on fracking in 2010 and must now take the NYS decision into account while moving forward.

"The Commissioners continue to confer in good faith on the issues regarding potential natural gas development regulations. Those issues are both complex and dynamic, and as such there is no set timetable for a decision concerning this subject. Commission action can only occur at a DRBC meeting that is open to the public and for which the public has received the required advance notice," said DRBC spokesman Clarke Rupert on Mar. 6.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, one of newly-elected Governor Tom Wolf's first actions was to issue Executive Order 2015-03 on Jan. 29 which reinstates a 2010 moratorium on signing any new leases for oil and gas development in state parks and forests.

The Order reads that these leases are contrary to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' long-standing policy to conserve and maintain these natural resources "in the public trust for the



GAS DRILLING: This Cabot Oil and Gas Co. derrick in Brooklyn Township, Bradford County, PA, was a stop on the National Park Service Gas Summit tour on Sept. 17, 2014. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

use and benefit of all its citizens, and generations yet to come."

Further, the Executive Order states, "The portion of State Forest land that is currently not available for oil and gas development is vital for maintaining pure water, wild and natural ecosystems and valuable recreational opportunities that support Pennsylvania's eco-tourism industry."

On March 13, WNEP-TV reported on Governor Wolf's expressed support for the moratorium which prevents any natural gas drilling in the Delaware Watershed while the Delaware River Basin Commission awaits additional research.

Pennsylvania Act 13 contains the state-wide regulations for hydraulic fracturing. Its impact fees for unconventional gas wells benefit local counties.

DRBC Plans One Process/One Permit

The Delaware River Basin Commission plans a One Process/One Permit Program to promote collaboration and enhance administrative efficiencies between DRBC and the four basin states for water resource-related projects, while ensuring that equal or better environmental outcomes are obtained.

"This effort does not alter the regulatory standards of the DRBC or any state agency, and the respective authorities and standards of each agency are to be expressly preserved," says DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini. "Our focus is on administrative changes to implement current regulatory programs that will be managed through a single process resulting in one decision of approval." Visit www.drbc.net for more information.

River Management Plan, Bats, Gas & Buses on UDC Agenda

The past six months found a variety of topics as the subject of presentations at Upper Delaware Council meetings.

On Oct. 2, a summary was provided of the Technical Review Report that the UDC had commissioned for the 1986 River Management Plan (RMP) for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Jennifer Cristobal, project director for Environmental Planning & Design LLC of Pittsburgh, described the two-month contract which began in August 2014 by interviewing more than 30 individuals who have a working knowledge of the plan and a "desktop" review to cross-check it against current regulations, policies, and practices.

The goal was to identify and document any inconsistencies, typographical errors, and omissions that should be considered in any future update of the RMP.

Also prepared was an appendix chart of Roles, Responsibilities and Implementation Status which collates and assigns over 250 tasks cited in the plan.

The 33-page report's conclusion was that, "The RMP has, by all accounts, been successful in both its longevity and ability to prevent incompatible development within the river corridor. It is general enough to be in compliance with most state and federal laws and has been implemented in a flexible manner to accommodate variations when needed. While a number of issues have been identified, none are so egregious that they would warrant extreme concern. However, when taken together, the issues could point to a need to consider updating the plan."



RMP REPORT: Jennifer Cristobal of Environmental Planning & Design, LLC, discusses the findings of the River Management Plan Technical Review at the Oct. 2, 2014 UDC meeting as NPS Superintendent Kris Heister and DRBC official Clarke Rupert look on. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

The UDC is using the report as a working document and springboard for discussion.

On Nov. 6, Dr. Howard Whidden and Larry Laubach from the Biology department at East Stroudsburg University presented on the "Acoustic Monitoring of Bats in the River Valley."

Graduate students began working on a mammal study in the Upper Delaware in 2006 and started a formal bat monitoring program in 2008 that continues today.

Bats across the Northeast face alarming mortality rates from the White Nose



BAT CLUSTER: Photographer Scott Rando came upon this colony of an estimated 50 Little Brown Bats huddled under the roof of an abandoned building at the Ten Mile River Scout Camp during the 2014 Upper Delaware BioBlitz. (Contributed Photo)

Syndrome fungus disease, which has killed off some 90% of Little Brown Bats, and from the blades of wind turbines.

Three sites in the Upper Delaware are monitored with driven acoustic transects, and ESU has partnered with the National Park Service to install bat boxes at their properties to help lure bats away from residences and businesses.

The Dec. 4 UDC meeting included a presentation of photos and observations from the Sept. 15-18 Natural Gas Summit that the National Park Service convened for federal agencies and partners.

The goal was to improve understanding of natural gas operations and facilities at both a local and landscape scale, calculate potential impacts to NPS units and affiliated areas, and share the Upper Delaware's resources and values.

The training started with an orientation by Dave Messersmith of Penn State Cooperative Extension and a river trip on Day 1.

There were tours on Days 2 and 3 of the Hancock Compressor Station, active or restored natural gas operations in Bradford County, PA, and Cabot Oil and Gas holdings in Susquehanna County, PA.

Day 4 brought participants to the Calder House Museum in Equinunk, PA and the Basket Historical Society in Long Eddy, NY, and to a panel discussion with local business interests sharing perspectives.

On March 5, Jane Luchsinger described to the UDC the trial commercial run of the Eagle Express, which will provide Rolling V bus transportation from Manhattan to the Upper Delaware River Valley on the weekends of June 26, July 3, July 10, and July 17, with stops in Lumberland, Barryville, Narrowsburg, and Callicoon.

Please visit www.scva.net/eagleexpress for details about this experimental tourism marketing venture.

D&H Enthusiasts Invited to Show Support

The D&H Transportation Heritage Council (DHTHC) is now accepting memberships from individuals who support the mission of preserving the history and promoting appreciation of a great engineering feat of pre-industrial America.

The 124-mile-long Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad System ran between the Lackawanna Valley in Pennsylvania and the Hudson River in New York. It was one of America's first million-dollar private enterprises and responsible for the establishment of numerous communities along its route.

DHTHC formed in 1998 as a means of promoting collaboration among site stewards from the Carbondale, PA to Kingston, NY region.

Its purpose is to heighten awareness, recognition, and appreciation of the historical and archeological remnants of the Delaware and Hudson and Gravity Railroad Company (D&H) and the Gravity Railroad of the Pennsylvania Coal Company.

Other goals are to protect and preserve the remaining features, buildings, structures, artifacts, records, maps, photographs, and other associated ephemera; provide programs, facilities, resources, and opportunities for education and research; and provide visitors to the historic sites with a quality experience.

The Council offers advocacy, financial, technical, or other support to its members; and seeks to promote physical and thematic linkages unifying the corridor through trails, bicycle routes, scenic roadways, interpretive programs, and other public events.

Originally membership had been limited to organizations and agencies. The Council has now decided to welcome individuals who support the mission statement to become non-voting members at a reduced annual dues rate of \$20.

Application forms are available at www.dhthc.org or please call Jane at (570) 488-6750.

Sojourn Q&A with Sandy Schultz

The 2015 Delaware River Sojourn will celebrate the "Birthplace of America" as its theme on June 20-27.

Register for non-profit event by June 13 and the cost is \$80 for adults (ages 15+) and \$60 for children, which includes a guided river trip, kayak rental if needed, shuttles, educational programs, meals, a souvenir T-shirt, and optional camping.

Visit www.delawareriversojourn.org for details, including day plan itineraries.

In the Upper Delaware, Sojourners are expected to paddle from Balls Eddy to Buckingham June 20; Lordville to Hankins June 21; and Narrowsburg to Lackawaxen June 22; with camping provided for the first two nights at the Northeast Wilderness Experience campsite in Equinunk, PA.

Involved in the Upper Delaware section planning for all 20 years has been Sandra Schultz, who retired on March 31, 2010 as Assistant Superintendent at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River after 27 years in the Upper Delaware and 37 years of federal government service.

Schultz moved to Accomac, VA but continues as a Sojourn Steering Committee member and loyal event participant.

Q: How did the Sojourn begin?

A: It was the brainchild of Nancie Robertson, Linda Mead, and Mathilda Harrison Sheptak in 1995. A few years earlier Barbara Yeaman had organized a five-day Upper Delaware River sojourn. Also, the Susquehanna Sojourn had started a few years earlier, so I think there was awareness of those other river trips. The "girls" joke that they wanted to find people who would carry their canoes. No kayaks back then. They called an organizing meeting. [UPDE Superintendent] John Hutzky attended and was very excited. As envisioned, the Sojourn was to be a grand partnership and river unification event.

Q: Have you ever missed a year?

A: No, I have paddled a portion of every year, but not every day of every year. Safety Patrol leader Dave Simon comes closest to holding that record.



Sandy Schultz (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Q: What do you enjoy most about the Sojourn in general?

A: What's not to like? I love the river, I love camping, and I love the people I have met through the Sojourn. Each year is a warm and wonderful reunion. The Sojourn also serves as a reminder that the river goes on below the bend at Port Jervis. It is always interesting to me to see how the river unfolds on its journey to the sea. I would recommend the whole trip to anyone who has that type of curiosity or who has paddling a river on their bucket list. The week I spend on the river is the most real part of my year.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this year's itinerary?

A: I always look forward to the Upper Delaware section. It is such a contrast with the salt marsh and seaside creek-front where I live now. The scenery is great; the water is so clear and beautiful. The last day will be in Philadelphia when the tall ships are in port. That will be wonderful too.

UDC Raft Trip to Launch August 2

The 27th Annual Family Raft Trip sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council will take place on Sunday, August 2. Public reservations are due by July 24.

The 2015 river section is a seven-mile stretch from Barryville to Pond Eddy. Kittatinny Canoes will provide the rafts, paddles, life jackets, safety instructions, and shuttle transportation.

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.

For optimum safety, all UDC participants (children and adults) will be required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device when they are on the water for the duration of the trip.

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.

Advance reservations at a deeply discounted cost of \$27 for ages 13 and up, and \$17 for ages 5-12, must be received by July 24.

Contact Cindy Odell at (845) 252-3022 or udcodell@frontier.com, or see the registration flyer on the UDC website.

On August 2, park at Luke's Landing, located across the road from Kittatinny's Barryville Base & Adventure Center, 3854 Rt. 97, Barryville, NY 12719.

Check in between 9-10 a.m. at the UDC table. All rafters must sign waivers prior to launching from the Barryville Access.

At the conclusion of their trip, guests will be shuttled back to Barryville from the Pond Eddy Access.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

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

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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

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

Talk Green Tourism

The 2nd Annual 2015 Green Tourism Conference will be held at Woodloch Pines in Hawley, PA on April 14 and 15.

The conference networks regional food service and lodging facilities, tourism agencies, recreational activity businesses and their "eco" product and service suppliers for two days of workshops, training and collaboration to grow tourism through the surging interest in "green" travel and regionally sourced and prepared dining.

See www.DelawareHighlands.org/green-tourism for registration information.

Historic Callicoon?

The Town of Delaware has received funding to pursue the designation of a historic district in the hamlet of Callicoon.

Through the efforts of Town Historian and Councilwoman Cindy Herbert, the town received a \$4,200 Preserve NY Grant from the Preservation League of New York State, \$2,500 from Sullivan Renaissance, and \$500 from the Callicoon Business Association.

The funding is being used to hire a consultant to prepare a National Register of

Historic Places nomination package for submission by June 30, 2015.

Celebrate the Earth

Hawley, PA invites you to join in the celebration of love for planet Earth April 24-26.

Hawley EarthFest will include a Species Parade, Environmental Expo, live raptor demonstration, music, nature walks, crafts, games, and specials at area restaurants.

The weekend of fun is sponsored by the Downtown Hawley Partnership, Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership, and Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.

Visit www.HawleyEarthfest.com or find the event on Facebook for the itinerary.

Hancock: Storm Ready

The National Weather Service has recognized the Town of Hancock as a "StormReady Community". This copyrighted program helps community leaders and residents better prepare for hazardous weather and flooding.

Blaise Bojo, age 16 when the town received its official certification on Oct. 10, 2014, is the youngest person in the nation to coordinate this public safety effort.

StormReady communities must maintain a 24-hour emergency operations center, have multiple ways to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public, conduct community preparedness programs, and ensure that hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which includes holding emergency exercises.

StormReady recognition is valid for three years and may be renewed.

Newsletter Earns Kudos

Lackawaxen Township's newsletter won first place in its population category in the 47th Annual Pennsylvania State Association of Townships Citizen Communication Contest in recognition of its outstanding effort to keep residents informed about community issues and events.

Polluters Beware

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announces a new, toll-free hotline to report poachers and polluters: 1-844-DEC-ECOS (or 332-3267). It will be staffed 24/7 and connect callers to a DEC police dispatcher.