

The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 32 Number 1

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Spring 2019



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PA FUNDING: A delegation from the Upper Delaware Council met with Pennsylvania State Representatives Jonathan Fritz (at head of table, center), Michael T. Peifer (to his right), and District Representative to Senator Lisa Baker (R-20) Andrew Seder (to his left) on Feb. 8 in Honesdale to discuss Commonwealth funding for the organization. Clockwise around the table are Steve Adams, Damascus Township; Al Henry, Berlin Township (gesturing); UDC Commonwealth of PA Representative Tim Dugan; Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr. (back to camera); and Aaron Robinson, Shohola Township. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

UDC Makes Case for State Funding

Lawmakers from New York and Pennsylvania have pledged to advocate for first-ever state operational funding for the Upper Delaware Council.

While the 1986 *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* envisioned a 60% federal/40% states cost-sharing ratio to fund the non-profit organization, neither state has ever contributed its anticipated share.

Delegations from the UDC visited each of its state representatives over the winter to advise that the Council's financial sustainability is threatened by flat-level federal funding and increasing interim periods with no income despite active state voting membership since its 1988 inception.

At press time, NYS Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther (D-100, since 2003) had requested that Governor Andrew Cuomo include a \$100,000 appropriation for the UDC in the approximately \$175 billion New York State budget that begins April 1.

PA lawmakers were jointly considering optimum strategies to introduce UDC funding into the Commonwealth budget which starts its fiscal year on July 1.

In mid-January, the UDC compiled Briefing Reports which outline the history,



NYS Senator Jen Metzger listens Feb. 15.

Please see FUNDING on Page 10

Upper Delaware Profile: Kaitlin Haas

She may not have started life in a small town but Kaitlin Haas has fully embraced that culture, while also taking on responsibilities that exceed anyone's expectations.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Staten Island, Haas and her family spent every summer in Highland Lake.

"It's always been a very important place for us," she says, noting that her grandparents, Russell and Margaret MacKechnie, and her parents, Jimmy and Mell Carney, each met their spouses here.

She moved to the Upper Delaware River Valley full-time 14 years ago, and also met her future husband, Jeffrey Haas, locally.

The couple married nine years ago, bought a house in Yulan, and were expecting their first child as this issue went to press. The baby will add to their household of four English springer spaniels.

The 37-year-old calculates that she has now spent more of her time in the river valley than anywhere else cumulatively.

Her 94-year-old grandfather was born in Pond Eddy, graduated from Eldred Central, earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star during World War II, and operated a store by the interstate bridge.

Her retired parents still reside in Highland Lake, which remains the "hot spot" for her extended family to gather every summer.

"We grew up here all together and now our kids are coming up to get the same experience," she says.

Haas graduated from Notre Dame Academy on Staten Island, earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Boston University in 2004, and went back to school to obtain a Master's degree in Public Administration from Marist College in 2012.

Youthful thoughts of attending law school yielded to some caregiving duties.

She worked as a substitute teacher at Eldred Central School, ran an after-school program in the Port Jervis district, then went to work for Sullivan ARC before her current employment for the past eight years with The Center for Discovery.

Starting out as a case manager with the Center - whose 1,600 employees provide residential, medical, special education, arts therapy, and agricultural programs to serve 1,200 children and adults - she now oversees the Admissions Office and its staff of 10, based in Harris, NY.

She has also worked as a freelance reporter for the *Sullivan County Democrat* newspaper for 12 years.

"It's interesting. It takes me to other parts of the county and allows me to meet new people," she says.

In 2017, the Republican threw her hat in the ring for the Highland Town Board with cross-endorsement on the Democratic



Kaitlin Haas, Town of Highland, NY

line. She's now in the second of her four-year term as Councilwoman.

"I've always been a very community and civic-oriented person. I had ideas, wanted to learn, make a difference, be a voice for younger people, and to be representative of all our constituents," Haas says.

She serves on the town board's Emergency Management, Constables, Youth and Parks Committees, and as of January 2018, was appointed as the town's representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

"It keeps you very busy. I had a trial by fire after taking office with the emergencies we've had," she says, recalling being stationed at the Town Hall in Eldred for six straight days during one storm to help operate the warming center, and provide assistance to residents and passersby alike when major roadways were blocked and electricity was out for 6-10 days due to the severe weather events.

"We called it 'Highland Island'. We had to become self-reliant although we had great support from the National Guard, Sheriff's Department, and others. It was incredible to see how everyone pitched in and looked after each other. It's exactly how you would think a small town would react," she says.

Haas belongs to the Yulan Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, the Can't Hurt Steel Community Foundation Advisory Board, and St. Anthony's Church in Yulan.

She and her husband, who is a carpenter with Casey Builders, enjoy traveling and hiking, with intentions to visit all 50 states.

Haas loves to read and Irish culture.

Of the UDC, she says, "My goal is to have continued cooperation and communication between all the towns. Highland has a large acreage in the river corridor and these issues are important to us."

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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.

2019 Officers

Chairperson.....Harold G. Roeder, Jr.
Vice-Chairperson.....Jeffrey R. Dexter
Secretary/Treasurer.....Alan F. Henry

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Hancock.....Fred Peckham
Timothy Newman, Alternate
Fremont.....James Greier
George Conklin, Alternate
Delaware.....Harold G. Roeder, Jr.
David Peters, Alternate
Cochecton.....Larry H. Richardson
Sean Nearing, Alternate
Tusten.....Susan Sullivan
Evan Padua, Alternate
Highland.....Kaitlin Haas
Andrew Boyar, Debra Conway, Alternates
Lumberland.....Nadia Rajsz
Alternate-vacant
Deerpark.....David M. Dean
Virginia Dudko, Alternate

Pennsylvania Township Representatives

Damascus.....Jeffrey R. Dexter
Steven Adams, Joseph Canfield &
Daniel Rutledge, Alternates
Berlin.....Alan Henry
Paul Henry, Alternate
Lackawaxen.....Doug Case
Judy Kuhn Conklin, Alternate
Shohola.....Aaron Robinson
Roger Saumure, 1st Alternate
Patricia Jeffer, 2nd Alternate
Westfall.....Michael Barth
Roland Edwards, Jr., Alternate

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New York.....William J. Rudge, DEC
Michael J. Flaherty, Alternate
Pennsylvania.....Timothy Dugan, DCNR
Rhonda Manning, DEP, Alternate
Delaware River Basin Commission (non-voting).....Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director

Partner

National Park Service.....Gay Vietzke, Rep.
Northeast Regional Director
Kristina Heister, UPDE Superintendent, Alt.

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New to Board:

In January 2019, the Town of Hancock, NY appointed Councilman Timothy Newman as its UDC alternate representative. He succeeds Katt Judd, who served from Feb. 2, 2016 to the end of 2018.

Westfall Township, PA filled its UDC alternate vacancy that had been open since Aug. 3, 2015 when Mike Barth was promoted to representative by appointing Roland Edwards, Jr.

2019 ROSTER: The Upper Delaware Council representatives and alternates gathered on Feb. 7 for their monthly meeting. Seated are UDC Secretary-Treasurer Alan F. Henry, Berlin Township; and Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware. Standing from left to right are: Michael Barth, Westfall Township; Dr. Kenneth Najjar, Delaware River Basin Commission (at his last UDC meeting pre-retirement on April 1); Doug Case, Lackawaxen Township; Kristina Heister, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River; Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland; Roger Saumure, Shohola Township; Susan Sullivan, Town of Tusten; Fred Peckham, Town of Hancock; Tim Dugan, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Larry Richardson, Town of Cochection; Virginia Dudko, Town of Deepark; Aaron Robinson, Shohola Township; David Dean, Town of Deepark; James Greier, Town of Fremont; and Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland. Absent were 2019 Vice-Chair Jeffrey R. Dexter, Damascus Township; and Bill Rudge, State of New York. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Upper Delaware Council Elects 2019 Officers

Marking his 22nd year with the Upper Delaware Council, Town of Delaware Representative Harold G. Roeder, Jr. was elected for a third stint of board leadership.

Roeder previously served as chairperson in 2000 and 2010, and as vice-chair in 2009. The town appointed him in 1997.

He succeeds 2018 Chairperson Aaron Robinson of Shohola Township in the role.

The 78-year-old moved to the Town of Delaware from Queens at the age of 12 in 1952, graduated from Delaware Valley High School, and earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Performance from Ithaca College.

In 1988, he obtained a real estate license and operated Roeder's Appraisal Service from 1992 until retiring in 2015.

Past employment included music teaching positions at Roscoe Central School and Ithaca College, and proprietor from 1960-1986 of Roeder's Pianos and Organs for sales, tunings, and repairs.

Roeder was appointed as Town of Delaware Councilman to fill a vacancy on the board in March of 2009 and served until resigning in January of 2015, when he and his wife Donna moved from Hortonville across the river to Welcome Lake, PA.

UDC delegate appointments are made at the prerogative of each member municipality with no residency requirements.

The Roeders are the parents of Hal, Katrina, and Brian. They have nine grandchildren and three great-grandkids.

Jeff Dexter was elected as 2019 UDC vice-chairperson. Having been instrumental in Damascus Township's July 21, 2008 decision to join the Council, Dexter has served as an alternate or representative on the board since 2010.

He was chair in 2013, vice-chair in 2012 and 2016, and secretary-treasurer in 2015.

The Cochection, NY native is a graduate of Narrowsburg Central School and the College of Forestry at Syracuse University.

He had a 31-year career working in the Arizona State Parks System before returning to the Upper Delaware River Valley in

2003. For a decade through 2015, he served on the Damascus Township Board of Supervisors.

Al Henry of Berlin Township is in his fourth consecutive year as Secretary-Treasurer, after previously filling that role for part of 2013, all of 2014, then becoming chairperson in 2015.

Henry has been a delegate since 2012. The Beach Lake, PA native, Honesdale High School and Penn State University graduate was employed by the National Park Service for 32 years, retiring on June 1, 2009 as Chief Ranger.



OATH OF OFFICE: Town of Delaware Deputy Supervisor Al Steppich, left, officiated at the swearing-in ceremony for UDC 2019 officers on Feb. 7 following the election at the annual meeting on Jan. 3. He congratulates Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr. A reception followed.

UDC Welcomes Secretary

The Upper Delaware Council announces the hiring of Ashley Hall-Bagdonas as the non-profit organization's full-time secretary effective October 15, 2018.

The position had been vacant since August 17 following the departure of Linda Drollinger after five months on the job.

Prior to joining the UDC, Hall-Bagdonas was employed since June 2014 as a legal secretary for the Bugaj/Fischer, P.C. law firm of Honesdale, PA.

Hall-Bagdonas is a 2004 graduate of Western Wayne High School and earned an Associate's degree in Human Services from Lackawanna College in Scranton in 2006. She studied social work at Millersville University for two years.

Born in Groton, CT, Hall-Bagdonas was raised by her U.S. Navy veteran father Gerald Bagdonas, Jr. and grandmother Margaret in their hometown of Waymart, PA since Kindergarten age.

She developed an early appreciation for water bodies after spending summers and vacations on Lake Alden in Wayne County, then went on her first-ever kayaking trip on the Delaware River during her college years.

"I have a passion for the Delaware River, specifically recreating on it, and I wanted to be able to give back in a larger sense to serve its habitats and communities. The uniqueness of the Upper Delaware Council in working with the river communities and different levels of government interested me," Hall-Bagdonas says.

She served as newsletter editor for Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society from 2014 until recently, was Communications co-chair since 2016, and continues to assist with the publication of its Eco-Notes and organization of the annual Art and



Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

Craft Festival in July, which is the non-profit organization's primary fundraiser for awarding camp and college scholarships.

In 2014, Bagdonas married Sarah Hall after they met in college. The couple resides with their rescue pitbull mix dog Cindy Lou Who and Maine coon cat Zorro on a historic farm property in Lake Ariel, PA, where they help tend the garden and raise free-range chickens.

Sarah Hall-Bagdonas is the program manager for the Northern Tier Hardwood Association after previously working for the Wayne Conservation District as the Forest Specialist.

In her free time, Hall-Bagdonas enjoys spending time with family, indie rock music, exploring new segments of the Upper Delaware River to kayak and tube, and has recently taken an interest in fly-fishing.

She may be reached at (845) 252-3022 or ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

2019 Grants Announced for Municipalities and Cleanups

The Upper Delaware Council is soliciting applications from member municipalities by April 19 for its River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants Program.

An allocation of \$5,000 has been budgeted for the 2019 round.

The UDC is expected to vote on the grant awards May 2, and clean-up projects must be completed by August 16.

The program is intended to encourage organized clean-ups in the river and along the banks to help maintain the pristine quality of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Priority is given to projects that get adult and youth volunteers involved, show local investment (though no funding contribution is required), and reflect a commitment to become self-sustaining.

Respect for private property rights is paramount during clean-ups.

General allowable costs include the purchase or rental of materials and equipment to aid in clean-up efforts; agreements for contracted services; trash disposal at lawful sites; and publicity necessary to recruit volunteers.

Receipts must be provided as proof of expenditures to request a one-time reimbursement payment at the end.

Interested UDC member towns and townships may apply for the competitive funding in the form of a letter describing the project, providing an estimated budget and the amount of funding requested, and identifying a project leader.

In 2018, Damascus Township, PA and the NY Towns of Deerpark, Tusten, and Lumberland participated, with \$5,370.58 collectively awarded for clean-ups.

The Upper Delaware Council voted on Oct. 4, 2018 to award \$11,387 for four Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) applications in Fiscal Year 2019.

The deadline for project completions and payment requests is Aug. 30.

Approved TAGs were:

Shohola Township - \$5,000 to review and update Zoning Ordinance #79;

Town of Tusten - \$5,000 to license, install, and implement a BoardDocs Document Management System;

Town of Lumberland - \$787 to create and print 2,000 copies of a "Guide to Permits" brochure; and

Berlin Township - \$600 to create and print 1,000 copies of an informational brochure about the township.

This FY 2019 round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has provided in TAGs since 1988 to \$868,575, contributing to a total of 253 projects.



EAGLE IDENTIFIED: Upper Delaware Council retiree David B. Soete captured these images on March 4 in Dyberry Township, PA. The leg band number enabled the discovery that the female bald eagle on the left was banded as a nestling in 1999 in the Mongaup region of Sullivan County, NY, making her 20 years old! That same eagle, on the right, battles over a carcass.

Congressman Matt Cartwright to Deliver Keynote Address at April 28 UDC Awards

U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA) will serve as keynote speaker at the Upper Delaware Council's 31st Annual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 28.

The public banquet will take place at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. Reservations at \$28 per person are due by April 19.

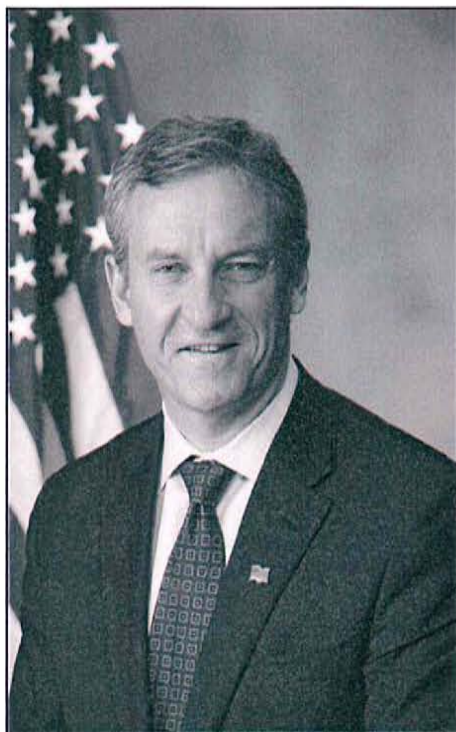
Rep. Cartwright of Moosic, PA was first sworn into Congress in 2013 to represent the 17th District.

Following Commonwealth re-districting, he won election in November 2018 and took office on Jan. 3, 2019 to serve the newly-created 8th District which includes all of Wayne, Pike and Lackawanna Counties and portions of Luzerne and Monroe Counties. (Wayne and Pike Counties were formerly part of the 10th Congressional District.)

Cartwright is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the House Democratic Leadership, including co-chairing the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

He serves as vice-chair on the Commerce-Justice-Science, Financial Services & General Government, and Military Construction-VA Appropriations Subcommittees.

Cartwright has been independently recognized as a leader in gaining co-sponsorships within the House of Representatives for his bills, having introduced over 60 pieces of legislation, including more bipartisan bills than any other House



Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA-8)

Democrat.

On Feb. 14, Rep. Cartwright joined other lawmakers in introducing the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act to prepare Americans against the growing public health effects of climate change.

Prior to coming to Congress, Cartwright worked as an attorney with Munley,

Munley & Cartwright for 25 years.

He is a 1983 *magna cum laude* graduate of Hamilton College with a degree in History and earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Law School in 1986.

He is married to Marion Munley Cartwright and is the father of two sons, Jack and Matthew.

The UDC ceremony at the resort located at 81 Milanville Road in Beach Lake will begin at 3 p.m. with a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar option.

A buffet dinner will be served at 4. The menu includes tossed garden salad, dinner rolls, cheese tortellini vinaigrette, home-style cole slaw, slow-roasted prime rib, baked crusted tilapia, stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes & gravy, long grain and wild rice, glazed baby carrots, and a dessert choice of cheesecake with strawberry puree or brownie a la mode.

Rep. Cartwright will speak at 5 p.m.

Following his address, awards will be presented to individuals, organizations, and agencies who have acted to enhance the quality of life and protect the resources of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley.

The slate of this year's honorees can be found under Latest News at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, along with a reservation form. Advance payment is requested.

To make reservations, please contact Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at (845) 252-3022 or ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Delaware River Basin Restoration Gets \$6 Million Boost

The Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) received \$6 million as part of the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior Appropriations bill approved by Congress and signed by the President on Feb. 15.

This represents a \$1 million increase from last year's first-time funding.

The DRBRP will provide technical assistance and grant funds to address environmental challenges in the 13,500 square-mile Delaware River watershed.

The funding will support local and state governments, and non-profits in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware that are implementing on-the-ground restoration and conservation projects that combat critical issues like habitat degradation, invasive species, and climate change.

Other basin threats are overdevelopment, stormwater runoff, flooding, and

stream erosion.

The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed worked with Congressional allies on the 2016 passage of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act which created the DRBRP.

The program was first funded in FY 2018 at \$5 million and the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund was launched in August 2018 as a result.

Twenty-five grants totaling a little over \$4.1 million were awarded in the inaugural round, with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and their partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to publicly announce those projects after press time on Mar. 22. Visit www.nfwf.org.

Proposals for 2019 are due by April 11.

Matching grants of \$50,000 to \$500,000 each to conserve and restore waters and habitats on public and private land are

available through two programs, Conservation Action Grants and Delaware River Restoration Fund (through the William Penn Foundation) Targeted Implementation & Cornerstone Grants.

"The Upper Delaware River's clean water and prime outdoor recreational opportunities support a growing and increasingly important river-based regional economy in New York State. The Delaware River Basin Restoration Program will invest funds into improving the Upper Delaware, which will safeguard the area's jobs, boost tourism, and ensure this essential resource stays healthy," said Coalition member and Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) Executive Director Jeff Skelding.

The Delaware River Basin generates \$25 billion annually in economic activity, supporting about 600,000 jobs.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from mid-September 2018 to early March 2019, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

UDC FUNDING

After the UDC's full Fiscal Year 2019 budget package for \$300,000 was rejected by the National Park Service Northeast Region Contracting Office due to a newly enforced policy that the funding amount must be isolated to the Continuing Resolution (CR) period when there is no approved federal budget, the Council submitted an 18.63% (\$55,890) request for the 10/1-12/7/18 CR, which was satisfied on 12/18 to pay back expenses since 10/1.

A CR extended the federal government's operation to 12/21, before a 35-day partial shutdown occurred that impacted the NPS from 12/22 to 1/25. The UDC stayed open as a private corporation, relying on its Unrestricted Funds to pay bills. The president signed an omnibus spending bill 2/15.

On 3/5, the UDC submitted paperwork to request execution of Modification 11 to the UDC-NPS Cooperative Agreement which would authorize release of the \$244,110 balance due for FY 19.

The federal funds follow a path from the U.S. Treasury to the Department of the Interior to the National Park Service to the Northeast Region to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River before they are available to the UDC for monthly draw-downs to reimburse expenditures.

BARNES LANDFILL

Outgoing Congressman John Faso (NY-19) sent letters to NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos on 9/12 seeking the DEC's intended course of action regarding leachate containment at the closed Barnes Landfill in the Town of Highland and questioned the NYS Department of Health on 11/26 about the release of residential well sampling data to follow up on ongoing concerns expressed by the UDC and others.

At the initiative of Legislator Nadia Rajs, Sullivan County arranged meetings on 10/18 and 3/15 with NYS DEC officials to discuss potential mitigation strategies. The affected property has no owner of record.

UDC LETTERS

10/26/18 - To Central New York Railroad, with an offer for the UDC to take the lead on overseeing the update of the 1997 "Emergency Response Guide for the Upper Delaware River Valley: Port Jervis to Deposit", after the railroad company reached out to UDC following the Aug. 9 derailment of a New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway freight train on the Southern Tier Line it operates at Hale Eddy and diesel fuel spill into the river.

11/1/18 - To NYS Department of Trans-



NEW BRIDGE: After decades of debate and two years of construction, a 40-ton capacity, \$18.9 million Pond Eddy Bridge (above) replaced the 1904 National Register of Historic Places listed interstate crossing which was demolished in two phases in November 2018. The design attempts to mimic the Petit Truss arch style and bluestone pier treatments, with a single-lane concrete deck instead of the problematic timber planks. The original bridge had been determined structurally deficient in 1993, requiring weight restrictions and numerous emergency repairs. Also in November, the Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge reopened to two-way traffic after completion of a \$6.7 million major rehabilitation project. Since August 2013, traffic had been reduced to a controlled single lane. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

portation, requesting the upgrade of an existing pull-off area along NYS Route 97 in Pond Eddy to serve as an emergency river access for the Lumberland Volunteer Fire Department.

12/21/18 - To New York City Department of Environmental Protection, requesting a presentation on the recommendations to improve the emergency public notification system at Cannonsville Reservoir when the independent study is complete.

12/21/18 - To Sullivan County, asking to be kept apprised of an interest in expanding wireless broadband service into the Delaware River corridor.

1/8/19 - To U.S. Congressmen Matt Cartwright (PA-8) and Antonio Delgado (NY-19), and NYS Senator Jen Metzger, welcoming them to their new positions and requesting meetings to orient them to river valley concerns.

1/15/19 - To all state and federal elected officials representing the bi-state river corridor, transmitting the Briefing Reports for State Operational Funding of the UDC.

2/7/19 - To NYS DEC, support for the Town of Tusten Green Waste Recycling Project grant application.

2/8/19 - To Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, UDC input against a proposal to paint the galvanized steel railings

on the rehabilitated Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge.

2/25/19 - To the Delaware River Master, inquiring about the justifications to count controlled releases from Lake Wallenpaupack and the Rio Reservoir toward the Montague flow target and whether there is consideration of adding upstream gages. (A presentation on this topic was planned for the 4/4 UDC meeting.)

CELL SIGNALS

The UDC reviewed a GIS map produced by NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Community and Land Use Planner Jennifer Claster which depicts all known emergency and communications cellular towers located within five miles of the Upper Delaware boundary to help the UDC identify coverage gaps.

PROJECT REVIEWS

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

Town of Highland: Review of Parcel #27.-9-1 construction and Zoning Code update whose 2019 draft did not substantially conform to Land and Water Use Guidelines.

Damascus Township: Single-family home on Syloro Lane; Deck in a floodplain; Pavilion at First Baptist Church; Joint

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

Comprehensive Plan Update, Floodplain Ordinance Amendment.

Town of Delaware: Zoning Ordinance amendment for solar energy.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Non-UDC meetings included:

10/6, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Councils of the National Parks Conservation Association fall conference in Hancock; 10/12, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Workshop by Wayne Conservation District; 10/16-17, 9th Annual "Water, Water Everywhere" conference by Friends of the Upper Delaware River; 11/1, "Sharing Conservation Strategies in the Upper Delaware River Watershed" by the Pocono-Kittatinny Cluster Partners; 10/24 & 2/6, D&H Transportation Heritage Council; 11/8, 12/18 & 2/19, Subcommittee on Ecological Flows; 10/5, 10/19, 11/2 & 11/9, Pace University Land Use Law Center Land Use Leadership Academy (Resource Specialist Pete Golod); 11/1 & 1/11, Local History Roundtable; 3/11, Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council; and 4th Monday monthly Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

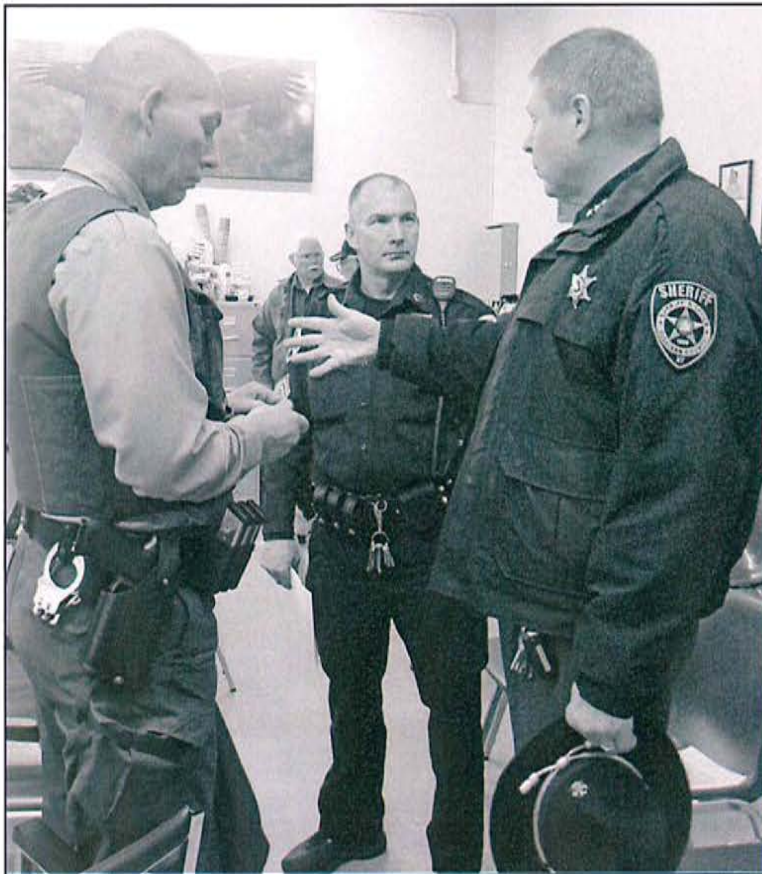
2018-#04: Awarding Technical Assistance Grants for Fiscal Year 2019 (10/4); #05: Approving the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, Narrative and Work Plan (11/1); #06: Approving Fiscal Year 2018 Independent Accountants' Review and IRS Form 990 Tax Return for the Upper Delaware Council (12/6); #07: Enter into a Contract with Eckersley & Ostrowski, LLP, for the Upper Delaware Council's Fiscal Year 2019 Audit (12/6); 2019-#01: Authorizing Signatories for the Council's Bank Accounts in 2019 (1/3); #02: Awarding the Printing of "The Upper Delaware" Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for 2019 (3/7); and #03: Adopting a Budget for the Balance of Fiscal Year 2019" (3/7).

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Elected in January to lead the UDC's three standing committees in 2019 were: Andy Boyar, Water Use/Resource Management; Larry Richardson, Project Review; and Harold Roeder, Jr., Operations.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The UDC will provide input to the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to develop a 5-year park unit strategic plan.



NYC DEP to Build \$34M New Hydroelectric Plant

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Water Supply Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush held a public meeting at the UDC office in Narrowsburg Dec. 14 to announce plans for a scaled-down version of a hydroelectric generating facility at the Cannonsville Reservoir targeted to be in operation by 2025-26.

The original \$72 million proposal calling for a 14-megawatt plant including a 9,000 square-foot powerhouse was deemed "infeasible" after test borings in 2015 nicked an artesian aquifer downstream of the dam, discharging sediments.

The new plan with a \$34 million price tag includes two 3-megawatt generators inside a 4,400 square-foot powerhouse adjacent to the West Delaware Release Chamber.

Harnessing the force of water, the turbines will generate enough renewable electricity to power 3,547 homes and offset 23,666 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.

A new substation will be constructed downstream to introduce the electricity into the grid for sale to NYSEG.

Design work will begin in 2020, with plant construction starting three years later.

Asked by UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie about the cost-effectiveness of investing \$34 million into a 6-megawatt facility, Rush acknowledged, "It's not an economic money-maker but it does generate clean energy."

In 2014, the Delaware County Electric Cooperative applied to build a hydroelectric plant at Cannonsville but Rush said NYC wants to "control that asset and we will be the ones developing that energy."

Cannonsville Reservoir releases will be shut down for approximately one month during the construction phase. That would have been five months originally. DEP will attempt to pump some water into the spillway to make up for that.

Licensed Fishing Guide Sam Decker expressed concern over the timing of the shutdown for construction.

"We want to do it at a time with the least overall impact. We are committed to work with communities and interest groups to determine that," Rush responded.

While the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had licensed the original project in 2014, this smaller facility may qualify for a license exemption. Environmental permitting procedures still apply, however, including a Section 7 review under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Cannonsville Reservoir has a 96 billion gallon capacity.

POLICING HELP: The Upper Delaware Council hosted a Dec. 4 meeting to bring the National Park Service and Upper Delaware communities together to discuss the history and status of federal funding assistance for law enforcement. Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief Ranger Larry D. Neal, Jr., left, who subsequently retired on Dec. 31, 2018 after starting here as an Interpretive Ranger in May 1990, Town of Lumberland Constable Bob Maas, center, and Sullivan County Undersheriff Eric Chaboty, right, were among the 25 attendees to discuss the regulatory and practical challenges of administering the program, and the findings of a report commissioned by the UDC which revealed that while NPS disbursed over \$3,124,144 cumulatively from 1980-2018, as of 2018, only one contract for \$3,221 remained active with the Town of Deepark Police Department. NPS funding assistance to volunteer dive teams, fire departments, and rescue squads ceased in 2011. Superintendent Kristina Heister reported at the Mar. 7 UDC meeting that one 2019 law enforcement contract for \$11,000 was awarded to Deepark and that Sean McNeil is serving as Acting Chief Ranger through June as the position is advertised. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

New Report Traces Roots of Prosperity In Upper Delaware

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has released a new report, "Making Connections: Roots of Prosperity in New York and Pennsylvania's Upper Delaware River Region."

Twin launch events took place Oct. 11 at the Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) office in Hancock, NY and at The Cooperage Project in Honesdale, PA.

Speakers included Upper Delaware Council 2018 Chairperson Aaron Robinson, NPS Superintendent Kristina Heister, FUDR Executive Director Jeff Skelding, and The Cooperage Project Executive Director Ryanne Jennings.

"The stories in the Making Connections report illustrate a vision for growing the region's economic vitality - building on area traditions that value scenic beauty, clean air and water, and small friendly communities," said Joy Oakes, senior regional director for NPCA.

"The decline of manufacturing industries across the country has pushed communi-



MAKING CONNECTIONS: The National Parks Conservation Association released an economic report for the Upper Delaware River Region on Oct. 11. Tatiana Orlov, formerly the Northeast Region manager, principal author Michele Archie of The Harbinger Consultancy, and Senior Regional Director Joy Oakes, discuss its findings in Hancock. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

ties to invest in new strategies for economic development and growth. Strong partnerships and productive collaboration

among community leaders are vital for the region's bright future and for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River," she added.

Recommendations in the report for expanding upon existing opportunities and for the future include:

- Update the Land and Water Use Guidelines, developed collaboratively more than 30 years ago, which help guide local development decisions within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's narrow 73-mile-long corridor;
- Invest in the river's long-term economic vitality and compatible economic activities that benefit local businesses and communities;
- Develop and market a regional brand for the area's natural resources to reach new audiences;
- Support collaborative community forums to promote storytelling, idea-sharing and to curate experiences and destinations for visitors.

"We can attract more visitors together than we do separately," said Nancy Furdock, creator of DestinationHancock.com and vice-chair of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. "We can learn from other parts of this region about understanding and properly marketing to our visitors. While tourism can bring us a lot, in the winter when all the visitors go home, it's the locals that make the economy tick."

The report, available at www.npca.org/upperdelaware, was informed by research done by the Harbinger Consultancy and NPCA, including a survey and interviews with local residents.



CLIMATE SMART: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has designated the Town of Tusten as a bronze-certified Climate Smart Community. DEC Regional Director Kelly Turturro, left, presented Tusten Town Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert, center, and Tusten Energy Committee Chairperson and Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, with a street sign on Sept. 26, 2018 at the Big Eddy Observation Deck in Narrowsburg. Tusten has installed a solar array to supply power for all town buildings and facilities at no cost to taxpayers and is replacing all of its street lights with energy-efficient LED lights. Additionally, the town has educated residents about environmental dangers of plastic bags and plastic straws, and provided free tote bags made of recycled material to each household. Town leaders also spoke to every restaurant in town about replacing plastic straws. They have labeled every trash receptacle with "Tusten Recycles" stickers and observe a robust recycling program at government facilities. As a result of these efforts, Tusten has achieved "carbon neutral" status by reducing its carbon footprint. Visit www.climatesmart.ny.gov for information on the Climate Smart Communities Program. (Contributed Photo by Isabel Braverman, Sullivan County Democrat)

Presentations Enlighten UDC Board, Public

Educational presentations at recent Upper Delaware Council meetings expanded knowledge on a variety of subjects.

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service: James Brewster, the Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) based in Binghamton, NY, presented at the Oct. 4, 2018 UDC meeting after the UDC wrote to his office with comments about proposed changes in flood categories for two Delaware River gages.

Brewster demonstrated the functions of the water.weather.gov/ahps website at which the NWS uses river forecast models to estimate the amount of runoff a precipitation event generates, compute how the water will move downstream, and then predict the flow of water at any given location throughout the forecast period.

As the event unfolds and actual reports of precipitation amounts become available, the forecast values are replaced with observed amounts. Other factors are snowmelt, base flow/groundwater, reservoir operations, and routed water from upstream. This information leads to the issuance of flood watches and warnings to the public.

Upper Delaware Bat Community: National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Biologist Jessica Newbern gave an update on the status of tree bats and roosting species in the Upper Delaware River Valley at the Nov. 1, 2018 UDC meeting.

Bats reproduce annually and live 5-15 years in the wild and up to 30 years in captivity. They use echolocation to navigate and communicate, and are the only mammal that can fly. Threats to their survival are White Nose Syndrome, wind energy, and habitat loss.

Newbern described the bat monitoring program underway in the Upper Delaware since 2008. Techniques include inventories, mobile and stationary acoustic monitoring, mist netting, and emergence counts. 2017 data showed Big Brown and Eastern Red bats as the most prevalent species locally. Maternity roosts were studied at the Lackawaxen Post Office (501 bats) and Cochecon Train Station (64).

NPS has been awarded a \$114,000 grant to partner with East Stroudsburg University for a 2019-2021 project that will include a citizen science project, testing bats for exposure to the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome, banding or radiotelemetry to find hibernacula, and additional mist netting surveys and mobile acoustic transects.

Delaware State Forest: UDC Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Representative Tim Dugan, who is the District Forester for the Delaware State Forest with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, addressed the board on Dec. 6, 2018.

Dugan reported that his agency is undertaking a 5-10 year update of the Delaware State Forest Resource Management Plan.

There are 2.2 million acres of State Forest land across 49 of PA's counties.

The Delaware Forest District encompasses all of Pike and Monroe Counties with nearly 645,000 acres of both public and private forest land.

Electronic comments can be submitted on the draft plan available at www.dcnr.pa.gov under State Forests: Delaware.

Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution: Keith Pierson, Resource Conservationist at the Wayne Conservation District, came to the Jan. 3, 2019 UDC



BAT EXPERT: Jessica Newbern, biologist with the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, displays a hoary bat in this image taken from her Nov. 1st Power Point presentation to the UDC. (Contributed Photo by Jessica Newbern)

meeting to explain and show examples of problems caused by water erosion and deposit sedimentation issues.

Wayne Conservation District works with farmers, construction companies, businesses and residents to seek voluntary compliance with environmental regulations and best management practices. Education is a big priority of their mission.

Various techniques and materials to stabilize banks, avoid a sediment build-up, and discharge of pollutants were discussed.

Rapid Flow & Thermal Stress Relief: At the Jan. 15 meeting of the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee, Dr. Peter Kolesar of Eldred and Jim Serio of Hancock offered a presentation on their roles as volunteer, non-reserved members of the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF).

The mission of SEF is to provide "scientific and technical information and advice about the effects of flow management programs on habitat and ecological health [of the Delaware River]" to the Delaware River Basin Commission's Regulated Flow Advisory Committee.

By May 31, 2019, SEF is tasked with evaluating two aspects of the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program: the Rapid Flow Change Mitigation Bank and the Thermal Mitigation Bank. Drastic reductions in releases can be experienced in order for the Delaware River Master to achieve the target flow of 1,750 cubic feet per second at the Montague gage set under the 1954 Supreme Court Decree. Thermal mitigation is called for when the river temperature tops 75 degrees.

Modeling and statistical analysis is underway to develop recommendations to protect the coldwater fishery and ecosystem.

Spotted Lanternfly: Penn State Department of Entomology Spotted Lanternfly Associate Heather Leach continued sounding the alarm over this invasive pest native to Asia and currently found in southeastern PA at the Feb. 7 UDC meeting.

Leach showed the SLF insect in its various life stages and explained its pattern of movement as "a good hitchhiker".

Though not harmful to humans, SLF feed on sap, attacking grapes, fruit trees, hops, Tree of Heaven, and 70 plant species, leaving them vulnerable and causing economic damage.

Insecticide and natural enemy trials are potential defenses. Quarantine zones have been established at infected areas to help prevent the spread. Call 1-888-4BADFLY to report sightings and search "Spotted Lanternfly" on-line for information.



PRETTY PEST: Spotted Lanternfly Extension Associate Heather Leach from Penn State said in her Feb. 7 presentation that the attractiveness of the invasive pest belies the threat that it poses. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

FUNDING, continued from Page 1

justifications, and hardships caused by the funding situation.

The UDC's Congressionally-designated role as the driving force that coordinates implementation of the River Management Plan and oversees the federal-state-local partnership's division of collaborative management responsibilities has endured for 31 years on an annual contribution of \$300,000 from the National Park Service.

The fact that neither Pennsylvania nor New York has ever appropriated their anticipated \$100,000 contributions makes the UDC wholly reliant on that one source which has never adjusted for inflation, is inconsistently accessible, and its use is restricted by federal regulations.

Existing programs, staffing levels, and any expansion of services to address emerging needs in the river corridor have been curtailed in response.

The UDC delegation reinforced in its meetings that both states ratified their support for the River Management Plan.

In New York, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Thomas J. Jorling on Jan. 29, 1988 agreeing to establish the UDC, with a letter stating, "We stand ready to assist with this important endeavor through our participation in the Council as well as through our ongoing program responsibilities."

This was followed by the issuance of Executive Order No. 169: Directing State Agencies to Act Consistently with the Upper Delaware River Management Plan, signed on March 22, 1993 by Gov. Mario Cuomo and reaffirmed by every succeeding governor to the present day.

In Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Resources Secretary Arthur A. Davis signed the UDC MOU on Feb. 18, 1988, followed by Governor Robert P. Casey issuing Executive Order No. 1989-2 on Feb. 16, 1989 directing that "state agencies shall act consistently with the goals, policies, and objectives of the Upper Delaware Scenic River Management



New York State Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch, right, enjoys a laugh with Aaron Robinson, left, and Harold Roeder, Jr., during a Feb. 7 visit to his 122nd District office in Binghamton. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Plan...". On July 19, 2003, it was added permanently to the Pennsylvania Code.

Newly-elected NYS Senator Jen Metzger (D-42) said, "You make a strong case."

Assemblyman Cliff Crouch (R-122), in office since 1995, said, "You've got my support. It's kind of sinful that we're not liv-

ing up to our obligations for such a small amount of money. New York State can't be a partner in name only."

PA Rep. Fritz (R-111) said of working with Rep. Mike Peifer (R-139), "You have two people going to bat for you."

Executive Branch meetings are next.

BioBlitz Identifies 881 Unique Species

The final report of findings from the 2018 Upper Delaware BioBlitz, which took place on June 29-30 in Starlight, PA, was released mid-December.

Over 55 scientists and amateur naturalists converged on a 63.5-acre property owned by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation which is bordered by the Shehawken Creek, the West Branch and Main Stems of the Delaware River, and State Rt. 191 in Wayne County, PA.

They collected, identified and catalogued living things visible to the naked eye over a 24-hour period. Some 250 visitors participated in public programs coordinated by 45 volunteers on Day 2.

During the event, 881 unique species were identified. The teams identified 42 first occurrences for Wayne County, adding considerable biological data and field research for this area of the Upper Delaware watershed.

Given that this site had hosted the 2013 BioBlitz when 1,022 species were identified, records of new or repeat

species were gained.

The 2018 counts were: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (insects, mussels, snails),

111; Birds, 61; Botany (plants), 209; Bryology (mosses, lichens, liverworts), 119; Fish, 29; Fungi (mushrooms & molds), 61; Herps (reptiles & amphibians), 15; Invertebrates (terrestrial insects, worms, snails), 258; and Mammals, 18.

The first occurrences were 41 by the Bryology team and one by the Fungi team.

A detailed collection inventory can be found on-line at www.upperdelawarebioblitz.com. There is also a photo gallery, and list of sponsors and funding contributors.

The Upper Delaware Council exhibited at the event.



TREES PREMIERE: A theater piece by the NACL Streets company titled "Trees" debuted at the Upper Delaware BioBlitz. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)



Meeting with New York State Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther on Feb. 25 in her 100th District Office in Monticello were, from the left: Harold Roeder, Jr., Aaron Robinson, Larry Richardson, and Al Henry.



TICK-FIGHTER: The humble opossum's role in helping to rid the world of nasty ticks is not well-understood. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

Give Opossums a Brake!

By Pete Golod, UDC Resource Specialist

As spring descends upon the Upper Delaware the days slowly grow longer, bringing warmer nights and with it more wildlife such as white-tailed deer fawns, black bear foraging after their winter hibernation, and various nocturnal foragers.

These critters can be seen all along the Upper Delaware River corridor, especially on or crossing our roadways. One of these slow-moving nocturnal foragers essential to the ecosystem of the Upper Delaware is the opossum.

In 2017, 11,900 cases of Lyme disease were recorded in Pennsylvania and over the last six years the state has ranked highest in the nation for confirmed cases of Lyme disease in the U.S., while in New York State, just over half of adult deer ticks collected carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

To combat this unprecedented explosion in tick populations, we spray our land and lay down tick pesticides while spraying down ourselves and our pets with toxic chemicals prior to stepping outdoors in hopes to prevent tick-borne diseases.

Although not always viewed as 'cute' or 'cuddly', the opossum carries the stigma of an ugly, rabies-infested rodent, which is furthest from the truth. In fact, opossums are mostly immune to rabies and are not even rodents. Opossums are marsupials (pouched mammals) similar to kangaroos and koala bears. They have even been scientifically classified as North America's oldest species of mammal, having waddled past the dinosaurs!

However, what makes the opossum essential to our ecosystem is its diet.

Richard Ostfeld, of the Cary Institute for Ecosystems Studies in Millbrook, NY, is a forest ecologist and expert on the environmental elements of infectious diseases. In 2014 he and several scientists conducted a study on opossum and their diet. It was discovered that aside from eating carrion, insects, eggs, plants, fruits and grain, one opossum can kill and eat some 5,000 ticks in a single season! They also dine on other pests such as snails, slugs, beetles, cockroaches, and rats.

So, the next time you see an opossum skulking about, especially on our roads, slow down, give them a 'brake', and let them pass... for every opossum that becomes a fatality is one less soldier in the fields on the war on ticks.

Save August 4 for the UDC Family Raft Trip

Join the Upper Delaware Council for the 31st Annual Family Raft Trip on Sunday, August 4.

This year's paddle will be an eight-mile river section from the Ten Mile River Access to Kittatinny Canoes Luke's Landing Base.

Rendezvous between 9-10 a.m. at Kittatinny Canoes' Adventure Center in Barryville. Following check-in, board a shuttle up to the TMR access to start the journey. Rafts, paddles, life vests, and safety instructions will be provided.

Minimum occupancy per raft is four people. Parties of less than four can be matched at the UDC's discretion.

The deeply discounted price is \$29 per adult and \$19 per children ages 5-12.

Provide the number and names of all adult/child guests and an email address.

Reservations with advance payment are requested by July 26. Contact Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at (845) 252-3022, ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org or see the form with details on the UDC website.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

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

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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'

'Save the Monarch' Hancock Earth Day

The Hancock Community Education Foundation will host a Save the Monarch Earth Day Event on April 27 at the Robert W. Nichol Nature Preserve and Science Center, 404 West Main St., Hancock.

It starts with a volunteer clean-up of the 4.1-acre preserve from 9-10 a.m., with equipment and refreshments provided.

Free workshops will focus on Monarch Education at 10 a.m. and How to Raise Monarch Butterflies at Home at 10:30.

Free activities from 10-12 include planting milkweed seeds and butterfly bushes, making seed bombs to take home, and painting hand-created butterflies.

The documentary film, "Flight of the Butterflies", which explores the migratory routes to Mexico, will be shown at Hancock Cinemas located diagonally across from the Nature Center property at 1 p.m.

Nature trails will be open all day, and Brooks Chicken BBQ will be on site as of 11:30 a.m. (\$7 half-chicken or \$10 dinner).

Call (607) 637-5262 for information or to pre-order the barbecue before it sells out.

NCSP Marks 40 Years

The National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP) is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its 1979 founding this year.

NCSP patrollers have been responsible for literally thousands of rescues, including life-saving responses, on the Delaware.

Anyone interested in joining this fulfilling volunteer endeavor must participate in the Spring Training session which will take place May 3-5 at Luke's Landing, Cedar Rapids, and Shohola Rapids in Barryville.

Camping will be at Kittatinny Canoes Campground. To request the itinerary, contact NCSP Secretary Chuck Haupt at (607) 785-4054 or chaupt@me.com, or visit www.NationalCanoeSafetyPatrol.com.

25th River Sojourn Set

The Delaware River Sojourn welcomes paddlers to join from June 14-22 or any portion of that period under the theme of "Celebrating Our 25th Sojourn".

In the Upper Delaware section, optional camping will be at the NPS Zane Grey Museum grounds in Lackawaxen, PA Friday through Sunday nights.

There will be a Volunteer River Clean-up

with the National Park Service on June 14, 1-5 p.m., Skinners Falls to Narrowsburg.

The June 15 paddle will be from Narrowsburg to the Zane Grey Access. On June 16, the route is from Zane Grey to Knights Eddy. The June 17 paddle starts at Knights Eddy and ends at West End Beach in Port Jervis.

Shuttles, programs, and many meals are provided. The cost is \$80/day adults and \$50/day children 15 and under, with a one-time \$5 American Canoe Association insurance fee for non-members.

Northeast Wilderness Experience provides livery services.

Visit www.delawareriversojourn.com.

D&H Canal Bus Tour

Planning for a Spring Bus Tour tracing the route of the D&H Canal between Lackawaxen and Port Jervis is underway. Visit www.dhthc.org for details.

Battle of Minisink July 20

The Revolutionary War's Battle of Minisink will be commemorated on July 20 at 4 p.m. at the Sullivan County Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY.