

The Upper Delaware

The quarterly newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River

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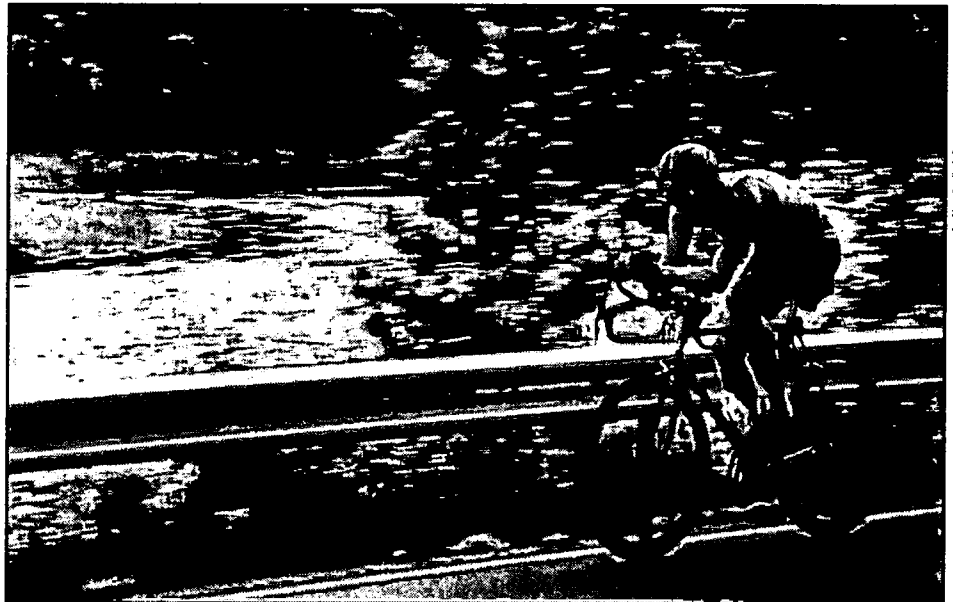
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The Upper Delaware
welcomes submissions and
new subscribers (free)!

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on Page 7. Thank you.



A bicyclist pedals past a stunning view of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River along State Route 97 in the Town of Highland area. A grassroots committee recently began deliberations to nominate Route 97 as a New York State Scenic Byway. (Photo by David B. Soete)

Route 97 Studied As Scenic Byway

It may be no accident that a glossy color photo of the famous Hawks Nest section of Route 97 graces the full page back cover of an official New York State Scenic Byways brochure.

As early as a year from now, that apparent case of wishful thinking could become reality.

A panel representing communities along the 75-mile highway that largely parallels the Delaware River from Hancock to Port Jarvis began meeting in February to initiate the work necessary to designate Route 97 as a Scenic Byway.

Sullivan County, in which six of the eight affected towns are located, has taken the lead in coordinating the committee. Delaware County's Town of Hancock, Orange County's Town of Deerpark/City of Port Jarvis, the Upper Delaware Council, the National Park Service, and the River Valley

Visioning Committee have also been invited to participate.

The Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development secured a \$120,000 grant from the NYS Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration to hire a consultant to assist the local committee in preparing the nomination and drafting a "corridor management plan" unique to Route 97.

Proposals were received from seven firms by the March 7 deadline and were being reviewed as this issue went to press.

The New York State Scenic Byways Program defines a scenic byway this way:

"It is a road corridor which is of regionally outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic or archaeological significance. These corridors offer an alternative travel route to our major highways and

Please see "BYWAY" on Page 6

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

Representative Profile: Larry Richardson



Larry H. Richardson, right, representative for the Town of Cochection, pledges his oath of office as Secretary/Treasurer of the Upper Delaware Council. Town of Delaware Supervisor William Moran, left, officiated at the Jan. 6, 2000 swearing-in ceremony. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Since 1989, Larry Richardson has represented the Town of Cochection on the Upper Delaware Council while variously filling every officers' role over the years.

Richardson was sworn in as the UDC's 2000 Secretary/Treasurer in January after serving in that same capacity ten years earlier. In 1993, he was elected chairperson of the Council after a term as vice-chairperson in 1992.

While the titles may have changed, Richardson's primary focus has remained the same.

"My role continues to be looking out for the private landowner in the town. It's a balance to mesh that with trying to preserve the river and expand the public's right to use it. I think the challenges now are going to come as people become aware of just what a treasure this river is," he says.

A man with strong local roots, Richardson grew up in Ferndale, attended Liberty High School, graduated in 1968 from Sullivan County Community College, built a house in Cochection, and settled down with his wife, Peggy, to raise their family.

Diverse jobs found Richardson working at a poultry farm, managing a commercial egg producing facility, serving as a mason's apprentice, and selling insurance before he entered the plumbing supplies field at Sullivan County Wholesalers.

Richardson began employment in 1991 with Yaun Company, first in the plumbing department, then as a purchasing agent. In 1998, he was promoted to the newly created position of Vice-President of Sales and Service, responsible for the daily opera-

tions of the plumbing, heating, and electrical distributorship that has business offices in Liberty, Albany, and New Paltz.

"I'm a people person and I enjoy interacting with customers," he notes.

Richardson also plays a leadership role in his community. He was elected in 1996 and 2000 to the Cochection Town Board after devoting eight years to the Planning Board, and is the town's deputy supervisor. Richardson represents Yaun Co. on the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development and looks out for Cochection's interests on the Route 97 Scenic Byways Committee.

In 1992, Richardson helped found the Cochection Preservation Society, dedicated to the restoration of the historic Erie Railroad Depot. He is the group's treasurer. Richardson is also a director of the Fosterdale Cemetery Association Board and member of the town Democratic Club.

Richardson was presented in 1998 with the Tom Hill Award for Excellence in Public Service by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance. It was a significant honor for Richardson because of his respect for the late Town of Lumberland supervisor as one of the Upper Delaware's "early visionaries" from whom he learned a great deal.

In his spare time, Richardson is an enthusiastic vegetable gardener who also enjoys hunting and woodworking.

He and Peggy, married for 32 years, have two children. Russell, 23, is a web site designer and Internet company manager who resides in Binghamton. Daughter Erin, 16, is a junior at Sullivan West's Narrowsburg campus.

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Water Snapshot 2000 Underway April 14-30

Individuals and groups throughout the Delaware River Basin will take a "snapshot" of the quality of its waters during the annual sampling event April 14 to 30.

Water Snapshot 2000 is coordinated by the Delaware River Basin Commission with co-sponsors including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, representatives from the four basin states, the Pocono Environmental Education Center and the Upper Delaware Council.

This will be the sixth year that volunteers from around the basin collect water samples to test for such parameters as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, phosphates, and turbidity.

Visual assessments are also desired from those without access to testing kits.

To obtain data collection forms to participate in Water Snapshot for one or more days, contact Robert Kausch at the DRBC, (609) 883-9500, ext. 252. The UDC will also have forms available to the public.

Volunteers to Clean Up Canal Trail April 28 & 29

The public is invited to join the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on April 28 and 29 to clear brush from the D & H Canal Trail along the Delaware River bank.

The trail on the New York side of the Roebling Bridge was carved out of thick brush along the old canal towpath over the past two years by volunteers and NPS staff. Refreshments, lunch, and a certificate of appreciation are provided.

Volunteers should report to the Minisink Ford site either or both days at 8:30 a.m. for registration. An orientation and safety briefing will follow. Work sessions will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. with a break for lunch in between.

Starting at 3 p.m., volunteers can take advantage of free tours of the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen as part of a special "April in Pike County" promotion.

Wear appropriate clothing for working with brush along with gloves, sturdy shoes, and a hat for sun protection. Please bring clippers if possible.

This project celebrates National Park Week, National Volunteer Week, April in Pike County, and Earth Day.

Co-sponsors include the New York State Department of Transportation, Town of Highland, Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, Friends of the Roebling Bridge, and Upper Delaware Council.

Please register in advance for the Canal Trail Clean-up by calling (570) 729-8251.

UDC Awards Banquet Features Sen. Bonacic

The 12th Annual Upper Delaware Council Awards Banquet on Sunday, April 30, will bestow honors in 10 categories to those who have protected resources or contributed to the quality of life in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley during the past year.

A 2 p.m. social hour at Silvio's Restaurant in Jeffersonville, NY will be followed by a buffet dinner, a keynote address by New York State Senator John J. Bonacic, and the awards ceremony. The cost is \$20 per person and reservations are required.

Look for complete coverage in the next issue of *The Upper Delaware*.

Watershed Education Summit Flows Toward the Millennium

A conference for middle and high school students May 7-9 will focus on research and activities in the Delaware River Watershed.

The 2000 Student Leadership Summit dubbed "Flowing Toward the Millennium" will be held at the Tuscarora Inn, Mount Bethel, Pa. Sponsors are the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of State Parks, Delaware River Basin Commission, Wildlands Conservancy, and Easton Area High School.

Activities will include a bike and canoe experience on the Lehigh River May 7; discussions, exhibits, and student presentations May 8; and seminars for teachers and students May 9.

Schools are encouraged to send teams of approximately six students to represent their watersheds. The cost of \$100 per person includes lodging, meals, field trips, and conference activities.

For information, call PA Bureau of State Parks Delaware River Basin Coordinator Estelle Ruppert at (610) 796-3688 or visit the DRBC website at www.state.nj.us/drbc.

UDHA Hosts Bus Trip

The Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance is sponsoring a bus trip to the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park, NY on Saturday, May 20.

Departure will be from Narrowsburg at 8:30 a.m. with an expected return of 7:30 p.m. The \$25 tickets cover transportation, all admissions, and guided tours. Lunch is extra. Reservations are required by April 14. Call UDHA President Laurie Ramie at (914) 252-3022 or (914) 887-4585.

River Clean-up Week Set

National River Cleanup Week will be observed June 3-10 this year.

Each year National River Cleanup Week promotes the importance of keeping rivers and streams clean, and encourages cleanups of local waterways. In 1999, more than 30,000 volunteers took part in the experience coordinated by America Outdoors.

Local groups can obtain information on how to conduct a successful river cleanup as well as free trash bags if their cleanups fall during the specified week. An instructional video is also available for \$9.95.

To register your clean-up or find out more, contact America Outdoors at (423) 558-3595 or e-mail amoutdoors@aol.com.

Delaware River Sojourn To "Set Sail" June 17-24

For the first time, Delaware River Sojourn canoeists will have the opportunity to extend their trip through the Delaware River Estuary and meet up with Tall Ships taking part in a maritime celebration.

The 6th Annual Delaware River Sojourn spotlights the natural, cultural, and historic attributes of the river and its tributaries in an effort to promote stewardship.

A consortium of agencies, community groups, non-profit organizations, businesses, and paddling enthusiasts from four basin states partner to coordinate the Sojourn activities.

Representatives of each river section plan logistics for two days of the overall Sojourn, including launch and take-out sites, educational programs, overnight camping, and some provided meals.

A "Day 0" on Friday, June 16, will include registration for earlybirds and a special tour of the Cannonsville Reservoir by limited reservation.

The Upper Delaware dates are Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18. The Sojourn will continue through the Middle Delaware on the 19th and 20th, the Lower Delaware on the 21st and 22nd, and the Estuary on the 23rd and 24th.

On Saturday, June 24, plans are in the works for the Sojourn to meet up with "OpSail Philadelphia 2000" which will feature more than 50 sailing vessels from around the world gathering at the Delaware River port from June 23-29 for ship visitations, parades, fireworks, and entertainment.

Delaware River Sojourn details and registration instructions may be accessed online at www.nps.gov/upde/sojourn or contact 2000 Sojourn Chairperson Sandra Schultz at (570) 729-8251.

Delaware River Striped Bass Size Limit Raises Questions

By Philip D. Chase, Town of Deerpark UDC Representative

The Upper Delaware River corridor may not have any Loch Ness monsters below its surface, but there are monstrous bass lurking in many of its deepest pools from Sparrowbush to Hancock.

This "true bass" is the striped bass and has the unique ability to successfully live in fresh water lakes, rivers, and salt water habitats.

In the Upper Delaware, the striper presents a lot of questions that are presently answered only by speculation due to a lack of scientific data.

What is the migration pattern and the feasibility of upstream reproduction? What danger do striped bass pose to existing populations of small mouth bass, walleyes, trout and migrating juvenile shad? What is their niche as a sport fish?

The most often-asked question: Why is there a 28-inch size limit in the Delaware yet a 20-inch limit in all PA inland waters and an 18-inch limit in the Hudson River?

The robust striped bass population of the coastal states is hailed as a great victory attributed to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). This organization, made up of 15 coastal states from Maine to Florida, sets bag and size limits for both recreation and commercial catches. Surprisingly, recreational catches are double those of commercial. The ASMFC's present major concern is the increased protection of the eight-year-old (28 inches and above) bass stock.

Pollution Took Toll

Historically, according to a study done by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife headed by Dr. Desmond Kahn, striped bass in the 1870's were common enough in the Delaware River to the point of endangering American shad and proposed salmon stocking.

The stripers' demise was due to the intense pollution in the early 20th century by the large cities in the Philadelphia area.

Significant recovery of the striper was not noted until the late 1980's when major sewage treatment plants were upgraded to tertiary treatment, according to a 1988 article by Richard C. Albert of the Delaware River Basin Commission. By this time the dissolved oxygen block had been broken.

Up to this point, stripers' activity was pretty quiet. Even New York State's



Supermarket assistant manager Ken Gobel of Port Jervis, NY displays the 36-lb., 44 1/2" striped bass that he landed on Aug. 27, 1996 while fishing the Upper Delaware River. The hefty catch is mounted on driftwood. (Photo by Phil Chase)

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had their doubts of authenticity when large stripers were being caught.

Proof In The Catch

Eel rack fishermen had long known of the stripers' presence.

"When we were kids 55 years ago, stripers had to be tossed back from the traps. They'd go over the wings and normally not be trapped," recall Bud and Jim Malzahn of Sparrowbush.

One of the first expert fishermen of the stripers was Ken Gobel of Port Jervis. Goble, a long-time walleye, musky, trout and bass fisherman of the Delaware, started his striper success in the early '90s.

"I had a three-foot striper swim by me while fly fishing for trout. A few evenings later I caught an 18-inch striper on a fly rod. These are eating machines whether it's small mouth, chubs, walleyes or trout. Shad fry are also part of their diet in the fall. I usually catch them when they are actively feeding and use artificial lures 100% of the time," states Gobel.

Most of his success is from late August into October. Gobel caught a 36-lb. striper on August 27, 1996 with heavy tackle.

"The average bass rig won't land a large striper," Gobel says.

The night of his 36-pounder, Gobel lost a larger fish that he couldn't handle. His tackle is a light surf rod, 300 yards of 30 lb. mono.

As with all the anglers interviewed, Gobel believes that the 28-inch size limit for striped bass in the Delaware should be decreased to 18 inches such as it is on the Hudson River.

"When people have to release eight to 10 pound fish as undersized, it's unrealistic," Gobel says. "The honest person is penalized in his sport. It would be great to keep a few smaller fish."

Gobel has caught about 150 stripers with about three dozen 25 to 30 inches and about 10 legal length to 44.5 inches, with the majority "schoolies" of 18 to 24 inches.

"I have a friend who uses bait and catches more than I do," he says. Bait includes chubs, sunfish, and eels. "I haven't found anything in their bellies. I think the bass regurgitate any fish during the fight."

The Trout Connection

Ken Schultz, a fishing editor for *Field and Stream* and author of the recently published *Fishing Encyclopedia: World Wide Fishing Guide*, hails from Forestburgh, NY.

"I'm not certain if the stripers in the Delaware eat trout but out West in large reservoirs, lures that look like trout are pretty successful. The hybrid stripers stocked in the Mongaup system were eating machines. They are voracious eaters and did a job on the alewives, reducing the food for eagles. These Delaware bass are not hybrids but they are very fond of her-

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rings and I would assume this would be a fabulous opportunity to eat shad. I don't believe there has been any tagging done up here that would verify whether they are resident or not," Schultz states.

One of Pennsylvania's 10 elected Fish Commissioners, Leon Reed of Honesdale, claims the Upper Delaware is the finest trout stream in the East and notes, "I'd like to see the size limit on striped bass dropped to 15 inches."

Quick to be pointed out by upstream tackle shops in the Hancock area is the 1996 economic study by Trout Unlimited and the American Sportsfishing Association which showed \$17.69 million spent by anglers in the area on trout fishing. The spinoff effects based on angler visitation was nearly \$30 million.

Biologists in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware have shown great interest in the stripers of the Upper Delaware. It's easy to sense the excitement by these scientists when discussing the beliefs and concerns of the anglers and guides of the Delaware. Public comment is sought but scientifically, it's difficult to evaluate. Cooperation by the four state fishery agencies is enthusiastic and excellent.

Locals Share Thoughts

Through direct interviews and e-mails, the following statements represent thoughts collected from Upper Delaware fishing guides, tackle shop owners, and even snorkelers on this subject.

- Everyone interviewed believes the 28-inch size limit is unrealistic and should be lowered to that of the Hudson River's 18-inches.
- The stripers are here to stay but should be better managed by size and limit.
- Stripers have been caught and observed feeding on trout in both the East and West Branches of the Delaware.
- Anglers have had stripers strike at hooked bass, sunfish, and trout.
- State Trooper Bob Russell has caught 22, 28, and 29 lb. stripers at the Mongaup.
- Snorkelers claim to have seen 48-inch striped bass at the Mongaup and no rainbows for the last few years.
- Fishing guide Joe Demalderis and clients caught 106 stripers between Mongaup and Ten Mile River on flies during the 1996 season.
- Stripers have been caught in the Lackawaxen River with trout in them.
- Some of the fishermen firmly believe the striper is like the non-migrating Canada Geese in that they've found a home.
- Some fishermen believe the striper successfully spawns in the Upper Delaware.
- A number of expert fishermen agree that stripers have decimated the trout and chubs at the mouth of the Mongaup.

- Few stripers hit during daylight hours.
- If trout concentrate at the mouths of brooks due to high river temperatures, they are easy targets for stripers.
- Two expert fishermen believe stocking of striped bass appears to be a factor in the increase.

A dramatic 94% drop in the Delaware shad spring passage count at Lambertville, NJ (from 392,700 in '98 to 24,700 in 1999) may correlate to the predation of shad juveniles by striped bass. The decrease seems to baffle the states' biologists, many of whom blame it on overfishing.

No one is pointing to the striper as the main factor, yet on the Connecticut River where there has been a drastic decline in shad, one hypothesis points to that river's significant increase of striped bass over 28 inches. Scientists theorize that the stripers could have easily reduced the shad numbers by one million or more fish each year.

Stocking and Tagging

There is no evidence of direct stocking of the Delaware River although between 1983 and 1995, approximately 11.2 million juvenile (Age 0) hatchery striped bass were released adjacent to coastal areas of NY, MD, VA, and DE. All were tagged with binary coded, magnetic wire tags. One large female striped bass may deposit up to 4.5 million eggs. The females mature at eight to nine years of age while the males mature in their second or third year.

The Wallenpaupack and Raystown are two fresh water lakes in Pennsylvania that have been stocked. Raystown boasts the state record, caught on trout, a favorite productive bait from a nearby hatchery.

PA Fish and Boat Commission Chief of Fishery Management Dick Snyder claims the 53 to 54-lb. striped bass would have taken a large creek chub but that trout are a convenient bait at Raystown. Snyder believes that the striped bass of the Delaware follow the shad upstream and complete the cycle back to Delaware Bay.

There has been an excellent tagging program in the lower Delaware by DE and PA biologists.

Population Restored

A study headed by Dr. Desmond Kahn of Delaware in 1998 concluded that the Delaware River striped bass stock should be declared restored by both the Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative and the ASMFC, and can safely be fished at rates at or below the targets developed for Atlantic Coast striped bass.

Kahn states, "I would expect the large striped bass in the Upper Delaware to have already spawned in the lower Delaware and then followed the herring up river. Gizzard shad can be eaten by a decent size striped bass."

As to the possibilities of striped bass becoming residents of the Upper Delaware, Kahn says, "There is nothing that contradicts this. It's believed the Susquehanna has some large striped bass staying year-round."

Walter Murawaski, assistant chief of Fisheries in New Jersey, who did striper egg and larvae studies in the mid-60s south of Trenton, gives credit to the great population surge in the 1990's to the pollution block clean-up of the lower Delaware.

Murawaski believes that dropping the size limit would create no disadvantage.

"I think you can get away with the same size justification as the Hudson River - 18 inches. The striped bass population is now fully restored in the Delaware; it is a producer river so you can take advantage of the smaller fish. You could even have a size reduction from Tri-States Rock (Port Jervis) upstream," he suggests.

Murawaski agrees with NY, PA and DE biologists that these fish are lower Delaware residents that migrate with the shad and return to the bay area.

Works in the Hudson

Bob Boyle, a biologist, founder of Hudson River Fishermen, and now president of Hudson Riverkeeper, points out the versatility of the striped bass in being able to spawn in fresh water.

"In Lake Texoma, striped bass reproduce successfully by going up the Red River. They need about 50 miles of river for the drifting eggs. In the Hudson, we have the tidal effects that keep the suspended eggs upriver. Between Kingston and Catskill there are about two million striped bass spawning. The fish are so thick on the surface for a mile that the striped bass can be chopped up by propellers. Of course we have the PCB problem," he says.

Boyle wondered if this had been checked in the Upper Delaware's striped bass.

Change is Possible

Andy Kahnle, DEC Region 3 biologist, pledged that he will take the striped bass size decrease issue to the ASMFC. In order for a change to be effected, the four states of NY, NJ, PA and DE would first have to agree, and then it must be voted on by the 15 states of the ASMFC and the federal representatives.

Now that the Delaware is classified as recovered and a producer river for striped bass, it is possible to have the size limit changed.

There is no question that the striped bass is here to stay in the Upper Delaware and the present game fish will have to adjust.

If the size limit for striped bass can be dropped, a lot of frustration on the part of honest fishermen will be relieved, while perhaps benefiting the trout fishery in the process. What an interesting scenario!

Plan Would Restore Zane Grey Landscape To Historical Period

The National Park Service (NPS) has released a "Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for the Zane Grey Property, Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania" which calls for the restoration of the site to the period before and during western author Zane Grey's residency from 1905 to 1918.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Cal Hite noted that the work that lies ahead is dependent on funding.

"I am amazed at the level of detail involved in treating this site, but it will be worth the effort if we can provide a more meaningful experience for our visitors and communicate the importance of Zane Grey and this property in his life," Hite said.

The plan, prepared for NPS by LANDSCAPES of Charlotte, VT and Westport, CT, considers the property's history, describes site conditions during the period of significance, traces the changes that took place between the Grey family's residency and the present, analyzes the impacts of those changes, discusses treatment options, and recommends a course of action which would include a phased approach to doing the work.

The plan's goals are to preserve existing historic features and to reinstate the "historic landscape character to the degree possible given property ownership, funding and staffing limitations."

In future years as the plan is implemented, the property will change in appearance. One aspect will involve spatial organization. Vistas across the Lackawaxen and Delaware Rivers to the hills beyond as well as expansive internal views will be improved with the removal of vegetation.

The plan calls for phased removals of mature trees to be replaced with younger stock of the same species and for planting lost historic shrub and tree species in original locations.

Other actions include relocating the Zane Grey Museum's front walk, steps, and parking lot; reconstructing the bluestone paths; regrading to the original topography in front of the house; installing fence along the boundaries and site of the horse corral; outlining the one-time tennis courts; developing the old garden plot; planting new trees in the former orchard; replicating select outbuildings for adaptive uses; and installing interpretive signs.

Copies of the Zane Grey Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan are available for review at local libraries and historical societies. Call the National Park Service at (570) 729-8251 for more information.



Town of Tusten Supervisor Richard C. Crandall, left, and Town of Hancock Supervisor F. Gerald Mackin, right, discuss the merits of designating Route 97 as a Scenic Byway at a February 29 meeting hosted by the River Valley Visioning Committee. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

"BYWAY," continued from Page 1

daily travel patterns, while telling a story about New York State's heritage, recreational activities or beauty. In addition, a scenic byway corridor is managed to protect this outstanding character and to encourage economic development through tourism and recreation."

The program was created by the New York State Legislature in 1992 to provide the mechanism to designate new scenic byways.

There are currently 2,000 miles in the system, including the 454-mile Seaway Trail which is also a National Scenic Byway, 10 theme trails which comprise the Adirondack North Country Scenic Byways, nine State Parkways, and numerous signed Scenic Roads in the Catskills, Hudson Valley, and Finger Lakes regions.

Scenic byways are desirable as a tourism marketing tool that can also generate additional grant resources for economic development, traveler services, roadway improvements, and community resource management.

Nominations are locally-driven, voluntary, cooperative, and regional in terms of recognizing that a highway's attributes extend beyond the road itself.

Important to note is that Scenic Byways impose no new regulations. New York State Department of Transportation (DOT), local land use planning boards, and the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River all retain their authorities and jurisdictions.

On May 7, 1998, the Upper Delaware Council passed a resolution in support of Route 97's designation as a Scenic Byway contingent on assurances that there would be no negative impacts on the highway's commercial viability, no reductions of

speed limits, and that the plan would address concerns about the safety of bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

The first step in Route 97's nomination has already occurred with the establishment of the local byway committee.

That panel's responsibility is to develop a vision statement, keep the public involved and informed, oversee the consultants' research, and prepare a resource inventory which will in turn delineate the proposed byway corridor.

Compiling the inventory of marketable features on and proximal to Route 97 will also help in selecting the byway's theme.

The application to the New York State Scenic Byways Advisory Board must include a corridor management plan, detailed maps, inventory descriptions, and a narrative that will identify the overall reasons and opportunities for people to visit and enjoy the byway, propose the theme, and discuss likely travel patterns such as Route 97's linkage between I-84 and the future I-86 (now Route 17).

If the State Advisory Board recommends designation, the application goes to the New York State Commissioner of Transportation for approval.

Perhaps presciently, a souvenir program from the August 30, 1939 dedication of Route 97 characterized the new road as "The Most Scenic Highway in the East." It went on to predict: "The highway will be a popular route of travel for many reasons. It is a scenic route. It presents every possible phase of landscape, hills and valleys, lakes and rivers and mountains. It is a short route between metropolitan New York, western New York, and Pennsylvania. It abounds in interesting history and it traverses a progressive and prosperous part of the country."

Four Upper Delaware Sites Named to National Register of Historic Places

Four more Upper Delaware Valley properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hankins District Number One Schoolhouse, built circa 1845 and modified early in the 20th century, is a rare and highly intact example of a rural schoolhouse.

Bertha Milk, who attended the Hankins school in the early 1920s and taught there at various times in the '20s and '30s, remembers, "Hankins had a well constructed two-room school - one of the best to be found. There were two entries to the school, one in the back for grades 1-4 and one in front for grades 5-8. Clothes and laundry were kept in the entry, also furnishings stored there for church on Sunday; there were no church buildings as yet."

Today, the old schoolhouse serves as a country home for an owner who treasures its history.

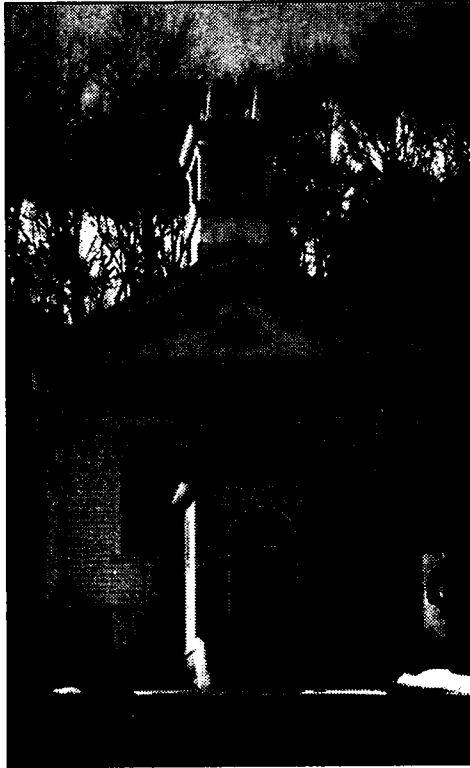
The **Narrowsburg United Methodist Church**, one of the valley's oldest surviving religious structures, was built in 1856, moved down hill to its present Lake Street location in 1879, and remodeled in 1930.

Its exterior represents the Greek Revival style architecture popular during the mid-19th century. The remodeled interior reflects the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles of the 1930s.

Local artisan W.J. Long designed and installed the windows using stained glass imported from Germany, at the time of the remodeling.

Dedicated in 1896, the **Lordville Presbyterian Church** has remained virtually unaltered since the cornerstone was laid.

As stated in the National Register nomination, it "is a modest but highly intact and representative example of the Protestant churches that proliferated in the Upper Delaware Valley's smaller communities during the second half of the nineteenth century."



Narrowsburg United Methodist Church

Its steeply pitched roof, square belfry, millwork decorative features, and Gothic style tracery reflect the charm of Victorian era architecture.

Built in the heyday of bluestone quarrying and railroad-related tourism, the church is still used for special occasion and summer services, often led by lay people whose ancestors founded the church.

Located just down the river from Lordville, NY, **Ravina** is a small rural estate with a rustic landscape reflective of the Arts and Crafts movement best known in America for Gustave Stickley furniture and Frank Lloyd Wright architecture.

Its main house and guest bungalow are

customized examples of the pre-cut buildings marketed through Sears catalogues and shipped to the site by the Erie Railroad.

Ravina was built in the 1920's for Ida Lord Lambert, whose inherited wealth allowed her the extravagance of a "country estate" less than a mile from her primary Lordville residence.

Among the special touches added by Mrs. Lambert were a hardwood parquet floor in the main house's living room and stone work by local mason A.L. Snyder, including a fireplace that could take a four-foot log and river stone wall along the property boundary.

Mary Curtis, Historian for the National Park Service on the Upper Delaware, and Mark Pechham of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation collaborated on the National Register applications. Owners of the properties endorsed the nominations and assisted in the research.

These listings do not restrict owners' alterations of their properties. They do recognize the importance of the sites, and provide protection from state and federal actions.

For further information on these properties or the National Register of Historic Places, contact Mary Curtis at (570) 729-7842.

On-line Newsletter Offered

"Delaware River Channels" is an electronic bi-weekly newsletter that exchanges information and encourages a dialogue among the numerous groups working to improve the Delaware River Watershed. Coordinated by the Heritage Conservancy through its Delaware River Watershed Initiative since Sept. 1999, free subscriptions are available by e-mailing rjohnson@heritageconservancy.org.

New Subscribers and Address Changes Welcomed

If you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our free newsletter, we will be happy to add them to the mailing list. Please also advise us of any address changes to help update our records. Return this notice to the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, or call (914) 252-3022.

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Check here to be removed from our mailing list.



Gathered for the annual reorganizational meeting of the Upper Delaware Council on January 6, 2000 were, seated from the left, UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass, Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr. (Delaware), and Secretary/Treasurer Larry Richardson (Cochecton). Standing from left to right are: Charles Wieland (Tusten), Bruce MacMillan (New York State), Carol Collier (Delaware River Basin Commission), Cal Hite (National Park Service), Alan Bowers (Westfall), Peter Melnyk (Lumberland), Fred Gerty (NYS), Bruce Selneck (Shohola), David Lamereaux (Pennsylvania), Lew Schmalzle (Highland), Jack Niflot (Fremont), George Frosch (Hancock), Phil Chase (Deerpark), and Per Hansen (Lackawaxen). John McKay of Lackawaxen Township, elected vice-chair, was not present for the photo. (Photo by David B. Soete)

Upper Delaware Council Welcomes New Delegates to Board

Six new delegates have joined the ranks of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) following the reorganizational meetings of their local governments in January 2000.

The Town of Lumberland is now represented on the Council by Nadia Rajsz.

Newly appointed by their towns or townships as UDC alternates are James Greier (Fremont), John LiGreci (Lumberland), James Chandler (Deerpark), Per Hansen (Lackawaxen) and Steve Dellert (Shohola).

Departed delegates include Peter Melnyk and Paul Brennan (Lumberland), Walter Sipple (Fremont), Robert Cunningham

(Deerpark), Fred Bartsch and Ed DeFebo (Lackawaxen), and Henry Prigge (Shohola).

The UDC appreciates the service of

these individuals and their contributions toward fulfilling the Council's mission of working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

914 Area Code to Change in June

Much like Northeastern Pennsylvania's telephone area code change from 717 to 570 last April, a new area code will soon be introduced in New York State's Southern Tier. All the regions now served by the 914 area code - with the exception of Westchester County which will retain that number - will be assigned 845 as their new area code. A grace period from June 5 to Dec. 3 will allow callers to use either 914 or 845. As of December 4, 2000, dialing 845 rather than 914 will be mandatory. The change primarily affects Orange and Sullivan Counties within the Upper Delaware region, including the Narrowsburg office of the Upper Delaware Council. Please make a note of it.

The Upper Delaware Council Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY. Three standing committees, Water Use/Resource Management, Operations, and Project Review, meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the UDC office, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, across from the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Call (914) 252-3823 for specific meeting dates and agendas.

Upper Delaware Council
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