UDC Grants to Assist Ridgeline Protection

As evidenced by this year's Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) applications, protecting the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River valley's largely pristine ridgelines from indiscriminate development is a worry shared by local governments. At stake is the prevention of negative environmental impacts and preservation of the river corridor's visual character.

Four member municipalities proposed TAG projects that will attempt to address ridgeline protection through local zoning. The Towns of Tusten, Lumberland, and Highland in New York State, and Shohola Township, PA were awarded a combined total of $10,250.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988 to $517,691.

In all, 143 projects aimed at addressing goals and needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River have been facilitated through the TAG program.

Developing Standards
Several recent examples of extensive clearing and grading of acreage along formerly undisturbed river ridge areas have prompted municipalities to take a hard look at what their local zoning ordinances allow.

The Upper Delaware's Land and Water Use Guidelines adopted as part of the 1986 River Management Plan recommend that "regulations...should ensure buildings..."
Upper Delaware Profile: F. Gerald Mackin

F. Gerald "Gerry" Mackin carries a customized Upper Delaware Council binder. Displayed under the plastic cover is this newsletter’s tribute article to George H. Frosch published after the feisty 73-year-old’s death on October 12, 2002.

Not only was Frosch a personal friend of Mackin’s for decades, he was also the Town of Hancock’s first and only representative to the UDC for 14 years.

On December 4, 2002, Mackin accepted the Hancock Town Board’s appointment to succeed his friend in that role.

"I had a great respect for his knowledge and judgment," Mackin says of Frosch. "It gives me something to measure my efforts against. He probably forgot more about all the river valley issues than I’ll ever learn."

But Mackin stands prepared to apply the experience he has gained as a native resident, student, attorney, and former town supervisor to this new assignment.

"In the long run, the UDC’s role is to develop the proper relationship between conservation and the other uses of the environment. There may be some level of conflict there. It’s up to the UDC to promote the environmental, but not to the exclusion of the needs of the people in the area," Mackin says.

"I like to think that I can contribute to finding that happy medium," he adds. "I’m a compromiser. I’m willing to listen and think about issues."

Growing up in Hancock, Mackin says he was instilled with a desire to help others whenever possible. Grandfather Lester E. Woolsey, a physician active on the political scene, was a particularly strong influence.

"There was a very definite feeling in my family that public service was important and valuable," he says.

Mackin attended Hancock schools through eighth grade before transferring to an all-boys boarding school in New Jersey to complete his secondary education.

In 1964, Mackin chose his grandfather’s alma mater, Northwestern University in Illinois, for pre-law studies. Graduating in just three years, Mackin became interested in local politics and considered a permanent move to the Chicago area.

After one year of study at DePaul University, however, the Vietnam War erupted. Mackin felt the tug of public service and voluntarily enlisted in the Army.

He logged 15 months in Vietnam, working at a medical supply facility near Saigon. The E-5 Specialist’s early-computerized inventory system gained such positive attention that Mackin received a Bronze Star, the highest non-combat medal awarded to enlisted men.

Mackin returned stateside to serve one year at Fort Bragg before going back to law school. He graduated cum laude from the University of Wisconsin and obtained a Master’s in Law Degree in Taxation from New York University Law School.

In 1975, Mackin decided to return home and open a private practice in Hancock. A 1976 appointment as Town Attorney introduced him to town government.

Mackin served as Town Attorney for 13 years before running for Hancock Town Supervisor in 1989.

That successful election led to 11 years and four months that Mackin fulfilled a new public service role as Town Supervisor and Hancock’s representative to the Delaware County Board of Supervisors.

"I had a lot of great experiences and wonderful memories out of it," he says.

When it came to his attention two years ago that Delaware County needed a full-time attorney to work with the Social Services Department, Mackin felt primed for the job although it required the resignation of his political seat.

"It’s been challenging and enjoyable," says the Deputy County Attorney of his diverse workload in Delhi. He maintains a limited private practice office in Hancock.

In addition to the UDC, Mackin belongs to the Hancock Rotary Club, St. Paul’s Church, Delaware County Bar Association, and he represented the county on the NYS Democratic Committee from 1984-94.

Wed for 30 years to Maureen, a teacher, Mackin has one daughter, Kathleen McVay, who is currently a stay-at-home mom to 18-month-old Cameron in Columbus, OH. Mackin enjoys travelling, especially to their North Carolina time-share and to the Caribbean, and is a big college football fan.
**News Briefs**

**New E-mails and Monthly Meeting Location for UDC**

The Upper Delaware Council announces a change in staff e-mail addresses that became effective September 15, 2003. Staff members may be reached through the following e-mail accounts:

- Executive Director William E. Douglass - udc douglass@hvc.rr.com
- Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete - udcsoete@hvc.rr.com
- Public Relations/Fundraising Specialist Laurie Ramie - udcramie@hvc.rr.com

Office Manager Carol Coney - udcconey@hvc.rr.com

Please note as well that the UDC’s regular, first Thursday monthly meetings for the rest of 2003 will take place in the UDC office at 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY.

The UDC’s 2004 reorganizational meeting on January 8 (the second Thursday due to the New Year’s holiday), will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Tusten Town Hall downstairs meeting room, located across Bridge Street from the UDC office.

**National Historic Register Adds Area Church Listing**

The Hortonville Presbyterian Church in the Town of Delaware was recently added to both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The rural hilltop church was built in 1860. In 2002, research by a local historian discovered that they are written in German, the predominant language of the church’s founders. A fellowship hall was added to the original church structure around 1914.

**Next EagleFest Date Set**

The Third Annual EagleFest will be held during the Delaware River Cleanup Numbers

Kittatinny Canoes’ 14th Annual On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup occurred on July 14-17.

Canoeing, wading, snorkeling, and diving, a 344-member “volunteer navy” covered 70 underwater and shoreline miles from the Ten Mile River Access in New York to the Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A total of 12.7 tons of trash was collected. Included in the tally were 297 tires, 153 lbs. of aluminum cans, and 2,300 lbs. of scrap metal.

Although the number of tires increased from last year, the total tonnage in 2003 was down by over 0.3 tons.

**Help for Watershed Groups**

C-SAW, the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds, is a team of specialists that provides technical assistance to PA watershed groups.

Requests for assistance are made through local Resource Conservation and Development Councils. The project is funded by a PA Growing Greener grant.

Visit http://pa.water.usgs.gov/csw or call Canaan Valley Institute at 1-888-549-7640 for further information.

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The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988 to $517,691.

Town of Lumberland Supervisor John LiGreci added his support to the collaborative planning effort in a recent Times Herald Record article.

He expressed concern that excessive land clearing on ridges can lead to run-off and drainage problems, destruction of wildlife habitats, and other environmental repercussions.

Maintaining the Upper Delaware’s rural nature will require a proactive and consistent approach by local governments.

“We’re lucky to live year-round in a vacation area,” LiGreci told the newspaper.

“And we have to act quickly to protect that.”

Visioning Forum

Ridgeline protection has emerged as a concern of the Upper Delaware River Corridor Visioning Committee during its series of community meetings aimed at facilitating cross-river exchanges of ideas.

Later this fall, the committee will sponsor an informational forum geared toward town and township officials, and local planning and zoning board members.

“We will be looking at planning for growth and protecting open spaces,” says Visioning Committee Coordinator Tom Kane, who may be reached at (845) 252-7414 for details of the forum that will take place at Central House Resort in Beach Lake, Pa.

TAGs Awarded

Technical Assistance Grants are available for research, planning, and studies conducted by the UDC’s member towns, townships, and the river corridor counties.

Wayne County, Pa.’s four towns of Berlin, Buckingham, Damascus, and Manchester would be eligible to participate if the townships joined the Council.

Requests to the UDC for the 2003 TAG program totaled $66,652.50, competing for an allocated $25,000 funding pool, to which $1,400 was later added.

The following projects were approved:

- **Town of Lumberland and Tusten (jointly)** - $4,467 to develop a ridgeline zoning overlay district.
- **Shohola Township** - $4,083 to develop a ridgeline zoning overlay district.
- **Westfall Township** - $3,500 to review and amend existing zoning and subdivision ordinances to alleviate any conflicts that may have surfaced over the last 12 years.
- **Town of Lumberland** - $2,900 to compile a written history of the town’s river corridor hamlets of Mongaup, Pond Eddy, and Hillside that will include a timeline of significant river-related events and noteworthy

### HISTORIC PROJECT: Town of Lumberland

Historian Frank V. Schwarz recently presented copies of “Historic Homes and Structures of Lumberland” to the UDC, marking completion of this 2002 Technical Assistance Grant project for which the town was awarded $3,200. Schwarz coordinated the documentation of 35 historic buildings within the town’s river corridor. The resulting information and photographs in the report offer a permanent record of the town’s historic roots. (Photo by David B. Soete)

### Towns of Lumberland and Tusten

The UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988 to $517,691.
The objective is to inform landowners of the scope of this problem, describe how to detect HWA, and offer tips on management and treatment options. Speakers from several natural resource agencies will present information and answer questions.

No reservations are necessary. For more information, please call UDC at (845) 252-3022 or NYS DEC at (570) 729-7842.* (The author is the Natural Resource Specialist for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.)
UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activity highlights from mid-June to mid-September 2003, not covered elsewhere, include:

POWER LINE
At the Sept. 4 UDC meeting, National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent Dave Forney reported that Pegasus Power Systems of Ontario, Canada, has expressed interest in laying a 500,000 volt Direct Current electrical transmission line on the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way along the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to bring more power from Utica to New York City.

An agency-level informational meeting was scheduled after this issue’s deadline to follow up on that preliminary contact.

The River Management Plan lists “major electric lines” as an “incompatible use” in the river corridor.

FLOOD CONTROL
Following a tremendously wet spring and summer that filled the three New York City Delaware watershed reservoirs above capacity, the UDC has asked the Delaware River Basin Commission to work on releasing some of that extraneous water to help reduce the potential flood risk to property along the Upper Delaware River.

“We are grateful that New York City recently agreed to increase bottom releases when the reservoirs were about to spill, providing cooler water for the cold water fishery; however, under these unusual hydrologic circumstances, we are still concerned about the potential for flooding as we head into the middle of the hurricane season,” the UDC’s Sept. 4 letter read.

ECOLOGICAL FLOWS
The Delaware River Basin Commission’s Flow Management Technical Advisory Committee on July 8 recommended the creation of a Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF) to assist in the development of a formal process to evaluate the feasibility and limitations of achieving flow targets to address instream flow and freshwater inflow requirements for maintenance of self-sustaining aquatic ecosystems in the Delaware River Basin.

The subcommittee will replace the ad hoc Committee on the Ecological Function of the Upper River.

Work by SEF will be aided by the authorization of a federal appropriation of up to $250,000 over a two-year period for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop enhanced flow and temperature modeling in the Delaware River Basin, contingent upon receipt of matching local funds.

STRIPED BASS
Proposed rulemaking by the PA Fish and Boat Commission would amend regulations to impose a two fish daily creel limit and a 28-inch minimum size limit for striped bass taken on the Delaware River and its tributaries from Trenton Falls upstream as of Jan. 1, 2004.

The UDC issued a comment letter Sept. 4 asking again for a decrease in the size limit of these “eating machines” to 18 inches, which would be consistent with other rivers like the Hudson in NYS.

SPECIAL MEETINGS
6/11-12, Watershed Management Seminar at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA
6/12, Stakeholders Meeting with newly confirmed PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Michael DiBerardino in Milford, PA
7/11 and 8/1, Upper Delaware Visioning Committee community input meetings at various cross-river locations.
8/12, Delaware River Foundation’s 3rd Annual “Day on the Delaware” Forum in Hale Eddy, NY
8/18, Dwarf Wedge Mussel survey orientation meeting with NPS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and University of Maryland, to kick off a $50,000 grant project seeking data on how flows impact this federally endangered species that has been discovered at locations in the Upper Delaware River.

GIS PROJECT
At the July 15 meeting of the Upper Delaware GIS Work Group, details were shared of a $100,000 NASA LandSAT program grant that will be matched by NPS to develop a GIS-based science curriculum that can be used in river valley schools.

With Wayne County’s July 22 decision to contribute its data to the GIS rural growth and development modeling initiative for the Upper and Middle Delaware, the project now has full participation.

UDC OPERATIONS
Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell signed Executive Order 2003-5 on June 22, 2003 reaffirming the Commonwealth’s support of the 1978 addition of the Upper Delaware to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and officially designating DCNR as the lead agency for implementing and administering state aspects of the River Management Plan.

In early spring 2004, updated “Visitor Information Map & Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River” brochures will be available. The UDC approved a printing quote for 30,000 copies at its Sept. 4 meeting. The popular Council publication is now under revision.

The UDC also adopted a $379,150 budget and work plans for its three committees covering Fiscal Year 2004 on Sept. 4.

RAFT TRIP
The UDC’s 15th Annual Family Raft Trip on August 2 attracted 112 participants, fulfilling the goal of promoting awareness and stewardship of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River through direct contact with the recreational resource.

The Upper Delaware
In Memoriam:
NYS Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III

Jacob Edward Gunther III, New York State 98th District Assemblyman and a resident of Forestburgh, NY, died on July 9, 2003 from cancer-related illness at the age of 50.

He is survived by his wife, Aileen; three children, Mary Alice, Jacob IV, and Caitlin; his parents, Jacob and Betty Gunther; two brothers, William and LeRoy; nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Jacob E. Gunther III Scholarship for Environmental Studies, P.O. Box 621, Monticello, NY 12701.

The UDC passed the following resolution at its August 7, 2003 meeting to recognize Assemblyman Gunther’s positive contributions to the river valley:

Whereas, The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) acknowledges the untimely death of Jacob E. “Jake” Gunther III on July 9, 2003 with great sadness; and

Whereas, Jake Gunther’s representation of Sullivan County and portions of western Orange County in the 98th District of the New York State Assembly during five elected terms since 1992 included the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley region; and

Whereas, Assemblyman Jake Gunther’s actions to benefit the Upper Delaware River, its resources, and its communities included, in part: co-sponsoring the 1993 legislation authorizing the State of New York to lease property to the National Park Service for development of the future Mongaup Interpretive Center; securing $25,000 in 2000 for economic development projects in the UDC’s eight New York State member towns; addressing the local burden of tax-exempt properties; co-sponsoring the bill which led to Governor Pataki’s 2002 designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway; and supporting the investment of funds for local arts, infrastructure improvements, emergency services, and tourism programs; and

Whereas, in his role as keynote speaker at the UDC’s 14th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2002, Assemblyman Gunther reflected on his personal appreciation for the river valley and affinity for his public service work by saying, “There is never a time I don’t drive along that corridor and not feel proud for being a representative of this region”; and

Whereas, Assemblyman Gunther’s true character was revealed through his open-door availability to constituents, ability to place their needs ahead of politics, courage to speak his mind regardless of personal consequences, and the exercise of his conservation ethic;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. mourns the loss of Jake Gunther as a friend of the Upper Delaware River Valley and an exceptional legislator; extends sincere sympathy to his family, friends, colleagues, and constituents; and celebrates with them his many life achievements.

In Memoriam: Matthew “Joe” Freda and Roland E. Flora

The Upper Delaware Council mourns the loss of two charter, advisory members of the UDC’s Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

Matthew Joseph “Joe” Freda of Callicoon, NY, owner of Matthew J. Freda Real Estate and decorated U.S. Air Force colonel who served in three wars, died on August 7, 2003 at the age of 84.

Roland E. Flora of Narrowsburg, NY, retired owner of Laurel Hill Cabins and a nationwide marketer of his handcrafted Boy Scout neckerchief slides, died on August 21, 2003 at the age of 89.

Both men, Mr. Flora in 1990 and Mr. Freda in 1994, received UDC Volunteer Awards for enhancing quality of life in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Mr. Flora, a U.S. Navy World War II veteran and Mason, was a sportsman and conservationist active on the county and state level. Local memberships included the Tusten Lions Club and American Legion Post in Eldred.

Mr. Freda served on the Tocks Island Council, Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, Sullivan County Environmental Management Council, Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin, Neversink-Delaware Study Commission, and Wayne County Conservation District, among other community service groups. The Mason, Kiwanian, and local business booster also authored the former Sullivan County Democrat column, “River Ripples.”

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 (845) 252-3022.

New Address: ____________________________
Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State ____________________________
Zip+4 ____________________________

Old Address: ____________________________
Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State ____________________________
Zip+4 ____________________________

[ ] Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

Fall 2003 7
November 8 Business Expo Offers ‘97 Reasons to Meet on the Byway’

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. will present “97 Reasons to Meet on the Byway,” on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Delaware Community Center in Callicoon, NY.

Geared toward visitor-oriented businesses on and near the NYS Route 97 scenic byway corridor, the expo will feature:
- an informational presentation on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway
- a keynote address by Seaway Trail, Inc. Executive Director Teresa Mitchell representing New York State’s only National Scenic Byway, established 25 years ago and traversing 454 miles
- morning refreshments and a light lunch
- exhibit displays, events calendars, and brochures from tourism promotion agencies and area attractions
- local business literature exchange table

Governor George Pataki officially added the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway to the New York State Scenic Byways System on August 6, 2002 in recognition of its spectacular scenic highway vistas, access to the Delaware River and its resources, and the uniqueness of its communities.

The Route 97 byway passes through the City of Port Jervis, Towns of Deerpark, Lumberland, Highland, Tusten, Cochecton, and Delaware, and the Village of Hancock, largely paralleling the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and linking I-84 with the future I-86 (now Route 17).

There is no cost to attend the Nov. 8 event, but space is limited. Advance reservations are requested by Nov. 5. To secure a place, please e-mail Laurie Ramie at udcramie@hvc.rr.com (preferred) or call (845) 252-3022.

For other inquiries, please contact Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Expo Subcommittee Chairperson Elaine Giguere at (845) 252-7576 or elaine@artsalliancesite.org.*

Upper Delaware to Celebrate 25th Anniversary on Nov. 9

Dear Friends:

Please join the National Park Service and its partners on Sunday, November 9, in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a free tour of the Zane Grey Museum by Historian Dorothy Moon.

At noon, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Schultz will conduct a guided tour of Roebling’s Delaware Aqueduct.

Come early for the tours, then join us at 1:00 p.m. for a reception with light refreshments at the Lackawaxen Volunteer Fire Department Hall.

At 2:00 p.m., there will be a program focusing on the area’s history, controversies, partnerships, and the accomplishments of the Upper Delaware.

The United States Congress officially designated the 73.4-mile stretch of the Upper Delaware River from Hancock, NY to Mill Rift, PA as the 19th component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System on November 10, 1978.

For information, please contact Christina Fulton at (570) 729-8253, ext. 240.*

Visioning Committee Gathers Public Input

The Upper Delaware River Corridor Visioning Committee will conclude its series of river valley evening meetings to introduce its efforts and gather public input about issues of local concern on the following dates:


Oct. 22 at the Delaware Community Center in Callicoon, NY - for the Towns of Delaware, Fremont, and Hancock, and Manchester and Buckingham Townships.

Oct. 30 at the Westfall Township Municipal Building in Matamoras, Pa. - for Westfall Township, the Borough of Milford, City of Port Jervis, and Town of Deerpark.

Each meeting will be from 6-8:30 p.m. and will include a pot-luck supper. Public officials and private citizens are welcome.

Prior sessions took place on Sept. 29 for the Town of Cochecton and Damascus Township, and on Oct. 9 for Berlin Township and the Town of Tusten.

For further information, contact Tom Kane at (845) 252-7414.*