

The Upper Delaware

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

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The Upper Delaware
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POWER PLAY: Christopher Severs of Pegasus Power Systems, Inc., at right, discusses the company's proposal to install a 500 kV Direct Current electrical transmission line along the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way, running through the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor, with news reporter Charlie Buterbaugh of *The River Reporter* as he checked out the Narrowsburg railroad trestle following a Feb. 27 introductory meeting with Upper Delaware Council officials. (Photo by David B. Soete)

High-Voltage Power Line Proposed in River Valley

As a Canadian firm prepares to submit formal applications to install a high-voltage Direct Current electrical transmission line through the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) had its first face-to-face opportunity to state its objections to a meeting with a company representative.

Christopher Severs, who described his recently secured position with Pegasus Power Systems, Inc. as "community outreach point person," traveled from Quebec to Narrowsburg to meet with UDC officials on February 27.

Pegasus announced in October 2003 its intention to develop a 500 kV DC circuit dubbed the Niagara Reinforcement Project that would connect electrical infrastructure in upstate New York, Ontario and Quebec with load centers in northeastern New Jersey and New York City.

Privately-owned rights-of-way have been secured between Utica, NY and Weehawken, NJ. In the Upper Delaware River Valley, the transmission line is proposed to run alongside the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks, largely paralleling and in two instances crossing the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Since the proposal came to light, the UDC has consistently communicated to Pegasus that the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River classifies major electric lines of 125 kV or greater as an "incompatible use" in the river corridor.

Shohola Township Supervisor and Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr set the Feb. 27 meeting's tone by orienting Severs to the origins of that Plan and the UDC that exists to uphold its principles.

Please see POWER on Page 5

Upper Delaware Profile: Jim Serio

Lucky folks are able to turn their hobbies into professions. Extraordinarily dedicated people go a step further by elevating their hobbies to the level of personal causes.

Jim Serio's love of fishing the Upper Delaware River lured him to this area, led to his licensing as a commercial fishing guide, and motivated him to establish a 300-member, non-profit foundation whose goals include conserving the region's cold-water fishery.

Since March 2003, Serio has also served as the Town of Hancock's alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Council.

The Buffalo native majored in Chemistry and Biology at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. After his 1976 graduation, he did research for Upstate Medical Center and for the Institute for Sensory Research in Syracuse.

Always eager to learn, Serio enrolled in aquatic ecology graduate courses through the SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry program.

He had grown disenchanted with Syracuse city life by the late 1980s and leaped at an opportunity he spotted in a newspaper ad to manage the West Branch Angler Resort near Hale Eddy. Serio had been visiting the Upper Delaware region to fish since 1978, and was happy to put down permanent roots.

For a new "day job," Serio earned his broker's license and opened James Serio Real Estate in Hancock. Eleven years ago, he started Gray Ghost Guides as a side business.

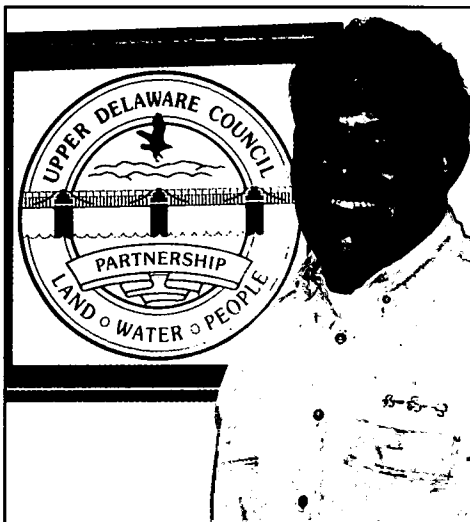
Its three guides specialize in catch-and-release flyfishing for trout, shad, and bass on the Upper Delaware River. Serio personally leads about 50 river trips per year.

"For me, it's a great way to get out of the office," he says.

His experiences in the fishing business opened Serio's eyes to the need for a unified voice to speak out as an advocate for the Upper Delaware River year-round.

Four years ago, Serio founded the Delaware River Foundation (DRF), Inc. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board.

"It had become frustrating to know that New York City really controlled our water," he says of the regulated Catskills Watershed reservoirs release regime. "Our primary focus centers on river flows and pro-



Jim Serio, Town of Hancock

tection of habitat in the Upper Delaware."

DRF sponsors annual programs to educate legislators, agency officials, anglers, and interested citizens about the needs and issues of the Upper Delaware River. The Fourth Annual "Day on the Delaware" is coming up on August 10.

Foundation members also get their hands wet through stream restoration projects that attempt to improve the habitat for trout and eradicate Japanese Knotweed.

The organization has been working closely with the DRBC's Flow Management Technical Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Ecological Flows to establish scientifically-based sustainable flow targets for the Upper Delaware, and with the DRBC's Watershed Advisory Council to draft a new Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin.

While his volunteer efforts with DRF account for some 25 hours a week, Serio believes that the investment of time and energy is paying off.

"We've made a lot of progress. We have everybody talking about these fisheries issues," he says.

In addition to his UDC role, Serio is the Village of Hancock's representative to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., and a member of Trout Unlimited and the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers.

He earned Master Gardener certification from Cornell Cooperative Extension, is a traveling tournament bridge player, and flies radio-controlled planes and gliders as both a hobby and a means of taking aerial photos of real estate properties.

The 50-year-old's river-front property near Starlight, Pa. provides the perfect outlet to indulge his primary hobby.

"I really enjoy being out fishing, catching a big one, and knowing that maybe in some way, I helped protect that fish. That gives me satisfaction," Serio concludes. ❖

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2004 MEMBERSHIP: Participating in the Upper Delaware Council's Annual Meeting were, seated from the left, UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass; Chairperson Nadia Rajs, Town of Lumberland; and Secretary-Treasurer Charles Wieland, Town of Tusten. Standing from left to right are: Bill Rudge, New York State; John LiGreci, Town of Lumberland; Larry Richardson, Town of Cochection; Carol Collier, Delaware River Basin Commission; David Forney, National Park Service; Marian Hrubovcak, Pennsylvania; Bruce Selneck, Shohola Township; David Lamereaux, Pennsylvania; Lew Schmalzle, Town of Highland; Jack Niflot, Town of Fremont; Mel Decker, Town of Deerpark; F. Gerald Mackin, Town of Hancock; John McKay, Lackawaxen Township; Phil Chase, Town of Deerpark; and Jim Serio, Town of Hancock. Absent were 2004 UDC Vice-Chairperson Alan Bowers of Westfall Township, and Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware. (Photos by David B. Soete)

UDC Reorganizes for 2004

The Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) Annual Meeting held on January 8 at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY began with the installation of new officers.

Nadia Rajs, Town of Lumberland representative, succeeded Bruce Selneck of Shohola Township as UDC chairperson. Fellow 2004 officers are Vice-Chairperson Al Bowers, Westfall Township; and Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Wieland, Town of Tusten.

Added to the UDC membership are Ben Johnson as Town of Tusten alternate, replacing Richard B. Crandall, and Brian Stuart as Lackawaxen Township alternate, replacing Fred Bartsch. ❖



I SWEAR: Town of Lumberland Supervisor John LiGreci administered the oath of office to 2004 UDC Chairperson Nadia Rajs, who also serves on the Lumberland Town Board.

New Publications: UDC Releases Visitor Guide, Annual Report

The Upper Delaware Council announces the availability of its newly updated, free brochure titled "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York & Pennsylvania."

The color guide features a comprehensive 17x22-inch map of the river corridor, and a listing of all public river accesses and lands in the 73.4-mile span between Hancock, NY and Mill Rift, PA.

Surrounding the map is a directory of businesses located within the Congressionally-designated river corridor boundaries under the four common categories of Accommodations, Restaurants, Liveries and Campgrounds, and Bait & Tackle.

The guide offers 12 informational panels on river safety, sightseeing, boating, camping, fishing, hunting, eagle watching, emergency and agency contacts, traveling directions, and the UDC's services.

While the brochure is subsidized by the non-profit UDC as a public outreach and educational project, 22 businesses contributed \$975 in voluntary donations to help offset the printing costs.

The brochures are being distributed by tourism promotion agencies, welcome centers, the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, interested river valley businesses, and the UDC for individual requests.

Also available to the public is the UDC's *Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2003* (covering Oct. 1, 2002-Sept. 30, 2003).

It includes activity highlights; an editorial column by 2003 Chairman Bruce Selneck; FY 2003 revenues, expenditures, and fund balances; 2003 UDC Annual Awards and Technical Assistance Grants; UDC membership and staff rosters; a Statement of UDC Responsibility and Authority; and objectives for FY 2004.

Incorporated in 1988, the UDC works in partnership with the National Park Service to oversee implementation of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

To request a copy of the Upper Delaware Visitor Guide or the UDC Annual Report, please contact the UDC at P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY 12764; telephone (845) 252-3022; fax (845) 252-3359; or e-mail Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie at udcramie@hvc.rr.com. ❖

Funding Shortfalls Threaten DRBC Programs in FY 2005

A harsh state of austerity could descend upon the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) by this fall if federal funding that was pulled in 1996 is not restored.

The DRBC was formed in 1961 through legislation signed into law by the President of the United States and the governors of the four basin states.

The 100-year compact stipulates that the five signatory parties agree to support the Commission's annual budget. Although the federal government adhered to this obligation for 35 years, Washington zeroed out its 20 percent share in 1996 while remaining an active voting member.

The cumulative federal shortfall has now grown to \$5.747 million, which is larger than the agency's annual operating budget.

DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier said that the agency has relied on some grants, staff attrition, and increased fees to make ends meet in recent years.

"For the most part, however, we dipped into our rainy day fund, which is now nearly depleted," she said.

The result is that a financial crisis is looming for the DRBC.

Services Reduction Plan Overview

Programs (eliminate or reduce support):

- Funding contribution to implement the Water Resources Plan and loss of cost-sharing match opportunities
- Tri-State Watershed Management Plan resources protection effort
- Flow Management and Upper Basin Fisheries Protection
- Flood Loss Reduction Activities
- Special Protection Waters Program
- Water Quality Monitoring and Analysis
- Assessment of water quality impairments and development of TMDLs
- Delaware River Sojourn, Water Trail, Water Snapshot, and update of DRBC's river recreation maps
- Information Services

Administrative:

- Cut a minimum of 2-3 full-time

employees, leave vacancies unfilled

- Hold only four DRBC meetings/year
- No annual Cost of Living Adjustments and limited performance increase pool
- Reduce hiring of seasonal employees
- Reduce staff training and conference participation by 50%
- Reduce memberships by 50%
- Reduce travel budget by 50%
- Eliminate vehicle acquisition
- Eliminate computer acquisition
- Reduce purchase of office supplies
- Eliminate funding for Northeast-Midwest Institute

Fines and Fees:

- Increase Project Review fees
- Impose fines for violations of Commission rules, regulations and dockets

At their Jan. 21 meeting, the Commissioners adopted a \$4.867 million operating budget for FY 2005 that assumes the receipt of the full fair share signatory contributions and includes six authorized but

unfunded staff positions.

A second part of that resolution, however, authorizes the implementation of a services reduction plan cutting an estimated \$869,000 from the budget if full signatory funding is not pledged by June 30, 2004. (Passage of the federal budget will not occur until October 2004.)

The proposed cutbacks could negatively impact the DRBC's ability to carry out its duties pertaining to interstate flow and drought management, pollution control, watershed planning, flood protection, permitting, and education/outreach.

Appeals for the restoration of federal funding had come from three out of the four basin state governors at press time.

Collier said that the DRBC appreciates all of the supportive letters being sent by its partners, such as the Upper Delaware Council's Feb. 5 informational correspondence to seven federal legislators.

DRBC officials have been meeting with representatives in Washington to press their case. As one result, Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) has agreed to request \$1 million for the DRBC in the FY05 Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

"We're making some inroads. We don't have the end result, but it's a better situation than last year and we're optimistic," Collier said.

For the latest update and more information on the DRBC's financial situation, consult www.drbc.net.

2004 Water Snapshot Proceeds April 16-25 on a Limited Basis

The popular "Water Snapshot" that takes a picture of the health of the Delaware River Basin's waters is celebrating its ninth year in 2004 on a reduced basis April 16-25 due to the impacts from the continued loss of federal funding on the event's coordinator, the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Water Snapshot serves as an important educational outreach activity around Earth Day, bringing attention to the need for water quality monitoring and providing deserved recognition to those volunteers who participate in water quality monitoring programs throughout the year. The goals are to create a heightened awareness among participants about their local watersheds, the crucial role these watersheds play in all of our lives, and the need for stewardship.

In previous years, the DRBC was able to supply free water quality test kits to interested individuals and groups, and to compile the basin data collected during the sampling period into a Water Snapshot report. Funding restraints have not enabled the purchase of any additional kits this year. A very limited number of kits from 2003 are available on a first-come basis.

Those without access to kits may still participate in Water Snapshot by collecting visual assessment information requested on the data forms. Limited staffing resources have also created a backlog in posting past years' data on the web.

The DRBC's web site at www.drbc.net offers downloadable Water Snapshot data collection forms, past reports, and explanations of water quality terminology. For additional information on Water Snapshot, contact DRBC Assistant Public Information Officer Clarke Rupert at (609) 883-9500, ext. 260 or by e-mail at clarke.rupert@drbc.state.nj.us.

The Upper Delaware Council and the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are local co-sponsors of the 2004 Water Snapshot. ❖

"Everyone agreed to this Plan and it has worked for 20 years," Fluhr said. "The desire to protect the scenic value of this river valley is very strong. The potential is here for a long, drawn-out fight with legal ramifications."

Severs replied that his job is to "assuage" local fears that this project could irretrievably change the valley for the worse.

"We are absolutely committed to a completely transparent process. As long as the process is completely transparent, the people of the Upper Delaware Council and the river valley should feel that their concerns are dealt with responsibly," he said.

Information from environmental and engineering studies will be shared on a web site. The permitting process requires extensive public hearings.

With regards to maintaining scenic quality, Severs reiterated the pledge previously made by Pegasus President Richard A. Muddiman that "we are absolutely committed to burying the wires for these 73 miles" through the Upper Delaware corridor.

Meeting participants noted that the River Management Plan does not make any distinction between above-ground towers or below-ground transmission wires in declaring them incompatible.

"You have to understand that the River Management Plan directly opposes this so the UDC can't be in favor," UDC Water Use/Resource Management Committee Chairman Charles Wieland told Severs.

The Pegasus spokesman offered an alternative interpretation of the Plan's prohibition on major electric lines, suggesting that it takes issue with visual pollution associated with high-tension transmission towers. Burying the cables should satisfy that concern.

"Once it's underground, you won't know it's there," Severs said, adding that construction costs will be vastly inflated.

He also pointed out that the 1986 River Management Plan did not anticipate the use of Direct Current (DC) technology, which he says has significant advantages over Alternating Current (AC) of lower frequency and greater stability.

After Severs reported that six-foot-wide ditches would be dug next to the tracks to lay the three, seven-inch-diameter cables, doubts were expressed to him about the topographical feasibility due to several narrow passages and rocky soils.

"We will spend a half-million dollars studying every foot of this valley. I have confidence that the engineers will be able to overcome the challenges," he replied.

Pegasus has already invested over \$1 million on this estimated \$1 billion project. Severs clarified that while Pegasus will finance and design this project, the entre-



NEW BRIDGE COMING: The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation issued a Notice to Proceed with the design-build contract for a new Shohola-Barryville Bridge to the Fahs Rolston Paving Corp. of Binghamton on Feb. 12. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on March 25. The existing 1941 bridge which connects NY Route 55 with PA Route 434, pictured above, will be replaced with a 52-foot-wide, five-span bridge at a slightly northern location. The new \$9.377 million bridge will have some unique design features based on public input, including a faux-bluestone concrete finish and a series of historical plaques in balconies along the pedestrian walkway. Traffic is expected to continue without interruption throughout the construction period, according to PENNDOT Project Manager Carla Medura. The targeted completion date is September 2006. Project updates may be requested from PENNDOT Community Relations Manager Dave Krisanda at (570) 963-4044 or dkrisanda@state.pa.us. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

preneurial firm will not own or operate it.

"The stakes for the project are very high," he said, referring both to the capital investment and the critical need for electrical power in the New York metropolitan area.

Following deregulation of the energy industry in the 1990s, Severs said that America's electrical grid system in general has become a "mess" of inadequacies.

Pegasus' Muddiman identified the downstate need for additional, cleaner, less expensive power capacity and has been "working for many years" to devise what Severs characterized as this "extremely elegant solution" to the problem.

While the Upper Delaware would simply be a conduit for the Niagara Reinforcement Interconnection without receiving any of its direct benefits, Severs said, "You will have a \$300 million asset in this river corridor."

He added that "we will endeavor to have as much economic impact as possible" locally through the construction phase and will encourage the ultimate operating company to "contribute to community life."

Pegasus has negotiated renewable 80-year leases with Norfolk Southern Railroad for use of its rights-of-way. The DC power lines would not affect the continuation of train traffic and could, Severs said, actually enable the railroad to make a greater investment in that infrastructure.

Severs said that Pegasus anticipates a two-year timeline before construction could

begin. This will include six to eight months of environmental and engineering studies starting this spring and the phased submission of applications to the state permitting authorities starting this fall.

"After two years, we hope to have made our case to the New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey public service commissions," Severs said, adding that he is not aware of the requirement of any federal permits for this utility project.

Actual construction would take approximately 18 months.

Severs said that Pegasus fully expects to face opposition to its plans.

"We understand that there are purists who won't want to see this happen. This (Upper Delaware River Valley) is a national treasure," he acknowledged.

Pegasus welcomes independent research on their project, and will make their engineering experts from Teshmont Consultants and others working on the environmental studies available for specific questioning.

Personally, Severs said he would refuse to be involved with any project that he felt was being executed irresponsibly or threatened natural resources.

"We hope that community leaders will recognize the benefits. We hope our proposal is not in conflict with the vision you have for the river and the principles of your Plan," Severs said. ❖

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council activity highlights from mid-December 2003 to early March 2004, not covered elsewhere in this issue, include:

DELAWARE GREENWAY

Senator John J. Bonacic contacted the eight NYS river valley towns in February to request their opinions about creating a Delaware River Greenway. If enough interest was expressed, he offered to introduce legislation for this "local option" initiative.

One goal of the proposed Greenway is to direct a steady stream of state funding to the Delaware River communities.

While administrative details would need to be further discussed if the legislation is pursued, Sen. Bonacic noted, "I do not believe the DRG should 'compete' with the Upper Delaware Council; rather, it should be a part of it."

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River anticipates releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mongaup Interpretive Center to the public in July.

In preparation for the review, UDC officials participated in a March 2 workshop to discuss the federal National Environmental Protection Act process and requirements.

ECOLOGICAL FLOWS

In a March 4 letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission, the UDC expressed general support for a resolution to establish an experimental augmented conservation release program for the New York City Delaware Basin Reservoirs for the period beginning May 1, 2004 and ending May



EAGLEFEST STAR: Thomas Ricardi of the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility thrilled the crowd gathered for his Jan. 17, 2004 program at the Third Annual Narrowsburg EagleFest with a close-up view of a bald eagle. Ricardi discussed his non-profit facility's captive breeding program which uses permanently injured birds that cannot be released as offspring producers to bolster the wildlife population. The bald eagle, kestrel, barn owl, red-tailed hawk, and several species of falcons have been bred successfully. EagleFest opened with a ceremony by the Native American Inter-tribal Red Storm Drum and Dance Troupe and proceeded with a day of eagle viewing, slide lectures, movies, art exhibits, ice sculptures, and children's activities. Nature's Art LLC and the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce are the founding sponsors of the annual event. (Photo by David B. Soete)

31, 2007, and to engage in discussions to develop a long-term flexible program to manage releases from the reservoirs.

The UDC acknowledged that while the proposed release program "is not perfect, it

is an improvement over previous proposals and represents a logical next step in the process of finding a long-term solution to the ecological flows issue."

The DRBC held a March 2 public hearing at the PPL Environmental Learning Center near Hawley, Pa. to take comments from local interests on the proposed resolution. Details of DRBC Docket No. D-77-20 CP (Revision 7) are available at www.drbc.net.

SCENIC BYWAY

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is featured on the back cover of the newly-published 2004 Sullivan County Travel Guide in a full-page color advertisement.

Other recent marketing endeavors include setting up administration of a \$45,000 FHWA Marketing & Interpretation Grant and posting an interim web page at www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org pending its professional development.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. also developed an operating budget based on a \$10,000 allocation from the Sullivan County Legislature and provided recommendations to the consultants working on a local model signage project for the New York State Scenic Byways Program.

The annual meeting and election of officers for UDSB, Inc. is April 26, 2004. ❖

Summer Calendar Preview

June 7-14 - 10th Annual Delaware River Sojourn: Celebrating a National Wild and Scenic River. Upper Delaware paddling days Monday, June 7 (Narrowsburg to Minisink Ford) and Tuesday, June 8 (Minisink Ford to Matamoras). Visit <http://delawareriversojourn.org> or www.drbc.net for details. Call (570) 828-9692 for a registration brochure.

July 18 - 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Minisink at the Minisink Battleground Park, Minisink Ford, NY. 3 p.m. pavilion program on "George Washington's Rules of Civility" by Peter Osborne and Mary Curtis; 4 p.m. official observance at the monument sponsored by the Sullivan County Historical Society; 5 p.m. public picnic hosted by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance; frontier living demonstrations all weekend.

July 22 - 30th Commemoration at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Lackawaxen, Pa., 4 p.m. Contact Pike County Historian George J. Fluhr at (570) 559-7394.

July 25 - 14th Annual Riverfest, sponsored by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance and Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Main Street, Narrowsburg.

August 7 - 16th Annual Upper Delaware Council Raft Trip (Ten Mile River to Lander's Minisink Ford Base). See registration form in the next issue or call (845) 252-3022.

August 7 - D&H Symposium III, sponsored by the historical societies from Wayne County, Carbondale, and Waymart Area, day-long presentations at the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority facility in Mayfield, Pa., followed by a special train ride from Honesdale to Lackawaxen, a barbecue dinner, and performance of an original play.

August 8 - Anniversary of the Stourbridge Lion's run in Honesdale, to be celebrated with an attempt to set the refurbished Lion in motion. Visit www.waynehistorypa.org.

Great PA Cleanup Debuts on April 24

Join in the first-ever "Great Pennsylvania Clean-up" as volunteers remove litter and trash from the state's roadways, parks, river banks, and open spaces April 24.

"Litter and illegal dumping affect everyone's quality of life, and we challenge all Pennsylvanians to get involved with cleanup efforts in their communities," said Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty.

"Our natural beauty is what makes this state so special," added Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Michael DiBerardinis.

Volunteers may join an existing cleanup or organize one of their own. Registered cleanup sponsors will provide participants with gloves, safety vests, and trash bags. Members of the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association have offered free landfill space to dispose of non-recyclable waste collected during the cleanup.

A web site has been created to assist groups and individuals with registration and promotion of local cleanups. It also contains safety information, helpful links, a downloadable logo, T-shirt iron-on transfers, posters, and lesson plans for teachers. Visit www.dep.state.pa.us/Earthday. ❖

D&H Towpath Trail Cleanup on April 30

The National Park Service seeks volunteers to clear brush and restore a woodchip path on April 30 in the 6th Annual D&H Canal Towpath Trail cleanup.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Roebling Bridge Information Center.

Wear sturdy shoes and gloves, a hat, long sleeves and long pants. Please bring your own clippers and hand tools. Protect yourself from sun and insects.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers will receive certificates.

To sign up or find out more, please call Chris at (570) 729-8253, ext. 240. ❖

In Memoriam ...



Fred Bartsch

Fred Bartsch, 68

Former Upper Delaware Council Lackawaxen Township Alternate Representative Fred Bartsch died on February 24, 2004 after a long battle with cancer.

Fred was born in Hanover, Germany. His family emigrated to the United States in 1953 and he served in the U.S. Army from 1958-60. He resided in South Plainfield, NJ from 1964-1982, and was a partner in General Electrical Contractors.

Fred was employed for 10 years until his illness by Pike County as Director of Building Services and had served as Clerk of the Works for the Pike County Correctional Facility.

He began visiting the Upper Delaware River Valley in 1955 and eventually purchased riverfront property in Shohola before moving to Greeley. Fred served as Lackawaxen Township's UDC first alternate from 1998-99 and 2002-03.

Fred loved his family dearly and enjoyed spending time on the Delaware River or working on a mechanical project in his workshop.

Survivors include his wife, Ingrid; two daughters, Sandra and husband Walter Mruczkewycz, and Sharon and husband Brian Stuart, all of Greeley; daughter-in-law, Kathleen Bartsch, Shohola; brother

Dieter and wife Karin Bartsch, Livingston, TX; sister-in-law Eleanor Bartsch, Union, NJ; and six grandchildren.

He was predeceased by son Andy Bartsch, a UDC alternate for Shohola; grandson Christopher Bartsch; and two brothers, Herby and Peter.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, Pike County Unit, 110 West Harford St., Milford, PA 18337.

Dick Gutzzeit, 81

The Town of Cocheton's first appointed representative to the Upper Delaware Council, Richard C. "Dick" Gutzzeit, died on January 23, 2004.

Mr. Gutzzeit served on the River Management Plan's Land Use Guidelines Committee and on the UDC board from 1988-89.

Dick was born in Brooklyn on Dec. 5, 1922. He served in World War II in the Army Corps of Engineers. In 1948, he and his sister Paula were the U.S. National Roller Skating Champions.

Dick was an Industrial Arts teacher at Dumont High School in NJ for 32 years. The family moved from Bergen County to Lake Huntington permanently in 1978, into a second home that Dick built.

He was active with the Cocheton Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Town of Cocheton Planning Board, and Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church.

Dick enjoyed building projects, tinkering with his boats and machinery, water skiing which he last did at the age of 80, and was often called "The Bear Man" for his chain saw wooden bear carvings.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; son Richard and wife Lois; daughters Janice Hauser and husband Bill, Joyce Franke and husband Richard, Carol Gutzzeit and husband Brandon; 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild; and sister Paula Renard. A brother, Arthur, predeceased.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cocheton Volunteer Ambulance Corps or Our Lake of the Lake Church.

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, call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail udcramie@hvc.rr.com.

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Congressman Hinchey to Address 16th Annual UDC Awards Ceremony

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) is pleased to announce that U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr. (D-NY-22nd District) will serve as keynote speaker at the UDC's 16th Annual Awards Ceremony.

The banquet will take place on Sunday, April 25, at Eldred Preserve Restaurant, Route 55, Eldred, NY.

The public is cordially welcome to attend. Tickets are \$24. Reservations are requested by April 16.

A 3 p.m. reception will offer hors d'oeuvres contributed by the Eldred Preserve and a cash bar.

At 4 p.m., guests will be seated for welcoming remarks, followed by a buffet dinner. The menu includes chicken marsala, seafood newburg, oven roasted potatoes, garden salad, baby carrots, fresh fruit salad, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea.

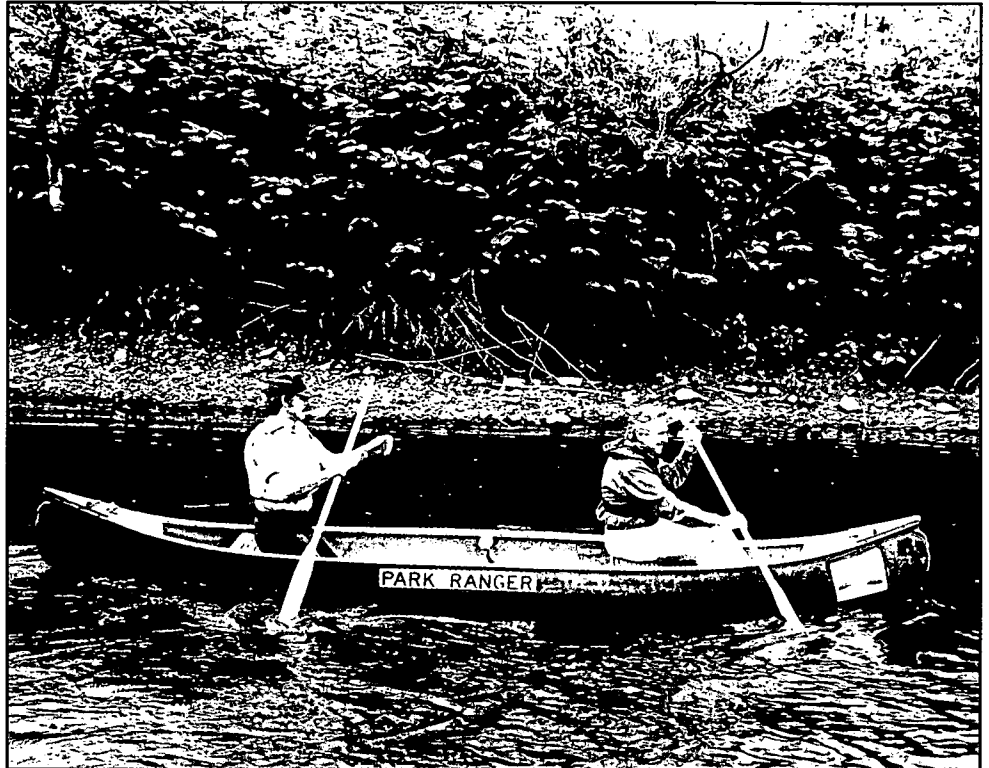
Awards will be presented, based on public nomination, to individuals, groups, communities, and agencies that have protected resources or enhanced the quality of life in the Upper Delaware River Valley region.

A list of this year's honorees is available upon request.

As keynote speaker, Congressman Hinchey will focus his address on environmental initiatives, current issues facing the U.S. House of Representatives, and his impressions of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Rep. Hinchey was elected to Congress in November 1992 after an 18-year tenure in the New York State Assembly, including 14 years as chairman of the Committee on Environmental Conservation.

He presently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees on the Interior and Agriculture.



PADDLING THE DELAWARE: On June 7, 1997, U.S. Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Jr., at the bow, enthusiastically participated in the Delaware River Sojourn, launching a canoe with then-National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Cal Hite on the West Branch of the Delaware River at Hale Eddy, NY. (File Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Born on Manhattan's Lower West Side in 1938 and raised in Saugerties, Hinchey enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating high school. He worked as a laborer in a cement plant before putting himself through college at SUNY New Paltz as a Thruway toll collector. Hinchey earned a Master's degree and went on to advanced graduate work in Public Administration and Economics at SUNY Albany.

A father of three, Hinchey and Allison Lee reside in Hurley.

The 22nd Congressional District runs from Ithaca to Middletown, including all of Sullivan and Ulster Counties, and parts of Orange and five other counties.

To make reservations for the April 25 banquet, please contact Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or udcramie@hvc.rr.com. ❖

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. 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 St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 for specific meeting dates and agendas.

Upper Delaware Council
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