

The Upper Delaware

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

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

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list by filling out the coupon
on Page 7. Thank you.



READY FOR ACTION: The Upper Delaware Council held its annual meeting on Feb. 3, 2005. Seated, from left to right, are: UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass; Vice-Chairperson Charlie Wieland, Town of Tusten; Chairperson John McKay, Lackawaxen Township; Secretary-Treasurer Jack Niflot, Town of Fremont; and Town of Delaware Representative Harold Roeder, Jr. Standing, from the left, are Bruce Selneck, Shohola Township; Bill Rudge, State of New York; Dennis DeMara, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Carol Collier, Delaware River Basin Commission; Dave Forney, National Park Service; Allan Schadt, Town of Highland; Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland; Larry Richardson, Town of Cocheton; Dave Lamereaux, Pennsylvania; Mel Decker, Town of Deerpark; Gerry Mackin, Town of Hancock; Jim Rodgers, Town of Fremont; Phil Chase, Town of Deerpark; and Lew Schmalzle, Town of Highland. Absent was Westfall Township Representative Al Bowers. (Photo by David B. Soete)

UDC Re-energized for 2005

Lackawaxen, PA Representative John S. McKay was sworn in as 2005 chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) at the Annual Meeting held February 3 in Narrowsburg, NY.

Jay R. Rose, solicitor for Lackawaxen Township, administered the oath of office to McKay and his fellow elected officers, Vice-Chairperson Charles Wieland, Town of Tusten, and Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot, Town of Fremont.

McKay joined the UDC board as an alternate in late 1988 and became Lackawaxen's representative in 1994. He served as UDC vice-chair in 1995, 1999, and 2000. This is his first time to lead the non-profit organization.

Prior to the UDC's 1988 establishment, McKay represented the Pike County Commissioners on the Upper Delaware

Citizens Advisory Council.

McKay lives in the Old Village of Mast Hope on the Delaware River. His business, McKay Enterprises, designs and builds custom log homes and manages the timber and bluestone on family-owned property along the Delaware River.

He and his wife, Jane, are proprietors of Sylvania Country Lodging. The couple has three children: Nicholas, 18; David, 16; and Elizabeth, 13.

McKay, who served on the Lackawaxen Township Board of Supervisors from 1988 to 2004 and is a current member of the township's Planning Commission, says that one of his goals as UDC chair is to reach out to the four, non-participating Wayne County, PA townships.

The River Management Plan for the

Please see UDC on Page 8

Upper Delaware Profile: Dennis DeMara

Not long ago, Dennis DeMara's surroundings and responsibilities were very different than the life he has today.

DeMara commanded a logistical air base in Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Approaching 28 years with the Army Reserves and National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel DeMara found himself called to active duty in Afghanistan.

"My mission was to protect, sustain, and improve the base where 1500-2000 people were stationed," DeMara says.

He was able to return home just once during a 14-month tour, and only then as the result of a successfully-resolved family medical emergency.

Despite the hardships and hazards, the 51-year-old DeMara reflects, "It was a tremendous experience. It was very rewarding and satisfying to help prosecute the global war on terrorism, to help the people of Afghanistan to rebuild their communities, and to be part of a new Constitution."

DeMara retired from the military reserves in May 2004 and returned to the civilian career that he had started with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in 2000.

For 24 years prior to that, DeMara served as the Parks and Recreation Director for Carbon County, PA, supervising a department that he created to oversee the operation of a 3,000-acre public park, a multi-purpose flood control dam, and an agricultural school-based initiative, among other programs.

Under DeMara's administration, Carbon County's Mauch Chunk Creek Watershed Project won the 1978 National Watershed of the Year Award and his department was recognized for having the top conservation service corps in the nation.

DeMara was involved in the 1988 designation of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and served on its federal commission. He was also appointed by PA Governor Tom Ridge to the DCNR's Citizen Advisory Council and was elected its chairperson.

The Hazelton native, whose father was an anthracite coal miner, had obtained his Carbon County job one week after graduating in 1976 from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture. He was also commissioned by the Army ROTC as a second lieutenant during college.

In 2000, DeMara left Carbon County and accepted a job with DCNR as a Recreation and Park Advisor. He became the Northeast Regional Supervisor in 2003.

While his office is in Scranton, DeMara finds himself on the road about 70% of his time, traveling among the 15 counties that



Dennis DeMara, Commonwealth of PA

comprise the region.

"We work with all units of government, non-profit organizations, land trusts and conservancies, and others to further the DCNR's goals to provide community recreation, preserve open space and critical habitat, and provide funding for green infrastructure planning," he says.

DeMara also acts as the Eastern District Supervisor of the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program, overseeing grant programs for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, and the Delaware & Lehigh NHC.

DeMara was appointed in October 2004 to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the Upper Delaware Council.

"I wholeheartedly support the efforts of the UDC and the River Management Plan in preserving the natural and recreational aspects of the river valley," he says.

"The Delaware River, along with the other major rivers in Pennsylvania, are the lifebloods of their communities. They are tremendously precious resources that obviously need to be preserved and protected," DeMara adds.

Planning for the impacts from inevitable future growth is one area that DeMara would like to see get priority attention.

"Pike and Wayne are among the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania. It's extremely important that there is regional planning so a proper balance is struck between economic prosperity and preservation of critical natural areas. Through wise planning, it's definitely possible to achieve both ends," he says.

Dennis and Susan DeMara, his wife of 28 years who directs a pregnancy care center in Lehigh, reside in Beltzville. They have three daughters, one son, and a two-year-old grandson.

DeMara enjoys saltwater fishing, trap shooting, and belongs to several military veteran organizations. ❖

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

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Water Snapshot Develops a Picture Of the Delaware River Basin's Health

Water Snapshot, a Delaware River Basin-wide water quality sampling event, will celebrate its 10th year in 2005.

Data that is collected between Friday, April 15, and Sunday, April 24, will provide an informal "snapshot" survey of the health of the river basin's waters.

Water Snapshot was born on Sept. 6, 1995, at a meeting hosted by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and attended by representatives from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Delaware.

The objective was to get as many volunteers involved as possible in monitoring the basin's waterways, whether they were already involved in established groups or taking an interest for the first time.

It was decided to bracket the event around April's Earth Day as a demonstration of commitment to clean water.

Since the first Water Snapshot took place in 1996, additional partners from the basin states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, have joined Delaware, the federal agencies, and several non-profit organizations in promoting the effort.

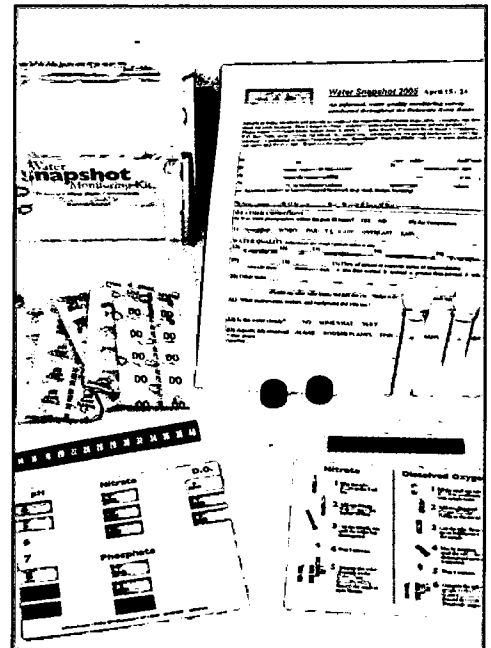
The Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are local sponsors, offering publicity, free monitoring kits, and data forms to anyone interested.

The LaMotte monitoring kits provide the means to conduct simple tests for water pH levels, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, nitrates, and phosphates. Instructions are included. Data forms may be downloaded at www.drbc.net.

There is also a Visual Assessment Survey component which asks participants to observe a stream and its surrounding area and respond to questions concerning instream habitat cover, fine particle sediments, flow patterns, condition of the banks, disruptive pressures to the riparian area, the riparian vegetative zone width, presence of litter, and overall rating.

Return completed data sheets by June 3 to Clarke Rupert, DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628. Phone (609) 883-9500, ext. 260 for more information.

The ultimate goal of Water Snapshot is to create a heightened awareness about people's local watersheds, the role they play in our lives, and the need for stewardship. ❖



TEST KIT: The Upper Delaware Council has a limited number of Water Snapshot monitoring kits to distribute locally, courtesy of the Delaware River Basin Commission. Call (845) 252-3022 to inquire about availability. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

National River Clean-up Week Set May 14-22

National River Clean-up Week is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise the public's awareness about the magnitude of trash accumulating in our nation's waterways.

Since 1992, more than 430,000 volunteers have participated in 4,180 clean-ups covering more than 88,000 miles of waterways.

All clean-up projects which register by April 15 will receive a free Stewardship Manual to help plan the event. Free trash bags are also available for registered clean-ups conducted on May 14-22.

Clean-ups can range in scope from a few friends working on a shoreline to several hundred volunteers working with public agencies or the private sector.

Event results will be reported on-line

through the Trash Tracker to gain a national tally of accomplishments.

To register or find out more, visit www.nationalrivercleanup.com or contact National River Clean-up Week, P.O. Box 10847, Knoxville, TN 37939; phone (865) 558-3595.

Forms may be downloaded to compete in photography, publicity, creative writing, and art contests offering great prizes. ❖

Eradicate Knotweed

The Delaware River Foundation seeks volunteers to assist with its Japanese Knotweed eradication project in Hancock, NY.

Every Saturday, from April through September, volunteers gather at the Village of Hancock Fishing Access Site (Junction Pool) starting at 9 a.m. to help in the battle to keep this invasive plant species under control.

Participants should feel free to bring their own cutting tools. Fly rods are always welcome too! Sunday mornings are rain dates for the work group.

For more information, call (607) 637-3220, e-mail drf@hancock.net or visit www.delawareriverfoundation.org. ❖

PA Clean-up Planned for Earth Day

The second Great Pennsylvania Clean-up, an ambitious statewide effort to remove litter and trash from the state's roadways, parks, river banks and open spaces, will happen April 23 in conjunction with Earth Day.

In 2004, PA Department of Environmental Protection coordinated the work of 5,100 groups that reported picking up and disposing of more than 233,000 garbage bags of trash from sites across the Commonwealth. Those figures include PENNDOT's coordinated efforts of almost 100,000 volunteers from nearly 4,400 civic-minded groups that collected another 191,000 bags of trash from 9,000 miles of state roadways. Through the state's Forest Lands Beautification Program, volunteers and contractors in 2004 helped the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources remove more than 4,800 tires, 135 tons of trash and 125 tons of scrap metal from PA parks and forests.

Glad, Inc. will provide trash bags for all registered participants. Free landfill space for non-recyclable waste is available through the PA Waste Industries Association. For information, iron-on decals, safety tips, and teacher lesson plans, visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click on the Great Pennsylvania Clean-up logo or call toll-free (888) 548-8372. ❖

DRBC Financial Struggles Continue

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has adopted a \$4.9 million budget for Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006) that, for the second consecutive year, includes a mechanism to reduce programs and services if the five commission members do not fully contribute their fair share of the annual budget.

"The FY 2006 budget calls for no increase in the signatory funding levels that have been in place since FY 2002, despite the rising costs of delivering services over the past four years," said DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier.

Although the five members agreed in the 100-year Compact passed in 1961 to support the commission's annual budget, very serious signatory revenue shortfalls have plagued the DRBC since 1997 when the federal government's contribution was eliminated by the U.S. Congress.

The cumulative federal shortfall now totals over \$5.7 million, exceeding the size of the DRBC's annual budget. Over the same period, the cumulative shortfall from New York State has reached \$691,000.

"In the current fiscal year, the DRBC is being forced to cut spending by approximately \$656,000, or about 13% of our adopted FY 2005 budget, due to the funding shortfalls from two of our five members," said Collier. "Such reductions cannot be sustained year after year because there

is no fat in this agency to cut. We are now down to the bone and any reductions will hurt the commission and the basin community."

Decisions to not fill vacant positions as well as the reorganization of the Delaware Estuary Program previously housed at the DRBC have resulted in savings of over \$340,000 in the current fiscal year. An additional \$175,000 is expected to be saved by reductions in supplies and materials, building services, communications, travel, and maintenance/acquisition of computers and vehicles.

"We had to temporarily suspend our Flood Advisory Committee and its important flood loss reduction efforts on July 1, 2004, shortly before we witnessed the worst mainstem river flooding since 1955 in September. In addition, we were forced to cut back on monitoring activities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania tidal tributaries, and in November 2004 we found ourselves facing a major oil spill in the Delaware where having that lost information would have proved very useful," Collier noted.

The DRBC has identified 10 programs that could be impacted if signatory contributions are not restored by July 1, 2005. They include technical and administrative support of flow management negotiations between the basin states and New York City; fish and wildlife habitat efforts; cost-shared projects with federal partners; flood loss reduction efforts; assessment of water quality impairments; timely implementation of toxics pollution control initiatives; water quality monitoring and analysis; timely review of water withdrawal or discharge applications requiring DRBC action; \$250,000 in technical studies to support the recently-adopted Basin Plan's goals and objectives; and education and outreach. ❖

NPS Upper Delaware Releases Budget

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's Fiscal Year 2005 budget is available for public review.

Highlights of the budget, which funds specific goals in the Annual Performance Plan, are as follows:

\$649,644 allocated for resource preservation and management. This includes preservation of historic structures and

landscapes, care of archival and curatorial collections, National Register of Historic Places nominations, natural resource inventory and monitoring, water testing, and development/maintenance of Geographical Information System (GIS) data for the river valley. Funding for the Upper Delaware Council's annual operations is included in this category;

\$1,094,750 to address visitor services. All of the interpretive, education and law enforcement programs, and related inter-agency coordination for the Upper Delaware, are included. Specific examples are exhibits, the www.nps.gov/upde web site, Roebling Bridge tours, Zane Grey Museum operations, river safety education, search and rescue, and grants to local governments for law enforcement and trash removal along the river;

\$392,784 for facility operations and maintenance. This funding covers grounds maintenance at NPS-owned and co-managed sites, snow plowing at five locations, upkeep of non-historic buildings and landscapes, portable restrooms, and trash removal services at river accesses.

\$653,822 for NPS unit administration. These are expenses for administrative and support services programs related to contracting, procurement, personnel, property management, communications, computer services, planning, compliance, public relations, partnership support, staff support, and general program supervision.

To request a copy of the budget, call (570) 729-8251 or write to Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, 274 River Road, Beach Lake, PA 18405. ❖

Studies Abound in Upper Delaware

No less than nine scientific studies are currently underway in the Upper Delaware River Basin to obtain various ecological and hydrologic data. The studies and their expected completion dates are noted.

1. Upper Delaware Instream Habitat Assessment - will produce habitat maps for 11 stream segments of the West Branch, East Branch, Neversink, and Main Stem Delaware River to quantify habitat metrics over a range of discharges and seasons. Spring 2006.

2. Instream Temperature Modeling in the Major Tributaries and Main Stem of the Upper Delaware River. Spring 2006.

3. Minimum Water Flows Required to Sustain Federally Endangered Dwarf Wedgemussels in the Upper Delaware River. December 2005.

4. Determination of Host Fish for the Federally Endangered Dwarf Wedgemussel in the Upper Delaware River. December 2006.

5. Dwarf Wedgemussel Habitat Study on the Upper Delaware. 2008.

6. Flow Forecasting Improvements for the Upper Delaware River Basin. Equipment installation by end of 2005, forecasts at seven existing National Weather Service stations by mid-2006, establishment of a new USGS stream gaging station at Lordville after multi-year data collection and calibration.

7. Rate-of-change in Flow Recommendations. DRBC's Subcommittee on Ecological Flows to finalize recommendations by end of 2006.

8. Flow, Temperature and Biological Monitoring in the Delaware River Tailwaters, 2004-2006. 2004 monitoring report to be submitted mid-March 2005, final report completed May 31, 2007.

9. Fish Inventories of the Upper and Middle Delaware River. December 2006.

[Information taken from a March 4, 2005 report issued by the Delaware River Basin Commission with assistance from Don Hamilton and Rich Evans of the National Park Service, Colin Apse of The Nature Conservancy, Wayne Elliot of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Alex Hoar of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.] ❖

National Park Service Northeast Regional Director Steps Down

National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust retired on March 3, 2005 after 31 years of service.

Rust was also the National Park Service's official representative to the Upper Delaware Council partnership since 1995.

The UDC alternate representative is Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent David C. Forney.

Rust led the NPS during a time of unprecedented planning and development of national park facilities forged through creative partnerships with the private sector and state government.

Her career in Philadelphia began in 1995 when then-NPS Director Roger Kennedy tasked her with merging the former North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Regions, creating one Northeast Region covering 13 states.

She is credited with the stewardship of such American icons as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, Shenandoah National Park (VA), the Statue of Liberty, Boston's Freedom Trail, and Acadia National Park (ME).

On the international front, Rust engineered a partnership with the Europarc Federation to share information and expertise between U.S. parks and national parks in 37 European countries.

Rust began her NPS career in Boston in 1974 as the director of personnel. Her charge was to form a new administrative organization, the North Atlantic Region, which included the New England states as well as New York and New Jersey.

From 1974-1992, the native New Yorker held a variety of senior management posts as well as serving two years as regional director in Boston before directing the former Mid-Atlantic Region from Philadelphia.

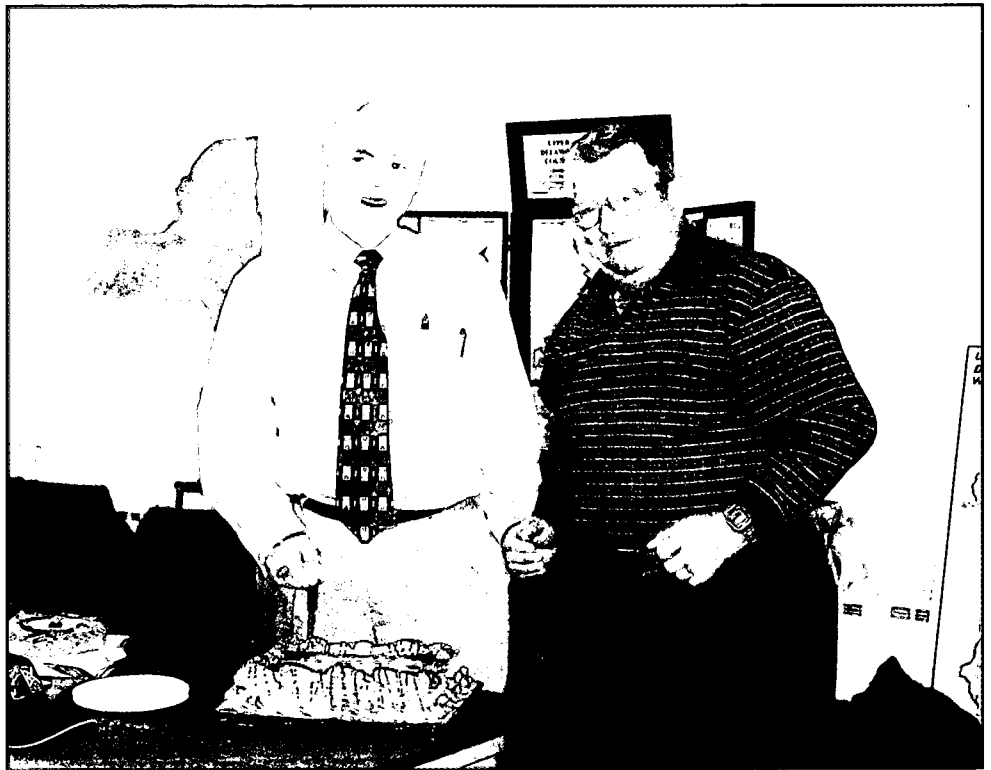
Mary Bomar, formerly the superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, has been named interim director of the NPS Northeast Region. ❖

UDC River Maps Available for Free

The UDC publishes a "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania."

To request individual brochures or a bulk supply for tourism outlets and river valley businesses, please contact UDC Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie at P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192; phone (845) 252-3022; fax (845) 252-3359; or e-mail udcramie@hvc.rr.com. ❖

Spring 2005



PA DEP RETIREE: David J. Lamereaux, left, prepares to cut a cake celebrating his April 1, 2005 retirement from his 37-year career with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the Upper Delaware Council's Water Use/Resource Management (WU/RM) Committee meeting on March 15. At right is Charlie Wieland, WU/RM Committee chair. Lamereaux served as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's alternate to the UDC and member of the WU/RM Committee since 1989, coinciding with his position as Assistant Director of the PA DEP Northeast Regional Office based in Wilkes-Barre. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Delaware River Life Parade on Apr. 30

The Second Annual Delaware River Life Procession will take place on April 30 at noon on Main Street in Callicoon, NY.

The Procession is a parade dedicated to the flora and fauna of the Delaware River. Adults and kids are encouraged to create costumes, masks, flags, and instruments to celebrate the river's natural beauty, Mardi Gras style.

To participate, simply show up in cos-

tume at the Braman Arts Conservatory Studio on Lower Main Street at 11:30.

Entertainment will follow in the Callicoon Creek Park after the parade.

Costume building workshops are being held every Saturday morning in April to help get ready.

For information, contact Tasha Williams at (845) 887-1901 or www.bramanarts.org. The rain date for this event is May 1. ❖

'Trail Blazers' Symposium Set for May 14

"Trail Blazers, Adventurers & Refugees: Stories of Those Who Came to the Upper Delaware Valley," a symposium on ethnicities sponsored by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, will take place on Saturday, May 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Central House Family Resort in

Beach Lake, PA.

The \$25 registration includes interactive panel discussions, handouts, exhibits, refreshments, and a buffet lunch.

Reserve by May 6 by contacting Laurie Ramie at udcramie@hvc.rr.com or (845) 252-3022. ❖

Delaware River Sojourn Paddle June 19-25

The Delaware River Sojourn is a seven-day, 100-mile-plus journey down one of the most historic and scenic rivers in the U.S.

The theme for the June 19-25 paddling experience is "Introducing the Delaware River Water Trail".

Participants canoe or kayak for a day trip or multiple days, with safety guides, camp-

ing, most meals, and educational programs provided.

The 2005 Sojourn begins on the East Branch of the Delaware in Fishs Eddy, NY and ends at Palmyra Cove in New Jersey.

Request a registration brochure by calling (570) 828-9692 or, to view the itinerary, visit www.delawariversojourn.org. ❖

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council activity highlights from mid-December 2004 to mid-March 2005, not covered elsewhere in this issue, include:

RAILROAD LEASED

Norfolk Southern Railroad signed a 20-year lease with Central New York Railroad providing trackage rights for its southern tier line, running from Binghamton to Port Jervis. The new operator has indicated a desire to increase freight traffic.

Following a series of local public meetings in February, tax abatements requested by Central NY RR to continue operations were granted by the Industrial Development Agencies for Broome, Delaware, and Sullivan Counties.

Central NY RR officials told the UDC that the lease arrangement will have no impact on the Pegasus high-voltage power line proposal since Norfolk Southern retains property rights over the railroad line.

RESERVOIR WATCH

An agreement between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to draw down the Pepacton Reservoir to reduce spillage prompted the UDC to send a Feb. 3 letter to NYC DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd requesting an extension of that program to the Cannonsville Reservoir "which could help to reduce flooding along both the West Branch and Main Stem of the Delaware River."

"During exceptionally wet periods, as we have had the last two years, we would also like consideration to be given to making releases during other times of the year when the reservoirs are spilling and significant storms are forecast, along with a favorable probability of refill," it continued.

LAND ACQUISITION

NYS DEC has formally indicated its interest in acquiring 119 acres in the Towns of Delaware and Cohecton for designation as State Forest land.

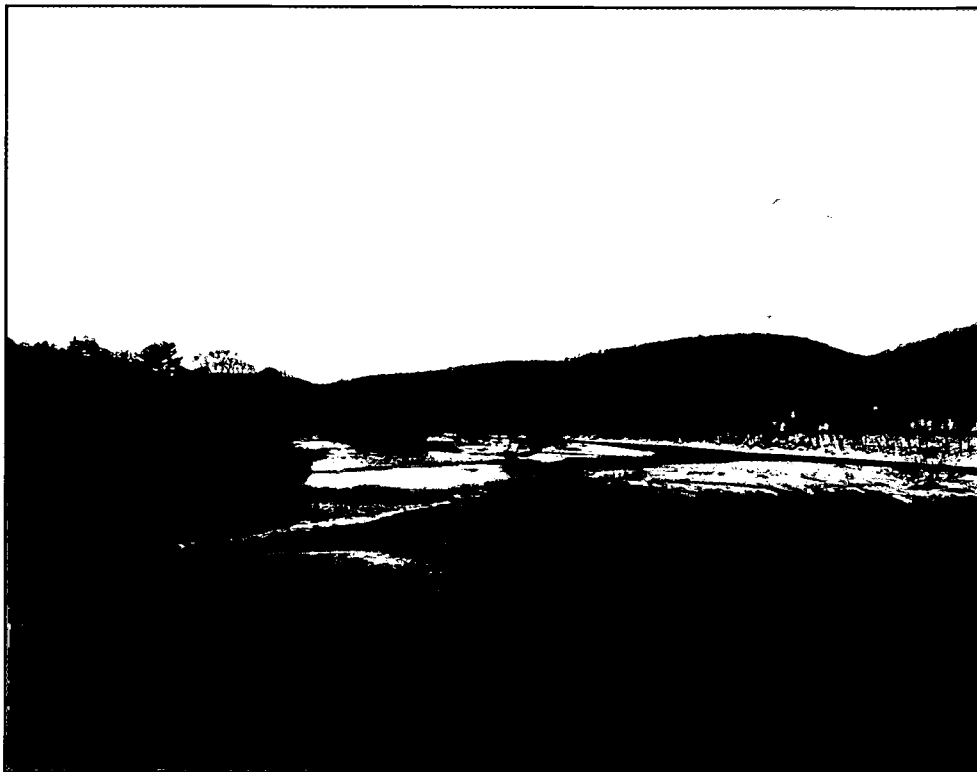
The property, which includes Big Island, would be devoted to the maintenance of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, wildlife, habitat, and outdoor recreational opportunities.

NY TOWN GRANTS

The UDC authorized its eight New York State town members on Feb. 4 to begin work on their \$5,000 grant projects following receipt of an executed state contract and the UDC's favorable vote on a resolution approving the 2004-05 applications. Senator John J. Bonacic designated the UDC to administer this latest grant round.

SCENIC BYWAY

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.



WINTER RESPITE: Early March brought bone-chilling temperatures to the river valley region but found the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, depicted in this sunset scene from Callicoon, NY, to be relatively free of ice cover. (Photo by David B. Soete)

has surveyed member municipalities to compile a list of desired infrastructure enhancements along Route 97, such as vista clearings and motorist pull-offs. The organization is working with the NYS Department of Transportation to discuss procedures and assign estimated costs to pursue these projects.

UDSB, Inc. donated \$2,000 to the UDC in appreciation for providing staff support services and office usage.

UDC APPEARANCES

Special meetings or activities in which the UDC participated this quarter included:

-- Dec. 29, UDC Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee meeting with Orange County, NY officials to discuss the impacts that the Kiryas Joel community's water pipeline tap-in proposal for the Catskill Aqueduct could have on the Upper Delaware River due to the potential need for greater withdrawals from the Delaware reservoirs to benefit New York City.

-- Jan. 12, Delaware River Water Trail public meeting in Shohola, PA to solicit Upper Delaware regional input on the Concept Plan, Trail Guide, and web site being developed with grant funding.

-- Jan. 15, UDC staffed an informational booth at the successful, 4th Annual Eaglefest in Narrowsburg.

-- Jan. 25, Delaware River GIS Work Group meeting, Beach Lake, PA, to hear

progress on the development of a GIS growth model program for the river valley.

-- Feb. 15, UDC shared services information with staff from The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, based in Arkville, NY, during their visit to various Upper Delaware sites.

-- Mar. 9, National Park Service meeting with Hancock officials to arrange bringing a series of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River interpretive programs to Hancock in the summer of 2005.

BOARD CHANGES

Recent changes to the Upper Delaware Council membership roster include the creation of vacancies in the alternate positions for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (formerly David J. Lamereaux) and the Town of Hancock (formerly Jim Serio), and a vacancy in the National Park Service's representative slot due to Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust's retirement.

The Town of Highland has reassigned its positions as follows: Allan Schadt will serve as representative; Lew Schmalzle is the first alternate; and Robert Burrow is a new second alternate.

Elected in February to serve as 2005 chairpersons for the UDC's three standing committees were: Charlie Wieland, Water Use/Resource Management; John McKay, Operations; and Harold Roeder, Jr., Project Review. ❖

In Memoriam ...

Philip J. Fitzpatrick, 54

Philip J. Fitzpatrick, an influential crafter of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, died on December 23, 2004 at Bon Secours Community Hospital following a heart attack.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was Director of Support Services for the Delaware Valley School District. The Merrick, NY native was a 28-year resident of the Matamoras, PA area. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Judith (Kroutil), one son, Keith; two daughters, Jennifer and Katie; one brother; two sisters; in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A former Executive Director for the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, he co-chaired the chamber's Ambassador program. He was a member of the Fontinalis Fly Fisherman's Club, and a past member of the Delaware Valley Board of Education, the Matamoras Fire Department, and Pennsylvania Aware.

Mr. Fitzpatrick joined the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council in 1985. He then served as a member and the 1987 chairman of the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP), the organization which worked in partnership with the National Park Service to finalize the River Management Plan and establish the UDC.

From 1988 to 1992, he was Westfall Township's voting representative to the Upper Delaware Council and was elected as the UDC's first chairperson.

Mr. Fitzpatrick received the 1990 Distinguished Service Award and the 1989 Oaken Gavel Award for his service to the UDC and the river valley.

The first and second superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, John Hutzky and Calvin Hite, respectively, each offered tributes.



Phil Fitzpatrick, the UDC's first chairperson, attended the Upper Delaware Council's 10th anniversary picnic in 1998 to share anecdotes and renew old acquaintances. (File photo by David B. Soete)

"Phil was a great believer in the River Management Plan and the Upper Delaware Council. Without his early leadership as the UDC's first chairman, it's doubtful that it would have gotten off the ground," Hutzky said. "He had much to give, and gave his all. Although his death may seem, and is, untimely in terms of years, his life was rich in accomplishment to family, friends and community. He will be missed."

Hite said, "I remember Phil as one who was willing to listen, a voice of reason, respectful to all without prejudice, and quick to share a laugh. He realized and unwaveringly supported the serious work of our partnership, while also knowing that we were all human and trying to do what was best for the resources and beauty of the river. He was a pleasure to know and work with on the challenges of the Upper

Delaware."

Memorial contributions may be made to two organizations of which Mr. Fitzpatrick was also an active member, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy land trust, P.O. Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428 or the Milford-Matamoras Rotary Club, P.O. Box 148, Matamoras, PA 18336. Funeral arrangements were made by the Gray-Parker Funeral Home, Port Jervis, NY.

Leon H. Reed, 82

Leon H. Reed, a long-term member of the Upper Delaware Council's Water Use/Resource Management Advisory Committee, died on January 29, 2005.

The Honesdale, PA resident and Gouverneur, NY native is survived by his wife, Shirley (Thompson); three sons, Jeffrey, Stephen and Douglas; one daughter, Sandra; 10 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Reed served on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for nearly 19 years and was its president from 1988-89. He was first appointed in July 1986 to represent the Seventh District, which includes Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties.

An Army veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, Mr. Reed worked as a mechanical contractor. He operated Leon H. Reed Plumbing and Heating Co. from 1973 until his 1990 retirement.

The PA Federation of Sportsmen's Hall of Fame inductee was a member of numerous sportsmen's associations, the I.O.O.F. Honesdale Lodge, Bethany United Methodist Church, and served as a hunter safety instructor for 40 years.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bethany United Methodist Church, Bethany, PA 18431, or a charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements for a spring interment at Bethany Cemetery were made by the Arthur A. Bryant Funeral Home, Honesdale, PA.

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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UDC 17th Annual Awards Ceremony Set on April 17th

The Upper Delaware Council will hold its 17th Annual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 17, at The Inn at Lackawaxen, located on the banks of the Delaware River in Lackawaxen, PA. All are welcome.

A reception with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar begins at 3 p.m. Dinner will be served at 4 p.m. The banquet site (formerly known as the Lackawaxen House) is located at 188 Scenic Drive.

Michael Bedrin, the director since June 2004 of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 11-county Northeast Regional Office, will deliver the keynote address.

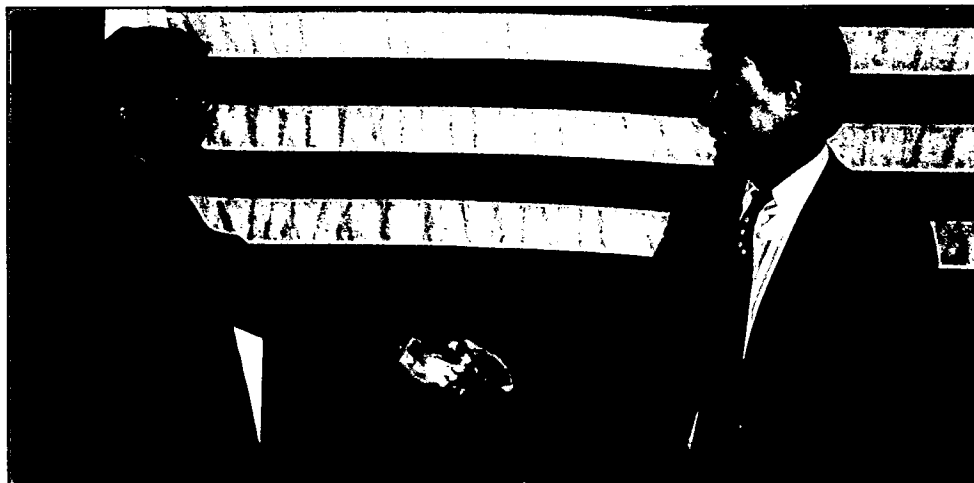
The UDC sponsors this event each year to honor those individuals, organizations, communities, and agencies that have made significant contributions to the Upper Delaware River region, either by enhancing its quality of life or protecting its resources.

Public nominations were accepted through March 15. The roster of this year's distinguished recipients, announced after this issue went to press, is available upon request.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Advance entree selection and payment are requested by April 8.

Entree choices are: Roast Sirloin of Beef with Gravy; Chicken Francaise; Flounder with Lemon Butter Sauce; or Pasta Primavera, to be accompanied by tossed salad with vinaigrette dressing, oven-roasted potatoes, string beans almondine, rolls, coffee, tea, and white chocolate mousse cake for dessert.

For reservations or information, please contact Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or udcramie@hvc.rr.com. ❖



NEW CHAIR: Jay R. Rose, left, Lackawaxen Township solicitor, administered the oath of office to 2005 UDC Chairperson John S. McKay, right, at the Feb. 3 annual meeting held at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

UDC, continued from Page 1

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (1986) specified that the 15 New York State towns and Pennsylvania townships that have property bordering on the river were eligible to join the UDC on a voluntary basis. New York, Pennsylvania, and the Delaware River Basin Commission are also represented on the board.

To date, 11 local governments are members. They include all three eligible townships in Pike County, PA and all eight NYS towns located in three counties.

The Wayne County Townships of Berlin, Buckingham, Damascus, and Manchester have so far opted against joining.

McKay hopes that the boards will reconsider the concept of strength in numbers.

"I personally would like to see a stronger Pennsylvania voice on issues that concern our region," McKay wrote in a March 11 letter to each of the townships.

From his 16-year perspective as a PA township supervisor, McKay pointed out that there have been no negative consequences to participating on the Council.

To the contrary, McKay said that the

UDC's efforts have contributed greatly to the protection of the Upper Delaware River Valley's character and property rights over the past 17 years.

"Our organization's home-rule emphasis means that [your township] gives up nothing by joining the UDC, but gains an advocacy partner, access to member grant funding, and an important seat at the table as we collectively tackle the issues associated with future growth," McKay wrote.

One benefit available only to UDC member municipalities and their counties is the annual Technical Assistance Grants program. Since 1988, the UDC has awarded \$542,992 to fund local projects identified by the applicants. The PA townships of Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall have cumulatively received \$112,973.

The UDC renewed its ongoing offer to meet with the townships to answer any questions and discuss concerns.

The simple procedure to join the UDC is to submit a letter of intent, and appoint a representative and alternate to serve on the board. The Council provides compensation for its members' expenses. ❖

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.

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