

The Upper Delaware

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Upper Delaware Council

Spring 1989

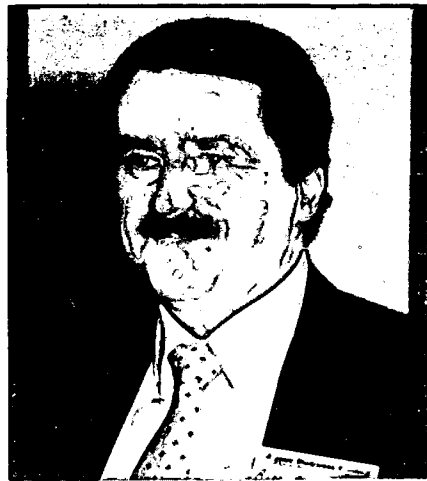
Bill Douglass Named Executive Director

Deep Roots in Community

Bill Douglass, Wayne County's Director of Planning over the last dozen years, has been named Executive Director of the Upper Delaware Council. Douglass was chosen for the staff position after an intensely competitive selection procedure that spanned several months.

Douglass was hired at the February meeting of the Council and officially began work on March 13th. He joins Administrative Director Kathy Johnson and Secretary Janice Fischer as the third staff person in the Council's Narrowsburg office.

Douglass knows the Upper Delaware area well. His parents were originally from Wayne County. They moved to Vestal, N.Y., where Douglass graduated from high school



UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass.
Photo by J. DeGeus Photographers.

as Senior Class President. Returning to Wayne County, he worked for an engineering firm and a surveying firm before becoming County Planner.

His wife, Mary Ellen, was born and raised in northern Wayne County, and her family lives nearby, convenient grandparents to their two children Molly and Ian, ages one and four. Mary Ellen works as a registered nurse three days a week in the Wayne County Memorial Hospital.

In his position as planner, Bill has developed a reputation for his expertise and his exact planning work. Through his work on projects such as sewer plans he has gained experience dealing with all levels of government, a crucial skill he will need in his work for the Council.

(See "Douglass", on page 10)

Governor Casey Signs Executive Order Giving State Protection to Upper Delaware

The Upper Delaware Council announced today that Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey has issued an Executive Order providing across-the-board protection by the Commonwealth for the Upper Delaware Scenic

and Recreational River. The order, directing all state agencies to act consistently with the river management plan, is the most important action sought from the Commonwealth by the plan.

The Executive Order, No. 1989-2, contains the following key provision:

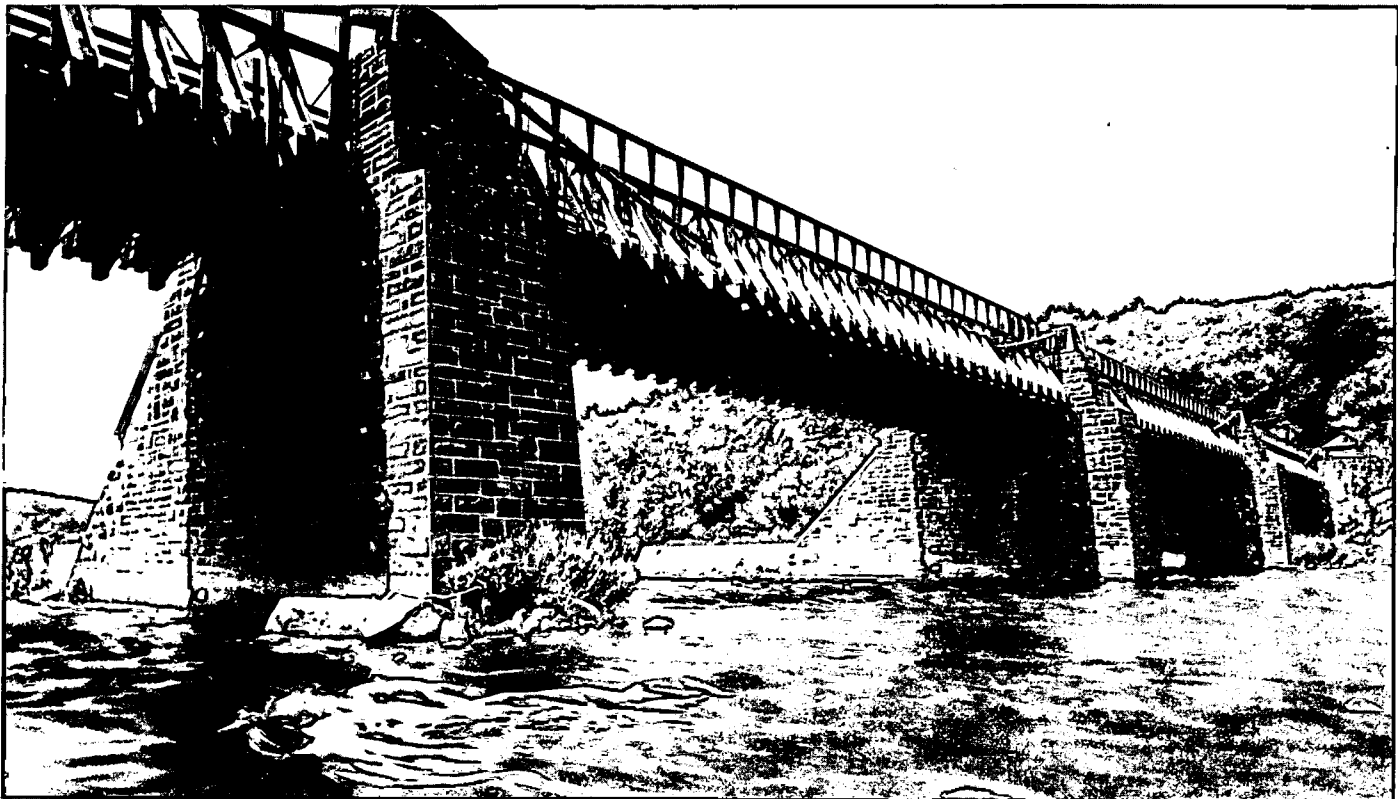
"To the maximum extent permitted by law, all

administrative departments, independent administrative boards and commissions, and other state agencies shall act consistently with the goals, policies, and objectives of the Upper Delaware Scenic River Management Plan and provide for adequate consideration of the national interest involved in planning for and siting of facilities and the use of resources in the Upper Delaware Scenic River corridor when such planning, siting, and uses are of more than local interest... This Executive Order shall

(See "Executive Order", on page 10)

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Thousands of visitors come to the Upper Delaware each year to see the Roebling Bridge. This year, plans are also underway to restore and interpret the Toll House, located next to the bridge on the New York side. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

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Officers

Chairperson.....Frank Hartmann
Vice-Chairperson.....Edward DeFebo
Secretary-Treasurer.....Edward Sykes, Sr.

New York Town Members

Hancock.....George Frosch
Delaware.....Myron Knight, Alternate
Cochecton.....Edward Sykes, Sr.
Lumberland.....William Dirie, Alternate
Deerpark.....Larry Richardson
.....John Poley, Alternate
.....Thomas Hill
.....Peter Melnyk, Alternate
.....Frank Hartmann
.....Bob Levin, Alternate

Pennsylvania Township Members

Lackawaxen.....Edward DeFebo
Shohola.....John McKay, Alternate
Westfall.....Bruce Selneck
.....George Fluhr, Alternate
.....Phil Fitzpatrick
.....Doug Hay, Alternate

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Conservation.....Bruce MacMillan
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Resources.....Frederick Gerty, Alternate
Delaware River Basin Commission.....Roger Fickes
.....Gerald M. Hansler
.....Robert V. Everest, Alternate

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UD Citizens Advisory Council.....John T. Hutzky, Alternate
.....Larue Elmore

Staff

Executive Director.....William Douglass
Administrative Director.....Kathy Johnson
Secretary.....Janice Fischer
Consultant.....Hoffman, Williams, Lafen & Fletcher
.....Arlington, Virginia

Town of Lumberland First to Achieve Substantial Conformance

The River Management Plan passed a major milestone when the Town of Lumberland was accepted as being in substantial conformance with the Plan's requirements and standards. At the Upper Delaware Council Meeting on February 2 1989, the UDC made its recommendation, and the National Park Service announced its agreement that the Town of Lumberland was in substantial conformance with the River Management Plan. The ruling was the first for any river corridor town, and points the way toward future acceptance of the plan in the corridor.

What Substantial Conformance Means

The decision means that virtually all of the land use and zoning decisions affecting Lumberland landowners will continue to be made at the local level, without intervention by the National Park Service, the UDC or other agencies. Local decision making has been a cornerstone of the unique planning effort made by COUP and the UDC in developing a management plan that would satisfy federal conservation requirements, while retaining the fundamental authority for local decisions in the towns of the river corridor.

Reactions of Town and UDC Officials

Town officials were pleased that Lumberland was the first town to come into substantial conformance. "This action confirms our belief that Lumberland's zoning and planning ordinances protect the town and the environment of our town", said Tom Hill, Supervisor and Upper Delaware Council Member.

"These environmental values are the things that bring people to Lumberland, and once they are lost, they can be gone forever." Hill continued to say that the Planning Board was receptive to the suggestions made during the review procedure for improvements to

town ordinances and will meet with UDC staff to consider action in the near future.

Outgoing Council President Phil Fitzpatrick reflected on the significance of this decision in the turbulent history of river corridor planning at the January Council meeting. "It is remarkable that the dire predictions regarding the process have not come true. Finding the Town of Lumberland in substantial confor-

areas of municipal concern. Several of the Lumberland ordinances were recommended as model ordinances for other towns to consider.

The River Management Plan recognized the Lumberland sign ordinance as such a model because of its flexible performance standards that regulate sign placement to preserve visual beauty without imposing absolute regulations for every category of advertisement.



Nineteen smiling people from the Town of Lumberland attended the Council's first Awards Dinner. They had received word two days earlier that their town was the first to be judged in substantial conformance with the River Management Plan. Photo by J. DeGeus Photographers.

mance confirms our belief that the Upper Delaware River will be protected, and that protection will take place through the efforts of local towns and officials."

The Review Process

The decision followed an extensive review and discussion by the UDC and Lumberland Town officials of the many relevant ordinances including the zoning ordinance, flood plain ordinance, and statutes governing trailer parks, campgrounds, signs and other

Review of Other Towns

The Council plans to review seven more towns this year for substantial conformance. The Lumberland review indicates that the Council will prepare thoroughly before recommending a decision or suggesting changes or additions to the existing ordinances. Towns that are not members of the Upper Delaware Council will have their ordinances reviewed by officials of the National Park Service in Philadelphia during the same period of time.

Upper Delaware Council News

Hartmann Elected Chairperson of UDC

The Upper Delaware Council elected new officers at its annual meeting on January 4th. Three new committee chairs were also named.

Frank Hartmann from the Town of Deerpark was elected the Council's second chairperson, succeeding Phil Fitzpatrick of Westfall Township. Ed DeFebo of Lackawaxen Township was elected Vice-Chairperson, succeeding George Frosch of the Town of Hancock. Ed Sykes, Sr., of the Town of Delaware was elected Secretary-Treasurer, succeeding Bruce Selneck of Shohola Township.

The Town of Cocheton informed the Council that Planning Board member Larry Richardson would replace outgoing representative Richard Gutzeit as the Town's representative.

The Town of Delaware's two representatives switched positions. Ed Sykes, Sr., is now the Council representative, and Supervisor Bill Dirie is the alternate. Lackawaxen Township appointed Supervisor John McKay as alternate representative to Ed DeFebo.

Other Appointments

Chairperson Hartmann named the new committee chairs for 1989. Mr. Hartmann will serve as Chair of the Operations Committee; Thomas Hill will continue as Chair of the Project Review Committee; Phil Fitzpatrick became Chair of the Resource Management Committee; and Ed DeFebo was appointed Chair of the Water Use Committee.

Former Office Manager Kathy Johnson was elevated to the newly created position of Administrative Director.

UDC To Award Grants To Local Governments

Mr. Hartmann announced at the April meeting that the Council will make another round of grants available to participating towns and county governments this fiscal year. Grants will be made available for purposes relating to implementation of the river management plan, but the funds can-

not cover equipment or construction costs.

The Council made thirteen grants in the amount of \$124,250 during FY 1988. Planning and zoning funds were made available to the Town of Hancock, Town of Lumberland, Town of Deerpark, and Shohola Township.



*Frank Hartmann, 1989 UDC Chair.
Photo by J. DeGeus, Photographers.*

Funds for technical studies were granted to Pike County (natural diversity inventory), Sullivan County (a county hydrologic model), the Town of Lumberland (traffic study for Pond Eddy Bridge problems), and for the preparation of a corridor-oriented hazardous materials risk assessment.

The Council set aside funds for publications, including a development design guide, a recreation user guide, a local government directory, and an inventory and mapping of historical sites along the D&H Canal. Funding for the Town of Lumberland's Environmental Management Board was also provided.

Funding proposals are encouraged for any of the following purposes: educational projects related to the plan; the preparation of studies, ordinances or other actions regarding the management of solid waste or hazardous materials; projects oriented to the preservation of cultural or natural

resources; planning and zoning projects; and similar undertakings.

The deadline for proposals is June 10. Contact the Council for additional information.

River User Guide

The Upper Delaware Council has published a River User Guide. It is a color brochure for boaters, hunters, fishermen, and other recreational users of the river and adjacent lands. It includes information on river corridor restaurants, motels, canoe liveryes, license issuing agents, access sites, public lands, and other useful information. A copy of the River User Guide may be obtained by contacting the UDC.

Volunteers Needed

Public response to the Council's search for volunteer committee members has been excellent, but the Water Use and Resource Management Committees are still seeking additional members. Volunteer members provide expert advice to the committees on wide-ranging resource protection and recreation management issues. The Council has developed specific plans for the recruitment and participation of volunteer members to help them to be integral parts of committee activity. Contact the Council office if you have an interest in serving.

Local Government Directory

The Upper Delaware Council has published a Directory of Local Governments affected by the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The directory includes addresses and telephone numbers for all relevant local government offices, emergency numbers, county information numbers, addresses and telephone numbers of UDC members, and NPS telephone numbers. A copy of the directory may be obtained by contacting the UDC.

NPS Purchases Zane Grey House

Experts Examine Toll House

A team of historic restoration specialists recently examined the Roebling Bridge Toll House to determine what action the National Park Service needs to take in order to preserve the historic structure.

According to Sandy Speers, Chief of Planning for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a team of three NPS specialists from the Williamsport Preservation Center examined the Toll House for structural integrity and removed some deteriorated wood fabric for analysis. The team will be preparing a report recommending further actions needed to stabilize the building. Initial indications are that the building's condition, which has suffered problems due to excessive moisture, is better than many had feared.

The Toll House is located on the New York side of the Roebling Bridge, in the Town of Highland. It was constructed in the early part of this century, some ten years after the Roebling Aqueduct was converted to a bridge. It operated as a private toll bridge until, run down from lack of maintenance, it was declared unsafe for vehicular use in 1979. The National Park Service acquired the bridge and toll house in 1980, renovating and reopening the bridge in 1987.

Less Snow, Less Flow

An unusually warm and dry winter has resulted in a greatly reduced snow pack, low reservoir levels, and the declaration of a Drought Warning condition.

Says Wayne Elliot, Fisheries Manager for Region Three of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, "certainly things don't look good. Snow pack is like money in the bank, so to speak. When there is no snow pack, we need to have substantial spring rains to raise the water level."

Already reservoir levels are far below normal for this time of year, triggering Drought Warning conservation measures which include reduced

reservoir draws for water supply and in-stream flows. How does this affect the Upper Delaware fisheries?

Explains Elliot, "The lower flows that exist now have shrunk the rivers, exposing parts of the bottom. This provides less habitat for the insects that fish feed upon, resulting in less productive fisheries."

Unless some precipitation is forthcoming, the situation could continue to worsen through the summer. What can help? "Perhaps some April showers", says Elliot. "We were in a similar situation in 1987. But in April we had very heavy rains, and in fact, we went from drought conditions to near flood conditions in a few days."

Additional Protection for Property Owners

The National Park Service has announced the availability of a new program for property owners concerned about the forced sale of their property due to the river management plan. Known as the certificate of compatibility, the program was recommended and developed by the Upper Delaware Council.

The certificate is available to any property owner within the river corridor and is wholly voluntary.

The availability of this certificate is provided for in the river management plan. The Conference of Upper Delaware Townships worked hard to include this assurance to property owners who believe that their best guarantee against involuntary acquisition is an enforceable agreement with the National Park Service that guarantees that the agency will never condemn their land.

The certificate itself is a straightforward voluntary agreement between the property owner and the property owner. It provides that as long as the owner manages the property in accordance with the Land and Water Use Guidelines, the National Park Service agrees not to acquire the property on an involuntary basis. The

agreement does not encumber the deed, it runs for whatever length of time is preferred by the owner, and it does not pass on to a future owner. That future owner may choose to sign a new agreement with the agency, however.

The river management plan places stringent limitations on the use of the federal power of eminent domain. The power may be used only when a proposed use constitutes a direct violation of the Land and Water Use Guidelines. This only can occur in a few instances.

Contact the National Park Service, Box C, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 (717) 729-8251 for more information.

The Council suggests consultation with an attorney prior to signing any legal agreement.

NPS Protects Zane Grey House

After months of appraisals, surveys, and negotiations, the National Park Service has acquired the Zane Grey house and museum in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania, thus providing permanent protection to one of the most significant historic sites in the river valley.

The nationally significant historic site was the home of the famous author and his wife for thirteen productive years. One of a few sites specifically identified for acquisition in the River Management Plan, the sale proceeded on a willing seller basis, as required by the Plan. The willing sellers were the Davis family, friends of the Greys who for years have maintained the house and museum.

Says Sandra Speers, Chief of Planning for NPS, "I think everybody is happy. The Davises are happy to see the house and museum preserved, and NPS is certainly happy to have protected one of the most important historic sites in the river valley. Within that small area now you have three significant sites: Minisink Battleground, Roebling Bridge, and the Zane Grey House. Together, they tell much about the history of the Upper Delaware River valley".

Celebrating the River

River Supporters Honored at Gala Event

Eleven individuals and organizations were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Upper Delaware River at the first annual Upper Delaware Council Awards Banquet held on Saturday, February 4, in Matamoras, Pennsylvania.

Some 125 persons attended the nearly sold-out banquet, the first of what will become an annual event. The purpose of the Upper Delaware Council Annual Awards Banquet is to recognize those who, through their exceptional efforts, have contributed to the protection, management, safety, and recognition of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The awards were presented by Frank Hartmann of Deerpark, New York, Chairperson of the Upper Delaware Council.

Glenn Eugster Keynotes

The keynote speaker for the evening was Glenn Eugster, Chief of the Division of Park and Resources Planning for the NPS Northeast Regional



Keynote speaker J. Glenn Eugster of the National Park Service. Photo by J. DeGeus, Photographers.

Office. Mr. Eugster discussed several ongoing projects throughout the region that, like the Upper Delaware, are community oriented. He also discussed the idea that well planned economic development can be an important part of a resource conservation strategy.

List of Honorees

The first annual Volunteer Award was given to Clint Rodell of New Jersey for his participation as a volunteer member on the UDC Resource Management Committee. He was specifically commended for his commitment to the river, his quality participation, and his preparedness for meetings. "I'm just doing this because I care about the river", said Rodell at the banquet.

The first annual Cultural Achievement Award was given to Edward Petras, an artist from Port Jervis, New York. Mr. Petras paints scenes from the river valley, especially scenes of the river and the railroad. Last year his painting *October on Hawks Nest* earned a prestigious award and brought national recognition to the

Upper Delaware River. Said Petras, "It was a great feeling being given a national award for my painting. But it is even a better feeling to receive an award from those who live near me and near the river I painted."

The Certificate of Merit was awarded to the National Park Service for its efforts to institute programs and policies to protect the Upper Delaware River. "I thank you very much", said John Hutzky, Superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, "but this award really belongs to my staff, the people who do all the work."

Larue Elmore from Damascus, Pennsylvania, and George Frosch of Hancock, New York, both long time river supporters, were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding efforts to protect and preserve the Upper Delaware River for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Outstanding Community Achievement Award was given to the Town of Delaware, New York, for its efforts to protect the river.

The National Canoe Safety Patrol was given the Community Service Award for its contribution to boating safety through the use of education and on-site safety patrols.

*"I'm just doing this
because I care about
the river."*

*—Volunteer Award Winner
Clint Rodell*

Jules Robinson, owner and operator of Wild and Scenic River Tours, Inc., of Barryville, New York, was given the first annual Recreation Achievement Award. He was specifically commended for his efforts to educate and inform river users about water safety, conservation, litter control, river etiquette and property rights. Said Robinson, who is a school



Phil Fitzpatrick meets the press. Photo by J. DeGeus, Photographers.

teacher, "I just do what I do best. During the school months I teach my students, and during the summer months I teach boaters about the river and the need to respect and protect it."

Finally, George Fluhr of Shohola was given the Council's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, for his outstanding public service and unyielding commitment to protecting both the river and the rights of private property owners. Mr. Fluhr, who was led to believe he was there to give the award to someone else, was visibly stunned when the master of ceremonies named him as the winner. Mr. Fluhr then went on to improvise a moving speech, excerpts of which are printed in this newsletter.

Two other surprise awards were presented. Phil Fitzpatrick of Westfall, Pennsylvania, received an "Oaken Gavel" award for his service as the Council's first chair. Chuck Hoffman, of the firm Hoffman, Williams, Lafen, and Fletcher, was presented with an



Pike County Commissioners Margaret Mary Jonas and Randolph (Skip) Gregory and Louise Gregory enjoyed the evening's festivities. Photo by J. DeGeus Photographers.

award for his work as consultant to the Council.

The members of the Council wish to thank the many people that attended the dinner, Glenn Eugster for his thoughtful comments about the river's

future, George Fluhr for his inspirational comments, and the nice people at the Best Western Hunt's Landing in Matamoras for their help in making this program a huge success.



Pictured above are some of the recipients of the 1989 UDC awards. From left to right, they are Mike Henke, Town of Delaware, Frank Hartmann, Chair, Upper Delaware Council, John Hutzky, NPS; Phil Fitzpatrick, Master of Ceremonies; Chuck Hoffman, Hoffman, Williams, Lafen & Fletcher; Sandra Speers, NPS; Mike Reuber, NPS; Richard Rhodes, National Canoe Safety Patrol; George Fluhr, Shohola Township; Chris Nielsen, National Canoe Safety Patrol; Edward J. Petras (partially hidden); Larue Elmore, Citizens Advisory Council; Ted Waddell, NPS (partially hidden); and Jules Robinson, Wild and Scenic River Tours. Photo by J. DeGeus Photographers.

George Fluhr's Acceptance Speech

Editors Note — The following, except for some minor edits, is the complete text of George Fluhr's acceptance speech following his receipt of the Upper Delaware Council Distinguished Service Award, awarded February 4 at the 1989 UDC Awards Banquet:

"I am truly overwhelmed. I was told this evening that I would be presenting this award to Bruce Selneck, and believe me, I don't want the evening to go by without a commendation to Bruce, who has done a tremendous job on behalf of Shohola, on behalf of the Council, and on behalf of Pike County Sportsmen. So I commend Bruce, which was my intention in coming up here. I also think that we should have a round of applause for Phil Fitzpatrick, who's done a tremendous job.

I don't usually like to speak without preparing some remarks, but I'm just so tempted this evening to say something.

I can remember about 40 years ago when I was sitting on my father's front porch, when my late uncle, who was the chief geologist for the board of water supply in New York City, and had worked on the Cannonsville and Downesville dams, said to us "in a couple of years, Barryville and part of Shohola will be under water." I remember that very, very clearly and I think that is one of

"I think that what has been done will be appreciated far beyond our lifetimes."

the reasons I began to worry about the Delaware River. I didn't get involved until a good many years later I was just a little kid at that time.

I think some of you know that I used to live in the Bronx. I remember a

poem written one time by Joseph Drake. It started off "I sat me down beside a green-banked side upon the gentle edge of a gentle river" and went



Distinguished Service Award winner George Fluhr of Shohola Township. Photo by J. DeGeus, Photographers.

on and on describing the mosses, describing the overhanging trees, and toward the end it said "my own romantic Bronx."

He was describing the Bronx River! If any of you know New York City, the Bronx River is surrounded by factories, tenements, warehouses, and junkyards. That was another factor that made me think about the Delaware, because I knew the Delaware as a little boy and always wanted to see it preserved.

We were caught in a dilemma about ten years ago. We were caught in between the positions "should we let it develop and grow along the banks," or, "do we let government take it over and condemn the property?"

And I remember that when we first started COUP (*Editor's note — The Conference of Upper Delaware*

Townships, predecessor to the Upper Delaware Council) those of you that were with us at that time know that one of the big reasons we started COUP

was that we were scared to death of the Park Service and we wanted a unified front against them. And as you know, COUP evolved, and we found a middle way. We found a way where property wasn't condemned, and yet the Delaware wasn't ruined on its banks. And it looks like it's working very beautifully.

As a township supervisor, I receive the minutes of the Council meetings, and I look at what's going on there and I say, in spite of what a lot of people say, the townships never could have done the things that are being done by the Council. The level of cooperation by the state and federal agencies is tremendous.

In only a few years there have been a lot of accomplishments, and I think those people who have persevered are to be highly commended. And 100 years from now, if the per-

severance continues on the part of the local people and the agencies continue to cooperate, there will be no condemnation, and yet it will continue to be the kind of beautiful river that we have today.

I am very, very proud to have been a part of it, and I commend everybody else who is a part of it and will continue to be a part of it over the next 50 years or more. It is an ongoing process, and the middle way that has been found is really bearing fruit.

I thank you for this award tonight, and there are so many people here who deserve so many awards. It is a tremendous achievement and I think that what has been done will be appreciated far beyond our lifetimes. Thank you very much."

Researchers Propose New Management Model for River Recreation

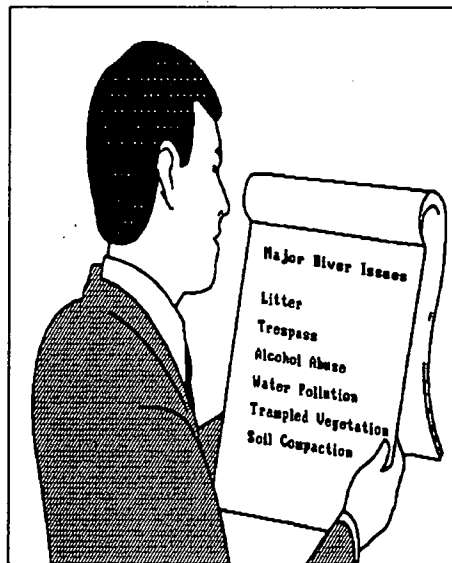
They Say Over-Use of River Is Not the Major Problem

The Upper Delaware Council sponsored a Recreation Symposium on March 18 in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, to discuss the results of recent NPS studies on recreational use of the Upper Delaware River.

The symposium, primarily for those concerned with river recreation, provided an opportunity to review and discuss the NPS studies. Presenters at the symposium included John Karish of NPS, who gave a summary of research project history; Dave Lime, who discussed the potential partnership role of river outfitters; Jeffrey Marion of NPS, who discussed the ecological impact of river use on recreation sites; and Alan R. Graefe, who reported on measuring the recreation experience of river users.

Their research concludes that crowding and overuse are not significant problems on the Upper Delaware. Greater concern among visitors, public officials, business interests and property owners was expressed about litter, disposal of human waste, trespass on private lands, alcohol

abuse, water pollution, the lack of or inadequate facilities and convenience for visitors, overfishing, inadequate trip planning and interpretative information for visitors, intra-group visitor conflicts, disturbance of wildlife, and impacts to vegetation and soil resources at popular stopping places.



The researchers suggest that reducing or limiting the number of river users will not resolve the above-stated problems. For instance, inadequate trip planning by visitors is a problem better addressed by advance information and education. Many of the problems are best resolved by improved management techniques, some of which have already been put into operation.

The study team also suggested that clearer, quantifiable management objectives should be established. They say that such objectives can be governed successfully by defining the limits of resource impacts that are acceptable before more intensive management techniques need be pursued.

The UDC Water Use Committee plans to make these problems and recommendations the focal point of its current and future work plans. The Council encourages anyone who has ideas for the committee on this subject to contact the Council office or your Council representative.

Council Opens Search for Staff Resource Specialist

Applications Accepted Through June 30th

The Upper Delaware Council is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Resource Specialist for its Narrowsburg, New York, operation.

The minimum requirements for the position include a Bachelor's Degree in geography, natural resources or any other related field, plus three years experience in the management of natural resources, regional or environmental planning, or local land use administration on zoning related matters. The salary is \$24,000 plus full benefits.

This job requires that the Resource Specialist be skilled not only in resource management, but local land use administration. It requires a true commitment to the protection of natural resources. It requires strong oral and written communications skills on a variety of levels. The ability to communicate effectively with landowners and local governments as well as with state and federal government agencies is a necessity.

Oriented initially toward reviews of local ordinances, this position ultimately will provide technical support and coordination functions regarding the Council's role in the review of proposed developments and resource management activities.

Applications will be accepted through June 30, 1989. Contact the Council office in Narrowsburg for more information and a complete position description.

("Douglass", from front page)

As to his style, one knowledgeable person in County government notes "he's very good behind the scenes. He can pull diverse people together. He does not like the publicity, but works quietly as a mediator." Douglass says "I don't lose my temper. That helps me deal with all the people."

Views on Economic Development

Douglass has been a strong supporter of economic development in the area. He has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in Wayne County and has been a board member of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He notes that "some people don't want tourism or any growth, but we have to have growth. People complain that there are no good jobs here for their children, and that they have to leave the valley. We need to encourage appropriate business and industries to come in."

He notes that his belief is that development will still occur, at or near the present pace. However, the Upper Delaware Council will play an important role in ensuring that any develop-

ment is of a type and quality that is compatible with river protection.

He sees the river plan as a stimulus to the economic well-being of the area, providing a centerpiece and a unique environmental feature that can help attract a good mix of development. He says, "we need a certain mix to protect the economy of the area. Tourism is one good industry, but we cannot rely on it too much." He notes that there are excellent possibilities for development in the gateways to the river, that is, those cities that people going to the river usually pass through, such as Port Jervis and Hancock. "If everything is flowing well, people and business will be attracted to the area."

Role of Upper Delaware Council

Douglass believes that the activities of the Council have had a positive effect already, and that some of the fears that were expressed by the opposition to the Council have proved groundless. "One of the fears was that the value of real estate along the river would plummet, but in fact it appears to have been greatly enhanced." He points out further that the number of drownings has

declined, that the incidence of trespass appears to be declining, and that there are fewer reports of vandalism. He believes that the educational campaign of the Council, the presence of rangers along the river, and the growing appreciation of the river are all contributing to these positive developments.

His agenda for the Council includes working with participating towns to achieve substantial conformance, a process that has already started. He also sees the Council preparing educational material to explain more fully what the Council does, and what the Recreational and Scenic designation means. He also feels that there is a need for continuing public education to reduce incidences of trespass and littering and increase boating safety.

He says that he looks forward to talking with those who have expressed reservations about the agenda of the Council, and meeting with people from the towns that have not joined the Council, to better understand their concerns. "I don't see myself as forcing the issue on them, because that's not the role of the Council. It must lead by example. We need to show people that the Council can be successful."

("Executive Order", from front page)

remain in full force and effect as long as the Upper Delaware Scenic River Management Plan is in effect."

An Executive Order has the force and effect of law. In directing state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Resources, the Game Commission, the Fish Commission, and the Department of Community Affairs to be consistent with the river plan, the Governor has ordered them to adopt this plan as their own. To the maximum extent possible, state permits for discharges, construction permits, and other state actions within the river corridor must now be in accordance with the river management plan.

The Order designates the Department of Environmental Resources as the lead agency for administering ac-

tion, and it directs the Secretary of that Department to be the representative to the Council. Roger Fickes, the chief of the Division of Rivers and Wetlands Conservation, is expected to continue his role as liaison to the Council for the Secretary.

Upper Delaware Council Chairperson Frank Hartmann said that "This is an important day in the history of protection for the river. The Executive Order makes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a strong ally of the Council. It assures those of us who have worked long and hard to protect fish and wildlife that the states will continue to be the leaders in managing those resources."

Hartmann also commented on the status of legal protection for the river.

"Today we have the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Delaware River Basin Commission fully in accord with this management plan. We now call on Governor Cuomo to take the final step to complete this plan by signing an Executive Order for the State of New York as well."

Phil Fitzpatrick, Westfall Township representative, was thrilled. "We know now that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which exercises considerable authority over the biological health and well-being of this river, will take every step within its power to insure that the quality of the river will be protected for present and future generations."

The Battle of Minisink

Recent issues of *The Upper Delaware* have discussed the history of the Zane Grey House and the Roebling Bridge, both nationally significant historic sites. But nearby lies another site commemorating an event that occurred long before Zane Grey wrote of the purple sage and John Roebling spanned rivers with his steel wire cables. That event is the Battle of Minisink, considered by some to be one of the bloodiest skirmishes in the Revolutionary War, and commemorated by a county park located in the town of Highland, New York.

The Tory Frontier Strategy

The year was 1779, some two years before Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. The Tories and their Iroquois Indian allies were harassing patriot settlements, hoping to draw some of Washington's troops into an ambush in the wilderness. The Iroquois war chief and leader of the attacks was Joseph Brant, a brilliant but fierce Mohawk Indian who had been educated in colonial English schools.

Attack on Minisink

On July 20, 1779, Brant led a party of 60 Indians and 27 Tories disguised

as Indians in a brutal raid on the undefended town of Minisink, near what is now Port Jervis. When word of the attack reached Benjamin Tusten at Goshen, the Colonel assembled a militia to ambush the Tory raiders. Reinforced by a group of volunteers from Sussex County led by Hathorn, the patriots set out.

Forces Clash Near the Lackawaxen

On July 22, 1779, on a hot summer day near the mouth of the Lackawaxen River, the patriots caught up with the raiding party. What happened next is a matter of debate.

"...on a hot summer day near the mouth of the Lackawaxen River, the patriots caught up with the raiding party."

Some say that a militiaman accidentally discharged his rifle, thereby warning the Tories. Others say a man named Bezaleel Tyler, anxious for revenge, intentionally opened fire, or that the cunning Brant simply outmaneuvered the patriots. In any case, the ambush was spoiled and a pitched

battle ensued. The militiamen were quickly outflanked, and then surrounded. The battle became a slaughter. Except for a few who escaped the trap early on, all of the patriots, including Colonel Tusten, perished.

The Aftermath

Soon after the Battle of Minisink, General Sullivan and his troops stopped the Indian raids by eradicating the Iroquois villages. Local residents named Sullivan County in honor of the General's expedition.

After the Revolution Joseph Brant fled North to join some 80,000 fellow Tory and Indian refugees in Canada. There he became a chief spokesman for the Indians rights.

The bodies of the dead patriots lay at the battle site for 40 years, until recovered and buried in a mass grave in Goshen. It is said that some are also buried in the Congregational Church yard in Barryville.

Ironically, most historians consider the British strategy of frontier harassment to have been foolish and counterproductive. News of the Indian attacks, which were quite vicious, convinced many colonists who had been neutral to side with the patriots.

Change of Address or Ownership?

If your address has changed or you no longer own property in the Upper Delaware River valley, please help us to maintain the accuracy of our records. Fill in your new address or the name and address of the new owner of your property and return this part of the page to Upper Delaware Council, P. O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Thank you for your assistance.

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Address2 _____
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Address1 _____
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Check this line and return the form if you wish to have you name removed from the mailing list. _____

Calendar

Upper Delaware Council Activity: May-July

UDC Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Delaware Council is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, New York. The public is invited to attend. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 4th, June 1st, and July 6th.

UDC Committee Meetings

Each of the four UDC committees meet once each month. Due to space deficiencies, the meetings for the next

three months will be held at the National Park Service headquarters conference room on River Road, Milanville, in Damascus Township.

The Resource Management Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Scheduled dates include May 16th, June 20th, and July 18th.

The Project Review Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 PM, following the Resource Management Committee.

Scheduled dates include May 16th, June 20th, and July 18th.

The Water Use Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Scheduled dates include May 23rd, June 27th, and July 25th.

The Operations Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:30 PM, following the Water Use Committee. Scheduled dates include May 23th, June 27th, and July 25th.

Contact the Council office in Narrowsburg for additional information.

NPS Acquires Small Tract by Roebling Bridge

The National Park Service announced that it has completed negotiations for the purchase of a small riverside tract immediately upstream from the New York side of the Roebling Bridge.

Less than an acre in size, the property was proposed for acquisition in the river management plan. The tract will provide sorely needed parking on the New York side of the bridge for visitors and NPS personnel.

Zane Grey House Open for Tours

The National Park Service has announced that the museum in the Zane Grey House will be open daily to the general public beginning April 2nd. Contact NPS headquarters or the public information office on Main Street in Narrowsburg for details.



Need Help or Information?

The UDC office in Narrowsburg (next door to the fire department) can answer questions you may have about the plan and its effects on you and your town or township.

The Council also maintains an inventory of other information of interest to the public. Feel free to stop by for a visit when you are in the area.

The office is open from 8 AM - 4:30 PM from Monday through Friday. Call us at (914) 252-3022 or write to: Upper Delaware Council, P. O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764.

Upper Delaware Council
P. O. Box 217
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

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