

The Upper Delaware

Volume 2 Number 3

Upper Delaware Council

Fall 1989

Second Anniversary of Plan Approval

Record of Accomplishments Mark Anniversary

September 1989 marks the second anniversary of the approval of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan. It is an appropriate time to reflect upon the goals achieved and challenges remaining before the Upper Delaware Council.

Council Operations

Two years ago the Upper Delaware Council did not exist, except on the pages of the Management Plan developed by the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships. Today the Council offices house a professional staff of four, a sophisticated array of computer and communications equipment, and a meeting room for the monthly meetings of the Resource Management, Project Review, Operations, and Water Use Committees. These committees are made up of representatives of UDC member towns and townships and the UDC's partner agencies.

In those committee meetings and Council sessions the eight member towns and townships of the UDC have worked productively on issues of common concern to the member towns and to the corridor. The Project Review



The Council works to protect and preserve the Upper Delaware for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Photo by Chuck Hoffman.

Committee has established the procedures and begun the process of reviewing the land use ordinances of member towns in order to establish their substantial conformance with the Upper Delaware Plan. The Town of Lumberland has completed this process and has been found in substantial conformance by the Council. The process of Council review continues for member towns and townships, while non-member towns and townships in the corridor have their ordinances reviewed by the National Park Service in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Resource Management Committee has attacked a wide variety of issues ranging from hazardous materials transportation and herbicide spraying in the river corridor, to preservation of the Delaware and Hudson Canal. The Water Use Committee has worked with the National

Park Service on managing the impact of river recreation on landowners and the river itself, and the Operations committee has overseen the detailed management of the Council.

Grants to Towns and Townships

Not all of the work of the Council has taken place in the joint operations

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Stewart Udall to speak at Flows Conference. See page 4.

Letter from the Chair

Having A Say

The right to vote is the most precious possession a citizen has. We are the leaders of the free world, and in our great democracy every citizen can have his say.

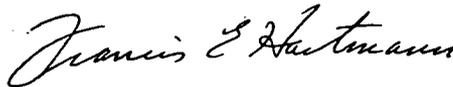
And that is why it is essential for towns and townships to participate in the Council: so they can have their say. The Council provides an opportunity for towns and townships to have a say in actions affecting the river taken by the states, federal government, and the Delaware River Basin Commission. If a town doesn't participate, it forgoes that precious right. Decisions will be made without them. It's like a citizen staying home on election night watching television. He doesn't get his say.

For the first time ever, the federal government has challenged local governments to manage a national treasure—the Upper Delaware River. We must rise to meet the challenge, or lose the chance. So far, eight towns and

townships have picked up the gauntlet and joined the Council. Seven have not. No say.

There are so many important issues that we in the Upper Delaware valley should face together: development, recreation management, water flow and fisheries management, to name just a few. There truly is strength in numbers. As Benjamin Franklin said while drafting the Declaration of Independence, "we can all hang together, or we can all hang separately."

For democracy to work, every citizen should exercise his right to vote. And for the same reason I hope that every town and township joins the Upper Delaware Council.



Francis E. Hartmann
Chair



Upper Delaware Council Chair Frank Hartmann. Photo by Chuck Hoffman.

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of Council sessions and committees. The work of the Council has been advanced through an ambitious program of grants to member towns and townships. In just two years, over \$200,000 has been provided to member towns to undertake tasks that support the plan and benefit the corridor. Some examples include grants to Hancock to review and improve their Master Plan including site plan review statutes and mobile home and RV park statutes; and grants to Lumberland for historic site assessment, archaeological surveys, subdivision ordinance revisions, establishment of an environmental management board, and for traffic studies at the Pond Eddy Bridge. Shohola Township has received a grant to review and amend its zoning ordinance, and the town of Deerpark has also received a grant for revising its zoning ordinance. Several other UDC member towns and townships have also received grants.

In all of these cases, the Council has been able to financially aid member towns in projects that support the goals outlined in the River Management Plan.

Council Publications

The Council itself has been the source of several publications in the past two years. The Council has published a Local Government Directory so that citizens can have one document that lists all of the relevant government officials in the Upper Delaware Corridor. The Council's widely distributed Recreation Guide provides visitors to the Corridor with an attractive map containing valuable safety information and listings of corridor businesses catering to hunters, fisherman, canoeists, campers, and casual visitors. Currently in the final stages of publication are a design guide to assist builders and homeowners in the corridor, and a hazardous materials risk assessment which examines the risks and response capabilities of corridor communities in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

National Park Service Activities

The National Park Service has lived up to its role as a partner with the member towns and townships in the two years of the implementation of the plan. In addition to attending and participating regularly in Council sessions and committee meetings the Park Service has recorded several noteworthy achievements. They have invested in the historical heritage of the corridor by managing the award winning restoration of the Roebing Bridge, and through their purchase and cooperative management of the Zane Grey House. (While coming to an amicable agreement with the present owner and providing for her life tenancy in the house.) The Park Service has continued to be the leader in the corridor in recreation management, working with outfitters, landowners, and others to limit the impact of recreationists on riverside landowners.

The very success of the Council will bring new challenges to its attention.

Of course these NPS activities stand in stark contrast with the dark prophesies of plan opponents who predicted that Park Service presence would result in great losses of private property and property rights. The booming real estate market, and the acquisition of only 14 acres by the Park Service are the best factual responses to those fears.

Recognizing Individual Contributions

While working on the many projects on the Council agenda, the UDC has taken time to recognize some individual contributions to the protection of the Upper Delaware Corridor. In February 1989, George Fluhr of Shohola was so recognized with a special award for his long standing efforts for the protection of the Upper Delaware River and his support for the Council plan and programs.

At the recent annual UDC summer picnic, Roland and Louise Flora of Tusten, Geraldine Howson of Buckingham Township, and Bruce Selneck of Shohola were honored for their outstanding efforts to protect and preserve the Upper Delaware River for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

New Horizons

The Upper Delaware Council now sees its role as not only representing the views of corridor communities to its agency partners in managing the corridor, but as a representative of corridor communities to agencies and groups outside of the corridor whose actions affect the Delaware River.

In November the Council will sponsor a conference in Matamoras, Pennsylvania on the future of River Flows in the Delaware River Basin. Recognizing the importance of looking at the river as a single resource, the Council will be playing a pivotal role in bringing together the national leaders of conservation and sportfishing organizations with the Delaware River Basin Commission, hydropower managers, and officials from the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The guest speaker will be Mr. Stewart Udall, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

New Ventures

The very success of the Council will bring new challenges to its attention. The popularity of living in a scenic and recreational river corridor, as evidenced by rapidly rising real estate values, will challenge the ability of the Council to assist the towns in managing that growth in a manner that enhances rather than degrades the environmental and economic vitality of the valley. Certainly the continuation of the grants program to member towns and townships will improve their capability to cope with these challenges. At the same time the professional abilities of the Council staff, together with the guidance of Council members, will be available to assist member towns and townships in dealing with the challenges to come.

(See "Plan," on back page)

Council Hires Soete, Completes Staffing

David B. Soete has been named to the Senior Resource Specialist position for the Upper Delaware Council. Soete, of nearby Honesdale, fills the fourth and final full time staff position at the Council. Soete assumed his new duties effective October 1, 1989.

Soete had been a member of the Wayne County Department of Planning staff for more than 12 years. During that time he advanced from an entry level planner position to the Assistant Director's job. He served as acting Director of Planning for a period of time in the spring of 1989. He has also served as Wayne County Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator since May of 1978 and as Project Coordinator for the Neighborhood Park Program

under the Wayne County Parks and Recreation Board in 1977 and 1978. Bill Douglass, Executive Director of the Council, stated: "I am pleased with the Council's choice of Dave Soete for this important position. Having worked closely with Dave for the 11 years that I was Director of Planning for Wayne County, I know that he is a hard worker who is extremely conscientious and knowledgeable. His background in the fields of planning and the environment and the fact that he was born and raised in this region, combined with his personal work ethic, make him well suited for the position."

(See "Soete" on back page)



Dave Soete, UDC Resource Specialist. Photo by Dennis Lavisson, *The Wayne Independent*.

Stewart Udall to Speak at Major Conference

Flows Conference Set for November 12-14

The Upper Delaware Council is sponsoring a conference November 12-14 to address critical issues of water flow, quality and development throughout the Delaware River Basin. Guest speaker for the conference will be Stewart Udall, author and former U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Key note speaker will be Gerald M. Hansler, Executive Director for the Delaware River Basin Commission.

The conference will feature a series of panel discussions focusing on the river's future. Panelists will include representatives of agencies and organizations concerned with water supply, fisheries, recreation, conservation, hydropower, and water quality. Topics of discussion will include: River Recreation in the Future: Meeting Fisheries and Recreational Needs; Is There Enough? Supply, Storage and

Hydropower Demand; Predicting and Governing Water Flows in the 21st Century; and, The Delaware River: Flowing to the Future.

The conference will be held at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing in Matamoras, Pennsylvania. The public is welcome, although there is a registration fee. Contact the UDC office for further information.

UDC Adopts Logo

Logo Symbolizes Conservation, Partnership



The Upper Delaware Council has developed a new logo which highlights partnership and the conservation of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Upper Delaware River. The logo will be used in Council publications including future issues of this newsletter, *The Upper Delaware*.

In the logo, the Roebling Bridge not only symbolizes the historic heritage of the river, but ties together New York

and Pennsylvania, the two states which, with their towns and townships, are participants in the Council. Above the bridge soars an eagle grasping a fish, symbolizing the region's fish and wildlife.

The logo was selected as the best of five entries. The winning firm was CCMR Advertising of Kingston, New York.

Cochecton Enjoys Fascinating History

Editor's Note — This is the second of a series of articles exploring the rich and fascinating history of the Towns and Townships that border the Upper Delaware River.

The Mystery of the First Settlers

When white explorers first arrived in the Cochecton area they found a vast wilderness surrounding a Delaware River that was swifter, narrower, and deeper than it is now. On the banks of the river they found a significant Lenape Indian village. This village served as a meeting place for tribesmen of surrounding regions, who came there during festivals to perform corn dances and other tribal rituals. Legend says that King Tammany the sage held councils there.

What happened to the Swedish colony is a mystery. Perhaps their good relations with the Indians collapsed, with tragic results.

The first white settlers in the Cochecton area were adventurous Swedes who arrived about 1638, less than twenty years after the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Cochecton was then part of a large tract of land known as Cushetunk that extend up the Delaware River from New Jersey. These first settlers apparently were on good terms with their Indian neighbors. Quoting Quinlan, *The Cochecton Papers*, an excellent history of the area published by the Cochecton Bicentennial Committee, states: "The Swedes, who planted a colony in the Lenape country in 1638 and who never wronged the natives but treated them with Christian charity and love, never had any difficulty with them." Future settlers would not be so lucky.

What happened to the Swedish colony is a mystery. Later settlers found no record of their existence. Perhaps the small colony was absorbed into other colonies downriver. Perhaps they moved westward. Perhaps their good relations with the Indians collapsed, with tragic results. In any case, there are decades-long gaps in the historical record during this period. The mystery will probably never be solved.

The Yankees Arrive

The next wave of settlement began about 1754 when a group known as Connecticut Yankees, operating under the charter of the Delaware Company, came west seeking land to support their families. They stayed in the Cochecton Colony to farm the rich bottom lands of the Upper Delaware. Among the early colonists was Daniel Skinner whose son, Daniel, was to become a famous raftsman and Lord High Admiral of the Upper Delaware. (For more on the Skinners, see the article on rafting in the next issue of *The Upper Delaware*). Lumbering remained a major local industry for the next 100 years, though it was suspended during the American Revolution.

Throughout the pre-revolutionary and revolutionary period, the Cochecton Colony was isolated and vulnerable to enemy attack. And it suffered. In 1763 Indian raids sparked by the murder of the Delaware King forced the settlers to flee. These same attacks resulted in a massacre at the Ten Mile River settlement. The Colony was again abandoned during the French-Indian Wars. During the American Revolution, it suffered attacks from the Tories and their Indian Allies.

A Time of Peace and Growth

After the American Revolution, peace finally came to Cochecton. Lumbering resumed and rafts again floated down the Delaware.

In 1810, with little fanfare, the Cochecton-Newburgh Turnpike opened through the region. This road, which more or less followed present day NY Route 17, was the first major toll road to the western wilderness. The entire area along the road developed rapidly as businesses sprang up to serve the hordes of pioneers moving west, as well as goods and livestock moving east. Commerce along the road continued all year, with stage coaches and wagons being replaced by sleds during the winter months. Use of the turnpike declined after the Delaware and Hudson Canal opened in the area 1828, and the Erie Railroad opened in 1850.

In 1810, the Cochecton-Newburgh Turnpike opened through the region...the first major toll road to the western wilderness.

In 1800 the first school in Cochecton was formed. In 1828, the Town of Cochecton was formed from what was then Bethel Township. The first Cochecton town meeting was held on March 3, 1829, in the village of Cochecton. In 1869, Cochecton was divided and the Town of Delaware formed from it.

During the early 1900's, a robust tourist industry developed in Lake Huntington. A number of resorts sprang up to serve urban dwellers seeking recreation in the country. Some had dance halls that could accommodate 1,000 dancers. Waltzes and square dances were popular. Some of the buildings from that era still survive, reminders of but one period in the long and distinguished history of Cochecton.

Information for this article was provided by Mary Curtis, Historian, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

All About Eels

The next time you travel over the Roebling Aqueduct Bridge, look downstream. There in the river you'll see a large, "vee" shaped structure made of stone, perhaps with a wooden box at the point of the "vee". This structure is known as an eel weir, and weirs like it have been used in the river for hundreds of years to trap the American eel, *Anguilla rostrata*.

Life Begins at Sea

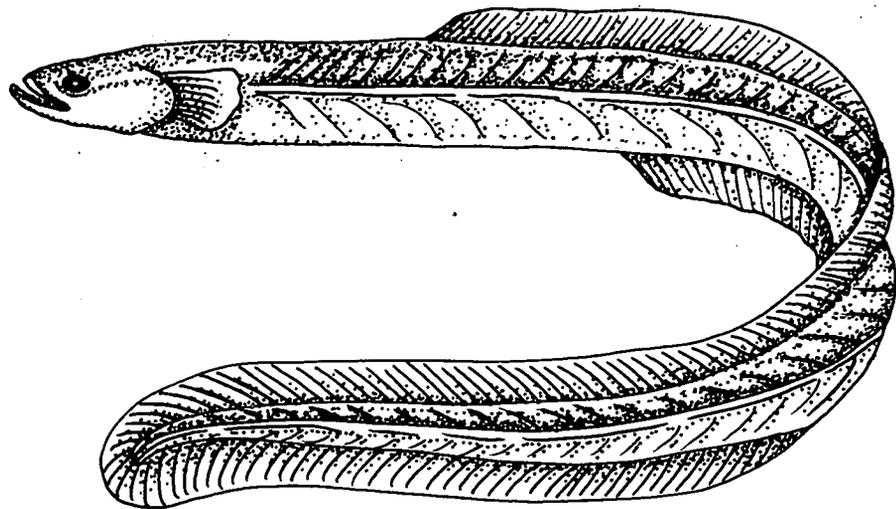
The American eel has a fascinating natural history that begins at sea. According to Douglas Sheppard, aquatic biologist for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, "The eels are catadromous fish. They breed in the salt water of the ocean, then live their lives in fresh water. That's the opposite of a anadromous fish like shad."

Not much is known about the spawning habits of the eels. Some believe that they all spawn in the warm waters of the Sargasso Sea southwest of Bermuda, but this has never been proven.

It is known that in their larval stage, the young eels look like tiny transparent willow leaves. The adults serve a valuable function on the Upper Delaware.

The Eels Come Home

It is known that in their larval stage the young eels look like tiny transparent willow leaves. In this fragile state they swim thousands of miles to the mouths of Atlantic and Gulf coastal rivers in a year-long journey. Once in these estuaries the eels



Anguilla rostrata. Illustration by Elizabeth F. Stewart.

assume their adult appearance. They are snakelike and about three feet in length, with a dark brown or olive skin that fades to yellowish-white on the belly.

During the Spring or early Summer the eels swim upriver. It is believed that only the female eels make the trip, with the males remaining behind in brackish waters.

Because the Delaware flows free and undammed along its entire length, the only barriers that the eels face on their trip upriver are natural ones, such as the rapids at the fall line near Trenton, New Jersey. (The fall line separates the hilly Piedmont from the Coastal Plane, those flat coastal lands that the ocean once covered, and will one day cover again.) The eels may travel through underground waterways, and can even slither over ground for short distances. Says Sheppard, "They are less physically constrained than other fish. They'll sometimes sit on the riverbank after a rain."

Eels Serve Man

The eels will eat almost anything, including decaying animal matter. As living garbage dispose-alls, the eels serve a valuable function on the Upper Delaware. Says Sheppard, "They are scavengers. As you know, each year the American shad run on the Delaware. After they spawn, they die. One of the reasons you don't see big fish kills with a whole lot of dead shad is because the eels eat them."

Man Serves Eels

The eels are delicious to eat, and that's where the eel weirs come in. The eels become trapped in the weirs and are harvested daily. (For more information on weirs, see the NPS News article in this issue of *The Upper Delaware*.) Young eels may be sold to Europe and Japan for aquaculture. The adults are most often served smoked.

Upper Delaware Tradition Lives On

The special character of the Upper Delaware owes much to the people who settled here, the communities they built, the stories they have passed on, and their traditional way of doing things. The National Park Service calls these things "cultural resources". Working with local people, NPS has developed an oral history program to preserve these traditions.

Last summer, NPS Cultural Resources Specialist Mary Curtis and video cameraman Vince Mondillo spent three days filming local riverman Floyd Campfield as he built his eel weir and harvested eels from the Upper Delaware. Nearly four hours of videotape is now in National Park Service archives for use by researchers and future generations. A 40-minute video, excerpted from these tapes, had its premiere showing at the Citizens Advisory Council meeting on July 28, 1989.

Recognizing that after hundreds of years of use eel weirs are beginning to disappear from the river, NPS asked Mr. Campfield to share his knowledge of eels and the river. Floyd is among the last of a vanishing breed who earned their trade by listening to the old timers and watching how they built their weirs.

Once dozens of weirs, with their massive V-shaped stone wing walls and slatted wooden traps, could be



An eel weir used to trap *Anguilla Rostrata*. Photo by Chuck Hoffman.

seen in the river. Now, along the entire 73-mile stretch of the Upper Delaware, only three or four remain active. The reason for this is that "nobody wants to work these days", according to Campfield, who began his weir 26 years ago.

Indeed, making eels weirs is hard, back-breaking, hands-on work: heaving boulders around in the swift current; building a new wooden rack and hauling it into the river each year; harvesting the daily catch daily once the weir is complete; cleaning and smoking the eels.

The videotape begins with the building of the 40-foot long, ramped

eel trap on the shore, near the stone wing walls. The camera then follows Campfield and about a dozen of his friends as they haul and float and man-handle the trap into position at the juncture of the wing walls in midstream. Finally, Floyd explains how the harvested eels are cleaned and prepared for the smoke house.

Thanks to Floyd's interest and cooperation, the tradition of eel harvesting on the Upper Delaware has been captured for posterity.

The video tape is available for further presentations. For further information contact Cultural Resources Specialist Mary Curtis at (717) 729-7134.

Change of Address or Ownership?

If your address has changed or you no longer own property in the Upper Delaware River towns and townships, 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 the: Upper Delaware Council, P. O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Thank you for your assistance.

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Calender

Upper Delaware Council Activity: Nov-Jan

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 now scheduled for **November 2, December 7, and January 4.**

UDC Committee Meetings

Each of the four UDC committees meet once each month. All meetings are held at the Council office on Bridge Street in Narrowsburg.

The Resource Management Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Scheduled dates include **November 21, December 19, and January 16.**

The Project Review Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 PM, following the Resource Management Committee. Scheduled dates include **November 21, December 19, and January 16.**

The Water Use Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Scheduled dates include

November 28, December 26, and January 23.

The Operations Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:30 PM. Scheduled dates include **November 28, December 26, and January 23.**

The Council is sponsoring a conference on the future of river flows on the Delaware River Basin, to be held **November 12-14** in Matamoras. Stewart Udall is the guest speaker. Contact the Council office at (914) 252-3022 for information.

(*"Soete," continued from page four*)

Soete's first responsibilities with the Council will be to assist in substantial conformance review for UDC participating towns and townships. As these are completed, he will focus

more on other resource management activities. A native of Honesdale, Soete has a bachelor's degree in forest science from Penn State University. Dave is an avid hunter, with deer, bear,

turkeys, and grouse being his favorite pursuits. Other areas of interest include photography, tennis, and keeping his cars, house, and yard immaculate.

(*"Plan," continued from page three*)

While born in controversy, the Council on its second anniversary can look back on a record of achievement,

and more importantly look ahead to the challenge of serving the needs of the people, and the resources of the

Upper Delaware River Corridor for years to come.

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