

### The

# **Upper Delaware**

Volume 3 Number 3

**Upper Delaware Council** 

Fall 1990

### **Tusten Joins Council**

#### **Residents Favor Move 4 to 1**

The Town of Tusten made it unanimous on the New York side when it voted to participate in the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) at its June 11 Town Board meeting. The vote, taken after a one month postponement to allow members time to research the matter, was unanimous for joining the UDC. All eight New York towns eligible for membership have now joined the Council.

This brings the number of voting members of the Upper Delaware Council to 13 out of a possible 17. All eight New York towns, the Pennsylvania Townships of Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall, and the State of New York and Pennsylvania are now voting members. Only the Wayne County Townships of Berlin, Buckingham, Damascus, and



Callicoon, New York, in the Town of Delaware. A UDC technical assistance grant helped the town save \$1 million. See story on page 4. Photo by Dave Soete.

Manchester have not yet joined. The Delaware River Basin Commission and the Upper Delaware Citizen's Advisory Council both participate as non-voting advisory members. The National Park

(See "Tusten Joins," on page 8)

### 1990 Conference Slated

#### Conference to Focus on New York City Watershed

Planning is underway for the Upper Delaware Council's second annual conference, which will focus on proposed changes involving the New York City water supply system in the upper basin. The conference, titled "The Upper

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Delaware Headwaters - Water For Millions," will be held October 29 and 30 at the Days Inn on Route 17 in Liberty, New York. The conference, open to the public, promises to be controversial and exciting!

### **Appleton to Keynote**

New York is proposing several new initiatives which will have drastic impacts on our region. Chief among them is a plan by the City to revise its watershed rules and regulations. Also, the City is looking at ways to improve discharges from sewage treatment plants, reduce environmental damage from development, raise stream classifications, and control non-point source pollution.

Other issues such as the Cannonsville Dam valve, New York DEC's draft Fishery Management Plan, and additional land acquisition by New York City above its reservoirs are sure to come up.

Earlier this year New York City's Mayor Dinkins appointed Al Appleton

(See "Conference," on page 8)

#### What's New?

DER Secretary Davis on the River. See page 6.

UDC helps restore Lordville Bridge funding. See page 4.

### **UDC Publications Available**

### **Subjects Range From Recreation to Archaeology**

The Upper Delaware Council has produced a number of publications for distribution to the public. Here is a list of some publications now in stock and available.

- Back issues of this newsletter, The Upper Delaware, with articles on events, river wildlife, river history, river life, river safety, UDC news, river news, and other items of interest.
- The Design Handbook for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. This 32 page booklet interprets the Upper Delaware Land and Water Use Guidelines using illustrations. It shows how a developer can develop property in ways that

- protect the special character of the Upper Delaware River.
- River User's Guide. This full color 17" X 22" brochure and map has information on safety, hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, restaurants and lodging in the river corridor.
- Upper Delaware Driving Tours and Map. This full color 17" X 22" brochure and map, just published, shows scenic and historic attractions, side trips, and three scenic loop drives in and around the river corridor.
- 1990 Local Government Directory. This 5 1/2 " X 8 1/2" booklet lists the names and phone

- numbers for all the local government officials in the river corridor. In addition to information on the 15 towns and townships in the river corridor, the guide includes county, emergency, and river-related numbers.
- Bottles, Bones, Arrowheads, and Stones. This brochure discusses the preservation of archaeological sites on private lands.

To obtain a free copy of any of the above publications, just call or write the Upper Delaware Council at P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, New York, 12764. Telephone (914) 252-3022.

Upper Delaware Council, Inc. P. O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 Telephone: (914) 252-3022, FAX: (914) 252-3359

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#### **River News**

# **Fishery Plan Makes Waves**

As announced in the last issue of The Upper Delaware, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 4 Fisheries Office has released a document titled "A Draft Fishery Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Tailwaters." Since its release, opinions on merits of the management recommendations have been cast about like lines on the opening day of trout season.

The focus of the plan is the coldwater fishery of what has been termed Tailwaters consisting of three river seg-93 through Hancock; and 27 miles of the Upper Delaware River from Hancock to Callicoon. Trout is the predominant game fish in these waters due to substantial cold water releases from the two

New York City reservoirs. It is this elusive fish, be it rainbow, brown, or native brook trout, that the management plan is all about.

#### Temperature, Flows Important

The overall goal, is, to "establish a high quality, nationally renowned trout fishery in the Upper Delaware Tailwaters through improvement in reservoir release, public access, angling regulations, and trout stocking the Upper Delaware Tailwaters. The programs." Both, near-term and long- o term objectives are presented in the plan. tificial lûres the only method of taking ments: 32 miles of the East Branch of To reach these objectives, water flows throughout the Tailwaters. The Upper Delaware River from the Pepacton Coming from the New York City reser The Upper Delaware Council is en-Reservoir Damiat Downsville through Voirs would have to be changed Not couraging individuals and organizations Hancock; 18 miles of the West Branch Council is a new release valve needed at the section obtain a copy of the draft plan, read it, of the Delaware River from the Can-X Cannonsville Dam to allow for releases discuss it, and submit comments to of the Delaware River from the Can-X Cannonsville Dam to allow for releases nonsville Reservoir Dam at Deposit between 45 and 325 cubic feet per second (now impossible to attain with the present valve), but the entire flow regime must be studied and adjusted to get the maximum use from the available water bank.

### Something For Everyone

The draft plan contains recommendations on a variety of topics including water releases, stocking of brown trout, increased river access, more restrictive angling regulations, and habitat protection. One thing is for sure: the draft plan is certain to generate interest - and controversy. The "hot" topics include: increasing the stocking of brown trout; long-term proposals to make the entire -Tailwaters fishery a catch and release area for rainbow trout; and making ar-

discuss it, and submit comments to DEC. Copies of the draft plan are available from the DEC Region 4 Fisheries Office, Route 10, Stamford, NY 12167 or call Mr. Kay Sanford or Mr. Russ Fieldhouse at (607) 652-7364.

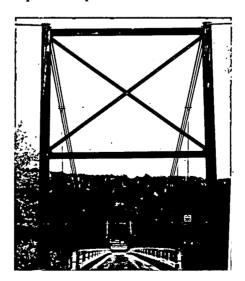
# Kellams-Stalker Bridge Reopens

After three years of restricted and intermittent service, work on the Kellams-Stalker Bridge is at last complete and the structure has been reopened to traffic. The bridge connects Stalker in the Pennsylvania Township of Manchester in Wayne County, and Kellams in the New York Town of Fremont in Sullivan County.

The NY/PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission acted to repair the bridge after a 1988 inspection showed that the New York abutment was moving. Rather than build a new bridge, the Commission wisely decided to rehabilitate the historic structure.

### Several Closings

In June, 1988, the bridge was closed to all traffic. A two-phase rehabilitation project then began. In the first phase, the New York abutment tower was stabilized. This work was done in late 1988 and the bridge was then reopened to traffic. In the second phase, major repairs were performed. The New York



The Kellams-Stalker Bridge. Photo by Dave Soete.

abutment was replaced, guardrails installed, approaches paved, deck gratings replaced, and the entire bridge sandblasted and repainted. For this work the bridge was closed from August to December, 1989, and from April through June, 1990.

### Open For Good

Traffic is once again flowing over the Upper Delaware River's water. In order to protect the new trusses from damage, it was necessary to place a 16-ton weight limit and re-install a "headache bar" to enforce a height limit. Tractor trailers or other large, commercial vehicles are not permitted to use the bridge. Frank Sanders, a NYS DOT engineer, emphasizes that "One 40-ton log truck could destroy that bridge."

The total rehabilitation project cost about \$2 million.

**UDC News** 

# Pennsylvania Funds Lordville Bridge

### **UDC Plays Key Role**

"On July 12th, 1990 the State Transportation Commission approved advancing the Lordville-Equinunk Bridge to the first four years of the Twelve Year Program. This action secures funding for Pennsylvania's share of project costs. The Lordville-Equinunk Bridge project can now proceed to construction." With these words, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Transportation, Howard Yerusalim, officially notified the UDC that the Lordville Bridge's priority status had been restored, Pennsylvania's 50% share of the costs for the project was assured, and the long-awaited replacement project would begin.

Until early last December, everyone proceeded under the impression that the span would be built during 1990. However, when it was revealed that Pennsylvania had dropped the bridge's priority rating to the lowest level, a scramble began to change that priority and get the project back on track. The bridge had been closed to traffic in 1984 and removed in 1986. Many felt that it would

never be replaced.

Manchester Township Supervisor Chris Wallingford, Town of Hancock Planning Board Member and UDC Representative George Frosch, and the Upper Delaware Council led the battle to convince the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission to shift the bridge project's priority to a higher level. "It took a concerted effort by a lot of people, including State Senators Lemmond and Mellow, State Representative Birmelin, the Wayne County

"I'll feel much better after the contract has been awarded and work begun." - George Frosch

Commissioners, and a host of others, to get the task accomplished" commented Wallingford. "Those individuals who signed petitions, wrote letters, made "Those who pushed for the project should be heartily thanked...and feel good knowing that you can fight city hall - and win!"

- Chris Wallingford

phone calls, and actively pushed for the project, should be heartily thanked for their efforts and feel good knowing that you can fight city hall - and win!"

Funding for New York's share had been set aside earlier this year. "I'll feel much better when the contract has been awarded and work begun," was Frosch's reaction. "State Senator Cook, Assemblyman Coombe, Hancock Supervisor Mackin, and other supporters on the New York side should also be thanked for their unyielding support."

An exact timetable for construction has not yet been set, but work should begin by Spring, 1991.

# **UDC Grant Helps Save \$1 Million**

# Callicoon Sewage Plant Finally Underway

The long-awaited central sewage collection and treatment system for the hamlet of Callicoon in the New York Town of Delaware is finally under construction. It has taken over a decade to finalize the plans and overcome the many delays that have besieged the project.

#### **UDC Grant Awarded**

Initial studies performed in the mid-1970s revealed that there were failing septic systems in the Callicoon area, indicating a need for a central sewage system. There were unforeseen delays due to planning problems and financial difficulties, and bids for the project did not go out until late in 1988. Bids came in at more than \$4.6 million, much more than expected and considerably more than local officials felt could be afforded.

Aided by a \$10,000 technical assistance grant from the Upper Delaware Council, the Town retained a local engineering firm to review and revise as necessary the original construction plans and specifications for the proposed wastewater treatment plant, pump station, and sanitary sewer collection system. The purpose of this new study was to reduce the overall project cost substantially, to ensure its construction and

thereby reduce pollutants entering the Upper Delaware River.

### Big Savings on New Bids

Bids on the re-worked plans and specifications were opened in April 1990 and awarded in late June. The totals were under \$3.67 million, resulting in a savings of nearly \$1 million. Actual construction work began by the end of July. The project will serve about 500 residents, many businesses, and the Delaware Valley Job Corps Center. It is scheduled to be completed in December, 1991.

#### **River Wildlife**

# Talkin' Turkeys

The River Wildlife section in recent issues of *The Upper Delaware* has focused on such exotic local fauna as eagles, eels, and rattlesnakes. But there are other animals, less famous or exotic but just as interesting, that make the Upper Delaware valley their home. The wild turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*, is one such local resident.

#### A Misunderstood Fowl

With the exception of hunters who know and love him, most people don't spend much time thinking about the wild turkey. When they do, they tend to think of it as a woods-dwelling version of the domestic turkey.

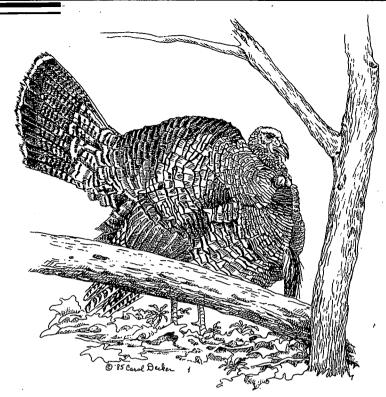
But wild *Meleagris gallopavo* is a different sort of fowl altogether. The domestic turkey has lost all its natural wiles, and is in fact famous for its stupidity. Its chest is unnaturally large, a result of hundreds of years of controlled breeding for the much coveted white breast meat so popular at the holiday dinner table.

The wild turkey is a leaner and smarter bird. Wary and difficult to see in the wild, you usually never get a second glimpse at a wild turkey. One blur of feathers and he's gone, across the road and into some brush. The wild turkey can also fly, an ability lost by his domestic cousins.

The male turkey is well known for his peacock-like struts and displays, and in fact the turkey's scientific name means "peacock" (or "Guinea fowl"). When her nest full of eggs or chicks is threatened, the female turkey will selflessly create a diversion to lure the predator to herself and away from the nest. Turkey nests are made in shallow depressions in the earth, lined with dead leaves or grass. Turkey eggs are about 2.5 inches long and buff or brown, with dark spots.

### A History of Man and Bird

When Europeans first arrived in America, they found the turkey in coastal forests from Florida to Nova Scotia,



A Meleagris gallopavo Tom. Illustration by Carol Decker, Wildlife Art Studio.

especially in woods of oak and chestnut. They thought this new world bird strange, but were grateful that it was there. Wrote William Wood of Massachusetts in 1629:

"The Turkie is a very large Bird, of a blacke colour, yet white in flesh...He hath the use of his long legs so ready, that he can runne as fast as a Dogge, and fly as well as a Goose...Such as love Turkie hunting, must follow it in winter after a new falne Snow, when hee may follow them by their tracts...the price of a good Turkie cock is four e shillings; and he is well worth it, for he may be in weight forty pound."

Not surprisingly, all this hunting, combined with habitat loss and diseases spread by domestic turkeys, greatly reduced the number of turkeys and extirpated them from most of the eastern states. According to Mary Kennamer, Research and Management Information Specialist for the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and management of the American wild turkey, "Destruction of habitat and indiscriminate harvest were the main reasons for the decline. There was no game management back then. New York lost its population entirely. Then they started coming back in the 1930's through improved game management."

Better game management and reintroduction efforts succeeded in bringing the turkey back to eastern forests. New York's population was eventually reestablished using Pennsylvania birds.

# Name of a Village, Almost the Symbol of a Nation

The turkey gave its name to a historic village in the river corridor. Callicoon, New York, in the Town of Delaware, takes its name from the Dutch word for wild turkey: "Kalicon."

Many know that the turkey was almost chosen as the national symbol, but few know how close the contest truly was. Benjamin Franklin was a big "turkie" backer, feeling that it better symbolized the spirit of the young nation than the predatory, carrion-eating eagle. As it turned out, the turkey lost out to the eagle by only one vote in a congressional ballot. Had the vote gone the other way, our nation's coins would be covered with gobblers.

And so the Upper Delaware is home both to our national symbol, the American eagle, and the first runner up, the American wild turkey.

### **Special Report**

# **DER Secretary Davis Paddles River**

### **Enjoys Getting Feet Wet**

Art Davis, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER), got his feet wet and more as he paddled the river under rainy skies as part of a two-day working tour of the Upper Delaware.



Pennsylvania DER Secretary Art Davis. Photo copyright, Bob Tomaine.

As DER Secretary, Davis is Pennsylvania Governor Bob Casey's representative on the Upper Delaware Council (UDC). Unfortunately, due to the press of other business, Secretary Davis has until now been unable to attend Upper Delaware Council meetings. However, DER is well represented at UDC functions by Roger Fickes, Chief of the Division of Rivers and Wetlands Conservation, an active participant in Upper Delaware planning efforts for the past decade.

#### **Business First ...**

Davis began his visit by attending the June UDC meeting, where he discussed several issues now facing DER. Noting that there is a great deal of interest in upgrading stream classifications under the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law, Davis said that "These classifications have a great impact on the kinds of discharges that can be permitted and, therefore, the kinds of development that can

go forward." The Upper Delaware River is being considered by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) for upgraded water quality standards and related regulations revisions. The DRBC will hold informational briefings in Fall, 1990, to present the proposed changes and alternatives.

Davis also spoke of the importance of wetlands and announced that DER is now conducting a major review of regulations on wetlands protection in Pennsylvania. He added that a final report on the State Parks 2000 program of Pennsylvania will soon be completed.

#### ... Then Pleasure!

Early the next morning Secretary Davis held a press conference at the PA Fish Commission's Buckingham access site. Describing the UDC as "a challenging experiment in determining whether local officials can work together with federal and state officials in protecting the river," he expressed confidence that it can work and will serve as an example for other areas.

Donning his PFD and a NPS Volunteer baseball cap, Davis joined his wife, Neen, for the canoe trip to Long Eddy. Accompanied by DER officials Jim Grace (Deputy Secretary for Resources Management), John McSparran (Director of Water Resources Management), Roger Fickes, and Sam Rhody (District 19 Forester), the group spent several hours learning first-hand about the history, flora and fauna, culture, and other resources of the region.

#### **Bald Eagle Surprise**

After a lunch stop, the group paused to examine a rare plant species on land recently purchased by the Nature Conservancy. Near the end of the trip, and before the rain really fell hard, a mature Bald eagle suddenly flew from its perch on the Pennsylvania side, swooped down directly in front of the lead canoes, and landed gracefully in a tree on the New York side. "It was perfect," exclaimed UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass, "it couldn't have been better if it had been staged."



#### **NPS News**

# **Volunteers on the Upper Delaware**

# Thousands of Hours Donated

Every year, thousands of volunteers donate their time and talents to help the National Park Service preserve and protect our nation's historic and natural resources. Individuals participate through the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program authorized by Congress in 1970. These volunteers supplement paid staff and help NPS accomplish work that otherwise would not get done. Volunteers can participate in most kinds of work performed by NPS personnel, but cannot collect fees or enforce laws.

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River enjoys an active VIP program. In 1989, 95 volunteers participated in the program, contributing 5,958 hours. Sixty one members of one organization, the National Canoe Safety Patrol, contributed 4500 hours by providing visitor assistance, river rescue, and river safety education. Another organization, the Friends of the Roebling Bridge, contributed many hours by providing information and interpretation of the Roebling Bridge to visitors.

On the Delaware, VIPs participated in river cleanup, fish surveys, canoe safety and skills training, clerical assistance, interpretive programs and hosting special events. Numerous NPS employees also participate in the VIP program by volunteering their off-duty time to perform tasks such as river cleanups and hosting special events.



VIP patch for parks volunteers. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

### More Volunteers Welcome

Even with all this help, there are still many projects and tasks waiting to be accomplished by volunteers with the necessary interest, skills, and abilities.

Graphic artists, writers, and editors are needed to help develop new informational brochures and publications. Library scientists are needed to work in the reference library. Clerical assistance is always welcome, as are persons interested in conducting guided tours, working at information stations or presenting interpretive programs. Puppeteers could help develop and present interpretive programs for children. A person is needed to transcribe oral history tapes. Assistance is periodically needed in conducting fish surveys, carpentry, drafting, manual labor, radio dispatching, and organizing special events.

Those interested in volunteering for any of these tasks or wanting additional information about the Volunteers-In-Parks program should contact Ron Terry, VIP Coordinator at (717) 685-4871, or write him at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, P.O. Box C, Narrowsburg, NY, 12764-0159.

The National Park Service welcomes and needs volunteer assistance to complete special projects, provide quality service to visitors and help protect and preserve the special and unique historical, natural and scenic values of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Volunteering can be a very rewarding and challenging experience for those who want to make a difference.

### **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.

Old Address Name			New Address Name				
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Check this line and return the form if you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list							

("Conference" continued from page 1)

as Commissioner of the City's Department of Environmental Protection. Appleton almost immediately began to suggest ways he would like to see the City's water supply system changed. An acknowledged environmentalist, Appleton has created much cautious optimism that the City will work more cooperatively with other basin users than it has in the past.

Commissioner Appleton has agreed to be the featured speaker at Monday evening's Banquet Dinner. New York State DEC Commissioner, Tom Jorling, has been invited to give the kickoff, keynote address.

Panel topics will include fisheries and wildlife issues in the upper basin; New York City's new initiatives; proposed water quality rules and regulations for the reservoirs; upgrading water quality standards; and the future of the upper basin.

### **Registration Information**

The fee for the conference is \$110. This includes two days of panel sessions

and presentations; the banquet reception and dinner; lunch, and beverage breaks. Some scholarships are available for representatives of non-profit organizations - contact UDC for details.

A limited block of rooms for conference participants has been reserved at the Days Inn at a special rate. On-site registration will be available on Monday, October 29, but early registration is advised. For forms and information contact the Council at (914) 252-3022, P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY, 12764.

("Tusten Joins," continued from page 1)

Service has substantial involvement with the Upper Delaware Council in its decisions and deliberations, but is not a member and does not have a vote.

#### **Falk to Represent Town**

The Tusten Town Board appointed Councilwoman Eileen Falk as the Town's UDC Representative. Town Supervisor Rick Lander was chosen as the alternate.

The decision to join the Upper Delaware Council was made easier after the results of a Town Board-sponsored public opinion survey showed a four to one response in favor of the move.

# **UDC Activity: September to December, 1990**

### **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 September 6, October 4, and November 1.

### **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. The Water Use Committee meets immediately afterwards at 8:30 PM. Scheduled dates for these meetings are September 18, October 16, and November 20.

The Project Review Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Scheduled dates are September 25, October 23, and November 27.

The Operations Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, before the regular monthly Council meeting, at 6:30 PM. Scheduled dates are September 6, October 4, and November 1.

#### Major Conference October 29 - 30!

The UDC is hosting a major conference on how the New York City reservoirs affect the Upper Delaware. The conference, titled "The Upper Delaware Headwaters - Water for Millions", will be held October 29 and 30 at the Days Inn on Route 17 in Liberty, New York. See the article on page one of this newsletter for further information, or contact the Council at (914) 252-3022, P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, New York, 12764.

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