

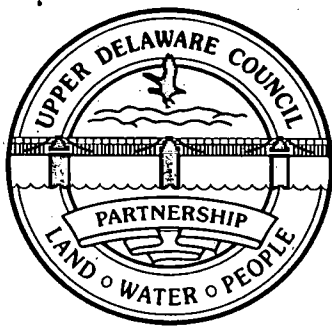
# The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 4 Number 2

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Summer 1991



## In This Issue...

Welcome to the Summer, 1991 issue of *The Upper Delaware*! We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy putting it together for you.

The UDC's Summer Picnic is coming up on Saturday, July 27, and you're invited! See page 6 for details.

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## Nine Honored at Gala Event

It was an evening for pats on backs for jobs well done and an evening for looking ahead to tough choices and formidable challenges. It was a time to honor the people who have worked so hard to retain the special qualities of the Upper Delaware region, and for those who will help plan its future.

It was the third annual Upper Delaware Council Awards Banquet, which gathered 114 river supporters and devotees at the Woodloch Pines Resort in Lackawaxen Township. This year's event firmly establishes the banquet as a popular late-winter, valley-wide event.

As in previous years, nine awards were presented to individuals, businesses, groups and agencies for their work to preserve the Upper Delaware. And though the recipients represent a wide spectrum of interests and concerns for the corridor, they are all united by their exhaustive work to bring the Upper Delaware safely and securely into the next century.

### 22 Million Straws

Placing the Delaware River in the "big leagues" of our nation's water resources, keynote speaker James R. Grace presented the challenge of managing a river that directly affects so many people. Dr. Grace, who is Deputy Secretary for Resources Management for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, drew a striking picture of the Delaware as the water supply for an incredible number of people.

"You've got 22 million people with straws stuck in this river, all vying for the same resource," said Grace. Decisions lay ahead about how to deal with ever increasing demand for the Delaware's water. "Either you have to build another reservoir, or ultimately you have to start saying no, there isn't any



Tom Hill, UDC Chair, presents Bob Everest with the Upper Delaware Council Distinguished Service Award at the UDC's third annual awards banquet. Photo by Dave Soete.

more water and you can't do this or that."

Dr. Grace also pointed out that the Delaware River is cleaner today than it was a hundred years ago. "The question before us now is how do we preserve the water quality and at the same time allow reasonable economic growth? It's a complex question to determine the right balance."

One of the problems he foresees is choosing how to control development without unnecessary and costly public land purchases. At DER, current emphasis is on trying to maintain financial

*(Please see "Awards," page 4)*

## River Wildlife

# Natural Areas Inventory Completed

## Pike County Report Key to County Plan

**P**ike County, Pennsylvania's rich scenic and natural resources have fueled unprecedented growth over the last decade. How the county deals with this growth will be the subject of its upcoming comprehensive plan. And how that plan protects the area's natural resources is the subject of a recent inventory of Pike's natural areas.

Like other counties in the Upper Delaware region, Pike's scenic and natural environments have attracted thousands of new residents. This has created a bit of an irony for county planners: if the area's natural beauty continues to draw new residents, can the area retain its natural beauty with all its new residences?

More than just studying the scenic and recreational impacts of future development, the natural areas inventory studies the ecosystems of Pike County. The systems support species of plants and animals which are particularly sensitive to changes in their habitats, changes which often come with development. These species fall into three categories: endangered, threatened or rare plants, animals, and insects. The report identifies the locations of these species.

Partially funded by a grant from the Upper Delaware Council, the Pike County Natural Areas Inventory was conducted by the Pennsylvania Science Office of the The Nature Conservancy, a nationally known conservation organization. The inventory provides maps of the county's important natural areas and the locations of the known plant and animal species which are of special concern to county planners.

Of the more than eighty sites identified throughout the county, several are found along the Upper Delaware River. This should come as no surprise, given

the role lakes, rivers and wetlands play in the region's ecology, and the importance of a healthy Delaware River to the ecology and economy of the region. Considering the region's growth rate, protecting these sites will require a cooperative effort among developers, residents, and state, county and federal agencies.

## Shared Responsibilities

The Natural Areas report recommends a number of techniques to preserve important species and their supporting habitats. The report suggests that the county and townships take the lead in protecting natural areas, along with conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy, whose goal is to preserve species by preserving and protecting the ecosystems which support them. The report also spells out important roles for smaller, grass roots preservation organizations, like lake associations and county land trusts. The small groups can help in these important ways:

- Identifying landowners who wish to protect their land;
- Providing information on conservation easements;
- Acquiring land;
- Managing protected areas.

According to Anthony Davis, ecologist with The Nature Conservancy and one of the primary researchers for the study, the inventory is a good start. But study will be ongoing. Plant and animal communities change like human populations. And to stay on top of these changes, updates to the inventory will identify new sites every two years.

## Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

P. O. Box 217  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
Telephone: (914) 252-3022

*The Upper Delaware* is the publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a non-profit organization of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the management plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. *The Upper Delaware* is published quarterly by the Council from its office in Narrowsburg, New York. Subscriptions are free. Contact the UDC for more information.

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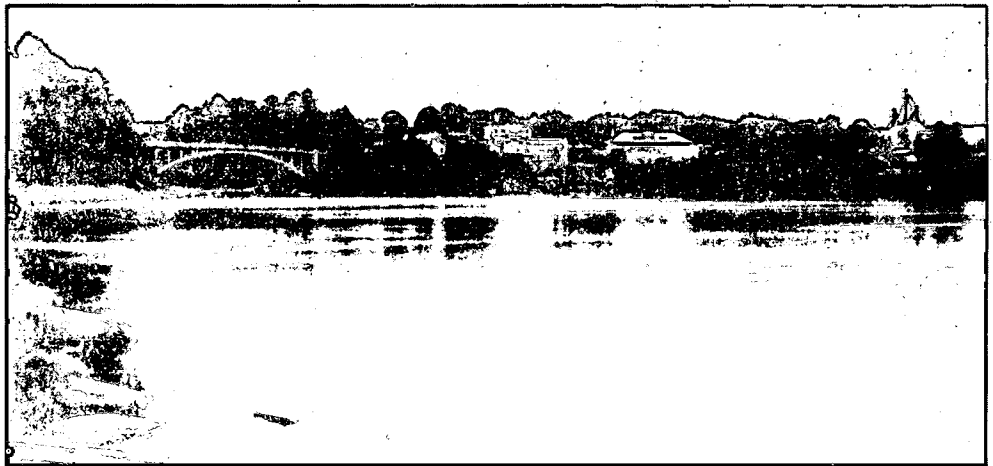
# The River Gives up Some Secrets

**P**arts of the Delaware ran red last month as a harmless dye was released to help study how pollutants travel and disperse through the river. The Delaware River Time-of-Travel Study is expected to yield important information that will enable emergency workers to better respond to toxic spills, and help river managers to model the river's water quality.

The study is being conducted co-operatively by the Delaware River Basin Commission, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service (Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River), and the Upper Delaware Council.

Information gleaned from the study will be used to develop two mathematical (computer) models of the river: a toxic spill model and a water quality model. The toxic spill model will predict pollutant concentrations and travel times for a toxic spill near the river. This will be useful to emergency response teams, who need to act swiftly and effectively to protect river users in the event of a toxic spill. The model is needed because highway and rail transportation of toxic materials in and near the river corridor poses a risk of such a spill. The water quality model will help to refine scenic river water quality protection efforts.

The study demands hard work and long hours from its many participants. Sometimes workers must labor through



At 114 feet in depth, the pool at Narrowsburg is the deepest part of the Delaware River. Initial data from the Time-of-Travel Study indicate that the pool behaves in some ways like a lake. The pool includes a 60 foot cliff that may be the remnant of an ancient waterfall, long drowned.

the night to collect data. Participants include personnel from a wide variety of resource management agencies, citizen volunteer groups, and electric power companies, as well as the four co-operating agencies.

For the study, Rhodamine WT dye, a harmless fluorescent red dye used as a tracer, is injected at predetermined locations. The dye's progress is then followed downstream by sampling from bridges and boats at selected locations. The amount of dye in the samples is then determined, giving a picture of how the dye disperses through the river over time.

## Four Studies in One

The Time-of-Travel Study consists of four separate dye studies in the reach of the river from Hancock, New York to the Delaware Water Gap. Two of the four dye

studies have already been completed.

The Narrowsburg Pool Study was a one-day study that took place on May 1st. It examined the time of travel in the Skinners Falls to Narrowsburg reach of the Upper Delaware.

The four day High Flow Study began May 6th and ended May 9th. It examined dye travel through the entire study reach. The study target flow was 6000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as measured at Montague, New Jersey. Dye was injected at six separate locations with sampling conducted at 3 to 5 locations downstream of each injection point.

The Low Flow/Steady State Study, scheduled to begin on August 5 and last for four days, will examine the entire study reach under low flow conditions. The study target flow at Montague is

*(Please see "Secrets," page 8)*

## UDC Lapel Pins now Available!

The Council is pleased to announce that UDC lapel pins are now available for purchase by the public. The pin is about the size of a quarter, and is a handsome four color replica of the Upper Delaware Council logo. It features the Roebling Bridge, the river, and an eagle grasping a fish.

The pin is a great way to show your support for the Council and its work. Pins are available for \$3.00 and can be obtained at the Council office. Please call the Council office at (914) 252-3022, or write to P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, to order your pin.

resources to manage land they already own, which is challenge enough without the burden of more purchases.

The serious nature of the challenges facing the Delaware aside, the annual awards banquet is time to kick back,



Dr. James R. Grace, Keynote Speaker for the 1991 UDC Awards Banquet. Photo by Dave Soete.

enjoy, and congratulate volunteers and professionals for their efforts. Master of Ceremonies was Phil Fitzpatrick, UDC representative from Westfall Township; UDC Chair Tom Hill of Lumberland presented the awards.

### Volunteer Award

Barbara Yeaman of Damascus, Pennsylvania, received the Volunteer Award in recognition of her ongoing, dedicated work to protect the Upper Delaware River. Yeaman serves on the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council and is a volunteer advisory member of the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

In accepting the award, Yeaman said "I was very surprised [to have been chosen] because a lot of the time I'm a burr under your saddle. I don't always agree with what you do, but I think that the Council has done an excellent job."

In response, Phil Fitzpatrick quipped "Burr under saddles generally make for

better riders and, in the long run, contribute to the success of the overall trip."

### Cultural Achievement

The Cultural Achievement Award was presented to the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance in recognition of its many ongoing programs to preserve and interpret the valley's history. Mary Curtis, one of the river valley's pre-eminent historians, accepted the award on behalf of the individuals and twelve member organizations that make up the Alliance.

### Certificate of Merit

This year's Certificate of Merit was awarded to the Delaware River Basin Commission for its efforts to protect water quality in the Upper Delaware River. Accepting the award for the DRBC was Dave Pollison, DRBC's planning branch head. In accepting for the DRBC, he expressed their delight to be part of the activity to protect the water quality and to work with the Upper Delaware Council and the people in the area.

### Award of Recognition

Given this year to Malcolm (Angus) Ross, this award recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to protecting the resources of the Upper Delaware corridor. Ross has instituted a



Tom Hill, left, presents Phil Chase with the UDC Community Service Award. Photo by Dave Soete.

recycling program in both the private sector and within the National Park Service offices and river access areas. In accepting the award, he hoped that his work would be a catalyst to both the local people and visitors to the area to



Mary Curtis accepts the Cultural Achievement Award for the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance. Photo by Dave Soete.

think better and harder about the environment, and to apply recycling in their communities.

### Outstanding Community Achievement

Shohola Township received this award for incorporating the principles and ideas in the Upper Delaware River Management Plan in the revisions to their zoning ordinance. In accepting for the township, George Fluhr acknowledged the work involved by all of his fellow local officials over the past two years to develop a far sighted ordinance. He thanked the UDC for funding their project, particularly at a time when federal, state, and local money is scarce, and for making this funding available to the towns and townships that have joined the UDC. He reminded everyone that local projects like theirs can have a major impact on future protection efforts in the Upper Delaware corridor.

## Community Service

This award honors work which has made a significant contribution to protect a section of the Upper Delaware River, or one or more of its valuable resources. Phil Chase was chosen as this year's award winner for his work in fishery protection. Chase commented on how important it is to protect the fisheries in the beautiful valley in which we live. Also thanking his wife and the other members of his local fishing club, he stressed that the fight to protect the Delaware is a fight for future generations, as well as the present one.

## Recreation Achievement

Kittatinny Canoes received the recreation achievement award for the second year in a row for the outstanding example they set in the three-day litter cleanup project they sponsored. Dave Jones invited everyone to participate in next year's cleanup "which will be even bigger and more of a success than last year's." Citing a constant need for a clean river, free from pollution, litter, and trash, Jones said he looks forward to the year when the clean-up comes up empty handed. "That's our ultimate goal," said Jones.

## Oaken Gavel

This award is presented annually to the person who chaired the UDC during the previous year. Edward DeFebo, UDC representative from Lackawaxen Township, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the previous two chairmen who plowed the way before him, to the UDC members and the volunteer advisory members, and to the public in general supporting the work of the UDC. He also cited the UDC staff for the work that they do.

## Distinguished Service

The Council's highest honor, this award is given to the individual who acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management



Larry and Peggy Richardson sum up the evening's mood with their smiles. Photo by Dave Soete.

Plan. Fitzpatrick introduced Bob Everest as "a person who has dedicated a great number of years to the effort to protect the Upper Delaware. Bob represented the DRBC wholeheartedly and straightforwardly throughout the whole planning process."

Adding that Everest is very attentive to details, Fitzpatrick quipped that "Bob, like Barbara, tended to be a burr once in a while!"

"It is strange to receive a *personal* award for doing what had been assigned for me to do," said Everest. In accepting the honor, Everest recalled that he first became involved with the Upper

Delaware way back in 1969, and has probably put on 20,000 miles travelling to meetings. When Everest started working in the area, he showed that "the DRBC had a mandate to perform and that [mandate] wasn't to destroy; it was to manage and conserve and preserve."

Everest traced DRBC's beginning back to the era when it was created. Back then the philosophy was resource preservation through dam construction. Everest described how the environmental movement started to change that philosophy. Intergovernmental cooperation became the key, and by

getting together and talking and working with everybody at every level of government, good things can happen.

"You have welcomed me up here," said Everest. "The guy with a briefcase from 150 miles away - and gosh, damn I appreciate it and I thank you ever so much for this fine award and your kind endurance of my burrs."

After the speeches and congratulations for a good year on the Upper Delaware, it was time to stand and chat informally. Inevitably, the informal chatter moved quickly from the laurels of the last year to the challenges of the next.



The Upper Delaware Council award recipients for 1990. Standing, front row, left to right: Barbara Yeaman, Volunteer Award; Mary Curtis for the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, the Cultural Achievement Award; Dave Pollson, for the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Certificate of Merit; Angus Floss, the Award of Recognition; George Fluhr for the Township of Shohola, the Outstanding Community Achievement Award; Phil Chase, the Community Service Award; Dave Jones, for Kittatinny Canoes, the Recreation Achievement Award; Bob Everest, the Distinguished Service Award; Ed DeFebo, the Oaken Gavel Award. Standing, back row, left to right, are Phil Fitzpatrick, Master of Ceremonies; Bill Douglass, UDC Executive Director; Tom Hill, UDC Chair; and Dr. James R. Grace, Keynote Speaker. Photo by Dave Soete.

## **Be a Friend of the UDC!**

**D**o you want to help make the Upper Delaware River valley a better place to live, work, and play? Do you have an idea for a project that you think the UDC should pursue? Would you like to help the UDC protect and enhance the river? Then we want to know about you!

The Council is aware that there are many worthwhile projects that we are

unable to undertake because of a lack of the necessary financial resources. We are now undertaking a program, called the "Friends of the UDC," to encourage supporters of our work to help identify worthwhile projects and raise the resources needed to pursue them.

Fundraising could be directed at the development of a valley-wide museum, a small public park, or any number of

other projects that could benefit the river valley and its residents. The UDC is eager to learn your ideas, comments and suggestions. Please share them with us by writing or calling Kathy Johnson, our Administrative Director, or by visiting our office in Narrowsburg, New York. Each and every suggestion will be reviewed and acknowledged by the UDC's Operations Committee.

## **UDC Slates Major Events**

The Upper Delaware Council has set dates for two upcoming events. One is a conference on economics in the river valley. The other is the always popular UDC summer picnic.

### **1991 Conference Set**

Planning for the UDC's third annual conference is well underway. The UDC's first conference, held at the Best Western Inn at Matamoras in 1989, focused on the issue of flows. Last year's event in Liberty dealt mostly with water quality. This year the theme will be "economics."

"Although an exact title and agenda have not been set," says Conference Chair Phil Fitzpatrick, "the decision has

been made to go to a one-day format this time and hold it on a Saturday. This will give local people and out-of-town land-owners all a chance to participate more easily. We will try to keep costs at a minimum so that registration fees will be affordable to the public."

The tentative date for the conference is Saturday, October 19th, 1991. The location will be decided soon. If you have any ideas you wish to share with us, please call or write the UDC office.

### **Come Picnic with Us!**

The Upper Delaware Council will hold its fourth annual summer picnic on July 27th at the Delaware Valley Youth Center. At last year's event, over 130

people joined us for a day of fun and celebration. This year, the event will be held in Callicoon, New York, in the Town of Delaware.

We are pleased to again offer canoe and rafting trips, which have always been very popular in the past. What better way to start a summer afternoon, than by floating down the river, headed towards some great food! The festivities begin at 12:00 noon and run until dark.

Anyone wishing to join us for a day of fun and food on the beautiful Delaware River can call the Council office at (914) 252-3022 during regular business hours, or write to the Upper Delaware Council at P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764.

## **NYC Watershed Rules Update**

New York City's overhaul of its watershed rules and regulations moved forward over the past months as Public Scoping Meetings were held in each of the eight watershed counties and the City of New York. Public interest in the rule revision is high, and attendance at the meetings ranged from under 30 in Dutchess and Putnam Counties to almost 600 in Sullivan County.

One concern has been the effect of the proposed regulations on agriculture and

forestry in the watershed. This issue was discussed at length at the UDC's October, 1990 conference, where NYC DEP Commissioner Al Appleton was the featured guest speaker. There, Appleton expressed a willingness to work with local governments to minimize the impact of the proposed regulations on agriculture and forestry in the watershed.

The city has formed an Agricultural Task Force to help revise the regulations, and an Interagency Task Force to

find ways to streamline the regulations. The city is also developing a series of issue papers on a variety of water quality subjects, such as solid waste, petroleum storage and discharge, pesticides, deicing materials, process and enforcement, and non-conforming uses. For further information, or to obtain copies of the papers, contact the DEP Office of Public Affairs, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor, Elmhurst, NY 11373-5107.

# Water Standards Upgrade Update

**P**rotecting the water quality of the Upper Delaware River continues to be one of the dominant issues facing the Upper Delaware Council and the region. The past two editions of *The Upper Delaware* have contained articles explaining recent studies, proposals and the UDC's position.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has recently released another report on its proposed scenic rivers protection strategy, titled "Response Document Regarding the Staff Report on Scenic Rivers Water Quality Protection," dated April, 1991. This report, a follow-up to the DRBC's October, 1990, staff report on scenic rivers water quality protection, provides responses

to the many comments and questions received during the public review of the scenic rivers staff report.

The 55-page report contains a brief section highlighting insights gained by staff from the public response process, an issues and response section, and a staff policy recommendations section. Among the recommendations made by DRBC staff is the creation of an "Outstanding Basin Waters" classification for "those waters which have high scenic and other environmental values and/or significant recreational, ecological, or water supply uses." In such waters, water quality standards reflecting existing water quality will be adopted, and degradation of that water quality

will not be permitted. The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is proposed to be designated as Outstanding Basin Waters.

The five DRBC Commissioners will review the staff findings and recommendations at their monthly meetings over the summer. The DRBC will then prepare proposed language for new regulations, which will be published under their public notice requirements. Public hearings on these proposed regulations will then be held, probably this fall.

Copies of the staff report and response document are available from the DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, New Jersey 08628, telephone (609) 883-9500.

## Westfall in Substantial Conformance

At its May 2, 1991 meeting, the Upper Delaware Council passed a resolution declaring the Township of Westfall, Pennsylvania, to be in substantial conformance with the River Management Plan and the Land and Water Use Guidelines. This recommendation has been forwarded to the National Park Service, and its concurrence is expected by the time this newsletter reaches you.

Westfall is the eighth township or town to benefit from such a finding. The New York Towns of Lumberland, Deerpark, Fremont, Tusten, and Highland, as well as the Pennsylvania Townships of Shohola and Damascus, have also achieved substantial conformance status.

Westfall Township had been updating its zoning ordinance for well over a year.

Council staff reviewed four different drafts of the proposed ordinance, and submitted comments and suggested changes to the township. Late in 1990 the township adopted a new ordinance, which incorporated many of the UDC's comments. A determination of substantial conformance still needs to be made for Lackawaxen, Cocheton, Delaware, and Hancock.

### *Do We Have Your Correct Address?*

If your address has changed or you no longer own property in the Upper Delaware River area, 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

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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. \_\_\_\_\_



2000 cfs. Dye injection and sampling will be the same as in the high-flow study.

The Low Flow/Surge Wave Study, set to begin on August 12 and last for two days, will examine dye travel in three separate sub-reaches that are subjected to reservoir releases. The study target flow at Montague is the same as the Low-Flow Study (2000 cfs). Dye will be injected at three locations with sampling occurring at 2 to 5 locations downstream of each.

### A Lake in the River

Study participants were greatly interested in the Narrowsburg Pool Study, and initial results yielded plenty of surprises. The Narrowsburg Pool is the deepest spot in the entire Delaware River system. SCUBA divers have told study managers that the approximately 114 foot pool has a 60 foot underwater cliff, possibly the remnant of an ancient waterfall. No one was sure whether the dye would enter the pool, or what would happen to it if it did. The pool has a counter-clockwise flow (an eddy) which tends to divert the main channel flow, which hugs the

Pennsylvania side of the river.

The dye, which was injected at Skinners Falls, was not expected to be visible by the time it reached the Narrowsburg Pool two hours later. But it was. Upon entering the pool, about half of the large slug of dye clearly separated into the eddy, while the other half continued in the main channel. Most surprising were data showing that the dye quickly penetrated to the bottom of the pool, where concentration peaked at a depth of 85 feet. This indicates that the pool acts in some ways like a lake in the middle of the river. Water temperature also remained constant from the surface of the pool to the bottom. It was thought that the pool might thermally-stratify in the warm summer months, thus affecting the time the dye might spend in the pool. Four days later, traces of the dye remained throughout the pool.

Initial results of the High Flow Study indicate that the dye moved much slower than anticipated, especially in the reaches south of Port Jervis. This meant long hours of work for study participants, but important information was gathered.

A detailed report on the study is due out next year.

## Calendar of Upper Delaware Events

July 1991							August 1991							September 1991						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1 UD	2	3	1	2	3	4	5 UD	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16 RM	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17 RM	18	19	20	21
21	22	23 OP PR	24	25	26	27 *	18	19	20 RM	21	22	23	24	22	23	24 OP PR	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27 OP PR	28	29	30	31	29	30					

### Legend

- UD** Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY
- RM** Resource Management/Water Use Committee, 7:00 pm, Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY
- OP** Operations Committee, 6:30 pm, UDC office, Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY
- PR** Project Review Committee, 7:00 pm, UDC office (Upon adjournment of the Operations Committee)
- \* UDC Summer Picnic; Saturday, July 27, 12:00 noon, Delaware Valley Youth Center, Callicoon, NY

### Upper Delaware Council

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