

The Upper Delaware

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

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Fall 1991



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

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UDC Awards 1991 Grants

Six Towns and Townships to Receive Funds

For the fourth consecutive year, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded Technical Assistance Grants to local units of government. To date, this highly successful program has provided some \$260,800 to fund a wide variety of projects. The one thing that these projects have in common is that all of them further the goals of the river management plan and thereby help to preserve and protect the Upper Delaware River. Past UDC Technical Assistance Grants have helped the Town of Delaware save \$1,000,000 in construction costs for a new sewage treatment plant; helped Pike County conduct an inventory of natural areas; helped many towns and townships update and strengthen their zoning ordinances, so that they pass substantial conformance review; and funded many other worthwhile projects. Towns and townships that do not participate in the Upper Delaware Council are not eligible for Technical Assistance Grants.

Grant Awards

This year's grants provide a total of \$15,630 to six towns and townships. This year's projects display the usual diversity, and range from technical zoning revisions to preserving a historic caboose. But the common theme of all the grants is that they help to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware. Here is a list of the projects that the Council is funding this year.



Bob Bendick, Deputy Commissioner of the New York DEC, at a recent UDC Committee Meeting. See story on page 5. Photo by Dave Soete.

Shohola Township, Pennsylvania was awarded a grant of \$2,630 to develop a plan that will result in an integrated program for the use of the Conrail Caboose as a museum and tourist information center for Shohola Township. Shohola was once a major tourist destination for New York City dwellers, and the New York and Erie Railroad played a major role in development of the region.

The Town of Lumberland, New York received a grant of \$2,000 to write and print a brochure that will encourage homeowners to restore their older homes. The Town of Lumberland has many historic homes and buildings, many of which are clustered around NY Route 97 along the former route of the Delaware and Hudson Canal.

(Please see "Grants," page 8)

Clear Skies for the UDC Picnic

After a week of cloudy and threatening skies that brought little of the needed rain to the river valley, July 27th dawned bright and clear for the fourth annual UDC picnic. After three years at Lackawaxen, the event was held in Callicoon this year so that everyone could experience a new section of the Delaware. About one hundred people turned out for the event.

The day began with a raft trip from Hankins to Callicoon, New York, that attracted 59 river enthusiasts. The unexpected sighting of a bald eagle along the way caused much excitement, especially among the children, many of whom had never seen an eagle before.

Awards Presented

After an afternoon of sampling a delicious array of traditional picnic favorites, the UDC presented awards honoring four people for their efforts to protect the river valley and its culture.

The first individual honored was Lynn Phillips of Lordville and New York City. Phillips is the originator, editor, publisher, writer, mailer (and just about everything else) for the *Lordville Bridge*, a local newspaper about the happenings in and around Lordville. Born on the Fourth of July in 1990, 13 issues of the paper were published during the first year. Phillips writes and illustrates with a colorful style about such things as history and current events, local gossip and Town Board meetings, lost cats, the rebuilding of the Lordville Bridge, and the Delaware River.

Kay Sanford received an award for his work in drafting and revising the *Fishery Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Tailwaters*. Sanford is

a Senior Aquatic Biologist with the Region IV Fisheries Office of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. The draft version of the plan, which was issued in April of 1990, received critical reviews concerning its recommendations for use of artificial bait, a catch and release program and increased stock and access to the river. Sanford went out of his way to present informational meetings on the contents of the plan and to encourage all interested parties to submit comments to him. The UDC recognized Sanford for involving people early in the planning process, and for listening to and accepting recommendations and changes to the plan. The final version of the plan is due out by this fall.

Floyd Campfield was praised for his recent donation of a collection of archaeological artifacts to the National Park Service (NPS). Campfield collected the artifacts from the river valley over many years (see the article about his collection on page seven of this newsletter).

Gertrude Elmore Honored

The fourth award caught the recipient completely by surprise. Kept a secret specifically to achieve that effect, the UDC applauded Gertrude Elmore for the 30 years she has travelled with her husband, Larue Elmore, to Upper Delaware meetings. The Elmore's have attended more meetings and have been actively involved in more organizations in the valley than any other couple.

The UDC's summer picnic is held every summer during the month of July or August. It is always open to the public.

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

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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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In the Shadow of Gettysburg

Little Known 1864 Accident One of the Worst Ever

One of the most tragic wrecks in the history of railroading occurred in the Upper Delaware River corridor. On July 15, 1864, a coal train collided with a train carrying about 800 Confederate prisoners of war at a blind curve in the railway between Shohola and Lackawaxen.

The Civil War had been going on for three years. The Battle of Gettysburg was over. At Point Lookout on the Potomac, ten thousand Confederate prisoners were waiting to be moved to the prison camp at Elmira, New York.

The first group of some 800 prisoners were transported via the Pennsylvania Railroad to New York City. Guarded by about 125 soldiers of the 11th Veteran Corps, the train left Jersey City at 5:30 that morning and at 1:00 pm, stopped in Port Jervis for the locomotive to take on water. The soldiers were jammed into 19 wooden freight cars.

That afternoon another train with 50 carloads of coal was moving eastward from Hawley, Pennsylvania, on the Erie's branch track. Hawley at that time was a major shipping point for coal sent by gravity cars from the Lackawanna Valley. The train from Hawley would enter the main track at Lackawaxen.

Dispatcher Seals Fate

The dispatcher at Lackawaxen should have known that the prison train was on the track since an earlier train had carried a flag to indicate a special train following. But when the engineer of the coal train stopped and inquired whether the track was clear, he was told to proceed.

As the coal train left Lackawaxen its departure should have been reported by telegraph. Had this procedure been followed, the prison train could have been flagged down at Shohola. But the message was never sent. The dispatcher, it was later reported, was drunk on the job.



A proud train crew on the Northern Central Railroad Line. The line was the first leg of the journey to prison or to medical attention for many of those captured and/or wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. Photo provided courtesy Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Gunpowder Falls State Park.

At 2:45 pm, the trains met on a sharp curve in the rock cut along the Delaware River. It was like two monsters clashing in a death struggle. The result was a horrible, surreal sight almost beyond description - and too gruesome to describe in this newsletter. Suffice it to say that there were dead and dying men everywhere. The first car of the prison train had contained 31 prisoners. It was crushed into a space of only six feet, with only one man left alive.

Word sent to Port Jervis brought four doctors and work crews to aid local volunteers in the rescue work. The Shohola Hotel (Rohman's) was turned into a temporary hospital. Ladies of the area brought food and drink. The prisoners were at first fearful of being poisoned, but they soon realized that they would be well treated by "the enemy."

Prisoners Escape

In the confusion, several prisoners escaped into the Pike County hills. One escapee was reported to be living in Matamoras many years later; another

stayed in the North for a harvest season, but grew homesick and joined the Union Army as sure means of being sent south.

The dead were buried in a trench near the site of the wreck. The bodies remained there until 1911, when they were removed to the National Cemetery at Elmira. These included 49 Confederate prisoners and 17 Union guards.

The following day a train with additional guards arrived to take the prisoners to the prison camp. Twenty of the most seriously wounded were left behind. At least nine more eventually died; two were buried in the Cemetery of the Congregational Church in Barryville. Each Memorial Day, Confederate flags are placed on their graves.

In the Elmira Cemetery, the Shohola Monument has separate inscriptions on the north and south sides for the Northern guards and the Southern prisoners. All rest together in a common grave.

This article was written by George Fluhr, Shohola Township Historian. It first appeared in the Hawley News Eagle in 1978.

Lordville Bridge is Going Up!

“They’ve had a few setbacks just recently, which put them one to two weeks behind schedule,” said a New York State Department of Transportation official. “If they can pour the deck this year, they’ll be done this year.”

With this encouraging news, expectation is growing in the communities of Lordville, New York and Equinunk, Pennsylvania. Not only has construction begun on the long-awaited bridge replacement project, but the contractor on the project, the Albany firm of Barry, Bette, and Led Duke, Inc., plans to have the work completed by December of this year! This is well ahead of the contract completion date of September 30, 1992.

Still Pouring

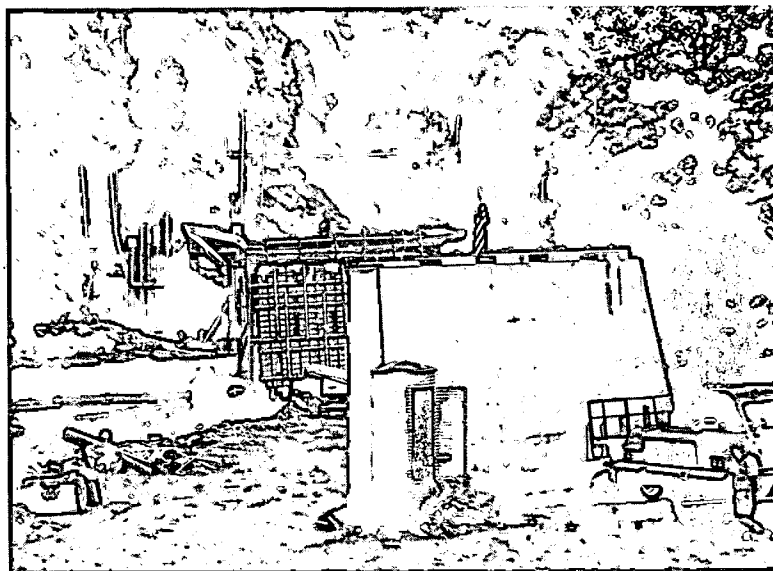
“The low bid came in at \$2,492,687,” explained Bill Douglass, Council Executive Director. “That was under the estimate. I was worried that the bids might come in over the estimated construction cost. Then they would have had to go back to the states and say ‘We need more money,’ which would have given someone the opportunity to reverse the decision and pull the entire project again.”

Preparatory work began in April. On-site work began in the first week of May and has progressed on schedule. “One potential problem,” Douglass explained, “is that work activities in the water may only be done during the period from July 15 to October 1st. This

is to protect the spawning activities of the fisheries of the Delaware River and Humphries Brook.” Although construction continues and concrete is still being poured, a delay past that October date could push completion into next year.

Celebration Planned

Local folks have already begun meeting to discuss how best to celebrate the



The new Lordville Bridge under construction. The Upper Delaware Council helped lead the effort to obtain funding for the bridge. Photo by Dave Soets.

reunion of the two communities. All sorts of ideas have been offered, but nothing is finalized. However, preliminary reports indicate that even if the bridge is finished by winter, the festivities will wait until June or July of 1992. More people will be able to attend and the weather should be better. *The Upper Delaware* will keep you informed as events progress.

UDC Economic Conference Set for October 29

Preparation for the annual UDC conference, although not finalized at press time, will be wrapped up by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox.

“What I can tell you,” explained Conference Chairman Phil Fitzpatrick, “is that it takes a lot of thought and planning to put the pieces together. We’ve had to change the date from Saturday, October 19th to Tuesday, October 29th. The location will be in the Beach Lake area of Wayne County. We are lining up speakers from the Penn State and Cornell Cooperative Extension campuses for technical information, from business,

industry, and tourism groups (like the bed and breakfast industry) for practical tips, and from our own, local entrepreneurs for insight on how things work right here in the valley. Our aim is to keep costs down so we can make the registration fee affordable, hold it at a time and place so people are able to attend, and create an agenda which will stimulate interest.”

“Besides the usual mailing of a conference brochure, we intend to put out news releases and work cooperatively with local and regional business groups, chambers of commerce, and economic

development organizations to spread the word about this event,” said Fitzpatrick. “I’m personally very excited about focusing on a local issue this year. The intent is for experts to be assembled to present ideas and stimulate discussion and debate and then have the people who live and work here try to come up with a strategy or plan for how to accommodate economic growth while still protecting the valuable resources we’ve been blessed with.”

Anyone interested in registering for the conference or finding out more information is invited to contact the UDC office.

Profile of a UDC Representative: Al Norris

Al Norris represents the Town of Highland, New York on the Upper Delaware Council. He has served in this capacity since the summer of 1990, when he switched positions with Andrew Boyar, the original representative who now serves as alternate representative. The Town of Highland joined the Upper Delaware Council on March 15, 1990.

Norris moved to the area from Ulster County, New York in 1986. Norris's concern for the environment is one of the reasons he chose to make the Upper Delaware River valley his home. He wanted to live in a place where landfills and other major environmentally damaging projects are prohibited (the River Management Plan prohibits new landfills in the river corridor). Explains Norris, "I moved because the county wanted to put a landfill in my backyard - literally. It was amazing timing, really. My wife and I had been at a Nature Conservancy meeting all day, where we talked about environmental issues. We came home and my neighbor told me that the

county was going to put a landfill on the property adjoining ours."

After moving to the Town of Highland, Norris soon found that there was a glowing opportunity to help protect the environment in his new home through participation in the Upper Delaware Council. Under the River Management Plan, the UDC and river corridor residents are charged with the responsibility of protecting the Upper Delaware River. "I think that the Council is a very worthwhile organization. It's a great opportunity to make a real contribution to future generations," explains Norris.

Like all of the UDC's representatives, Norris is a volunteer who donates his time to the Council to help protect the river and make the river valley a better place to live, work and play. During the day, he is the Manager of Conference Services for Orange and Rockland Utilities. He also enjoys nature photography, and finds plenty of opportunities to practice his hobby in the river corridor.



Al Norris, UDC Representative from the Town of Highland, New York. Photo by Dave Soete.

Al Norris lives in Barryville, New York with his wife, Naomi.

DEC Deputy Commissioner Tours Valley

Bob Bendick, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources, spent July 16th inspecting, observing, discussing, and enjoying the Upper Delaware River valley with members and staff of the Upper Delaware Council.

"I'm here because I feel it is important that the DEC takes a strong interest in things like the Delaware area and the activities of the Upper Delaware Council," explained Bendick. "Rivers are very important resources and have a lot of value for many people. My purpose for coming here is to get a better feel for the issues, respond to questions, and learn what the Council feels the DEC should think about."

First-hand Look at Sites

A Council delegation met Bendick and DEC's Council Alternate Repre-

sentative Fred Gerty at the southern end of the corridor. After stopping to review general issues and take in the spectacular views afforded by Hawks Nest, Bendick visited the site of the proposed NPS visitors center, the Deerpark sand pit, the lower Mongaup River area, D&H Canal remnants, Roebling Bridge, and Zane Grey Museum.

DEC Interested In Council

Following an NPS-led canoe trip, a brief visit near the Barnes Landfill, and an inspection of the DEC access at Narrowsburg, Bendick participated in an extensive question and answer session at the Council's Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting. Discussing a wide variety of topics including the Cannonsville throttling valve, Mongaup Wildlife Area management plans, Barnes Landfill, DEC's State

Open Space Conservation Plan, water quality standards, and others, Bendick exhibited a good understanding of the issues and a commitment to be involved.

Said Bendick at the meeting, "The Commissioner wanted me to come down here to express the DEC's interest in what is going on here. Hopefully, this will lead to more coordinated action [between the Council and the DEC]. Making things like the Upper Delaware Council work requires an extraordinary amount of communication. We are going to take another try at it."

One week after the meeting, Bendick started the wheels in motion to develop an Executive Order for the Governor to sign. He has also indicated his willingness to work in partnership with the National Park Service to investigate the feasibility of putting an NPS Visitors Center on the newly-acquired DEC lands in the Mongaup River valley.

The River Moves Slo-o-o-wly!

Just like the words from the song says, old man river keeps on moving slowly along," commented UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass when asked how things went during the low flow portion of the Time-of-Travel study.

Continued Douglass, "Everyone who worked on the low flow phase of the study now knows first-hand that the water in the Delaware River travels at an agonizingly slow speed under these conditions."

The intent of the Time-of-Travel study is to scientifically determine how a substance that enters the river disperses as it is carried downstream under known flow conditions. A computer model will be developed which will allow scientists to plug in data should a real emergency occur, such as a toxic spill, and provide information to emergency personnel so that appropriate actions can be taken, such as evacuating people from downstream locations.

"The actual work went perfectly," explained Douglass. "What drove people

crazy was that their shifts were constantly being revised due to the much slower than anticipated movement of the dye cloud in the river. The first two weeks in August will be remembered for a long time by those who had to pull extra-long shifts. But there was one nice benefit for those who had to be on the river taking samples during the nights of August 12th and 13th. They witnessed some spectacular meteors streaking through the clear, starlit sky."

The USGS report on the results of the study will be available sometime in 1992.

New Water Quality Standards Proposed

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is progressing towards a round of public hearings on proposed revisions to the water quality standards and regulations for the Middle and Upper Delaware Scenic Rivers area. These hearings will be held during the first part of 1992 at the earliest.

Work on this issue began in 1988 when development began on a water quality protection plan for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The study was originally confined to the Middle Delaware region, but was expanded to include the Upper Delaware River in late 1989. This was done at least partly in response to a petition by the

Watershed Association of the Delaware River (WADR) to classify 121 miles of the middle and upper river as Outstanding National Resource Waters. The DRBC released a Staff Report and a Response Document describing the issues involved and various alternatives at the UDC's November, 1990 conference.

The proposed changes to DRBC water quality regulations would increase the level of protection being given to waters deemed by the DRBC to have high scenic, recreational, ecological, or water supply values. In these waters, water quality standards would be revised to

reflect the river's existing, high water quality. Also, policies are being written that will afford a high level of protection to existing water quality levels.

The UDC is following this process closely to determine how these proposed regulations will affect the Upper Delaware River corridor. The public is urged to keep abreast of what is being proposed and make comments to DRBC at the upcoming hearings. To obtain copies of the proposed regulations and to find out when the hearings will be held, contact the DRBC at P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628, telephone (609) 883-9500, or contact the Upper Delaware Council office.

DEC Fishery Plan Nearly Final

The Draft Fishery Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Tailwaters which riled the waters in early 1990, is now almost ready to be released in its final form. Initially presented in April 1990, the document generated a flood of comments which were considered as the plan was evaluated and re-written by DEC staff.

The Council has praised the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region IV Fisher-

ies Office for their efforts in putting the draft plan out for wide distribution and aggressively seeking input from all people who could be effected by the proposal.

The primary author of the plan is Kay Sanford, Region IV's Senior Aquatic Biologist. Sanford sought and received assistance from the Upper Delaware Council in his efforts to hold meetings to discuss the plan's findings and recommendations.

Many Changes Made

Although the changes have not been officially released, indications are that the new version addresses many of the concerns expressed by the public during the comment period. The artificial-only proposal, one of the more vigorously opposed long-term regulatory changes recommended by the draft plan, will be deleted. Stocking of

(Please see "Plan," page 8)

Campfield Donates Artifacts

One of the Upper Delaware's largest collections of Indian artifacts has been donated to the National Park Service (NPS) by Floyd Campfield, a Narrowsburg resident who assembled a collection of some 3,500 artifacts through years of searching. Campfield, who was concerned about the number of local collections being sold off or dispersed to other parts of the country, decided to take action to keep his artifacts where they could be enjoyed by local people and studied in connection with their original environment. Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent John T. Hutzky officially accepted the donation at a July 1 reception held at the NPS North District Office.

The collection of about 3,500 pieces includes scrapers, net sinkers, pipe shards, clay marbles, celts, potsherds and knives, projectile points, and tools. Most were collected from plowed fields at several sites in the river valley between Long Eddy and Ten Mile River. NPS expects to display a portion of the collection at a local site. A traveling exhibit will also be developed for use at other program sites and schools. The rest of the collection will be kept for study purposes at a secure location in the valley. From such objects, researchers may learn more about the pre-historic inhabitants of the valley, who had no written language to record their lives.

The Campfield Collection is not provenanced, that is, not catalogued to indicate where each piece was found. "I'm sorry that, when I started, someone didn't get a hold of me so that I could put a number on every one and where it came from," said Mr. Campfield.

However, some archaeological information is being reconstructed. Archaeologist Brooke Blades and Cultural Resources Specialist Mary Curtis of NPS are working with Mr. Campfield to record his recollections and pinpoint where many of the artifacts were found.

"I can't say enough about Mr. Campfield's generosity, both in donating his collection and in sharing his considerable knowledge of local archaeological sites," said Ms. Curtis.

"Every time we dig a foundation, build a road, or remove some top soil here in the valley, there's a good chance something is lost forever: artifacts, sites, information. We can't stop digging holes, but we can pay attention to what we're destroying and retrieve what we can, not by willy-nilly collecting, but by careful study of where artifacts are found and how they were used."

"People like Mr. Campfield, who are willing to share what they know, make all the difference in the world. I hope this inspires others to share their knowledge, to help us learn while the opportunity is still there."

For the Record

The record of our past is often buried in the ground. Excavation for a foundation or a septic tank can erase all evidence of an important Indian village.

Clearing land for a road or garden can destroy a canal wall. An arrowhead collector, who tosses his trophies into a shoe box without identifying where he found them, destroys most of the information that can be learned from his finds.

However, a homeowner who invites an archaeologist to look over his property can plan his excavation so that evidence of the village is preserved. A government agency or property owner can choose a route or garden plot that leaves the canal wall intact. A collector can become an amateur archaeologist, identifying and marking each artifact with its original location, enabling scholars to learn about the area's prehistory from his collection.

The time to start caring is now. Archaeological resources are non-renewable. You can't replant an archaeological site that's been destroyed.

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
 Name _____
 Address _____
 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. _____

("Grants," from page 1)

Westfall Township, Pennsylvania was awarded a \$3,000 grant to prepare an updated Official Sewage Facilities Plan. The present plan was adopted over 15 years ago.

The Town of Cocheton, New York received a \$5,000 grant to review and revise its zoning ordinance. It is anticipated that the revisions will bring the town into substantial conformance with the River Management Plan.

The Town of Tusten received a \$500 grant to prepare and print a revised zoning map that shows property boundaries,

zoning district boundaries, and the approximate boundary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor. Additional copies of Tusten's final zoning ordinance will also be printed.

The Town of Highland, New York was awarded a \$2,500 grant to inventory the public lands in the town that front the river corridor. The town will explore the feasibility of utilizing those lands for the benefit of Highland residents and others within the river corridor.

("Plan," from page 6)

hatchery fish will occur to some degree in the East and West Branches, but not at all in the Delaware Main Stem until further studies are done.

One issue that received a mixed response during the comment period is the issue of increasing angler access. Many landowners and some fishermen oppose it, while many others, especially fishermen, favor it. The management objectives of attaining quantitative goals, measured in trips per acre per year and trout per hour with numerical catch and size goals,

will be down-played in favor of a fishing quality objective. The proposal to make the entire tailwaters a catch-and-release area will be modified to apply only to certain segments, with trophy limits to be established.

Management objectives that almost everybody agreed with are the need to install a throttling valve at Cannonsville Dam and the need to improve the entire water release program. These continue to be the cornerstones of the fishery management plan.

Calendar of Upper Delaware Events

October 1991							November 1991							December 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 UD	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5 UD	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7 UD	8	9	6	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15 RM	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17 RM	18	19	20	21
20	21	22 OP PR	23	24	25	26	17	18	19 RM	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29 *	30	31			24	25	26 OP PR	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

Legend

- UD** Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY
- RM** Water Use/Resource Management 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 Conference on Economic Development; call UDC at (914) 252-3022 for further information.

Upper Delaware Council

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