Welcome to the fall, 1992 issue of The Upper Delaware! Fall is beautiful on the Upper Delaware. Take some time to enjoy the change of the seasons.

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### UDC Plans for Next Five Years

The Upper Delaware Council has adopted a new operating program that will guide its actions over the next five years. The Five Year Operating Program, the second to be adopted by the Council, sets forth a detailed program of management for the Council, concentrating on the Council’s responsibility to coordinate management of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. It does not change the River Management Plan in any way. What it does change is the level of attention the Council allocates to various issues of concern, the techniques used to address individual issues, and the emphasis each issue will receive. Increased emphasis will be placed on the areas of water quality, community involvement in river protection, landfills, and hazardous materials and toxic substances. New projects are also identified in the operating program, including scenic byways, economic development, and an education program.

“You have to review your operations periodically because conditions and interests change, and new issues and problems become apparent,” says UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass of the new operating program. “New opportunities emerge that must be pursued. Sometimes, the old answers don’t work as well as they might have, and you must find better ways to resolve issues.”

### New Goals, Projects Set

Four new goals for the Council were added to the ten already listed in the Upper Delaware River Management Plan. These new goals are:

- Insure that no new landfills are located within the Upper Delaware corridor, and that existing landfills either within or beyond the corridor boundaries do not threaten the corridor’s ecological health and integrity.

- Protect and enhance the Upper Delaware River’s outstanding values: its free-flowing nature, excellent water quality, and aquatic ecosystem.

(Please see “Program,” page 2)
The transport of hazardous materials and toxic substances through the river corridor should be carefully managed to minimize the risks to human health and the river corridor’s ecology. Emergency services and communication, especially for hazard warnings to recreational users, should be elevated to the highest level of preparedness.

- Provide for the effective and continued operation of the UDC as a community-based nonprofit organization working in close contact with its members, property owners, and visitors to the river valley.

The Council will pursue new projects and place increased emphasis on several existing programs.

Water quality has emerged as an issue of great concern to most people. Water quality is left largely to the agencies in the River Management Plan, but effective advocacy by the Council can still affect management decisions. The UDC will place greater emphasis on this issue.

Hazardous materials in the ground and in transport will receive increased attention. Lingering problems with cleaning up hazardous landfills, train derailments with the potential for environmental and human disasters, and old toxic sites are issues that have come before the Council repeatedly during the past years. Work on these issues is authorized in the River Management Plan, but they will receive additional attention.

The Council will pursue an aggressive education program. Each year, thousands of visitors use the river, people buy homes, and new businesses locate here. Sooner or later, the next wave of economic change will reach our doorstep. The Council will launch a broad-based educational campaign to reach these people, increase their awareness about the values and concerns of the Upper Delaware region, and encourage these new faces to participate in their own ways as citizen river conservationists and partners in protecting the river corridor.

The Council will pursue an economic development program based on the concept of sustainable growth. This means development tied to the community’s and the ecosystem’s ability to absorb it without lasting damage. In our region, this also ties to the need for the growth to be consistent with and complementary to the River Management Plan. Under this program, river protection is an integral part of the overall economic development framework. The Council will pursue this program in consultation with all affected towns and townships, the business community, and relevant other agencies and institutions.

The UDC will carry out its Community on the River Program, a continuing project to improve communication among valley residents and visitors about river management, to increase awareness of the region’s rich history, and to encourage more people to participate in valley activities.

The Friends of the Upper Delaware program, already a success, will gain two new programs during the next five years: a citizen-based water quality monitoring program, and a citizen-based inventory program for identifying and protecting river valley natural areas, landmarks, and other points of interest.

The Council will explore the feasibility of establishing a scenic byway system and trail system throughout the region. The scenic byway system, a program for driving or bicycling tours, can add to the region’s economic base, while still celebrating the beauty of the river corridor. Numerous trail systems along abandoned rail beds, canals, and existing roadways come near the river corridor, and links using public rights-of-way could be made.

**Worth the Effort**

The projects in the new operating program will keep the UDC very busy for the next five years, says Douglass. “It’s a lot of work, not just for the Council but for the many others who will volunteer their time to improve their communities. But if it keeps this place beautiful, so that we can give it to our children to cherish, then I think it’s worth all the effort.”
River News

Lordville Bridge Opens Amid Celebrations

The communities of Lordville (NY) and Equinunk (PA) are once again joined by a bridge spanning the Delaware, thanks to the efforts of the Council and many local citizens, politicians and organizations who struggled to get the project funded and built. The communities celebrated their reunion in grand style with a series of festivities that began on July 24th.

A large crowd attended the official opening function hosted by New York State Department of Transportation (NY DOT) personnel. Pennsylvania Representative Jerry Birmelin, Wayne County Commissioner Tony Herzog, Town of Hancock Supervisor Gerald Mackin, and Richard Church, Regional Director of NY DOT, gave speeches at the ceremony. Mr. Church noted wryly that while two-thirds of the bridge extends into New York, Pennsylvania provided fifty percent of the construction costs. He also noted that the new bridge could carry loads of 20 tons, far greater than the three ton posted weight limit of the old bridge at the site.

The honor of “cutting the ribbon” went to Wellington and Helen Lester of Hancock. Mr. Lester, a member of the Equinunk Historical Society, used to walk across the bridge and go to school in Hancock, where he later taught for many years. Those experiences inspired him to write the just-released book, The Bridges of Lordville.

The celebration continued on July 26th when, at precisely noon, Mary Curtis gave the signal and members of the Equinunk Volunteer Fire Department and members of the Hancock Fire Department marched over the bridge leading contingents from their respective states. Meeting in the middle, their color guards touched stanchions, signifying that the communities were reunited after a forced separation of over six years.

Jack Niflot, representing the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, dedicated the bridge’s historic marker that Viva Mallery donated in memory of her grandmother’s brother, Alva I. Lord, builder of the first Lordville Bridge. Two people instrumental in the project, George Frosch, UDC representative from the Town of Hancock, and Chris Wallingford, former Manchester Township Supervisor, gave speeches that praised the many people and organizations who made the new bridge possible. Pennsylvania State Senator Charles Lemmond and PA Representative Birmelin; NY Senator Charles Cook and Assemblyman Richard Coombe; NPS; the state departments of transportation; the UDC; and many others.

These celebrations almost didn’t happen, because the bridge almost didn’t get built. The previous bridge, a vital connection across the river, was closed in 1984 due to structural problems with the abutment on the Pennsylvania side. In November, 1986 the bridge was torn down and plans to replace it began. But late in 1989, just as plans were to go out for bid, it was discovered that Pennsylvania had bumped the project down to a low priority, effectively killing it. One challenge was convincing the “powers that be” that the bridge should be replaced at all. After eight months of factual presentations and hard lobbying by local governments, citizens, and the UDC, Pennsylvania restored the project to a high priority. Special recognition should be given to the work of the Wayne County Commissioners, elected officials in Manchester and Hancock, and hundreds of individuals who signed petitions and wrote letters.

The original Lordville Bridge, washed out by the 1903 “pumpkin flood.” Photo courtesy Clifton Bain and Equinunk Historical Society.

This Bridge the Third

Besides providing access for emergency services and giving a boost to economic growth and tourism, the new bridge brings together two communities that have always relied on each other. Lordville and Equinunk were linked by a ferry service until the first bridge was completed and opened in January, 1870. This bridge was built by the Roebling Company using its pioneering technology—cables of wound steel wire packed in linseed oil or coal tar. You can still see original Roebling cables holding up the bridge at Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania (which has been carefully restored by the National Park Service). Huge webs of such cables also stretch between the massive stone towers of the Roeblings’ masterwork, the Brooklyn (Please see “Bridge,” page 7)
UDC News

UDC Awards 1992 Technical Assistance Grants

For the fifth consecutive year, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded Technical Assistance Grants to local units of government. The five grants awarded this year provide a total of $10,836 to four towns and townships. The projects display the usual diversity, and range from preparing zoning maps to developing a visitors guidebook. But the common theme of all the grants is that they further the goals of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Here is a list of the projects that the Council is funding this year.

The Town of Fremont, New York received a grant of $970 for the preparation of zoning maps.

Shohola Township, Pennsylvania was awarded a grant of $1,600 to plan for emergency responses within the Upper Delaware area. This project proposes to identify potential emergency situations, plan for adequate response within Shohola Township, and provide material for similar planning to other towns and townships along the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The Town of Highland, New York, in cooperation with the New York Audubon Society, received a $3,786 grant to undertake a training program for volunteers who will be participating in the Upper Delaware Council's "Friends of the Upper Delaware" Adopt-A-Stream Program by providing education and materials needed for a successful program.

The Town of Highland was also awarded a grant in the amount of $3,500 to develop a "prototype" directory or guidebook for visitors to the river corridor. It will list local services and amenities, thereby enhancing visitors' experience and benefitting the local economy.

The Town of Tusten, New York was awarded a $980 grant to help cover the cost of printing their revised zoning ordinance, which was previously funded under a 1990 and 1991 Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grant.

Grants Fund a Variety of Local Projects

During the past five years, the Upper Delaware Council's Technical Assistance Grants program has provided over $275,608 to fund a wide variety of projects that further the goals of the River Management Plan and thereby help to preserve and protect the Upper Delaware River.

Past 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. The Pennsylvania townships of Berlin, Damascus, Buckingham and Manchester, which choose not to participate in the Council, are not eligible for Technical Assistance Grants.

Ruth Jones shows off some of the trash picked up by volunteers at the "On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup" sponsored by Kittatinny Canoes. In all, 19.86 tons of garbage were pulled from the river and its banks.

Fall 1992
Volunteers Make A Difference on the Upper Delaware

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well and flourishing on the Upper Delaware! Each year, hundreds of volunteers work to clean up our environment. Here’s a profile of three successful programs and one of the volunteers who help to make our river valley a better place to live, work, and play.

**Litterpluck**

Litterpluck is an annual event which involves all 15 towns in Sullivan County. Each spring, hordes of volunteers hit the roadways, pick up trash, and deliver it to collection sites. Litterpluck is made possible by the cooperative efforts of local residents, businesses and organizations, government officials and county employees. Litterpluck is the brainchild of The River Reporter newspaper based in Narrowsburg, NY. This year’s clean-up, held on May 2nd, was an overwhelming success.

**Friends of the Upper Delaware**

The Upper Delaware Council’s Friends of the Upper Delaware program gives people the opportunity to get personally involved in hands-on environmental improvement projects in the Upper Delaware valley. These projects include Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Stream programs, and an environmental watchdog effort called Green Watch.

To date, over 15 groups have adopted highways and streams in the river corridor. Participants in the Adopt-A-Highway program clean their adopted stretch of highway four times a year. Groups that adopt streams may undertake a variety of activities, from picking up litter along the stream to working on state-approved fishery habitat improvement projects.

Anyone who wants more information on Friends projects should call Kathy Johnson at the Upper Delaware Council, PO Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY, 12764, telephone (914) 252-3022.

**Kittatinny Cleans Up**

Kittatinny Canoes, a major river livery on the Upper Delaware, sponsors a three day river clean-up each summer. This cleanup is so successful that for the last two years it won a national “Take Pride in America” award aimed at fostering environmental stewardship and volunteerism.

Last July, 524 volunteers collected 19.86 tons of trash over a three day period. The clean-up stretched some 70 river miles; both the upper and middle sections of the Delaware were included. Among other trash, volunteers gathered 617 tires and 18,000 aluminum cans and five and one half tons of scrap iron.

Dave Jones, co-owner of Kittatinny, notes that the response to the call for volunteers is overwhelming. “We couldn’t do this without the dedication of hundreds of people who volunteer their time and labor,” says Jones.

**Profile of a Volunteer**

Have you ever noticed that there’s always one person that can always be counted upon to do the little extras for an organization, or someone who is never too busy to help a worthwhile cause? The Upper Delaware is proud to introduce Tom Van Orden to its readers. Tom Van Orden, born and bred in New Jersey, relocated with his wife Jane to Damascus Township two and one half years ago. Tom, a retired civil engineer, loves the natural beauty of the Upper Delaware, and volunteers his time and effort to protect the environment and natural resources of the region.

Tom coordinates clean-up projects in Damascus Township for the Upper Delaware Council’s “Friends of the Upper Delaware” program. He is more than just a willing worker. According to Kathy Johnson, UDC Administrative Director, “If more people had Tom’s energy and dedication to our natural resources we would find we wouldn’t need clean-up projects at all. He’s not afraid to get his hands dirty.”

Tom, along with his contingent of volunteers known as “The River School and Atco Road Neighbors,” have adopted State Route 1017 (better known as River Road) and have also picked up trash along Barkley Lake Brook in Damascus. Reports Tom, “We scheduled three clean-ups on River Road this year, and the turnout was fair. I really have to thank my friends, neighbors and other volunteers for the hard work they do. The volunteers who join us should really be commended. Everyone is busy, but these folks are eager to help out. Pennsylvania DOT also does a real good job, they do everything they can to help us. You would really be surprised to see the quantity and types of garbage people toss on the sides of the highways and the banks of the streams. Some of our finds on a recent clean-up included a motorcycle and a frozen salamander!”

“My wife and I occasionally pick up trash at the Skinner’s Falls area in Cochecton. I am very disturbed about the amount of glass we find; the glass is not only unsightly, it’s dangerous! We need more education about the dangers and ethics of litter. For example, broken glass can cut people’s hands or feet, it also can injure dogs or farm animals, and occasionally will start a fire. Plastic litter sometimes can kill or injure birds or fish. Tin cans can be very sharp and can cut or become breeding grounds for mosquitos.”

Tom is also a proud grandfather of four and is active in the Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Habitat for Humanity and the Equinunk Historical Society. During their spare time, the Van Ordens enjoy hiking, fishing, canoeing and bird watching and especially enjoy visiting national parks throughout the country. They recently completed a trip to Alaska.

Tom says he wishes there wasn’t a need for clean-up projects, but as long as there is, and as long as he is able, he will continue to do what he can to see that the valley remains as clean and environmentally sound as possible.

The Upper Delaware
In the Upper Delaware, it's the trout and shad fisheries that get most of the press. This is not surprising—the Upper Delaware is nationally recognized as one of the outstanding wild trout rivers east of the Mississippi, and the American shad spawning run now approaches an attention-getting one million fish. Often overlooked are the Upper Delaware's top-notch warmwater fisheries, which include smallmouths, walleyes, and muskellunge.

Before the Cannonsville and Pepacton reservoirs were built in the 1950s and 1960s, the Upper Delaware was primarily a warmwater fishery. For many years, it was recognized as one of the top smallmouth bass rivers in the East, and also as an excellent walleye river. Smallmouths up to the five pound class were not unusual. Despite some negative influences of the cold water reservoir releases, the Upper Delaware still affords anglers excellent smallmouth bass fishing. Let's take a brief look at the smallmouth and two other warmwater game species of the Upper Delaware, walleye and muskellunge.

Smallmouths

In his first book, Just Fishing (written in the late 1930s), the great Ray Bergman extolls the virtues of smallmouth bass fishing near Cochecton using "clippers" (hellgrammites). Even today, smallmouth bass fishing in the Upper Delaware can provide a lot of exciting action, particularly on ultra light spinning tackle or fly rods. In our view, the most exciting action is by the use of surface lures during summer and early fall. This means bass bugs on fly rods and surface propeller lures (e.g., Hedden Tiny Torpedo) or poppers designed for the spinning rod.

Smallmouth activity really starts picking up as the shad season and the primary segment of the trout season winds down, in late June to early July. It continues until late October or even November, when some of the fastest action occurs as the fish build up body fat for the long winter.

For bait fishing, the hellgrammite is unquestionably the most popular bait. Fished in the riff or even the deep holes, they are generally fished on a natural float with either fly or spinning rods. Minnows, crayfish and stone cats are also popular with the stone cats typically yielding larger bass from the deepest part of the eddies. Spinning lures for subsurface action include any number of different crankbaits. However, the Rapala typically ranks at the top. Any number of bucktails and streamers (e.g., Muddler Minnow, Black Nosed Dace and Clousers Deep Minnows) work well on a fly rod.

New York and Pennsylvania regulations governing smallmouths changed in 1991, increasing the size limit from 9" to 12". The objective is to allow the smallmouths at least one year's spawning before they are taken, and to provide a larger average size fish in the river system. While there has been some objection to the regulations (based on the fact that the greatest number of fish caught seem to be in the 8" to 12" range), it will take another year or two before the wisdom of this size limit is tested. From this writer's point of view, I'm pleased to see a larger average fish as a 12" smallmouth on light tackle gives one heck of a better fight than a 9" fish.

Walleye

Historically, the walleye ranked right up there with the smallmouth as the key game fish of the Upper Delaware. Even today, there is a walleye fraternity that is absolutely dedicated to fishing for this most tasty of game fish.

As with the smallmouth, regulations in both states have changed in Pennsylvania and New York border waters over the last year. (Note: Different regulations govern Pennsylvania-New Jersey border waters.) The size limit has been increased from 15" to 18" and the spawning season, which occurs from early March into early May, is now closed to walleye fishing. The objective, as with the smallmouth, is to enhance the reproduction of the species. The female walleye doesn't spawn until she reaches this size.

As with the smallmouth, quite a few objections were raised in recent years as most of the walleyes taken have been in the 15" to 18" class, (although six to ten pounds are occasionally taken). Walleyes grow faster than smallmouths, so that a 15" walleye will be 18" within one year. Theoretically, then, there should have been a reduced take for only 1991 when the 15" fish reach the new legal size of 18". Therefore, the impact of this regulatory change should be seen this year.
Walleye are usually fished during the cold months. Wayne Peck, an avid walleye fisherman, picks November as his preferred month for walleyes. However, in mid-winter, when ice is thick enough, one can observe many anglers on the eddy by the Narrowsburg Bridge pursuing their favorite game fish through the ice.

Lampers are the most popular bait. However, you’ll have to dig for yourself as they cannot be sold legally. Nightwalkers will often suffice, as will minnows, fished with jigs or with a Lindy rig, an Eerie Dearie or a number of different spinner baits and dragged slowly across the bottom. Crankbaits are also effective. Deep running Rapalas, Walleye Divers, and similar lures are the top producers.

As walleyes are light sensitive, the best daytime fishing occurs on cloudy days. While we have occasionally taken walleyes during a sunny day, we typically fish for them only in the early morning or late evening of a bright day in recognition of their aversion to light. Night fishing for walleyes, somewhat akin to fishing for trout, is practiced by very few, but can be highly productive.

**Muskellunge**

Few people fish seriously for Muskellunge, but those who do often become addicts. Kurt Hagemann, owner of a bait & tackle shop in Shohola, is not totally addicted, but his eyes sure light up at the thought of going muskie fishing. His favorite waters are in the Milford area, but he also finds a few of the upper river eddies attractive, particularly at the Delaware’s confluence with the Lackawaxen. Live lining or casting and retrieving big chubs, suckers or similar bait fish is usually preferred. Large crankbaits can also work. However, to give some indication of how few muskies are caught, when you ask Kurt when he caught his last muskie, he responds in terms of years, not months or weeks. Still, the thought of hooking into a four foot long monster of over 30 pounds can drive a muskie addict to spend weeks in search of a fish who will then usually ignore anything you throw at him.

The Upper Delaware is a river of all seasons and all fishing tastes. It can satisfy the dreams of the dry fly purist on large wild trout or that of the novice angler spin casting darts for the ever-popular American shad. There is also a whole array of highly desirable warm-water species available throughout the year. Smallmouth bass action can be superb. The more specialized walleye fishing can yield exciting table fare. For the individual with outstanding patience and a marathon type of attitude, hours, then weeks, then months can be spent trying to locate and fish for the largest game fish of the East, the muskie. Not mentioned in this article, but also pursued by segments of the fishing fraternity, are chain pickerel, carp, the American eel, channel catfish, bullhead, rock bass, sucker, yellow perch and sunfish. Even striped bass and hybrid striper can be found in the lower reaches. Needless to say, we love the Upper Delaware and what it has to offer anglers.

*The Council thanks Harold Novick for contributing this article.*

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**Bridge** These strong cables made it possible to span large distances in a single leap—an important consideration on the Delaware in those days, when men steered huge timber rafts down the river and towers had to be placed far apart to allow these rafts to pass freely.

This first bridge was punched out in the October, 1903 flood known as the “pumpkin flood” due to the large number of that orange squash bobbing in the floodwaters. The October 15, 1903 Hancock Herald reported the demise of the bridge (from *The Bridges of Lordville*):

“The Delaware is the highest in history. Equinunk and Lordville were hit hard by the loss of the suspension bridge. The river was thirty feet above the low water mark; that is, five feet higher than known before. The suspension bridge was underwater from 11:00 p.m. on Friday until 4:30, Saturday a.m., when it fell with a tremendous crash. The Pennsylvania tower toppling over first. The cable anchorages withstood the mighty stress and remained intact. E.S. Travis was the last man to cross the bridge. As the planks were washing away, this was a very dangerous crossing.”

Roebling’s bridge was replaced with a steel chain suspension bridge that was built in 1904 and operated until its failure in 1984. The new bridge replaces this well-loved structure that served a long and useful life and linked two communities for 80 years.
# Calendar of Upper Delaware Events

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<td>10 NPS Hunter Safety Training Course 8:00-12:00 Tusten Town Hall Narrowsburg</td>
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<td>22 HazMat Training Exercise (Call UDC) 7:30 UD River Safety Committee NPS Harrisburg</td>
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> Fall colors are at their peak during the first half of October!

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> The members and staff of the Council wish everyone a joyous holiday!

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**Upper Delaware Council**  
P.O. Box 217  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
Address Correction Requested