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June is American Rivers Month. Celebrate it on the beautiful Upper Delaware River!

"...rivers and all creatures that inhabit the water were put here for wise men to contemplate and fools to ignore.

---IZAAK WALTON,
The Complete Angler

Most land along the Upper Delaware River is privately owned. Please be considerate and don't litter or trespass. Thanks!

Kyle Myers, Water Specialist with the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County, demonstrates the principles of nonpoint source pollution to Council members, the press, and the public at the May 4th Council meeting.

New DRBC Regulations Address Runoff Concerns

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) recently passed regulations designed to establish controls for non-point source pollution in drainage areas of the Upper and Middle Delaware River.

The regulations, adopted at the DRBC's February meeting, are meant to augment the Special Protection Waters regulations created in December, 1992. Those regulations dealt with overall water quality management and the control of point source pollutants, and were first applied to the 125-mile stretch of the Delaware River from Hancock, NY downstream to the Delaware Water Gap. Tributary reaches located within the Upper Delaware River corridor were also included at that time.

As effective as these initial regulation were, they did not address the issue of non-point source pollution found in the runoff that washes into streams and rivers, especially after heavy rains.

Far-Reaching Effects Reason for Concern

The hazards of non-point source pollution from surface and groundwater runoff has been well-documented for more than 30 years. Rachel Carson, writing in The Silent Spring, put it into simple terms. Chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides sprayed on vegetation will mix with rain water and seep
The View from the Chair

A Personal Invitation...

The Upper Delaware River is one of the most beautiful natural resources in this country. While other rivers and waterways fall prey to development and pollution, the Upper Delaware, due in large part to its protected status as a Scenic and Recreational River, continues to thrive.

Above her banks eagles, hawks, and countless other birds and waterfowl soar, nest, and return year after year. In her waters, shad, muskie, trout, bass and more provide ample opportunities for anglers of all ages and abilities. And all along her length, from the top of the corridor at Hancock, NY to the bottom at Mill Rift, PA, thousands of people live, work, and play in harmony with the Upper Delaware River, and with the River Management Plan.

This Plan is a unique document, providing for the protection and maintenance of the quality of the water and scenic beauty of the corridor while affording protection for property owners and the public from over-regulation by government agencies. At the same time, the plan allows for public recreational use, too. This mutually-beneficial relationship (or partnership, if you will) is why the River Management Plan is working so successfully on the Upper Delaware River.

With some limited exceptions, nearly all of the land in the river corridor is privately owned. And that large private land ownership is what sets our River Corridor—and our Management Plan—apart from other Wild and Scenic Rivers around the country.

The Upper Delaware Council is the body that oversees the administration of the River Management Plan. The UDC is an independent organization whose members include towns and townships in New York and Pennsylvania, along with the states of NY and PA, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, who all work in partnership with the National Park Service. Town-and-township membership on the Council is purely voluntary.

The Council provides an open forum, where problems, concerns, and proposals are brought to the table for discussion, resolution and implementation. It is truly the one place that ensures that all interested parties will be heard, that all sides of an issue will be considered, and that every action that takes place on the river or in the corridor is in keeping with the letter—and the spirit—of the River Management Plan.

If you live in the corridor, you are subject to the River Management Plan, whether or not your town or township is represented on the Council. That is why membership in the Council is so vitally important to every town and township in the corridor. It is your one sure way to have a voice—and a vote—in matters vital to the river’s future...matters that can ultimately affect your town.

And that is why, as the 1994 Chairman of the Upper Delaware Council, I would like to extend my personal invitation to those townships not presently in the Council to come on board and join us.

When the River Management Plan was put into effect here on the Upper Delaware, it was the first plan of its kind ever adopted. It was, if you will, a "grand experiment," based on the premise that the land along the river should remain in the hands of private citizens and local jurisdictions, and that these citizens, local governments, and agencies would be working in partnership with the National Park Service.

Over the past six years, this Plan has proven to be so successful that it is now being used as the model for similar river management plans around the country. The partnership is working—but we can do better. One hundred percent membership in the Council means one hundred percent participation in the River Management Plan. And that means one hundred percent protection for the river we all love.
UDC Update

Council Installs 1994 Officers

The 1994 Upper Delaware Council includes (seated from left) Alan Bowers, Vice Chair (Westfall Township); Edward C. Sykes, Chair (Town of Delaware); and Charles Wieland, Secretary/Treasurer (Town of Tusten). Standing, same order, in Row 2 are Representatives Francis Hartmann (Town of Deerpark); Larue Elmore (Citizens Advisory Council); John Hutsky (National Park Service); John McKay (Lackawaxen Township); George Fluhr (Shohola Township); and Lewis Schmalzle (Town of Highland). In Row 3 are Fred Gerty (NY DEC Alternate); Thomas Hill (Town of Lumberland); Joseph C. Banach (Westfall Township Alternate); David B. Everett (DRBC Alternate); Marian Hrubovcak (PA DER); Bruce MacMillan (NY DEC); George H. Frosch (Town of Hancock); Scott Haberli (Town of Fremont); and Larry Richardson (Town of Cochecton). Photo courtesy of The News Eagle.

Minisink Battleground Recognized

Nearly 215 years after one of the bloodiest encounters of the Revolutionary War, the Minisink Battleground in Sullivan County, NY has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Located on County Road 168 about one mile northeast of Minisink Ford, Minisink Battleground Park was the site of a deadly confrontation between an angry party of Indians and Tories, led by Col. Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chieftain, and a hastily-assembled Colonial militia unit under the leadership of Cols. Hathorn and Tusten. It was a battle marked by false assumptions, missed opportunities, and just plain bad luck.

The date was July 22, 1779 and the Revolutionary War was in full swing. Brant, leader of the pro-British Six Nation Indian Confederacy, and his party had been marauding in the Port Jervis area, creating border skirmishes to occupy the Colonial troops and divert them away from otherwise confronting the British army. Four settlers were killed and their village was left to burn. Hathorn and Tusten, informed that the Indians would flee rather than fight, set out with troops to avenge the settlers' deaths. The Indians, however, surprised the Colonists in the thick woods surrounding the battleground and, in the day-long battle that ensued, killed more than half of the patriots, including Colonel Tusten himself. (There is some question as to how the Indians learned of the Colonists' presence. According to one account, a rifle was accidentally discharged as Hathorn and his men forded the Delaware River at the mouth of the Lackawaxen. In another version of the story, one of the scouts, a Capt. Tyler from the Milanville area, thinking the Colonists had already crossed the river, fired on the Indians. Tyler was killed on the spot, and the Indians quickly ambushed the militia and massacred all but a handful.) Hathorn survived.

After the rout, the battle and the battlefield were largely forgotten. More than 40 years passed before the remains of the massacred militiamen were finally removed from the battleground in 1822 and returned to Goshen for burial. A skeleton found near the mouth of the Lackawaxen River was identified as a soldier from the battle and now rests in peace in Lackawaxen's Unknown Soldier's Grave. Other bones found on and around the battleground were laid to rest in the cemetery behind the old Barryville Congregational Church. In 1879, a monument was erected to commemorate the site of the only Revolutionary War battle to be fought in Sullivan County. Mary Curtis, NPS historian and a descendent of Oliver Calkins, one of the battle's survivors, was instrumental in obtaining the battleground's inclusion in the National Register.

The Battleground is open to the public daily from 8:00 a.m. until dusk, and a detailed walking-tour brochure is available at the site. Other points of interest in the immediate area include the Roebling Bridge and Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, and the Old Quarry Rockshelter Trail located within the Battleground Park. **
Corridor News

Renovations Set to Begin

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The restorations are designed to return the bridge to its original appearance. The eight-foot high, solid wooden trunk walls that originally held canal water on the landmark aqueduct will be restored. Upper Delaware NPS Bridge Project Manager Sandra Schultz said the trunk is being replaced because numerous state and federal laws and policy directives require this "original design" accuracy.

The project includes replacement of the elevated six-foot wide towpath walkways along both sides of the outside of the wooden superstructure. These walkways will feature screened, reinforced outside handrails and will be handicap-accessible. If funds permit, a new parking lot on the upstream New York shore will also be included in the project. The bridge's single-lane concrete road surface and two existing pedestrian walkways will not be affected by this renovation.

The aqueduct was originally one of four built by John Roebling (who went on to build the Brooklyn Bridge) for the Delaware and Hudson Canal. Today it is one of the last surviving suspension bridges in the country and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Catch and Release Gains in Popularity

Pick up any magazine or newspaper article about trout fishing and you’re likely to see some mention of "catch and release." What originated with conservation-minded fishermen is increasingly becoming a fact of life as regulations limit the minimum size and daily creel maximum.

There is no guarantee that a trout that is released back into the water will survive. Most deaths occur within four to twelve hours after release. A recent study determined that there are certain steps you can take (in addition to using a barbless hook) to help ensure the survival rate of trout that you decide to release.

Don’t play the fish to the point of exhaustion, especially when the water temperature is above 70 degree. Use a landing net—and remember to try and keep your hands off the fish if at all possible.

Keep the fish submerged as you remove the hook; and get the fish back in the water quickly. Exposure to the air for as little as 30 to 60 seconds seriously increases the mortality rate because when fish are removed from the water the tiny walls of the gills collapse, and the fish literally suffocates. If the fish is hooked deeply, it is better to cut the line to avoid injuring the fish further.

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If you have an interesting old photograph you'd like to see in the newsletter, send it along with a note telling who, what, where and when. All photos will be handled with care and returned to you promptly.

National Park Service Lists Summer Hours for Popular Local Attractions

All facilities open daily from 5/28 through 9/5 unless otherwise noted.

• Narrowsburg Information Center: 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
• Skinners Falls Kiosk: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
• Ten Mile River Kiosk: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
• Lackawaxen Kiosk: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
• Narrowsburg Kiosk: Friday—Sunday thru 8/27
  8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
• Damascus Kiosk: Saturday & Sunday thru 8/27
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• Toll House at Delaware Aqueduct/Roebling Bridge:
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• Zane Grey Museum: 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
  Tours every half hour. Last tour at 4:30 p.m.

With the exception of the Zane Grey Museum, all locations listed here will close for lunch. For more info, call the National Park Service at 1-717-685-4871.
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Spring 1994
The Covered Bridges of Cochecton...

This article started out to be a tale about big snowfalls and spring flooding on the Upper Delaware River. However, in researching the article, it soon became evident that the story of the bridges of Cochecton was, in fact, a chronicle of flooding on the river...and a testimony to the determination of the people of this little riverside hamlet to construct and maintain a bridge that would stand the tests of time.

From 1819 to 1859, six bridges were built spanning the Delaware River at Cochecton. Some, unfortunately, collapsed under their own weight, while the others fell victim to the horrific spring floods that were once so very common on the Upper Delaware River.

A number of factors contributed to the short lives of these early bridges. For one thing, records show that the winters were, indeed, much worse in the 1800s and early 1900s, with extremely cold temperatures and as much as nine feet of snow being recorded on the ground. Add to that the fact that in those days there was no way to control or regulate the flow or level of the water. It was not uncommon, therefore, for the river to freeze solid. When the spring thaws finally came, a situation occurred not unlike an ice jam in frozen gutters. Water backed up behind the ice, then when the jam broke, the water surged forward, flooding everything in its path.

The early bridges at Cochecton were covered bridges—and were among some of the first such structures built in this country. In fact, the first Cochecton bridge was built by Major Salmon Wheat, who is credited with building the first covered bridge in the state of New York. Hopefully, his other bridges fared better than the one at Cochecton, which collapsed under its own weight almost immediately. Wheat had to erect another one in its place.

The most successful of the several bridge builders employed by the Cochecton Bridge Company was Solon Chapin, who hailed from Easton, PA. Contacted first in 1854 to assist in one of the many reconstructions of the Cochecton Bridge, he was employed as the engineer of record for the bridge that was erected and opened in 1859.

This bridge is remarkable for three reasons. First, it lasted longer than any of its predecessors, so it gave bridge contractors an opportunity to experiment with new repair methods. For instance, in early 1881, so many huge stones were needed to repair a damaged pier that floating them to the site by raft (the traditional method) proved to be impractical. So the men took advantage of the fact that the river was frozen by quarrying the stones and hauling them to the site over the ice. Then, in March, the workmen were assembled, the ice around the piers was cut away, and the rocks were dropped through and left until the actual repairs could be accomplished during the summer months.

Second, the Chapin Bridge, as it was known, represented a total cooperative effort between the townspeople and the bridge builders. Captain Eli Beach, Sidney Tuttle and Thomas O’Neill are just three of the locals who devoted much of their time—and in some cases their money—to make this bridge a reality. So great was the spirit of civic pride that this bridge was completed in a mere 42 days!

The third item of note about this particular bridge is that it was the last covered bridge at Cochecton. When it was swept away in early 1902, it marked the end of an era. It was replaced by an iron bridge, similar to the one that stands there today.

Since the start of the 20th Century, the bridge at Cochecton has survived many more ice-outs, floods and storms. However, for the most part, the monstrous ice jams—several of which lifted the old bridges right off their foundations—are a thing of the past. This is indeed fortunate for residents on both sides of the river, since modern man would no doubt have great difficulty enduring the inconvenience—not to mention the danger—of having to take the ferry across the river, as did the people of Cochecton and Damascus when the bridge was out. Ah, but that’s another story for another time and another newsletter...!

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March 19th was the date, and the Club at Villa Roma was the setting for the UDC's annual Awards Banquet. This year's keynote speaker, Congressman Maurice Hinchey from NY, used the occasion to note that the Upper Delaware River Management Plan has paved the way for similar efforts around the country. "People here in the Upper Delaware are pioneers, managing the environment by paying attention to the entire ecosystem," Hinchey noted. "You have made history, and people across the nation are talking about what is happening here on the Delaware."

Special honorees included a trio from Long Island who rescued a young man from drowning in the river near Narrowsburg, NY, this past summer. "There is a 14-year-old kid in Queens who got another chance," Micheline Cavallacci noted as she thanked the Council for the Special Award. She was joined by Brigit Gulino and Joseph Toohey, who were part of the heroic rescue team.

The Distinguished Service Award, the Council's highest honor, went to Francis E. Hartmann, Town of Deerpark, NY. Hartmann has been involved with the UDC since its inception in 1988 and was a key player in the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP), the group that helped forge the River Management Plan. "I saw how conservation works through planning and zoning," Hartmann told the more than 125 banquet attendees as he accepted his award. "That's what the (Upper Delaware) Council is all about."

Next year's banquet is scheduled to be held on the third Saturday in March. Individuals and/or organizations that you feel have made a significant contribution in some way to the Upper Delaware River region may be nominated for an award any time throughout the year by contacting the UDC office.

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UDC Update

Member Towns Have Received More Than $300,000 in TAG Monies for a Variety of Municipal Projects

In a recent report to the Project Review Committee, UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass noted that in fiscal year 1993 the Council awarded $25,000 in Technical Assistance Grants to eight member towns and townships. This money is being used for everything from preparing updates to comprehensive master plans in certain communities, to funding the preparation and printing of a municipal map, to expanding a local citizen-based water quality monitoring system, and many other valuable projects.

Since 1988, the Upper Delaware Council has awarded more than $300,000 in Technical Assistance Grants to its members. A short list of some of the projects UDC TAG monies have helped fund include:

- Traffic Management Study
- Historical Sites Inventory and Archeological History Brochure
- Water Resources Study
- Driving Tours Brochure
- Clean Stream Planning
- Sewage Treatment Plant Siting Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Water Conservation Education Program
- Review and Revision of Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances and Maps
- Review of Local Road Laws

Under the River Management Plan, the Upper Delaware Council is authorized to provide technical, planning, and financial assistance to member town and township (and their respective county) governments for projects related to the implementation of the Plan. Funding is for planning-type projects, and not for "bricks and mortar"-type projects.

For instance, the Town of Cochecton applied for and received grant monies to prepare a master plan for the restoration of the Erie Railroad Station. This master plan details how the project is to be completed. The actual funding for the dismantling, storing and future restoration of the station is being handled by the Cochecton Preservation Society through a series of fundraising activities and private donations. TAG monies can also be used to finance certain types of publications and educational programs; in addition to underwriting the costs of plan and program development.

In this day of tightening budgets and ever-dwindling sources of funding, UDC TAG grants can provide the seed money for much-needed projects in your town or township. Applications are currently being taken for grants to be awarded in fiscal year 1994. Once again, the Council has $25,000 to disburse to member towns and townships. For more information about how your community might qualify for a UDC Technical Assistance Grant, or to learn more about how and why your town should join the Upper Delaware Council, contact the Council office.

Attention: Teachers, Scout Leaders, Civic, Environmental and Concerned Citizens Groups!

Need a Speaker for Your Next Meeting or Class?

Contact The Upper Delaware Council. We can provide a speaker for you free of charge to talk on a wide variety of river-related issues. Or we’ll be happy to help you locate a speaker to fill your specific needs. Give us a call today!

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: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Thank you for your assistance.

Old Address
Name ____________________  Address ____________________
Address ____________________  Address ____________________
City __________ State ____ Zip ______

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Name ____________________  Address ____________________
Address ____________________  Address ____________________
City __________ State ____ Zip ______

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

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The Upper Delaware
Special Announcement

A Big "Thanks!" to a Special Friend

With the hiring of a Public Relations Specialist, the staff of the Upper Delaware Council wants to say a special "thank you" to Keith Fletcher of Hoffman, Williams, Lafen & Fletcher.

Keith has been the editor, writer, and all-around "chief cook and bottle washer" for this newsletter. He took it from a more-or-less informational publication designed to explain the River Management Plan and the Upper Delaware Council and, over the years, transformed it into the interesting and entertaining piece that it is today. Those of you who have watched the evolution of The Upper Delaware know just how far it has come in the past few years, and for that we will always be grateful to Keith.

As the person now responsible for getting The Upper Delaware together every few months—which means coming up with all those informational, educational, and interesting articles on a regular basis—I just want to say, "Keith, you left really big shoes to fill!"

To you, the reader, I want to reiterate that this newsletter is for you. If you have ideas for articles, please feel free to pass them along to me here at the Council office. Thanks—and thanks again to Keith Fletcher for an outstanding job!