

# The Upper Delaware

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

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## What's the Most Popular Fashion Accessory on the River this Year?

If you said "PFD" you're right--  
and they're not just for kids!

***Beginning May 1, 1995, new U.S. Coast Guard regulations require all boats must be equipped with wearable-type PFDs. Seat cushions and ring buoys (Type IV) can no longer be substituted for Type I, II, III or V devices.***

This year, May 20th through May 27th is National Safe Boating Week. However, it goes without saying that safe boating techniques should be practiced at all times. And, in spite of what you may think, the single largest cause of boating fatalities can be summed up in one sentence:

***The victims were not wearing a personal flotation device, or PFD.***

PFDs are designed to hold your head above water so you can breathe. But, before you start to protest that they're cumbersome, hot, and interfere with your tan, remember this: US Coast Guard statistics show that

the two most common causes of small boat accident fatalities are capsizing and falling overboard.

When you are suddenly tossed into the water, you can panic—and, at a time like that, the last thing you should be worrying about is how to grab hold of the PFD that was sitting in the boat and now is bobbing somewhere in the water!

### Types of PFDs

There are five different types of personal flotation devices, or PFDs. Each is designed for use under specific conditions. Here is a brief description of each type.

#### **Type I: Offshore life jacket.**

This type of life jacket provides the most buoyancy. It is designed for use on open, rough waters or where immediate rescue is not certain. This life jacket will turn most wearers face up in the water. It comes in two sizes: adult and child.

#### **Type II: Near-shore buoyant vest.**

Designed for use in calm, inland waters where it is likely that you

—“PFD” continued on page 4—

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

## From the Editor...

This issue is loaded with "nature" stories...and for good reason. It is Spring, after all...so all of the fuzzy, furried, and feathered creatures who share this river valley with us are once more "out and about".

But there is another reason. The wealth of wildlife in our region is indicative of the clean and relatively unspoiled environment in which we are fortunate to live. Part of the reason the Upper Delaware River Valley is the way that it is can be directly attributed to environmental laws and regulations that were put into action over the past two decades.

Now many of these important tools and the organizations who enforced them are faced with a new kind of legislative environment--one that can be characterized as decidedly "ungreen." The 103rd Congress recently adjourned without taking action on a number of bills that would have done much to protect this country's rivers. Of particular concern, the Clean Water Act did not receive re-authorization.

All across the board, budget cuts mean personnel cuts...which means fewer people monitoring more resources over a wider geographic area. The end result? Much important work--work that has been ongoing and has produced such worthwhile results as the re-establishment of the bald eagle in our valley--could very well fall by the wayside.

The birds, wildlife, and fish can't speak for themselves. But you can speak for them. Write to your Senator, your Congressman, your Governor and State Legislators. Tell them how you feel. Make your voice heard. Remember, the squeaky wheel is the one that gets the grease (as my dad is fond of saying), so get squeaking! Your only investment will be a few minutes of your time, and a 32-cent stamp. Your payoff will be a cleaner world to hand over to the next generation...

*Nancie*



## Cat Tales, II

Few articles have received such an outpouring of response as did our story on "big cat" sightings in the Upper Delaware River Valley. The story seemed to touch just about everyone's fancy.

Glen Schwab, of Galilee, PA called to tell us personally of his experience in late August, 1994. It was on PA Route 402 (Pike County) in the vicinity of Snowy Hill Road--"a swampy, wooded area...but definitely open where he crossed." Here is what Glen saw. "It was definitely a cat," weighing approximately 60 pounds and very muscular. He went on to say the animal was about 4 feet long with a tail almost as long as its body. "It was pretty neat," Glen said, after admitting he was amazed

at the sighting.

Pam Graupman, a teacher in the Walton, NY area, sent a letter:

"Thanks so much for the article on 'Cat Tales.' This supports my son's sighting of a 4-5 foot cat in the woods about 100 yards from our home.

"This sighting occurred in mid-October, around 6:30 p.m. My son was playing near his fort when a 'very' large cat leaped out of the trees in front of him. He described the cat to be very dark in color and had a tail of great length.

"I spent some time with a 4th grade teacher this summer from Franklin...and she alerted me to the puma-panther sightings in their area."

Lucille Jay of Milanville, PA related her story in a letter, too. "I am one who has seen them. The first

---"Cats" continued on page 11---

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# Zane Grey Museum Bats Offered Alternative Housing

*This article was written by Don Hamilton, NPS Natural Resource Specialist for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.*

As the Delaware Valley warms to the longer days of Spring, there's one sign that some National Park Service rangers here are watching for with a bit more anticipation than usual: the first faint, mercurial flights of bats over the river at dusk. This will signal the return of the area's bats from a winter spent hibernating in some unknown cave, hanging in cold, dark silence and waiting for the coming spring. It's the arrival of one hundred or so little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*), a colony that has known the attic of the Zane Grey Museum as its summer home for generations, that the rangers are watching for. The Park Service is hoping to entice them into some alternative housing this spring.

Now, you may be asking, "Why the fuss over a few bats, anyway?" For starters, they're inside the building, and that's a problem. There must be some quick, convenient way to get rid of them. Don't they stock Bat-Be-Gone spray at the local store? And after all, aren't bats the nasty little creatures that occupy haunted houses, try to get in your hair, and often spread disease? Well, not exactly.

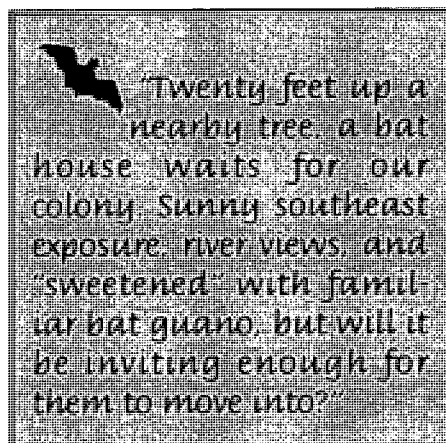
Bats play a very important role in the environment and benefit us in ways we seldom realize. After most birds have bedded down for the night, bats work the late shift. They are the only major predators of night flying insects, and they're extremely good at what they do.

Using echolocation (a sort of "bat radar"), they're able to find and take their prey out of the air. One researcher has shown that a bat can eat up to 600 mosquitoes an hour, and another study documents their ability to consume up to 3000 insects a night. They help keep in check the huge numbers of night flying insects, among them some of our most serious crop pests. In areas with good bat populations, farmers can be less

reliant on pesticides to protect their crops. Some farmers even provide bat houses for their roosts in an effort to attract more bats.

Medical research has also benefited from bats. Studies have taken advantage of the highly visible blood vessels of bat wings, as researchers observed them to learn more about the effects of drugs on circulation.

Concerns about bats spreading rabies are overstated, according to



Dr. Merlin D. Tuttle of Bat Conservation International, an Austin, Texas based bat conservation and education organization. The incidence of rabies in bat populations is less than one half of one percent, according to Tuttle. And unlike other mammals, even when rabid, bats rarely become aggressive.

So while we'd like to see the bats survive as a part of the native wildlife, there were problems with them being in the attic of the Zane Grey Museum. Accumulations of bat guano had to be removed from the attic, and occasionally a bat would find its way into the lower floors used by employees and the public. Indeed, it can also be very disconcerting when a stray bat activates a motion detector and the security alarm goes off in the wee hours of the morning!

The need to preserve an historic structure and provide for people using the building was obvious. Like everyone else, agencies like the National Park Service are increasingly faced with difficult decisions weighing human needs against those

of the environment. It often seems easiest to select a quick fix solution to a problem that will make it go away so that we no longer have to deal with it.

Fortunately, we had some guidance in our decision-making process. At the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, as at other National Park Service areas, we're required to practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is a process that seeks to understand the nature and life cycles of pests, and to ensure that the least toxic but most effective strategies are employed when managing pests, avoiding the use of chemicals and selecting natural alternatives whenever possible. We do not view this as a burdensome government regulation. Rather, we see it as a set of guidelines to ensure that we undergo an informed decision-making process that will result in effective, environmentally sound solutions and comply with environmental laws that are in force for good reasons.

We were also able to tap into the knowledge of the Nongame Protected Species Unit of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Their resident bat expert consulted with us on strategies for resolving our problem, and we learned that there were some good options available. Bats will often accept suitable alternative housing when provided with it.

During the winter months, when the bats were gone, attempts were made to seal up the attic to prevent their re-entry. Our maintenance employees built an inexpensive bat house, modeled after bat houses that have been used successfully elsewhere. This simple 2 feet wide by 3 feet tall by 10 inches deep open-bottomed box is made of unfinished wood, and painted a dark color to absorb heat. Vertical partitions inside divide it into 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inch wide chambers that the bats can roost in. Placement is critical. Bat houses should be 12 feet or more off the ground, with exposure to seven or more hours of sunlight a day to

---"Bats" continued on page 11---

would be rescued rather quickly in the event of an accident. This vest is designed to turn some wearers face-up in the water, and comes in four sizes: adult, medium child, small child, and infant.

**Type III: Flotation aid**

This type of PFD is also designed to be used in calm, inland waters where immediate rescue is likely. Wearers of Type III devices must turn themselves face-up in the water. These are available in a wide range of sizes and styles, making them the most comfortable PFDs to wear. Examples of Type III PFDs include float coats and pocketed fishing vests.

**Type IV: Throwable device**

Buoyant seat cushions and ring buoys are examples of Type IV PFDs. They are intended for use in calm waters where boating activity would

mean a speedy rescue.

**Type V: Special use devices and hybrid inflatable PFDs**

These types of PFDs include special suits and other devices designed to provide increased protection against hypothermia, and also devices that are not inherently buoyant, but that contain inflatable chambers.

You can purchase PFDs at a wide variety of places. Discount department stores, sporting goods shops, and marinas are all good places to look. However, it is important that you take care in choosing your PFD to insure that it will do the proper job. Try it on. Buckle it up. Move around in it. And, above all, make sure you are buying the proper type for your height, weight, and boating needs.

John Simmons, Director, Bureau of

Boating, PA Fish and Boat Commission, writes in the Spring, 1995 edition of *Boat Pennsylvania* magazine, "Choosing the right PFD is very important. It could be the most important piece of equipment that you ever buy for your boat."

Remember, though, a PFD is not a substitute for knowing how to swim. It is merely an aid to help you stay afloat in the event of an accident. And, the best PFD is the world can't help you if you're not wearing it when you need it. So, make that PFD part of your boating wardrobe this year--it just may save your life! ■

*Information for this article was taken from several articles appearing in recent editions of Boat Pennsylvania, published by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. For more information about choosing and using PFDs, or about boating safety, call the Commission at 1-717-657-4518.*

## Beginners Luck

After listening to stories of eagle sightings at the various Upper Delaware Council meetings for the past five years, and having never seen a live eagle, I decided to spend some time actually looking for the elusive bird. I had my camera and binoculars with me, since my goal was to take photographs for the proposed mural on the back wall of the Council's conference room.

Around 10:30 a.m. on January



*The Friends of the Upper Delaware went eagle-watching during February and March. In all, more than a dozen eagles were seen between Ten Mile River and Barryville, NY, on two separate occasions.*

18th, while driving east on NYS Route 97, I saw something in a tree just above the Zane Grey Museum. My binoculars confirmed that it was, indeed, a mature eagle! Awed by this first sighting, I sat in my car for at least 20 minutes waiting for the eagle to fly. Except for its constant head movement, the bird never moved. So I took a few photographs and headed on down the river.

Less than a mile away, I spotted another one! Again, it was on the Pennsylvania side of the river, and again, it refused to move even after a few flashes from my camera!

Now I was really excited! I drove with one eye glued to the trees across the river. Unbelievably, a few miles further, I saw yet a third mature eagle! This time, a car headed west on Route 97 also spotted the bird at the same time and pulled alongside my car.

After a few minutes, a woman slowly got out of the other car and carefully set up a bird spotter. She identified herself as a volunteer survey worker for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and invited me to observe the eagle.

A train went by, passing on the tracks behind the bird, and we both

waited eagerly for our chance to see the eagle in flight. Alas, the bird was not impressed at all and remained in the tree. We took some pictures, and then it was back to the highway.

Suddenly, right before my eyes, there in full splendor was an eagle with at least a six foot wing span skimming the water. It was beautiful! Apparently not hungry, or not seeing any food, it flew up into a tree and seemed content to just sit and watch as the other three birds had. Unfortunately, I could not find a wide spot in the road to pull off while the eagle was in flight, so I snapped yet another photo of an eagle in a tree.

But I was thrilled, to say the least, at having seen so many birds in so short a time. Four eagles within an hour in just about five miles! Is that beginners luck or what? ■■■■■■

*Many thanks to Dave Lamereaux for sharing his experience. Dave is the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PA DER) Alternate Representative to the Upper Delaware Council. He represents Pennsylvania on the Council's Water Use/Resource Management Committee.*

# UDC Completes Toxic Sites Study

Clip and mail today!

The UDC has completed work on a study and report entitled "Existing and Potential Toxic Sites in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Watershed" as part of an overall Toxic Identification and Control Campaign. The report was funded by a \$20,000 grant from the J.M. Kaplan Fund and took nearly three years to complete.

A toxic chemical is defined in the report as any substance that can cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological or reproductive malfunctions or physical deformities in any organism or its offspring, or which can become poisonous after concentration in the food chain, in the environment, or in combination with any other substance. Toxicity is determined by the concentration of the chemical in the system and its availability to a living organism. Many chemicals are potentially toxic. However, David Soete, Senior Resource Specialist for the UDC and author of the report, notes that most of the sites identified are now heavily regulated by local, state, and federal governments and that the overall water quality and environment of the watershed is excellent.

The study was designed to accomplish the following:

- Identify the sources of potential toxic pollution in the Upper Delaware Watershed.
- Define the nature of these potential pollution sites.
- Educate the public—and in particular, local emergency services organizations—about these sites.
- Take action through the administrative regulatory process to ensure that these sites are properly controlled or eliminated when possible.

The report identifies and discusses known existing and potential toxic

sites based on existing records and accounts documenting these sites. The following types of sites are included in the study:

- Acid Factories, Tanneries, and Dye Works
- Old Industrial/Commercial Sites
  - Old/Inactive as well as Active Landfills
- Remediation and Superfund Sites
  - Sewage Treatment Plants
  - Toxic/Hazardous Materials Storage/Generator Sites
  - Transfer Stations/Recycling Facilities
- Significant Petroleum/Chemical Spills Sites

A brief discussion of each type of site and some specific sites are included in the report. In addition, many lesser sources of toxic substances are discussed. These sites, while not specifically identified, include gas stations, junk yards, tire piles, salt storage areas and other potential problem areas.

This report would be of specific benefit to local, county, and state planning, environmental, and emergency response officials. In addition, environmental and conservation groups, land developers, and local citizens will find the study to be useful because it pulls together data and findings into an easy-to-use reference guide.

A copy of the complete report is available at the UDC office for review. An Executive Summary of the report is available by request at no charge. A limited-run printing of the entire study—nearly 300 pages of background information, maps, appendices, and recommendations—is planned this summer. The cost for the complete study is \$29.95, which includes shipping and handling. To reserve your copy, contact the UDC or complete the order form at right, and return it to the UDC no later than July 31, 1995. ■■■■■■

## UDC Publication Reservation Form

### "Existing and Potential Toxic Sites in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Watershed"

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_  
copies of this study in my  
name at a cost of \$29.95 per  
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and handling. I understand  
that you will notify me prior  
to the print date, at which  
time I will send in my check  
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Return by July 31, 1995 to:  
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# UDC Honors Local Citizens at Dinner March 25

## New Lifesaving Award Among Those Given



Seated, from left: Cliff Daniels; Alan Barnes; Edward Curtis; Kathy Smith; Joseph Bartolini; Tracey Wadson. Standing, from left: John Niflot; Edward T. Sykes (for Edward C. Sykes); Ralph Tremper (for NYS DOT); George Frosch, UDC Chairman; Andrew Bartsch (for Donald Knealing); Robert Myers (for Shohola Township); Charles Morrison; Bernard Kozykowski; Karlyn Shedlowski (for Dr. Leslie); Sandra Shearer (for D.J. Jahn); Roger Fickes (Speaker).

ice and was in danger of freezing to death due to the extreme weather conditions. Barnes, noticing that something was amiss, investigated, found the resident, and summoned emergency help.

Others honored at the dinner included:

**V. Edward Curtis**, of Callicoon, NY received the Distinguished Service Award, the Council's highest honor. This award is given to that individual who, over the years, has acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan. Curtis was actively involved in the early stages of the Plan's development and, as Chair of the Town of Delaware Planning Board, was instrumental in bringing the Town's zoning law into substantial conformance with the Plan.

**Donald Knealing**, of Shohola Township, PA, was the recipient of the Community Service Award. Knealing donated the 18,000 gallon water tank which was installed by Shohola and Westfall Townships on the PA side of Pond Eddy for fire protection purposes. Knealing also helped facilitate the installation of the tank.

**Vernon Leslie, PhD.**, was honored posthumously with the Cultural Achievement Award for his lifetime of commitment to the history and heritage of the Delaware River Valley. He authored nine books and several articles and had amassed one of the largest representative groups

For the seventh consecutive year, the UDC sponsored their annual awards dinner to publicly recognize and honor those individuals, groups, businesses, and agencies whose efforts have made the Upper Delaware region a better place to live, work, and play.

The dinner was held at the Country Club at Woodloch Springs near Hawley, PA. Roger Fickes, Director, PA Bureau of State Parks, was the keynote speaker.

### Ten Categories

This year, a new award was added. *The Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award* will now be awarded by the UDC to that individual or individuals who, through their direct actions, saved the life of a person or persons in imminent peril. The award is given in memory of Robin M. Daniels, an EMT who perished in the line of duty in February, 1989. Mrs. Daniels was a volunteer member of the American Legion Ambulance in Eldred, NY and served as the Assistant South District Ranger with the National Park Service. Her husband, Cliff Daniels, is a Park Ranger. He noted, "Robin loved this area and enjoyed giving to the community. I am very pleased that the Council is giving this award in her memory."

**Alan J. Barnes**, Town of Highland, was the first recipient of



Cliff Daniels presents the Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award to Alan Barnes.

this award. In February, 1994, Barnes, a Town highway worker, came to the rescue of an elderly resident who had slipped and fallen on



UDC Chairman George Frosch congratulates Charles Morrison, NYS DEC



Distinguished Service Award recipient V. Edward Curtis and UDC Chairman George Frosch.

of Native American artifacts in the Upper Delaware. He also served as Wayne County Historian for a number of years.

**Three Rivers Canoe Corp.** of Pond Eddy, NY received the Recreation Achievement Award for their ongoing commitment to river safety. They have participated actively in the Upper Delaware River Safety Committee since its inception, and over the last several years, have exceeded safety recommendations found in the NPS Commercial Use License.

This year the Outstanding Community Achievement Award went to **Shohola Township, PA.** With the assistance of a UDC Technical Assistance Grant, the Township, through the Fire Department, successfully completed a Pre-Planning for Emergency Response document that will serve as a handbook for the present and as a guide for future planning in this area.

The Volunteer Award recipient was **Joseph Bertolini** of the Town of Highland and Staten Island, NY. For more than ten years, Bertolini, who maintains a second home outside of Barryville, NY, has, on his own initiative, has picked up litter on a two-plus mile stretch of Route 97 that runs through the Town. He donates the cans and bottle to the Shohola Caboose Group, recycles whatever else is recyclable, and takes the rest of the trash back to Staten Island for disposal. In addition, Bertolini has been involved with voluntary water quality monitoring efforts in the Town of Highland for a number of years.

**Kathy Smith**, Clarks Summit, PA received the Best Friend Award, given each year to a member of the Friends of the Upper Delaware who have worked hard to make this volunteer group a success. Smith helped staff the Council's booth at several river festivals this



UDC Secretary Carol Coney greets dinner attendees as Bill Douglass, UDC Executive Director, chats with Karlyn Shedlowski who accepted the Cultural Achievement Award on behalf of her late father, Dr. Vernon Leslie.

past summer, and has provided valuable support in helping to get new Friend's programs up and running.

**New York State Department of Transportation** received the Council's Certificate of Merit for the prompt repair of the mammoth Route 97 washout near Pond Eddy that occurred last September.

#### Four Awards of Recognition Given to Local Residents

**Bernard Kozykowski**, Barryville, NY, received an award for his efforts in helping the NPS secure the purchase of their new South District Ranger Station in the Town of Lumberland, NY. Kozykowski assisted both the seller, Wayne J. Smith, and the buyer, the National Park Service, to help put the deal

together and see it through to its completion.

**Donald "D.J." Jahn**, owner of the Roebling Inn on the Delaware, Lackawaxen, PA was recognized for his efforts in trying to organize regional promotion of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River area. Currently, Jahn is coordinating with local Chambers of Commerce in NY and PA to produce a publication highlighting tourist attractions and destinations in the region.

**John B. "Jack" Niflot**, Long Eddy, NY, was honored for his work with the Basket Historical Society and the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, and his ongoing civic and community endeavors.

**Tracey Wadeson**, Hancock, NY, was recognized for her commitment as initiator and leading advocate of

the Hancock Bluestone Festival, and for her efforts that resulted in the restoration of the bluestone plaza which fronts the entrance to the Hancock Central School.

A Special Award was given to **Charles Morrison** upon his upcoming retirement from the NYS DEC.

UDC Executive Director William Douglass joined Chairman George Frosch in presenting the awards and congratulating the recipients. Since 1989, the UDC has honored nearly 100 individuals, agencies and organizations for their commitment to furthering the goals of the Management Plan of the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River. ■■■■■■

## Mill Rift to Get New Bridges

At the request of a group of local Mill Rift residents, the UDC contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), requesting a public meeting on the subject of replacing two bridges in Mill Rift, PA. The meeting would address local interest in having the current bridges replaced with new timber bridges instead of with concrete structures. This request was in line with the River Management Plan's goal of "protecting and maintaining the unique scenic, cultural, and natural qualities of the Upper Delaware River Corridor," and also with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Executive Order (Number 1989-2) that says "...state agencies shall act consistently with the goals, policies, and objectives of the Upper Delaware Scenic River Management Plan..."

At the meeting, held March 23rd representatives from PennDOT, the UDC, and the public discussed the timber bridge option at great length. As a result of this meeting, it was decided that the bridge over the rail-



road tracks would be constructed of concrete and patterned concrete block with an open wooden railing on top of a concrete parapet. The bridge over the Bush Kill will also be constructed of concrete and patterned concrete block, with timber parapet/railings, and approach

guiderails and posts made of wood. Safety was the main criteria for choosing the concrete construction, while the use of timber in the railings and guiderails will improve the aesthetics and complement the natural setting of the bridges.

Karen Gropman, spokesperson for the Mill Rift Bridge Group, expressed her gratitude to the Council for facilitating the meeting between local residents and PennDOT in a letter received by the Council on March 29, 1995. She noted that the Council's support of bringing modern, safe, and aesthetically appropriate bridges to Mill Rift was appreciated. ■■■■■■

## Delaware River Sojourn Gets Underway June 10th at Hancock, NY

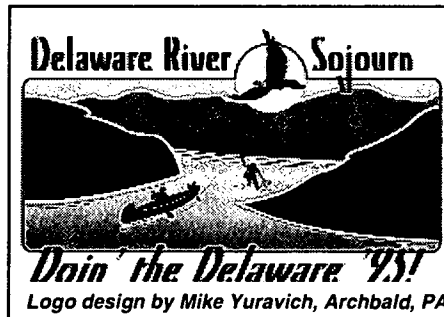
June is American Rivers Month, and also Pennsylvania Rivers Month. To celebrate this year, a tri-state group of organizations and volunteers have come together to stage the first annual Delaware River Sojourn. This nine-day event will focus attention on the entire Delaware River, beginning in Hancock, NY and ending up at Washington Crossing Park, PA.

"The Delaware River is a true national treasure," notes UDC Executive Director William Douglass, a member of the Sojourn Steering Committee. "It is the longest free-flowing river in the eastern United States. The Sojourn will help raise awareness of the river's natural, cultural, and recreational resources locally, regionally, and nationally."

More than four dozen canoeists, along with VIPs and members of the press, will travel down the river. Special programs will be presented by a wide variety of organizations and speakers all along the way.

Participants will camp each night along the river.

While participation in the Sojourn is by reservation only, there are plenty of opportunities for you to come



out and experience the fun of this first-ever annual event. Four major public events are planned during the Sojourn, and all local residents are encouraged to attend.

The first event, a pancake breakfast and opening ceremony, will be held at Firemens Park in Hancock, NY. This event, put on by the Hancock Volunteer Fire Company, will help launch the Sojourn. The breakfast

will begin at 8:00 a.m. to be followed by the Sojourn launch at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Then, on Monday evening June 12th, a "Celebration of the Delaware River" will be held at Firemens Field in Lackawaxen, PA. In addition to a chicken barbeque put on by the Lackawaxen Volunteer Fire Company, the evening's festivities will include a series of historical vignettes presented by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, musical entertainment, and a presentation of proclamations.

The third public event is set for Thursday evening, June 15th at Shawnee Inn on the Delaware, in Shawnee, PA. The Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau is coordinating this event, which will feature booths and displays by dozens of environmental, historical, governmental, and other river-oriented organizations.

The Sojourn will wind up on

---"Sojourn" continued on page 11---



# UDC Facilitates Meeting Concerning Hankins Rockcut

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) met with representatives of the Upper Delaware Council, National Park Service, Delaware Valley Central School District, Sullivan County Sheriff's Department, Town of Fremont officials, and Hankins and Long Eddy emergency response personnel on March 22, 1995 at the Hankins Fire Department Community Hall to discuss the DOT's plans for a rock removal project along Route 97 north of Hankins in the Town of Fremont. The UDC played a key role in organizing the meeting, including locating and securing a meeting site and contacting representatives from the many interested and affected organizations. In all, more than 26 individuals attended this preliminary meeting.

## Problems in 1992

DOT noted that they had been concerned for some time about the potential for rock slides in this approximately 2000 foot long stretch of Route 97.

While stressing that there is no immediate threat, the potential for a slide is ever-present, as most-recently evidenced in 1992 when rocks did fall onto the roadway.

The steep outcrop is described as having "extremely bad rock" with many fractures, a situation partially created by previous over-blasting which resulted in overhangs and undermined the rock's foundation. It was estimated that as much as 500,000 cubic yards of rock material will be removed in this current project in order to stabilize the area.

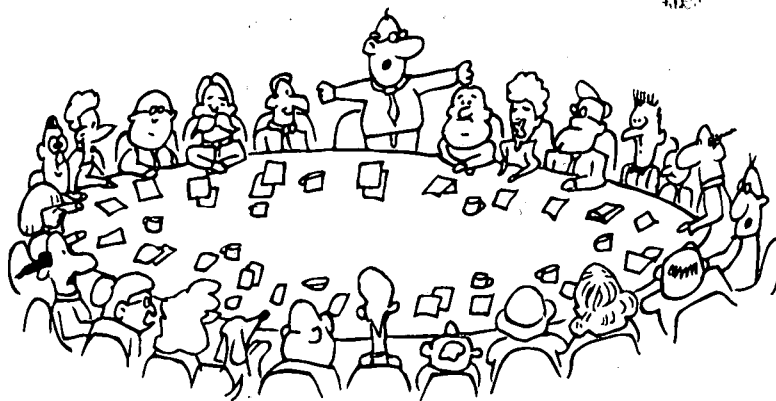
## DOT to Conduct Study

Joel E. Robinson, DOT Regional Environmental Coordinator, noted that the project is just in the preliminary

planning stages. DOT is preparing a Design Report which will include a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) and will take a hard look at the impact this work will have on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The contract for the project is currently scheduled to be let in late 1995 or early 1996, with work to commence sometime in mid-1996.

## Road Closing a Possibility

It was estimated that Route 97 will have to be closed for a period of time to facilitate the rock blasting. However, it was stressed that DOT



will be coordinating the construction work with Conrail and local business and emergency services agencies. The National Park Service will cooperate in notifying river users when work has commenced to ensure the public's safety while on the river.

## Public Meeting to be Held

Because communications between all affected parties is critical to the successful completion of this project, further meetings will be held, including a local meeting with businesses and the general public to explain the project. Announcements will appear in the local media once the meeting is scheduled and, again, the UDC will most probably serve as coordinator and facilitator. Walter Sipple, President of the Delaware Valley

Ambulance Corps, noted that he was glad that DOT was involving all concerned parties early in the planning process.

## UDC Concerns to be Addressed

The UDC's Project Review Committee sent a letter to DOT in 1992 regarding this proposed project, which was to originally have begun in 1993. In the interest of safety to those who travel Route 97, the Committee offered no objections to the project. The UDC did express concern about the potential impacts from erosion and sedimentation, water quality, and disposal of rock material from the blasting. Robinson and other DOT representatives present assured that those concerns, along with other safety, transportation, and environmental issues will be addressed as the project develops.



*For more information about this project, contact the UDC.*

*Information for this article was provided by David Soete, UDC Senior Resource Specialist.*

Mark your calendar now!  
It's that time again!!

The UDC Summer Picnic is coming up soon on Saturday, July 15th! This year's raft trip goes from Skinners Falls to Narrowsburg - yes, thru the rapids! Good food, great fun! Don't miss it. Call the UDC for more info - 914-252-3022!

## Letters to the Editor

*This new feature is designed to let you air your views concerning this newsletter and issues in the corridor. We will print them as space permits. All letters must include your name, address and daytime phone number, and we reserve the right to edit letters to fit the space.*

To the Editor:

The article by Barbara Yeaman in the Winter 1994/1995 edition of *The Upper Delaware* has caused some consternation among the principles alluded to in discussing the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

Ms. Yeaman left little to the imagination in identifying the property under discussion in the article. This has appalled the current owners, for not only is the article considered an invasion of privacy, but many of the facts and assumptions are incorrect or misleading. For example, Ms. Yeaman states that more homes will follow the construction of the one she has been watching (in the river cornfield). How does she know this?

A step by step analysis follows with Ms. Yeaman's statements analyzed with factual response.

Yeaman: "The new buyer was a businessman who enjoyed the sense of country, but had to subdivide Oldland's farm to pay the mortgage." Fact: The buyers are local residents (not out of area exploiters) who returned to the area and love and appreciate the Delaware River.

Yeaman: "The most valuable building lots lay on flat terraces overlooking the river." Fact: This is true, but not explained is that the seller received a different offer during the period, in which the potential buyer intended to make a maximum subdivision of the river flats into small lots. The current owners proposed minimum subdivision, which was more acceptable to the seller. This current subdivision has been approved by the planning board and completed in accordance with the agreement.

Yeaman: "After (Oldland) finished paying the REALTORS' commission, statement fees, and capital gains tax, his profit had shrunk to just about half of the \$500,000 selling price." Fact: There was no REALTORS' commission in this sale. The capital gains tax at the time of the sale was 20%, now it is

28%. Further, the purchase money mortgage with prevailing interest rates, was structured to minimize the capital gains tax. The settlement fees were nominal. This leaves much explaining to show where \$250,000 ("...about half of the \$500,000 selling price...") went. Ms. Yeaman is doing a disservice in distorting the selling price.

Yeaman: "And (Oldman's) dairyman son, who loved the land, could no longer work the family farm." Fact: The son was offered continued use of the farm, and did so for a year or so, with no charge. After this period, he elected to discontinue the farming operation.

An important point is that the seller involved here may have been more interested in selling the farm to provide a comfortable income for moving to warmer climates, instead of selling the development rights to a land trust and continuing to remain on the farm.

The explanation of options for conserving farmland is a timely and useful article, but it is unfortunate that it borders on making scapegoats of the principals involved. Ms. Yeaman thinly disguises the identities of the principals, and has created unwarranted animosities with them. This was unnecessary to explain the benefits of the various conservation options.

Matthew J. Freda  
Callicoon, NY

Dear Editor,

We were quite surprised by the presumptuous cover article by our neighbor, Barbara Yeaman, in the Winter 94/95 edition of *The Upper Delaware*. As the current owners of the private property under discussion in the article, we felt our privacy has been invaded and the situation as presented by Yeaman is misleading, incorrect, and somewhat arrogant. We have enjoyed an amiable and agreeable relationship with "John Oldland" and his family both at the time of the sale and for any subsequent dealings; unfortunately Ms. Yeaman depicts a different picture than what is the reality of the situation.

We will refer and respond to several points in the article by Yeaman under discussion:

Yeaman: "The threat to the land now is from development and subdivi-

sion--and unfortunately, this time, the trees may be lost forever..."

Fewer than ten small trees were cut down in order to build the new home Yeaman is protesting, and the cornfield will continue to be planted.

Yeaman: "But this house is rising in the middle of a meadow and cornfield bordering a national scenic river." Yeaman herself lives in a house that sits in the middle of a meadow and a former cornfield.

Yeaman: "More houses will follow." How does she know? To our recollection, Yeaman has not been included in any discussion of our future plans for our property. Nor, we dare say, is it any of her business.

The financial information Ms. Yeaman reveals regarding the Realtor's commission, settlement fees and capital gains tax, and Mr. Oldland's profit, is wrong. It's unfortunate Yeaman must rely on misstatements to make her point.

In Yeaman's scenario, she attempts to portray the new owners as the city-slicker businessman ripping off the poor old local farmer. Again, if Yeaman had bothered to do her homework and get the facts straight, she would have learned that the new owners grew up canoeing, fishing, and enjoying the river in the Damascus and Callicoon areas. Their local family roots go back four generations, including farmers who have also worked the soils of the Delaware River Valley. The new owners and their respective families have been long-time friends of the Upper Delaware River.

No one forced "John Oldland" to sell his farm. He chose to, for his own reasons. We, the new owners, chose to buy it for our own reasons. What we have done with it and will do with it is totally our business, legally and otherwise.

The strategies of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy may be viable options for some landowners. However, we personally resent being made the focus, thinly disguised as it was, of a stir created by Ms. Yeaman using our property as an example to legitimize her organization.

Daniel & Mary Bell  
Milanville, PA

---"Cats" continued from page 2---

time was some years ago on the road from Milanville to Tyler Hill, following Calkins Creek. It crossed the road in front of my car. No one wanted to believe me then, but my father saw it later.

"I have a neighbor who has seen them several times. The last time was two years ago in a tree stand hunting doe. A black one ran past. This man has spent a lot of time in the woods, and wouldn't confuse it

with any other animal."

Ed Mues, from Cornell Cooperative Extension sent along a clipping of John Conway's column in the Dec. 14, 1994 *Times Herald Record*, in which he recounts big cat sightings by people in Forestburgh, Liberty, and Monticello!

The "official" position of Wildlife Officers in both NY and PA is to deny that cougars (or panthers or pumas) are present in our region,

due to the lack of concrete evidence--like a dead carcass. However, Vermont now admits to their presence...and from there, it's just a short stroll over the border into New York. If you should see one, please let us know. But please **don't** shoot it, unless it's with your camera--cougars are protected by federal law! We'll keep you posted on new sightings. ■■■■■■■■■■

---"Sojourn" continued from page 8---

Sunday, June 18th with a public celebration of the river at Washington Crossing State Park, PA. At press time, George Washington is rumored to be one of the scheduled attendees, and there will be entertainment for the entire family, including a presentation by a Revolutionary War reenactment troop.

The Steering Committee for the Sojourn includes the Upper Delaware

Council, the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, the National Park Service in both the upper and middle sections of the river, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Heritage Conservancy, and the Pike County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, several other organizations are helping to co-sponsor the event, including the Pocono Environmental Education

Center. The National Canoe Safety Patrol will be sending safety volunteers to accompany the Sojourn each day. In addition, the NPS is making its staff available for programs, and to coordinate on-river safety and logistics during the trip.

For more information, contact the UDC (914-252-3022), the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau (717-421-5791), or the Heritage Conservancy (215-345-7020). ■■■■■■■■■■

---"Bats" continued from page 3---

create the warmth bats desire.

We're not sure how successful our plan will be, and we're waiting to see what the bats do. They'll try to get back into the attic if they can, and with their ability to squeeze through any 1/4 inch by 1 1/2 inch crack, they may still be able to do so. We'll have to consider other options from there, but have no plans to eradicate the colony. Hopefully they'll find the bat house to their liking and settle in.

In deciding how to deal with our bat "pests", we've tried to understand the value of these native animals in the scheme of things. We've also looked at the management options available to us, and considered the long and short term consequences of these actions. There are

usually always choices, if we look for them, that allow us to co-exist with other species and our environment in a more sustainable fashion.

With the presence of more bats in the valley, perhaps some local farmers will be less reliant on pesticides in dealing with the effects of the night flying corn earworm moth, or maybe some local homeowners will feel less driven to spray for black flies and mosquitoes.

In the past, our widespread indiscriminate use of pesticides has resulted in many environmental horror stories with long range implications. Residues of pesticides such as DDT and Chlordane (now banned or restricted in use) persist in our environment, contaminating groundwa-

ter sources and bioaccumulating up food chains to the point where they are very real human health concerns.

With the recent observance of the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, maybe one of the best things we can do is attempt to appreciate the role of bats and the other little-understood creatures in our world, and carefully consider the effects of our actions on them, the environment, and ultimately ourselves. Perhaps then we'll be less eager to embrace some of the quick fix solutions to environmental problems we've so often chosen in the past. They, after all, are more likely to be what comes back to haunt us. ■■■■■■■■■■

## Do We Have Your Correct Address?

If your address has changed, or you no longer own land in the Upper Delaware River area, please help us to update our records. Fill in your new address, or the name and address of the new owner of your property, and return this notice to The Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192

New Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for info on the Friends.  Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

## The Name Game--

### a brief look at where some local names originated

The first white men to explore and settle in the Upper Delaware River Valley were thought to have been Swedish settlers, possibly from New Jersey. They made their first journey up what they called the "New Swedeland Stream" going as far as a place then called Cushecktunk, and now known as Cocheton. The New Swedeland Stream was eventually renamed the Delaware River, in honor of the Governor of the British Royal Crown Colony of Virginia, Thomas West, whose title was "Lord De La Warr."

The Town of Tusten was named to honor the memory of Dr. Benjamin Tusten, a Colonel in the Goshen Militia and a doctor of medicine, who was killed at the Battle of Minisink. He gained fame as one of the first doctors in the country to inoculate people against the dreaded disease of smallpox in 1770. This was considered radical treatment in its day, and many people, fearing that inoculation was a threat to public safety, opposed it. Dr. Tusten had to rent houses in the area in which his patients could stay after receiving treatment because their families

were afraid to let them back in their own homes. He inoculated more than 800 people, and his success was one of the main reasons this form of treatment came to be widely accepted.

Callicoon (or Kollokoon as it was spelled in earlier times) is made up of two Dutch words: "Callen," which means to call or chatter, and "Haan," meaning hen. A "chattering hen" in Dutch translates to "Turkey" in English.

Abraham Cuddeback, who arrived in the region about 1810, is credited with actively promoting the name "Narrowsburg" for an area that had always been known as "Big Eddy," and before that, "Homan's Eddy," for Benjamin Homan, an early settler. It is not known whether Cuddeback originated the name Narrowsburg, but it is known that he felt very strongly that the name Big Eddy was not too well suited to a place that might one day grow to be of some importance. ■■■■■■

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**Just look at  
what the  
Friends of the  
Upper Delaware  
are up to now!**

#### **Walking Tours!**

Hancock  
Equinunk  
Port Jervis  
Old Tusten Settlement  
D & H Canal

#### **Programs!**

Hiking the Valley  
Acid Factories  
Bald Eagles  
Valley Architecture  
Projects  
Adopt-a-Highway  
One-Day Site Cleanups  
Site Beautification  
Water Quality Monitoring  
Visual Survey Inspections  
...and much, much more!

#### **JOIN US!**

**Call Nancie at the UDC  
for more info!**

# REWARD!!

for  
**American Shad Tags**

The New York State DEC, in cooperation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Hudson River Foundation, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is conducting a shad migration survey. If you catch a tagged shad, record the date and location of the catch, along with the method of capture and the tag number. Then call 1-800-448-8322 to report this data. In return for your help with this project, we're told you'll receive a hat! ■■■■

The UDC meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY. Committees meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the UDC Office, 211 Bridge Street, across from the Town Hall. Call (914) 252-3022 for details.

Upper Delaware Council  
P.O. Box 192  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192

Address Correction Requested