

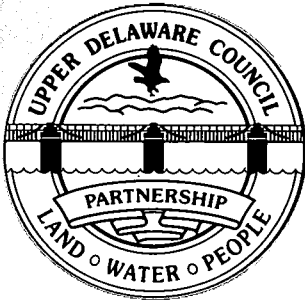
# The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 8 Number 3

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Fall, 1995



## In This Issue...

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*Historical Society Notes, a new Walking Tour Brochure, ...plus much, much more!!!*

### **Do we have your ZIP+4?**

**Please check your address label. If it does not include your ZIP+4 zipcode, please send it to us using the form on page 11. Thanks.**

## D & H Canal Meeting Puts Spotlight on a Regional Resource Spanning Several States



**Featured Speaker Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal, NPS Historian, (right) addresses the gathering of D&H Canal site managers about issues concerning the historic canal. Pictured here from left are Rich Caraluzzo, Sullivan County; Vickie Doyle, D&H Historical Society; Lance Metz, Hugh Moore Historical Park; and Larry Lowenthal, featured speaker, NPS.**

*"The Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad System was built in the early and mid-nineteenth century by the Wurts Brothers (for whom Wurtsboro, NY is named) to carry coal from their fields in Carbondale and Dunmore, PA to Rondout, near Kingston, NY, where it was then transported to markets throughout NY and New England. The gravity/canal enterprise was abandoned in 1898. Now, nearly a century later, interest in this 150-mile long historical resource continues..."*

So began a letter inviting more than two dozen site managers, resource specialists, and historians to a meeting on September 27th to discuss the future of the D & H Canal, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969. The meeting was sponsored by the National Park Service, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Sandra Schultz, NPS Management Assistant, coordin-

ated the event. "The purpose of the meeting was to gather together all of the individuals who are actively engaged in managing a piece of the Canal," Schultz noted. "It's important that we as site managers know what other managers are doing in PA and NY, because the opportunity exists to partner and share resources as well as ideas."

Featured speaker at the meeting was Dr. Larry Lowenthal, NPS Historian from the Springfield (MA) Armory National Historic Site. Lowenthal is currently writing a book about the Delaware and Hudson Canal, and has done extensive research into its background. In addition, reports from various site managers around the region highlighted current activities at the Delaware Aqueduct/Roebling Bridge, the Neversink Aqueduct, and the Algonquin-High Falls in NY. Reports

—D & H Canal, continued on page 11—

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

## Clean Water is Everyone's Responsibility

*Malcolm (Angus) Ross is the Resource Specialist for the National Park Service on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and a resident of Damascus Twp., PA. The following article, which talks about one of the key issues facing our watershed, appeared first in the River Reporter. We think it bears repeating here.*

The other day I received an invitation to a very important public function. It read in part: 'The Manchester Township Sewer and Water Authority cordially invites you to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Reflection Lakes Sewer Plant.' Not many people get excited at the prospect of touring a new sewage treatment plant, unless like me, they'd spent the last 15 years hoping, wishing, and encouraging that community to make it happen.

When I first visited Reflection Lakes in the early 1980s, some of the trailer occupants with no sewer hookup were carrying their sewage in buckets to a "honey wagon truck" for off-site disposal. Correcting this problem took courage and persistence from a few local citizens. The time needed to recognize the issue and take positive action reflects heavily on the complex nature of setting up and financing a municipal sewer plant in a small community. Many local folks felt that the financial burden to fix the problem should be the sole responsibility of those who owned land at Reflection Lakes. Some real-

ized that protecting the clean land and water in the valley they loved would take a personal commitment by all township residents.

However, dirty water still runs downhill--and downstream. No one is exempt from the potential for pollution impacts below the point of contamination in any Delaware River Valley community. There are places in the valley where residents are still not challenged for burying large quantities of construction debris and old cars near streams. There are places where a single residence or an entire development has been allowed, with minimal or no local control over sewage disposal, public utilities, and other basic land management concerns.

We all know about water quality that has been lost in other places, beyond the Delaware Valley. Protecting our environment from further deterioration can only succeed if we all work together to maintain what others wish they still had: the clean environment that brings so many city folks to this river, visitors who provide serious dollars for the local economy. I cannot help but wonder just how long we will be able to maintain the high quality of life we still enjoy here. That is, unless we are all willing to show the visiting public, by our own example, what it takes to keep the Delaware River clean.



**If you would like to write a guest editorial column for The Upper Delaware, please contact Nancie Robertson, Newsletter Editor, at the UDC office. All columns must deal with issues of concern in our region, must be original, typed or printed, and limited to 500 words. We will run columns as space permits.**

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# DRBC Advises Drought Warning Still in Effect Despite October Rains

## Residents of Upper Delaware River Watershed Urged to Continue Conservation Efforts

Even though Tropical Storm Opal is dumping torrential rain on the Upper Delaware River Valley as this article is being written, the threat of a drought emergency is still with the region. The Delaware River Basin has experienced eight drought warnings since 1980, and the current drought conditions started in August, 1994. Twice before, in 1981 and again in 1985, conditions became so drastic that drought emergencies were declared.

According to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), there has been an 11" deficit in rainfall since last Fall. While heavy rains like the kind accompanying a tropical disturbance can help refill the upstream reservoirs, it will take several months of above-average rainfall to fully restore groundwater levels in the Delaware River aquifer to their normal levels. Average rainfall in our area is 3.5" per month. So, according to the DRBC, we would need to experience 4"-5" of precipitation for a 4 to 5 month period in order to say that the situation is back to normal.

The current dry spell is the fifth longest in this century, according to the National Weather Service. "A little common sense and a cooperative spirit can go a long way in any campaign to conserve water," noted Gerald M. Hansler, DRBC's Executive Director. "We take water for granted in this country. In some foreign lands, the water comes on at seven in the morning and is turned off at seven in the evening, and even then it may not be fit to drink. It's a real hardship. The people in the Delaware River Basin can do a lot to help us get through this latest water shortage with, at most, just a slight bit of inconvenience."

Normally, ground water supplies are recharged and reservoirs are replenished during the winter when vegetation has died off, and normal snowfalls melt. However, last winter's below-average precipitation left basin wells and aquifers at below normal levels,

and the major water supply reservoirs in the Upper Delaware were only at 87% capacity when this year's exceptionally dry Summer arrived. By September, ground water levels in some regions of the basin were at historic lows. "It's very dry and getting drier in many areas of New York State," noted Governor George E. Pataki in mid-September. PA Dept. of Environmental Protection Secretary, James M. Seif, concurred. "It's important for people to remember that their individual efforts to conserve water can have a positive impact on their communities, just as irresponsible water use can be negative."

The Delaware River Watershed provides 10% of the U.S. population with drinking water, including New York City and Philadelphia.

*Background information for this article was provided by the Delaware River Basin Commission, West Trenton, NJ, and the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Harrisburg, PA.*

### Some "Painless" Ways to Conserve Water...and Save Money, Too!

One of the easiest things consumers can do to conserve water is to repair leaking plumbing. A dripping faucet can waste as much as 3,000 gallons of water each year, and a leaking toilet as much as 45,000 gallons in just six months! Also, don't let the water run when you brush your teeth. Running the tap for just two minutes uses between three and five gallons of water, which can add up to nearly 4,000 gallons of water in a year's time. A ten-minute shower uses approximately 70 gallons of water, and a full bathtub can hold as much as 50 gallons. Aerators or water saving devices on shower heads and faucets use three to five times less water than their conventional counterparts, and produce no noticeable difference when in use.

*As we go to press, the drought warning has been lifted due to the rains and snow recently received in our region. However, we should all continue to practice sensible water conservation techniques.*

### DID YOU KNOW...?

✓ Approximately 90% of the water used to sprinkle lawns is either absorbed by the grass or lost to the atmosphere through evaporation. Less than 10% is returned to the hydrologic cycle. To cut down on wasting water, use a soaker hose to water your lawn or shrubs. This is a hose with tiny, evenly-spaced holes in it. Turn the water on slowly and it will seep out of the hose and soak into the ground. Also, do your watering in the early morning or evening, not at noon, to cut down on evaporation.

✓ Perennial streams normally flow year-round because of baseflow from ground water. When water tables are lowered by over-pumping, these streams can go dry.

✓ Flows in the Delaware River and its tributaries are bolstered by releases from upstream reservoirs. The DRBC noted in mid-September that reservoir water accounted for as much as 92% of the flow in the Delaware River at Montague, NJ, and up to 68% of the flow at Trenton during the early Fall.

✓ Up to 9,000 gallons of water can be absorbed from the soil by an acre of corn on a hot day.

✓ This year's drought conditions resulted in a record nut crop, which, coupled with last year's mild winter, helps to account for the seemingly endless stream of squirrels seen scurrying to and fro on lawns and roadways this Fall.

## UDC Supports DRBC and NYS DEC Funding

*In March of this year the UDC learned that the then-proposed New York State budget called for drastic cuts in funding to NYS DEC along with elimination of NYS funding to the DRBC. The Council unanimously agreed to send a letter to Gov. Pataki, urging him to reconsider these critical cuts in state funding.*

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) certainly understands and generally supports the need to trim government spending, but when it recently became obvious that proposed 1996 budget cuts could adversely affect the Upper Delaware River, it required action. The Council feels very strongly that the economic benefits of certain environmental programs be considered when cuts are proposed.

Initially, both the State of New York and the U.S. House of Representatives eliminated all funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) in their proposed 1996 budgets. The proposed New York State budget also proposed reductions in funding and staff in the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), particularly in the Division of Lands & Forests and Division of Fish & Wildlife, which includes the Endangered Species Unit.

In letters to NY Governor George Pataki and the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, the UDC noted that the DRBC has continually cooperated with the Upper Delaware Council and the National Park Service to monitor water quality and to develop, adopt, and implement reasonable regulations

designed to protect and maintain the existing high water quality of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River while allowing beneficial development to proceed. High water quality results in better fisheries, a more enjoyable experience for canoeists and rafters; more people coming to this area to visit natural, cultural, historic, and archeological sites, or to simply take a drive for pleasure, all of which equates to increased jobs and more money in the region's economy.

The letter to Governor Pataki also noted that the local economy is heavily dependent upon tourism, recreation, and second-home industries. Many of the current successful programs administered by the Lands & Forest and Fish & Wildlife Divisions of DEC both restore protected natural resources and provide for compatible recreational uses associated with those resources to residents and non-residents in our area, thereby injecting much-needed dollars into the local economy. Some examples of these programs include:

- The successful re-introduction of the Bald Eagle to our region under the direction of the Endangered Species Unit, which has increased tourism dramatically in the area during the traditionally slow winter months.
- The provision of public access areas to the Upper Delaware River allowing for increased recreational use of the river while reducing the incidence of trespass on private property.

Fisheries management for trout, shad, walleye, and bass has made the Upper Delaware River a world-class fishing destination.

The acquisition of the approximately 12,000 acres of land and easements in the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area affords the opportunity for uses compatible with this environmentally-sensitive area and the purposes for which it was approved.

The UDC commended the state and federal officials for their desire to trim the budgets, but urged them to budget a fair share for the DRBC and DEC. As a result of the support by the UDC and others, NYS funding for the DRBC and DEC has, for the most part, been restored. The New York budget included the state's full share for the DRBC and sufficient funding for DEC to retain most staff, programs, including the Endangered Species Unit.

**NOTE: As we go to press, the Congressional compromise budget committee has recommended restoring DRBC's funding at last year's level. However, they also recommended that this be the final year that the federal government provide such funding for the agency. This item now goes to the Appropriations Committee for final approval and inclusion in the appropriations bill that will be delivered to President Clinton for his signature.**

### UDC PLANNING FISHERIES CONFERENCE FOR EARLY 1996

Executive Director Bill Douglass and the UDC staff are busy at work planning an early spring conference on fishing and fisheries in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River valley. There has been a great deal of concern expressed by Council members, state and local officials, and the public at large about issues including the declining shad population in the river, the presence of striped bass, and other matters. This conference will focus on areas of concern in both New York and Pennsylvania, and we are presently in the process of lining up a number of speakers and setting the agenda. For more information, or to receive a registration packet, contact the UDC office in Narrowsburg, NY. Phone (914) 252-3022, or fax (914) 252-3359.

# UDC Members Receive \$25,000 in Technical Assistance Grants to Fund Local Projects

At its September meeting, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) voted to approve the recommendations of their Project Review Committee and unanimously agreed to award a total of \$25,000 in technical assistance grants (TAGs) to ten member towns, townships, and one county to provide funding for the following projects. Monies can be used for a variety of projects, including planning, feasibility studies, publications, or educational programs, but not for actual "bricks and mortar" or construction costs. Projects must help fulfill the guidelines outlined in, or be designed to enhance the implementation of, the River Management Plan. Here is a brief listing of this year's grant recipients:

#### **Town of Hancock, NY: \$900.00**

To provide an acceptable bicycle route, or routes, extending along the Delaware River corridor and the East Branch of the Delaware River, endorsed by all levels of affected government, agency, organization, and the River Management Plan.

#### **Town of Deerpark, NY: \$3,100.00**

To produce a new Economic Development and Tourist Promotion Plan for the Upper Delaware and related areas of the Town, including a recreation map linking facilities and providing information to make river users aware of the need for protecting the river resource, reducing user conflicts, and respecting the rights of others.

#### **Town of Tusten, NY: \$4,000.00**

To undertake a study of the feasibility of a waterfront revitalization program for the hamlet of Narrowsburg, from the NY/PA bridge to Rasmussen's, which will include a plan identifying public and private uses and long-term management/maintenance.

#### **Lackawaxen Township, PA \$2,000.00**

To develop an informational brochure/map similar in format to Shohola Township's 1993 map, which depicts all public roads with names and route numbers, major private

roads and private sub-divisions, points of recreational, cultural, and historical interest, state-owned property, and the Delaware River corridor. (Note: Shohola Township's map was also funded by a UDC Technical Assistance Grant.)

#### **Town of Delaware, NY \$2,100.00**

To prepare a plan for a park/picnic area located at the confluence of the Callicoon Creek and the Delaware River in Callicoon, improving the aesthetics within the targeted area and adding to the recreational potential of the site.

#### **Sullivan County, NY, Division of Economic Development, Promotion & Planning: \$400.00**

To educate residents and visitors of the river corridor on the fragile ecosystem that sustains the wintering home of the bald eagles; promote the role and responsibility that we all share in preserving this natural resource; and maintain and enhance the economic vitality of the river corridor through ecotourism during the winter months.

#### **Shohola Township, PA: \$2,600.00**

To undertake a study of the river corridor within Shohola Township in order to identify the landforms in that area that have national, regional, state, and local significance.

#### **Town of Fremont, NY: \$3,700.00**

To form a Long Eddy Water District and produce a map of the water system serving residents of Long Eddy which will be a necessary segment of a feasibility study to correct existing water supply problems.

#### **Town of Lumberland, NY: \$3,800.00**

To develop a pilot program/brochure that will teach participants how a watershed functions and the role that lakes and ponds play in a watershed; water quality and conservation measures; and water-quality monitoring techniques.

#### **Town of Highland, NY: \$2,400.00**

To update the Town's zoning law to

conform with current New York State Community Planning and Development Statutes and review for needed changes to more closely follow the River Management Plan.

"We are pleased with the breadth and scope of this year's grant projects," noted Nancie Robertson, Public Relations Director for the Upper Delaware Council. "The projects cover the length of the river corridor, and will certainly help enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River valley."

Bill Douglass, UDC Executive Director, concurred. "Today, as municipalities are faced with tightening budgets and increased pressure to secure funding for worthwhile projects, UDC Technical Assistance Grants can be the source of much-needed seed money. We are pleased that, for the eighth year in a row, we could make this money available to our members."

The Technical Assistance Grant program is part of the Upper Delaware Council's mandate under the River Management Plan. Since 1988, the Council has awarded more than \$300,000 in grant monies to its members. Any town or township in New York or Pennsylvania which lies within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor is eligible for membership in the UDC and, as a member, could apply for a UDC grant. The next round of grant considerations will begin in April, 1996.

*For more information about the Upper Delaware Council, or about the Technical Assistance Grant program, or to find out how your town or township can join the UDC, please contact the Council office at 211 Bridge St, PO Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Phone 914-252-3022.*

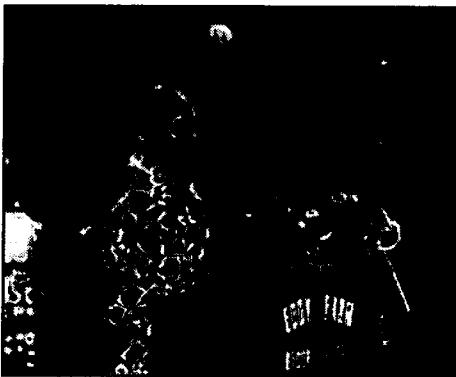
**Complete information plus Reservation forms for the UDC annual awards banquet coming in the Winter newsletter!! Watch for it in January!!**

# John Hutzky Feted by Friends and Colleagues at Eddy Farms

More than 100 people gather to toast the Upper Delaware's first Superintendent as he retires.



John Hutzky is presented with a commemorative paddle at his retirement party September 17th. From left, Bill Douglass, UDC Executive Director; Marty Borko, Chairman, Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, John Hutzky, Marie Rust, NPS Northeast Field Director, and George Frosch, Chairman, Upper Delaware Council. The day's events were coordinated by the UDC, CAC and NPS.



Al Henry, North District Ranger, presents Hutzky with a very special life preserver and other "safety" items.



Bill Douglass, UDC Executive Director, watches as Hutzky opens the Council's gift—a 35mm automatic camera.

"May your river  
keep on flowing,  
Eagles keep soaring,  
and true winds  
blowing,  
You've been a good  
man, well worth  
knowing.  
Time to start all over  
again..."

From the tribute to  
retiring NPS Superintendent,  
John Hutzky by NPS North  
District Ranger, Al Henry.

Photos by Ken Schulltz, Forestburgh,  
and The Gazette, Port Jervis.



Carla Hahn presents one of the many gifts Hutzky received as Sandra Schultz and Phil Fitzpatrick look on.



Family, friends and colleague join in wishing John Hutzky a long and happy retirement. "ALOHA, JOHN!"

## NPS Regional Field Director and Staff Meet with the UDC to Discuss the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Council

On Tuesday, September 19th, the UDC hosted a breakfast conference to introduce Marie Rust, the new Northeast Field Director for the National Park Service, and her staff to the Upper Delaware Management concept. Having spent the previous day touring the river valley, Ms. Rust called the Upper Delaware, "the great undiscovered treasure of the National Park Service," and praised the Council for the work they have been doing since their inception in 1988.

Chairman George Frosch, and Shohola Township Representative



Bill Douglass introduces the UDC.

George Fluhr began the meeting with an historical overview of the planning process that led to the formation of Council and the writing of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan. Rust noted that this type of cooperative management is the wave of the future for the NPS, since private landowners, state and local governments and the Department of the Interior all have an interest in conserving our natural resources.

Bruce MacMillan, and Dave Lamereaux, who represent NYS DEC

and PA DEP respectively, spoke about the value of the UDC partnership, and gave examples of how the Council provides a working forum for all parties to be heard when issues are under discussion.

Bernie Kozykowski, Alternate Representative from the Town of Highland, Tom Hill, Representative from the Town of Lumberland, and for-



Marie Rust and Denny Beech of the NPS listen as the UDC story and mission is presented.

mer UDC Chairman Phil Fitzpatrick addressed current and future issues facing the river valley.

Rust assured the Council that the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River would remain a separate unit in the NPS, with its own superintendent and autonomy, and talked about the need to share resources as the federal budget shrinks. She observed that the UDC is already practicing this sharing concept and stated that she would like to see this concept expand the partnership with nearby NPS units. She further expressed the desire to revisit the Upper Delaware in the Spring or

Summer of 1996, to join with the Council, and the new Superintendent for a visioning workshop to help set goals and chart a course as the region enters the 21st century. All agreed that this would be a worthwhile endeavor.

UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass presented Rust and her staff with a comprehensive notebook covering the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, the River Management Plan, and the Upper Delaware Council.



Al Bowers, Westfall Twp., and Tom Hill, Lumberland, discuss current issues affecting the UDC.

### Get Involved!!

The 1996 Upper Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee is currently seeking individuals and organizations who would like to volunteer to help put on this year's event. We need people to do on-river educational programs, organizations to sponsor meals, and lots of willing hands to help with PR, logistics, and a million other details. You'll have fun and meet some great people! Call the UDC for more info!

### SAVE THESE DATES:

**JUNE 8 -- JUNE 15!**

**for the 1996**

**Delaware River Sojourn!**

Planning is underway now for the 1996 Delaware River Sojourn. This eight-day canoe and camping excursion promises to be even bigger and better than last year's Sojourn. The event will kick off this year in the Lower Delaware (Sat.&Sun.), then move to the Middle (Mon.,Tues.,Wed.) and wind up on the Upper Delaware (Thurs., Fri., Sat.), with a cookout and celebration to cap the trip. For more information about participating in the Sojourn for one or more days, and to receive your free registration packet, call the UDC!

## Federal Agencies Warn of Drinking Water Risk

Are you one of six million Americans with a weakened immune system? If so, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggest you stay away from tap water. Recently, the two agencies said that such individuals face a significant risk of water-borne disease and should "consult with their physicians about whether to consume tap water." The agencies cited recent tests showing that cryptosporidium, a waterborne parasite often present in the feces of farm animals as well as humans, is commonly found in lakes and rivers in the U.S., and even in some reservoirs.

According to an article in *The Washington Post*, Robert Morris, a cryptosporidium expert at the University of Wisconsin, estimates that somewhere between 60,000 to 1.5 million Americans a year become ill from exposure to this parasite. Morris said, "People with normal immune systems will survive the exposure. Many of those with weakened systems will not."

The importance of this announce-

ment to broader river health issues is significant. Simply put, healthy river systems produce safer drinking water. For example, riparian vegetation alongside rivers and streams serves as an important filter for pollutants and contaminants. Many communities and even larger cities, like New York City, are working to retain this vegetative cover along rivers as a means of ensuring safe drinking water, rather than depending solely on more costly water treatment facilities. Certainly, adequate, up-to-date treatment facilities will always be necessary, but much can be done to safeguard our nation's drinking water supplies before water reaches your tap.

Recent polling by American Rivers, Inc. shows that most Americans are unaware of the source of their drinking water, and do not know that rivers and streams provide the nation with about half of its drinking water supply. Consequently, Americans do not link the protection and restoration of river systems with maintaining a supply of healthy drinking water.

***The Delaware River basin drains 13,000 square miles, and provides drinking water for 10% of this nation's population. While much has been done to elevate the water quality in the river itself to exceptionally high standards, the basin is still subject to nonpoint source pollution which can have an adverse effect on spring and well water in the watershed. If you are concerned about the quality of your drinking water, you can contact your water company. If you get your water from a well or spring, call your local County Extension Service, or the National Park Service to find out more about having your water tested.***

*This article was excerpted from one originally appearing in the Fall, 1995 edition of American Rivers, the quarterly newsletter of American Rivers, Inc., and appears here with their permission.*

### Friends of the Upper Delaware Recognized with Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance Award

The Friends of the Upper Delaware walking tour series, "I Walked the Upper Delaware," received a Certificate of Recognition at the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance's annual awards banquet in October. Cited for bringing an appreciation of the valley's historic and architectural sites to a whole new audience, the series of walks gave participants an opportunity to look at the cultural resources of the Delaware River Valley in a way that was especially "up close and personal."

Beginning with a very well attended winter "armchair walking tour" and slide

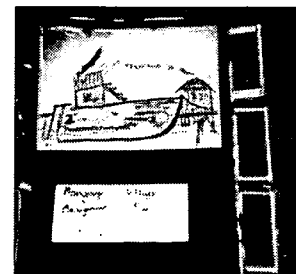
show narrated by NPS Historian Mary Curtis, that focused on the region's architecture, the Friends invited the public to walk some of the more memorable streets of river communities from Hancock to Port Jervis, under the guidance of local historians. The series also included two eagle walks conducted by the New York Audubon Society.

The 1996 series will kick off with an eagle watch on Sunday, January 29th. For more information about the series, or the Friends, contact Nancie at the UDC office, (914) 252-3922.

### Students at Homestead School Develop Plan for the Mongaup

Second grade students at the Homestead School in Glen Spey spent a year learning about the Delaware River from Hancock, NY to Cape May, NJ. As part of their curriculum, they completed a number of projects focusing on the 170-year old Delaware and Hudson Canal and Mongaup Village. From a very successful litter pick up, to a detailed site plan that was submitted to the Water Use/Resource Management Committee of the Upper Delaware Council for review, the students learned firsthand about the Delaware River and what is involved with conserving this priceless natural resource. The UDC presented the school with a resolution commending the students and faculty for their efforts and encouraging them to continue with this type of conservation education.

***The Mongaup Management Plan developed by the second grade class at the Homestead School, in Glen Spey, NY.***





## The Historic Tree Grove at Fort Decker

On a recent walking tour of Port Jervis, the Friends of the Upper Delaware discovered this piece of living history, thanks to local historian and tree enthusiast, Peter Osborne

The entire history of our country can be seen in the rings of one tree. In fact, trees are the only living witnesses to the signing of the U.S. Constitution more than 200 years ago. Many of our founding fathers were avid tree planters, including such famous men as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. The historic tree grove at Fort Decker in Port Jervis took root in 1989 when, through the efforts of Port Jervis Councilman Janis E. Brown, and a donation from Laurel Grove Greenhouses, seedlings from historic trees were planted at Fort Decker, 127 W. Main Street, Port Jervis, a 1793 stone house that serves as the Minisink Valley Historical Society's museum. The historic tree grove includes eight different species, each with a tie to our nation's heritage.

The **Williamsburg Southern Catalpa** is located on the north side of the Fort Decker Compound. This tree came from the historic Williamsburg national landmark, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson. While the trees at Williamsburg were planted in the early 1930's as part of the restoration of this colonial village, General de Lauderdeiere noted in his diary in an entry dated July, 1782: "The Governor of Virginia also had in Williamsburg a very fine palace, built at the extremity of a handsome street planted with catalpas."

The **Carter's Grove Black Locust** is planted at the outside corner of the Fort Decker compound near the firehouse. The tree began as a sapling taken from the locusts planted at Carter's Grove, a gracious plantation located eight miles south of Williamsburg, VA, to commemorate the centennial celebration of the American Victory at Yorktown in 1881. Locust groves then became something of a tradition for the celebration of independence in this country.

The **Wye Mills Oak** comes from the largest White Oak in the U.S., and has been the National Champion since the start of the American Forestry Assoc.'s National Big Tree Program in 1940. Wye Mills, MD, which dates from 1672 and possibly earlier, is the original location of this magnificent tree, which is estimated

to be well over 400 years old. The Fort Decker sapling from that tree is planted in the back corner of the compound.

The **Tulip Tree** in front of Fort Decker was planted on Arbor Day, 1990, in memory of Dr. Daniel P. Schultz, a board member of the Minisink Valley Historical Society and a beloved doctor in Port Jervis for many years. It is a typical 18th century period tree that was found in this area, and is known for its straight trunk, sturdiness, and spring flowers which resemble tulips.

"The Tree That Owns Itself" is now in its second generation in Athens, GA. In 1820, William H. Jackson willed a particular white oak, "for and in consideration of the great love I bear this tree, entire possession of itself and of all land within 8 feet of the tree on all sides." The original tree died in 1942, but one of its offspring was set in the same spot, and continues to thrive. The **Jackson White Oak** sapling at Fort Decker was taken from this tree and can be found between the Fort and the Kleinstuber House near the flagpole.

Other historical trees include two **White Plains Sycamore**, which were taken from trees that shaded General George Washington's bedroom at his New York headquarters in White Plains, a **Japanese Cherry Tree**, **Sugar Maple**, and **Flowering Dogwoods**, planted across the street from the Fort in the Port Jervis Rose Garden. For more information about the American Forestry Association's Famous and Historical Tree program, write to them at PO Box 2000, Washington, DC. 20013.

Peter Osborne is the Executive Director of the Minisink Valley Historical Society, located at Fort Decker, 127 W. Main St., Port Jervis, NY. This article was excerpted from his publication, *The Famous and Historic Tree Grove and Port Jervis Memorial Rose Garden*. For more information about MVHS and their programs, call them at 914-856-2375.

### ATTENTION!

Do you know a person or group who deserves to be recognized for their efforts on behalf of the river or the river valley? If so, now is the time to nominate them for a UDC award! The categories are:

**Distinguished Service:** The Council's highest honor goes to that individual who acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management Plan. **Community Service:** Given to the individual, community, sportsmen's or conservation group, or other entity that took action in 1995 to protect the river corridor, or one or more of its valuable resources. **Cultural Achievement:** Given to the organization or individual whose work has promoted, enhanced, or interpreted the cultural resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley. **Volunteer:** Given to the individual or organization who has contributed as a volunteer to the protection of the river corridor. **Community Achievement:** Presented to the Town, Township, or County for significant action in 1995 to protect the river corridor.

**Recreation Achievement:** Given to the organization making an outstanding effort to educate river users about water safety, conservation, litter control, river etiquette, and property rights in 1995. **Certificate of Merit:** Presented to the agency instituting new programs or policies to protect the Upper Delaware River in support of the River Management Plan.

**Best Friend:** Given in recognition of outstanding dedication and hard work on behalf of the Friends of the Upper Delaware program. **Award of Recognition:** Presented to those individuals who have made substantial contributions to protecting the resources and communities of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

**Lifesaving:** Given to an individual whose heroic actions resulted in the saving of a life. Official 1996 Awards Nomination Forms can be obtained from the UDC. All nominations must be received at the UDC office by Tuesday, February 20th to be eligible for consideration.

## SHAD UPDATE

### From the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

The ASMFC was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell, and anadromous (or migrating) species. On October 31, 1995, the Commission's American Shad and River Herring Management Board voted to require all states to either maintain existing American shad regulations, or to establish more restrictive regulations for the Spring of 1996. This requirement, permissible under the Commission's operating procedures, is effective immediately.

This short-term action was taken because of concern for the health of the resource, mounting pressure from some fishermen to relax regulations, and delays in updating the American shad stock assessment and the Fishery Management Plan. Preliminary stock assessment reports indicate that in some river systems, especially those in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, the abundance of American shad have declined dramatically from historic high level. The Advisory Panel, made up of commercial and recreational fishermen and conservationists, had urged Board members to curtail both ocean intercept and in-river fisheries and to apply these restrictions to both recreational and commercial users. After a series of public meetings held up and down the East Coast, the Board

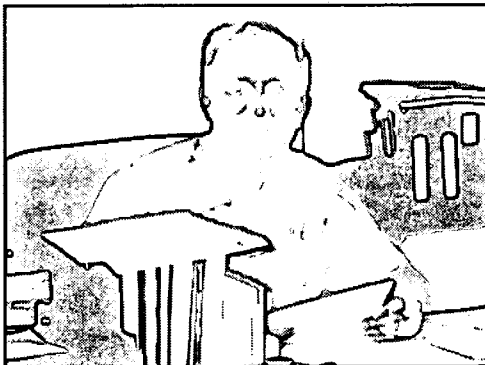
issued their recommendation to maintain existing regulations through July 5, 1996.

### Conditions in the Upper Delaware:

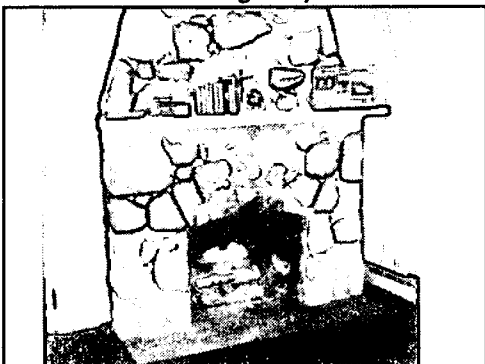
According to Kathy Hattala, NYS DEC and Chairperson for the ASMFB Shad and River Herring Technical Committee, the American shad population estimates and estimates for juvenile production have remained stable since 1986. This contrasts greatly with the Hudson River fishery, whose shad population is in decline.

**The UDC Fisheries Conference will address this and other concerns. See page 4 for details!**

## New South District Ranger Station Once a Part of the Historic Delaware and Hudson Canal Right on Route 97, new site offers easy access for visitors



*South District Ranger Mike Reuber oversees the lower end of the river corridor from Narrowsburg to Sparrowbush.*

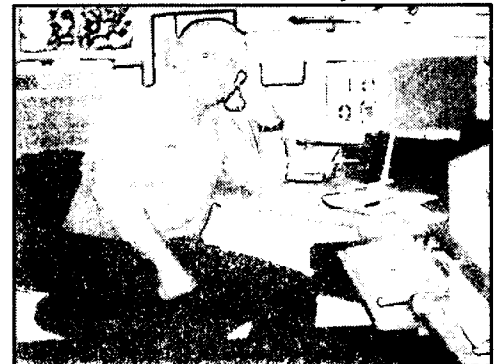


*This massive stone fireplace dominates the main room of the old canal house.*

Just south of the Highland town line, in the Town of Lumberland, and nestled between NYS Route 97 and the Delaware River, sits the new NPS South District Station, housed in a beautifully-maintained canal-era building. From wide-plank hardwood floors, to mullioned windows, to a wonderful hand-hewn picnic table, the new station captures the heart and the soul of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in a way few other spots do. "We're sensitive to the historical significance of the house and the site," notes Mike Reuber, South District Ranger, "so we have made every effort to maintain that integrity by keeping our required changes to a minimum." The mix of old and new gives the South District Station a certain charm. In addition to the house and barn (which, in times gone by, stabled the canal ponies), many canal remnants and part of the tow path can be found on the property. "Cleaning up the canal would be an ideal project for a group of volunteers," says Reuber "It's mostly brush and weeds that have to be cleared out. But, you can see, even now, the great old stonework that's here." Eventually, the NPS would like to offer interpretive programs about the D & H Canal at the site. "It really is a wonderful spot," Reuber noted, "and we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to call it 'home.'"



*The house, which dates back to the mid-1800s, was originally built to house the locktender and his family at Lock 67.*



*Joel Jaggie, Dispatcher, handles calls in the new NPS Communication Center.*

To the Editor;

The article about the bicycle map in the Summer edition of your newsletter includes references to cycling routes in the Town of Highland. You should be aware that, to date, the Town has not designated any stretches of road to be suitable for bicyclists. The area cited in the article, specifically York Hill Road up to the Minisink Battleground, is very steep and would prove to be a difficult and dangerous ride for even the most experienced cyclist. Likewise, Route 97 in the Town of Highland does not have adequate shoulder area to permit safe cycling on this busy road.

The map that is currently being developed should be reviewed by the boards in each of the towns concerned (Lumberland, Highland, and Tusten), with input provided by safety officials, including police and emergency response personnel, along with the Town Board.

We must all make sure that the safety of both potential cyclists and motorists who use these roads is not jeopardized. I would like to advise all of your readers to wait until the official map, approved by all of the Towns involved, is published before attempting a bicycle excursion on unfamiliar, or heavily-used roads. As the saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and I think it would be wise for caution on the part of all involved in this project to ensure that no one gets hurt.

Lewis Schmalzle  
UDC Representative  
Town of Highland, NY

*If you have a concern, or wish to air your views concerning this newsletter or issues in the river corridor, please send them to us. We will print all correspondence as space permits. All letters must include your name, address, and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters to fit the space.*

### Did You ULS Today?

Americans generate 50 billion lbs. of trash during the holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Year's. That works out to roughly 167 pounds of trash per person--and over 4 pounds of trash per person per day! This year, November 16th marked the first annual ULS (Use Less Stuff) Day, the theme of which was Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. For tips on how you can learn to ULS, write for your free copy of the ULS Report, to:

Partners for Environmental Progress  
P.O. Box 130116  
Ann Arbor, MI 48113



--- D & H Canal, continued from page 1 ---

were given, too, by representatives from the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Orange and Rockland Canal Park, Sullivan County Linear Canal Park, the D & H Canal Heritage Corridor Alliance, and the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance.

"Instant synergy!" was how one participant characterized the day's proceedings. "This meeting should have happened 92 years ago!" As a result, the group came to the following conclusions at the close of the day's activities:

- To continue to meet informally
- To highlight the D & H Canal and the Gravity Railroad as a focal

point of heritage tourism in the region

- To pursue joint marketing and promotion of the Canal among sites
- To share information & resources
- To explore the use of uniform signs and interpretive materials within the Canal system
- To explore both NY and PA state heritage area programs for possible designation as a bi-state heritage area
- To obtain more information about the National Heritage Corridor Program
- To explore funding sources such as foundations or corporate grants.

Bill Douglass, UDC Executive

Director and one of the conference attendees, summed it up by saying, "The D & H Canal and gravity railroad system runs 161 miles, from Pittston, PA to Kingston, NY, and is one of the major historical features of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor. This meeting provided the first opportunity many of us had to get together to discuss not only what is being done in our regions right now, but how we can best pool our time, money, and expertise to conserve and, at the same time, promote this valuable historic resource."

*For more information about this group or about the D & H Canal, contact Sandra Schultz, UPDE NPS at 717-729-8251.*

## 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:

Old Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Check here to be removed from our mailing list

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check here for info on Friends

Check here for info on Sojourn

## ...From the Hancock-Chehocton Historical Association

The Hancock-Chehocton Historical Association is growing and growing. When we started in 1985, we worked out of a private home; then, over the next several years, we moved first to the library and then to the town office building. Finally, in 1988, we were given a one room log cabin that we could call home.

Having received the records of the former town and village historians, we had a large amount of information to compile. Added to that were 20 years of Hancock Heralds from which we extracted pertinent information. Donations of artifacts, paintings, books, manuscripts, and other memorabilia pour in each year. After just six short years, we are filled to the brim with the history of our beautiful area!

With our latest acquisition, the box office and doors from the former Capitol Theater here in Hancock, we have embarked on fundraising campaign so that we can construct an addition to our little building to better showcase

our collections. We plan to add a 22' x 30' log-constructed wing to our cabin. This added space will allow us to expand our display and program area. The plans have been drawn up, the fundraising campaign was launched at this year's Bluestone Festival, and we are excited about the future prospects for our dedicated group.

So much of our local history has been lost. That's why it's imperative that we all work to keep our heritage alive, and to preserve what's left in our own communities. So the next time you're cleaning out your attic, or your cellar, or your barn, and you come across some old relic, stop and think before you toss it in the junk pile. You may have a piece of history in your hands. Your donations (cash and otherwise) and memorials will help us enhance and expand our presentation of local history. If you would like more information about the Historical Association, please feel free to contact us at 61 Wheeler Street, Hancock, NY 13783. (Thanks to Pat Green for this update from Hancock.)


## ...and the Cochection Preservation Society

Mary Ann White called to tell us that the pen and ink sketch of the old Cochection Railroad Station featured in an article in the last issue of *The Upper Delaware* was done by her in early 1993 as part of a fundraising campaign for the Cochection Preservation Society and their ongoing project of reconstructing the old Erie Railroad Station. Those of you who travel NYS Route 97 north of Narrowsburg have no doubt seen the lovely sign that marks the new location of this historic building, which was carefully dismantled several years ago, and is currently being stored out of harm's way, while the Society oversees the construction of the foundation at the new site. The sketch is available on note cards, T-shirts, and as a poster. All proceeds are used to continue the work on the station. For more information, stop by and see Mary Ann at Reilly's Ice Cream Parlor and Art Gallery in Cochection, or contact the Cochection Preservation Society in care of Larry Richardson, 111 Barnas Road, Cochection, NY 12726.

## ...and the Callicoon Business Association

The Callicoon Business Association recently unveiled their new publication, *A Walking Tour of Callicoon*. This handsome brochure features a self-guided walking tour of Main Street and the surrounding area, and includes interesting, informative footnotes about the more than two dozen stops on the tour. In addition, the brochure contains a history of Callicoon, along with a listing of organizations, services and businesses, special events, and photo opportunities in and around the hamlet. Rosie DeChristoforo, President of the Callicoon Business Association, is pleased with the public's response to the new publication. "Everyone's enthused about the possibilities this brochure holds," Rosie noted, when asked why the CBA decided to produce a walking tour brochure. "One of our members said it best when he pointed out, 'This is the first time that a person in Florida could pick up a brochure and get interested in coming to Callicoon, NY.'" Pick up a free copy in Callicoon or at the UDC.

February is the shortest month, but which month is the longest? Answer next time!

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**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  
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