

The Upper Delaware

A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA

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RAFT RACE: New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, pictured at the center front of the Lander's River Trips raft at right, had fun paddling the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River June 30 during his inaugural Catskill Challenge that coincided with the National Park Service's 2016 Centennial Celebration. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Happy 100th, National Park Service

Fostering a goal of connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River was "all in" to celebrate the National Park Service's (NPS) 2016 Centennial in style.

Programs organized primarily from May

to September sought to raise awareness about conservation, natural resources, and history, while encouraging people to get active to "Find Your Park" and recognize the contributions that a National Wild and Scenic River Congressional designation make to a local region.

The latest NPS Visitor Spending Effects Report shows that 243,246 visitors to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River spent an estimated \$10.2 million in recreational dollars in 2015.

Those expenditures supported a total of 117 jobs, \$5.3 million in labor income, \$8.1 million in value added, and \$12.1 million in economic output to gateway communities surrounding the park unit which encompasses nearly 55,500 acres in the river corridor boundary located within Wayne and Pike Counties, PA, and Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange Counties, NY.

One of the most ambitious events was the "100-Mile Paddle", in which rangers



NEXT STEWARDS: Twin sisters Elizabeth, left, and Nicole Reeves, 10, of Narrowsburg, drew personalized birthday cards for the National Park Service at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's community party held August 13.

Please see CENTENNIAL on Page 3

Upper Delaware Profile: Jeff Haas

Tradition defines Jeff Haas's life.

Born, raised, and still residing in Yulan, NY. Third generation to run the family business. Third generation to serve the local fire department in leadership positions. Proudly watching his five children and four grandchildren walk in his footsteps.

"It's always been about the community and family," the 58-year-old says.

Where Haas has ventured lately to inject his enthusiastic energy and commitment is local government.

He was recruited with a four-party cross-endorsement to run for the Highland Town Board in 2014, then gave up that councilman's seat to win a contested election as the Town Supervisor effective Jan. 1, 2016 after mentor Andrew Boyar opted to retire.

As a trustee, past chief and past president of the Yulan Volunteer Fire Department, Haas regularly attended town board meetings to raise and hear issues.

"I was pretty vocal in town business. I was concerned about some rapid zoning changes that were happening. I felt I could apply some skills I had with budgeting, savings, and operations," he says.

Some big plans are in the works "to bring us into the 21st century, keep it clean, and keep it green."

Haas and the board have hired a planning consultant to update the 1984 Highland Zoning Code with an emphasis on reviewing commercial districts that could yield increased revenues to help offset taxes and getting local laws in order.

They have applied for grants to build an approximately \$1.5 million, energy-efficient town maintenance facility to replace the outgrown, flood-prone building in Eldred.

Three new hires are now being trained to bring the Town of Highland Constable Department up to seven members.

There is also a focus on enforcing local codes to address violations of dilapidated properties, junk vehicles, and garbage.

This is being accomplished through the efforts of a competent town staff and a board who may occasionally "bicker" but Haas says shares a common goal.

"I'm proud of our town and the direction we're going. All I've ever wanted to do is make the town a better place," he says.

Haas is a 1976 graduate of Eldred High School and obtained his mechanics certification at ITT in Scranton.

His grandfather established Yulan Service Station in 1926. Haas's father ran it for 30 years until retiring. His son shows no signs of giving up the often 60-hour work weeks while he also operates his Yulan Service Lawns & More business.

Although he has no employees in favor of family assistance, contractor Chris



Jeff Haas, Town of Highland, NY

Tambini works out of the garage and picks up slack during Haas's town obligations.

A fourth generation Haas, son Jeffrey, is the most recent past chief of the 115-member Yulan Fire Department that will always hold a special place in Haas's heart.

"That's been the largest part of my life in the community," he says.

Besides his fun memories of snorkeling for buried treasure at Mongaup Rapids as a child, most of Haas's exposure to the Upper Delaware River has been through emergency incident calls.

"I think I've responded to every river rescue and search since the age of 16. A lot of the tragedies come about from a lack of respect for the river," he believes.

Having appointed himself as the Town of Highland Representative to the Upper Delaware Council when he took over as supervisor, Haas has been soaking up as much as he can about river valley issues.

His take on the National Park Service presence is that "the rules and regulations have made everyone safer"; however he never wants to see the "heavy hand of a federal agency" supersede local authority.

"Their guidance is good as a resource since we don't have all the answers," he says. Haas has seen a significant change in his town's demographics over the years in moving to a river-centered community.

Jeff and his wife of 36 years, Leann, a fellow Eldred HS alumnus, are parents of Jeffrey, Jessica, Jennie, James, and Joseph, who at 14 still lives at home. Their four grandchildren range from ages 4-8.

Haas is a member of the Highland Field & Stream Club, St. Anthony's Church in Yulan, and a supporter of the Can't Hurt Steel neighbors-in-need organization.

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The Upper Delaware is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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Governor Cuomo Visits Upper Delaware Valley

New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo experienced the fun and beauty of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from a raft on June 30 when he brought his first-ever Catskill Challenge to western Sullivan County.

The Upper Delaware Council joined the National Park Service; Sullivan County Visitors Association; state, county, and local elected officials; numerous river outfitters; and a cadre of security to welcome the governor and dozens of invited dignitaries including Senate and Assembly representatives to participate in a festive, timed competition that Team Cuomo handily won.

The rafters paddled from the Delaware & Hudson Canal Towpath Trail at Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct - the oldest existing wire suspension bridge in the U.S. built in 1848 and now owned by the National Park Service - to Lander's Minisink Base in the Town of Highland.

"The Catskills [comprised of Delaware, Sullivan, Ulster, and Greene Counties] are one of New York's greatest natural resources, and today we are shining the spotlight on what makes this region so special," Gov. Cuomo said.

"This challenge is about showcasing the Catskills' natural assets - its pristine lakes, breathtaking views and scenic trails - to drive tourism, support local businesses and generate continued economic growth. We are investing in this region like never before," he added.

Besides his Upper Delaware River raft trip, activities included biking, hiking, and fly fishing at the NYS DEC's Mongaup Pond Campground; a motorcycle tour to Roscoe; resort games at the Villa Roma; a soccer match at Sullivan West High School in Lake Huntington; and a press conference at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts where he was joined by actor Robert De Niro.

In the Catskills region, tourism direct spending resulted in over \$1.1 billion in economic impact in 2015. Visitation is up 11% since 2010 to approximately 4 million visitors. As an economic driver, tourism represents more than 15% of the region's employment, or over 17,000 jobs.

CENTENNIAL, continued from Page 1

invited the public to join them for guided paddles by canoe and kayak covering 70 miles of the Upper Delaware River and 30

miles of the Middle Delaware River from Hancock, NY to Kittatinny, NJ.

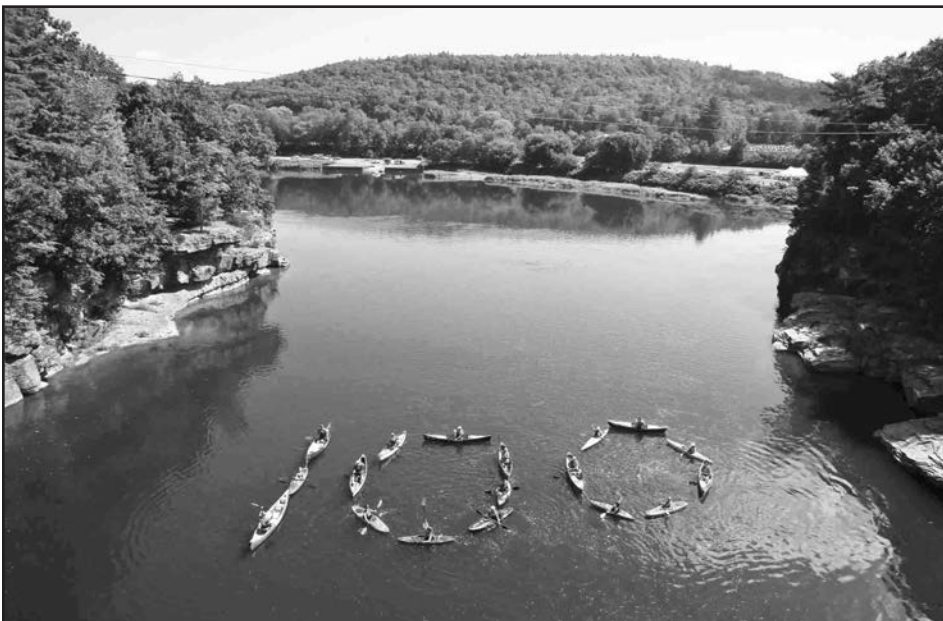
Its successful execution and enthusiastic participation over the course of 12 week-



GREETINGS: National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister welcomes NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, left, as New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Captain Steve Scherry looks on. Also taking part in the June 30 raft trip was NYS Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther who represents parts of Sullivan and Orange Counties, pictured at far left. (NPS Photo by Ingrid Peterec)



AND THEY'RE OFF: Governor Cuomo and his security detail took on a rival team that included NYS Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan as they launched their rafts from the Towpath Trail to pass beneath Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct in Minisink Ford. The 1.5 mile race ended with a splash fight as the groups lingered on the river. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



end dates from June 4 to August 27 earned the Upper Delaware unit the "Centennial Superstar Award" from the NPS Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia.

Long-time Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River volunteer Bob Hare led each day's free trip as the Centennial River Ambassador, frequently joined by Damascus Township UDC Representative Jeff Dexter and his wife, Linda.

The Centennial provided special themes for events such as the June 18-25 Delaware River Sojourn, June 25 Upper Delaware BioBlitz, and July 16 Zane Grey Festival. River clean-ups, paddles, walks, talks, yoga, and a photo contest were arranged for people of all ages to partake.

The Aug. 13 Birthday Bash attracted over 350 folks for games and giveaways.

CENTENNIAL: Members of the National Canoe Safety Patrol formed 100 in the Narrowsburg pool of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on August 13 to celebrate the National Park Service milestone. A drone camera also recorded an aerial view. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

UDC Hires Pete Golod as Resource Specialist

Pete J. Golod of Milanville, PA joined the Upper Delaware Council staff as its Resource Specialist, providing support on land use development and resource management activities, effective April 23.

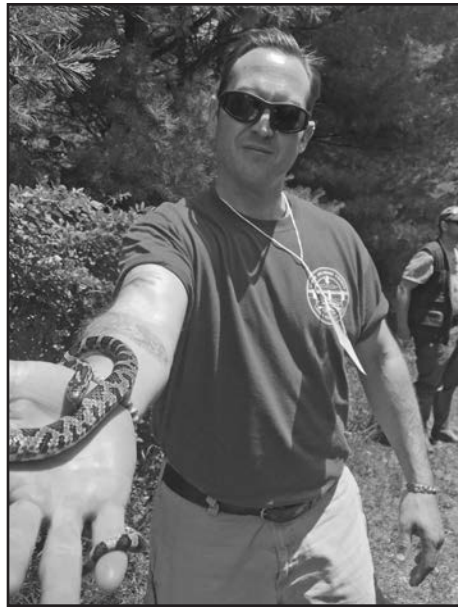
Golod is a 10-year military veteran with experience in fisheries, biological science, and research who had most recently completed a seasonal position with the National Park Service (NPS) studying the sustainability of young-of-year American shad and wildlife in the Upper Delaware.

The 39-year-old grew up in Bergen County, NJ, graduated from Paramus High School in 1994, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1994 to 2004, becoming a Quartermaster (navigator) and member of a specialized diving and salvage unit.

While stationed in Galveston, TX, Golod earned a B.S. Degree in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University in 2004.

Employment followed with NOAA Fisheries to protect sea turtles and marine mammals from the impacts of underwater explosives being used to remove offshore oil and gas structures; AIS, Inc. as a maritime fisheries observer; and the U.S. Geological Survey as a fisheries biological science lab technician at Lake Ontario.

Upon moving with his convalescing parents to Milanville in June 2012, Golod worked for Bluestone Environmental, Inc. of Honesdale, PA, then as a marketing consultant with Bold Gold Media in the Pocono Lake Region, before holding the



BIOBLITZ FIND: UDC Resource Specialist Pete Golod of Milanville, PA shows a snake that he discovered during the June 25 Upper Delaware BioBlitz held at the Ten Mile River Scout Camp property in the Town of Tusten. (UDC Photo by Cindy Odell)

NPS position from May to October 2015.

In addition to shad sampling, Golod developed monitoring protocols; tested water quality through the Scenic Rivers Monitoring Program; operated watercraft; maintained equipment; assisted the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the NYS Department of Environmental Conserva-

tion with electrofishing surveys; assisted The Nature Conservancy with herbicide spraying of Japanese Knotweed; mitigated other invasive plant species; participated in meetings for Monarch butterflies and pollinators with New York Renaissance Conservancy; and offered some educational programs for Eco Practicum students and Zane Grey Festival visitors.

His parents, Mike and Maria Golod, purchased a 40-acre property they call Eagle Farm in Milanville in 1995 after spending many summers, weekends, and holidays at family property along the Delaware River in Beach Lake, PA.

When the UDC's Resource Specialist position opened following the Feb. 22, 2016 departure of Travis O'Dell of Long Eddy, NY, Golod was enthused to apply.

"What interested me most was the UDC's mission of conservation of natural resources and river resources with the understanding of the importance of land-owners' rights in the river valley. The River Management Plan really strikes that balance," he says.

Golod married his wife, Urszula, on Jan. 31, 2015 after meeting the former Brooklyn resident during a 2012 Labor Day camping weekend at the Delaware River property. She is a fine artist and graphic designer (www.UlaNeroArt.com) who works at The Lodge at Woodloch in Hawley, PA.

In his free time, Golod enjoys kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, camping, writing, cinema, and books.

He published a book of prose poetry called "Vision" in 2007 and has written a music-related column. Golod follows hockey and soccer, and has been a martial arts practitioner for 20 years.

He may be reached at (845) 252-3022 or pete@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

NPS Promotes Chief Ranger

National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River promoted Larry Neal as its Chief Ranger on May 16 after a 26-year tenure during which he



Larry D. Neal, Jr.

has worked under every superintendent.

Neal started at "UPDE" in May 1990 as an Interpretive Ranger before obtaining certifications in seasonal law enforcement from Hocking College in 1991 and his Level 1 NPS commission from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in 1994.

Other than a brief stint at Independence National Historical Park in 1993 and full-time work with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as a Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer from 1994-2000, the Tremont, PA native has chosen to put down local roots.

"I first came up with my parents at age 5

when they bought a summer home in Long Eddy. I spent lots of time here," Neal says.

He had served as Acting Chief Ranger twice and found that he welcomed the added responsibility of supporting community-agency partnerships and managing the protection division's operations.

"I really enjoyed the work. It's a big, cooperative venture. I've developed such a rapport with everyone in the river valley that it makes it home," he says.

With staffing restored to five full-time and one seasonal law enforcement positions, Neal says, "Our ultimate goal is to provide a safe environment for all our residents and visitors passing through."

Neal gets great satisfaction from developing and teaching lesson plans for classes held throughout the NPS and by participating in regional training opportunities.

The 47-year-old resides with his wife of seven years, Mary Houghton, on a 70-acre property in Beach Lake, PA. Their family includes Mary's three sons, Willie, 13; Morgan, 18; and Cody, 21.



BYWAY OFFICERS: Elected to lead the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. at the non-profit organization's April 25 annual meeting were, from left, Secretary-Treasurer Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cocheton; Chairperson Glenn Pontier, Town of Highland; and Vice-Chair Nancy Furdock, Village of Hancock. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

UDC Explores Public Call Boxes

The feasibility of installing emergency call boxes along a prototype stretch of highway adjacent to the Upper Delaware River is being explored.

The Upper Delaware Council hosted a presentation by Frontier Communications at its Sept. 1 meeting to learn facts and figures about Red Alert phones.

The weather-sturdy boxes are powered through a telephone line, requiring no electricity or battery, and mounted on a pole. A user pushes one pre-programmed button to speak to a 911 operator.

Shohola Township Representative Aaron Robinson, who has served as the Council's point-person on this topic, said the problem is that emergency responders can communicate among each other but the public often has trouble summoning help due to the lack of reliable cellular service.

"This is the missing link," Robinson said. "You can't overstate the need for it. There is a void in the system. It's long overdue but there is an issue of funding and who manages them."

Costs involve purchasing the units with mounting kits (estimated at \$880 each), installation to include setting poles if necessary, and an approximately \$37 monthly charge for the phone line service.

The UDC intends to pursue an offer by Frontier to have its engineers investigate the infrastructure and rights-of-way issues in the "complete dead zone" that Robinson had mapped along NYS Route 97 from Mongaup to 2 miles southeast of Barryville, as well as seek potential sponsorships.



CONTEMPLATING: Doug Case, left, who was attending his first Upper Delaware Council meeting as the Aug. 15 newly-appointed Lackawaxen Township Representative, examines a Red Alert phone during a Frontier Communications presentation on Sept. 1. Shohola Township Representative Aaron Robinson, center, and Alan Henry from Berlin Township, listened. Find all UDC meeting minutes posted at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

In other presentations to the Council since the last newsletter, Leadership Sullivan Class of 2016 member Tamara Porter from SUNY Sullivan provided highlights of their Corwin Farm Clean-up Project in the Town of Lumberland at the August 4 meeting. A video is available at www.sullivanchamberfoundation.org/community-impact-project.html.

An update on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan for the Upper Delaware River was provided at the July 7 meeting by project coordinator Heather Jacksy from the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management. This document, which covers Hancock to Port Jervis, was developed over five years under a NYS Department of State grant. Numerous initiatives have spun off from the collaboration in the areas of economic development, tourism, river access, marketing, arts, history and culture.

Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Steve Tambini explained the regulated flows system and competing objectives for water use at the April 7 UDC meeting.



Solar Energy Heats Up

A draft position paper interpreting whether large-scale, commercial solar energy systems are appropriate land uses in the designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor was under debate by the Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service in mid-September.

The 1986 River Management Plan did not anticipate the "solar farm" proposals that have begun to face river valley towns in light of a push for renewable energy sources and New York State incentives.

Towns were working to develop zoning and permitting regulations, and decide on real property tax exemption options.

Look for an article in the next issue.

TUSTEN ARRAY: Workers in August installed the panels that are making the Town of Tusten the first Sullivan County municipality to power its electricity, except street lights, through solar energy at what is expected to save \$200,000 in costs over time. (Contributed Photo by Brandi Merolla, Tusten Energy Committee)

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-March to mid-September 2016, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

NYC RESERVOIRS

The UDC is spearheading a challenge to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to bolster an early public warning system for Delaware River Basin reservoir emergency incidents, a campaign that is garnering numerous support letters.

One aspect the UDC is researching is to incorporate the use of existing fire sirens with a customized tone or frequency.

NYC DEP's Paul Rush responded to the UDC's July 7 correspondence in an Aug. 24 letter that the siren idea will be "vetted and weighed against other options".

On May 4, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted a two-year extension of New York City's license to build a hydroelectric facility at the Cannonsville Reservoir. The UDC supported a longer postponement via federal legislation in an April 7 Congressional letter.

UDC LETTERS

3/15 to the five Decree Party Principals, encouraging their attendance at the 4/5 Regulated Flows Advisory Committee meeting; 3/15 to NYC DEC Region 4 advocating better signage for the Bouchouxville Trail which did occur; 3/22 to U.S. Senator Schumer, and NYS Senator Bonacic and



UPDE TUTORIAL: The National Parks Conservation Association and Friends of the Upper Delaware River hosted an Upper Delaware Tour for elected officials and policy makers Aug. 11 that included a talk by the Upper Delaware Council. Centered, NPCA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Joy Oakes chats with PA Rep. Mike Peifer at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



AWAY WE GO: The Matusiewicz family from Hackettstown, NJ launches their rafts under the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge during the Upper Delaware Council's 28th Annual Family Raft Trip. The Aug. 7 event from the Skinners Falls Base in the Town of Cocheton to the Ten Mile River Access in the Town of Tusten attracted 115 guests. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Assemblywoman Gunther, requesting help to enhance public emergency communications in river valley; 3/30 to PennDOT on the Lordville Road's poor condition; 5/25 to the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation to express thanks for Leadership Sullivan's selection of the UDC's Community Service proposal; 5/27 to Decree Parties for the positive action on low flow and high water temperature concerns over Memorial Day weekend; 7/13 to Fish & Bicycle of Narrowsburg for grant application support; 7/26 to The Delaware Company to support the Battle of Minisink war dead monument; and 7/26 to NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo in appreciation for visiting the Upper Delaware River.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development projects reviewed or discussed included:

- Town of Tusten: Mixed use occupancy permit for 7 Erie Ave., Narrowsburg, 4/20
- Shohola Township: The National Park Service found the UDC substantial conformance review of Zoning Ordinance No. 79 incomplete in a 4/28 letter and returned it.
- Town of Fremont: modification of Zoning Law amending regulations for solar and wind, 5/11 hearing, approved 6/9
- Town of Highland: proposed changes to Commercial Recreation Zoning, 5/11
- Town of Cocheton: variance for proposed campground driveway, 5/19
- Town of Delaware: impose a land use moratorium and defer zoning for commercial solar energy systems, 6/8 and ongoing work sessions through 9/14 hearing

- Shohola Township: zoning map amendments approved, 6/9
- Town of Tusten: amending regulations for campgrounds and campsites, 6/14
- Town of Tusten: special use permits for The Launderette at 20 5th St. and a home to be built on Crawford/Hankins Rd., 6/20
- Damascus Township: construction of 16,692 sq. ft. agricultural barn in a flood hazard area on Hickory Lane, 7/12
- Damascus Township: build a single family home on Leslie Lane, 7/14
- Town of Lumberland: Comprehensive Plan update approved, 8/10
- Town of Hancock: adopt International Code Council building codes, 9/6
- Town of Lumberland: investigation of poisonous aquatic herbicide dumping into Lake Diana at Camp Simcha, 9/13

The UDC submitted its 2015 summary report of permits, variances and ordinance changes in the river corridor to NPS on 7/22 and is in the graphic re-design phase of updating its 1988 Project Review Workbook to make it more user-friendly.

NATURAL GAS

The UDC submitted a May 5 letter to FERC requesting consideration of any impacts from the proximity to Millennium Pipeline Co.'s Eastern System Upgrade project, which calls for building 22,400 HP compressor stations in Hancock and Highland, to the federally designated river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking public comments on a \$143 million proposal by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. to

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

construct 13 miles of natural gas pipeline through Wayne (Berlin, Palmyra) and Pike (Lackawaxen) Counties in 2018.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

In addition to regular committee service and attendance at various local government meetings, special sessions were:

4/29, National Park Service Annual Water Safety Partners' Meeting at UDC

5/10, New York State Environmental Quality Review Act Conference

5/12, NPS Upper Delaware Canal Days

5/19, 5/26 & 6/2 Pennsylvania Municipal Planning & Educational Institute's Course in Zoning Administration

6/10, NYC DEP Dam Emergency Action Plan Orientation Seminar

6/18, Delaware River Sojourn Day 1

6/23, Water Management Advisory Committee to the DRBC

6/24-25, Upper Delaware BioBlitz

7/16, NPS Zane Grey Festival

7/18, Kittatinny Canoes' River Clean-up

8/3, Planning for Utility-Scale Solar

9/19-20, 4th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

9/21, Leadership Sullivan Class of 2017 Upper Delaware River Orientation

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2016-#04: Authorize a Resource Specialist Training Reimbursement Agreement; #05: Approve 2016 River Clean-up Grant Applications; #06: Adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget; #07, #08, 09: Adopt the FY 2017 Work Plan(s) for the Water Use/Resource Management, Project Review, and Operations Committees.

UDC GRANTS

The UDC closed out a third year of River and Shoreline Clean-ups Aug. 15, expending \$5,472.98 to facilitate litter removal in projects coordinated by Damascus Township, Town of Deerpark, Town of Lumberland, Town of Highland, and Town of Tusten, based on their proposals.

Ten 2016 Technical Assistance Grants projects awarded \$35,000 were all completed by their Aug. 22 deadlines, and nine applications submitted for the 2017 round were vying for awards that the UDC will vote on at the Oct. 6 monthly meeting.



POND EDDY BRIDGE: Equipment is staged on a causeway extending into the Upper Delaware River from the New York side to allow construction of the \$17 million 40-ton crossing 55 feet upstream that will replace the 1904 Pond Eddy Bridge as of 2018. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Interstate Bridges Get Attention

Construction of the controversial, new Pond Eddy Bridge began in July after being on the books for replacement since 1978. The historic single-lane bridge will remain open at its 7-ton posting during the two-season building phase with boaters diverted laterally.

Updates were provided at the May 18 annual meeting of the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission in Binghamton and a requested public information meeting convened by New York and Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation on July 13 in Narrowsburg.

Emergency repairs on the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge were in progress at press time to enable the 1901 single-lane crossing to re-open to traffic with a 4-ton weight limit and two overhead clearance bars after it was abruptly closed in December 2015.

A nearly \$12 million rehabilitation of the Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA Bridge will begin in the spring of 2017. It has been reduced to a single lane controlled by traffic signals since 2013. Work will require 15 overnight closures and should be done by Fall 2018.

The Kellams, NY-Stalker, PA Bridge was approved for a \$4.3 million rehabilitation in 2017. Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge is advancing to a new deck and repairs in 2018. The Cocheton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge is being eyed for a 2019 rehabilitation.

Also, significant maintenance work on the National Park Service's Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct which links Minisink Ford, NY to Lackawaxen, PA began at the end of September. It requires occasional weekday closures to vehicular traffic but the structure will be open on weekends. Pedestrian access is unaffected.

Led by the Federal Highway Administration, the scope of work for the National Historic Landmark bridge includes replacing expansion joints, sealing the concrete deck, resurfacing asphalt pavement, improving drainage, and fixing icebreaker timbers and stone masonry. Visit www.nps.gov/upde/planyourvisit.htm for road closures and detour routes.



Flexible Flows Stay the Same

While four out the five 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree Party Principals who are responsible for negotiating terms of the Flexible Flows Management Plan (FFMP) for the Delaware Basin Reservoir System appeared as pledged on April 5 to listen to the majority call among 130 audience members asking for

Please see FLOWS on page 11

LISTENING SESSION: Decree Party Principals at the April 5 public meeting were, from left, Dr. David Wunsch, State of Delaware; Daniel Kennedy, State of New Jersey; Paul Rush, New York City; and Kelly Heffner, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; joined by Delaware River Master Robert Mason, Jr. from the USGS and DRBC's Regulated Flows Advisory Committee Chairperson Hoss Liaghat from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



CLASS OF 2016: Recipients of the Upper Delaware Council's 28th Annual Awards gathered on April 24 at Tennenah Lake Golf and Tennis Club's Wolff's 1910 Banquet Hall located in the Town of Fremont at the banquet attended by 93 guests. Seated from left to right: Salvatore Lombardo; Nellie Burnham; John McKay; Sue Currier; Sarah Mitchell; and Iris Helfeld. Standing: Jordan Lewis; Gary Hooper; Peter Kestler; George C. Fluhr; Roger Saumure; Peter Wulfhorst; Glenn Pontier; Shaun Sensiba; and Al Henry. Also honored, but absent from the photo, were Josh Turner, Eric Rowe, Aaron Robinson, Diana Blume, and Jason Ohlinger. (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

Awards Recognize River Valley Contributors

The Upper Delaware Council honored those who have enhanced the quality of life or protected the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley at its 28th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 24.

Kristina Heister, superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River since July 2014, delivered a keynote address placing the significance of her agency's 100th anniversary into local context.

"It is a defining moment that offers an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our accomplishments as we prepare for a new century of stewardship and engagement," said the 22-year NPS veteran.

The audience of 93 guests at the Tennenah Lake Golf and Tennis Club paid tribute to these 11 honorees:

Distinguished Service Award - John McKay of Lackawaxen, PA, for 27 years (1988-2015) of dedicated service to the Upper Delaware Council, preceded by the



PRESENTATION: UDC 2016 Chairman Fred Peckham of Hancock, at right, congratulates Volunteer Award winner Shaun Sensiba after UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie's presentation. (UDC Photo by Scott Rando)

Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council and public service roles in Lackawaxen;

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award - Adams Outdoor Advertising employees Salvatore Lombardo and Joshua Turner for their July 20, 2015 rescue of a 55-year-old drowning boater in cardiac arrest at Butler's Rift on the Upper Delaware River while they participated in Kittatinny Canoes' river clean-up;

Outstanding Community Achievement Award - Shohola Township Planning Commission (Peter Wulfhorst, Aaron Robinson, Gary Hooper, Peter Kestler, Roger Saumure, Secretary Diana Blume, and Solicitor Jason Ohlinger) for their zoning ordinance re-writes and new township code development over five years of citizen-led volunteer meetings;

Community Service Award - Sue Currier of Hawley, PA, for nurturing the growth of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy over 13 years as its first executive director;

Cultural Achievement Award (organization) - Sunshine Hall Free Library of Eldred, NY, (accepted by Board of Trustees President Sarah Mitchell) for this thoroughly modern yet rural library's celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2016 as a resource for river valley communities;

Cultural Achievement Award (individual) - Nellie Burnham of Lake Muscoday, NY, as the last surviving founder of the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild in 1976, a retired teacher, 4-H leader, and continued mentor to many at the age of 86;

Recreation Achievement Award - Glenn Pontier of Barryville, NY, for playing an integral role in the beautification initiatives of river towns during his 2000-2015 leadership of the Gerry Foundation's Sullivan Renaissance program;



John McKay, Distinguished Service Award
(Contributed by Gina Lenz Photography)

Volunteer Award - Shaun Sensiba of Long Eddy, NY, for his contributions to the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley, Long Eddy Sullivan Renaissance, Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Triquart Scholarship Foundation, and St. Patrick's/Holy Cross;

Special Recognition Award - Iris Helfeld of Narrowsburg, NY, for her role as a passionate citizen activist and community organizer in her adopted Town of Tusten;

Special Recognition Award - Quiet Light Films of Lake Ariel, PA (Jordan Lewis and Eric Rowe), for capturing the essence of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in a first-ever interactive Virtual Tour format available for viewing at www.nps.gov/upde; and

Oaken Gavel Award - Alan F. Henry, representative of Berlin Township, for his service as Upper Delaware Council chairperson in 2015, and leadership role as a member of all three standing committees and chair of the Personnel Subcommittee.

Scenic Wild Delaware River MapGuide Debuts



National Geographic and its partners unveiled America's newest travel destination - Scenic Wild Delaware River - to highlight the unique cultural, recreational, and natural experiences recommended along the Upper and Middle Delaware Rivers.

The public launch of the interactive MapGuide at www.DelawareRiver.natgeo-tourism.com took place at a series of spring events held throughout the tri-state, nine-county region and in New York City.

It is only the 23rd such site in the world.

Nominated by local interests, the website currently features more than 600 landmarks, natural resources, attractions, activities, events, lodging and dining venues, with new listings encouraged.

There are also profiles, articles, and suggested itineraries for residents and visitors interested in exploring the area.



COLLABORATION: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn came to the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Dingmans Ferry on June 20 to discuss opportunities to partner with Scenic Wild Delaware River on land and water conservation projects in Wayne, Pike, Monroe, and Northampton Counties. Pictured from the left are PA DCNR Deputy Secretary John Norbeck, Dunn, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau CEO Carl Wilgus, and Bryan Cope, chairperson of the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

During the May 5 launch event held at the Narrowsburg Union, characteristics of geotourists, demonstrations in the MapGuide's use, instructions to link to the site, and certificates and stickers to display participation were all given.

A 37-member Geotourism Stewardship Council was formed in Sept. 2015 to guide this initiative that was sparked by the

National Parks Conservation Association's securing of start-up funds from the William Penn Foundation and Claneil Foundation.

With Town of Tusten, NY resident Elaine Giguere as a co-chair, the Council is working on the sustainable vitality of the MapGuide, and the endorsement of projects focused on promoting a healthy economy and environment.



Leadership Sullivan Cleans Canal Bed

The Leadership Sullivan Class of 2016 deployed its volunteer crew of business representatives on May 21 to tackle the clean-up of an overgrown section of the Delaware & Hudson Canal, pictured at the bottom left in its "before" state by photographer Debra Conway.

The National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River manages the Corwin Farm property, located in the Town of Lumberland, primarily as a ranger station. An emergency river landing, pleasant walking areas, and seasonal public rest facilities are also there.

The site includes intact remnants of Lock 67 which was part of the canal system that operated from 1828 to 1898. In that era, the canal bed (pictured at the work day by Laurie Ramie) would have been filled with water as opposed to the shrubs, weeds, and non-native vegetation which had invaded the site's historic integrity and threatened to damage the stone walls.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation's class members, along with NPS maintenance staff and volunteers, cut, pulled, hauled, and chipped for a full day to achieve great results.



Callicoon Historic District on Register

Town of Delaware, NY Historian Cindy Herbert achieved a long-term goal in bringing recognition and potential preservation assistance to the Hamlet of Callicoon.

The Callicoon Downtown Historic District is now an official listing on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The designation encompasses 74 contributing properties located on Upper & Lower Main Streets, Highview & Mitchell Avenues, River & Hospital Roads; Bridge Street and NYS Route 97.

The New York State Board of Historic Preservation unanimously recommended the listing on March 22, leading Governor Andrew Cuomo to announce its nomination among 19 new proposals.

The listings became official on June 21, with the same eligibility criteria applied to the state and national registries.



GAINS LISTING: The Callicoon Downtown Historic District has earned a spot on the National and State Register of Historic Places under sponsorship by the Town of Delaware. The 1899 replacement New York and Erie Railroad Depot is pictured below. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Herbert won grants from the Preservation League of New York State (\$4,200) and Sullivan Renaissance to enable hiring

Minisink Battlefield Marker Sought

The Delaware Company of NY, Inc. launched a campaign at the 237th anniversary of the Battle of Minisink to create a memorial honoring the patriots who died in the July 22, 1779 Revolutionary War battle.

John Conway, president of The Delaware Company's Board of Directors and Sullivan County Historian, observed, "There are 46 known men whose remains were left on the battleground for 43 years. Finally in 1822, a small number of bones were recovered and taken to Goshen, NY for burial. But to this day, there is no permanent record at the hallowed battleground listing the names of the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice."

At the July 23 ceremony, decorated U.S. Army veteran and retiring Congressman



Rep. Chris Gibson

Chris P. Gibson delivered a passionate keynote address.

"What was sacrificed here truly changed the history of mankind. It was a radical idea to form a government of the people, by the

people, for the people. We were citizens, not subjects. We have rights and responsibilities. What we did was unbelievably optimistic but also realistic. Our system is set up to prevent the accumulation and abuse of powers. On our best days, every country wants to be like us," said Gibson (NY-19).

The observance also featured Sullivan County Legislators Luis Alvarez, chairman, and Nadia Rajs; VFW Tusten-Highland-Lumberland Post #6427; Sylvan Liebla Post #1363 American Legion; the Nava-sing Long Rifles; National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; Rev. William Chellis; and fiddler Leo Kehagias.

The Minisink Battleground Park, which features a hilltop monument, hiking trails, interpretive signage, the Lt. Col. Benjamin Tusten Pavilion, and restroom facilities, is located on County Rt. 168 just off NYS Route 97 in Minisink Ford.

To support the marker effort, send donation checks payable to "The Delaware Company" with a "Minisink Project" notation to P.O. Box 88, Barryville, NY 12719.



consultant Neil Larson of Larson Fisher Associates to prepare the nomination package completed in October 2015.

With a population of 167 as of the 2010 Census, Callicoon prospered as a local service center and river landing for lumber transport via the Delaware, then as a railroad stop after the New York and Erie Railroad depot opened in 1848. Early settlers predominated from New England states, then German and Irish immigrants.

Due to a devastating 1888 fire, most of the hamlet's buildings date to the late 19th and early 20th century, although several early 19th century houses remain up the hill from Main Street, which is split into upper and lower sections by the railroad.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) remarked, "This designation offers a great opportunity to help restore and preserve prominent buildings like the Arden Theater [built in 1948, still active as the Callicoon Theater] and the Callicoon National Bank [built in 1913, now a library], known staples in the community that should be celebrated for generations to come."

Sullivan County Visitors Association President and CEO Roberta Byron-Lockwood also applauded the action.

"Callicoon is a vital Delaware River community member that welcomes our visitors to the Delaware River as well as our Scenic Byway," she said.

Register listings open up building preservation programs, including matching grants and historic rehabilitation tax credits.



UNKNOWN SOLDIER: On the PA side of the river in Lackawaxen, The Grave of the Unknown Soldier marks the remains of a militiaman killed in the 1779 Battle of Minisink but not discovered until 1847. Rev. Rolf Buchmann gave an invocation at the July 23 ceremony chaired by Pete Basani, right, of the Ecker-Haupt Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

Save the Monarch Butterflies; Flyway on the Byway

Monarch butterflies are in trouble. In the last 20 years, their population has dwindled from more than a billion to just 150 million, a nearly 82% decline that has been observed with alarm along the Delaware River which serves as a flyway for the annual migration of Northeastern Monarchs from their summer breeding grounds to their wintering roosts in central Mexico.

A beautifully illustrated new brochure aims to educate and inspire people to be proactive stewards in revitalizing this charismatic species by recognizing their habitat threats.

"The Monarch Butterfly: Fostering the Flyway on the Byway" was initiated by discussions of the Upper Delaware Scenic

Byway, Inc., the non-profit organization charged with enhancing and promoting the resources of New York State Route 97 which parallels the Upper Delaware River from Hancock to Port Jervis.

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway member, the Town of Highland, applied for an Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grant which offers competitive funding for projects that advance the goals of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

One of that Plan's objectives is to identify and protect rare, threatened, and endangered species within the nationally-designated Upper Delaware River corridor.

The UDC awarded \$4,500 to the Town of Highland on Oct. 1, 2015 and approved the brochure's successful completion on Aug. 23, 2016.

The town contracted with W Design of Barryville, NY, whose Creative Director Dorene Warner enlisted the research assistance of local historian and writer Debra Conway (also a UDC Town of Highland Alternate Representative).

Five thousand copies of the 16-panel, full-color brochure, which opens up to a 15x18" poster layout titled, "Bring Home the Butterflies... And the Bird & Bees, and Bats & Beetles and Other Pollinators", were printed by Spencer Printing of Honesdale through the UDC grant. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy contributed \$300 to print an additional 1,500 copies for their distribution.

The brochure addresses the significance of the Monarch declines, their life cycles and cross-continental migration patterns, conservation efforts that can be easily undertaken in one's back yard to grow milkweed and nectar plants that are critical to Monarchs' survival, best mowing practices to minimize negative impacts on Monarchs, tips to attract them, lists of available pollinator plants in this area, and how to participate in national campaigns that are underway to protect the species.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.



Brochure poster layout

will coordinate an educational campaign.

The free brochures are available for pick-up at the Upper Delaware Council office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg or by emailing info@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

To get a digital brochure and access to additional on-line resources, please visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org/monarch-butterfly.

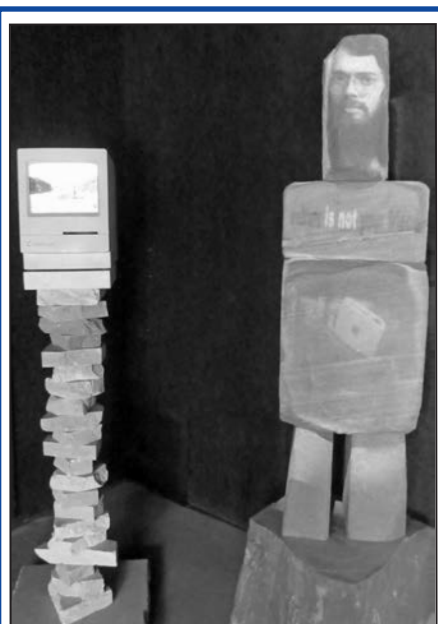
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meaningful changes, the FFMP was ultimately renewed on June 1 with no significant amendments as it has since 2011.

Delaware River Master Robert Mason, Jr. reported that the Decree Parties had "met 19 times in the last 18 months" to prepare for the Plan's expiration but attributed their inability to agree on any revisions to "differences of opinions and priorities since they represent different constituencies."

The State of New York's Decree Party Principal Mark Klotz arranged a June 21 meeting with Upper Delaware conservation interests after he could not attend the April 5 session at Lake Wallenpaupack.

In question are reactions to proposals to address habitat concerns in the Upper Delaware River though more equitable distribution and gradual ramp-downs of water releases, and thermal stress relief.



DENIZEN: Digital artist Pat Carullo teamed up with bluestone quarry operator Wayne Holbert to create new art called Denizen which debuted in a pop-up space at 3512 Rt. 97 in Barryville over Labor Day weekend. Moving holograms, electronic technology projected onto stone, film, photography, sound, and sculpture are featured. E-mail denizen@ptd.net to find out more. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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*Working together to conserve the Upper
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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

Plein Air on Delaware

The Barryville Area Arts Association will present "Plein Air on the Delaware" on October 29 from 1-3 p.m. at the Highland Town Hall in Eldred.

This exhibit will feature the completed works of established and beginner artists who gathered at the Highland Town Beach on Sept. 4 to paint the river scenery in front of them. It is part of the 2016 "Building Community Through Art" series.

For information, contact Joan Standora via barryvilleareaarts@gmail.com.

Trailkeeper Relaunch

A new and improved Trailkeeper.org has launched as a one-source outlet for hiking trails and public lands in Sullivan County, now in mobile responsive format and featuring an interactive map.

Learn About Canal

The D&H Transportation Heritage Council has produced a documentary DVD about the Gravity Railroad with Bollinger & Rutter Video and Production Services.

"The Delaware & Hudson Canal Co.: Its

History and Legacy; Chapter One: The Gravity Railroad", runs approximately 15 minutes and features historic photos, modern footage, narration, and music.

It is available for a \$10 donation through local historical societies associated with the D&H Canal System, emailing Bill Merchant at bill@merchantbass.com or visiting www.dhthc.org for information.

River is Book Subject

"Delaware River Reflections" (Schiffer Publishing), authored by journalism instructor Will Daniel, will publish in the fall.

The book offers a foreword by Delaware RiverKeeper Maya van Rossum, 267 photos, anecdotal text, and historical perspectives about the Delaware River which touches the lives of millions in four states.

Visit www.willdaniel.com for updates.

Bald Eagle Plan Out

"The Conservation Plan for Bald Eagles in New York State" has been released describing the status and restoration efforts of this threatened species in NY, providing guidelines for future management actions, and offering informative tips

for the public, landowners, resource managers, local governments, and other stakeholders to sustain a healthy population.

Find it at dec.ny.gov/animals/74052.html.

Welcomes Director

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy welcomed Diane Rosencrance as its new executive director effective Sept. 1st.

Formerly a Senior Director at Natural Lands Trust, Rosencrance has a 20-year background in land protection initiatives and has been an active partner with the Conservancy in many regional activities.

She succeeds Sue Currier, who retired after 13 years in the position.

Visit www.delawarehighlands.org.

Kittatinny Cleans Up

Less trash than ever was collected during Kittatinny Canoes' 27th Annual On and Under the Delaware River Clean-up... and that is great news for the river.

From July 18-20, 204 volunteers removed 3.33 tons of trash, including 86 tires, 55 lbs. of cans, and 525 lbs. of scrap metal. It included a canoe, a GoPro camera, and a headless Godzilla action figure.