

The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 35 Number 3

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. since 1988

Fall/Winter 2022



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2022 HONOREES: Recipients in attendance at the Upper Delaware Council's 34th Annual River Valley Awards Ceremony on Sept. 18 included, seated from the left: Sam Macri (Lifesaving); Corrine Hinton (Recreation Achievement); Liam Mayo (Special Recognition); and Dan Santoro (Recreation Achievement). Standing: John Pizzolato (Community Service); Jin Zhang & Dave Lieber, Cochecton Pump House; and Carmen & Juan Rigal, former Nutshell Arts Center (both couples for Cultural Achievement). (UDC Photos by Scott Rando)

UDC Celebrates Those Who Make the Upper Delaware River Valley Special

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) welcomed 91 guests to its 34th Annual River Valley Awards Ceremony on September 18 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA for a banquet with heart-felt tributes.

In his keynote address, U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-8th District) said, "It is good to be back to this annual event, to see each of you in person and to celebrate the good work you continue to do to conserve the outstanding resources of the nationally designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and to protect the interests of private property that predominate the river corridor. This is a group of people united by their deep concern for the Delaware River and their passion to protect it. It is my privilege to be a part of this special occasion."

He congratulated the 10 award recipients "for additions to the cultural and recreational offerings of the area, for bravery and honor, and for your volunteerism and leadership."

Please see **SPECIAL** on Pages 8 and 9



Congressman Matt Cartwright

Upper Delaware Profile: Pamela Reinhardt

Anybody who wonders what people who live in the rural Upper Delaware River Valley region find to do with their time could get a clue from Pamela Reinhardt.

She has noticed that local residents tend to pitch in when help is needed and organize their own fun when it's time to play.

"It's important to give the right amount of attention to everything you're involved with. I've found that we want to be busy and get out. Unlike living in larger places, we don't stay home because we're worried about traffic and parking," Reinhardt says.

She has known both lifestyles, born in Nyack, NY 72 years ago and spending much of her professional life working for some major corporations in New York City.

Reinhardt graduated in 1972 from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, NJ with a Bachelor of Science degree in Domestic Sciences.

Her mother had hoped she would parlay her home economic skills with sewing in particular into a fashion career. After all, she did make her own clothes!

While Reinhardt decided that fashion design wasn't her calling, it turns out that garment production was. Employment as an assistant buyer transitioned into production and inventory oversight at factories that made domestic sweaters. She witnessed the process from yarn dying, design, and knitting to the showroom.

She enjoyably worked for four different companies over a period of 15 years until the last one moved to Mexico.

Then until her 2015 retirement, she became a logistics planner for the production of instruction sheets for Procter & Gamble's L'Oreal and Clairol hair products.

Reinhardt was ahead of pandemic times in working remotely from home after her neighborhood in Hankins was among the first places in the area to get cable service that enabled an Internet connection.

That coincided with her full-time move in 2005 to the Town of Fremont.

She and her husband Val Reinhardt, who she met in 1976 when she was the Maid of Honor and he was the Best Man at a wedding, had lived in Sleepy Hollow, NY.

Val, who designed commercial kitchens for the food service industry, became interested in fly fishing and started coming up to the Upper Delaware River on weekends.



Pamela Reinhardt, Town of Fremont

After deciding to invest in a second home rather than rent lodging, they found their house in Hankins which had the lure of its location right along the Delaware River.

That feature became a drawback during the Flood of 2006, when 7-1/2 feet of water flooded their basement. Fortunately the room was 8-1/2 feet high and they were able to salvage their home.

Val passed away in 2014. They were married for 36 years. His enthusiasm for fly-fishing rubbed off on her and they very actively joined the Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) in 2003.

Reinhardt considers her proudest local accomplishment to be her coordination of the TU chapter's "Trout in the Classroom" national program in which hundreds of Sullivan West Central School fifth graders have participated over the past 16 years.

"We're very well-received in the community. The goal is to preserve and protect our coldwater fishery. We raise and release about 400 fish a year as well as teach about environmental conditions," she says.

The Upper Delaware Council recognized Reinhardt's commitment to the interdisciplinary program by presenting her with its 2019 Recreation Achievement Award.

In January 2021, the Fremont Town Board appointed Reinhardt as its UDC alternate representative to succeed Sullivan County Legislator George Conklin.

She has served on the Fremont Planning Board for 10 years, the Grover Hermann Hospital Auxiliary for six years, has been a Western Sullivan Public Library board trustee since 2007, is a member of the Holy Cross/St. Patrick's Church Parish Council, and belongs to Delaware Young @ Heart. Interests include yoga, mahjong, gardening, yard work, pickleball, golf at Tennenah Lake, and she spends some of the winter in Calabash, North Carolina.

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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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Grants Benefit Tusten Zoning

The Upper Delaware Council awarded an \$8,662.50 Fiscal Year 2023 Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to the Town of Tusten on October 6 to integrate all its recent zoning law updates into an online document.

This brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has awarded since 1988 through the TAG program to \$930,274.50 for 262 projects by its member municipalities or counties.

The Town of Tusten submitted its application by the Aug. 19 deadline and presented the project at the Sept. 13 special meeting of the Project Review Committee.

Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger said that the Tusten Town Board will hire General Code of Rochester, NY and Peter Manning from Genius Loci Planning of Bovina Center, NY to variously undertake final legal review of draft amendments, assembly of the documents, presentation to the Zoning Rewrite Committee and Town Board, consultation with the new Conservation Advisory Council, adoption of a local law after the required agency reviews, the codification and digital supplementation process, and uploading the content onto public service platforms.

The entire project is expected to cost \$17,245 and will result in a complete online document that will be indexed and easily accessible through posting on the town's website and eCode360 program.

The deadline for completion is August 18, 2023, with a Mid-Term Progress Report due by February 17.

The UDC's Operations Committee authorized payment of \$4,700 to the Town of Tusten on August 23 for successfully completing its Fiscal Year 2022 TAG.

For that project, the town had also retained consultant Peter Manning to finalize revisions to the Tusten Zoning Law that were underway since 2017 and reenact a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) as a follow-up to the Town of Tusten Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2021.

The result was the preparation of Tusten Local Law #1-2022 which was subject to public hearings and UDC/NPS review, and Local Law #2-2022 to establish the CAC with the overall purposes to create an Open Space Plan, ensure wise use of the town's natural resources, and enhance and protect the town's environment.

The total project cost was \$12,324.39, including a review of the entire Town of Tusten Zoning Code.

Visit the Technical Assistance Grants page on the UDC website for information.



UDC GIFT: The Upper Delaware Council presented the first framed print of a customized map depicting the boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor for each member town and township to the Cochection Town Board Nov. 9. UDC Representative Larry H. Richardson, center, provides the map to Town Supervisor Gary Maas, far left, as Council members John Nober, Ed Grund, and Michael Walter, and Town Clerk Maryann Oumrim look on. Staff at the counties' GIS departments and National Park Service Upper Delaware Community & Land Use Planner Cody Hendrix assisted UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt to produce the 13 maps. (Contributed Photo by Peggy Richardson)

River and Road Clean-ups Extend to Fall

The Towns of Deerpark and Lumberland completed their 2022 River & Shoreline Clean-up projects by the UDC's September 21 deadline. Since initiating this grant program in 2014, the UDC has awarded \$41,363.00 to participating member municipalities as an investment of the Council's operating funds to help keep the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and its banks pristine.

Deerpark focused efforts on the Hawk's Nest area of the New York State Route 97 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. The Town Highway Department conducted three multi-day sweeps after the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holidays to pick up debris along a 2.9-mile section. The cost for labor, transportation, supplies, and disposal was \$3,256.29.

Lumberland hired contractor Ann Steimle of Glen Spey to collect trash every other week along the town's river banks from Camp Tel-Yehuda to the Mongaup River Access for \$1,100.

The UDC also contributed \$500 to the 6th Annual "Get Trashed" Clean-up Battle on the West Branch Delaware River on August 13.

When Sullivan County extended its Litter Pluck for a fall focus on roadsides and trails with free disposal through Oct. 31, the UDC offered its Upper Delaware Litter Sweep t-shirts and supplies in support.



LACKAWAXEN LITTER: On October 15, the Lackawaxen River Conservancy organized its 15th year of clean-ups done in the fall and spring to sweep the river banks and D&H Canal bed. The volunteer effort is supported with PennDOT materials. A picnic lunch followed at the Lackawaxen Veterans' Field. (Contributed Photo by Andy Boyar)

Camp Fimfo Catskills Plan Raises Concerns

While Northgate Resorts presses forward with their \$44.9 million proposal to redevelop Kittatinny Canoes Campground in Barryville, NY as Camp Fimfo Catskills, it is not without controversy.

The Michigan-based company intends to relaunch the property they purchased on New Year's Eve 2020 from the Jones family along with Kittatinny's River Beach Campsites in Milford, PA, under its "Fun is More Fun Outside" brand, for which they have two locations open in Texas and another planned in Tahoe, CA in 2024.

The Barryville site spans 250 acres and would include a variety of riverfront and treetop cabins; tents and glamping pods; premium RV park models; and Airstream trailers that will accommodate 2,346 people. That occupancy is 17.34% lower than the current campground due to allowing fewer individuals per site. The typical length of stay is expected to be longer, at 3-4 nights spread over the week.

Amenities call for renovated bathhouses, a heated swimming pool, hot tubs, a water playground, mini-golf, a jumping pillow, sports courts, expanded camp store, and laundry facilities, along with dining at the refurbished Cedar Rapids Bar & Restaurant that Northgate also acquired. Kittatinny's boating and dual zipline adventures will continue, as well as sponsorship of their annual river cleanup.

The 3,000-employee company, which also operates the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Parks brand, aims to attract millennial parents and multigenerational travelers with "a boutique spin" on a camping resort, according to www.campfimfo.com.

Kittatinny/Camp Fimfo General Manager Rocco Baldassari told those gathered for a Sept. 15 public information meeting at Cedar Rapids hosted by the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development that the dual theme will be a tribute to the Upper Delaware River Valley's natural resources and a "reinvention" of the Catskills as a tourism destination.

Camp Fimfo Catskills would create 89 full-time jobs with over \$2.5 million in annual wages by the full 2024 buildout.

Northgate has continued to submit revised plans and reports to the Town of Highland Planning Board on a near-monthly basis since May 2022.

The revisions were in response to feedback and additional information requested by the town and agencies from whom the applicant must obtain approvals for designs including septic, water, and traffic.

In July, the planning board deemed the site plan to be complete enough to turn over to the Upper Delaware Council.

Resources and Land Use Specialist



HAVING THEIR SAY: The Highland Planning Board moved from the Town Hall to the Eldred High School gym for the first public hearing on the Camp Fimfo Catskills project on Sept. 28 to accommodate the audience of 100+ interested people. (UDC Photo by Kerry Engelhardt)

Kerry Engelhardt evaluated the Special Use Permit application against the Project Review Workbook's checklists and presented a Substantial Conformance Review report to the Project Review Committee on August 23.

At the Sept. 1 UDC meeting, the recommendation of substantial conformance with the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's Land and Water Use Guidelines was upheld in a split vote with majority approval to pass along the finding to the National Park Service (NPS).

Council members recognized this as likely the largest project to be proposed for the Upper Delaware River Corridor since its 1978 designation as a Wild and Scenic River. Some representatives aligned with issues raised by concerned citizens who formed the group KNOW FIMFO, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, media reports, and their independent study.

However, they decided that while those questions are valid, the project does indeed meet the River Management Plan requirements, many of their topics come under the purview of other agencies, and the local town will have the final say under home rule authority.

The Highland Planning Board held two highly-attended public hearings to date on Sept. 28 and Oct. 26, with a third scheduled after press time on Nov. 30 at which Northgate has been asked to respond to a lengthy list of questions from the board.

Apart from a few business-oriented organizations offering support, every speaker expressed opposition to aspects of the project, including fears over any impacts to the river or drinking water wells, the pool's location in a floodplain, increased traffic, a negative effect on the Barryville area's

character and emergency response services, and tax breaks that the company will seek from the Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency.

There will be 16 septic systems on the acreage with six existing wells, and 34,000 gallons per day of water use is projected.

In response to an outcry over possible environmental intrusions of a planned gravity-powered Alpine mountain coaster that would be built into a hillside, the developer has dropped that amenity and agreed to not conduct any on-site blasting.

As with the UDC, the NPS was under a 45-day clock to review the project; however, it had delayed the official start until receiving signed, stamped engineering plans; a soil investigation; proposed limits for clearing; and intentions about preservation of the D&H Canal bed.

The formal NPS review began on Sept. 26 and was due to conclude by Nov. 10.

On Nov. 9, Acting Superintendent Kara Deutsch sent the UDC a letter stating that based on the Highland Planning Board's request for "substantial additional information from the applicant which may change the plans from that submitted" - including hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for the floodplain and water quality purposes, lighting design, and approvals from State agencies - "the NPS cannot presently make a final determination on substantial conformance". Their review will proceed only after those concerns are resolved.

Once the public hearing phase closes, the planning board has 62 days to act.

See kittatinnyrediscovered.com (company website) for updated development plans. The concerned citizens group raising questions and funds for legal defense may be contacted via knowfimfo.com.

Round-up of Presentations to the UDC

August 4, 2022

Sullivan County Broadband Local Development Corporation (LDC) Chairman and Legislator Michael Brooks returned to the UDC to provide an update on the county's Wireless Broadband Network initiative.

At his prior appearance in July 2021, Brooks spoke about expanding access to high-speed Internet including along the Upper Delaware River in western Sullivan County, where coverage can be sporadic.

Working on this task since 2020, Brooks said that the COVID-19 pandemic had created supply chain disruptions that had been a setback to acquiring equipment.

The LDC has opted to partner with a private company rather than trying to develop and market its own internet service. They plan to broadcast wireless signals through county-owned cell towers.

Since an economic development grant awarded to the county requires that construction start by June 9, 2023, contractor bids are being sought this winter.

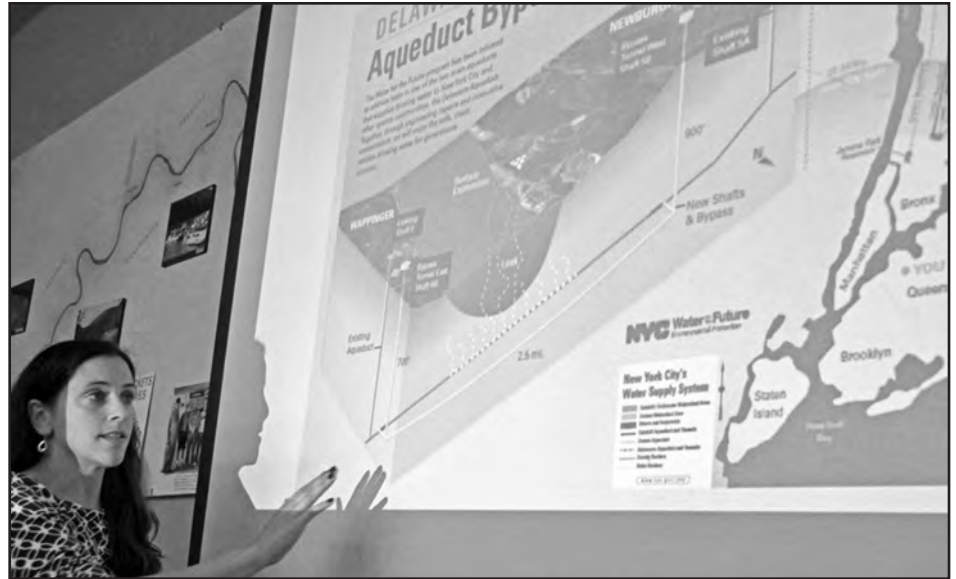
September 1, 2022

The intended start date of Oct. 1 to shut down the 85-mile New York City Delaware Aqueduct for 5-8 months to repair system leaks has been pushed back by a year.

NYC Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply Chief of Staff Jennifer Garigliano announced that the new shutdown schedule will be Oct. 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024.

This will be the largest repair project in the 180-year history of the City's municipal water supply, with \$1 billion invested in constructing a 2.5-mile bypass tunnel over the past nine years 600 feet below the Hudson River to enable crews to fix leaks that waste about 20 million gallons per day.

The problem was, a few preliminary infrastructure projects couldn't be completed and tested on time. A familiar reason is supply chain issues that delayed delivery



SHUTTING DOWN THE SHUTDOWN: New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply Chief of Staff Jennifer Garigliano explains the rationale behind delaying the Delaware Aqueduct repairs at the Sept. 1 UDC meeting. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

of bolts needed to complete a City Tunnel #2 connection to ensure the City gets an adequate supply of water from a Croton system diversion, for example.

Additionally, Garigliano said, the NYC DEP has heard the feedback from stakeholder groups seeking assurance that the project won't increase flood risk for communities below the reservoirs.

"In the process of resetting the timeline, we are working on a plan to address those concerns and the competing interests. There will be more informational updates to the public and I will be happy to come back to the UDC," she promised.

October 6, 2022

Dr. Peter Marchetto, a research engineer and instrumentation scientist for FieldKit and Conservify, gave an overview of environmental sensing tools that these non-profits make economically, deploy, and offer instructions to build to measure



Dr. Peter Kolesar at Nov. 3 UDC meeting

and record various parameters of the natural world.

November 3, 2022

"Thermal Stress on the Wild Trout of the Upper Delaware: A Report on the Performance of the FFMP's Thermal Mitigation Program" was delivered by Dr. Peter Kolesar.

The Columbia University professor and local resident's research helped design the 2007 Flexible Flow Management Program that guides reservoir releases and the thermal mitigation protocol that since 2019 has allowed the New York State DEC to authorize the release of cold water to protect the fishery when river temperatures exceed 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

That happened 23 times in the Summer of 2022 and worked for all but four days. Dr. Kolesar analyzed the lessons learned from the specific conditions at play and identified questions that prompt further study.

UDC posted meeting minutes provide further details.



BROADBAND: Sullivan County Legislator Michael Brooks, standing, gave an update on the county's broadband expansion initiative August 4.

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from late July to mid-November, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The UDC-NPS Telecommunications Subcommittee met on Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, and Nov. 3, while sharing information and research in the interim, to advance work on its approved goal: "Prepare a thorough review to determine the appropriate use of telecommunications towers in the river corridor in accordance with the River Management Plan and Land and Water Use Guidelines."

Specific objectives are to: "Evaluate the viability of better emergency communications within the river corridor; and Develop a position paper for the Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service to guide the review of wireless telecommunication proposed projects and ordinances within the designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River."

The Nov. 3 work session featured a virtual presentation by TowerCo representatives advising on the current wireless market, emergency communications networks, and demonstrating mapped deficiencies in cellular coverage along the river corridor.

BRIDGES & ACCESSES

The NYS Department of Transportation is finalizing design plans this Fall to rehabilitate the Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge, looking toward a Spring 2023 contract-letting and construction starting in Fall 2023 through 2025 with alternating one-way traffic. The work plan is available at www.dot.ny.gov/CallicoonBridge.



UDC RAFT TRIP: For the 34th consecutive year, the Upper Delaware Council hosted a public raft trip, this year attracting 51 guests on August 7 to paddle a scenic, five-mile stretch of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from Skinners Falls in the Town of Cochetton to Narrowsburg in the Town of Tusten. Lander's River Trips was the host livery to provide the rafts, paddles, life vests, morning shuttles, and safety briefings which occurred at the launch site underneath the still-closed Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Interim NYS UDC Representative Ryan Coulter reported that the Department of Environmental Conservation installed a new anchoring system for the Narrowsburg Access dock that will provide a kayak and canoe launch off one abutment in the Spring.

RIVER LITTER

A UDC Water Use/Resource Management Committee pilot project to install two river litter bag stations at the Ten Mile River and Darbytown Accesses to encourage river users to gather their own belongings and collect trash is at the stage of seeking property manager permissions, funding, sourcing non-plastic bags, discussing maintenance responsibilities, and designing the proposed wooden box dispensers.

FRACKING ACTION

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on Sept. 16 affirmed a decision that Pennsylvania Republican state legislators including Senator Lisa Baker (20th District) and municipalities including Wayne County and Damascus Township lacked standing to challenge the Delaware River Basin Commission's regulation banning high-volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas drilling within the Delaware River basin.

The federal court simultaneously rejected arguments that the Environmental Rights Amendment to the PA Constitution was injured by the DRBC's February 2021 fracking ban.

With one year passing since the DRBC issued a set of draft regulations in October 2021 that discourages but does not prohibit the importation and exportation of fracking-related water and wastewater, advocates hoping to close those "loopholes" organized a letter and petition drive seeking a full ban.

A UDC comment letter as requested on Nov. 3 by Damascus Citizens for Sustainability was being drafted for consideration at press time, along with arranging informational presentations.

SELECT LETTERS

The UDC sent two Sept. 1 letters, to National Park Service Director Chuck Sams describing optimum qualities for the next UPDE Superintendent "to embrace the non-traditional federal-

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7



SPRUCE-UP: Landscaping consultant Leons Freddie from the Sullivan Renaissance Narrowsburg Beautification Group tackled a late summer beautification project for the Upper Delaware Council property in Narrowsburg, including the removal of invasive plants sprouting up around the building, weeding, mulching, purchasing materials, and designing and planting a perennial garden plot. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

states-local joint management model”; and to U.S. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg to support the joint NY-PA application for funding to rehabilitate and preserve four Upper Delaware bridges at Hancock, Callicoon, Cocheton, and Matamoras.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Town of Highland - Review of Rent My Escape landscape plan for Sullivan Renaissance; and Camp Fimfo Catskills Special Use Permit substantial conformance review with 9/1 UDC approval by a vote of 6 aye, 4 nay, and 1 abstention

Town of Cocheton - Home occupation in a recreational segment

Town of Hancock - Minor Subdivision on NYS Route 97 W & Hesse Road

Town of Lumberland - Camp Simcha wastewater discharge renewal notice

Town of Tusten - NPS substantial conformance final determination for Zoning Law Updates was received on Aug. 31.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2022-07 (10/6): Approving Technical Assistance Grant for Fiscal Year 2023; and -08 (11/3): Awarding the Printing of “The Upper Delaware” Newsletter to Courier Printing Corp. for Fiscal Year 2023.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

In addition to committee liaison roles and relevant webinars, UDC staff attended:

7/24 - Delaware Valley Arts Alliance’s Narrowsburg Riverfest booth

7/29 - Environmental Resources Fair for New Residents at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center

7/20, 8/17, 9/21, 10/19, and 11/16 - Final webinars for the Penn State Extension Land Use Decision Making training series

8/13 - Get Trashed River Battle cosponsored by UDC on the West Branch

8/24 - UDC Awards Ceremony Rep. Cartwright keynote address preparations

9/19 - UDC and DRBC staff meeting to discuss collaboration opportunities

9/21 - NYS Environmental Bond Act Public Education Event by CDRW at Catskill Brewery in Livingston Manor

10/11 & 12 - “Water, Water Everywhere” virtual conference hosted by Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.

10/21 - Highland River Access Partners’ On-site Meeting

10/27 - Orange County, NY Climate Resilience Plan Update

11/8 - Presentation to Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Leadership Sullivan Class at UDC office

11/16 - “GIS is Everywhere” Day exhibit at Sullivan County Government Center

TIME CHANGE

Effective on Sept. 20, the start time for the UDC’s monthly Water Use/Resource Management Committee (WU/RM) meetings has changed from 7 to 6:30 p.m.



RALLYING TROOPS: Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) Director Kelly Knutson gives introductory remarks at the 10th annual conference held at the Logan Hotel in Philadelphia on Nov. 3 and 4. (UDC Photo by Kerry Engelhardt)

Watershed Forum: Decade on the Delaware

By Kerry Engelhardt

On November 3rd and 4th, the 10th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum was held at the Logan Philadelphia, organized and hosted by the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed.

The theme of the forum was “A Decade on the Delaware: A Reflection on Yesterday, a Vision for Tomorrow,” and there was also a noticeable focus on DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice).

Attendees and presenters represented non-profits, NGOs, and other organizations throughout the watershed, as well as several national organizations.

I attended the conference in my capacity as the UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist. On Thursday, in addition to the plenary session on “Historic Federal Investments in the Basin: How the DRBCA Has Driven Large-Scale Impact”, I attended sessions on “Public Advocacy: Who, What, Where, Why, and How?” (picking up some strategies on how to approach our state and federal representatives to convince them to fulfill promises to provide funding for the UDC); “Climate Conservation Corps” (learning about the origin of the Civilian Conservation Corps as part of the New Deal, and how modern CCCs are serving their communities); “50 Years of the Clean Water Act” (how the Clean Water Act works, and participating in an exercise to learn how to utilize the Clean Water Act Owner’s Manual to better understand the Act and how to use it to come up with solutions for water quality problems); and “Addressing DEIJ in the Watershed: Values, Tools and Actions” (where I learned about an Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, EJScreen). The reception and dinner was held in the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University; we

toasted champagne to Nathan Boon of the William Penn Foundation in front of dioramas of mountain goats, and ate our dinner under the looming skeleton of a T-rex in the Dinosaur Hall!

On Friday, I attended a session on “Green Infrastructure for Just and Sustainable Economies”. In the afternoon, I joined a field trip to see examples of Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the field.

Hosted by representatives of Wissahickon Trails, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc. and Cerulean, LLC, we visited several locations in the Wissahickon watershed.

The projects demonstrated how stormwater flooding and ponding issues could be addressed by nonstructural means. At Roychester Park, a series of bioretention-trench, riparian plantings, a rain garden, and infiltration berms return surface water to the ground, reduce ponding, and help with water quality. At a nearby residential development, a single rain garden in one back yard solved flooding problems for an entire block of homes. And at Reform Congregation Kenneth Israel in Elkins Park, construction is underway to retrofit their 4.5 acre campus to provide stormwater management. This will eliminate flooding onsite, as well as reduce the congregation’s stormwater fee. All of these projects are within the watershed that provides drinking water to the City of Philadelphia.

It was my first time attending the Forum, and will not be my last. I learned a great deal about the work that organizations are doing in the watershed, heard about tools to inform my own work going forward, and made connections with people throughout the Delaware River Basin who are committed to the quality of water and the quality of life of the people who live in the watershed.



SPECIAL, continued from Page 1 and to 9

The 2022 slate included: *Distinguished Service Award*: **William J. Rudge**, for his 35-year dedicated career with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Region 3 Natural Resources Supervisor as of his 2/25/22 retirement) and his 21-year tenure as the state's UDC voting member representative.

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award: **Sam Macri**, 11, for rescuing his younger brother whose foot was entrapped by a rock in rushing water while swimming at Skinners Falls on Aug. 29, 2021.

Community Service Award: **John Pizzolato** of Barryville, NY for his volunteer leadership roles benefitting the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce, Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, Barryville Farmers' Market, Town of Highland River Access projects,



HIGHEST HONOR: Bill Rudge (pictured at left), who served as the State of New York's UDC Representative from April 2001 to February 2022, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Unable to attend due to illness, his plaque presented by UDC Chairperson Andy Boyar was accepted by NYS DEC's Division of Lands and Forests Acting Director Jeff Rider; Bill's Administrative Assistant Donna Holmes; and NYS DEC Region 3 Director Kelly Turturro. (Left photo courtesy of Stephanie Mossey, NYS DEC; UDC photos above and below by Scott Rando)

Find the 34th Annual River Valley Awards program with full descriptions and photos for every category under Publications on the UDC website!

PROUD FAMILY: Four generations of the Macri family traveled to Beach Lake, PA from Ramsey, NJ to pay tribute to 11-year-old Sam's rescue of his brother Dan from a potential drowning at Skinners Falls on August 29, 2021 based on a nomination submitted by



U.S. Park Ranger Ryan Schumacher, back row far right, pictured with the two boys, their parents John and Melissa, grandparents Bill and Eileen, and great-grandmother Helen.



GAVEL PASS: UDC 2021 Chairperson Jeff Dexter (Damascus Township) received his Oaken Gavel Award for leadership from the current chair at the Nov. 3 meeting since Dexter was vacationing in Iceland during the banquet. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

and the 1st Annual Festival of the Founding Fish.

Cultural Achievement Award: **Cochecton Pump House owners David Lieber and Jin Zhang** for their historic preservation and rehabilitation of the circa 1881 Standard Oil Company pump station property in Cochecton, NY with an innovative repurposing vision.

Cultural Achievement Award: **Juan and Carmen Rigal** of Rock Tavern and Lake Huntington, NY for providing art exhibits and entertainment at the former Nutshell Arts Center they owned for 34 years.

Recreation Achievement Award: **Corrine Hinton** of Easton, PA for designing an effective new series of bilingual water safety posters for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River while she was a seasonal park ranger intern last summer.

Recreation Achievement Award: **Dan Santoro** of Housefly Fishing and American House Tattoo Shop in Hawley, PA for his conservation efforts of organizing river and highway litter clean-ups in northeast PA.

Volunteer Award: **Cameron Forehand** of Avondale, PA and currently a graduate biology student at the University of Oklahoma for creating 27 new pages for the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River website on natural resource subjects for education and stewardship through a Virtual Student Federal Service internship.

Special Recognition Award: **Liam Mayo** of the River Reporter for his accurate and insightful local journalism output at the newspaper and on



TREATY RENEWAL: Shelley DePaul, Chief of Education and Language for the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, and Tribal Council Storykeeper Adam Waterbear DePaul, coordinator of the Rising Nation Journey, read from the “Treaty of Renewed Friendship” at the Zane Grey Museum grounds in Lackawaxen following their August 2nd paddle. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



IN APPRECIATION: Rep. Cartwright received a framed David B. Soete photograph of a Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge scene from UDC Chairperson Boyar to display at his Congressional office.

the air through WJFF Radio Catskill’s The Reporters Roundtable.

Oaken Gavel Award: Jeffrey R. Dexter, UDC representative for Damascus Township, PA, for his leadership as the 2021 UDC chairperson.

Representative Cartwright, whose 8th Congressional District includes all of Wayne, Pike and Lackawanna Counties, and portions of Luzerne and Monroe Counties, first served as the UDC’s keynote speaker in 2019.

He spoke of “a new era of environmental awareness” that is emerging, citing passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act which “are unprecedented investments in a long-term, economy-wide transition to clean energy, a sustainable way of living, and will position us as a leader in global climate action.” More money for municipal grants, improving broadband access, and fixing roads and bridges are expected outcomes.

Cartwright said he was pleased to help introduce bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act and that his Interior, Environment Appropriations Subcommittee proposed an 18% increase in funding to \$44.8 billion in Fiscal Year 2023.

“That amount includes \$3.6 billion for the National Park Service, an increase of \$378 million above the FY 2022 enacted level, and that has \$3.1 billion for operations of the National Park System, an increase of \$323 million,” he said.

“I know the Upper Delaware Council’s funding has been stagnant for many years, maybe all the years. I am hopeful more funds to the National Park Service will help. But this still needs to become law. I remain deeply committed to supporting your advocacy and conservation. I will continue to work for more federal dollars for our National Park Service and important conservation initiatives. It will be my honor to continue to help you follow your mission to protect the Delaware River and the life it sustains,” Rep. Cartwright added.

Rising Nation Journey Marks 20 Years

Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania Council member Jim Beer had a vision 20 years ago to start a “Rising Nation Journey” that would paddle the length of the Delaware River (Lenape Sipu) to bring attention to the Lenape as the original inhabitants of these ancestral lands (Lenapehoking).

“We’re all together, no matter where we are, as part of this extended family,” Beer said as the trek from Hancock, NY to Cape May, NJ taken every four years since 2002 returned July 30 to August 20.

Locally, river launches, takeouts, tours, meals, camping, and treaty-signings took

place in Hancock, Equinunk, Long Eddy, Damascus, Callicoon, Narrowsburg, Lackawaxen, Barryville, and Matamoras.

Neither the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nor the federal government recognizes the Lenape Nation as an official Native American tribe that would be eligible for financial aid and services due to criteria that don’t account for assimilation.

Therefore, grassroots support is particularly valued. A Treaty of Renewed Friendship is carried along that anyone who wishes to can sign to “commit actively to support our Lenape sisters and brothers in whatever way we are able to, for a term of four years, helping to maintain the cultural identity of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Southern New York.”

As the symbolic treaty was read aloud at an August 2 ceremony on the Zane Grey Museum lawn, Upper Delaware Council Chairperson Andy Boyar said that he would like to explore how the UDC can partner with the Lenape Nation.

“The story you have to tell is so important. We want to see that these lands are carefully cared for as well,” he said.

The Council posted a widely-shared and liked social media post commemorating October 10 as Indigenous Peoples’ Day and sharing the Lenape story.

Visit www.Lenape-Nation.org for details of the mission to revitalize the culture and traditions of a scattered People, preserve the Algonquian language, and focus on stewardship of their homelands.

The Treaty is displayed at the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania Cultural Center and Trading Post in Easton.



BLESSINGS: Lenape Council member John Martin, left, performs a smudging ritual with paddler Coyote-Hill Acevedo from Jim Thorpe, PA before the Rising Nation Journey launched from Narrowsburg on August 2.

Federal Funding Trickles Down for Watershed Projects

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the 2022 recipients of 36 Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF) grants totaling \$14.2 million.

Regional projects included:

- Callicoon Riverside Park Restoration (Sullivan County): \$317,300 to purchase and remediate 38 acres of land at a former campground in the Town of Delaware, NY including debris build-up, invasive species removal, installation of welcome signs, and development of rustic trails.

The Trust for Public Land acquired the property in 2018 and subdivided it into three parcels for a county park, Town of Delaware wastewater treatment plant, and a new NYS DEC public boat launch.

- Community Infrastructure Improvement Project in the Upper Delaware River, East Branch, NY (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service): \$635,500 to implement nature-based solutions to support prioritized aquatic organism passage projects to replace three culverts, reconnect over four miles of stream for brook trout, and complete a dam removal feasibility study.

- Building Capacity in the Willowemoc with the Climate Corps (Friends of the Upper Delaware River): \$463,700 to form an Upper Delaware River Climate Corps as a conservation workforce to accelerate restoration and improvement projects.

- Water Resource Management Studies (Delaware River Basin Commission):



PENDING PARK: The abandoned Upper Delaware Campgrounds riverfront site in Callicoon (Town of Delaware) will be transformed by Sullivan County and its partners into a recreational park that will be developed with public input, including its name. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

\$866,900 to advance research to increase and enhance water security for fish, wildlife, and humans in the Delaware River Basin (NY, PA, NJ, DE).

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act that would extend the grant program through

2030 and change the current 1:1 match requirement to a 90% federal investment with a 10% match for small, rural or disadvantaged communities. Currently part of the National Defense Authorization Act, the bill requires approval by the Senate.



NYS ACCESS CLOSED: The Highland River Access located along NYS Route 97 between Barryville and the Roebling Bridge closed to public use October 3 until Spring for construction work by Wheat and Sons, a contractor hired by Sullivan County to replace the existing gravel parking with pervious pavement, install bioswales, restore native plants, regrade the access with a more gently sloping and stabilized path down to the boat ramp, and install signage. Sullivan County received a \$250,000 grant from the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, \$100,000 from the State of New York, and pledges for \$305,345 worth of in-kind services by the Town of Highland, NYS Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Conservation, and National Park Service. Above, Sullivan County Senior Planner Heather Jacksy and Barryville activist John Pizzolato walk by a D&H Canal era stone wall that was exposed during the site work and will be left intact. (UDC Photo by Kerry Engelhardt)

NYS Environmental Bond Act Approved

New York State voters approved the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act on Nov. 8 for capital projects to make environmental improvements that preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impact of climate change.

The UDC heard a Sept. 1 presentation from the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's State Policy Advocate High Garst and Friends of the Upper Delaware River Executive Director Jeff Skelding on the referendum's objectives and location on the flip side of the ballot.

At least 35% of the total funding must go to underserved communities to address economic inequities and environmental justice. Federal funds can be used as matches for other grants.

"It was appropriate to delay its consideration during the early pandemic days. It now becomes a historic investment in our future. We'll be watching to see how the funding can be leveraged to meet local needs," said the bi-state UDC's Executive Director Laurie Ramie.

In Memoriam: Joe Salvatore

National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Joseph A. Salvatore passed away unexpectedly on July 27, 2022 at the age of 53.

He had served in that position since December 20, 2020.

Joe joined the NPS ranks in 2013 following a career in the Navy, in which he enlisted when he was 18 years old. He spent six years on active duty from 1986-1992 and made six strategic deterrent patrols out of Holy Loch Scotland on the nuclear submarine, USS George Washington Carver, SSBN 656, Gold Crew, including patrolling during Operation Desert Storm.

After leaving the Navy, Joe spent nine years as a defense contractor in Norfolk, returned to government service in 2001 with the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint Warfighting Center, followed by three years as Director of Strategy and Future Requirements at Commander, Navy Region Japan.

His first NPS role at the age of 44 was as Chief of Facilities at the National Mall and Memorial Parks. He oversaw their maintenance program, including managing a \$20 million budget and 100+ employees.

Starting in 2016, Joe served as Deputy Chief for the Washington Parks Facility Management Division, coordinating service-wide facility maintenance programs.

Joe's goal was to be a superintendent. He accomplished that at the Upper Delaware following a six-month stint as Deputy Superintendent at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Joe was born on October 18, 1968 and grew up in West Virginia along the Gauley River.

At the age of 19, he married Chris Salvatore and they rooted in Hampton Roads, VA, raising two children, Alicia and Joey, alongside his mother, Mary Bird.

He attended evening college classes on the GI Bill, earning a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from St. Leo University in Florida.



Joe is survived by his father, John Charles Salvatore; brother John Jr.; spouse Chris; son Joey and his partner Sean Rose; and daughter Alicia and her husband Pete Van Wert, and Joe's grandchildren, Lena and Jack.

During his time at the Upper Delaware when he was residing in Honesdale, PA, Superintendent Salvatore played a vital role in navigating the park unit through the COVID-19 pandemic. He was also a strong advocate for river safety and emphasized the need for continual river safety messaging.

As the UDC observed a Moment of Silence on August 4, Chairperson Andy Boyar recalled Joe fondly as an upbeat, friendly person.

"When he was presented with a concern, he most often reacted positively and sought how he could help, a rare attribute in government bureaucracy," Boyar said.

A Celebration of Life for Joe took place August 13 in Timonium, MD. Condolences for the family may be sent to 209 Trappe Road, Dundalk, MD 21222.

On September 25, Delaware Water Gap Resource Management and Science Division Supervisor Kara Deutsch began a 120-day detail as acting superintendent through either January 21 or to end with the effective date of a permanent hiring.

NPS Upper Delaware Visitation Increases; 3 Summer Drownings

The National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey annually collaborate to produce a Visitor Spending Effects Report.

In 2021, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River recorded 269,810 recreation visits which generated total visitor spending of \$13,286,000.

This was responsible for supporting 128 jobs in the tourism sector that produced labor income of \$6,869,000. Counting in \$11,135,000 of value-added income, the total economic output contributed to the Upper Delaware's gateway economies last year was \$16,802,000.

For a 2020 comparison, 250,198 visitors spent \$11.3 million in recreational dollars, supporting 119 jobs. The overall economic output was \$13.6 million.

Unfortunately, the summer of 2022 saw three drownings occur within the 73.4-mile designated Upper Delaware boundary.

Those incidents occurred on August 27 (Brian Ordenia-Flores, 22, of Ozone Park in Queens, NY, swimming a 1/4 mile north of the Pond Eddy Bridge); Sept. 3 (Ricardo Ismalej Xujar, 47, of Flanders, NY, swimming a mile and a half below the Roebling Bridge in Barryville); and Sept. 8 (William Van Dyke, 47, of York, PA and formerly Port Jervis, after his boat capsized while fishing with a friend near Cherry Island at Mill Rift, PA; body recovered Sept. 19.)

The National Park Service reminds everyone out on the river this fall or winter in a boat, canoe, or kayak that each person, regardless of age, is required to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. This cold weather regulation is in effect through April 30, 2023.

"Since 1980, there have been 77 drownings on the Upper Delaware River; however, no one has ever drowned wearing a properly fitted life jacket. No matter the season, safety on the water is everyone's responsibility," said Acting Superintendent Kara Deutsch.

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter online 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 email info@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 6:30 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 details.

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

Upper Delaware T-shirts

T-shirts featuring a map of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in New York & Pennsylvania and the Upper Delaware Council's Land-Water-People partnership logo offer an attractive, affordable holiday gift for river enthusiasts.

The 50/50 heavyweight cotton blend shirts are royal blue with white screenprinting. They are available in all adult sizes for a \$15 donation to support the non-profit UDC's conservation mission. Images are posted at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Place an order by contacting Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at 845-252-3022 or ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Eagle Programs Offered

Delaware Highlands Conservancy Education and Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Morrow will present "Biology of the Eagle" on December 14 at 5 p.m. at the Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, PA.

This public event is free but prior registration is required at 570-226-3164, ext. 2 or rachel@delawarehighlands.org.

DHC will host Eagle Watch Bus Tours on Jan. 7, 21, and 28, and Feb. 4, 18, and 25

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., departing from Lackawaxen, PA for a guided experience. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Kids under 12 are free.

Visit delawarehighlands.org/events or call 570-226-3164, ext. 8, to register.

Anyone can visit Eagle Observation Areas at Ten Mile River, Lackawaxen Boat Launch, and the Mongaup Eagle Blind staffed by DHC volunteers on weekends throughout January and February. Consult the DHC website for details.

Gorge Trail Funded

The PA Department of Community & Economic Development's Greenways Trails and Recreation Program has given a \$144,911 grant to complete the Gorge Trail linking Lake Wallenpaupack with the D&H Canal Park a mile west of Hawley.

The estimated cost to complete the eight-mile trail is \$182,500. A Request for Proposals is underway to enable construction to begin in the Spring of 2023. Work will include installing drainage, mulching, benches and interpretive signage.

Brookfield Renewable has provided right-of-way permission for this section.

Initiated in 2012, the project is being coordinated by the Trails Committee of the Downtown Hawley Partnership (DHP), in affiliation with the Wayne Pike Trails & Waterway Alliance.

Sojourn Plans for 2023

"Running Free" will be the theme for the 2023 Delaware River Sojourn on June 16-23. The first three days of paddling, programs, meals, and camping will be along the Upper Delaware River.

Visit delawareriversojourn.com to check the developing itinerary.

New Lordville Gage

The NOAA National Weather Service in Binghamton began forecasting for the Delaware River at Lordville, NY Sept. 12 based on a request by the Upper Delaware Council to develop that location.

Flood stages and descriptions of impact levels are now available for that stretch of the river through online hydrographs.

The UDC advocated for this vital public safety information to benefit residents and visitors upstream of the USGS gages at Callicoon and Barryville.