

# The Upper Delaware

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

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***The Upper Delaware*  
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**WEAR IT!:** No one who was wearing a properly-fitted life jacket has ever drowned on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River since the National Park Service began recording river incident statistics in 1980. (UDC Photo by Shannon Cilentio)

## ***Drownings Are Preventable: Delaware Takes a Toll***

After four fatality-free years, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River experienced five drownings within 17 days - a sobering start to the summer.

Those five incidents through July 26 bring the total number of drownings since the National Park Service began recording statistics in 1980 for the 73.4-mile designated stretch of the NY/PA boundary river between Hancock and Sparrowbush to 74.

In each case, the individual was either not wearing a life jacket, or it wasn't properly fitted and came off from being loose.

The 2021 drownings occurred on June 18, two separate calls on June 26, June 29, and July 4. The five male victims were reportedly ages 62, 24, 31, 28, and 17. With one unidentified person, four others were from North Arlington, NJ; Brooklyn, NY; Newark, DE; and Peekskill, NY.

The circumstances involved falling out of a kayak, jumping off a raft to test how deep the river was without resurfacing, encountering a sudden drop-off while wading with another adult and two children and failing

to be resuscitated with CPR, becoming fatigued by the current while swimming, and trying to swim across the river.

The loss of life takes a heavy toll on loved ones, emergency responders, and those working to safeguard river users while providing recreational services and promotion.

"The Delaware River is unpredictable," says National Park Service Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec. "One of the most important pieces of safety equipment is the life jacket which will keep you afloat if you find yourself in the river intentionally or unintentionally."

All vessels (including inner tubes) on the Upper Delaware River are required to have a wearable, Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person on board that is readily accessible and not tied to the boat.

Children ages 12 and under must wear life jackets when boating by law.

Since 2010, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent's Compendium has further regulated that

***Please see DROWNINGS on Page 8***

# Upper Delaware Profile: Evan Padua

With a lust for roaming and recreation, Narrowsburg native Evan Padua has traveled far and experienced much adventure already in his 29 years.

"I moved away at 18. I had wide eyes. I kind of wanted to experience the world and see where it took me," he says.

In 2015, Padua circled back to the Upper Delaware River Valley.

"As you mature, you realize where you grew up is a great spot," he reflects. "Sometimes you have to go away to look back. I decided to return to my home river, the river I know best."

Padua attended the Homestead School, Damascus Elementary School, and graduated from Honesdale High School in 2009.

With aspirations to become a ski guide, he was thrilled to work and live in a Teton Village ski hostel in Jackson Hole, WY.

His first river guide experience occurred in the summer of 2010, leading trips on the Mendenhall River in Juneau, AK before he moved back to Wyoming to guide whitewater rafting trips on the Class III and IV rapids of the Snake River from 2011-2014.

As the son of Michael Padua who founded Sweetwater Guide Service in 1993, Evan grew up fishing on the Delaware.

"My dad taught me everything I need to know. He turned 70 this year and still loves to fish," he says. Mom Jill Padua is a Tusten town councilwoman and caterer.

For their father-son commercial fishing guide business, Padua guides around 110 trips per year on the Delaware River main stem as well as the East and West Branches between April and October.

"It's a great job. I get to spend time with a lot of great people and show them the colors of this river valley, under and over the water. Every day is different," he says.

Padua said 75% of his clients have angling experience, but want to bolster their technique and tap his knowledge of river flows, hydrology, entomology of bugs, terrains, the movement of fish throughout the year, and hot spots for various species.

"Fishing guides are more problem solvers than anything. You can use the same tackle and bait to catch fish anywhere, but it's about the approach to the water. There is a lot of science involved. Observations can work as well as technology. It's become second nature now because I'm keyed in to the river," he says.

Padua also shares tidbits on the history, amenities, and issues of the river valley.

On May 1, 2018, the Tusten Town Board appointed Padua to serve as its Upper Delaware Council alternate representative.

He immediately joined the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

"It's a way to keep informed, and I can



Evan Padua, Town of Tusten

weigh in on practical issues. The UDC is a pivotal piece to keeping this river a clean and respected environment. We'd have power lines, pipelines, and Golden Arches in every town otherwise. People are always impressed by the clarity of this beautiful, undisturbed river," he says.

Between his work and personal outings, Padua estimates that he spends nearly 150 days a year on the Delaware.

In his free time, Padua enjoys fishing other water bodies across the country to experience different ecosystems.

"Basically if there's a river there, I'm going to go and dip a line at some point," he says. He also enjoyed two, 23-day Grand Canyon excursions with friends.

The Rocky Mountains remain a favorite winter destination. He has coached a freeride ski team for kids ages 10-16 for five years. Padua met his wife during a fishing trip on the Snake River. He and Cherene married on Sept. 19, 2020 in her home state of Colorado. Cherene is proprietor of Sew Sister Seamstress as well as being a painter, adaptive sports instructor, angler, rafting guide, and interior designer.

The couple resides in Tyler Hill, PA.

"We love going to new places for outdoor activities like bike riding and hiking. It doesn't matter what we're doing; it's more the sense of exploring the unknown," he says.

Padua broadcasts a "Hooked on Fishing Report" for WJFF Radio Catskill's Farm & Country program in season and has given angling seminars for the Western Sullivan Public Library System.

He is a member of Trout Unlimited and the TU Shehawken Chapter, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, various conservation organizations, and activist groups focused on land and river litter clean-ups.

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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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# Congressional Caucus Focuses on the Delaware

U.S. Representative Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19) announced the formation of the Congressional Delaware River Watershed Caucus on April 12 at a riverside press conference in Callicoon.

Co-chaired by Congressman Delgado and U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1), this bipartisan caucus will give voice to prioritizing funding and conservation needs throughout the watershed.

"In my estimation, this is the most beautiful Congressional district in the country but the Upper Delaware River is more than beautiful scenery; it's an economic driver for our communities," said Rep. Delgado.

"In New York's 19th Congressional District, the river generates more than \$400 million in economic value every single year. This caucus will bring together members from both sides of the aisle to advocate for our communities and secure federal funding to protect these precious waters," he added.

A large crowd gathered at the former campground site in Callicoon that is being developed in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, New York State DEC, Sullivan County, and the Town of Delaware to serve multiple purposes.

Rep. Delgado said it's critically important to protect and restore the Delaware River



**PRESS CONFERENCE:** Participating in the April 12 announcement of the Delaware Watershed Congressional Caucus at the future Callicoon Riverside Park site were, from the left, Friends of the Upper Delaware River Executive Director Jeff Skelding, Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association CEO Roberta Byron Lockwood, Rep. Delgado, and Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Robert Doherty. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie, above & bottom, and Shannon Cilentio, below)

to support small businesses, combat climate change, keep the water pristine, and ensure lasting family memories.

NYS Senator Martucci said that the state "needs to be equally committed" to this

## Senator to Speak at UDC Sept. 12 Awards

Senator Mike Martucci (R-NY 42) will deliver the keynote address at the Upper Delaware Council's 33rd Annual River Valley Awards on September 12, 2021.

The public banquet will take place at Central House Family Resort, 81 Milanville Road, Beach Lake, PA with a reception at 3 and dinner at 4. Senator Martucci will



**New York State Senator Mike Martucci**

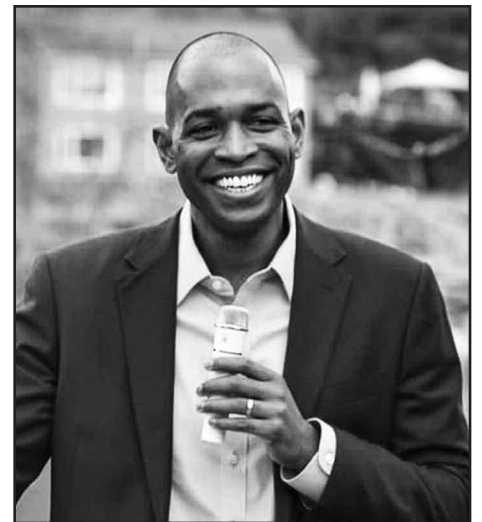
pledge of federal assistance. speak at approximately 5 p.m., preceding the presentation of awards to those who have contributed to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River region's quality of life and protection of resources.

Michael R. Martucci was elected in 2020 to his first term representing the New York State 42nd Senate District, which comprises all of Sullivan County and parts of Delaware, Orange, and Ulster Counties.

He grew up in Westtown, NY, graduated from SUNY Orange and Marist College, and started the business Quality Bus Service at age 22 which he grew to employ over 500 people and operated until 2018.

Tickets for the Sunday awards ceremony are \$30 per person. After the social hour with appetizers and a cash bar, the buffet menu will include tossed garden salad, dinner rolls, pasta salad, cole slaw, slow-roasted prime rib, chicken marsala, shrimp scampi with penne pasta, garlic mashed red potatoes, glazed baby carrots, green beans with almonds, coffee, tea, and a dessert choice of cheesecake with strawberry puree or brownie a la mode.

To reserve, visit [www.upperdelaware-council.org](http://www.upperdelaware-council.org) or call (845) 252-3022. Award recipients will be announced in advance.



**U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado**

pledge of federal assistance.

Sullivan County Legislature Chairman Rob Doherty praised the work of the Upper Delaware Council and river advocates.

"The Delaware River is part of an important story that makes our Sullivan Catskills one of the hottest top 12 destinations to visit in 2021," said Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association CEO Roberta Byron Lockwood in citing the 'Points Guy' survey.

The Delaware River Basin annually generates \$25 billion in economic activity and contributes \$21 billion of ecosystem goods and services, according to the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed.

The Delaware watershed touches 23 Congressional districts across four states.



# Broadband Expansion in the Works

Sullivan County has a plan to bring wireless broadband access to over 95% of the county by using its existing emergency towers to expand service to the public.

As developed by Information Technology Services Commissioner Lorne Green, the “transformational” initiative will also benefit underserved communities along the Upper Delaware River, with signals crossing the river into Pennsylvania as well.

The county has established the Sullivan County Broadband Local Development Corporation, chaired by Legislator Michael Brooks, to market the service and manage subscriptions as an alternative to waiting for private providers that may never come.

Green and Brooks described the estimated \$3 million, 3 to 5-year project at the **July 1** Upper Delaware Council meeting.

“This is a county/community-based solution to an issue that is a real problem,” Brooks said, citing the negative impacts to commerce, education, and health care without high-speed Internet technology.

Green said Sullivan County will mount receiver equipment on 10 current towers, with intermittent smaller antennae installed to fill in coverage gaps, then sell service to residents and businesses at competitive rates to subsidize the system.

Sullivan County’s population is 77,547.

The county has set up a Broadband inquiries hotline at (845) 807-0930 or visit the Broadband page at [www.sullivanny.us](http://www.sullivanny.us).

## UDC Presentations

Other recent educational topics were:

**April 1** - Jessica Yoder, assistant director of the Pike County Department of Planning, shared an update on the “Lackawaxen River Trail Corridor” project.

The 15-mile trail proposed from Hawley to Lackawaxen in Pike County will continue



**DIGITAL DIVIDE:** Sullivan County Division of Information Technology Services Commissioner Lorne D. Green, left, and Sullivan County Legislature Vice-Chairperson Michael Brooks, right, presented at the July 1 Upper Delaware Council meeting. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

ue a similar 13-mile route in Wayne County from Honesdale to Hawley.

Its usage and specific path along the Lackawaxen River using the Stourbridge Line railroad tracks or Towpath Road are being determined through a feasibility study that included a public survey.

**May 6** - Haley Springston, the watershed planning coordinator for the Roundout Neversink Stream Program which operates under the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District, offered her “Best Management Practices for Riparian Buffers.”

The primary benefits of planting vegetation along waterways is that the buffers protect public infrastructure and private

property during flooding, create a healthier ecosystem for native aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and improve water quality and soil health.

**June 3** - National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Information Technologies Specialist Brendan Dohn provided “An Introduction to Water and Weather Alerts.”

He reviewed how to access streamflow conditions and related data from the USGS WaterAlert and WaterNow programs online and through text or email alerts, and hydrograph projections through Weather.gov.

Copies of available PowerPoint presentations are posted with the corresponding meeting minutes on the UDC website.

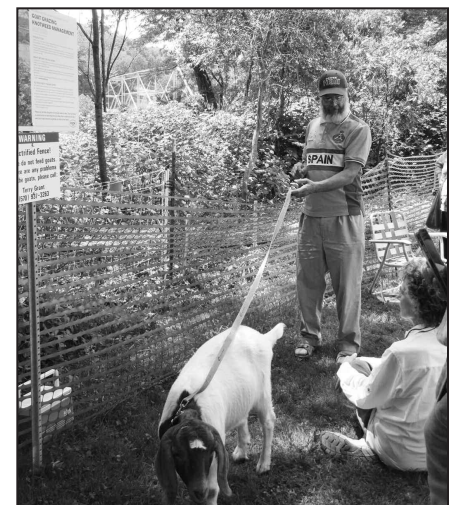
## Testing Knotweed Mitigation Methods

Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) and partners are evaluating methods to control the Japanese Knotweed invasive

plant species this summer at three demonstration plots established at the Skinners Falls River Access, the Hancock Firemen’s Field, and Will Smith Memorial Park in Deposit.

At left, National Park Service Biologist Jessica Newbern explains foliar spraying herbicide and stem injection techniques; while at right, Waymart farmer Terry Grant (with Dorothy) talks about goat foraging. Those methods, as well as mechanical cutting and geotextile membrane covering, are being explored.

Visit [www.fudr.org/knotweed](http://www.fudr.org/knotweed) to learn more about this Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund educational and research project.



**RID THE WEED:** A public demonstration took place on June 5 at the Skinners Falls River Access. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



# Earth to Sky Studies Climate Change

Twenty residents of Pike and Wayne Counties in PA and Delaware and Sullivan Counties in NY recently completed a 10-session online course in communicating about climate change, organized by a partnership called "Earth to Sky" (ETS).

The course presented state-of-the-art science on climate change combined with practical information and effective strategies for communicating with diverse audiences in the Upper Delaware River Watershed (UDRW) region.

The four county teams each developed action plans for addressing the impacts of climate change in their areas.

Upper Delaware Council Resources and Land Use Specialist Shannon Cilento participated and remains actively involved.

The course provided a global perspective on climate change with presentations by climate scientists including Dr. Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies; Dr. Eric Brown de Colstoun, research physical scientist in the Biospheric Sciences Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; and Dr. Peter Griffith, founding director of NASA's

*"We have extraordinary natural resources that, if cared for, hold promise for greater resilience for our region in the face of climate change." ~ Don Hamilton, NPS*



Carbon Cycle & Ecosystems Office.

Other distinguished presenters included Abigail Weinberg from the Open Space Institute, Dr. Stefanie Kroll from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University; and Josh Parrish from The Nature Conservancy, who provided regional perspectives on the vital role of our local forests and aquatic habitats.

Additional sessions focused on impacts of climate change on local agriculture and public health, and climate justice issues.

The online course was organized by a Regional Leadership Team of five area residents who were trained in professional development techniques at the first Earth to Sky Academy, a week-long course at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD held in October 2019.

A partnership between NASA, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies and organizations, Earth to Sky has promoted effective, science-based communication about climate change since 2004.

Participants in Earth to Sky courses develop and implement plans for using NASA's climate science, Earth-observing satellite data, and outreach resources in place-based education that encourages open-minded investigation.

"Communicating about climate change doesn't mean lecturing your neighbors; it means having a meaningful conversation," says Dr. Genevieve de Messieres, lead of the Earth to Sky partnership.

"The participants in this UDRW course embrace that opportunity. They learned from their Regional Leaders about research on local opinions on climate change, and talked with experienced communicators about how to lead conversations in productive, hopeful directions. Each county team is coming out of the course with plans that are focused on issues that their neighbors care about, along with achievable solutions," she adds.

Don Hamilton, Natural Resources chief for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and part of the UDRW Regional Leadership Team, says, "Through Earth to Sky, we are creating a regional community of practice with a dynamic group of highly motivated individuals. With ongoing support from NASA and Earth to Sky, we will continue to share knowledge, resources and effective strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the Upper Delaware River Watershed."

ETS Regional Coordinator Hamilton's fellow leaders to graduate from the Earth to Sky Academy were: Mary Anne Carletta, Ph.D., a retired faculty advisor to the Georgetown (KY) Sustainability Initiative who now works with SEEDS (Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support) of Northeastern PA, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, the NPS Zane Grey Museum, and Upper Delaware BioBlitz; Stephen Moulton from the Himalayan Institute in Honesdale, PA; Carol Roig, most recently Sustainability Analyst for the Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy and author of the "Mixed Greens" column in the River Reporter; and Steven Schwartz, coordinator of the Pocono Kittatinny Cluster of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative and organizer of the biannual Upper Delaware BioBlitz.

For more information about Earth to Sky, please visit: <https://earthtosky.org/>.



**MARKS THE SPOT:** The Delaware Company founders, Sullivan County Historian John Conway and Town of Highland Co-Historian Debra Conway (with Preston), unveiled on June 12 a new historic marker which commemorates the Upper Delaware River's first suspension bridge at its circa 1855 abutment site along River Road in Barryville. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## The Delaware Company Expands Scope

The Delaware Company is extending the non-profit organization's responsibilities to take over operation of the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History and programming at the Minisink Battleground Park under contract with Sullivan County.

Additional recent activities include advancing development of "The Kate Project" riverside trail and installing two historic markers in the Town of Highland.

The three-year, no-cost contract to manage the two county-owned facilities will reactivate the Fort Delaware living history site in Narrowsburg founded in 1957, including a Haunted History Lantern Tour tentatively set for Oct. 9.

Their July 24 Battle of Minisink commemoration at the Revolutionary War site in Barryville precedes a Constitution Week

*Please see DELAWARE on Page 11*

# Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from April to late July 2021, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

## UDC GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2021 Technical Assistance Grant projects and applications for the next round are each due by 8/20.

River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants were approved on 5/6 for the Towns of Deerpark (\$3,308.43) and Lumberland (\$1,100), which must be completed by 9/20.

The UDC approved a \$17,930 contract on 7/1 with Crane Associates of Burlington, VT to prepare a Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Plan and 1985 Economic Analysis Update based on the Request for Proposals. Funded in part by UDC's PA Department of Community and Economic Development grant, completion is due by 12/1.

On 4/15, the Council submitted a Fiscal Year 2022 1st Quarter budget package to NPS for \$75,000, and continues to inform federal and NY/PA legislators of impacts from its static operational funding.

## WU/RM ISSUES

Sullivan County is partnering with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a remediation plan for the defunct Barnes Landfill in the Town of Highland, with the goal of returning the property to the tax rolls for sale and reuse.

River access updates include: late July construction of a Phase I redesign of the Mongaup DEC Access parking lot expects to increase 33 spots to capacity for 60.

The NPS renewed its lease with the Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America, to co-manage the Ten Mile River Access as of 7/6 but also has a proposal before Congress to use \$200,000 in Land and Water Conservation Fund monies to acquire 20 acres at the TMR site in FY 22. The UDC is working on design structural modifications to a boat ramp at the access.

Improvements at the NYS DEC Highland Access are delayed due to bids submitted to Sullivan County exceeding grant funds.

## PROJECT REVIEWS

The 2020 River Corridor Code Enforcement Activities Report released in April by UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist Shannon Cilento revealed that the amount of permits issued more than doubled the previous year, demonstrating the impacts that the coronavirus pandemic had on local building and development activities. Review the report online under Publications.

In June, the UDC completed and sent to every municipality an "Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor Acreage History Briefing Report" which traces the origin of the 55,574.5-acre desig-



**MAKING IT OFFICIAL:** Senior Magisterial District Judge Ronald J. Edwards, left, congratulates UDC 2021 Chairperson Jeffrey R. Dexter (Damascus Township, PA) on June 3 after administering his oath of office. While officers had been elected on January 7, the swearing-in ceremony was delayed as the Upper Delaware Council met virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic. In-person full board meetings resumed on June 3 with a reception at the Council's Narrowsburg office. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

gation in the River Management Plan.

Project activity this period included:

Town of Highland - NPS 4/5 concurrence of the UDC's recommendation to approve the rewritten Zoning Law, bringing the town back into substantial conformance with the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

Town of Tusten - NPS concurred with the UDC's recommendation for approval of Special Use Permits for Tinker & Nidge LLC on 3/23 and Steven Miss gunsmithing home occupation on 6/24, as well as the UDC's 4/1 favorable review of the updated Tusten Comprehensive Plan on 6/9. Letters recommending approval of Special Use Permit applications by Narrowsburg Union and Great Pine LLC were sent 7/1.

County Plans - The UDC submitted comments on the Delaware County Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan on 4/1, contributed to a 7/1 meeting and stakeholder survey for development of a Pke County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and participated in a 7/21 partner interview for the 18-month update of the Orange County Open Space Plan.

The following Land Use Complaints were investigated: St. Vincent's Pointe Access (Lackawaxen); The Coop Riverbank Construction (Lumberland); Ascalona Campground Trench Dig (Highland); Humphrey Road Clearing (Tusten); and Painted Horse Path Clearing (Highland).

## EVENTS & MEETINGS

UDC staff participates on the NPS Water Safety Committee, Upper Delaware Scenic

Byway, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership, Upper Delaware BioBlitz, Delaware River Sojourn, and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Committee.

Other meetings and events were:

4/7 - SUNY Sullivan Community Learning Class, "Local River, National Significance: Partnering for Management of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" by Shannon Cilento & Ingrid Peterec  
4/12 - River Corridor GIS Mapping Tool Application with Dr. Claire Jantz, director of Shippensburg University's Center for Land Use, virtual training sponsored jointly by UDC and NPS with 50 participants

4/13 - NPS Fishing Guides meeting

4/24 - Hancock Earth Day at Robert W. Nichol Nature Preserve & Science Center

4/27 - "Hot Button" Land Uses workshop by NYS Department of State

4/29 - Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council to PA DCNR

4/30 - NPS Annual Water Safety Partners

5/4 - UDC/NPS discussion of expanding scope of Technical Assistance Grants eligible projects for federal funding

5/6 - USGS Delaware Basin Study Stakeholders Update

5/20 - NPS Seasonal Staff Orientation

6/17 - DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee

6/24 - The Corps Network for feasibility of establishing Delaware River Climate Corps

*Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7*



## HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

through the William Penn Foundation

6/26 - Keep Hawley Honesdale Beautiful  
Lackawaxen River Clean-up

7/9 - Local History Roundtable

7/22 - National Parks Conservation  
Association Roundtable: Conserving &  
Sustaining Park Resources

7/25 - 31st Annual Narrowsburg River-  
fest by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

7/29 - Pike/Wayne Conservation Part-  
nership's PA Legislative Breakfast

## UDC LETTERS

The UDC provided support letters for various grant applications by the Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Delaware River Basin Commission, Sullivan and Orange Counties, as well as interest in project sponsorship for the Open Space Institute's Land & Climate Grant Program.

Additional features for the Delaware River Lordville Gage are being requested.

## NPS PERSONNEL

National Park Service Upper Delaware (UPDE) Scenic and Recreational River hired Jessica Weinman as Chief of Facilities on 3/26, after she had served as acting superintendent from 2/3-5/30 in 2020.

Retiring were U.S. Ranger and Water Safety Officer Kevin Reish on 5/31 after 34 years at UPDE, and Bonnie Sheard, administrative assistant to the Superintendent and manager of the Commercial & Special Park Uses Program, on 7/1. Sheard had worked or volunteered for UPDE for nearly 40 years, starting as secretary to the Planning Team.

New Rangers are Mike Portnoff and Brian Schumacher, with Ron Babus advanced to full-time and taking on the Water Safety Manager role. Former UPDE Ranger Sean McNeil moved away.

## UDC RESOLUTIONS

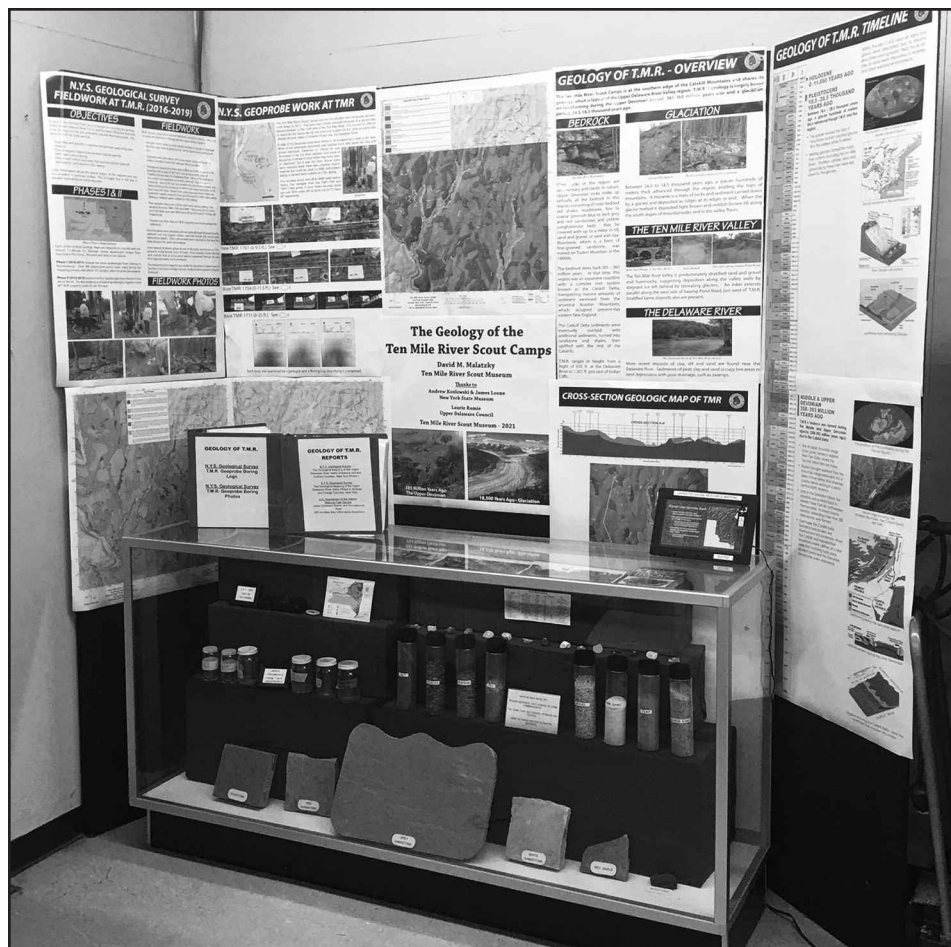
2021-12 (4/1): Adopting a UDC Position on Definition of Substantial Conformance; 2021-13 (5/6): Approving 2021 River Cleanup Grant Applications; and 2021-14 (6/3): Approving Records Management Needs Assessment Final Report & Policy and Procedures Manual.

## FRACKING LAWSUIT

U.S. Eastern District of Pennsylvania Judge Paul S. Diamond on June 18 dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Delaware River Basin Commission's de facto, 10-year ban on natural gas drilling, ruling in his 18-page opinion that the dispute "is primarily partisan and is best resolved through the political process."

Plaintiffs included Senator Gene Yaw (R-23) and PA Senate Republican Caucus members, Wayne and Carbon Counties, and Damascus and Dyberry Townships.

The DRBC officially enacted its prohibition on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in the river basin on Feb. 25, 2021.



**GEOLOGY EXHIBIT:** The Ten Mile River Scout Museum, located at 1481 Crystal Lake Road (County Rt. 26) in Narrowsburg, NY, reopened on July 13 featuring "The Geology of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps" as its newest exhibit. It includes a video from a presentation that New York State Museum and Geological Survey Scientist and Mapping Geologist James Leone delivered to the Upper Delaware Council on Jan. 7, 2021 on the Upper Delaware River Resource Mapping Project that was completed under contract with the National Park Service. Also available are copies of 11 surficial geology maps from Hancock to Port Jervis that were recently published by the NYS Geological Survey. The public may arrange visits by calling (845) 252-2063 or going online to [www.tmrsmuseum.org](http://www.tmrsmuseum.org). Check out the website, Facebook and Twitter feeds for a schedule of local history talks and events. A virtual tour of the museum that preserves and promotes the spirit and heritage of New York City Scouting at the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and interprets history of its vicinity is also offered. (Contributed Photo by David Malatzky, TMR Scout Museum Archivist and Associate Curator)

**BYWAY LEADERS:** The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway non-profit organization elected Vice-Chair Ginny Dudko (Town of Deerpark), Chairperson John Pizzolatto (Town of Highland), and Secretary-Treasurer Larry H. Richardson (Town of Cochection) as officers at its April 26, 2021 annual meeting. The volunteer committee has represented the interests of the NYS Route 97 highway and its communities since 2002. (UDSB Photo by Laurie Ramie)



**Socialize with UDC!** Follow the Upper Delaware Council through these social media networks: Facebook.com/UpperDelawareCouncil; Instagram: @upperdelawarecouncil; linkedin.com/company/upper-delaware-council, plus our YouTube and Vimeo channels.



# Survey Supports Historic Bridge Restoration

The study into the repair, replacement, or removal of the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge received a \$400,000 allocation at the May 26 annual meeting of the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission.

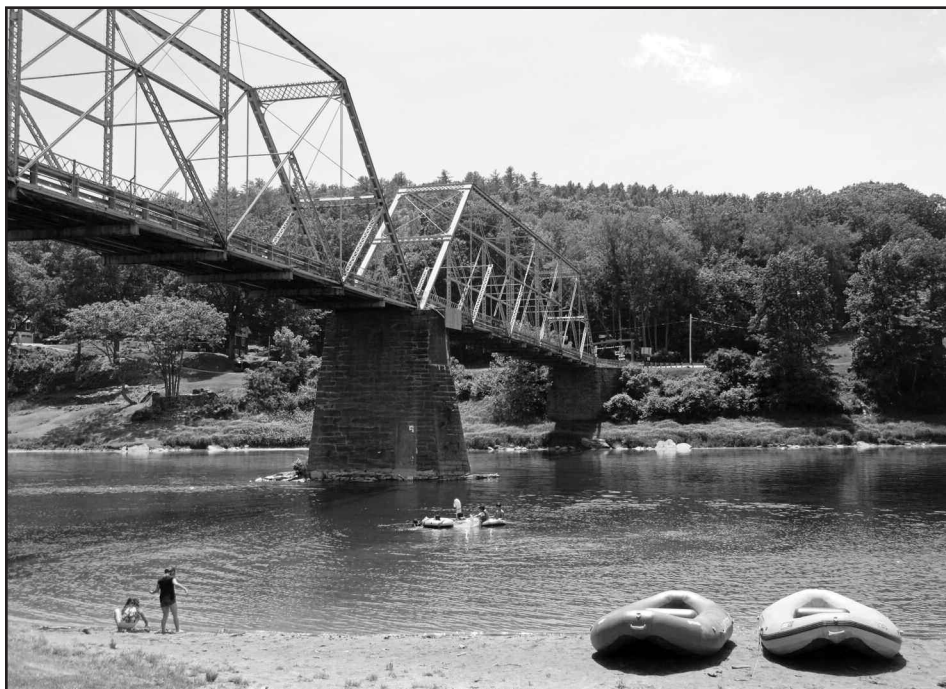
As part of the ongoing Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation also released results of a public survey through June 1 that was introduced during a March 30 virtual public meeting that attracted 143 participants.

Among the 286 total respondents who answered questions about their use of the bridge and how its closure has affected them, 186 people opted to expand on their concerns and comments.

The highest number of recurring themes were "restore/rehabilitate the bridge" (104), "bridge is a historic resource" (78), "river crossing required at this location" (68); and "quality of life; aesthetics of area" (63).

The Upper Delaware Council submitted a detailed comment letter on April 23 making those same points.

It concluded, "...while we recognize the need to invest dollars wisely for construction and long-term maintenance expenses, the UDC believes that tearing down the iconic Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge in favor of replacing it with an unremarkable and unnecessary modern bridge would create new and potentially more consequential problems, while permanently destroying the historical and cultural value



**STILL STUDYING:** The future of the 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge remains under review since it was closed to motorists and pedestrians on October 16, 2019 after failing an emergency safety inspection. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

it offers to the Upper Delaware River Valley. We urge working with the engaged community of bridge rehabilitation proponents to seek public and private historic preservation funding sources as needed to supplement the FHWA aid. The Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge is worth saving."

The National Park Service in a comprehensive June 1 letter cited the National

Historic registered bridge's important contributions to the cultural, scenic and recreational Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the nationally-designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, as well as its frequent use as a connector for emergency service provider response.

PennDOT estimated that a second meeting of the Project Advisory Committee will be called in August to review a Transportation Purpose and Need Document under development that will guide the selection of a final alternative. Then, it's expected to take two years to secure funding, permitting and environmental clearances before any construction would occur.

In the meantime, work on a \$7,067,033 deck replacement and improvements for the 1953 Cochection, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge began on May 26, with a contracted Oct. 31, 2022 completion date. Single lane traffic will continue during construction.

The Bridge Commission approved \$2,212,000 to design a major rehabilitation of the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge, with no schedule yet provided.

A study for which the commission green-lit \$70,000 to supplement a 2020 \$30,000 allocation will analyze re-decking options for the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge. The current open grid system requires frequent welding repairs.

The bi-state commission earmarked \$169,916 for maintenance and snow/ice removal for the 10 Upper Delaware River bridges it oversees with shared costs.

## **DROWNING, continued from Page 1**

Personal Flotation Devices are mandatory during periods of high water - defined as six feet and above as measured at the Callicoon gage for all points upstream of the Narrowsburg Bridge and the same amount at the Barryville gage for all points downstream to the southern boundary.

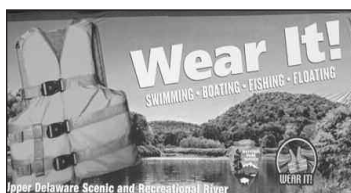
It authorizes law enforcement personnel to issue citations to any violators.

NPS offers free Loaner Life Jacket stations at four popular river access areas.

Public service announcements, news releases, interviews, and social media

campaigns have intensified to promote river safety. The UDC and NPS are collaborating on #WhyIWearIt (#PorQueLoUso) video promotion to target life jacket usage. Both offer lawn signs and posters for public displays. Adams Outdoor Advertising sponsors two "Wear It!" billboards on NYS Rt. 97 near the Roebling Bridge and on PA Rt. 652 outside Honesdale (see below).

To check daily conditions, call the NPS River Information Hotline at (845) 252-7100, and review river warnings and safety tips at [www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde).



**MEDIA COVERAGE:** Spectrum TV News reporter Ben Nandy films NPS Upper Delaware Superintendent Joe Salvatore on July 2 in the UDC office. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



# Zane Grey Plein Air Welcomes Artists

"#PaintLocal. #TheBeautyIsRightHere." That's the underlying message of Zane Grey Plein Air (ZGPA). Artistic inspiration is all around us, particularly in the scenic splendor of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Founded in 2018, ZGPA promotes environmental awareness by hosting public art events for artists and the community in partnership with local sustainable businesses and conservation organizations in the Upper Delaware region.

Professional artist Karen Meneghin of Yulan, NY became fascinated by western author and renowned fisherman Zane Grey, who she says "embodies adventure and the outdoors, with a real passion for putting it in narrative form."

She contacted National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec about her interest in starting a plein air organization that both felt was "in keeping with Zane and Dolly's vision" for their Lackawaxen, PA property to serve as an artists' haven.

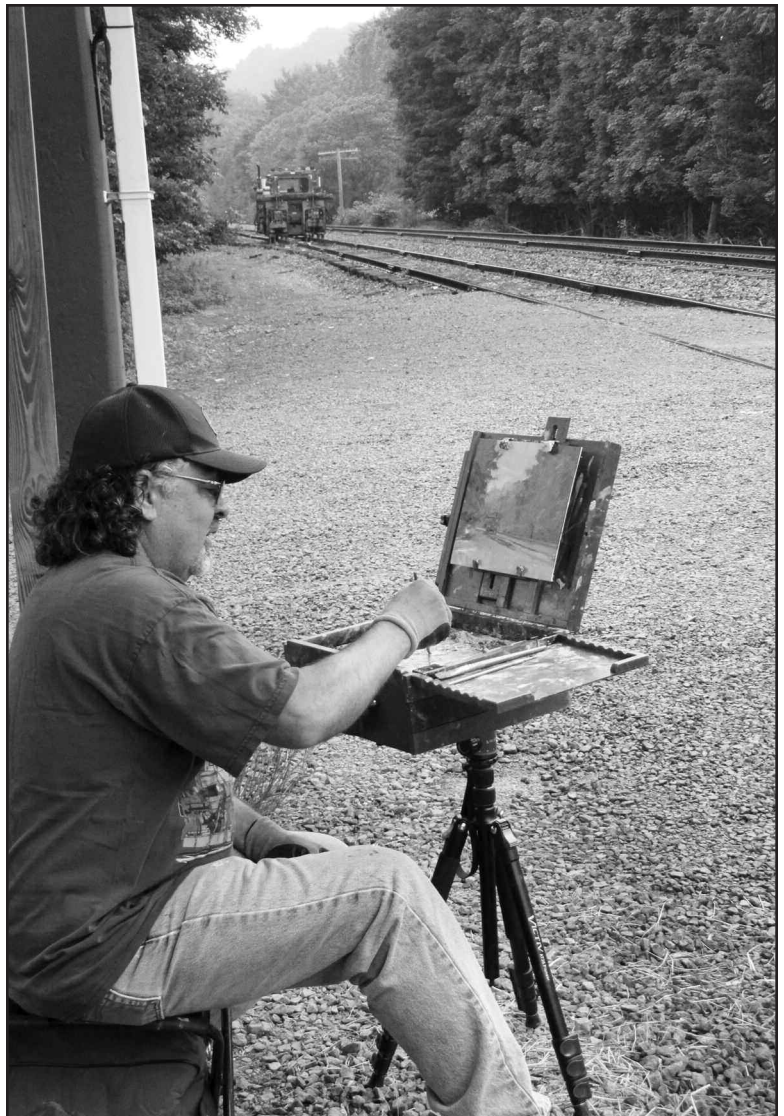
ZGPA held one 2018 event in conjunction with the NPS Zane Grey Festival, three outings in 2019, and had planned 12 programs in 2020. COVID quarantines required pivoting, even for a socially-distanced outdoor activity. In addition to setting up at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, Yasgur's Farm, and the Zane Grey Museum, artists participated in remote networking, Zoom classes, and a "Paint Sullivan County" online competition and sales gallery, all helping to sustain artists and increase tri-state participation.

"We encourage people to go out and explore their environments. It's very calming and a wonderful experience if you're willing to give yourself the time to do it. Standing in one place for four hours can be very revealing. You have to be resilient with the gear and weather conditions," Meneghin says.

The logistics of scouting locations, developing themes, finding instructors, publicizing events, updating social media, and providing a self-sustaining program that Meneghin hopes may lead to an Upper Delaware artists' fellowship program takes a good deal of time but is a fulfilling endeavor.

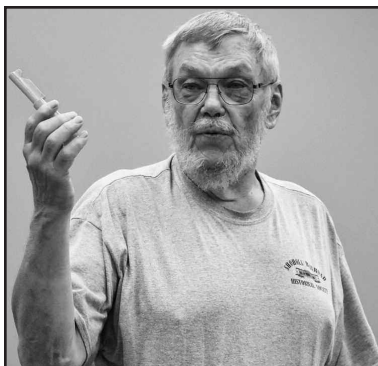
On Sept. 4, ZGPA will partner with The Stourbridge Line for an ART Train special excursion from Honesdale to Hawley, with a day of painting and a pop-up gallery in Hawley, PA.

Visit [www.ZaneGreyPleinAir.com](http://www.ZaneGreyPleinAir.com) to learn more.



**RAILROAD SCENE:** Jay Brooks of Callicoon, NY paints a railroad apparatus outside the 1869 Callicoon Erie Depot on June 13 during Zane Grey Plein Air's UpRIVER 3x3 Landscapes workshop with Eric Jacobsen, which also included two days of landscape painting throughout the Town of Tusten. On four July Saturdays, Brooks conducted a "Plein Air Barnstorm" focusing on historic farms in Sullivan County, from field to canvas. See his completed works at [www.JayBrooksArtist.com](http://www.JayBrooksArtist.com). (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## Putting the Caboose First: Keeping Local History Alive



**HISTORY TALK:** Bill Dudko of Sparrowbush was guest speaker at the July 7 Shohola Railroad & Historical Society meeting to discuss "History of the Callicoon Depot." (UDC Photo by Shannon Cilento)

Even though the passenger trains stopped running through Shohola in the 1960s, a dedicated group of local history enthusiasts continue to tell the stories of the railroad through exhibits, programming, and publications.

The Shohola Railroad & Historical Society, sometimes known as "The Caboose Group", was formed in 1991 to preserve and maintain the historic Shohola Caboose. When the group's constitution was completed later that year, its goal had expanded to include the preservation of local history and railroad history, with a specific focus on the Shohola area.

Over the years, the group has curated a museum in the Caboose which has grown to include exhibits on blacksmithing, agriculture, 1930s-40s Pike County, the Victorian Lady, and the Farmer's Wife besides railroad history.

The expanding collections precipitated a need for expanded space. Fortunately, in April 2021, the Society received a \$1,000 grant from the Barbara J. Buchanan Fund of the Greater Pike Community Foundation.

The group was able to purchase large display cases to create an exhibit at the Shohola Township Building, 159 Twin Lakes Road. The cases will house curated artifacts and will enable visitors to view items year-round. They anticipate opening the exhibit to the public this fall.

The Shohola Caboose Museum, located at 132 Rt. 434 in Shohola, is open through the month of August on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. Admission is free.

Shohola Railroad & Historical Society meetings are held on the first Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Township Building.



# Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Inspires Many

More than 300 volunteers fanned out among the 15 bi-state communities surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River over the course of nine days April 17-25 to reclaim the region's natural beauty.

They were participants in the Upper Delaware Council's first-ever, land-based Upper Delaware Litter Sweep.

A total of 21 clean-up events were organized that involved all ages from children to senior citizens, individual residents to organizations, elected officials, student clubs, beautification groups, scouts, business representatives, camps, and general enemies of roadside trash.

When the UDC's supply of 250 neon, customized t-shirts purchased through donations was depleted, that didn't deter latecomers from turning out to join teams.

Providing the means to the end was funding that the UDC allocated from its "Townships, Technology and Sustainability" grant administered by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to purchase litter pick-up supplies, the loan or donation of materials and services by the Departments of Transportation in Pennsylvania and New York, and the free disposal stickers and bags contributed by Sullivan County's Litter Pluck authorized by the Legislature.

Ultimately, though, people power prevailed by answering the UDC's call for community champions to step forward to do volunteer outreach, arrange the pick-up and disposal areas, distribute equipment, provide safety briefings, and rally their forces to collect a mass of trash marring the Upper Delaware's scenic byways, country roads, and river accesses.

Designated "Litter Leaders" were:

Town of Hancock, NY - Sherri Resti  
Thomas and Richelle Dufton, Friends of



**NEXT GENERATION:** The Sullivan West Central School National Honor Society and Student Council volunteered for the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. Sophomore Georgeanne Cardon and freshman Abigail Paruki haul up some metal debris from the Basket Creek Fishing Access in the Town of Fremont on April 24. (Photo by Ted Waddell, courtesy of the River Reporter)

the Upper Delaware River, Inc.;

Buckingham Township, PA - Chris Calabrese, Delaware River Club;

Town of Fremont, NY - Bill Templeton and Maureen Casey-Bryant, Sullivan West Central School District;

Manchester Township, PA - Aranka Hoosein, Camp IHC;

Town of Delaware, NY - Tess McBeath, Town Clerk, and John Erik Karkula, Beautification Committee;

Damascus Township, PA - Don Hamilton, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River;

Town of Cochection, NY - Larry H. Richardson, UDC Representative;

Berlin Township, PA - Ashley Hall-

Bagdonas & Shannon Cilento, UDC staff;

Town of Tusten, NY - Evan Padua (UDC Alternate and Sweetwater Guide Service), and Cherene Padua, with Wanda Gangel (Narrowsburg Beautification Group) and Maura Mullally-Caycho (SUNY Sullivan);

Lackawaxen Township, PA - Jeff Thompson, Growing Lackawaxen;

Town of Highland, NY - Andy Boyar, UDC Rep., Sara Velasquez, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, and John Pizzolato, Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce;

Shohola Township, PA - Bethany Davis Kearney, Cub Scout Troop Pack 105;

Town of Lumberland, NY - Nadia Rajsz, Sullivan County Legislator & UDC Rep., with Anne-Louise Scandariato, Sullivan Renaissance;

Town of Deerpark, NY - Dave Dean (UDC Rep.), Michele Dean, and Margaret Spring, Port Jervis Area CommUNITY Action;

Westfall Township, PA - Shannon Cilento & Ashley Hall Bagdonas, UDC staff.

Donations to cover the \$1,750 expense of the "safety green" t-shirts with original eagle artwork designed by Dan Nelson of Happy Tattoo in Honesdale, PA emblazoned on the back, the UDC's Land-Water-People partnership logo on the front corner, and printed by Platform Industries Custom Screen Printing in Honesdale, were provided by: Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.; Jeff Bank; Wayne Bank; Cochection Fire Station community bar & restaurant; and UDC board members Andy Boyar, Patricia Jeffer, Al Henry, and Aaron Robinson.

## Sullivan Renaissance Funds Kits

Sullivan Renaissance awarded a 2021 Healthy Community Initiatives Grant of \$500 to the Upper Delaware Council to create 12 litter clean-up kits that are available for volunteers to borrow for free year-round from the UDC's 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY office.

Each kit for two includes a five-gallon bucket, a trash grabber tool, contractor bags, neon safety vests, work gloves, face masks, a travel-sized first-aid kit, litter clean-up safety tips, and relevant literature.

"The primary goals of this initiative include removing as much litter from the river corridor as possible, encouraging residents and community members to engage in the outdoors, and to educate the public about the dangers of litter on public health and ecosystems," says Shannon Cilento (left photo), who wrote the UDC's successful grant application.





# In Memoriam



## Gerry Mackin

News was received belatedly of the May 1, 2020 death of Upper Delaware Council 2007 Chairperson F. Gerald Mackin (Town of Hancock

Representative from Dec. 4, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2007), who passed away at Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas, NV after a year's battle with cancer.

Gerry was born on March 7, 1946 to Frank G. and Edith (Woolsey) Mackin. He attended Hancock Central School through eighth grade, Don Bosco Prep boarding school in Ramsey, NJ, earned a BA in History from Northwestern University in 1967, enrolled at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago for a year, enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War for which he was awarded numerous medals including the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, returned to graduate in 1974 from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1975.

He returned to Hancock to open a private law practice which he conducted full-time for the next 25+ years. He was also appointed Town Attorney from 1976-1989.

Gerry was elected as Town of Hancock Supervisor and representative to the Delaware County Board of Supervisors in 1989 and served until May 2001, when he resigned to accept a full-time position as Delaware County Deputy County Attorney and Social Services Attorney until his Dec. 2007 retirement, at which time he moved to Nevada.

In addition to his UDC service, Gerry was an active member of the Hancock and Delaware County Chambers of Commerce, Hancock Rotary Club, Town of Hancock and Delaware County Democratic Party, Hancock American Legion Post 289, and St. Paul's Roman

Catholic Church locally.

Survivors are his wife, Maureen Ann Lemanski; daughter, Kathleen McVay, her husband Duncan; and two grandchildren, Cameron and Emily, of Lewis Center, OH.

Interment took place in the Woolsey room of the Old Colonial Mausoleum in Uniondale, PA.

Memorial donations may be made in Gerry's name to the Town of Hancock Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 733, Hancock, NY 13783.

## Ed Wesely

Upper Delaware Council 2017 Distinguished Service Award recipient Ed Wesely died on May 26, 2021 in Charlottesville, VA.

The plaque for the UDC's highest honor read that it was presented to the Milanville, PA resident "in recognition of your contributions to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley through your roles as a naturalist, educator, conservationist, historic preservationist, and renowned butterfly expert."

Those descriptions weren't enough to encapsulate his full impact as an activist, teacher, writer, and photographer, who his friend Barbara Yeaman says "accomplished so much in his long life and left a legacy of fascination with the natural world in countless children and adults."

Please visit the River Reporter archives for their June 10-16, 2021 tribute as well as the UDC's April 23, 2017 Awards booklet posted under Publications at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) to learn more about his contributions.

In his memory, the Damascus Citizens for Sustainability created the Ed Wesely Bridge Fund. All donations raised will be dedicated to his cause to save the historic Milanville Bridge at Skinners Falls. Visit [www.bit.ly/edweselydonate](http://www.bit.ly/edweselydonate) or contribute via DCS, P.O. Box 147, Milanville, PA 18443.



**I DECLARE:** The Delaware Company's Vice-President Bill Chellis, who is also an attorney and mayor of Jeffersonville, NY, portrays Robert Land during their Declaration of Independence event at Fort Delaware July 10 in Narrowsburg. (Photo Courtesy of Ruth Huggler)

### DELAWARE, continued from Page 5

Narrated History Hike on Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. especially targeted to youth groups. More updates and programs will be announced.

The Delaware Company is poised to complete by this fall Phase II of extending the D&H Canal Towpath Trail at Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct in Minisink Ford a half-mile to connect with the Barbara Yeaman Eagle Observation blind river access thanks to funding from the Tianaderrah Foundation, Sullivan County, Sullivan Renaissance's Silver Feather Award to the Town of Highland, and public donations.

Bluestone benches, interpretive signage, and snubbing posts will be installed, after Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. had approved a \$10,000 Scenic Vista grant for Phase 1 clearing work in 2020.

Phase III of The Kate Project envisions commissioning a life-sized bronze statue of a female hoggee (child canal worker) leading a boat-pulling mule along the towpath.

A new historic marker from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation was dedicated on June 12 (John Roebling's birthday) to mark the site of the Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA ill-fated first river suspension bridge, built in 1855 by Chauncey Thomas. The abutment is located on the River Road property of Matt Smith and Leslie Rutkin.

Highland's Highway Department helped The Delaware Company to refurbish an 85-year-old Roebling Bridge historic marker.

## Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://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 [info@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarecouncil.org).

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City/State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

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Check to be removed from our mailing list because ☐ I no longer wish to receive or ☐ I will access the newsletter on-line.



Upper Delaware Council  
P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192  
Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359  
[www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org)

*Working together to conserve the Upper  
Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*

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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](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) for specific meeting dates.

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

### Earn Hiking Patch

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River has partnered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the PA State Game Lands, Sullivan County, NY, Boy Scouts of America, and Damascus Township, PA to invite the public to "Take a Hike!" and earn a patch for their efforts.

Six local trails are highlighted in the brochure which also include locations, descriptions, and a checklist. Complete all six and submit it the NPS headquarters in Beach Lake, PA or the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA to receive the patch.

Visit [www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde) and go to Plan Your Visit: Take-a-Hike, or call (570) 685-4871 to request a copy of the brochure.

### Go Back to Nature

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will provide sneak-peek tours of its new Van Scott Nature Preserve in Beach Lake, PA at 3:30 p.m., then travel to The Inn at Woodloch for a 4:30 p.m. Back to Nature Celebration on Sunday, September 19.

Enjoy a lakeside dinner, live music, a boat ride, signature cocktails, and more to

benefit the work of the Conservancy.

Reserve at [www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org).

### Watershed Forum Set

The 9th Annual Del-AWARE River Watershed Forum on September 29-October 1 features a mix of engaging speakers, facilitated discussions, in-person field trips and networking opportunities, with the majority of the conference held virtually.

To get a glimpse at the program organized by the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, see #DelRivForum2021 or visit [www.delriverwatershed.org](http://www.delriverwatershed.org).

Registration opens in early August.

### Film Festival Turns 10

To celebrate the Big Eddy Film Festival's 10th anniversary, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance is sponsoring a series of free outdoor events leading up to its September 30-October 3 programming.

Film submissions were accepted through June 15, with selections to be announced.

Visit [www.bigeddyfilmfest.com](http://www.bigeddyfilmfest.com) and their Facebook page to find the details.

On Thursday, September 30, the festival will partner again with Bethel Woods

Center for the Arts to present a concert called "Cinematic Strings" with the Sullivan County Chamber Orchestra.

### Land-Water-People Shirts

The Upper Delaware Council announces that the Equinunk General Store is now a Pennsylvania outlet for its royal blue t-shirts featuring a map showing the 15 Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River communities and a front logo with the land-water-people partnership theme.

The shirts are available for a \$15 donation to help support the non-profit organization's work. The UDC is newly able to accept PayPal payment as well. Visit [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) to order.

### DRBC Shares Reports

The Delaware River Basin Commission has released its Fiscal Year 2022-2024 Water Resources Program detailing planned projects and activities, and its 2020 Annual Report, highlighting how the pandemic did not stop the Commission from meeting its water resource management and protection goals. The documents are available via [www.drbc.gov](http://www.drbc.gov).