

The Upper Delaware

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

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Thank you for your interest.



TACKLING TRASH: Six-year-old Johnny Montana from Milford, PA found a pair of muddied sweatpants bigger than he is discarded along the Delaware River shore in Matamoras during the Westfall Township clean-up, while Jamie Myers from the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River staff climbed over the guiderail on River Road in Damascus Township to retrieve a tire while being pulled back up by a rope during the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. (Contributed Photos by Bethany Montana, left, and Jeff Dexter, right)

Not In Our Backyard, Say 2022 Upper Delaware Litter Sweepers

Nearly 350 volunteers joined the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) starting on Earth Day to avenge the careless dumping of trash that impairs public lands and roadsides surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep officially lasted from April 22-30 but its inspiration carries on with UDC Litter Clean-up Kits available to borrow year-round and the encouraged scheduling of land-based cleanups with some 2022 collectible t-shirts waiting to reward efforts.

Twenty clean-ups were organized in the 15 New York towns and Pennsylvania townships paralleling the river.

Volunteers were easy to spot in their neon-colored t-shirts featuring the fierce eagle logo created by Happy Tattoo's Dan Nelson on the front and the names of 37 sponsors on the back who contributed \$6,250 to make the Litter Sweep possible.

Also critical to the event's success were Litter Leaders who stepped forward to assist with volunteer outreach, promotion, registration, distribution of supplies, safety briefings, and arranging for disposal or recycling of the gathered waste.

Designated Litter Leaders for each river valley municipality were:

Town of Hancock, NY - Richard H. Lowe III (Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce)

Buckingham Township, PA - Ingrid Peterc (National Park Service UPDE)

Town of Fremont, NY - Kate Sykes Bowers (Basket Creek area resident)

Manchester Township, PA - Kate Waldrep (Camp IHC)

Town of Delaware, NY - Tanyia Vannatta & Zach Scheitlin (Callicoon Business Association)

Damascus Township, PA - Jessica Weinman & Don Hamilton (NPS UPDE)

Please see LITTER on Page 9

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Alex Garcia-Maldonado

Alejandro "Alex" Garcia-Maldonado accepted the position of Cultural Resources Program Manager for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on May 13, completely sight unseen.

When the federal government paperwork cleared, he packed up some essential belongings and drove from El Paso, TX to start his first day of work four days later.

"We did the whole interview process remotely and all I saw of the Upper Delaware was the website," he says.

Garcia-Maldonado shrugs off what others may see as taking a risky leap of faith.

"It's in my blood to just get up and go. I want to be where my skill set can meet the needs," he says.

Garcia-Maldonado had so impressed the National Park Service with his work through the Latino Heritage Internship Program starting in Summer 2019 that he was awarded a non-competitive hiring authority certificate with the Department of the Interior for a two-year period.

It meant that when a position in his field opened up anywhere in the country, Garcia-Maldonado had the opportunity to be considered.

Many options came his way. During his paid internship, Garcia-Maldonado served as assistant curator for cultural resources at Chamizal National Memorial Park and participated in programs at NPS headquarters in Washington, D.C., while continuing his Ph.D. studies at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

His resume fell into the hands of the Upper Delaware administration after Cultural Resources Program Manager Lauren Hauptman ended her tenure here from May 2015 to April 2022 for a new job at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Garcia-Maldonado was born in Puerto Rico, spent his teen years in Edgewater, NJ, then lived in Brooklyn, NY as a young adult until moving to El Paso in 2008.

His late father was a founder of El Museo del Barrio, dedicated to presenting and preserving the art and culture of Latin Americans in the U.S. Garcia-Maldonado helped him curate installations for institutions such as the American Museum of Natural History which helped nurture his passion for history and anthropology, particularly focusing on marginalized, under-



**Alejandro "Alex" Garcia-Maldonado,
National Park Service Upper Delaware**

served, and minority communities. His mother cultivated his interest in social sciences, while music also spoke to his heart.

"I wanted to be like the Puerto Rican Indiana Jones. I just needed to figure out what would allow me to pursue my interests for the rest of my life," he says.

His ambitious academic pursuits include earning a 2015 B.A. in Multidisciplinary Studies (History, Humanities, and Fine Art-Music), a 2017 B.A. in Anthropology, and a 2019 M.A. in History, all from UTEP, where he began his doctoral studies in Fall 2020.

The 44-year-old is also a professional drummer and composer who performs with jazz bands, and gravitates toward Afrobeat and Jamaican genres of music.

Prior to his arrival, Garcia-Maldonado was working as a UTEP History Instructor.

With his 17-year-old daughter, Ava Marie, and Garcia-Maldonado's sister each living in New Jersey, a return to the East Coast was appealing.

He is residing in Beach Lake, PA while "integrating myself into the community" and acclimating to the Upper Delaware's historic collections and systems, the Zane Grey Museum, Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct, D&H Canal, liaisons with 11 tribal groups, observing archeological field work, planning for program needs, and connecting with the public.

"I can't do my job without everyone's support and collaboration. I want to understand people's perspectives which is what they have built their cultures and identity on, and makes this area unique. I'm fascinated by local history and would like to explore voices of diversity here," he says.

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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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Rep. Cartwright to Speak at River Valley Awards

U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-8) will deliver the keynote address at the Upper Delaware Council's 34th Annual River Valley Awards Banquet on Sept. 18.

The Sunday ceremony will take place at Central House Family Resort, 81 Milanville Road, Beach Lake, PA.

A one-hour reception with light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar is set to begin at 3 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner.

The bountiful menu will include tossed garden salad with house dressing; dinner rolls; home-style coleslaw; broccoli salad; three hot entrees of chicken marsala, beef pot roast, and stuffed shells with tomato sauce; accompaniments of garlic mashed red potatoes, long grain & wild rice, and roasted butternut squash; and a choice of either Fruits of the Forest pie or a chocolate brownie, both a la mode.

Rep. Cartwright is returning as speaker after last joining the UDC on April 28, 2019.

He will offer an approximately 15-minute address highlighting his Congressional initiatives and District activities focused on the region's environment and economy.

Cartwright was first sworn into Congress on Jan. 3, 2013 to represent the 17th District. Following Commonwealth redistricting, he won election in Nov. 2018 to the newly-created 8th District which includes all of Wayne, Pike and Lackawanna Counties, and portions of Luzerne and Monroe Counties.

The Congressman serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and chairs its Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice and Science, where he oversees more than \$70 billion in annual federal spending on matters of economic development, law enforcement, and science and innovation.

He is also vice-chair of the Financial Services & General Government Appropri-



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-8), center, will return to Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA on Sept. 18 to deliver the keynote address at the Upper Delaware Council's River Valley Awards. At the 2019 banquet, he chatted with then-UDC Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr. (Town of Delaware), left, and NPS Upper Delaware Chief of Natural Resources Don Hamilton. (Contributed Photo by David B. Soete)

ations Subcommittee and a member of the Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment.

Cartwright is a voice for Northeastern Pennsylvania in House leadership as a co-chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

A strong believer in working with members of both political parties, Cartwright has introduced more bills with Democratic and Republican support than any other House Democrat since he was first elected, gaining recognition from the nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking.

Prior to coming to Congress, the Moosic, PA resident worked as an attorney with Munley, Munley & Cartwright for 25 years.

He is a 1983 magna cum laude graduate

of Hamilton College with a degree in History and earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Law School in 1986.

Married to Marion Munley Cartwright, the couple has two sons, Jack and Matthew.

Following his address, awards will be presented to individuals, organizations, and agencies which have acted to enhance the quality of life and protect the resources of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley.

Reservations at \$31 per person are due by Sept. 9. Contact the UDC at P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Please call 845-252-3022 or email info@upperdelawarecouncil.org, and access the UDC's social media accounts to find the list of 2022 award recipients.

Member Updates

Town of Delaware - Harold G. Roeder, Jr. officially resumed his role as UDC Representative on March 10 after having "retired" to the alternate position in June 2020. Roeder has served continuously on the board since 1997.

Town of Lumberland - On May 11, the Town Board appointed Frank Guzman of Glen Spey, NY as its UDC Alternate Representative to delegate Nadia Rajsasz.

New York State - As this issue went to press, the Department of Environmental Conservation was finalizing their selection of a successor to Representative Bill Rudge, who retired Feb. 25 after 21 years with the Council and 35 years with DEC.

UDC Awards Grants and Sets Deadlines

The Upper Delaware Council voted on May 5 to award a combined \$4,431.13 to the Towns of Deerpark and Lumberland in 2022 River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants.

Since initiating the grant program in 2014, the UDC has awarded \$37,006.71 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.

The deadline for the towns to complete their clean-up initiatives is Sept. 23.

In early June, the UDC opened its Fiscal Year 2023 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program. Applications from member municipalities for projects that support land use planning, Geographic Information Systems planning, zoning ordinances and revisions, codification of local laws, and updates of comprehensive or master plans are prioritized. Proposals will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19. Since 1988, the UDC has awarded \$921,652 to fund 261 projects related to implementation of the River Management Plan. A special Project Review Committee meeting will be held on Sept. 13 to evaluate applications, with awards to be determined at the Oct. 6 UDC meeting.

New York Invests in Upper Delaware Watershed

UDC Continues Plea for NY & PA Funding

In a historic first, the State of New York added a \$300,000 line item in its Fiscal Year 2023 Environmental Protection Fund budget for the Upper Delaware River.

The accomplishment is the culmination of a three-year campaign by the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed.

It authorizes Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) to implement a program linked to the federal Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) that will fund on-the-ground watershed projects for multiple economic and environmental benefits.

A press conference took place on June 17 along the Little Beaver Kill in Livingston Manor, where a collaborative project to stabilize the stream's eroding banks led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Trout Unlimited was completed in Sept. 2021.

Officials planted two riparian trees after celebrating the NYS funding victory.

"We extend a heartfelt and resounding 'thank you and job well done' to NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and her staff who led the charge in the legislature and expertly navigated the state budget process," said FUDR Executive Director Jeff Skelding.

"We also express our appreciation to NYS Senator Mike Martucci who offered a steady voice in support of UDR state funding and helped highlight how the river can benefit from bipartisan leadership. We couldn't have done it without these two river champions representing our interests in Albany," he added.

Gunther, in return, credited the Alliance for being "relentless" in their quest.

New York League of Conservation Voters President Julie Tighe said, "I'm very excited we got the funding over the finish line" and added that the next priority will be to sustain and grow the allocation.

Upper Delaware Council Chairperson Andy Boyar congratulated all involved.

"The UDC is taking inspiration from this success that our long-standing funding challenges will be similarly addressed as a fellow non-profit organization," he said.

Boyar explained that the UDC is legislatively-mandated through a Congressional Act but has not been legislatively-funded as the Final 1986 River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River envisioned.

While the federal government through the National Park Service has provided \$300,000 annually, that has remained sta-



SAFEGUARDING: New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (D-100) clutches a Friends of the Upper Delaware River sign that blew off the podium at a June 17 press conference in Livingston Manor during which Upper Delaware Council 2022 Chairperson Andy Boyar, left, also was invited to speak about the State's addition of a \$300,000 budget line for an Upper Delaware River Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

tic for 34 years, and neither the State of New York nor the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as full voting members have provided their anticipated 20% shares.

A recent fiscal sustainability analysis quantified that the UDC faces more programming and staff cuts as a result. The NY and PA governors were sent a package of resolutions on June 6 unanimously approved by all 13 UDC member towns and townships seeking to establish permanent budget lines of \$100,000 each.

"We'll remain hopeful that our day will come to celebrate a great victory like this one," Boyar concluded.

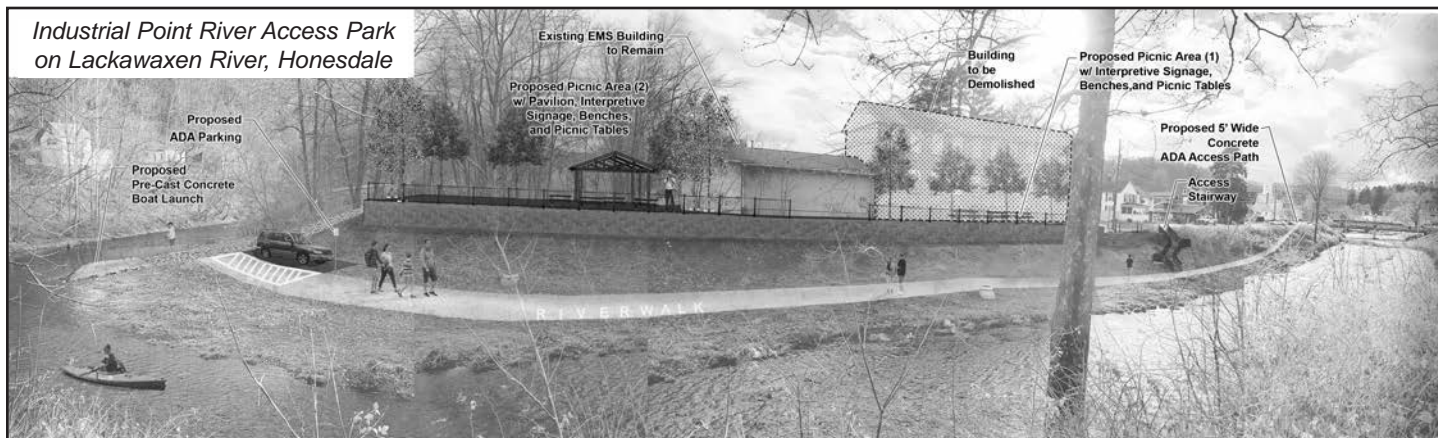
On the federal level, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Director Kelly

Knutson submitted testimony to two Congressional committees June 14 in support of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act.

Its passage would change the one-to-one federal match currently required for DRBRP grants to allow for a 10% local match or a full waiver for small, rural, or disadvantaged communities. The Act is due to lapse in September 2023 but will continue through 2030 if approved.

Advocates also hope for a FY23 DRBRP increase from \$10.5 million to \$15 million.

Since 2018, the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund has awarded \$26.6 million to 123 projects with a fifth round of grants now being finalized.



RIVER TRAIL: Woodland Design Associates, Inc. created this rendering of the future park site for the new Lackawaxen River Trail.

Grant Expands Wayne County River Access

The Wolf Administration announced that \$967,672 in grant funding was approved to assist projects aimed at expanding access to the Lackawaxen River in Wayne County.

"I am pleased to join the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) today to announce this significant investment in outdoor recreation in a wonderful Pennsylvania community," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Deputy Secretary Lauren Imgrund said on May 23. "We are excited for the new opportunities these projects will provide boaters, anglers and others who want to take in nature. These projects don't happen without collaboration and dedication, and I thank everyone who partnered on expanding river access in the area."

DCNR and PFBC funded two developments along the Lackawaxen River: Industrial Point River Access Park in Honesdale and White Mills River Access Park in Texas Township.

Both projects involve the construction of boat launches, comfort stations, pedestrian walkways, ADA access, landscaping, and parking.

Industrial Point will also include a new pavilion and the White Mills project will also include a new fishing pier. DCNR dedicated \$408,000 to these projects.

"Communities that embrace conservation and lay out the welcome mat for anglers and boaters through expanded access to the water realize tremendous recreational, social, and economic benefits," said Tim Schaeffer, PFBC executive director. "The addition of these access points along the Lackawaxen River is a major step in establishing a water trail through this region that will only enhance Wayne County's reputation as a destina-

tion region for outdoor enthusiasts."

The PFBC also provided funding to establish a third river access at Indian Orchard, which will serve as the midpoint of the approximately 10-mile water trail from Honesdale to Hawley.

When awarding funding through its Boating Facility Grant Program in 2021 and 2022, the PFBC placed special emphasis on projects within the Delaware River Watershed.

Thanks to additional grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund,

a combined \$559,672 was dedicated to the three Wayne County projects.

"We are extremely happy to be able to work with both DCNR and the Fish and Boat Commission to secure funding for this very worthwhile project," Wayne County Board of Commissioners Brian Smith said. "It's a great improvement to our area and ultimately will allow boat access and handicapped accessibility to one of the county's nicest waterways in a long-underutilized spot."

Lackawaxen River Trail supporters gathered on June 3 at the future Industrial Point River Access Park site to celebrate.



Delaware River Sojourn High Admiral Awards



RIVER ROCKS: In the words of AC/DC: "For those about to rock, we salute you!" The 27th Delaware River Sojourn recognized John Jengo June 18 and Sullivan County Legislator/Town of Lumberland UDC Representative Nadia Rajsz June 19. Above, retired NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Assistant Superintendent Sandy Schultz, who designed the 2022 River Rocks logo, and Amanda Subjin, center, from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, honor Camp Speers YMCA geology program presenter Jengo; while National Canoe Safety Patrol Training Director Heather Cichowicz, right, presents Rajsz with her certificate for her work to protect the beauty and integrity of the Upper Delaware River Corridor. (UDC Photos by Kerry Engelhardt, top, and Laurie Ramie)

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

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

UDC FUNDING

All 13 UDC member towns and townships returned resolutions by 5/19 supporting the establishment of a permanent line for UDC operational funding in the NYS and PA budgets based on the Council's 3/24 outreach. Letters and attachments were directed respectively to Governors Kathy Hochul and Tom Wolf on 6/6.

NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther put the Assembly Counsel's office to work researching it in pledging her assistance.

State funding support at the county levels from Delaware, Sullivan, Orange (NY), Wayne and Pike (PA) was sought on 6/23.

The UDC submitted its Federal funding applications for the 3rd and 4th quarters of Fiscal Year 2022 on 4/5 following approval of federal budget authorizations; and for the 1st and 2nd Quarters of FY 2023 on 7/1 courtesy of NPS UPDE covering the advance funds through lapsed positions.

COMMUNICATION TOWERS

On 7/7, the UDC established a Telecommunications Facilities Subcommittee to develop a joint position paper with the National Park Service (NPS) that will guide reviews of communication tower proposals and associated local zoning updates since the 1986 River Management Plan does not provide a specific interpretation on their compatibility in the river corridor.

Chaired by UDC Vice-chair Aaron Robinson (Shohola), the first meeting was set for 8/4 and will be reported in the next issue.

FRACKING BILLS

In March, PA Rep. Jonathan Fritz introduced legislation aimed at breaking the "fracking" moratorium in the Delaware Basin which was adopted by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) in various forms starting in 2010.



FREE BOOKS: Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River has partnered with the non-profit organization, Little Free Library, to offer a free book borrowing opportunity at the Lackawaxen, PA home of Zane Grey at 135 Scenic Drive where the famed Western novelist started his writing career. For its opening, the library was stocked with many Zane Grey books including "Riders of the Purple Sage", a variety of children's books generously donated by Highlights and the Hawley Library, and adult and teen novels and books all connected to Upper Delaware's natural and cultural stories. Readers are then encouraged to take a book and leave a book. Borrowed books can be returned to that location or any other Little Free Library, for which there is a registry and mobile app available. (Photo by National Park Service)

H.B. 2540 proposes to change the system for awarding votes in the DRBC by amount of territory in the basin, giving PA 6 votes; NJ, 3; NY, 2; DE, 1; and the Federal government, 1. Currently, each entity has one vote. H.B. 2451 proposes to reverse the DRBC's moratorium on unconventional shale gas hydrofracturing in the basin.

Both bills were approved in the PA House of Representatives in April and advanced to the Senate Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy. The proposed changes to the Delaware River Basin

Compact, however, would require each State and the U.S. Congress to pass similar legislation in order to take effect.

RIVER ACCESSES

Mongaup - Asked to provide feedback on Phase 1 improvements at the Mongaup Access which increased parking capacity by 70% as of August 2021, the UDC on 3/25 recommended holding off on a Phase II to further expand the lot and add a special boat livery lane in order to assess the need this recreational season.

Long Eddy - The UDC reviewed photos of existing conditions and NYS DEC's conceptual site plan to organize parking at the Ferry Street access owned by the Town of Fremont 5/5, with a satisfactory reaction.

Ten Mile River - After the sale of some 7,500 acres of subdivided property at Ten Mile River in the Town of Tusten by the Greater New York Council Boy Scouts of America to The Conservation Fund pending its eventual transfer to NYS DEC, NPS renewed its co-management agreement to provide visitor services at the river access ahead of the Memorial Day weekend.

SELECT LETTERS

Support letters for Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant applications were approved for the Hancock Junction Pool

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

UDC PUBLIC OUTREACH STATEMENT

The Upper Delaware Council was created and mandated in 1988 by an Act of Congress. It oversees a partnership of Federal, two States, and local governments to manage the 73.4-mile designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The UDC fills a vital role in the relationship between the National Park Service and the local communities, protecting home rule authority, safeguarding private property rights, and advising towns/townships on meeting the River Management Plan Land and Water Use Guidelines.

The organization has been funded through a federal allocation, flat since its inception, with neither the State of New York nor the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania contributing their shares.

Despite funding challenges, the UDC has fulfilled its core responsibilities set out in the federal legislation for the benefit of the approximately 250,000 visitors each year and all those fortunate enough to live in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

~ Approved at the 6/2/22 UDC meeting

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

Access (3/22), Callicoon Riverside Park, and DRBC's Water Security for Humans and Habitat Study (both on 3/29).

Other letters went to newly-appointed NYS Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado on 5/9 to congratulate the former 19th District Congressman; NYC DEP on 5/20, inquiring about reservoir diversions; and to NPS on 5/27 with comments/questions on the FY 2022 UPDE Workplan.

PROJECT REVIEWS

The UDC approved the "Annual Review of Enforcement Programs: Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2021" on 7/7 and forwarded it to the NPS as a Cooperative Agreement task. That report is posted on the UDC website.

Town of Highland - Awaiting the town's submission of a complete site plan from the developers to initiate a formal substantial conformance review of the proposal to transform the Kittatinny and Cedar Rapids properties in Barryville into Camp Fimfo, UDC staff attended monthly planning board presentations, took another site tour 3/11, and met with project engineers 5/24 for advance research purposes.

Damascus Township - NPS upheld the substantial conformance recommendation for a Heron Hill Hunt Club variance for a Callicoon Road property on 5/26.

Town of Tusten - The NPS returned substantial conformance determinations for Big Eddy Brewing agribusiness and eating/drinking establishment (5/26), 90 Main Street retail-office-apartments development (5/26), and Weiden Daycare (6/24) special use permits, all in Narrowsburg.

Town of Tusten - The Zoning Law update that is the subject of a 2022 UDC Technical Assistance Grant was forwarded to NPS with the UDC's substantial conformance recommendation on 7/14 following review of its components since 4/26.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

In addition to committee memberships and regular liaison attendance:

3/16, 4/20, 5/18 - Penn State Extension Land Use webinar training series

5/9 - NPS Seasonal Staff Orientation

5/11 - EPA Delaware River Tabletop Exercise, full on-site drill planned for Fall

5/11 - Lackawaxen River Clean-up

6/15 - Sullivan Renaissance "Putting Trash in its Place" roundtable

7/16 - NPS Zane Grey Festival (booth)

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2022-05 (5/5): Approving 2022 River & Shoreline Clean-up Grant Applications; and -06 (6/2): Granting Permanent Employee Status to Resources & Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt.

RAFT TRIP

Planning for the UDC's 34th Annual public raft trip on 8/7 from Skinners Falls to Narrowsburg was underway at press time.



SEASONAL CHECK-IN: NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief Ranger Keith Winslow, standing, addresses fishing guides at an April 12 meeting held at the Hancock Town Hall, along with, seated from the left, PA Fish and Boat Commission Waterways Conservation Officer Emily Borger, NPS Law Enforcement Ranger Ryan Schumacher, Superintendent Joe Salvatore, and Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources Don Hamilton. NPS currently licenses 83 fishing guides on the Upper Delaware. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

National Park Service Ready for Summer

Coming off a devastating Summer of 2021 when five drownings occurred on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, National Park Service representatives emphasize that promoting safety is a shared responsibility.

The NPS annually invites its Commercial Use Authorization permit holders to gather to share statistics, strategies, and resources ahead of each new recreation season.

At the April 29 Water Safety Partners meeting that the Upper Delaware Council hosted in Narrowsburg, Upper Delaware Superintendent Joe Salvatore said, "The worst news you can ever get is that you've had a death in your park. I had that five times last year. We know who is dying; we know why they are drowning."

He asked the livery businesses to help serve as "eyes and ears" for the NPS, which is stretched thin by having four Rangers assigned to patrol 73.4 miles of river.

"We're here today to talk about our water safety campaign but anything you can do is not enough. We need to beat that drum about safety over and over again. Be vigilant out there. Even if you lose a customer because they won't wear a life jacket, it's better than to lose a life," he said.

Chief Ranger Keith Winslow noted that the region has witnessed increasing popularity since the COVID pandemic.

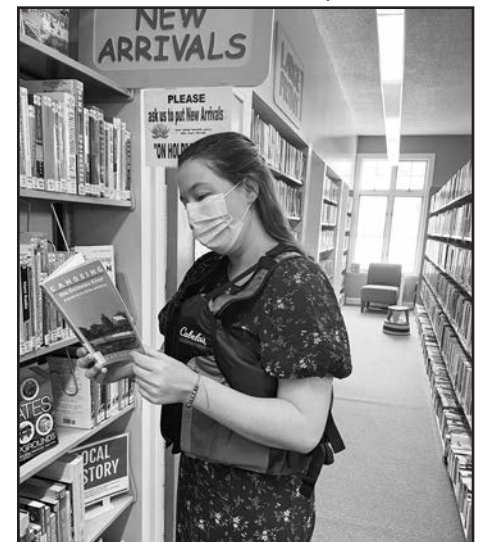
In 2021, NPS recorded 269,810 visitors to UPDE's NY-PA sites. That compares to 250,198 in 2020 and 215,537 in 2019.

"The visitation has gone through the roof and the demographics are changing," Winslow said.

There have been 74 drownings on the Upper Delaware River since 1980, with each circumstance studied extensively to inform messaging and patrol focus. The common denominator has been the lack of or using improperly fitted life jackets.

While not mandatory for those over age 12, the 2020 UPDE wear-rate was 51.4%, far exceeding the 11.2% national average.

New multilingual signage, public service announcements, and a video are in production, and loaner life jacket stations are located at statistical trouble spots.



STAY SAFE: May 20 was "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work" Day, and Leeann Bruetsch got into the spirit at the Tusten-Cochecton branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library in Narrowsburg while perusing a book about canoeing on the Delaware River. (UDC Photo by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas)

UDC Hosts Informative Presentations

The Upper Delaware Council schedules educational talks at its first Thursday monthly public meetings when feasible. Copies of Power Point slides or posted meeting recordings are generally available.

April 7 - *"Delaware Aqueduct Repair Shutdown Impacts"* by Jeff Skelding, executive director, Friends of the Upper Delaware River.

New York City Department of Environmental Protection's \$1 billion project to repair leaks in the water supply system may have been in the design stage for over two decades and under construction for bypass tunnels for 10 years, but the original October 2022 shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct for 5-8 months was still coming too soon for those concerned about its potential consequences for flows, flood risk, and adequate public awareness. See the caption at right for an update.

May 5 - *"The Founding Fish: American Shad on the Delaware River"* by Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Natural Resources Chief Don Hamilton, and *"Upper Delaware Shadfest 2022"* by John Pizzolato of Barryville.

The first-ever Festival of the Founding Fish was conceived by The Delaware Company to offer a weekend full of history, music, food, fish, and fun, with activities all along the Upper Delaware River from Port Jervis to Hancock May 20-22. Grants from the Sullivan County Legislature and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway supported it.

Visit festivalofthefoundingfish.com to see the rundown of exciting events.

June 2 - *"The History of the Lenape in the Upper Delaware River Valley"* by Frank



AQUEDUCT REPAIRS: On April 7, the UDC heard concerns expressed by Jeff Skelding from Friends of the Upper Delaware River, joined by Diane Tharp from the North Delaware River Watershed Conservancy, standing above, about the impacts of what was to be a 5-8 month shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct. Unexpectedly in the UDC's audience to listen was Jennifer Garigliano, right, chief of staff for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply. In early June, however, NYC DEP announced that the project originally set to begin October 1, 2022 is being delayed by one year to allow time for additional testing and preparations. Garigliano will return to provide a further update at the Sept. 1 UDC meeting. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)



Salvati of Port Jervis.

The local historian described the approximate area of the Lenapehoking homeland and traced their indigenous heritage.

On July 30-August 20, the Rising Nation Journey down the Lenape Sipu (Delaware River), held every four years, was underway from Hancock, NY to Cape May, NJ, and will be covered in the next issue.

July 7 - *"Mission and Values of the National Canoe Safety Patrol"* by Heather Cichowic, training director for NCSP.

The all-volunteer NCSP was founded in 1979 and has provided swift water rescue services on the Upper Delaware River through the National Park Service's Volunteers-in-Parks program since 1980.

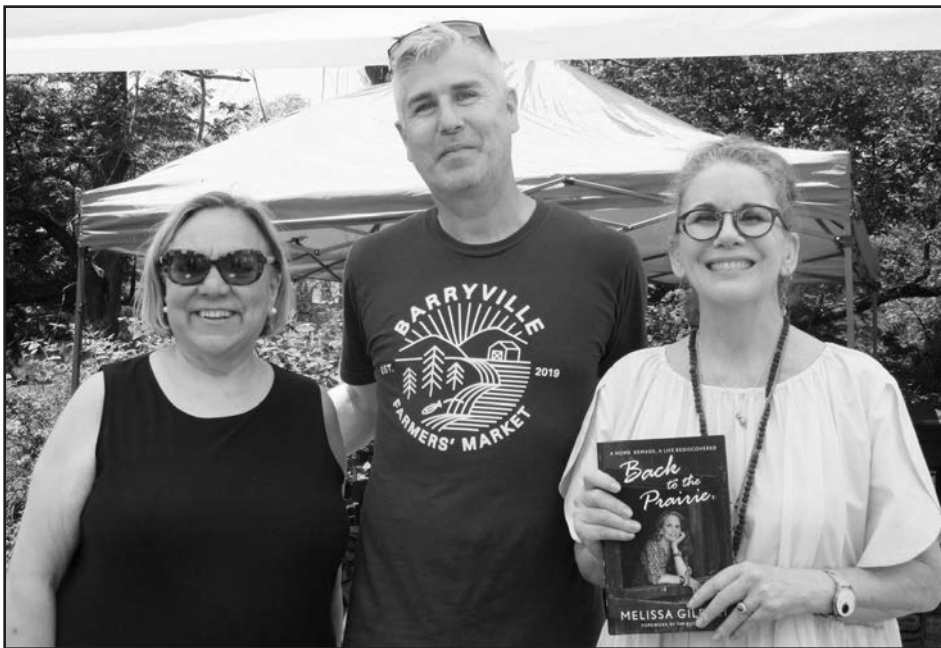
In 2021, NCSP members logged 3,416 patrol hours, made contacts with 8,559 boaters, and assisted in 238 rescues and 157 boat-overs, all while undergoing professional training, doing public outreach, supporting Delaware and Lehigh River Sojourns, school groups, and river clean-ups.



NCSP TRAINING: From Heather Cichowic's July 7 presentation, National Canoe Safety Patrol members and National Park Service staff practice techniques to unpin an overturned canoe.



Frank Salvati spoke about the indigenous Lenape people on June 2.



STAR POWER: Local celebrity Melissa Gilbert signed copies of her book, “Back to the Prairie” outside Barryville General during the Festival of the Founding Fish May 21, as coordinated by One Grand Books of Narrowsburg. She was greeted by Shadfest organizers Debra Conway from The Delaware Company and John Pizzolato from the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



FISHY FUN: The Still sisters from the Town of Lumberland: Rylea, 11, and Isla, 7, played the S-Scape to The Outpost gold fish ping pong game offered at the new Pond Eddy restaurant for Shadfest, above. To recognize May 21 as World Fish Migration Day, Don Hamilton from the National Park Service guided a 6-mile Upper Delaware River paddle to observe American shad and learn about their natural history and ecology with Peter Van Slyke and his canine companion, at right, joining the nine-boat float. Historically, the Delaware River had the largest American shad run of any river on the Atlantic Coast and the migration remains a timeless rite of passage every spring. (Contributed Photos by Teresa Spradling, above; and James Amerman, right)



LITTER, continued from Page 1

Town of Cohecton, NY - Larry H. Richardson (UDC Representative)

Berlin Township, PA - Peggy Runway: Al Henry (UDC Representative); and Rt. 652: Sarah Hall-Bagdonas (in memory of Sean Davis)

Town of Tusten, NY - Evan & Cherene Padua (Sweetwater Guide Service and Evan as a UDC Alternate); Wanda Gangel (Narrowsburg Beautification Group)

Lackawaxen Township, PA - Jeff Thompson (Growing Lackawaxen)

Town of Highland, NY - Andy Boyar (UDC Representative); John Pizzolato (Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce); and Frank Guzman (LIB: Living in Barryville, NY Facebook Group)

Shohola Township, PA - Kerry Engelhardt (UDC Resources & Land Use Specialist)

Town of Lumberland, NY - Nadia Rajsz (Sullivan County District 2 Legislator and UDC Representative); and Shannon Cilen-to (Sullivan Renaissance)

Town of Deerpark, NY - Ginny & Bill Dudko (UDC Representative & Alternate)

Westfall Township, PA - Bethany Montana and NPS Junior Ranger Johnny Montana (Milford residents)

UDC Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas coordinated the entire event's logistics.

The 37 sponsors who invested in a cleaner environment through their pledges of cash and services to the 2nd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep were:

Litter Slayers (\$500) - Andy Boyar-TU; Delaware River Solar; and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

Litter Avengers (\$250) - Callicoon Business Association (Nicole Vallance, Rosie DeCristofaro, Fred Stabbert, and Tom Freda); Delaware River Basin Commission; Eagle Valley Realty; Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce; Happy Tattoo; Jeff Bank; Living in Barryville, NY Facebook Group; Mohican Inn; Peter Kolesar; River Reporter; Sweetwater Guide Service; and The Eldred Preserve.

Litter Enemies (\$100-\$249) - Al Henry; Bethany Davis; Country House Realty; Delaware Highlands Conservancy; Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History; Fremont NY Democrats; Friends of the Upper Delaware River Inc.; Gibson McKean; Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce; Housefly Fishing; Lumberland Fire Department; Nadia Rajsz; Nex Gen Dumpsters and Barryville Car Wash; Ninja Security Systems; Patricia Jeffer; Platform Industries; Pond Eddy United Methodist Church Congregation; Sullivan County Democratic Committee; The Delaware Company, Inc.; The Dirt Diva; Tri-States Naval Ship No. 7421 V.F.W.; WJFF Radio Catskill; and Anonymous.

NY-PA Bridge Commission Plans Capital Projects

The New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission at its May 25 annual meeting advanced plans for an \$18,040,000 major rehabilitation of the 1961 **Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge** to start next year.

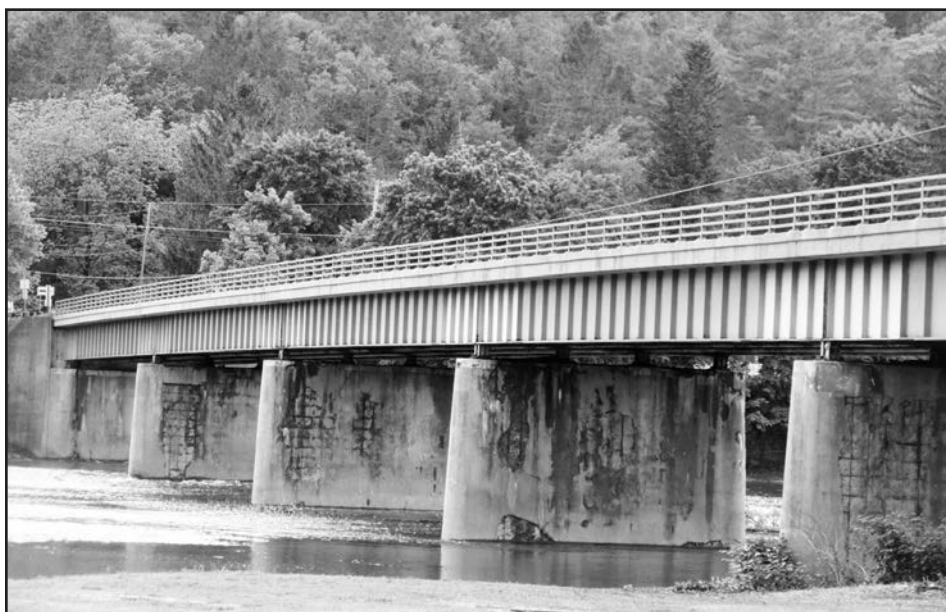
That contract is scheduled to be awarded on Feb. 2, 2023, with construction work staged over two seasons to allow one alternating lane to remain open to traffic.

Last year, they had approved \$2,212,000 to design its repair work after engineers determined that its steel members are rapidly deteriorating, the substructure has exposed and missing reinforcing bars on all piers and abutments, the wearing surfaces of the deck and approaches are cracked with potholes, and the paint has reached the end of its life cycle.

Commissioners earmarked another \$2 million to continue the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study for the 1902 **Skinner's Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge** that was initiated in October 2020.

The bridge has been barricaded against all motorists and pedestrians since failing a safety inspection on Oct. 16, 2019.

This June, PennDOT and its consultants released an updated Draft Purpose and Need Statement and a report of their



MAJOR REHAB: Deterioration is evident on the concrete piers of the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge, ahead of the \$18.04 million repair project that the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission approved to begin in 2023. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

responses to public comments submitted from Dec. 8, 2021 through Feb. 7, 2022.

The document aims to describe the transportation objectives and problems that the proposed project will address as a

step toward determining an alternative.

The options are to rehabilitate, replace, or eliminate the single-lane ornamental steel bridge with a timber plank deck which is the oldest intact example of a two-span American Bridge Company pin-connected Baltimore Truss bridge left in the U.S.

Due to its 1988 listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the federal review process requires conducting a Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis and additional technical studies as next steps.

Public input will be solicited again once a final alternative is offered.

The Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service, who serve on a Project Advisory Committee, are among those advocating for historic rehabilitation of this culturally-significant crossing.

Search "Skinner's Falls Bridge Project" at penndot.pa.gov for links to all Resources.

The Commission also approved funds for two bridge painting projects that will share a Dec. 15, 2022 date to be awarded under a regional contract.

As the \$7,067,088 deck replacement of the 1953 **Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge** remains under construction "for the rest of the year", an additional \$2,047,174 was allocated for painting. The bridge will be acquiring new approaches, a sidewalk, railing, and pedestrian fence.

The 1937 **Hancock, NY-Buckingham, PA Bridge** received a \$1,993,982 earmark to undergo repainting in 2023.

A study of options to potentially replace the open-grid deck system on the 1939 **Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge** was funded at \$400,000.



TRASH HEAP: The Dark Forest Creations crew from Burn Brae Mansion in Glen Spey, NY pulled out old machinery, tires, and assorted garbage from a pull-off area at the bottom of County Route 31 near the Mongaup River Access in the Town of Lumberland for the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. From the left are Andy Russ, Susan Fraysse Russ, Liz Petersen, Jamie Macri, Austin Hand, Sadie Hand, Sarit Hand, and Art Petersen. (Photo by Brian Aberback)

Scenic Byway Elects Officers

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB) Committee elected officers at its April 25 annual meeting to lead the non-profit organization which promotes and protects the outstanding character, heritage, and beauty of New York State Route 97 and its communities, while encouraging economic development through tourism and recreation.

New Chairperson Richard H. Lowe III was appointed to the UDSB board by the Hancock Village Board in January 2022.

It coincided with his accepting the position of Director of Regional and Economic Development for Hancock Partners, Inc., a non-profit that has focused on stimulating, producing, and evaluating growth in the Hancock region since 2003.

Originally from Manchester, TN, Lowe became a full-time Hancock resident in the Fall of 2020. He has more than a decade of experience in the fashion world, offering design and consultation services to leading industry firms, as well as a background in immersive marketing, trend forecasting services, and heritage branding for American-based businesses.

Lowe trained in Fashion Design and International Trade & Marketing at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City, after earning an undergraduate Psychology degree from Vanderbilt University, a joint Master's in International Affairs and Business Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, and an International Certificate in Non-profit Management from Oxford & Berkeley University.

Lowe serves as vice-president for the Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteer efforts have extended to community projects by the Delaware Valley Garden Club, Hancock Rotary Park, Hancock Community Education Foundation, and Friends of the Upper Delaware River.

He helped raise funds to build Phase One of the Hancock Hounds Dog Park, is involved with upgrading the Junction Pool River Access, and hopes to implement a major town rebranding initiative with beau-



UDSB LEADERSHIP: Richard H. Lowe III, right, was elected on April 25 to chair the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway board, along with Larry H. Richardson as secretary-treasurer and Rosie DeCristofaro as vice-chair. At right, Richardson installs a new community anti-litter sign along NYS Route 97. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie, top; Contributed, right)

tification, cultural, historical, and recreational elements.

Rosie DeCristofaro was named vice-chairperson. She has been the Town of Delaware's representative on the UDSB board since its 2002 designation as a NYS Scenic Byway.

DeCristofaro is the Broker/Owner of Callicoon Real Estate, LLC. She serves as the 2022 vice-president for both the Sullivan County Board of Realtors and the Callicoon Business Association.

Secretary-Treasurer Larry H. Richardson (Town of Cochection) has also served on the UDSB board for all 20 years. He first assumed that office in 2009 after chairing the committee from 2005-2008, and being vice-chair in 2003.

Now retired after 30 years as an executive with the Yaun Company, Richardson is a former Cochection Planning Board member (1988-1995), town councilman (1995-2015), a four-time past chair and ongoing town representative since 1989 for the Upper Delaware Council, and a founding member/treasurer of the Cochection Preservation Society.

He also serves as a director on the boards of Garnet Health Foundation-Cat-



skill, Grover Hermann Hospital Auxiliary, and the Fosterdale Cemetery Association.

UDSB, Inc. voting members are the Village of Hancock; the Towns of Delaware, Cochection, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, and Deerpark; the City of Port Jervis; and Sullivan County.

Committee participation also includes invited non-profit organizations; governmental agencies; business, beautification and tourism groups; and historical societies which are active in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

UDSB, Inc. meets on the 4th Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg. Call the toll-free hotline at 866-511-UDSB (8372) or email info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org for more information.

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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Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359
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*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 for specific meeting dates.

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

UPDE Photo Contest

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is accepting entries for its 5th Annual juried photo contest for the Upper Delaware River Region from August 1-31.

"Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife" is open to professional and amateur photographers. There are five categories: landscape, wildlife, macro, water, the Van Scott Nature Reserve (new this year), plus a youth category for under age 18.

The winning photos will be chosen by a panel of volunteer judges, along with one People's Choice. They will be hung at the ARTery gallery in Milford, PA in November with an afternoon reception on Nov. 12.

Entrants must agree to the Official Rules, submit a \$10 entry fee (except youth entries which are free), and are asked to submit no more than two photos each.

Visit www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest for full details.

TMR Archeology Exhibit

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum has installed a new exhibit and will offer several more Tuesday Evening History Talks.

The "Archeology of Ten Mile River Vil-

lage/Tusten Village" includes over 300 artifacts professionally excavated on TMR property in 2018, many of which date back to the 1800s. The village is largely forgotten today but it was the center of the blue-stone mining and timbering industries in the early 1800s.

Scouts and the general public are invited to the open-air Cayuga/Kotohke Cabin at 1481 Crystal Lake Road (County Road 26) in Narrowsburg for these 7 p.m. programs:

Aug. 2 - "The Nature of TMR": A report of findings from Upper Delaware BioBlitzes that recorded every living thing around Rock Lake during a 24-hour period in 2014 and 2016;

Aug. 9 - "Remembering Camp Life": Discussion about TMR summer camp led by Museum Co-Director Ira Nagel; and

Aug. 16 - "Tales of the Raftsmen": Stories the lumbermen and rafters told themselves, including how the Ten Mile River got its name.

Visit www.tmr-museum.org or call 845-252-2063 for more information.

DRBC Annual Report

The Delaware River Basin Commission

has released its 2021 Annual Report.

Entitled "60 Years of Managing, Protecting and Improving", the document is now available through the library page at www.nj.gov/drbc.

Celebrate Agriculture

Farm Arts Collective offers performances, workshops, and special events celebrating "agri-culture" and ecology.

Led by Artistic Director Tannis Kowalchuk, the ensemble created a 10-year Dream on the Farm cycle of devised plays focusing on climate change as immersive theatrical performances.

Visit www.farmartscollective.org.

Depot Chugs Forward

The Callicoon Depot project to rehabilitate the historic Erie Railroad station in the center of the hamlet to become both the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center and a flexible space for the public's use is moving forward.

Volunteer opportunities are available for all types of expertise and experience. Call 845-428-9212 or email allaboard@callicoondepot.org to offer help.