

The Upper Delaware

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

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RV PARK MODELS: The first of potentially 146 park model recreational vehicles called for in Northgate Resorts' site plan to turn Kittatinny Canoes & Campgrounds in Barryville, NY into Camp FIMFO Catskills are being rented this summer as the developer awaited the Town of Highland's permit decision at press time. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Campground Upgrade Plan Puts UDC and NPS at Odds

Does the proposed \$45 million renovation of a 250-acre Barryville campground substantially conform with the goals and objectives of the 1986 River Management Plan and its Land and Water Use Guidelines for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River?

The National Park Service (NPS) issued a determination on July 17, 2023 that says no.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) had provided a recommendation on September 2, 2022 that said yes.

Now it's up to the presiding town to act.

At debate is Northgate Resorts' Special Use Permit application before the Town of Highland which seeks to transform Kittatinny Canoes and Campgrounds, in operation since 1941, into their Camp FIMFO (Fun is More Fun Outside) brand of camping resorts targeting millennial parents and multigenerational travelers.

The Michigan-based company closed on

the property on Dec. 31, 2020 and offered its first conceptual plan to the Highland Planning Board on Jan 26, 2022. That volunteer board turned over what it deemed to be a complete project site plan to the UDC to review in July 2022.

The 45-day clock that the NPS also has to issue a final determination after receiving the UDC's 45-day project recommendation was repeatedly extended to request additional information from the applicant.

The plan calls for accommodating 2,346 guests, a 17.34% decrease over the current occupancy rate due to allowing fewer individuals per site and having extended stays, and creating 89 full-time jobs.

New amenities are an expanded camp store, renovated bathhouses, a heated swimming pool, hot tubs, a water playground, mini-golf, sports courts, and dining at their acquired Cedar Rapids Restaurant.

Campsite options would include 146 park

See **CAMPGROUND** on page 10

Upper Delaware Profile: Ryan Coulter

Fishing is a hobby for many, a vocation for some, and a lifelong passion that turned into a satisfying career for Ryan Coulter.

Introduced to the sport by his grandfather while growing up in Trumbull, CT, Coulter said he was “obsessed by fishing” which was apparent to everyone, including his ICU Registered Nurse mother and music teacher/saxophone-playing band member father, who encouraged him by helping research angling techniques and locate the best spots to practice them.

“I’ll never forget that when I met with my guidance counselor, I said back then that I was really into water and fisheries, though I didn’t know what the job market would be for that,” says the now 40-year-old.

From 1996 as a high school freshman through his junior year, Coulter attended half-days at the Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Education Center which offers a vocational emphasis on aquaculture studies in Connecticut.

“It was a great opportunity. I built my own fishing rod and a boat in high school while studying marine fisheries of the Long Island Sound,” he recalls.

Coulter went on to earn an Associate’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology in Dec. 2003 and a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Science - Fisheries and Wildlife Technology in Spring 2005, both from the State University of New York at Cobleskill.

On campus, Coulter was president of their American Fisheries Society chapter. He worked as a technical assistant at the on-campus fish hatchery, then as an electrofisheries technician, and for one season as an assistant fish hatchery manager.

His first post-graduation gig was as a seasonal field technician with the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation based in Ray Brook in 2005. He collected fish and water samples for the Statewide Mercury Project and entered data for health alerts.

Coulter was then out ice fishing one day when he got a call inviting him to interview with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

He was hired in April 2006 as a technician with the DEC’s Hudson River Fisheries Unit, working on studies of striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, American shad, blue crabs, and other fish species.

He moved on in June 2007 to become an



Ryan A. Coulter, New York State

aquatic biologist in Putnam and Westchester Counties, before being tapped as acting manager for the Region 3 Fisheries Unit based in New Paltz in April 2020.

It’s now been about a year since the “acting” was removed from his title.

As Region 3 Fisheries Manager, Coulter said he is “honored” to oversee the unit that covers seven counties (Sullivan, Orange, Ulster, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester) with his staff that currently includes 2 biologists, 2 fisheries technicians, and 4 seasonal employees.

One of his first activities was to tour the Delaware River to get familiar with its needs, conservation partners, recreational accesses, and the New York City Delaware Basin reservoir release program. He is responsible for coordinating an annual work plan, budget, purchasing, hiring, ensuring the adequacy of public accesses, protecting fish populations and habitat, keeping up with bi-state regulations, working with fish hatcheries, providing transparent information to the public and media, and serving as a DEC liaison at meetings.

Those now includes the Upper Delaware Council. NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos designated Coulter and Region 4 Fisheries Manager Chris VanMaaren as the State of New York’s representative and alternate, respectively, in a June 1 letter.

“I think it’s great that the UDC is able to get all the representatives together on a monthly basis. Even when not everybody agrees on topics, it’s very professional and a nice group to work with,” he says.

The Kerhonkson resident is married to Lisa, a NYS DEC wildlife biologist. They have a daughter, Lakelyn (5), and son, Sawyer (2). He enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, bowhunting for white-tailed deer, and has collected thousands of sports cards, with a rare 1988 Michael Jordan All-Star card being his most prized.

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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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Congressman Molinaro to Speak at UDC's 35th Annual River Valley Awards Sept. 10

U.S. Congressman Marcus J. Molinaro (NY-19) will deliver the keynote address at the Upper Delaware Council's 35th Annual River Valley Awards ceremony on Sunday, September 10, at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. A social hour with appetizers and a cash bar will begin at 3 p.m., dinner is at 4 p.m., Rep. Molinaro will speak at approximately 5 p.m., and the presentation of awards will follow. Reservations at \$33 per person are due by September 1st.

Public nominations in the potential categories of Distinguished Service, Lifesaving, Advocacy, Recreation Achievement, Community Service, Partnership, Cultural Achievement, Volunteer, Outstanding Community Achievement, and Special Recognition are being accepted through August 18. Visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for nomination and reservation forms.

The bountiful buffet will include tossed garden salad, dinner rolls, cheese tortellini vinaigrette, prime rib, baked salmon with maple glaze, chicken marsala, garlic mashed red potatoes, home-style cole slaw, glazed baby carrots, roasted zucchini & squash, and a dessert choice of brownie a la mode or cheesecake with strawberry puree.

Congressman Molinaro was elected in November of 2022 to serve New York's 19th Congressional District which includes all or parts of 11 counties, including Sullivan and Delaware.

A native New Yorker, former Mayor, State Assemblyman, and Dutchess County Executive, Marc's public service career began in 1994 at the age of 18 when he was elected to serve on the village board in Tivoli, then became the youngest mayor in America in 1995. In Congress, he serves on the House Committees on Agriculture, Transportation & Infrastructure, and Small Business. He characterizes himself as a "career problem solver."



U.S. Representative Marc Molinaro,
19th Congressional District, NY

UDC Welcomes Stephanie Driscoll as Administrative Support

The Upper Delaware Council is pleased to announce the hiring of Stephanie Driscoll of Eldred, NY as Administrative Support, effective July 10, 2023.

In the full-time position, Driscoll provides a wide range of administrative and clerical support services to the non-profit organization which oversees the cooperative management of the Congressionally designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in New York and Pennsylvania by a partnership of federal, states, and local government interests.

Driscoll is a Town of Highland native who graduated from Eldred Central School in 2010. She is the daughter of Allen Knapp and Pamela Horton.

Driscoll comes to the UDC with nearly 10 years of experience in front office management.

Most recently for seven years starting in 2016, she was the receptionist for Pine Island Turf Nursery, Inc., a family-owned and operated farm in the Blackdirt region of Pine Island, NY selling sod, fertilizer and grass products to contractors and landscapers.

Her prior work history included being a registrar for Koinonia Summer Camp in Highland Lake in 2015, an AT&T Wireless sales associate from 2010-2015 based in Ulster County and serving customers at various AT&T offices throughout the Hudson Valley, and a dog walker for a pet services company during her New York City residency.

Driscoll had moved to the Bushwick



Stephanie Driscoll

neighborhood of Brooklyn after high school. She met her husband in Brooklyn in 2014 through their roommate acquaintances and only discovered then that they actually share the same hometown.

Dan Driscoll had been three years ahead of Stephanie Knapp at Eldred School and their paths had not crossed.

After that fateful introduction, the couple wed on October 5, 2019. Dan Driscoll is a computer analyst and project manager for Baxter International, which installs nursing call station systems.

They had decided to move back in 2015 to be closer to family, first renting a place in Warwick near the turf farm, then buying a small house in the Town of Highland that they gutted, renovated, and resold. In 2022, they settled into a more spacious

ranch house along a quieter road in Eldred with their 12-year-old pug-beagle mix rescue dog, Kona.

On December 23, 2020, the Driscolls welcomed their baby boy, Jack.

Their son and the couple's love for the Upper Delaware River were motivational factors in Driscoll seeking the UDC job.

"I was ready to do something I could be more passionate about and where I could make a difference closer to home, helping to make a better life for our kid. We want Jack to really appreciate and understand why we choose to live here, and to enjoy environmental opportunities, nature, and the outdoors. Once I started looking at everything the UDC does and is affiliated with, it seems that they make a huge difference. I knew it would be more time consuming than what I'd been doing but I was excited to get back into an office setting, to learn, grow, and help as much as I can. I would like to be here for the long haul," the 30-year-old says.

The UDC position was previously held by Ashley Bagdonas from October 15, 2018 through May 31, 2023.

Contact Driscoll at (845) 252-3022 or stephanie@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

UDC Board Changes

In addition to New York State's new UDC delegates (see page 2), the Town of Fremont appointed Dennis Bernitt of Hankins as its UDC alternate, succeeding Town Supervisor Brian Brustman, in June.

Aqueduct Repairs Delayed for a Year

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced on June 28 that they will delay starting the major work phase to repair the Delaware Aqueduct until October 2024.

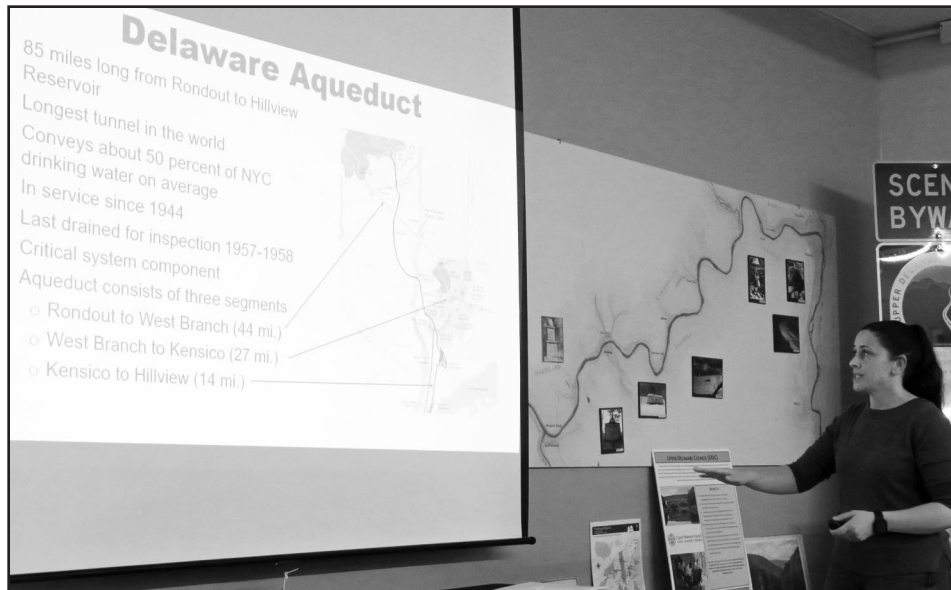
The \$1 billion project to fix decades-old leaks, which calls for shutting down a portion of the 85-mile-long aqueduct to attach a bypass tunnel under the Hudson River, was slated to begin this October and last up to eight months.

The rescheduling is necessary to allow for the installation of additional pumps, as well as related drainage infrastructure and electrical support, to keep the construction zone dry and ensure worker safety.

“This is the largest-ever capital repair project in the history of the City’s water supply and worker safety is paramount to the DEP,” said DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala. “This schedule change is being done to ensure that the men and women working 700-feet underground will be safe as they help us protect New York City’s high-quality drinking water for generations to come. This schedule change will in no way impact the safety or supply of New York City’s drinking water.”

In March, for the first time in 70 years, the aqueduct was temporarily shut down and partially drained for two weeks.

Data collected during this test showed that groundwater was infiltrating the aqueduct faster than originally projected when



PRE-DELAY: Jennifer Garigliano, director of Water Resources Management for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, attended the May 4 Upper Delaware Council meeting to discuss the Delaware Aqueduct shutdowns that were originally set to start in October 2023. She will return with a new presentation on Sept. 7. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

the tunnel was not at full capacity.

Put into service in 1944, the gravity-based Delaware Aqueduct delivers typically 600 million gallons of water per day from four Catskill Mountains reservoirs.

Since 1992, DEP has continuously tested and monitored system leaks discovered in Newburgh and Wawarsing which are releasing upwards of 35 million gallons per

day. The DEP’s multi-phase repair project was announced in 2010.

More Flexible Flows

New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the City of New York announced on May 8 that they have completed an interim review of the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program and unanimously approved an amendment that will remain in effect through May 31, 2028.

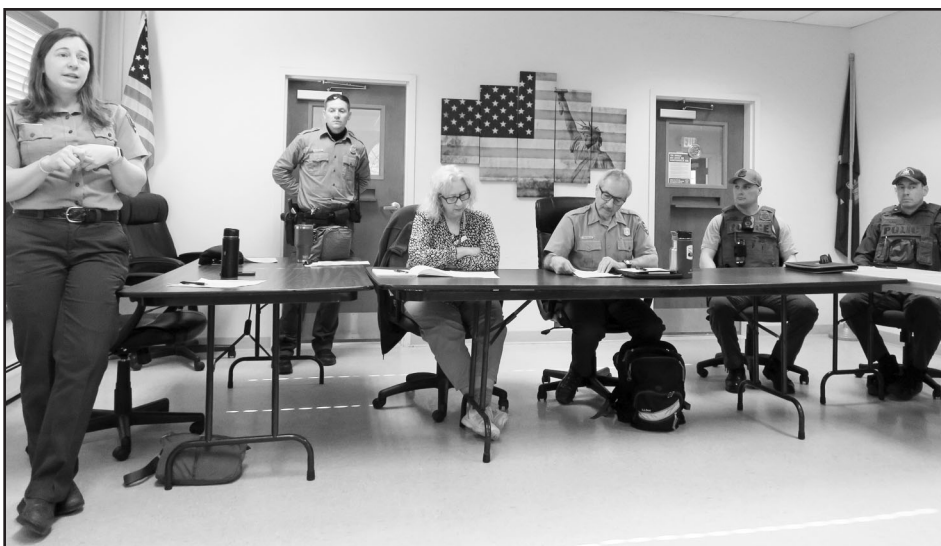
The FFMP was intended to meet water supply demands, protect fisheries habitat downstream of the NYC Delaware Basin reservoirs, enhance flood mitigation, and repel the upstream movement of salt water in the Delaware Estuary.

In the 2023 amendment, the Decree Parties commit to moving forward over the next five years with studies that were delayed by COVID-19 and other factors.

USGS Studies Temps

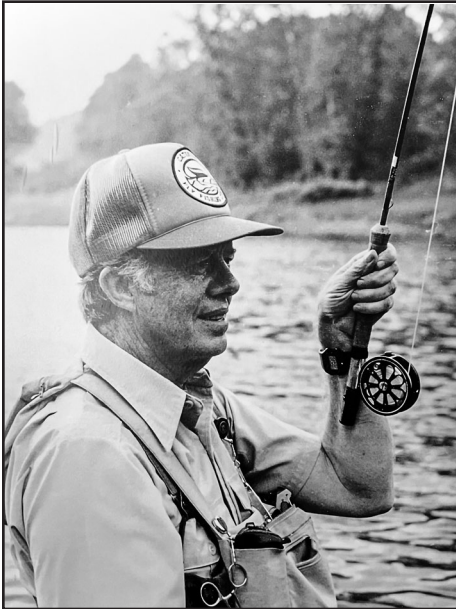
Jacob Zwart and colleagues at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will be studying water temperature forecasts provided at 70 sites located throughout the Delaware River basin this summer aimed at informing decisions regarding water releases from upstream reservoirs to maintain below threshold thermal conditions.

One provision of the FFMP is to maintain water temperature below 75 degrees F at the USGS river gage above Lordville to preserve optimal habitat for the survival of cold water species like brook trout.



READY TO FISH: The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River convened its annual Fishing Guides meeting on April 12 at the Hancock Town Hall to prepare for the 2023 season. From the left, Superintendent Lindsey Kurnath, Chief Ranger Keith Winslow, Commercial Use Authorization Coordinator Debby Seaboldt, Chief of Natural Resources Don Hamilton, Law Enforcement Park Ranger Ryan Schumacher, and New York State Environmental Conservation Officer Nate Doig gave updates on permit responsibilities, regulations, safety messages, and river-related projects. PA Fish and Boat Commission Waterways Conservation Officer Shane Casey also participated. There are 75 fishing guides licensed to operate on the Upper Delaware River. From 2022 reporting, guides provided services to 2,708 customers, yielding total gross receipts of \$2,177,769. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

President Carter To be Honored For Conservation



Contributed article and photo by The Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum

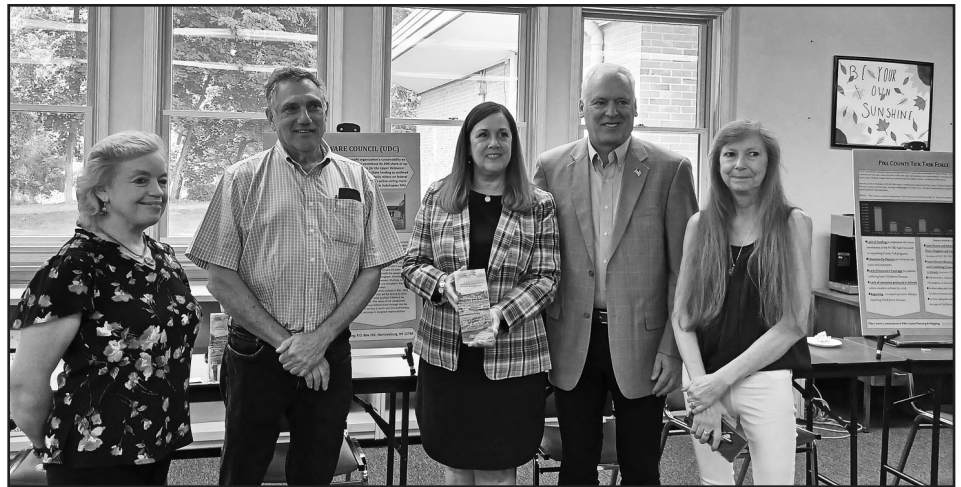
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY - The Executive Committee of The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is pleased to announce that President Jimmy Carter has been selected as the 2023 recipient of CFFCM's Lee Wulff Conservation Award.

The stories of Carter's enormous contribution to the museum's initial construction are hard to miss.

A larger than life image of him fly fishing The Catskills is prominently displayed in our permanent collection along with letters and supporting memorabilia from his historic visit and fundraising drive in 1984.

However, Carter's contributions to the preservation of the Delaware River system are often overlooked.

In 1978, Carter established more than 73



CONSERVATION PARTNERS: At the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership Legislative Breakfast held July 14 at the Wayne Conservation District office in Honesdale, PA, the Upper Delaware Council had a chance to discuss the organization's needs and contributions with elected officials and their representatives. Pictured from the left are Executive Director Laurie Ramie, 2023 UDC Chairperson Aaron Robinson, Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Baker, Pike County Commissioner Ron Schmalzle, and Jill Gamboni, legislative aide to PA Representative Joe Adams. (Photo by Emily Mansfield, Communications Coordinator, Pike County Conservation District)

miles of river between the towns of Hancock and Sparrowbush as the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River - a unit of the national park system.

This designation not only helps protect the waterway as a vital component of our local economies, but the park unit also serves as a backbone for the fundraising initiatives of local conservation agencies throughout the region.

Carter's commitment to conservation and the establishment of irrevocable public spaces make him an ideal recipient for Wulff's namesake award.

His legacy has been honored an uncountable number of times, but one of our favorites is the naming of a fish after Carter in 2012. The "Bluegrass Darter" (*etheostoma jimmycarter*) was named after the 39th president of the United States for his environmental leadership and accomplishments in the areas of national energy policy and wilderness protection, and his lifelong commitment to social justice and basic human rights.

He's had a beetle named after him as well, but we're partial to the small colorful darter native to the Green River drainage in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The museum's decision to honor President Carter has prompted some individuals who were part of his time in The Catskills to share their stories of this remarkable man.

The museum will share these and other stories leading up to the formal presentation of the award at the museum's Hall of Fame Ceremony this fall.

Previous award recipients include Ted Rogowski, Peter Kolesar, John Waldron, Robert Boyle, and Stephen Sloan.

The CFFCM is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the unique heritage of fly fishing in the Catskills through education, public programs, interactive exhibits, and events. It is located on a 50-acre campus on the banks of the Willowemoc Creek, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor.

For more information, visit cffcm.com.



SENATOR ORIENTATION: New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, whose 51st District now represents seven of the Upper Delaware Council's eight New York town members, visited the Narrowsburg office on July 6 to learn about the UDC's mission and ask how he can help. Participating in the introductory meeting were, from the left, UDC Chairperson Aaron Robinson, Vice-Chair Ginny Dudko, Executive Director Laurie Ramie, Senator Oberacker, Resources & Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt, board members Harold Roeder, Jr., Jeff Dexter, Nadia Rajs, and Bill Dudko, and Sullivan County Republican Committee Chairman & Town of Cochetcon Supervisor Gary Maas. (Photo by Camille O'Brien, Senator Oberacker's Community Outreach Director)

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from late March to mid-July 2023, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

UDC FUNDING

The Operations Committee approved a "UDC Funding Issue Fact Sheet" on 5/24 which was added to the website with a list of addresses for river corridor federal and state elected officials for anyone to reference as potential talking points about the nonprofit's fiscal sustainability crisis.

WU/RM ISSUES

The Highland River Access reopened to the public after paving was completed on 6/26; the site upgrades will be showcased at an 8/2 Day on the Delaware event.

NYS DEC fisheries staff recently caught four invasive adult Northern Snakeheads measuring up to 29" in a back channel of the Delaware River south of Callicoon and appraised the pending Callicoon Riverside Park property currently under management of The Trust for Public Land to develop a new trailered boat launch facility.

PROJECT REVIEWS

The UDC handled the following reviews: Damascus Township - Ground-mounted solar system under 35kW; and Proposed hunting cabin with no pressurized water or septic - no review required for either.

Lackawaxen Township - Substantial Conformance (SC) Review 2023-01: Masthope Plank Road home construction 128' from river's edge (NPS concurred with UDC recommendation on 4/13); 2023-03:



MUSEUM PORCH VIEW: At the 17th Annual Zane Grey Festival hosted by the National Park Service and Zane Grey's West Society on July 15, visitors could take a horse-drawn wagon ride through Lackawaxen to enjoy the same Delaware River views that the Western novelist and sportsman once did, provided by Steve and Laura Duda from Brookvalley Farm located near Carbondale, PA. The day offered free family activities, exhibits, programs, crafts, and music on the 135 Scenic Drive grounds of the Zane Grey Museum. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Zoning Ordinance Amendment to remove conditional use permit requirement for single family homes constructed in the river corridor and visible from the river (NPS approved 6/9); and 2022-11: Zoning Ordinance

Amendment to add Boat, Golf Cart & RV Storage and Winterization Businesses as a conditional use in certain zoning districts (UDC recommended 7/6).

Town of Tusten - SC Review 2023-02: Big Eddy Brewing in Narrowsburg (NPS approved 5/15); Bar Veloce, 6/12 ZBA meeting to monitor a zoning challenge; and SC Review 2023-04: Narrowsburg Veterinary (UDC recommended 7/6).

Town of Highland - SC Review 2023-05, Fred Reber minor subdivision, Barryville - no review required; SC Review 2023-07: Eve Fisher & Andrew McGrath retail wine shop, Barryville (UDC recommended 7/6); 2022-03: Sun NG/Northgate Resorts Camp FIMFO Catskills (a 5/25 NPS letter requesting the UDC to arrange a meeting with the Town of Highland and applicant to present NPS's review findings was attempted but not accepted by all parties; NPS obliged the UDC's request to provide an advance briefing at a 6/13 special Project Review Committee public meeting with 55 participants; and the NPS issued its final determination on 7/17 opposing the UDC's 9/2/22 recommendation for substantial conformance-see page 1).

Shohola Township - SC Review 2023-06: Advanced Recycling (recommended 7/6).

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2023-04 (4/25): Resolution to Open a

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7



CORRIDOR MAP: UDC Representative Nadia Rajsiz presented a map depicting the boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River within the Town of Lumberland to Town Supervisor Jenny Mellan on June 14 as a gift of the Upper Delaware Council to each member town and township. The Sullivan County GIS Department provided the printed image. It will be used by the planning and zoning boards, and Code Enforcement Officer.

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

Vanguard Brokerage Account; and 2023-05 (5/4), Approving 2023 River & Shoreline Clean-up Grants.

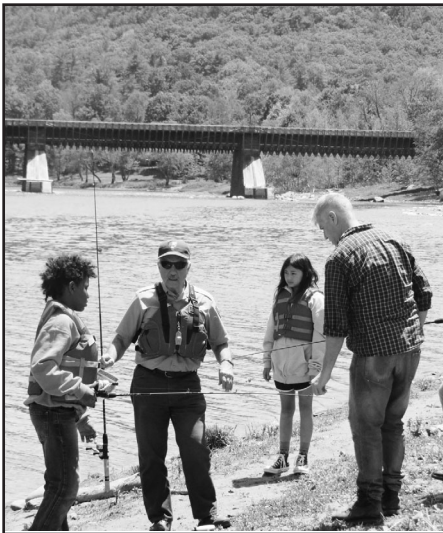
MEETINGS & EVENTS

In addition to regular liaison roles, UDC staff attended: 4/4, inaugural meeting of the D&H Council Board of Trustees; 4/21, NPS Annual Water Safety Partners; 5/10, Annual NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission; 5/10, FFMP webinar by Delaware Rivermaster; 5/18, Extreme Heat webinar by NYS DEC; 5/24, Skinners Falls Bridge Project Advisory Committee; 5/25, first meeting of the Delaware River Watershed Plan Steering Committee; 6/28 National Parks Conservation Association Community Roundtable; 7/15, Zane Grey Festival; 7/21, Pke/Wayne Conservation Partnership's Homeowners' Resource Fair; 7/23, 33rd Annual Narrowsburg Riverfest; and 8/6, 35th Annual UDC Family Raft Trip (covered in next issue.)

UDC Resources & Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt completed a 10-week "Making Maps that Matter with GIS" course through Penn State World Campus 7/19.

SELECT LETTERS

The UDC sent support letters for Damascus Township Park Phase II Improvements on 3/28 and for the mission of Beyond Plastics Inc. on 4/11; a requested PA-UDC funding explanatory letter to Senator Lisa Baker, Rep. Jonathan Fritz, and Rep. Joe Adams on 5/31; and a thank you to NYS Senator Peter Oberacker for his 7/6 visit.



FUTURE STEWARDS: The Upper Delaware Shadfest held a May 25 Youth Fishing Day with students from The Homestead School getting hands-on lessons from the National Park Service and angling experts at the Zane Grey Access, along with a nutritional lunch program by A Single Bite. Above, Shadfest Coordinator John Pizzolato of Barryville, right, and Upper Delaware Chief of Natural Resources Don Hamilton helped out the kids, with Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct as a historic backdrop. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



SALUTE!: Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee member Kerry Engelhardt, left, surprised National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec, donning her new hat, with the Admiral Award on June 18 at the Buckingham Access for her many years of day planning. Also recognized were NPS Chief of Natural Resources Don Hamilton, due to retire this year, and former Upper Delaware Council Secretary Ashley Bagdonas for coordination of the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep.

Sojourners Enjoy Upper Delaware Days

By Kerry Engelhardt, UDC Resources & Land Use Specialist

The Delaware River Sojourn was a successful event once again.

This year the theme was "Running Free," referencing the fact that the Delaware River is the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi.

Attendance numbers were at or near capacity throughout the event, particularly in the stretches paddled in the Upper Delaware on days 0 (a river trash cleanup) through 3.

Paddlers camped at the Northeast Wilderness Experience (NEWE) campground in Equinunk, PA. Over the first three days they made their way from Hancock, NY, to Buckingham, PA, to the NEWE campground itself, and onward to Callicoon, PA on day 3.

On the morning of day 4, participants had a delicious breakfast provided by Konrad's Kitchen (who provided all the meals for the first three days of the Sojourn – Konrad's has been providing catering for the Sojourn for over a decade and is always a big hit with the paddlers!) before driving down to Bushkill for the remainder of the journey.

As always, the Sojourn provides entertaining and educational programs in the evenings. Paddlers were treated to programs on the invasive knotweed, presented by Steve Schwartz of Friends of the Upper Delaware River; on reptiles and amphibians, presented by Luc Cibischino of the National Park Service; and on the "bounding furbearers" of the region presented by Rachel Morrow of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, complete with real furs and replica skulls for participants to touch and examine!

This year the Sojourn recognized 1,000-mile paddlers with a commemorative mini-paddle: on Day 3, Don Yelsits and his grandson Jimmy Marks were honored. Jimmy has been Sojourning since he was seven years old! We hope you will join us next year!

UDC Accepts Applications; Awards Grants

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) applications from Upper Delaware Council member municipalities and the five river valley counties will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on August 18.

Since 1988, the Council has awarded \$930,274 in TAGs for 262 projects related to implementation of the Final 1986 River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: NY & PA.

See TAG program guidelines and forms

at upperdelawarecouncil.org.

A special meeting of the UDC's Project Review Committee will be held on Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. to meet with applicants and review proposals. Grant awards will be approved at the Oct. 5 UDC meeting.

On May 4, the UDC awarded 2023 River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants to the Town of Deerpark (\$3,354.62) and the Town of Lumberland (\$1,100). Project completions are due by September 20.

Gratitude for Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Support

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) relied on Litter Leaders, volunteers, and sponsors to make its 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep a success.

While land-based clean-ups officially took place between April 22-30 throughout the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River valley, eager volunteers started their spring cleaning early and continued to organize events this summer.

The UDC handles permitting; publicity; information exchanges to build a network of helpers; the purchase and distribution of supplies; ordering team t-shirts; assistance with safety and disposal instructions; and updating schedules.

The 2023 commemorative orange t-shirts featured a friendly, litter-sweeping turtle designed by Maggie Clauss from Platform Industries Custom Screen Printing of Honesdale, PA.

Starting from a \$1,488.31 balance carried over from last year, the 2023 event raised \$6,250.76 and had \$3,935.16 in expenses, providing \$2,315.60 as seed money for 2024.

Sullivan County Legislator Nadia Rajsz, who serves as the Town of Lumberland's UDC representative, secured a first-time \$2,000 allocation from her District 2 discretionary funds.

Organizations and businesses supporting the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep were the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (\$500), Delaware River Basin Commission (\$250), Callicoon Business Association, Inc. (\$250), Callicoon Pantry



HAPPY TO HELP: Westfall Township Litter Leaders Bethany & Johnny Montana rounded up adult and children ages 3-8 volunteers for their April 23rd Matamoros clean-up. (Contributed Photo by Bethany Montana)



LARGEST TURNOUT: The Town of Highland's Litter Sweep on April 22 brought out 46 "pluckers" representing numerous businesses, civic organizations, and general do-gooders to fan out along the state, county, and local roadways and public spaces. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

((\$250), Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (\$100), Land and Water Realty (\$100), Sweetwater Guide Service/Evan Padua (\$100), Grace Church of Callicoon (\$100), Pond Eddy United Methodist Church Congregation (\$100), The Dirt Diva/Adrienne Picciano (\$100), Catskills Pride (\$50), and Smith's Party Tents (\$50).

UDC board members and area residents also generously contributed funds, including 2023 Chairperson Aaron Robinson of Shohola Township, Secretary-Treasurer Al Henry of Berlin Township, Town of Highland Representative Andy Boyar, and Town of Fremont Rep. Jim Greier, along with Barbara Kitchen from Narrowsburg, Connie Lloyd from Beach Lake, Leah Casner from Equinunk, Lydia Joy Langley from Long Eddy, and Samuel & Agnes Bonfante from Hackettstown, NJ.

In addition to Platform Industries offering a discount on the order of 250 t-shirts for the volunteers, donated services and goods were provided by Next Gen Dumpsters, Joe Canavan, Frank Edwards, Two Queens Coffee, Stickett Inn, Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce, Ascalona and Kittatinny Campgrounds, Town of Highland Lions Club, Trout Unlimited, Town of Highland Highway Department, Rohman's Pub, the Delaware River Club, and Dania LaScola organized an April 22 Earth Day benefit at The Callicoon Marketplace to promote the Litter Sweep.

Litter Leaders who organized clean-ups in the 15 NY and PA river towns and townships and beyond included Ashley Bagdonas of the Upper Delaware Council and In Memory of Sean Davis; Lara Bicko of Platform Industries (Shohola); Larry Richardson (Cochecton); Al Henry and the Beach Lake Hunting & Fishing Club

(Berlin); Tess McBeath of the Town of Delaware; Zach Scheitlin of the Callicoon Business Association; Tanya Vannatta of Wayne Bank; Andy Boyar, John Pizzolato, and Frank Guzman (Highland); Jim Thompson from Growing Lackawaxen; Bethany & Johnny Montana (Westfall); Ginny & Bill Dudko (Deerpark) and the Pond Eddy United Methodist Church; Georgia Skuza of Keep Nature Wild (Manchester & Buckingham), Brandon Kent & Nikole Snyder and the Narrowsburg Beautification Group (Tusten), Gail and Bill Bolte (Fremont), Teresa Kehagias and the 4-H Horselovers Club (Damascus), Keep Hawley-Honesdale Beautiful (Rt. 652), Andy Weber of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River; The Cooperage Project Pop-up Club; Kate Waldrep and Girl Scout Troop 50266 (Honesdale); Krystyn Strouse of Eagles Landing Getaways (Westfall); and Friends of the Upper Delaware River (Hancock).



\$2K DONATION: Sullivan County Legislator Nadia Rajsz allocated \$2,000 of her District 2 discretionary funds for the 3rd Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep to help purchase team-shirts and supplies. She presented the check to UDC Chairperson Aaron Robinson on July 6. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Round-up of Presentations to the UDC

APRIL 6 - “Plastics: Damming the Delaware” was the topic for environmental activist Rebekah Creshkoff of Callicoon.

As a Speakers Bureau volunteer with Beyond Plastics, Creshkoff said the “audacious” goal of that scrappy non-profit is “to end plastic pollution everywhere.”

That’s an extremely tall order considering that in the U.S., the annual recycling rate for post-consumer plastic waste was less than 6% in 2021. Globally, only 9% gets recycled while 22% is mismanaged.

What isn’t problematically landfilled or incinerated often gets swept into waterways. It’s estimated that there will be 1 lb. of plastic for every 3 lbs. of fish in the sea in two years. By 2050, that could be 1:1.

Plastics are made by fossil fuel and most of them in the U.S. come from a byproduct of hydrofractured gas. An estimated 42% of plastic produced today is used for packaging that’s designed for single use. Cigarette butts are the most common type of plastic litter found all around the world.

“As consumers, we cannot escape plastic and the industry knows that. Plenty of us feel guilty about buying so much of it. That’s why [the industry] has engaged in an aggressive decades-long campaign to convince us that plastic recycling works. However, plastics recycling has been an abysmal failure,” Chreshkoff said, noting that while many plastics are marked as being recyclable, the only types that actually do get recycled are those for which there are limited markets.

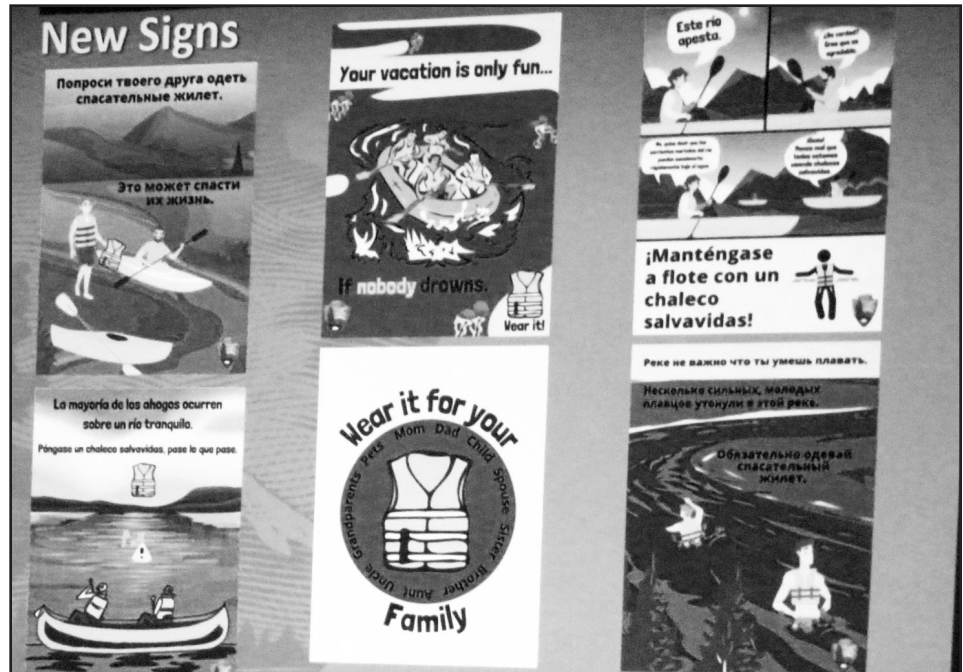
Microplastics have been found in the air, water, soil, rainwater, snowflakes, the food chain, and our bodies. Fibers from synthetic fabrics are particular sources of microplastics.

To stop plastic pollution, we need to stop making so much of it, commit to personal choices for its use, and support effective legislation and policy changes. Visit beyondplastics.org for information.

MAY 4 - “Update on the Delaware Aqueduct Shutdown.” Prior to the one-year postponement of this project (see page 4), Jennifer Garigliano of the NYC DEP addressed the UDC about original plans



SHAD TREATS: Celebrity chef Annika Sundvik, center, from Nordic Preserves at Essex Market, served up shadball chowder, smoked shad bites with saffron aioli, and other delicacies at The Festival of the Founding Fish’s May 20 Shad Shindig at Fort Delaware in Narrowsburg. The 2nd annual event themed on the historic migratory fish was sponsored by the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Sullivan County Legislature District 1 Chairman Robert Doherty, The Delaware Company, and Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association. On May 28, a Shad Run Bus Tour traveled along the NYS Rt. 97 scenic byway from Port Jervis to Hancock with celebratory community stops. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



SAFETY MESSAGE: The National Park Service has issued newly designed, multilingual signage to promote life jacket wear on the Upper Delaware River. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

No drownings while swimming, boating, fishing or floating have been recorded when a life jacket was properly worn.

The 52% observed wear rate on the Upper Delaware exceeds the 19.5% national average, but it’s a constant process to study behaviors and strategize over effective messaging.

A new video, billboards, multilingual signage, loaner life jacket stations, product giveaways, and public service promotions such as the Aug. 1 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (SWB) RailRiders UDC benefit baseball game are all methods.

to start to “close the faucets” on the three Delaware Basin reservoirs starting June 1 to prepare for October’s 6-8 month shutdown to connect the 2.5-mile-long bypass tunnel, depressurize the system, and repair the leaks.

Garigliano will return on Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. to explain the rescheduling rationale and plans for additional testing.

JULY 6 - “Update on National Park Service’s Water Safety Initiatives.” Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Chief of Interpretation Ingrid Peterec and Law Enforcement Park Ranger Ron Babus discussed the “team effort” by the NPS, state agencies, National Canoe Safety Patrol volunteers, liveries, and organizations like the UDC to protect lives.

Since 1980, there have been 78 drownings on the Upper Delaware River. The latest occurred on May 13 of a 53-year-old from Monroe, NY who was declared missing from his campsite near Barryville until his body was recovered May 14 on the PA shore in Lackawaxen Township, no life jacket.



Rebekah Creshkoff



RIVER PERSPECTIVE: National Park Service and Upper Delaware Council staff got in a boat to assess the visual impact of the RV park units currently located at Kittatinny Campground in Barryville from the river, as observed on May 15, 2023. (UDC Photo by Kerry Engelhardt)

CAMPGROUND, continued from Page 1

model recreational vehicles, riverfront and treetop cabins, tents and glamping pods, and Airstream trailers, serviced by 16 septic systems and six existing wells with a projected water use of 34,000 gallons/day.

“The NPS’ review finds the proposal is technically consistent with the Schedule of Uses contained in the [Land and Water Use] guidelines, however the proposal falls short of meeting 3 of 22 objectives. In addition, the increased intensity of use resulting from this proposal fails to meet the intent of the guidelines and the RMP,” writes NPS Interior Region 1 Director Gay Vietzke in the July 17 letter to the UDC.

NPS cites the 146 park model RVs that will be occupied for a maximum of 180 days per year as a specific issue.

“Although capable of being towed, the RVs will remain on the landscape as permanent structures when unoccupied,” she writes, noting that RV Parks Intended for Non-Transient Use fall within the Intensive Use Recreational Facility category which is only a compatible use in Hamlets and appropriate in Recreational Segments with a Special Use approval.

According to the NPS review, the application fails to meet all or portions of:

- LWUG Principle C, Objective 2, C & D: “...permanent structures or appurtenances on any individual campsite other than tent platforms and concrete pads are strictly prohibited” and “Independent onsite sewage disposal or water supply systems should not be permitted for individual recreational vehicle campsites.”

- Principle F: “Maintain existing patterns of land use and ownership; Objective 1: Limit housing density and intensity of uses with consideration to the existing character of the River corridor.; Objective 2: Reinforce existing patterns of land use and private ownership by providing for similar allowed uses.”

-RMP Goals: “5. Provide for planned growth, consistent with local ordinances, to ensure optimum use of existing public services, while maintaining and conserving the essential character of the river valley; and “8. Provide for the continued public use and enjoyment of a full range of recreational activities, as is compatible with the other goals.”

- RMP Water Use Program: “...to provide facilities which meet basic needs and which are, for the most part, informal, relatively small, and in keeping with the natural, scenic, and rural character of the area. It is not the intent to provide large, highly developed recreational support facilities.”

The NPS finding acknowledges that the park model RVs are certified for road travel, could be disconnected quickly and represent “a new subcategory of camping experience”; the guiding documents do not provide a definition of land use or its intensity; and any negative effects from the development are “potential” for this use.

The determination is made “without prejudging any possible future submissions presenting a revised proposal for consideration,” the letter concludes.

The UDC’s review of the NPS’s 29-page analysis was underway at press time.

Members have raised questions about the NPS interpretation of “substantial” conformance being absolute, whether the issues that the NPS cited could have been negotiated among the parties during the prolonged review process to avoid offering contradictory outcomes, the characterization of park model RVs as permanent structures in comparison to state and federal definitions, how that applies to existing RV park units on other riverside properties, changing demographics of modern camping, if Camp FIMFO would improve the site’s infrastructure and local economy, and the NPS exerting land use authority over private property developments.

Bridges in the News

Phase one of a Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis report released in May 2023 reveals that the existing Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge could be repaired without losing its character-defining features that qualified the 1902 interstate crossing for its 1988 listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The analysis states that rehabilitating the bridge to an upgraded 7-ton or 10-ton posting from the current 4-ton weight limit would have “no adverse effects” since it would not change the single-lane bridge’s appearance, size, and scale.

The costs are estimated at \$15.6 million for the minimum, 4-ton option; \$15.7 million for 7-tons; and \$17.3 million for 10-tons, with the first two having a design life of 10-15 years and the most extensive rehab expected to last 25 years, all requiring deck replacements, significant substructure repairs, and maintenance plans.

The report cites the bridge’s “exceptional” historic significance as a rare engineering example of an intact multiple span Baltimore truss bridge of moderate length.

The Upper Delaware Council commented in a June 23 letter to PennDOT, “Since the bridge was posted at 9-tons from its original construction until 2007, the ability to increase its functionality to 10 tons while retaining its existing alignment, historic characteristics, and unique ornamentation, is a winning prospect.”

A Phase 2 analysis is due to be completed in Winter 2024-25 as part of the ongoing study to select an alternative (repair, replace, or eliminate) for the bridge which has been closed since Oct. 16, 2019.

The New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission approved another \$1,092,500 for the Skinners Falls Bridge Planning & Environmental Linkages study at its May 10 annual meeting, after previously allocating \$2 million in 2022, \$400,000 in 2021, and \$200,000 in 2020.

The Commissioners also approved a major rehabilitation of the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge to begin this fall.

The contract letting is scheduled for Aug. 24, with the \$18,150,000 cost to be shared equally by the two states. Construction of at least two years is anticipated, with plans to keep an alternating lane open to traffic.

As a third capital project, the Commission earmarked \$460,000 to replace the open grid deck with concrete, preserve trusses, replace stringers, and paint the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge by March 2024.

The 1953 Cochection, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge is being painted under contract this summer to top off its major rehabilitation project that began in 2021.

History Awards Given

From one nonprofit organization's president to another, John Conway from The Delaware Company presented Ruth Huggler from the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley (BHS) with the President's Award on July 9 at the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg.

Conway recognized BHS for making significant contributions to the preservation of local history since its 1980 establishment by Jack Niflot, a former Town of Fremont UDC representative. Huggler acknowledged Past Presidents Travis O'Dell (a former UDC Resources Specialist) and Shaun Sensiba for their perseverance and work since Niflot's 2013 death.

BHS publishes the "ECHO" newsletter and operates a museum on NYS Route 97 in Long Eddy focusing on the history, lore, and legends of the Basket area within the Towns of Fremont and Hancock in Sullivan and Delaware Counties.

The Delaware Company's James W. Burbank Memorial Award, named after the founder of Fort Delaware and a predecessor Sullivan County Historian to Conway, was given in absentia to Lucas Musetti, formerly of Honesdale, PA and currently of Washington, D.C., for providing invaluable research and writing services for the pending book, "The Cushetunk Spy: The Enigmatic Life of Robert Land" and the new, interactive kiosk permanent exhibit titled "A Settlement Divided" which was unveiled during the July 8-9 Patriots and Loyalists Weekend activities at Fort Delaware. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)



In Memoriam

HENRY C. PRIGGE

Feb. 22, 1936-March 17, 2023

Henry C. Prigge, who served as Shohola Township's 2nd alternate representative to the UDC starting in the Summer of 1996 then as alternate to George J. Fluhr until January 2000, passed away at Wayne Memorial Hospital at the age of 87.

He was a retired Shohola Township Supervisor, prior owner of Hank's TV, a U.S. Army veteran, member of the St. Jacobi Lutheran Church, Shohola Fire Department, Shohola Area Lions Club, Shohola Rod & Gun Club, and former president of the German Hill Cemetery Association. Interests were fishing, hunting, reading, crossword & jigsaw puzzles, NASCAR, country music, and desserts.

The son of the late Peter and Marie (Burfiendt) Prigge, Henry leaves behind his wife, RoseAnn (Winkler) Prigge, whom he married on May 18, 1973; three daughters and their spouses, Karen Calvacca (Joseph) of Blakeslee, PA, Holly Lees (John Thompson) of Fayetteville, NC, and Annette Cocalas (Robert Lewis) of Nyack, NY; grandchildren Christopher Calvacca, Iris Cocalas, and Robert Lees; several nieces and nephews; and sister-in-law Norma Prigge. He was predeceased by his son Kurt and brother Walter.

Private services and burial in German Hill Cemetery took place.

Memorial donations may be made to the Shohola Area Lions Club, 261 Rt. 434, Shohola, PA 18458.

Arrangements were made by the Stroyan Funeral Home in Milford, PA.



CANAL REMNANTS: D&H Transportation Heritage Council Vice-President Cliff Robinson, Jr. far left, points out extant features of the old Delaware & Hudson Canal Lock 41 near Phillipsport, NY during a May 20 bus tour that started in Port Jervis to trace a portion of the 108-mile boat transportation system that operated from 1828-1898 from Honesdale, PA to Eddyville, NY. Many of its hand-laid stone walls have stood the test of time. (Contributed Photo by Frank Coviello)

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

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

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Working together to conserve the Upper 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 6:30 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for details.

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

Help Improve Safety

Volunteers are needed this summer to assist the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River with collecting valuable data on who is wearing a life jacket while out on the river, contributing to the Water Safety Campaign and working towards a positive experience for all recreational boaters.

The observational program runs weekends throughout the summer at designated locations along the Upper Delaware River. Training is provided.

Call (570) 685-4871, ext. 6609 or email ingrid_peterec@nps.gov to sign up.

Paddlers' Guide Out

Author Gary Letcher has written a fourth edition of his popular book, "Paddlers' Guide to the Delaware River", which is now available through Penn Del Press.

A bestseller in its previous editions, the book is a resource for exploring the Delaware in a kayak, canoe, raft, or tube.

The river comes alive as Letcher charts the way 200 miles from Hancock, NY to tidewater at Trenton, NJ. The new edition

includes all new color maps, naming rapids, eddies, and river features, with diagrams showing the way through whitewater sections like Skinners Falls; a turn-by-turn log of accesses, outfitters, camping, natural features, historic sites, and recreational tips; 50+ color photos; and highlights of the people, events, natural history, communities and controversies that have marked the Delaware from the earliest times to the present.

DelawareRiverGuide.com is a companion website that offers waterproof maps to take on a river trip, real-time river conditions and accesses, and more details.

TMR Museum Reopens

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum, located at 1481 County Road 26, Narrowsburg, NY, has reopened for the summer with a new exhibit on Monarch Butterflies and a series of 7 p.m. open-air history talks by Co-Director Glenn Pontier.

The butterfly exhibit, which was partially funded by an Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Pollinator Grant, will be the topic of an Aug. 1 talk, followed on Aug. 8 with "The Original People" (The Lenape), offered at

the Cayuga/Kotohke cabin at the museum.

There will also be a classic car show at the camp on Aug. 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Visit www.tmr-museum.org for details.

Tell Me Your Secret

The Callicoon Depot is hosting a fun and free community-wide event this summer called "Tell Me Your Secret."

It invites residents and visitors to anonymously share their innermost secrets - their joys, sorrows, deceptions, hopes, despair, and pride. One thousand pre-addressed postcards have been distributed throughout the area that can be deposited in the on-site Depot mail drop or into any traditional mailbox.

A rotating selection of secrets will be exhibited in the Depot display case. This fall, it will culminate with a playful and dramatic public reading with musical accompaniment at the Depot, 40 Lower Main St.

The project was conceived and is being facilitated by Standing People Together in conjunction with Callicoon Depot Inc., which also recently installed a new Mesh Wi-Fi System for wireless Internet coverage and outdoor seating for the public.