

The Upper Delaware

The quarterly newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River

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The Upper Delaware
welcomes submissions and
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This snorkeler holds up a triangle floater mussel (*Alasmidonta undulata*) he located in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The U.S. Geological Survey teamed up with the National Park Service to conduct a summer 2000 mussel survey, which involved swimming and searching the entire 73.4-mile length of the river. (Photo courtesy of National Park Service)

Survey Identifies New Species Of Mussels for Upper Delaware

By Don Hamilton
Resource Management Specialist
National Park Service Upper Delaware

By weight, they're the most prevalent form of animal life in the Delaware River, their biomass exceeding that of fish, amphibians, crustaceans, aquatic insects, or any other group. Yet many river users have never seen a live one.

Together, they act as a natural filtration system for the river, filtering a huge volume of water while removing particulate matter and contributing to water quality and clarity. They provide a food source for wildlife such as muskrats and otters. And being sensitive to pollution, they serve as useful indicators of environmental health.

But some people still wonder what good

they are. Freshwater mussels, it seems, get no respect. At least, that is, until one learns a bit more about them.

Mussels are clamlike mollusks, related to oysters, simple creatures of an ancient form consisting of two shells, hinged at one side, that protect their internal soft-tissue anatomy.

They ingest water and the particulate matter suspended in it, which is drawn in and across gills that filter and remove the plankton, bacteria, and algae they feed on.

Mussels often extend a muscular foot that enables them to burrow into the substrate and allows them some movement, but for the most part, they don't travel too far. They allow the river's current to bring

Please see "MUSSELS" on Page 4

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

Representative Profile: George Frosch

Town of Hancock Representative George H. Frosch was a tireless soldier in the battle three decades ago to preserve the Upper Delaware River Valley's way of life, and his contributions continue today.

His leadership roles with the Equinunk-Lordville Upper Delaware River Association, the Upper Delaware Clearinghouse, Citizens Advisory Council, the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships, and as his town's Upper Delaware Council delegate since 1988 and UDC chairperson in 1995, paved the way for the development of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan.

Frosch believes that the local, state, and federal partnership model that came out of those tumultuous early negotiations has withstood the test of time.

"The people here are being served very well by having a River Management Plan that maintains private property rights and keeps all that land on the tax rolls that would have been lost under the original idea of a ridge-to-ridge park," he says.

"The National Park Service has cleaned the river up and made people behave," he adds. "Hopefully the states will comply with the governors' Executive Orders directing state agencies to cooperate with the UDC."

As for the Council's future, "that depends on the Council itself," Frosch says.

He has observed with interest a transition from the early years when people got involved in Upper Delaware issues primarily due to their common bond as residents along the river corridor to those who come with much more diverse agendas today.

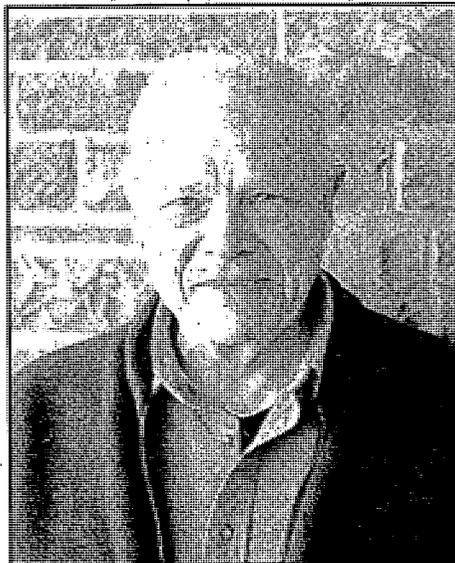
"It's taken more of a recreational and economical turn these days. That's fine, but they need to remember that it's the landowners who maintain the scenery and pay the taxes. Every courtesy and consideration should be given to them," he says.

Frosch, 72, is proud to own over 300 acres of property in the Upper Delaware, including about a mile and a half of river frontage and Frisbee Island.

The land has been in his family since the late 1800's, when Frosch's grandfather, Henry Prigge, took over the famous Kilgour bluestone operations and began buying adjacent property.

Frosch spent summers in the area, meeting neighbors during his horseback travels throughout the countryside and soaking up the local lore, such as the stories behind the colorful names for the northernmost river eddies. In 1947, Frosch's family made a permanent move here from Jersey City.

Never afraid of hard work, Frosch's jobs over the years included farming, lumbering, operating a sawmill, quarrying, stone masonry, real estate, road construction,



George Frosch, Town of Hancock

and home building.

He also played semi-professional football, was an American Kennel Club breeder of Irish Setters for 20 years, and an owner, breeder, trainer, and driver for the U.S. Trotting Association from 1964-91.

His former horse track is now the site of Frosch's latest business venture, Dunn Lot Sand and Gravel.

"I do something for about five years then I make a deliberate change so I don't get bored," Frosch quips about his career path.

His endeavors appear to be largely fueled by a creative and curious mind.

While he has no formal training in architecture, for example, Frosch has designed and built 19 homes in the Delaware County area, with more in the planning stages. A special flair he added to one private development was a 36-foot covered bridge over an acre lake with a bluestone dam.

Frosch can often be found tinkering in his workshop, experimenting with ideas for new machinery or woodworking. He enjoys reading, having acquired a library of about 1,800 books, and writing on historical subjects, with several published articles to his credit. A life member of the National Rifle Association, Frosch hunts.

He's a 50-year member and Past Master of Hancock Masonic Lodge #552, Free and Accepted Masons, chaired Hancock's first Planning Board, and served on the Beaverkill and Rt. 17 Planning Commissions.

Frosch has been honored by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance and UDC for his leadership role in the eight-year effort to get the Lordville-Equinunk Bridge rebuilt in 1992, and received the UDC's highest accolade, the Distinguished Service Award, in 1997 for outstanding contributions to the river valley. ♦

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The Upper Delaware is a free quarterly publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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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The Upper Delaware

Local Students to Take 'Snapshot' Of Delaware River's Water Quality

By Jamie Myers, Biologist
National Park Service Upper Delaware
What is Water Snapshot?

It is a popular, basin-wide water quality sampling event that takes a "snapshot" of the health of the entire Delaware River Basin, starting from the confluence of its headwaters and ending in the Delaware River Estuary that empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

It is an opportunity for all ages and experience levels to go to a portion of the Delaware River watershed, whether it be a tributary or the Delaware River itself, and collect water quality data.

The results collected from this exciting basin-wide effort will be used to create an awareness of local watersheds and the valuable role they play in all of our lives.

The original vision behind this basin-wide event was to help draw attention to water quality monitoring, and to collect data on a few common sampling parameters during the ten-day period encompassing Earth Day, which is always April 22.

Due to its continued growth and success, Water Snapshot 2001 will mark the sixth consecutive year for this event.

This year Water Snapshot will be taking place from April 20 through April 29.

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River is reaching out to local schools in order to promote this important annual event.

In an effort to educate the future stewards for our environment, staff from Upper Delaware's Interpretive and Resource Management Divisions will be visiting sixth grade classrooms at Sullivan West Central School District's Delaware Valley and Narrowsburg campuses in New York, and Wayne-Highlands School District's Damascus Elementary School in Pennsylvania through the month of April.

Visits will be geared toward teaching students the importance and value of local watersheds and water conservation.

The students will be taken out to the part of the Delaware River closest to their respective schools in order to participate in hands-on water quality sampling.

All their data will be incorporated into an "Upper Delaware Snapshot" so that students can appreciate the health and quality of the water in their own backyards.

Their data will also be sent to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), which coordinates the entire basin-wide event, in order to be incorporated into the basin-wide booklet of sampling results.

The National Park Service is very excited about this year's event and hopes that this will be only the beginning of community involvement in this important environmental awareness activity for the years ahead.

If you are a Delaware River community member who lives next to a small tributary, a school group located in the Delaware River Valley, or simply a concerned citizen, and would like more information on how you can be involved with Water Snapshot 2001, you may visit the DRBC web page at www.state.nj.us/drbc/snapshot or call me at (570) 729-7842. ♦



Keynote Speaker Mike Stevens

UDC Awards Banquet Slated for April 22

The Upper Delaware Council's 13th Annual Awards Banquet will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2001, at The Waterfront Banquet Room at Ehrhardt's, Tafton, Pa.

An hors d'oeuvres reception with cash bar will begin at 3:00 p.m. Dinner, including soup, salad, homemade bread, beverage, choice of entree (London broil with mushroom sauce, roast turkey with stuffing, or penne pasta primavera), and strawberry shortcake, will be served at 4:00 p.m.

This year's keynote speaker is Mike Stevens, the engaging personality behind WNEP TV-16's "On the Pennsylvania Road" features and host of the PA station's "Home and Backyard Show." The Lackawanna County resident is also an author and newspaper columnist.

Awards will be presented in 10 categories, as follows:

Distinguished Service - **Bruce MacMillan**; Robin M. Daniels Memorial Life-saving Award - **J.J. Hanson, Christopher Hall, and Mark Cook**; Outstanding Community Achievement - **Town of Tusten**; Partnership - **Route 97 Scenic Byway Committee**; Community Service - **Pike County Conservation District**; Recreation Achievement - **The Scenic Delaware River Paddling Club**; Cultural Achievement - **Frank V. Schwarz**; Volunteer - **Donald Downs**; Special Recognition - **Senator John J. Bonacic and Assemblyman Jake Gunther, Kurt and Luitgard Mueller, Karen Bliss, and Clarke Rupert**; Oaken Gavel - **Harold G. Roeder, Jr.**

Reservations at \$20 per person and entree selections are required in advance. Please contact Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or udcramie@ezaccess.net. ♦

Free Kits Available

A limited number of free test kits are available for schools, organizations, and individuals to participate in Water Snapshot 2001 thanks to funding provided by the Delaware River Basin Commission and the William Penn Foundation.

The specially prepared, easy-to-use monitoring kits contain 10 tests each for nitrate, phosphate, pH, and dissolved oxygen parameters, and an unlimited number of temperature tests.

To inquire about obtaining a kit or to receive a free copy of the DRBC's 12-page publication entitled "Snapshot: A Report Card on the Health of the Delaware River Waterways," contact Clarke Rupert at (609) 583-9500, ext. 260 or crupert@drbc.state.nj.us.

Water quality training opportunities to prepare for Snapshot will be offered again throughout the basin. For a schedule of these sessions, consult the DRBC's web page, cited in the article above, or see local newspapers.

Serving on the DRBC's Water Snapshot 2001 Steering Committee are the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware Estuary Program, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, National Park Service, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Upper Delaware Council, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey. ♦

"MUSSELS," continued from Page 1

food to them.

As a group, they are quite long-lived, with many species living for decades and one - the eastern pearlshell - having been aged at over 100 years. This longevity makes them valuable as biomonitors of environmental contamination.

The most common species in the Delaware River, the eastern elliptio mussel (*Elliptio complanata*), gets up to about four inches in length.

Bottom Dweller Benefits

River users are no doubt familiar with the shells of dead mussels scattered throughout the riverbed, sometimes concentrated in "middens" where a muskrat has been feeding on them.

The live mussels are every bit as numerous, but less visible. They are usually anchored in the substrate, oriented vertically, often with only a small portion of their shells exposed above the gravel as they siphon.

Snorkeling or using a plexiglass-bottomed bucket are great ways to view mussels. If undisturbed, their incurrent and excurrent siphons may be visible at the margin of their shells as they cycle water.

Mussels should be handled as little as possible to promote their survival and put back as they're found, siphon end up.

While an important food source for many early Native Americans, most people today

find freshwater mussels too strong and fishy for their tastes. It is also illegal to collect them in New York without a special permit.

Freshwater mussels have a major ecological impact on the Delaware River, transforming suspended plankton, bacteria, and algae into biological deposits that may nourish other animals, according to Dr. David Strayer from the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY.

A single mussel can filter water at a rate of up to 20 liters (five gallons) a day, says Strayer, author of the book *The Pearly Mussels of New York State* and numerous scientific papers on freshwater mussels.

And the Upper Delaware River has millions of mussels, according to Dr. William Lellis, a Research Physiologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

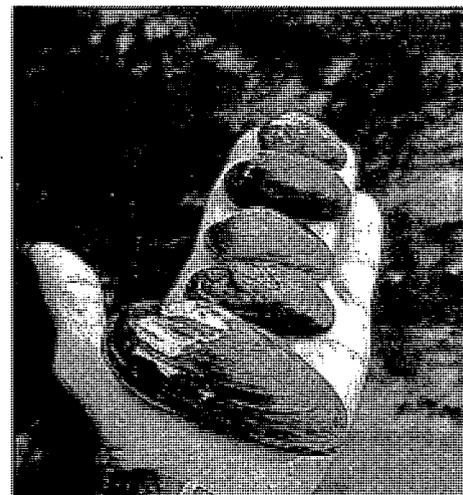
He should know. He and his USGS crew counted and identified over 184,000 of them in a survey last summer aimed at providing information about their diversity, relative abundance, and distribution here.

Mussels in Decline

So why the interest in mussels?

Well, along with what's been mentioned about their important role in the Delaware River's ecosystem, there are a few disturbing things we know about their current status in general.

Historically, North America was home to about 300 species of freshwater mussels, by far the highest diversity in the world.



Five mussels, representing four different species, found in the Upper Delaware River during the snorkeling survey.

Today they are the most rapidly declining animal group in the United States, about 70% of which are either extinct, endangered, threatened, or potentially justifying federal protection (Williams et al. 1993).

Pennsylvania alone had lost 22 species since 1900, according to records. The reasons behind this steep decline are thought to be changes in water quality and habitat, loss of host fish, and non-native mussels.

Survey Increases Knowledge

We all depend on numerous intact functioning ecosystems to cleanse our water, enrich our soil, and manufacture the air we breathe, natural services which often cannot be duplicated with our technology.

While some water-filtering benefits that mussels provide are understood, much else remains unknown about their ecological role and needs, behavior, and viability.

Our knowledge about mussels and their status in the river here was limited to some not-very-recent or brief studies that pointed out the need for additional work.

Fortunately, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River was able to acquire funding which, when combined with USGS resources, enabled this work to begin.

The freshwater mussel survey of the Upper Delaware River last summer was a very thorough and time-consuming effort, but one which provided a wealth of information about the mussel populations here.

This was a qualitative survey aimed at telling us what species are found here, their relative abundance in proportion to other species (percentage of total), and their distribution throughout the river.

Survey sections averaging about 200 meters in length were searched by snorkeling for a targeted amount of time, with species and numbers of each documented for all sections.

Boundaries of each survey section were

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A member of the mussel survey team uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to document a river segment location. (Photos courtesy of Don Hamilton, NPS)

"MUSSELS," continued from Page 4

recorded by Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver for mapping purposes.

A total of 595 sections were surveyed over the 73.4 miles of river.

This monumental task was accomplished by Dr. Lellis and his dedicated crew from the USGS Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory in Wellsboro, Pa., with assistance from National Park Service staff from the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

New Delaware Species

As a result of this survey, eight species of freshwater mussels were identified from our reach of the river, several more species than were thought to be here from previous studies.

The mussel fauna was strongly dominated by the eastern elliptio mussel, but of the seven other species found, some are quite rare.

Most notable among these is the dwarf wedge mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*), a state and federally endangered mussel that was thought to have disappeared in Pennsylvania.

Also of note is the brook floater mussel (*Alasmidonta varicosa*), a New York threatened and Pennsylvania proposed endangered mussel, and the eastern pearlshell mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), also a Pennsylvania proposed endangered mussel that had not been documented in the Delaware River Basin in PA since 1919.

More Work to Come

Dr. Lellis has also produced some valuable maps that show distribution and relative abundance for all species throughout the entire 73.4 miles of river, which may indicate areas of concern and provide a better understanding of habitat needs and the overall health of mussel populations here.

In 2001, quantitative sampling work is planned that will give us total population size estimates for all species of mussels found here. This will be accomplished by counting all mussels in small areas that are subsamples of survey sections.

In addition, permanent monitoring transects will be established to allow for a long-term assessment of trends in mussel populations. ♦



Fred Gerty, left, accepted an Upper Delaware Council Resolution of Commendation from UDC Chairperson Larry H. Richardson at the March 1 meeting. Gerty, who was appointed in March of 1988 as the State of New York's Alternate Representative to the Council and served as Representative since July of 2000, is retiring in April from his 35-year career with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. (Photo by David B. Soete)

DEC Tallies Eagles

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reports another record-breaker for bald eagles, particularly in the Upper Delaware.

2000 was the 21st consecutive year that the DEC's Endangered Species Unit conducted a mid-winter survey by air and ground observers.

The 1999 statewide count of 244 eagles was significantly eclipsed, with a total of 350 bald eagles (198 adult and 152 immature) reported wintering in New York State during the January 2000 survey period, an increase of 43%.

Over the southeast New York aerial survey route, 238 bald eagles were counted. In 1999, that same route yielded a then-record 179 eagles.

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River proved to be the "hot spot", accounting for 145 birds compared to 77 along the 73.4-mile stretch in 1999.

The year 2000 was also a record year again for breeding eagles in the state. ♦

Delaware River Sojourn Odyssey Begins June 15

Registration is underway for "2001: A River Odyssey," the seventh annual Delaware River Sojourn, as the canoe tour prepares to launch June 15-23.

The goals of the Sojourn are to heighten awareness of, and appreciation for, the ecological, historical, recreational, and economic significance of the Delaware River. Anyone able to paddle a leisurely paced 10-15 miles (five hours) per day can sign up for one, several, or all of the eight days of this trip that covers sections of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River, and Delaware Estuary, in four states.

Sojourn admission includes the guided canoe trips, all educational and entertainment programs, shuttle transportation, most meals, overnight camping, insurance, and a souvenir T-shirt. There will also be giveaways and plenty of camaraderie-building time.

The cost is \$65 for adults, which includes a one-time \$10 registration charge waived for multiple day sign-ups and an optional \$12 canoe rental charge. Participants are welcome to use their own canoes and kayaks. The daily fee for children age 12 and under is \$25 or \$37 to rent a boat. A late fee of \$20 will apply to reservations made after May 26.

In the Upper Delaware, a pre-trip kick-off will take place on Friday, June 15. Early arrivals may set up camp starting at noon behind the National Park Service Office in Milanville, Pa. Those who'd like to brush up on their paddling skills should call 570-729-7842 to pre-register for a 1 p.m. free training session at Skinners Falls Access. Late afternoon nature walks along Calkins Creek will be offered. Sojourners will be treated to a 7 p.m. pizza party and Upper Delaware slide show, followed by a campfire with s'mores.

Program topics for the Sojourn's June 16 and 17 outings include freshwater mussels, the NY-NJ boundary dispute, Turnip Field Massacre, ghost stories, Ten Mile River Stone Arch Bridge flood damage, land preservation, the work of the Upper Delaware Council, and Narrowsburg's Big Eddy, along with interpretation of flora and fauna while paddling.

An eight-page brochure with highlights of the entire event and a returnable registration form is available by contacting Delaware River Greenway Partnership at P.O. Box 87, Frenchtown, NJ 08825-0087; phone (908) 996-0230. Information is also available at www.state.nj.us/drbc/sojourn. Complete itineraries will be mailed to all registrants.

Financial support comes from the Delaware River Basin Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The William Penn Foundation, PPL Corporation, Rohm & Haas, Princeton Hydro, LLC, and Bucks County Legislative Caucus. ♦

UDC Raft Trip Aug. 4
A reservation form for the Upper Delaware Council's Annual Raft Trip & Summer Picnic will be included in the Summer 2001 issue of *The Upper Delaware*, due out in mid-July.
The date for this eagerly awaited event is Saturday, August 4, and the likely rendezvous location will be in the Barryville, NY area. Last year's raft trip attracted 219 participants of all ages!

Council Has Busy Winter Activity Roundup

Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activity highlights from December 2000 through March 2001 include the following:

✓ Passed a resolution authorizing disbursement of the Friends of the Upper Delaware funds in a manner consistent with the group's public education and environmental project goals.

The Friends volunteer group had been inactive since 1996, with subsequent membership surveys and discussions indicating that many of its activities were being carried out by other organizations.

The UDC opted to donate \$500 to co-sponsor the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance's May 5, 2001 educational program, "From the Ice Age to the Information Age: An Upper Delaware Symposium."

The balance of the Friends account, approximately \$1920, is being earmarked to help pay for a proposed 2001 Delaware River Flows Conference.

✓ Forwarded a resolution to Senator John J. Bonacic and Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III recommending approval of all eight applications submitted for their "Funding Initiative to Benefit New York State River Valley Towns."

In pledging a combined \$50,000 for projects to enhance economic development, promote tourism, and improve river access, the state representatives tapped the UDC to help administer this first state funding opportunity for its eight NY town members.

After forming a special subcommittee, drawing up guidelines for the program, receiving and reviewing the towns' applications, the Council recommended awarding even shares of \$6,250 per town. Contracts to initiate the various local projects were due to be executed by March 31.

✓ Participated in the first meeting Jan. 17 of the Watershed Advisory Council tasked with providing recommendations to the Delaware River Basin Commission on the development of a new Comprehensive Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin.

The 32-person council, comprised of stakeholders from numerous sectors of the basin region, has committed to work over a two-to-three-year period on this project.

Upper Delaware representatives on the Watershed Advisory Council are Jim Serio from the Delaware River Foundation, Kyle Myers from Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Bill Douglass from the UDC.



On an invitation from Congressman Rush Holt (12th District-New Jersey), pictured at right, a delegation from the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area traveled to Washington Crossing State Park on January 29, 2001 to meet with representatives of the newly designated Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River. This Nov. 1, 2000 addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System includes a 65.6-mile stretch of the lower Delaware River and several tributaries in an area encompassing over 30 municipalities in six counties from Belvidere, NJ south to Washington Crossing, PA. Among those on hand to discuss various management models and share their experiences with an audience of about 25 elected officials, environmental groups, planners, tourism interests, and other Lower Delaware stakeholders were Upper Delaware Council Executive Director Bill Douglass, left, and Shohola Township Supervisor George J. Fluhr, center, a UDC alternate and past chairperson. (Photo courtesy of Bill Laitner, Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap NRA)

✓ Sent a letter to Norfolk Southern Corporation offering to host a local meeting to discuss issues of safety and explore avenues for mutual cooperation.

Norfolk Southern took over operation in 1999 of the river valley's railroad lines formerly owned by Conrail.

As this issue went to press, company officials had agreed to participate in a March 28 meeting of interested parties.

✓ Offered letters of comments on a draft and revised draft "Preliminary List of Flow Management Issues" prepared by the consultants working on the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) Delaware River Basin Flow Management Study.

The UDC also sent a letter to DRBC requesting intervention assistance with New York City to safely reduce storage in Upper Delaware reservoirs in order to help reduce flood risk in the Delaware River Basin.

✓ Wrote to New York State Governor George E. Pataki supporting his proposal to designate a new State Heritage Trail with an American Revolution theme.

In its letter, the UDC requested consideration of including three Upper Delaware region Revolutionary War era sites on the proposed Heritage Trail: the Minisink Battleground in Minisink Ford; Fort Decker in Port Jervis; and Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg.

✓ Issued the Upper Delaware Council's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000, covering Oct. 1, 1999 to Sept. 30, 2000.

The report includes activity highlights, financial data, a message from 2000 UDC Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr., objectives for FY 2001, listings of annual awards and Technical Assistance Grants recipients, and a UDC membership roster.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy should call the UDC at (845) 252-3022 or e-mail udcramie@ezaccess.net.

✓ Helped publicize the first-ever Student Essay, Art & Poetry Contest offered by the Delaware River Sojourn with free days of paddling in the June 16-23 event as prizes.

Students in grades 8-12 who reside in the Delaware River Basin were asked to submit entries addressing the theme "Delaware: River of Life" by April 15.

The winning artwork will be reproduced on a limited edition Sojourn T-shirt.

✓ Passed resolutions of commendation for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Fred Gerty (see page 5) and Michael Gordon from the National Park Service's Philadelphia office upon their respective retirements from their agencies.

Gordon played an integral role in the 1980's planning process to facilitate the development of the Upper Delaware's unique management model of a federally-protected, private-lands unit of the National Park System.

✓ Agreed to co-sponsor Water Snapshot 2001, the annual basin-wide water quality monitoring event slated for April 20-29 (see page 3). ♦

Newly Named Byway Ready for State Board

The local committee proposing to add Route 97 to the New York State Scenic Byways System had a date in Albany on April 11 for preliminary presentation of its draft Enhancement Concept Plan.

The New York State Scenic Byways Advisory Board will review the plan for the recently named "Upper Delaware Scenic Byway" and offer suggestions for possible incorporation into the final document.

The advisory board will ultimately offer a recommendation to the New York State Commissioner of Transportation, who has the final authority to approve new scenic byways.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, as proposed, would start in Hancock (Delaware County), continue through six Sullivan County towns, and end in Port Jervis (Orange County), approximately 75 miles largely paralleling the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The Route 97 Scenic Byway Committee formally presented the draft Enhancement Concept Plan to the general public at a March 26 meeting in Callicoon, NY.

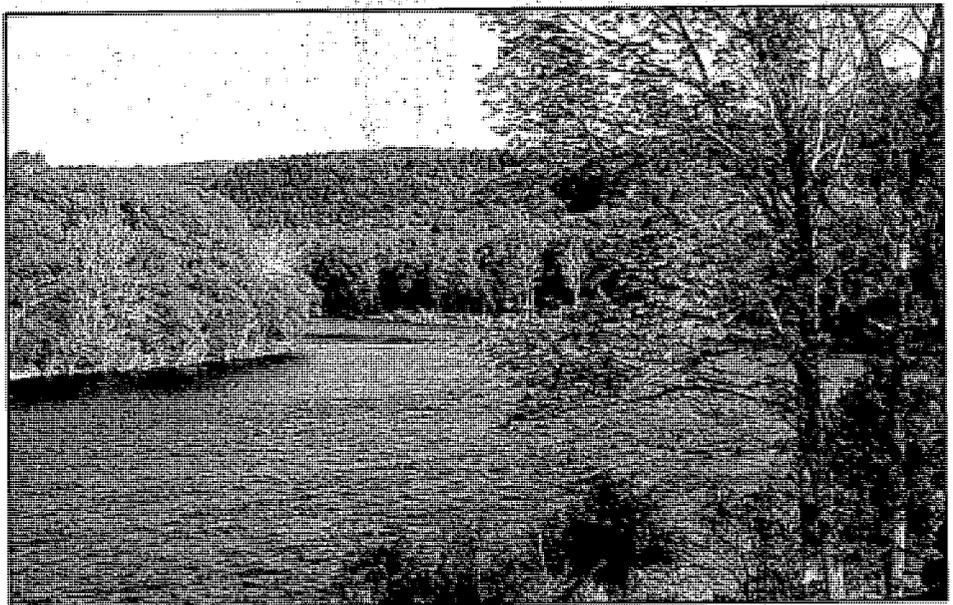
For more information, contact Committee Chairperson Alan Sørensen at (845) 794-3000, ext. 5028; Secretary Bill Douglass at (845) 252-3022; or consult the web site at www.portjervisny.org/scenicbyway97.

Art Fellowships Given

Three \$3,000 fellowships for visual artists and craftpersons residing in the Upper Delaware River Corridor (NY and PA) will be awarded in April 2001.

This is the first time that the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) has been gifted with private foundation funds expressly for artists in the bi-state river valley.

Artists working in the areas of painting, printmaking, drawing, sculpture, pottery, woodworking, textiles, glass, and photography were eligible to submit slides by April 6 for review by a jury panel. DVAA (845-252-7576) prepared the guidelines.



The photo above, taken by Upper Delaware Council Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete, won first place in the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's 2000 Photography Contest's "Fishing and Boating Resources" category. It depicts a view of a distant kayaker on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River taken from Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct in Lackawaxen, Pa. Soete also earned second place honors in the "Seasonal Fishing and/or Boating" category for a photo of a shad fisherman at the Darbytown, PA Access. Amateur photographers submitted 245 entries in five categories for the contest. Winners received certificates and limited-edition year 2001 trout stamp patches. A selection of the prize-winning photographs will be reproduced in the May/June 2001 issue of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine and in other PA Fish and Boat Commission venues.

May 5 Historical Symposium to Cover River Valley Development

"From the Ice Age to the Information Age: An Upper Delaware Symposium" will offer a first-ever comprehensive view of the natural, cultural, industrial, and social forces which shaped the development of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The symposium, sponsored by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance with support from the Upper Delaware Council, National Park Service, and Pennsylvania Humanities Council, will be held Saturday, May 5, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, Pa.

A \$24 registration fee (\$20 for students) includes the expert presentations, exhibits

by local historical societies, published proceedings, morning and afternoon refreshments, and a hearty buffet luncheon.

Featured presenters are "Catskill Geologist" Dr. Robert Titus, National Park Service Anthropologist Dr. Robert Grumet, Minisink Valley Historical Society Executive Director Peter Osborne, National Canal Museum Historian Lance Metz, and Liberty, NY architect Robert Dadras.

The day will end with a question and answer roundtable discussion.

To register, please write to the UDHA at P.O. Box 156, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 or call Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022.

New Subscribers and Address Changes Welcomed

If you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our free newsletter, we will be happy to add them to the mailing list. Please also advise us of any address changes to help update our records. Return this notice to the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, or call (845) 252-3022.

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Attending the Upper Delaware Council's annual meeting were, seated from left, Secretary-Treasurer Lew Schmalzle (Highland), Chairperson Larry H. Richardson (Cochecton), and Vice-Chairperson Alan Bowers (Westfall). Standing from left are UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass, Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland), National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Cal Hite, Charlie Wieland (Tusten), Marian Hrubovcak (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), Carol Collier (Delaware River Basin Commission), Fred Gerty (State of New York), David Lamereaux (Pennsylvania alternate), Mel Decker (Deerpark alternate), Jack Niflot (Fremont), John McKay (Lackawaxen), Bruce Seineck (Shohola), Harold Roeder, Jr. (Delaware), and Phil Chase (Deerpark). Absent was George Frosch (Hancock). (Photos by David B. Soete)

UDC Reorganizes for 2001

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) convened its Annual Meeting on January 4, 2001 at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY.

Cochecton Town Justice Robert C. Meyer officiated at a swearing-in ceremony for the Council's new slate of officers.

2001 Chairperson Larry H. Richardson expressed appreciation to outgoing UDC Chair Harold G. Roeder, Jr. for a job well done, and to the Council members for re-electing him to the leadership role he previously held in 1993.

Richardson said that furthering the education of river valley youth "about the magnificent treasure that is flowing right in their backyard" will be a major focus of his tenure.

"It is imperative that we create a sense of pride in the river and the quality of life surrounding it so, as these young people become the decision makers of tomorrow, none of this will just be taken for granted," he said. ❖



Town of Cochecton Town Justice Robert C. Meyer, right, administers the oath of office to 2001 Chairperson Larry H. Richardson.

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY. Three standing committees, Water Use/Resource Management, Operations, and Project Review, meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the UDC office, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, across from the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 for specific meeting dates and agendas.

Upper Delaware Council
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