

The Upper Delaware

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

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UDC Coordinates Efforts to Minimize Cell Tower Impacts

A recent proliferation of cell tower proposals in the greater Upper Delaware River Valley region has many local governments struggling to assess their readiness to accept and act on them.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC), whose voting membership includes the two states, eight New York towns and three out of the seven Pennsylvania townships that border on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, is concerned as well.

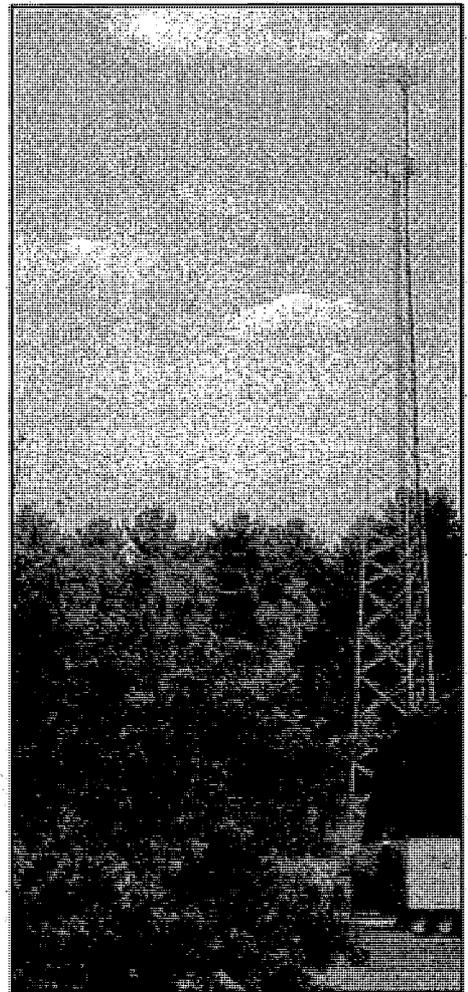
The River Management Plan, which was completed in November 1986, did not foresee the advent of cell towers. However, the overriding theme of the Plan is to protect and maintain the natural qualities which were so important in the designation of the Upper Delaware River as a nationally significant area.

In the first of a series of comment letters issued this spring and summer on three applications reviewed to date for cell tower sitings within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor boundaries, UDC Project Review Committee Chairperson Harold G. Roeder, Jr. described the Council's general position.

"The UDC recognizes the need for wireless telecommunications for emergency services and the convenience of local residents and visitors to the area. Our primary concern is how these facilities will be sited and what visual impacts, and accumulative impacts, they will have on the natural character of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor and rustic communities they serve. Ideally, by using available camouflage and stealth technologies, we believe that the proposed cell tower can be designed so that it is hardly noticeable at all to the common passerby. We have seen examples from around the country where cell towers are incorporated into existing structures, such as church steeples and street lights, and where they have been made to look like trees. All design alternatives should be seriously considered, with the least obstrusive one being selected," the letter stated.

In an effort to obtain and share information on this timely topic, the UDC hosted a public workshop geared to river valley communities on July 9, and convened two follow-up meetings with municipal officials on August 23 and September 27 to explore the feasibility of working together on a

Please see "TOWERS" on Page 4



A tractor trailer drives past this approximately 200-foot Nextel wireless telecommunications tower located on Interstate 84 in Port Jervis, NY. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

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

Upper Delaware Profile: James Chandler

James R. Chandler, Jr. took an active interest in local government when many people are ready to kick back and enjoy a well-earned rest.

The Sparrowbush native put in 23 years with the New York State Police, moving up the ranks to retire in 1985 as Senior Investigator for Troop F Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) at the age of 45. His unit of 12 investigated all felony criminal cases and deaths in their region.

"It was my intention that that was the end of my public service," he says.

The Port Jervis High School graduate completed State Police Academy - "always my ambition" - in 1962. Assignments at barracks in Waterloo, Deposit, Wurtsboro, Ferndale, and finally Middletown followed.

After retiring, Chandler put his carpentry, masonry, and electrical skills to work building houses for his kids, while pursuing his quickly-serious hobby of competing in car shows with the 1966 Mustang convertible that he had helped restore to factory standards. Nearly 100 prestigious trophies later, Chandler's antique auto "topped out" of national competition.

Then in 1999, Chandler's attention turned to the Town of Deerpark.

"To be frank, the town had a very bad reputation at that time. I attended town board meetings for two years as a citizen before I decided to run," he says.

Having never held political office and lacking any party endorsement, Chandler's campaign consisted of he and his wife "knocking on 2,400 doors and telling the people what I wanted to do."

The hard work paid off. In November of 1999, Chandler was elected Deerpark Town Supervisor by a margin of just 19 votes. The 62-year-old is now completing his first term and running for re-election; this time as the official candidate of the Republican and Conservative parties.

Despite his initial political inexperience, Chandler says that he was prepared to apply his trademark sharp focus to the job.

"I've been called intense," he admits. "I call myself obsessive. I probably don't have a politically correct bone in my body. I operate on the principle of what's right and wrong. I have no personal agenda with the town. I'm here to do a job for the people out there," he says.

Already a voracious reader and online researcher, Chandler was assisted in his transition by key town staff members.

"If not for them, I would have quit in two weeks," he jokes.

Like many classified part-time town supervisors, Chandler accepts that his role carries full-time responsibility.

"It's a lifestyle, whether you want it to be



James Chandler, Town of Deerpark, NY

or not," he says, noting his typical daily office hours of 8-4 at the Town Hall in Huguenot in addition to evening meetings.

Since taking office, he has focused on conducting town business professionally; streamlining the delivery of services; obtaining grants for improvement projects; and holding the line on property taxes.

As a second alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Council and with full realization of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's positive tourism impact on the local economy, Chandler keeps current on river-related issues.

"The UDC is beneficial because it is like having a second planning board to consult, and the TAG [Technical Assistance] grants are a lifesaver for the people of this town because of our low tax base. I definitely believe in keeping the river clean. We also need more amenities in the community to support the river," Chandler says.

"When I was a kid, before computers and television, we used to swim and tube and fish in the Delaware, and that was an important part of my growing up," he adds.

Chandler and his wife of 18 years, Mary, have five children (Jeff, a private investigator in the state of Florida; Vicki, co-owner of Blair Carpets in Port Jervis; Jim, employed by an auto parts distributor in Chester, NY; Barbara, an Avon representative in Sparrowbush; and Paul, who works at Summit Research in Huguenot), and seven grandchildren ranging in age from seven months to 19 years old.

A former chair of the Town of Deerpark Cable Commission, Chandler is a member of the Port Jervis Rotary Club, NYS Police Benevolent Association, National Rifle Association, Mustang Club of America, and Antique Auto Club of America. ♦

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Upper Delaware Council Awards 2001 Technical Assistance Grants

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) has awarded \$19,600 in Technical Assistance Grants for nine projects that will further the goals of and address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The 2001 roster of recipients was formally approved at the UDC's monthly meeting on September 6.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount to \$470,841 that the UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988. In all, 121 projects have been funded through the Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program.

Combined requests by 10 applicants this year totaled \$24,214, competing for an allocated \$20,000 funding pool.

Applications were mailed to member municipalities in late May, with a submission deadline of July 31. Representatives for each applicant attended a special meeting of the UDC's Project Review Committee on August 14 to explain their proposals.

Technical Assistance Grants are available for research, planning, and studies conducted by the UDC's eight member New York towns, three Pennsylvania townships, and four of the encompassing river corridor counties (Delaware, Sullivan, Orange, and Pike).

Wayne County and its four Pennsylvania townships of Berlin, Buckingham, Damascus, and Manchester would be eligible to participate in the TAG program if the townships joined the Council.

TAGs can provide seed money for a municipality to embark on a feasibility study, design plan, or similar project without having to dip into local tax dollars.

The following 2001 grants were approved:

Town of Lumberland - \$3,200 to identify and inventory historic barns of 50+ years of age within the hamlets of Pond Eddy, Mongaup, Hillside, and Glen Spey for the development of a permanent index including a map, design descriptions, recording of ownership, use of the structures, and assessment of the barns' current conditions.

Town of Deerpark - \$3,000 to develop a Town of Deerpark web site which will promote the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, proposed Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, and the town's historical, cultural, and recreational assets, as well as provide the town's local laws,

Amount awarded, 1988-2001:

\$470,841

Number of projects: 121

ordinances, and Comprehensive Plan in an on-line format available to the public.

Town of Highland - \$2,900 to update the Town of Highland Zoning Map using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities of the Sullivan County Division of Planning.

Town of Deerpark - \$2,500 to update the Town of Deerpark Zoning Map using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities of the Orange County Water Authority.

Town of Lumberland - \$2,500 to update regulations for campgrounds that will be integrated into the Town of Lumberland Zoning Law and presented as a separate local law.

Town of Delaware - \$1,500 to create and print a brochure listing the Town of Delaware's land use regulations, local laws, and town directory information for direct mailing to approximately 1,800 prop-

erty owners and distribution at public facilities.

Town of Tusten - \$1,400 to print and distribute maps, and purchase and install signs, depicting the boundaries for the newly established Wellhead Protection Overlay District in Narrowsburg.

County of Sullivan - \$1,400 to undertake a macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) survey of the East and North Branches of Callicoon Creek as a standard means of establishing a baseline to either improve or maintain water quality in the future. (This project will be coordinated by Sullivan County Community College Biology and Environmental Science Instructor Stephen Fleckenstein.)

Town of Cocheton - \$1,200 to establish comprehensive standards for dog compounds and kennels that will be integrated into the Town of Cocheton Zoning Law.

For more information on the Upper Delaware Council's Technical Assistance Grant program, please contact UDC Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete at udcsoete@ezaccess.net or (845) 252-3022. ❖

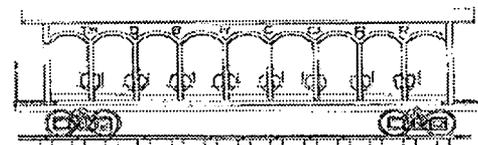
D&H Symposium II Nov. 16-18

The D&H Transportation Heritage Council will conduct Symposium II, a celebration of the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, with a special emphasis on the Gravity Railroad in Pennsylvania, as Carbondale and Waymart commemorate their 150th anniversaries.

Symposium II will be held at the Salvation Army Ladore Lodge in Waymart on Nov. 16, 17 and 18, 2001. It is sponsored by the Carbondale Historical Society, Waymart Area Historical Society, and Wayne County Historical Society, with support from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Grant Program.

The symposium will feature presentations by Jim Shaughnessy, author of "The Delaware and Hudson"; Larry Lowenthal, author of "The Significance of the Delaware and Hudson Canal and its Gravity Railroads"; and Phillip Ruth, author of "Of Pulleys and Ropes and Gears".

Also presenting will be Donald M. Sayenga, consultant on the wire and steel rope industries; Dr. Robert Hecht on Phillip Hone; Michel Knies on James Archbald; Jack Gillen on anthracite mining; and Dr. S.



Robert Powell on the system's operations.

Historian Stuart Dixon will discuss the transformation from the gravity to steam era. Lynn Conrad of Rails to Trails, Sherry Petrlik of Wildlands Conservancy, and Lisa Lyons of the National Park Service will relate how trails are being saved and developed for recreation and heritage tourism. Lance Metz, National Canal Museum, will chair a roundtable discussion tying together Saturday's programs.

Evening programs include Dr. Walter Barbe, Kurt Reed and Henry Loftus highlighting the canal-side 19th century glass industry Friday, and a "History Alive!" recreation by Rich Pawling of a day in the life of a 1905 anthracite coal miner Saturday.

Sunday will offer a bus tour of D&H sites in Waymart, Carbondale, and Honesdale.

For rates and reservations, contact Jane Varcoe at P.O. Box A, Waymart, PA 18472; (570) 488-6750; janev@socantel.net. ❖

"TOWERS," continued from Page 1

master plan that would provide advisory guidelines for the review of cell tower applications.

At the UDC's July 9 workshop attended by 53 people, guest speakers Lori Heithoff from the New York Department of State Division of Local Government and Pennsylvania attorney R. Anthony Waldron III explained that the upswing in cell tower activity stems both from increased consumer demand and authorization by the Federal Communications Commission to expand competitive market opportunities for wireless service providers.

The prevailing Telecommunications Act of 1996 bars municipalities from prohibiting the provision of wireless service through the application of regulations and from discriminating among providers.

Local governments, however, retain the authority to regulate the location and/or

"Stopping [cell towers] is definitely in the past, but controlling them can still happen." - R. Anthony Waldron, III, attorney-at-law, Pennsylvania

design of cell towers.

"You can zone for aesthetics. Viewsheds are a legitimate concern," Waldron said.

"Stopping [cell towers] is definitely in the past, but controlling them can still happen. You have to analyze your options," he added. "You can bring in experts on these matters to advise you and have the cell tower companies pay for it."

The amount of control municipalities have in these situations often depends on the adequacy of their land use regulations, according to Heithoff.

"You can hold their feet to the fire," she said, noting that the goal is to compel the companies to address all alternatives pertaining to the proposed site, co-location options, type of design, and height.

Municipalities can require applicants to do balloon tests to research the visibility, to investigate opportunities for utilizing existing structures or stealth camouflage, and to set conditions for the removal of obsolete towers as part of the approval process.

Furthermore, speculative tower builders lacking agreements with FCC license holders may be treated like any other commercial zoning applicant, not as public utilities.

Local governments can adopt moratoria while they develop local plans and regulations dealing with tower and antenna siting as long as they have a specific expiration and are not conceived to stall or discourage the placement of cell towers.

At the August 23 meeting, 31 participants embarked on preliminary discussions about the master plan concept.

"I'm concerned that need won't be compromised by speed, and especially by greed." - John Reggero, UDC Alternate, Town of Cochecton, NY

UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass affixed sticky notes on the office's Upper Delaware River mural to pinpoint the then-dozen proposed or approved cell tower sites in and around the corridor to help visualize the magnitude of the issue.

Town of Cochecton Alternate Representative John Reggero said no one can argue that wireless technology is a vital part of today's society, but he would hate to see a rush to erect cell towers without due consideration of the impacts.

"I'm concerned that need won't be compromised by speed, and especially by greed," he said.

Regional master plans for wireless telecommunications facilities have been successfully drafted in other areas, such as the St. Croix River Valley (Minnesota and Wisconsin), Appalachian Trail Conference (multiple Eastern U.S. states), and the Pinelands (southern New Jersey).

A master plan in the Upper Delaware would ideally involve the five counties and 15 municipalities in NY and PA.

"The result without a Master Plan would be an irregular patchwork of cell towers decided upon by development interests - not by those of us who live here," suggested Joseph Freda, a member of the Town of Delaware Planning Board.

As revealed by the group's discussion, however, there are many potential chal-

"The result without a Master Plan would be an irregular patchwork of cell towers decided upon by development interests - not by those of us who live here." - Joseph Freda, Town of Delaware, NY Planning Board

lenges to developing an Upper Delaware cell tower master plan.

Among them are gathering sufficient support and resources, including financial assistance and technical expertise; deciding whether the plan would take the tactic of suggesting potential sites for towers or stating where they should not locate; reconciling the different regulations of the two states; and setting the boundaries for the area to be covered by the guidelines.

If pursued, the master plan developers would likely seek outside funding to hire a consultant to assist with the project.

Further discussions were pending at the September 27 meeting scheduled after this issue's deadline. ♦



Frank Hartmann (1990 UDC file photo)

In Memoriam ...

Francis E. "Frank" Hartmann Jr. of Sparrowbush, NY died September 15, 2001 at Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla, NY, at the age of 76.

In his role as the Town of Deerpark's delegate to the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP) from 1984-86, Frank helped draft the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's Management Plan.

When the Upper Delaware Council was established in 1988, Frank continued as Deerpark's representative until 1993. He chaired the Council in 1989 and received the Distinguished Service Award in 1994 for his exemplary contributions to the river valley.

Born Feb. 21, 1925 in Cochecton, NY, Frank graduated in 1941 from Delaware Valley Central School and served in the Navy during World War II from 1943-46. He received mechanical engineering degrees from Middletown Collegiate Center and the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He retired as a mechanical engineer at AAR Skydyne, Port Jervis, in 1990.

Frank's memberships included the NYS Conservation Council, Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs in Orange and Sullivan, Tri-States Rod & Gun Club, NYS Hunter Safety Instructors, Knights of Columbus, VFW, NRA, Orange County Charter Study Commission, Deerpark Democratic Committee, Town Planning Board, Sparrowbush Fire Department, and service as Town Justice for eight years.

Survivors are his wife, Betty; two sons, Joseph of Deerfield Beach, FL and Paul of Port Jervis; a daughter, Laura Lincoln of Midlothian, VA; a foster son, Warren Gotthardt of Jonesboro, GA; two siblings; five grandchildren; and two foster grandchildren.

Contributions may be sent to the NYS Conservation Council, 8 E. Main St., Ilion, NY 13357, or plant a tree in Frank Hartmann's memory.

Delaware Sojourn Wins Environmental Partnership Award

The Delaware River Sojourn will receive a "2001 Environmental Partnership Award" at the 11th Annual Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment October 23.

The reception, dinner, and awards ceremony will take place from 5:30-9 p.m. at Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre.

A consortium of public and private entities representing four states has coordinated the Delaware River Sojourn annually since 1995 to promote awareness and stewardship of the river's natural, recreational, cultural, and historical attributes.

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and Upper Delaware Council organize the northernmost stretches of the eight-day canoeing and camping adventure.

Also among the Oct. 23 honorees are Susan Beecher, executive director of the Pike County Conservation District, and frequent area lecturer and deer management supervisor Dr. Gary Alt of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Ed McMahon, vice-president of The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program and co-founder of Scenic America, will deliver the keynote address.

The evening is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners (including the PA Departments of Environmental Protection, and Conservation and Natural Resources, the Economic Development Council of Northeast Pennsylvania, Wilkes University, PPL, Inc. and Proctor & Gamble Paper Products Co.)

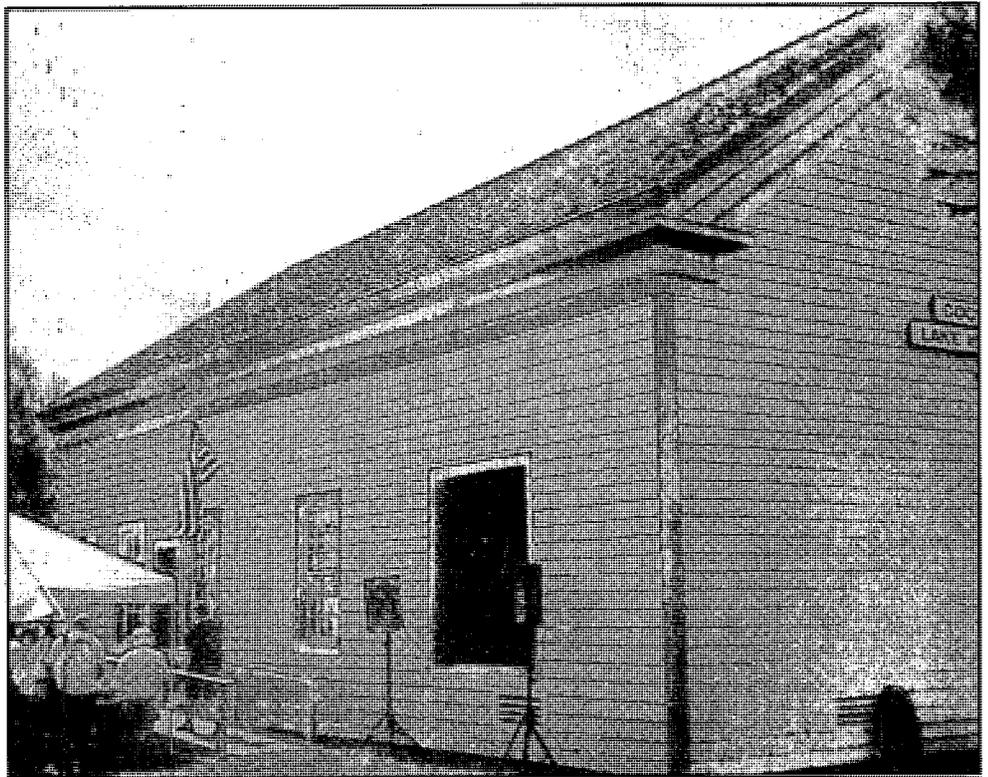
For ticket information and reservations, please call (570) 270-4420 or e-mail the PA Environmental Council's Northeast Office at pecnepa@wilkes.edu. ❖

River Cleanup Bags 17.5 Tons of Trash

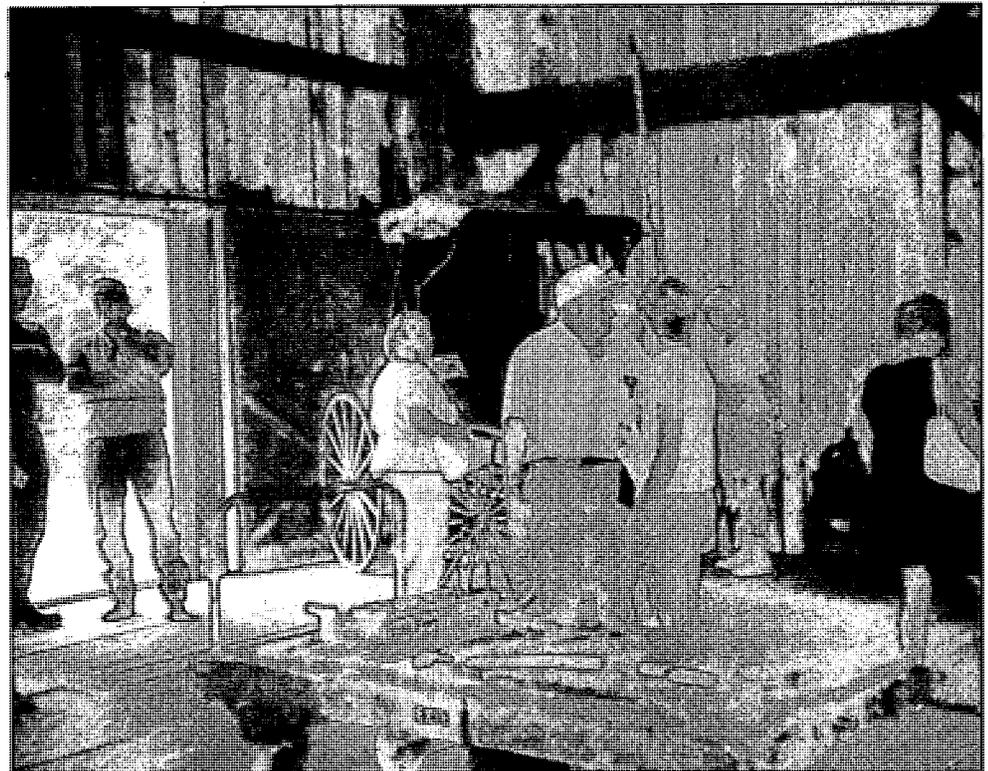
A July 17-20 cleanup of the Delaware River by 526 volunteers yielded 17.5 tons of trash, including 377 lbs. of aluminum cans and 403 tires.

The 12th Annual "On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup" was organized again by Kittatinny Canoes, which provides meals, shuttles, boats, litter bags, and souvenir T-shirts to their loyal participants.

Volunteers scoured 71 miles of the river and its shorelines from Ten Mile River to the Delaware Water Gap before gathering on the final day in Matamoras, Pa. to sort through the collected debris. An unusual find was three safes without doors. ❖



The restored Cochection Station, shown above, was formally dedicated August 18 during a day of celebration and remembrance at the former Erie railroad depot's new, track-side location off State Route 97, about one mile north of Cochection, NY. The circa 1850 building is believed to be the oldest existing railroad station in New York State. No longer used by the railroad and standing in the way of a business expansion project, it was slated for demolition in 1992. The Cochection Preservation Society (CPS) formed to save the historic structure. Its owners agreed to donate the station to CPS if it could be moved within a year. Thanks to grants, community support, and much sweat equity by volunteers, the station was carefully dismantled and labeled board by board, then reassembled on donated property with a new foundation, roof, and siding, to look much as it did in 1910 when the depot was in use, first as a freight station and later for passengers. Dedication Day featured guided tours inside the station, as shown below, to view the construction techniques and period memorabilia, as well as historical talks, costumed re-enactors, speeches of acknowledgement, and the debut of a benefit recording of train songs by Mickey Barnett called "All Aboard!" (Photos by Laurie Ramie)



UDC Highlights Activities of Last Quarter

Upper Delaware Council (UDC) project and activity highlights from mid-June through mid-September 2001, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

DELAWARE SOJOURN

The UDC and National Park Service Upper Delaware hosted the first three days of June 15-23's 7th Annual Delaware River Sojourn. Local paddle trips were from Hankins, NY to Ten Mile River, with educational programs, meals, and camping at the NPS Milanville, PA office provided. The Upper Delaware bestowed the honorary titles of "Lord and Lady High Admirals" on Peter Osborne of the Minisink Valley Historical Society and Barbara Yeaman of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. The eight-day Sojourn, which covered all four basin states, attracted 203 individuals for one or multiple day trips.

BERLIN INTEREST

After independently expressing interest in the benefits provided by the UDC to its members, two supervisors from non-participating Berlin Township, PA attended a June 26 committee meeting to learn more. While the board subsequently voted against joining the UDC at this time, the Council appreciated the positive inquiry.

VISITOR CENTER

The first meeting of the Mongaup Visitor Center Advisory Group took place on July 9-10 at which the local advisors had an opportunity to provide preliminary input to National Park Service personnel and the team from Croxton Collaborative of New York City that will be developing the center. The UDC is represented on the advisory group by Executive Director Bill Douglass. Chief among the current information-gathering phase is to determine which local, state, and federal permits will be required for the project. A public scoping session will be advertised for this fall.

MEETINGS

The UDC participated in numerous special meetings in the last quarter, including:

- "A Day on the Delaware," an issues discussion forum sponsored by the Delaware River Foundation and Trout Unlimited July 31 on the West Branch Delaware River

- Delaware River Basin Cooperative Fisheries Technical Committee quarterly meeting, Aug. 1-2 in Hancock, NY

- Delaware River Water Trail Coalition meeting Aug. 13 in Bushkill, PA to explore the feasibility of developing a water trail from Hancock, NY to Trenton, NJ

- UDC Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee meeting with Pennsylvania Representative Jerry Birmelin (R-139th District) Aug. 24 to discuss UDC funding needs, financial support for member PA

township projects, and river valley issues

- UDC Board Retreat Sept. 29 to provide historical insights into the development of the River Management Plan via a facilitated panel discussion, prior to undertaking a 15-year review of the document

RIVER ACCESS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) constructed an interim primitive river access in the Town of Lumberland upstream of the confluence of the Delaware and Mongaup Rivers to replace a historically-used, hazardous pull-off slightly north on Route 97. Under a cooperative management agreement with the National Park Service, the unpaved parking area's amenities include an informational kiosk, porta-john, picnic table, and trash receptacle. The access opened to the public in mid-July.

GRANT FUNDS

Three of the eight New York State river valley towns that were each approved for a \$6,250 share of a \$50,000 Aid to Localities grant by Senator John J. Bonacic and Assemblyman Jake Gunther have completed work on their projects. The Towns of Fremont, Tusten, and Highland have submitted their paperwork for reimbursement. In the meantime, the UDC passed a resolution to authorize the Council chairperson to sign grant disbursement agreements with the Empire State Development Corp., and with each of the eight towns.

In other grant news, the UDC will receive \$5,000 over two years from the William Penn Foundation for its participation as a non-profit organization on the Delaware River Basin Commission's Watershed Advisory Council.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Comment letters were issued to the Town of Delaware Planning Board on an application, subsequently revised, by SBA Properties to build a 170-foot cell tower on Froelich Road in Callicoon (since withdrawn), with reference to an application by Crown Atlantic Co. to build a 170-foot cell tower off Deer Run Road in Callicoon.

An application by Guaranty Towers to build a 180-foot cell tower on Rt. 590 in the Village of Lackawaxen resulted in a comment letter to the Township Supervisors.

Also reviewed was an application by a Damascus resident to the PA Department of Environmental Protection for a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit to allow construction of a residence and garage on a 0.88 acre lot in the Delaware River floodway at Tammany Flats.

CORRESPONDENCE

Among the letters approved by the UDC this quarter were these:

- to Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Chairperson Alan Sorensen requesting clarification of the NYS DEC's position on the impact that the proposed scenic byway designation for Route 97 would have on the bluestone mining industry

- to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 commending steps taken by the **New York City Catskill/Delaware Water Supply System** to protect the existing high water quality in order to avoid filtration, while noting "that filtering may be inevitable" and "would allow the City to use more water from its own Hudson River watershed." It also recommends that "attention should be paid to fixing any leaks in the New York City aqueduct system" based on reports that the underground tunnels may be losing an estimated 9-23 million gallons per day.

- to the New York State Department of Transportation's Region 8 commending the **graffiti removal** work done along the Route 97 Hawks Nest area

- to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program in support of the Town of Tusten's request for technical assistance to develop a seven-mile **hiking trail** extension of the existing Tusten Mountain Trail. ♦

Mourns Loss of Chris Bartsch, 10

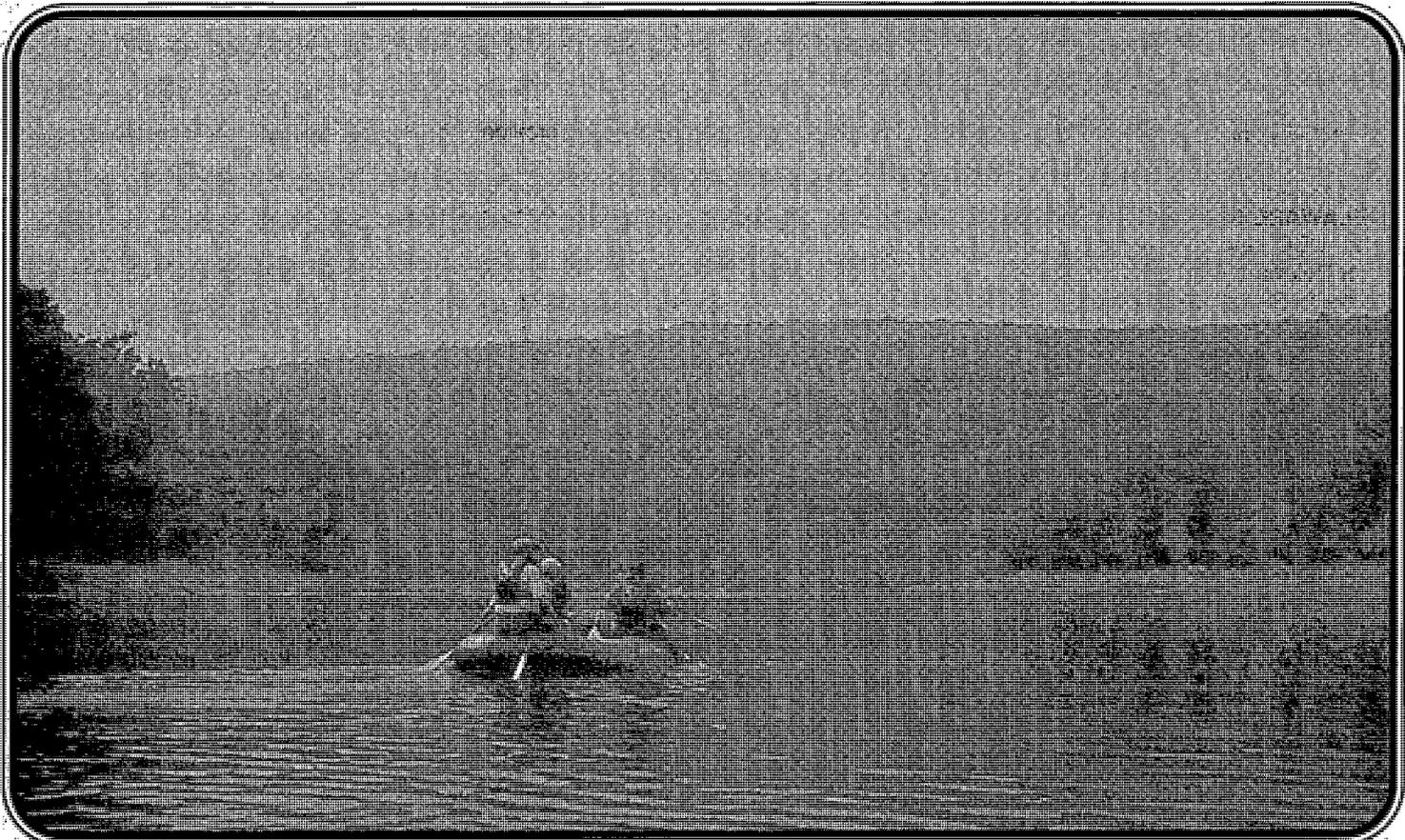
The Upper Delaware Council expresses condolences to the family and friends of Christopher Andrew Bartsch, 10, of Shohola, Pa.

Chris died on July 18, 2001 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa., after battling a rare type of brain cancer. The community had rallied behind the spirited fourth-grader, contributing good wishes and donations to help offset medical costs.

Chris is the son of Kathleen Bartsch and the late Andy Bartsch, who had served as an alternate representative for Shohola Township on the UDC.

In addition to his mother, survivors include siblings Brian and Jessica Bartsch, at home; paternal grandparents Frederick and Ingrid Bartsch of Greeley, Pa.; maternal grandfather Jack Mazellan of South Plainfield, NJ; great-grandmothers Gertrude Bartsch and Hedwig Neuhaus, both of Greeley; aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A Christopher Bartsch Memorial Fund was established in care of Wayne Bank, Shohola, Pa. 18458 and Penn Star Bank, Milford, Pa. 18337.



The four-member party of Barbara Peters and Fred Krasselt from Beach Lake, Pa., with their guests Sharon Jolly and Joan James, paddle along a placid section of the river during the Upper Delaware Council's 13th Annual Family Raft Trip on August 4. (Photo by David B. Soete)

Over 150 Enjoy UDC's Annual Raft Trip

The 13th Annual Family Raft Trip and Summer Picnic sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) on August 4 drew 153 participants to paddle an eight-mile section of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

This year's river segment began at Ten Mile River Access in the Town of Tusten, NY and ended at Kittatinny Canoes' Luke's Landing Base in Barryville, NY.

An intense, mid-afternoon thunderstorm created some unexpected drama for the rafters, but their dampness from the rain fortunately did not dampen their spirits of adventure.

The large turnout included 51 rafters between the ages of 4 and 18, as well as many first-time rafters of all ages, thereby fulfilling the UDC's goal to promote awareness and stewardship of the river through direct involvement in a recreational outing.

Participants came from as far away as Florida, Virginia, New Jersey, and other parts of Pennsylvania and New York to join area residents.

The event has grown in popularity by those interested in taking advantage of the deeply discounted rates to spend a fun day on the river with family and with friends, old and new.

Following the raft trip, 56 guests enjoyed a hearty chicken barbecue picnic served under the festively-decorated pavilion at Kittatinny Campground in Barryville.

The UDC typically schedules its Annual Family Raft Trip and Summer Picnic on the first Saturday of August, highlighting a different segment of the river than the previous year.

The event is publicized in this newsletter as well as direct mail and media notices.

For more information, please contact UDC Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie at udcramie@ezaccess.net or (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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Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River Superintendent Transfers, Historian Retires

The National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, its partners, and community friends bade farewell to the park unit's Superintendent and Historian in September.

Calvin F. Hite was selected as superintendent at West Virginia's New River Gorge National River in late July. He had acted in that position since February 2001 to temporarily fill a vacancy created by a retirement. In that spirit, an affectionate "gone-away" party was held in Hite's honor Sept. 28 in Narrowsburg, NY.

Sandra Schultz has been named Acting Superintendent while a nation-wide search commences for Hite's replacement.

Hite, a West Virginia native, came to the Upper Delaware as Superintendent in 1995 following John Hutzky's retirement, after having previously worked here from 1981-88 as an Interpretive Specialist.

The outdoor enthusiast joined NPS in 1973. He and his wife Sarah have two children, Joshua, 23, and Emily, 20.

New River Gorge includes 85,300 acres of land and more than 100 miles of river. Hite will oversee the park complex's five visitor centers, 12 river access points, 50 miles of hiking trails, six primitive campgrounds, four historic areas, three picnic areas, and four day use areas.

Approximately one million people visit New River Gorge annually.

Mary Curtis of Callicoon, NY joined NPS Upper Delaware in 1980 as Public Affairs Specialist and was appointed Historian in 1994. She retired from that post Sept. 1.

Curtis' work with the National Register of Historic Places, Upper Delaware Oral History Project, her writings, and storyteller programs have documented, preserved,



At her September 7 retirement dinner, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Historian Mary Curtis, seated, was recognized by two past Upper Delaware superintendents, Cal Hite, far right, and Hite's predecessor of 16 years, John Hutzky, middle. Hite was recently named superintendent for New River Gorge National River in West Virginia after six years at the helm in the Upper Delaware. (Photo by David B. Soete)

and offered to the public a treasure trove of the valley's historical resources.

The eighth-generation river valley native, who has served as the Town of Delaware's Historian since 1978, is well-known for her community and charitable work as well. Her memberships include the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, Cocheton Preservation Society, St. James Episcopal Church, Interfaith Outreach United, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, and the Sullivan County, Wayne County, and Equinunk Historical Societies.

The NPS Northeast Region honored her as 1994 Employee of the Year, adding to numerous accolades throughout the years from regional historical societies and organizations. Curtis plans to devote time to traveling and compiling more family history. ♦

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.

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