

# The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 14 Number 4

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Winter 2001-2002



## In This Issue...

**Management Plan Endures**  
Pages 1 and 4

**Upper Delaware Profile: John LiGreci, Town of Lumberland**  
Page 2

**1875 Delaware River Dredging Cleared Way for Log Rafting**  
Pages 3 and 4

**New Dates for Delaware Sojourn, News Briefs From The Region**  
Page 5

**UDC Highlights Activities; Public Speaks on Basin Plan**  
Page 6

**Reservoirs Hit Record Low; New Signs Mark River Levels**  
Page 7

**Watershed Partnerships Cited; UDC Initiates Spring Projects**  
Page 8

**The Upper Delaware**  
welcomes submissions and  
new subscribers (free)

Send items to Newsletter  
Editor Laurie Ramie at the  
Upper Delaware Council,  
211 Bridge St., P.O. Box 192,  
Narrowsburg, N.Y. 12764.  
Please update our mailing  
list by filling out the coupon  
on Page 7. Thank you.



Panelists at the Upper Delaware Council's River Management Plan Retreat included, from left to right, Rick Lander of Narrowsburg, Chuck Hoffman of Silver Spring, MD, Phil Fitzpatrick of Matamoras, Roger Fickes from the PA Bureau of State Parks, and Mike Gordon, retired from the National Park Service. Fellow panelist Tom Shepstone of Honesdale moderated the Sept. 29 retreat discussions in Beach Lake, PA. (Photo by David B. Soete)

## River Management Plan Enduring the Test of Time

As members of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) discussed the evolution of the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* with a panel of original crafters, an undisputed theme emerged.

In spite of its creation in an atmosphere of controversy and the lack of historical precedent, the plan finalized in 1986 and adopted in 1988 still works today.

The UDC has initiated an informal review of the River Management Plan to prepare for drafting the fourth "Five-year Operating Program" (Oct. 2002 through Sept. 2007) since the Council was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1988.

To lay some historical foundation for the review, the UDC held a board retreat on Sept. 29, 2001 at the Beach Lake Inn.

Six individuals who contributed to the plan's early development but are no longer

directly involved in Upper Delaware management were invited to share insights to benefit newer members and refresh the memories of veteran UDC representatives.

"Before too many of us lose that link to the past, this is a good opportunity to have this panel explain the original thoughts that went into this plan," said UDC 2001 Chairperson Larry Richardson in his introduction kicking off the six-hour retreat.

The second phase of the review will occur over the next several months as the UDC's three standing committees revisit the plan chapter by chapter.

The plan itself calls for a thorough evaluation after 20 years to adapt to any changing conditions and community needs.

Donating their time to serve on the panel were Tom Shepstone, Chuck Hoffman, Mike Gordon, Roger Fickes, Phil Fitz-

*Please see "PLAN" on Page 4*

# Upper Delaware Profile: John LiGreci

You can call John J. LiGreci by many names - town supervisor, football coach, entrepreneurial businessman, family man, political leader, UDC alternate - but one description that would never fit is lazy.

LiGreci spends weekdays on his native Staten Island, working at the elegant *LiGreci's Staaten* catering hall that his family has operated for 38 years, currently with a roster of 100 employees.

He conducts a side business largely by phone as a plastics commodities trader who has negotiated long-term contracts in China, Mexico, and Taiwan.

During weeknights, Saturdays, and Sundays, LiGreci logs another 40 or so hours at the Lumberland Town Hall fulfilling his duties as "part-time" town supervisor.

Football season finds this former running back with the semi-professional Staten Island Panthers coaching at Eldred High School's varsity games. Having co-founded a local Pop Warner program, LiGreci has coached at every football team level.

Then there are his roles as town representative to the Route 97 Scenic Byway Committee, chairman of the Lumberland Republican Committee, member of the Lumberland Lions Club, congregant of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Catholic Church, husband of part-time realtor Linda (Geba), whose family moved from Staten Island to Eldred during her youth, and father of 11-year-old Adriana, a sixth grader at Mackenzie Elementary School.

LiGreci willingly tolerates the nearly four-hour round-trip drive from Glen Spey to Staten Island for the sake of coming home to the Upper Delaware River Valley.

"We've been here 19 years now. In my opinion, it's a wonderful area. It's worth the commute," the 51-year-old says.

While it seems like there can't be enough hours in the day for LiGreci to accomplish it all, he manages to make the time.

"When I take on an endeavor - whether it's football, coaching, my family's business, or the Town of Lumberland - I do it 100 percent or I don't do it at all," he says.

LiGreci served for nine years variously as secretary, vice-chair, and chairman of the Lumberland Planning Board before being tapped to run for Councilman.

He had served for just one year on the Town Board as Deputy Supervisor when Lumberland's Town Supervisor Paul Brennan retired in December of 2000.

LiGreci decided to formally run for election as Supervisor and won a newly-approved, four-year term in 2001.

"It was a quick transition," he says.

LiGreci immersed himself in learning on the job, largely by "reading everything that comes into this office" and relying on the



**John J. LiGreci, Town of Lumberland, NY**

experienced town staff.

One issue that has particularly stirred LiGreci's passion is what he refers to as his "crusade" to reform New York State laws regulating tax-exempt properties. LiGreci believes that the current legislation is too lenient in its eligibility allowances, at the expense of local taxpayers.

He has been making the rounds of town boards, and publicly challenging Sullivan County officials and elected state representatives, to join his fight.

"It may not be politically correct but I'm forcing the issue. I think overall, it's the right thing to do. At the very least, I've stirred up enough noise to make the higher-ups aware of it," he says.

This is just part of the aggressive agenda that LiGreci and his "united, hard-working" town board have undertaken to streamline town services and stabilize the tax base.

"My goal is to make the town a more desirable and a better place to live, and also to have the people financially be able to exist here. I believe we're moving in the right direction," he says.

On a regional scale, LiGreci views the proposed designation of Route 97 as a State Scenic Byway as a great economic opportunity for the Upper Delaware area.

"I hope that the byway operation would model itself after the UDC, which in my opinion is probably one of the best and most efficiently run agencies in this area," he says, noting that like the UDC's philosophy, the Scenic Byway system emphasizes that "power remains in local control" and both entities offer helpful grants.

Besides reading as a hobby, the Wagner College graduate with a physical education degree enjoys collecting football and baseball cards, minted coins and stamps. ❖

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.  
P. O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192  
Telephone: (845) 252-3022  
FAX: (845) 252-3359

*The Upper Delaware* is a free quarterly publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization composed of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

### 2002 Officers

Chairperson ..... Lewis J. Schmaizle  
Vice-Chairperson ..... Bruce Sainack  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... Charles Wieland

### New York Town Representatives

Hancock ..... George H. Frosch  
Fremont ..... John B. Nifot  
Delaware ..... James Greier, Alternate  
Cochecton ..... Harold G. Roeder, Jr.  
Tusten ..... Eric J. Nystrom, Alternate  
Highland ..... Larry H. Richardson  
Lumberland ..... John A. Reppero, Alternate  
Deerpark ..... Charles Wieland  
Delaware ..... Richard B. Randall, Alternate  
Lumberland ..... Lewis Schmaizle  
Deerpark ..... Alan Schadt, Alternate

Lumberland ..... Nadia Pairs  
Deerpark ..... John LiGreci, Alternate  
Deerpark ..... Philip D. Chase  
Deerpark ..... Melvin Decker, 1st Alternate  
Deerpark ..... James Chandler, 2nd Alternate

### Pennsylvania Township Representatives

Acrawaxen ..... John S. McKay  
Shohola ..... Per Hansen, Alternate  
Shohola ..... Bruce Sainack  
Wesliffe ..... George J. Fuhri, 1st Alternate  
Wesliffe ..... Steve Jelen, 2nd Alternate  
Wesliffe ..... Alan Bowers

### State & Regional Members

New York ..... William Rudge, DEC  
Pennsylvania ..... Matar Hubovcak, DCNR  
Del. River Basin Commission ..... David Lameriaux, DEP, Alternate  
Del. River Basin Commission ..... Carol Coner

### Partner

National Park Service ..... Marie Rust, Reg. Dir.  
Sandra S. Schultz, LDS&RR, Alternate

### Staff

Executive Director ..... William E. Douglass  
wdouglass@ezaccess.net  
Senior Resource Specialist ..... David B. Soste  
dsoste@ezaccess.net  
Public Relations/Newsletter ..... Laura Ramle  
lramle@ezaccess.net  
Office Manager ..... Carol Coner  
cconer@ezaccess.net

Printing Services: Tapco, Inc., P.O. Box 307,  
Pemberton, NJ 08057. Tel: (609) 894-2282

Printed in the USA on recycled paper  
Copyright 2002, Upper Delaware Council

# Delaware River Dredging in 1875 Cleared Way for Log Raft Industry



Rafting on the Delaware River was at its peak in 1875, when men who typically labored for the rest of the year as lumbermen and farmers gathered each spring to construct the sturdy log rafts that would take their crews and native timber on an exciting, though arduous, adventure down the Delaware to waiting markets in Easton and Philadelphia. (Photos courtesy of the Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley)

(Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Oct. 29, 1876 issue of *The Hancock Herald* and is re-printed with permission).

The work of clearing the channel of the Delaware River and branches in this state from obstructions to rafting, which has been in progress for the past year under a commission is now virtually completed, and constitutes a valuable and substantial improvement.

On the application of the lumbermen of Sullivan and Delaware Counties, the State Legislature, in June 1875, appropriated the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of clearing the river channel for rafting purposes, and provided for the appointment of three commissioners to expend the money.

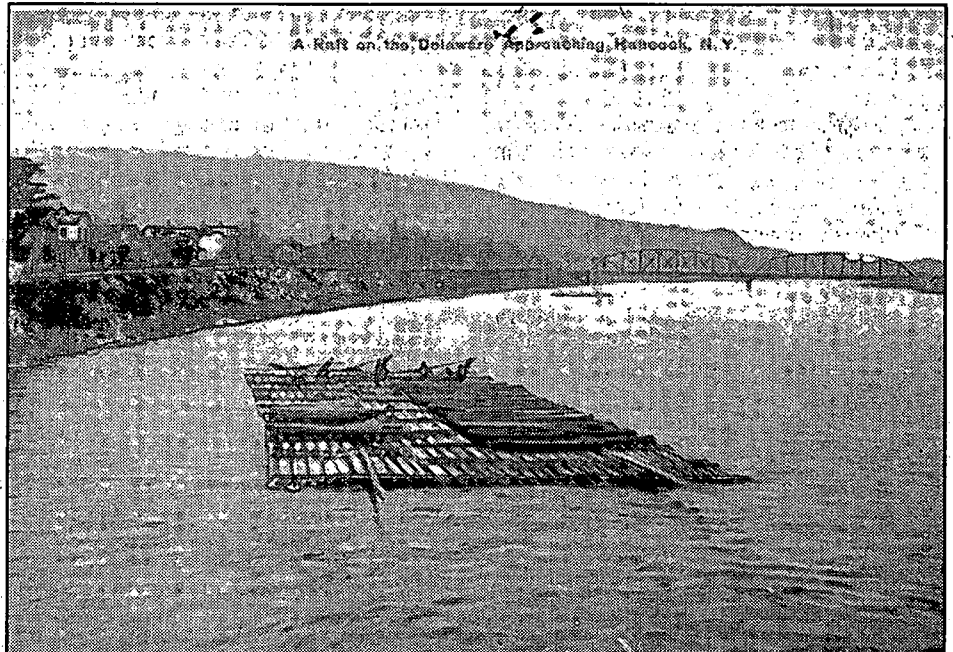
Gov. Tilden appointed as such commissioners Messrs. US. Tyler of Long Eddy, Sullivan County; LW Terwilliger of Hancock, Delaware County, and Grinnel Burt, Esquire, of Warwick, Orange County.

The commissioners at once appointed an experienced engineer, Mr. Chas. Caldwell, of Newburgh, and in company with him and three old raftsmen made a personal examination of the river in order to see for themselves where possible what changes were advisable with the river, putting the money "where it would do the most good."

Like honest commissioners, as they were, they resolved to put it into the river. In a flat boat they made a nine day's trip down the river from Cook's Falls, Delaware County, on the

East Branch along the U.S. Midland, to Port Jervis, noting obstructions by the way, getting information and suggestions from the raftsmen

*Please see "RAFTS" on Page 4*



This historic postcard showing the large dimensions of a typical log raft is labeled "A Raft on the Delaware Approaching Hancock, NY" though locals say that location is suspect.



Participants in the UDC's September 29, 2001 River Management Plan Retreat held at the Beach Lake Inn included, back row from the left: Lew Schmalzle, Town of Highland; Bruce Selneck, Shohola Township; panelist Rick Lander, UDC Chairperson Larry Richardson, Town of Cochection; panelist Chuck Hoffman; panelist Mike Gordon; panelist and moderator Tom Shepstone; Todd Kratzer, Delaware River Basin Commission; Cal Hite, National Park Service; and panelist Roger Fickes. In front are Charlie Wieland, Town of Tusten; UDC Office Manager Carol Coney; Marian Hrubovcak, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware; Sandra Schultz, National Park Service; Jack Niflot, Town of Fremont; David Lamereaux, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland; UDC Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie; Phil Chase, Town of Deerpark; and panelist Phil Fitzpatrick. Not pictured in this photo are UDC Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete and Executive Director Bill Douglass. (Photo by David B. Soete)

**"PLAN," continued from Page 1**

patrick, and Rick Lander.

The panelists recalled the turbulence of the late 1970's and 1980's as the federal government initially proposed large-scale land condemnation to protect the resource and address the complaints of local residents about the Upper Delaware River's increasing overuse, safety problems, and water quality threats.

When public outcry trounced that idea, achieving a compromise to satisfy all concerns became the challenge.

The concept of limiting National Park Service jurisdiction to the river while retaining private land ownership and municipal home rule had never been done before. Local, state, and federal interests would draft a River Management Plan together.

That wasn't going to be easy.

Following the 1978 designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, it took nearly eight years of raucous hearings, protests, negotiations, and major re-writes to produce the unique plan.

"Everybody had to learn how to be partners," said Hoffman, who added with some wonder, "In 15 years, after all odds, you're still here and it still works."

Shepstone noted, "All of the opposition was good because it got people involved, excited, and it led to local leadership."

"We've come a long way in the river valley," Lander agreed.

Issues addressed by the panel and participants included plan conformance, amendments, facilities, funding, and com-

munity interactions.

While placing the River Management Plan into its historical context, the retreat also rallied and re-energized Council members for the tasks that lie ahead.

Among the panelists' recommendations were for the UDC to:

- invest time in appraising the Council's performance to date and its future needs, such as a diversification of funding
- define thresholds that issues must meet or exceed to justify any potential revisions to the River Management Plan
- think of creative approaches to seeking state contributions and increasing the federal allocation for the Council's operations
- offer individuals, counties, and the private sector more opportunities for engagement in Upper Delaware issues
- increase visibility in the non-participating townships and on the regional level
- survey what amenities are lacking to accommodate the current and future recreational use of the river

As the day wrapped up, each panelist observed that he had heard no compelling issues that would indicate a need to amend the River Management Plan at this time. That's a great tribute to the foresight and abilities of all those partners involved in the plan's development, they suggested.

Holding up his dog-eared copy, 1988 UDC Chairman Phil Fitzpatrick asked, "How many 15-year-old plans does anybody ever look at? This document serves all these diverse communities. This thing works!" ♦

**"RAFTS," continued from Page 3**

and engineer, and mapping out the work to be done.

On plans and specifications prepared under their direction by the engineer, they advertised and late last fall let the work by contract to Mr. George Potts, an experienced contractor from New Jersey, who was the lowest bidder.

The contractor commenced last fall, but, as the season had already far advanced, he was able to accomplish but little before the high water and winter put an end to his operations.

Last spring he commenced work in earnest, simultaneously at various points along the river, and pushed it uninterruptedly until the freshet of September again stopped the work which, however, was already well nigh completed.

The plan pursued was as follows: whenever rocks endangered the safe passage of rafts they were blasted away and removed. Dangerous bars were also dredged out. Whenever the channel was too wide or was divided, a permanent and substantial breakwater dam was constructed to turn all the water into one channel.

The improvements extend over a distance of from 150 to 175 miles, and there is hardly a league of the stream where some work has not been done. Work has been done in both the East and West Branches - more in the former - but most in the main stream between Hancock and Port Jervis.

The bulk of the work was expended on several very important improvements, which were most needed, among which breakwaters were erected as follows:

At "Lewis's Bar" on the East Branch, seventeen miles above Hancock, a dam 121 feet long was built.

At "Cook House Island" on the West Branch, three and a half miles below Deposit, a dam 250 feet long.

At "Horse Race" on the West Branch, near Hale Eddy, a dam 115 feet long.

At "Pine Island" on the West Branch, three and a half miles above Hancock, a dam 14 feet long, and near it at "Three Bars" another 240 feet long.

At "Moor Crafts" near Hancock, a dam 70 feet long.

Near the Village of Long Eddy, a dam 70 feet long.

All the breakwaters were constructed with piles driven not less than six feet into the bed of the river, and then filled in with timbers and stone. In the nine dams, aggregating nearly 2000 feet in length, were used 360 piles, 150,000 feet of lumber, 2500 cubic yards of stone, and three and a half tons of iron spikes.

A stone and brush dam was also constructed on the West Branch, three miles above Cannonsville.

Dredging was done all along the river and over 3000 cubic yards of gravel were removed from bars. Over 2000 cubic yards of solid rock were blasted and considerable loose rock removed and rough stone wall built. ♦



Rick Allan, chairperson of the Northeast Office of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), presents a 2001 Environmental Partnership Award to the Delaware River Sojourn, represented by steering committee members Sandra Schultz, left, acting superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and 2001-2002 Sojourn Chairperson Carol Collier, center, executive director of the Delaware River Basin Commission. The award was bestowed at the 11th Annual "Evening for Pennsylvania's Environment" Dinner held on October 23, 2001 at the Woodlands Resort in Wilkes-Barre, sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Partners. The award honored the Sojourn for gearing its partnership program toward promoting awareness and education of the habitat and history along the Delaware River. The Sojourn also received a special commendation from former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge. (Photo contributed by PEC Northeast Office)

## Mid-Atlantic States Discuss Watershed At First Roundtable

Representatives from the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia convened on Dec. 3-5, 2001 in Doylestown, PA for the first Mid-Atlantic Watershed Roundtable.

The purpose of the roundtable's establishment is to improve coordination, and to explore and strengthen the connections among grassroots river/watershed leaders, officials from state and federal agencies, municipal government officials, tribal governments, planners, and representatives of the business community with an interest in watersheds.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Watershed Roundtable has a long-range vision to take actions to minimize any fragmentation and duplicated effort.

Regional watershed roundtables are convening across the nation as networks of diverse stakeholders that engage in dialogue and information exchange to support collaboration on community-based watershed protection and restoration efforts.

The Mid-Atlantic meeting was coordinated by the non-profit Heritage Conservancy.

For more information about regional watershed roundtables, contact Cyndy Belz of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 at (212) 637-3832 or e-mail [belz.cyndy@epa.gov](mailto:belz.cyndy@epa.gov).

## 8th Annual Delaware River Sojourn Selects Dates and Theme for 2002

"The Delaware: A Revolutionary River!" is this year's theme for the Delaware River Sojourn to be held June 1-8, 2002. A Sojourn kick-off celebration will take place on Friday, May 31, at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, Pa.

Now in its eighth year, the Delaware River Sojourn is an eight-day outdoor adventure which invites people of all ages to canoe or kayak for all or select days of the journey down the Delaware.

Last year, more than 200 "Sojourners" enjoyed the guided paddling trips, interpretation of the river's natural and historical features, educational programs appropriate to each river section, camaraderie and camping out under the stars.

The chosen theme will focus on the historical contributions that the Delaware River has made to the growth and success of our nation. Programs will emphasize such important milestones as the American Revolution (General George Washington crossing the Delaware) and the Industrial Revolution facilitated by river-related business innovations.

The Sojourn is organized by a consortium of 23 non-profit groups, educational organizations, government agencies, tourism promoters, and private interests from the Delaware River Basin states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

To receive a brochure with complete registration details, please contact: Delaware River Sojourn, c/o Delaware River Greenway Partnership, P.O. Box 424, Hopewell, NJ 08525; phone (908) 996-0230; or e-mail [drgp@earthlink.net](mailto:drgp@earthlink.net). Regularly updated information can also be found at the Sojourn's web site: [www.state.nj.us/drbc/sojourn](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/sojourn).

Corporate sponsorship package opportunities to support the mission of the Sojourn are available by contacting Fundraising Chairperson Suzanne Forbes at (609) 397-5335.

Listen for a major announcement about the 2002 Delaware River Sojourn expected in to be made in January...❖

## Keystone Coldwater Conference Feb. 16

The 2002 Keystone Coldwater Conference, entitled "Headwater Habitats: The Importance of Native Plant and Animal Diversity," will take place on February 16 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.

The keynote speaker will be Sue Thompson, executive director of the PA Biodiversity Partnership. There will be individual sessions on aquatic food chains, headwater plants, headwater wildlife, and watershed disturbances.

On Saturday night following an optional dinner, outdoor writer Mike Ondik will offer "A Sojourn Into Penn's Woods."

The registration fee for the day-long program, including lunch, is \$25. Call (814) 863-5100 or visit the web site [www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/coldwater-conservation](http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/coldwater-conservation) to receive program details and registration materials.❖

# UDC Highlights Activities of Last Quarter

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

## NYC FILTRATION

The UDC approved a Nov. 1 letter to Congressman Gilman noting the increased urgency to protect New York City's public drinking water in light of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It suggested that "perhaps it is time to rethink the current Filtration Avoidance Determination" for the City's water supply. A water treatment plant could also allow more use of water from the Hudson River to free up additional flow in the Delaware River, it stated.

## SCENIC BYWAY

Staff from the New York State Scenic Byways Program completed their review of the preliminary *Enhancement Concept for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, April 2001*, and offered recommendations in a Sept. 25 letter to assist in the preparation of the final nomination package. The Route 97 Scenic Byway Committee met with its consultants on Nov. 5 to discuss the project's status. At this writing, all of the municipalities along State Route 97, with the exception of the Towns of Hancock and Fremont, have formally supported the proposed designation.

## CELL TOWERS

The UDC convened a Sept. 27 meeting to further explore the idea of developing a regional master plan for wireless telecommunications in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Eighteen people attended. The next step will be to keep compiling existing local cell tower ordinances and to invite a service provider to discuss what criteria are used to select potential sites for a future meeting. The UDC continues to review and comment on active cell tower proposals.

## WATER TRAIL

In a Nov. 1 letter, the UDC supported the concept of a Delaware River Water Trail as the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources considers a grant request to assist in the development of a



The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) held a public meeting at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, NY on Nov. 14, 2001 to solicit input on the Comprehensive Water Resources Plan being drafted by the DRBC in consultation with a 34-member Watershed Advisory Council. DRBC's Lance Miller, standing at center, explained the goals and objectives that are being considered to balance the various uses and needs of the basin's water resources. The plan development process calls for future public hearings in the Fall of 2002 and 2003. Details about the Comprehensive Plan are available at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net). (Photo by David B. Soete)

Master Plan and Feasibility Study for the trail that aims to increase awareness of the recreational amenities along the river from Hancock, NY to Trenton, NJ.

## SPECIAL MEETINGS

- Sept. 7, agency-level meeting to discuss the deteriorating condition of the historic Gilson's Lock D&H Canal site located in the Town of Highland, NY near the National Park Service's Roebling Aqueduct. Legal issues of land ownership must be resolved before any funding could be sought to pursue stabilization efforts.

- Oct. 25, public meeting sponsored by the PA Department of Transportation to review preliminary design plans for the proposed 2003 replacement of the Shohola-Barryville Bridge.

- Nov. 1, on-site meeting at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Interim Mongaup Access, called by DEC and National Park Service to discuss any modifications that could be made for visitor safety and resource protection following one season's use.

## NPS SUPERINTENDENT

On Sept. 11-12, UDC staff and several board members were among those interviewed by a National Park Service Transition Management Assessment Program team that will generate a report for NPS Regional Director Marie Rust on the park unit's status and leadership needs. Forty candidates had applied for the vacant position of Superintendent of the Upper

Delaware Scenic and Recreational River by the late October filing deadline.

## TRANSITIONS

- Westfall Township Alternate Diane Banach resigned from the Upper Delaware Council Oct. 24, after serving since 1995, due to personal time commitments.

- The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 3 has hired Robert Herberger as Regional Forester and Ted Kerpez as Regional Wildlife Manager.

- The Delaware River Basin Commission named former New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Commissioner Bob Tudor as its new Deputy Executive Director as of Oct. 1.

- PA Governor Tom Ridge was appointed by President George W. Bush to direct the new Office of Homeland Security in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America. Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker was sworn in on Oct. 5 to replace Gov. Ridge.

- The DRBC marked its 40th anniversary on Oct. 31, having been signed into law by President Kennedy and the governors of NY, PA, NJ, and DE on that date in 1961.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass accepted invitations to speak on Upper Delaware issues at the Oct. 15 PA Planning Association's Annual State Conference in Wilkes-Barre and the Dec. 14 Delaware River Greenway Partnership 12th Annual Forum in Washington's Crossing, PA. ♦

## UDC Elects Officers

Elected as officers for 2002-2003 at the Upper Delaware Council's Annual Meeting held on January 3 were:

Chairperson - Lewis J. Schmalzle  
Town of Highland, NY

Vice-Chairperson - Bruce Senack  
Shohola Township, PA

Secretary-Treasurer - Charles Wieland  
Town of Tusten, NY

The Spring issue will include coverage of the swearing-in ceremony ♦

# NYC Reservoirs Hit Record Low

A significant rainfall deficit from the end of September to December 2001 caused drought conditions in the Delaware River Basin after storage in New York City's three Delaware System reservoirs dipped to unprecedented levels.

At press time, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was evaluating the need to activate a drought emergency.

The declaration would automatically trigger reductions in the amount of water released from the Cannonsville, Pepacton, and Neversink Reservoirs, and the amount diverted out of the Delaware River Basin to New York City and New Jersey.

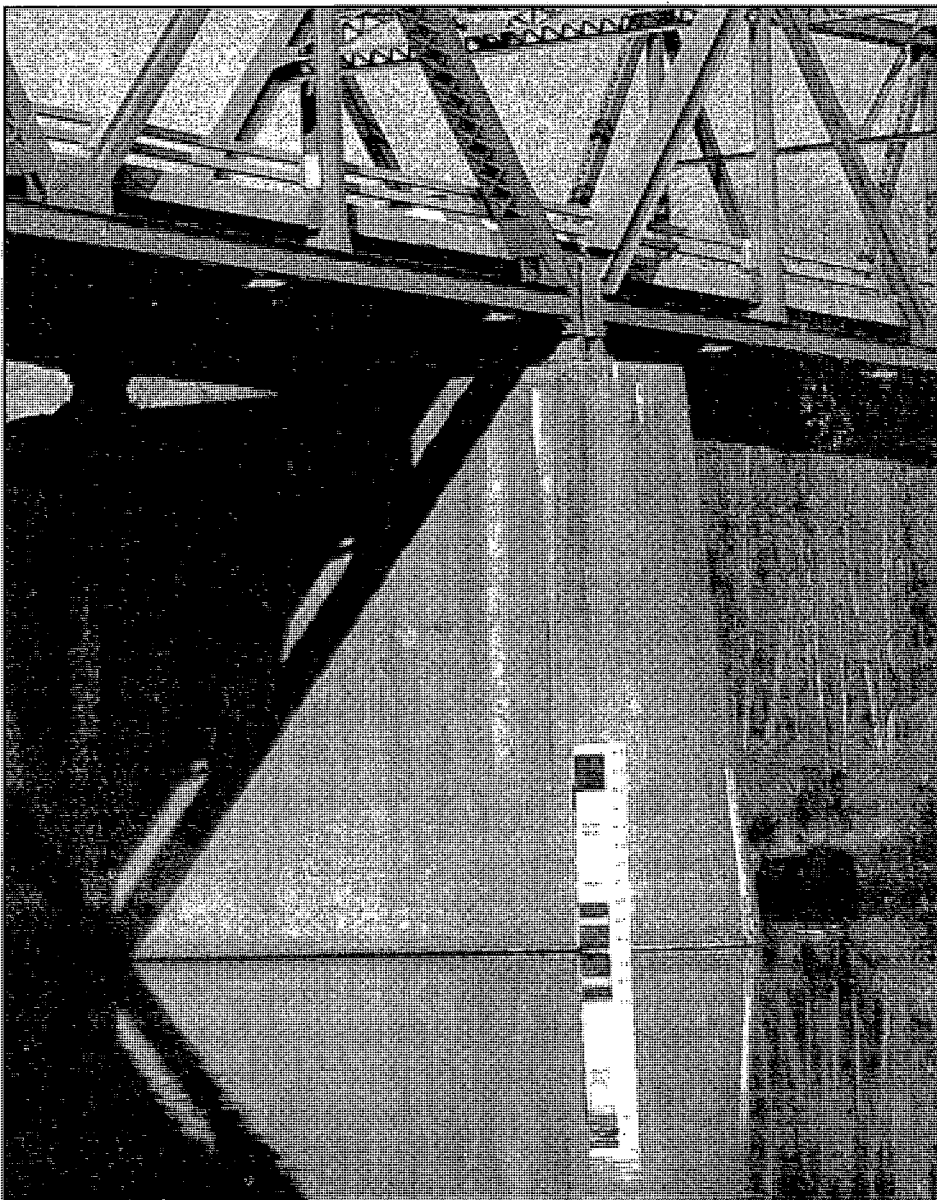
As of early December, combined storage in the three reservoirs was over 100 billion gallons below normal. The northernmost Cannonsville Reservoir shrunk at its lowest point to a mere 3.4 percent of its capacity.

In a December 6, 2001 letter addressed to the DRBC, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Upper Delaware Council expressed concern over what could be the long-term effects of the human-engineered drawdown of the Cannonsville Reservoir during a period of natural drought:

"The record-low water levels...are potential threats jeopardizing the lake and stream ecologies, a nationally renowned cold-water fishery, and recreational uses of these water bodies, among other things. In addition to a drastic lack of water, the water being released is likely of poor quality. There is also a concern that the water could freeze from top to bottom this winter. We believe that this situation could have been prevented, or at least minimized, with more coordinated management of the entire New York City reservoir system."

"One area, or resource, of the watershed should not suffer unduly to benefit another," the UDC's letter advocated.

New York City gets about half of its water from its Upper Delaware reservoirs. ❖



The National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River erected this river depth sign on the abutment of the Damascus, PA-Cochecton, NY Bridge to test its ability to withstand this winter's freeze and the spring thaw. The local park unit secured \$30,000 in NPS competitive project funding to subsidize the design and production of the new markers. The New York State Department of Transportation is volunteering installation services. The 14-foot-high, glossy aluminum signs will be placed on the piers of select Upper Delaware bridges, oriented for visibility from public river accesses. The signs identify the river height in feet with color-coded indications of "very low" to "very high" to help recreationists assess current flow conditions. The signage concept was endorsed by the Joint Interstate Bridge Commission and the Upper Delaware River Safety Committee. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## 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.

New Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

# PA Growing Greener Program Cites Watershed Partnerships

Over 300 people attended the Second Annual PA Watershed Conference held October 5-6, 2001 at the Resort at Split Rock near Lake Harmony.

The theme for the event sponsored primarily by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) was "Partners in Progress."

Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie represented the Upper Delaware Council, attending workshops on such topics as building partnerships, education outreach, media promotion, and a Delaware River Basin networking session.

The ongoing success of PA's Growing Greener program was lauded as grant recipients shared their inspirational stories of grassroots watershed projects made possible through public-private partnerships.

During his address, PA DEP Secretary David E. Hess announced that Growing Greener won the prestigious 2001 Council of State Governments Innovations Award.

"Being honored nationally speaks volumes about the effectiveness of empowering communities to make environmental improvements based on locally determined issues," Hess later commented.

Growing Greener - signed into law in December 1999 by former PA Governor Tom Ridge - pledged to invest \$650 million over five years in PA's environment.

In its first three years, Growing Greener has allocated \$86.6 million in watershed protection grants, leveraging an additional \$127.1 million in local matching funds.

The application period for Growing Greener's fourth round is now open, with a deadline of February 8, 2002.



"William Penn" (1644-1718) time-traveled to the PA Watershed Conference on October 5 to praise the efforts of those involved in protecting his namesake's precious waterways. "Each and every one of you has a declaration of interdependence that is necessary because there is a threat to this planet and a threat to this Commonwealth. You are the people this government was made for," said Penn, as portrayed by professional actor Christian Johnson. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Grants can be used to fund a variety of projects, including organizing a watershed group, watershed assessments, developing or implementing watershed restoration and protection plans, education and outreach programs, and demonstrations.

To request an application, apply on-line, or obtain more information, visit the DEP's website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), e-mail [GrowingGreener@state.pa.us](mailto:GrowingGreener@state.pa.us) or call the DEP Grants Center at (717) 705-5400. ♦

## UDC Revises Visitor Guide

The Upper Delaware Council is in the process of updating its popular "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania."

Thirty thousand copies of the free brochure are expected to be ready for distribution in mid-April.

The last revision occurred in 2000.

The Visitor Guide features a 17 by 22 inch map of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River area surrounded by a directory of river recreation-oriented businesses located within the river corridor boundaries.

The informational brochure includes sections devoted to river safety, recreation, sightseeing, fishing, boating, camping, hunting, emergency and agency contacts, and a list of public lands and river accesses.

## Nominees Sought

The Upper Delaware Council will accept nominations for its 14th Annual Awards until the March 1st deadline.

Ten categories of awards are given: Distinguished Service; Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award; Community Service; Cultural Achievement; Recreation Achievement; Outstanding Community Achievement; Partnership; Volunteer; Recognition; and Oaken Gavel (UDC past chair).

The date of the 2002 spring banquet will be announced shortly.

Contact Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or [udcramie@ezaccess.net](mailto:udcramie@ezaccess.net) for nomination forms or information.

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  
P.O. Box 192  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT No. 7  
NARROWSBURG, NY