

The Upper Delaware

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

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Summer 2002



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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.



The 8th Annual Delaware River Sojourn saluted Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (NY-20th District), right, as "Lord High Admiral" for the Upper Delaware section of the four-state, June 1-8 canoe and camping adventure. National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Acting Superintendent Sandra S. Schultz, left, presented Rep. Gilman with the honor at a joint Sojourn kick-off and PA River of the Year ceremony which took place May 31 at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, Pa. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Sojourners Celebrate A Revolutionary River

A full complement of 100 enthusiastic paddlers launched their canoes and kayaks June 1 in Pond Eddy, NY to open the 8th Annual Delaware River Sojourn.

While the Sojourn annually encourages stewardship of the Delaware River by highlighting its many outstanding values, this year's event was particularly meaningful as Pennsylvania recognized the Delaware as its 2002 Feature River of the Year.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary John Oliver and several high-ranking commissioners from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) joined the Sojourn for the 12-mile paddle from Kittatinny Canoes' Stairway Access to River Beach Campsites in Matamoras, Pa.

As they gathered for safety instructions, the Sojourners were treated to a fly-by

from a bald eagle who gave up its perch on the PA side to check out the action. High water and clear blue skies awaited the launch of the 91-boat fleet.

Programs were presented at scheduled stops by: Jim Serio, president of the Delaware River Foundation, who discussed the challenges of "Sharing the River"; Peter Osborne, executive director of the Minisink Valley Historical Society, offering an historic overview of "What the Upper Delaware Gave to the World"; and National Park Service Interpretive Rangers Don Hamilton and Rocci Aguirre doing a hands-on demonstration of flyfishing and aquatic insects.

The Sojourn provided meals, camping, shuttles, and T-shirts commemorating the 2002 theme of "The Delaware: A Revolu-

Please see "SOJOURN" on Page 3

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Richard B. Crandall

When asked to share his insights about the Upper Delaware River Valley, Richard Crandall has a few more perspectives to draw from than many people.

His conservation sensibility was nurtured growing up at the Ten Mile River Boy Scouts Camp, where his father worked as a ranger and superintendent for 35 years.

An avowed fitness "addict", Dick Crandall has hiked, biked, and kayaked the majority of the Upper Delaware region to get closer to the natural resources he treasures.

During his two decades with the New York State Police, Trooper Crandall spent much of his career patrolling the river area and western Sullivan County.

That law enforcement experience, coupled with his perspective as a homeowner along the Upper Delaware River, enables Crandall to contrast the turbulence of the 1960s and '70s with today's relative order.

Crandall remembers when the serenity of river town residents was routinely threatened by the increasing number of rowdy river users prior to the arrival of the National Park Service in 1979.

"Those days, it was terrible," he recalls. "There was no real law enforcement presence on the river at all. Crime, nudity, profanity, and drugs prevailed. It took the Park Service a while to calm it down. They have eliminated 99 percent of the problem."

The 62-year-old is proud to be a life-long resident of this region. His travels over the years have reinforced that appreciation.

"I love the valley and the river. I've hiked all over and there are few places to match its beauty and profuse wildlife," he says.

The Narrowsburg High School graduate enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958 and was stationed in Germany. He returned to the valley in 1960 to work as a ranger at Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp.

In 1966, Crandall graduated from the New York State Police Academy. Details throughout the state followed, for several years before he was assigned to the Narrowsburg barracks in 1974.

Crandall volunteered for the town as a member and past chair of the Planning Board and Board of Assessment Review.

He retired from the State Police in 1986 and entered the real estate business.

His first elected position came in 1992, when Crandall began a six-year tenure as a Tusten Town Justice. He simultaneously served the New York State Office of Court Administration as a Small Claims Hearing Officer for tax appeal cases.

Crandall decided to run for Tusten Town Supervisor in 1998 "since I was experienced on all levels of town government, and had the interest and time to serve."

He's now in his third - and what he



Richard B. Crandall, Town of Tusten, NY

declares will be his final - term to allow more free time once his wife retires.

Crandall notes that being supervisor in a small town carries full-time, unlimited responsibilities and concerns.

"I do everything from changing light bulbs to negotiating contracts. It's not a part-time job; it's more of a lifestyle," he says. "The most satisfaction I find is in equipping and motivating the town employees to do a good job. I take the complaints and don't pass them on. That's part of leadership."

The Republican views positioning his town for the inevitable growth to come, especially through the second home market, as a priority. He has also invested the time to seek grants for permanent improvement projects, such as the new town highway barn and Narrowsburg's sidewalks.

Crandall is Tusten's alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Council and supports the UDC's role as "a forum for the townships to get together and share expertise that they don't have," as well as a source for technical assistance grants.

He is also a member of the Tusten Settlement Association, Beach Lake Free Methodist Church, Tusten Senior Citizens, NYSP Benevolent Association, and Appalachian Mountain Club.

One of Crandall's goals after "retiring" as supervisor is to finish hiking all 42 peaks in the Adirondacks before moving on to the Catskill Mountains. Last June, the physically fit Crandall took a 48-mile-long walk from Hancock to Minisink Ford in 14 hours just to challenge himself.

Dick and his wife of 39 years, Betty (Nober), a rural mail carrier, have three children - Richard, Christina, and Allison - and four grandchildren ranging in age from an infant to 16 years. ❖

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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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NPS Names New Superintendent

The National Park Service (NPS) has chosen David C. Forney as the new superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Since its creation nearly 24 years ago, the Upper Delaware unit of the National Park System has had only two superintendents: John Hutzky (1979-1995) and Calvin F. Hite (1995-2001).

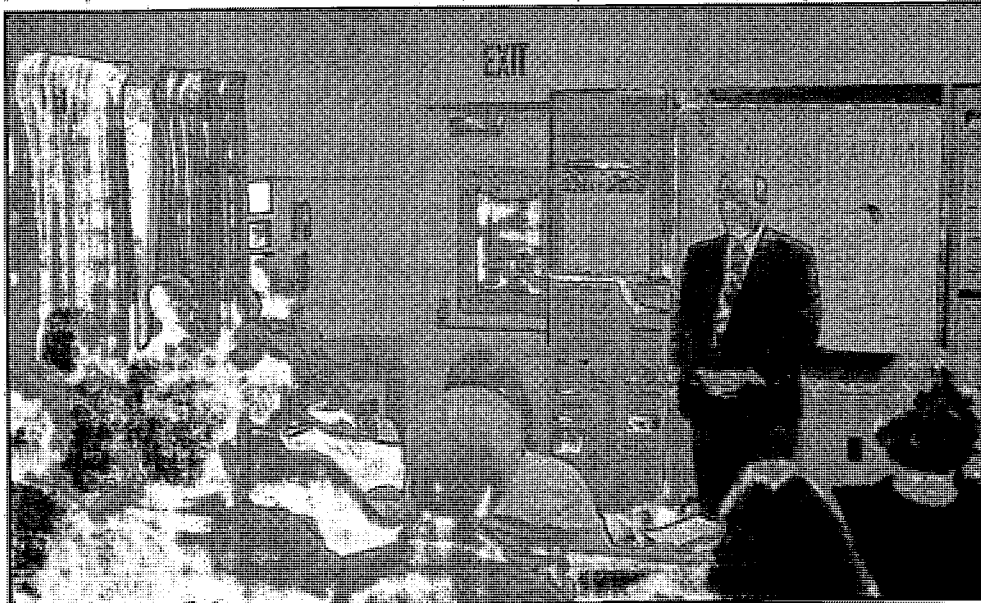
Sandra S. Schultz had served as acting superintendent since Hite's departure to head up New River Gorge National River in West Virginia.

Forney is a Pennsylvania native whose NPS career began in 1973 as a seasonal interpreter at nearby Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

He comes to the Upper Delaware from a two-year superintendent's detail coordinating the development of the new, civil rights-themed Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Arkansas.

Forney graduated from East Stroudsburg University in 1975 with a degree in History and Environmental Science. He earned a Certificate of Management through the Harvard Business School at Frostburg State College in Maryland in 1982.

In addition to the Delaware Water Gap, Forney's previous NPS assignments were



David C. Forney, standing, officially began his tenure as Superintendent of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on July 1 after having visited the river valley on May 6-7 for orientation meetings with his new co-workers and agency partners. (Photo by David B. Soete)

at Gettysburg National Military Park, the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the C&O Canal National Historical Park, Valley Forge National Historic Site, and Lowell National Historic Site.

Announcing Forney's appointment, NPS

Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust said, "I know he will be a terrific leader for the National Park Service and a wonderful partner to the Upper Delaware Council."

David Forney and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, David, 21, and Shaun, 18. ♦



National Canoe Safety Patrol Officer Dave Simon received assistance from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 3 Natural Resources Supervisor Bill Rudge and his son Caleb in demonstrating the proper position to take if ejected from a canoe in fast water during the safety talk which preceded the June 1 launch of the Delaware River Sojourn at Kittatinny Canoes' Stairway Access in Pond Eddy, NY. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

"SOJOURN", continued from Page 1

tionary River" throughout the eight-day trip that covered over 100 non-contiguous river miles in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

An elegant reception at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, Pa. kicked off the Sojourn on May 31.

Organizers from the Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service honored U.S. Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (NY-20th District) as "Lord High Admiral" to recognize his sponsorship of the 1978 legislation which created the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, ongoing support of the Mongaup Interpretive Center, and other projects.

"When we visit the valley's majestic vistas and beauty of the Delaware, there is no doubt that preserving this region as a national treasure was the right thing to do," Gilman said in accepting his literal salute.

John Oliver presented a proclamation from PA Governor Mark Schweiker honoring the Delaware and its 2002 Sojourn.

"The Sojourns focus on the importance of the river to quality of life and river conservation," Oliver told the Sojourners and dignitaries assembled. "This is the largest undammed river east of the Mississippi and we're going to keep it that way." ♦

UDC Honors 2002 Award Winners

The Upper Delaware Council paid tribute to those individuals and organizations who have worked to improve quality of life or protect the precious resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley at its 14th Annual Awards Banquet held April 28 at The Club at Villa Roma, Callicoon, NY.

New York State Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III delivered the keynote address. Gunther was elected to state office in 1992 to represent the 98th District - which includes all of Sullivan County and western Orange County - after serving for 12 years as Forestburgh Town Justice.

He recalled that his association with the Upper Delaware Council goes way back.

"A UDC meeting 10 years ago was the first public meeting I attended in my campaign to be an assemblyman," he said.

One of the first successful bills he co-sponsored was the 1993 legislation authorizing the State of New York to enter into a lease agreement with the National Park Service to site the Mongaup Interpretive Center on a parcel of state-owned land in the Town of Deerpark.

More recently, Gunther secured half of a \$50,000 funding initiative to benefit the UDC's New York State members for community improvement projects in those eight towns, and sponsored the Assembly bill to officially designate State Route 97 as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.

Gunther expressed his admiration for the Council's role as "monitor and gatekeeper" to protect the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from threats while also promoting historic preservation, beautification, and "green" tourism.



2002 Upper Delaware Council Chairperson Lew Schmalzle welcomed the 114 guests to The Club at Villa Roma in Callicoon, NY.

Summer 2002



Recipients of Upper Delaware Council awards recognized at the 14th Annual Awards Banquet on April 28 included, seated from the left, Laurie Stuart, Arlen Siegel, Lori McKean, Ann Danuff, Helga Rupnick, and Jeff Firmstone. Standing are Martin Handler, Dennis Wilson, Michael Chojnicki, Don Downs, Jack Niflot, Peter Osborne, Larry Richardson, Ted Zuria, Tom Shepstone, George Banta, and Jim Serio. (Photos by David B. Soete)

"I happen to be a water person," he said. "Water is life; it's an important, significant issue. There is never a time I don't drive along that corridor and not feel proud for being a representative of this region."

Highest Honor

The UDC presented awards in 10 traditional categories based on public nominations solicited in February.

The Council's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, is given to individuals who have acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Lifetime achievement in assisting with the Plan's implementation, dedicated work on a particular project, or outstanding representation of one's community all qualify.

In the case of honoree **Thomas J. Shepstone**, "all of the above" applied.

The Damascus Township native was in the trenches nearly 30 years ago during the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's development, first as director of Wayne County Planning and then as a private management consultant.

He chaired the federal-state-local planning team that prepared the innovative Land and Water Use Guidelines adopted by the Secretary of the Interior as a component of the Final Management Plan, and is a key player today in nearly every major planning project looming in the region.

UDC Executive Director and Master of

Ceremonies Bill Douglass described the value of Shepstone's institutional knowledge of the Upper Delaware's evolution.

"It means that for every set of land use regulations that he drafts or development proposal that he researches in the river corridor, Tom's authoritative understanding of the Management Plan's planning goals and guidelines is brought to bear. In a sense, he's a constant advocate for the document that we at the Upper Delaware Council hold so dear," he said.

Shepstone has published articles about the Upper Delaware's unique management, assisted the UDC with strategic planning workshops, and worked with member municipalities to secure thousands of dollars worth of UDC Technical Assistance Grant projects over the years.

Accepting his plaque, Shepstone said he was proud to be recognized by an organization that he continues to respect.

"The UDC has been true to its mission, which is to bring people together around one table to debate issues and try to solve them," he said.

"I don't think there's any project that I've worked on over the years that has meant more to me than the Upper Delaware," Shepstone added.

Fellow Honorees

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award - **Dr. Patrick Haslett and Oluwatosi Haslett**, for rescuing two swimmers in

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peril of drowning on the PA side of the Upper Delaware River near Callicoon, NY on May 26, 2001.

Outstanding Community Achievement Award - **Sullivan Renaissance** for facilitating beautification projects and nurturing pride in the participating river valley communities of **Callicoon, Cocheton, Eldred, Long Eddy, Fremont/Hankins, Lumberland, and Narrowsburg** through the 2001 contest sponsored by the Beaverkill Foundation and Sullivan First.

Cultural Achievement Award - **Peter Osborne**, for raising awareness of the river valley's cultural resources through presentations, publications, exhibit de-signs, and leadership roles with such entities as the Minisink Valley Historical Soci-ety, City of Port Jervis, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee, and D&H Transportation Heritage Council.

Community Service Award - **Laurie Stuart**, for establishing a River Valley Visioning Committee to address the future viability of this region as well as volunteer work with the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce and her professional contributions as publisher and editor of *The River Reporter* weekly newspaper.

Recreation Achievement Award - **The Eagle Institute**, for increasing visitorship to the Upper Delaware River Valley during the winter months by attracting bald eagle observers and educating them about responsible eagle viewing etiquette.

Volunteer Award - **George Banta**, for his invaluable service to the Tusten Volunteer Ambulance Corps, highlighted most recently by his oversight of the corps' 2001 building addition project to ensure the continued presence of the New York State Police trooper barracks in Narrowsburg.

"I don't think there's any project that I've worked on over the years that has meant more to me than the Upper Delaware."

**~ Thomas J. Shepstone,
Distinguished Service Award**

Partnership Award - **PA Department of Transportation Maintenance District 4-6, Wayne Highlands School District, and Damascus Township, PA**, for acting cooperatively to mitigate a traffic safety problem on S.R. 1004 (River Road) in Damascus following a frightening Jan. 22, 2001 accident involving a school bus and propane truck.

Special Recognition Awards (3) - **Lumberland Environmental Management Council**, for many years of dedication to the Town of Lumberland and its citizens as a volunteer advisory organization, and the initiative demonstrated in their ongoing agenda of projects, including an Annual Earth Day Festival.

Dennis Wilson, for exemplary professionalism and attention to Upper Delaware River Valley towns as Sullivan County Resident Engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation.

Jim Serio, for proactive volunteer work in establishing the non-profit Delaware River Foundation, serving on the Delaware River Basin Commission's Watershed Advisory Council, and organizing a project to improve the Hancock DEC Fishing Access Site for the public.

Oaken Gavel Award - **Larry H. Richardson**, for serving with distinction as the 2001 UDC Chairperson and Representative for the Town of Cocheton. ❖

NY-PA Bridge Commission Details Work

The Barryville-Shohola Bridge is due to be replaced next year while a new Pond Eddy Bridge awaits construction in 2004.

The New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission approved the work schedule at its annual meeting held May 8 in Binghamton.

Department of Transportation (DOT) officials oversee maintenance of the 10 bridges that cross the Delaware River and West Branch from Port Jervis to Hancock.

The commission authorized spending over \$25 million for major capital projects involving five of the bridges.

Bids are expected to be let in 2003 for construction of a new Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA Bridge at an estimated cost of \$7.7 million.

The proposal locates the new crossing just upstream of the existing 1941 structure. The concrete bridge, which will be designed to look like native bluestone, will expand from four to six spans, with a wider road deck and sidewalk, and a slight arc in the upstream direction. Traffic may continue on the old bridge during construction.

The bridge was originally targeted for replacement in 1996, but the discovery of archeological artifacts from a 4,000-year-old Native American camp on the Shohola side and a required search of the area for federally endangered dwarf wedge mussels delayed progress and increased costs for the preliminary studies to \$2 million.

Six million dollars was earmarked for the intended 2004 replacement of the single-lane bridge that connects Pond Eddy, NY to Pond Eddy, PA. Its \$800,000 feasibility study, including preliminary and environmental engineering work, is underway.

Although the 1904 bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, its eight-ton weight limit is posted too low for most emergency vehicles and service trucks to cross. No entity has offered to take over its ownership and upkeep once the current bridge is abandoned.

Replacement of the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge was scheduled for 2007 at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million.

A new, concrete-filled grate panel deck for the 1937 Hancock, NY-Buckingham, PA Bridge will be built in 2003. The price tag is \$1.286 million.

The commission also approved \$60,000 in rehabilitation funds to re-point the stone masonry pier of the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge later this year. ❖



New York State Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III (98th District), left, accepted a David B. Soete photograph of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River at the Hawk's Nest from UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass as the Upper Delaware Council's gift of appreciation for serving as keynote speaker at the 2002 Annual Awards Banquet.

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activity highlights from late March through mid-June 2002, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

TECHNICAL GRANTS

Application packets for the 2002 round of the UDC's Technical Assistance Grants program were mailed to member towns, townships, and county governments. They are due July 31. A special Project Review Committee meeting to review the applications will be held Aug. 13, and final determinations will be announced at the UDC monthly meeting on Sept. 5. Since 1988, the UDC has awarded \$470,841 for projects related to implementation of the River Management Plan.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Gary Petrewski, project manager for PPL Lake Wallenpaupack Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing, attended the Mar. 19 meeting of the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee to discuss the project's Draft Environmental Assessment. The 30-year license for the hydroelectric station expires in 2004. The UDC has participated on the Relicensing Team since 1999.

A May 2 letter to Palmyra Township, PA commented on a proposed Flexible Foam Products facility in White Mills. The UDC expressed concern over the potential for volatile chemicals used in the foam manufacturing process to get into the Lackawaxen River, a tributary of the Delaware River. Despite having received Township conditional approval, the company, bowing to strong opposition by local citizens, eventually withdrew their application for State approval.



Judy Busch, a member of the Town of Lumberland Environmental Management Council, helped Ian Warden, 5, of Barryville, NY make a "Give a Hoot - Don't Pollute!" owl puppet at the LEMC's 2002 Earth Day Festival held April 21 at Mackenzie School in Glen Spey. The event featured creative hands-on activities for kids, recycled project displays, crafts, animals, aquatic insects, and refreshments. The UDC was among the exhibitors. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Staff from the UDC had a productive on-site meeting June 3 with representatives of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and National Park Service to discuss the DEC's approximately \$350,000 plans to reconstruct the Narrowsburg Boat Launch. The improvement concept was modified to avoid the DEC's intended use of rip rap for erosion, to comply with the guidelines for a national scenic and recreational river.

FLOWS AND RELEASES

The UDC issued an April 4 letter seeking accountability by New York City for its exportation of water from the Delaware River Basin, including the fluctuating estimates of 30-100 million gallons per day that leak from the Delaware Aqueduct.

"This is a tremendous amount of wasted water which is desperately needed in the Upper Delaware River Basin to preserve and maintain the river ecology, fish and wildlife, recreation industry, and the local economy," the letter stated.

In a May 2 letter, the UDC agreed in concept with a proposal by Down-Basin States to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to modify the way the "Excess Release Quantity" is computed, thereby increasing releases from the New York City reservoirs by about 250 cubic yards per

second year-round.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

- April 12, Economic Development Forum for the Delaware River Valley, organized by *The River Reporter* to facilitate visualization of the region's common interests and opportunities, Beach Lake, PA

- April 24, Upper Delaware River Safety Committee Biannual Meeting, NPS

- May 9-10, American Water Resources Association Conference: "Managing Water Resources for Instream Flow Needs", Matamoras, PA

- May 14, DRBC's Watershed Advisory Council Comprehensive Water Resources Plan Workshop, Camden, NJ

- June 11, Delaware River Basin Cooperative Fisheries Technical Committee, Merrill Creek Reservoir, NJ

PUBLIC OUTREACH

For the fifth year, the UDC co-sponsored the DRBC's 2002 Water Snapshot, an April 19-28 simultaneous water quality monitoring event to help develop an overall picture of the river basin's health.

The UDC has distributed over 14,000 of its April 8 order of 32,700 revised "Visitor Information Map and Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: New York and Pennsylvania" brochures. The free copies are available. ♦

See You In September

Sept. 14 - 6th Annual Meadow Party, benefit for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 12-4 p.m., Butterfly Barn, River Road, Millerville, Pa. Children's activities, silent auction, food, music, wildlife raffle. Call Hele Henniken at (845) 252-7546.

Sept. 21 - Shohola Community Day, celebrating the township's 150th anniversary, Shohola Firehouse, Rt. 434. Family entertainment, parade, exhibits, refreshments, and dancing, organized by the Shohola Railroad & Historical Society. Call Pete Ferrara at (570) 559-7438.

Sept. 29 - 21st Annual Heritage Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance, 3 p.m. reception, 4 p.m. dinner at Kings Livingston Manor, NY. Entree: prime rib, chicken marsala, or broiled salmon. Tickets \$20. Call Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022.

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway To Be Dedicated September 21

A festive road trip from Port Jervis to Hancock on September 21 will celebrate the designation of New York State Route 97 as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.

The mobile ceremony is modeled after the August 30, 1939 procession which officially marked the opening of Route 97 as "The Most Scenic Highway in the East".

Short whistle stop visits are planned in a dozen communities along Route 97 for proclamations, speeches by local, state, and federal dignitaries, and entertainment.

The public is welcome to join the motorcade, accompanied by antique cars, or

participate at any of the scheduled stops.

The day begins at 7:30 a.m. with a gathering at East Main and Pike Streets in the City of Port Jervis for coffee and donuts to precede an 8 a.m. dedication ceremony, musical performance, and ribbon-cutting.

A lunch stop is planned at the historic, restored Erie Railroad Station at 12:55 p.m. in Cocheton.

The tour will end in the Village of Hancock at approximately 5 p.m. after a ribbon-cutting ceremony with similar pomp at Route 97's northern terminus.

The complete itinerary will be published

in local newspapers. A souvenir program is being produced. Many descendants of the speakers from the 1939 program will be on hand to add special significance to this historic occasion.

For information on the Sept. 21 dedication event, contact Committee Chairperson Peter Osborne at (845) 856-2375.

The New York State Scenic Byways Advisory Board recommended approval of the 71.35-mile Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in a January 30, 2002 resolution. Governor George Pataki's signature was expected imminently on the legislation passed by the Senate and Assembly.

A grassroots committee comprised of representatives from each of the municipalities through which the proposed byway would run met monthly over a two-year period to develop "An Enhancement Concept for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway" that outlines the vision and recommends implementation strategies.

Work to date, including the hiring of a professional consultant, has been subsidized by a \$120,000 NYS Discretionary Scenic Byway Grant and a \$30,000 allocation from the Sullivan County Legislature.

NY Senator John J. Bonacic announced in March a \$20,000 grant for developing signage and brochures, and beautification projects to benefit the new byway.

At press time, the local committee was finalizing logo designs and drafting bylaws in addition to planning the dedication.

The NYS Scenic Byways Program has recently launched a new web site. One helpful feature for travelers is a full-color map of New York that allows users to point-and-click on any of the state's 14 byways to get a description and information.

The address is www.dot.state.ny.us. Scroll down to "NYS DOT Services" then "Programs" to access "Scenic Byways". ♦

Letter to the Editor

8 April 2002
400 Avenue G
Matamoras, PA 18336

Dear Editor,

For the record, I would like to correct the location of the rafting scene shown on page 3 of the Winter 2001-02 Edition of the Upper Delaware.

Although the postcard from which the picture was taken is titled "A Raft on the Delaware Approaching Hancock NY", the actual location is on the river between Matamoras, Pennsylvania and Port Jervis, New York.

The original photograph was undoubtedly taken looking up river from the then existing suspension bridge connecting Pennsylvania Avenue, Matamoras with Pike Street, Port Jervis where the current steel bridge is located. In the background of the rafting scene can be seen the second railroad bridge constructed at that location connecting New York with Pennsylvania. This second bridge, of steel, known as a "Camel Back Truss" was completed in August 3, 1898 to connect the Milford, Matamoras and New York Railroad with the Erie at Port Jervis. It replaced a large wooden railroad bridge built by the Erie and New York Railroad in 1854, and which blew down in a windstorm in March 1870. The latter steel bridge was destroyed by a flood on March 9, 1904.

The date of the rafting scene has to be between August 3, 1898 when the "Steel Camel Back" truss bridge was completed and October 12, 1903 when the suspension bridge from which the photo was probably taken was destroyed by a flood.

Enclosed, for your comparison, is a recent photograph of the same identical scene taken from the current Matamoras-Port Jervis Bridge.

Sincerely,
William G. Clark Jr.
Matamoras Borough Historian

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:

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Address _____

City/State _____
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Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

14th Annual Summer Raft Trip

sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council

Saturday, August 3, 2002

All are welcome. Enjoy an eight-mile (estimated 4.5-hour) float from the Lander's River Trips' Minisink Base to its Pond Eddy Base, passing by beautiful scenery, over two sets of rapids, and under the Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA Bridge. No prior rafting experience is required. Sturdy rafts, paddles, life vests, and safety instructions are provided. Minimum occupancy per raft is four people. Children must weigh at least 40 lbs. and be able to swim. Bring drinking water, wear sunscreen and foot protection, and dress to get wet. Coolers for your optional lunch (no glass containers) and a waterproof bag for personal items should be tied into the raft. Carry out what you carry in!

August 3 UDC Raft Trip Itinerary:

9:30-10:30 - Arrive and park at Lander's Pond Eddy Base for check-in
10:30 a.m. - Shuttle buses depart for Minisink Base
11:00 a.m. - Launch after equipment distribution and safety briefing; raft downriver to Pond Eddy at your own pace; picnic or visit a restaurant

Advance reservations and payment are required by July 26. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children ages 12 and under. Make checks payable to "UDC." Please mail form to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or contact Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie for more information at (845) 252-3022 or udcramie@ezaccess.net.

NAME (all members of your party and ages of any children for waivers):

ADDRESS:

PHONE/EMAIL:

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Battle of Minisink Commemorated

The Sullivan County Historical Society will observe the annual commemoration of the 1779 American Revolution Battle of Minisink on July 21 at the Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY.

Activities will include a 3 p.m. lecture by retired National Park Service Historian Mary Curtis. The society's traditional service is at 4 p.m. with Peter Osborne, executive director of the Minisink Valley Historical Society, as keynote speaker.

At 5 p.m., the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance will organize a potluck picnic supper. Participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

The Navasing Long Rifles company will be encamped at the Minisink Battleground Park all weekend and welcome visits by the public curious about their frontier life.

Pike County Historian George Fluhr is coordinating a service at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Lackawaxen, Pa. at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 22. ♦

Riverfest Coming

Riverfest 2002, the 12th annual music, art, and environmental festival celebrating the Delaware River, will be held on Sunday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main Street in Narrowsburg, NY.

The day features juried crafts, information exhibits from organizations such as the Upper Delaware Council and Delaware River Basin Commission, live music and performances, food and drink, and the annual auction of unique posters created for the occasion.

Riverfest is sponsored by the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce and the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. For more information, call (845) 252-7234 or 252-7576. ♦

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

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