

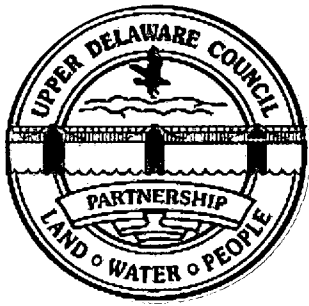
The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 16 Number 3

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Fall 2003



In This Issue...

**2003 Technical Assistance
Grants Awarded by UDC**
Pages 1 and 4

Upper Delaware Profile:
F. Gerald Mackin, Hancock
Page 2

**Search On for Invasive Aquatic
Plant in Delaware; News Briefs**
Page 3

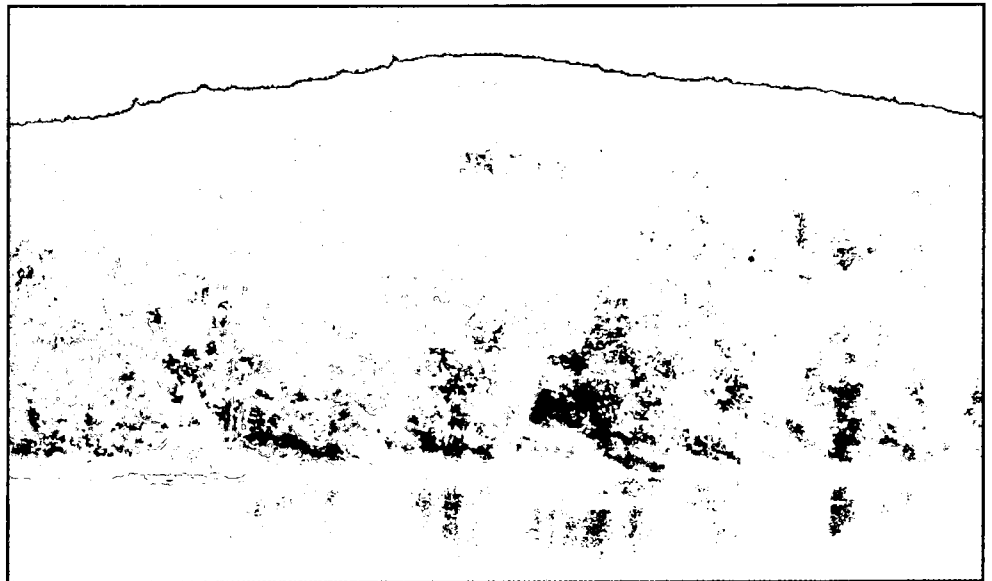
**UDC & NPS Host Workshop on
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**
Page 5

Round-up of UDC Activities
Page 6

**Memoriam: Jacob E. Gunther III,
"Joe" Freda, Roland Flora**
Page 7

**Events Highlight Scenic Byway
and Upper Delaware 25th Year**
Page 8

**The Upper Delaware
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SPOILED VIEW?: Four UDC member municipalities will receive a combined total of \$10,250 in 2003 Technical Assistance Grant awards to address the increasingly sensitive issue of ridgeline development in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River valley. Concerns include scenic values and soil erosion from steep slopes that could affect water quality. Pictured above, a property owner in July cleared an estimated five-plus acres of trees near the ridgeline south of Callicoon, NY for speculative development purposes, in apparent violation of Town of Delaware zoning codes. (Photo by David B. Soete)

UDC Grants to Assist Ridgeline Protection

As evidenced by this year's Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) applications, protecting the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River valley's largely pristine ridgelines from indiscriminate development is a worry shared by local governments.

At stake is the prevention of negative environmental impacts and preservation of the river corridor's visual character.

Four member municipalities proposed TAG projects that will attempt to address ridgeline protection through local zoning.

The Towns of Tusten, Lumberland, and Highland in New York State, and Shohola Township, PA were awarded a combined total of \$10,250.

The funding is part of an overall \$26,400 that the UDC board approved for 10 TAG projects at its September 4 meeting.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988 to \$517,691.

In all, 143 projects aimed at addressing goals and needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River have been facilitated through the TAG program.

Developing Standards

Several recent examples of extensive clearing and grading of acreage along formerly undisturbed river ridge areas have prompted municipalities to take a hard look at what their local zoning ordinances allow.

The Upper Delaware's Land and Water Use Guidelines adopted as part of the 1986 River Management Plan recommend that "regulations...should ensure buildings

Please see GRANTS on Page 4

Upper Delaware Profile: F. Gerald Mackin

F. Gerald "Gerry" Mackin carries a customized Upper Delaware Council binder. Displayed under the plastic cover is this newsletter's tribute article to George H. Frosch published after the feisty 73-year-old's death on October 12, 2002.

Not only was Frosch a personal friend of Mackin's for decades, he was also the Town of Hancock's first and only representative to the UDC for 14 years.

On December 4, 2002, Mackin accepted the Hancock Town Board's appointment to succeed his friend in that role.

"I had a great respect for his knowledge and judgment," Mackin says of Frosch. "It gives me something to measure my efforts against. He probably forgot more about all the river valley issues than I'll ever learn."

But Mackin stands prepared to apply the experience he has gained as a native resident, student, attorney, and former town supervisor to this new assignment.

"In the long run, the UDC's role is to develop the proper relationship between conservation and the other uses of the environment. There may be some level of conflict there. It's up to the UDC to promote the environmental, but not to the exclusion of the needs of the people in the area," Mackin says.

"I like to think that I can contribute to finding that happy medium," he adds. "I'm a compromiser. I'm willing to listen and think about issues."

Growing up in Hancock, Mackin says he was instilled with a desire to help others whenever possible. Grandfather Lester E. Woolsey, a physician active on the political scene, was a particularly strong influence.

"There was a very definite feeling in my family that public service was important and valuable," he says.

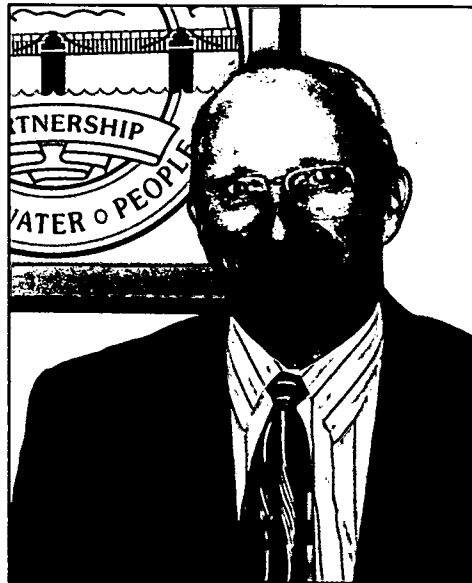
Mackin attended Hancock schools through eighth grade before transferring to an all-boys boarding school in New Jersey to complete his secondary education.

In 1964, Mackin chose his grandfather's alma mater, Northwestern University in Illinois, for pre-law studies. Graduating in just three years, Mackin became interested in local politics and considered a permanent move to the Chicago area.

After one year of study at DePaul University, however, the Vietnam War erupted. Mackin felt the tug of public service and voluntarily enlisted in the Army.

He logged 15 months in Vietnam, working at a medical supply facility near Saigon. The E-5 Specialist's early-computerized inventory system gained such positive attention that Mackin received a Bronze Star, the highest non-combat medal awarded to enlisted men.

Mackin returned stateside to serve one



F. Gerald Mackin, Town of Hancock

year at Fort Bragg before going back to law school. He graduated cum laude from the University of Wisconsin and obtained a Master's in Law Degree in Taxation from New York University Law School.

In 1975, Mackin decided to return home and open a private practice in Hancock. A 1976 appointment as Town Attorney introduced him to town government.

Mackin served as Town Attorney for 13 years before running for Hancock Town Supervisor in 1989.

That successful election led to 11 years and four months that Mackin fulfilled a new public service role as Town Supervisor and Hancock's representative to the Delaware County Board of Supervisors.

"I had a lot of great experiences and wonderful memories out of it," he says.

When it came to his attention two years ago that Delaware County needed a full-time attorney to work with the Social Services Department, Mackin felt primed for the job although it required the resignation of his political seat.

"It's been challenging and enjoyable," says the Deputy County Attorney of his diverse workload in Delhi. He maintains a limited private practice office in Hancock.

In addition to the UDC, Mackin belongs to the Hancock Rotary Club, St. Paul's Church, Delaware County Bar Association, and he represented the county on the NYS Democratic Committee from 1984-94.

Wed for 30 years to Maureen, a teacher in Downsville, the Mackins have one daughter, Kathleen McVay, who is currently a stay-at-home mom to 18-month-old Cameron in Columbus, OH. Mackin enjoys travelling, especially to their North Carolina time-share and to the Caribbean, and is a big college football fan. ❖

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News Briefs

New E-mails and Monthly Meeting Location for UDC

The Upper Delaware Council announces a change in staff e-mail addresses that became effective September 15, 2003.

Staff members may be reached through the following e-mail accounts:

Executive Director William E. Douglass - udcdouglass@hvc.rr.com

Senior Resource Specialist David B. Soete - udcsoete@hvc.rr.com

Public Relations/Fundraising Specialist Laurie Ramie - udcramie@hvc.rr.com

Office Manager Carol Coney - udcconey@hvc.rr.com

Please note as well that the UDC's regular, first Thursday monthly meetings for the rest of 2003 will take place in the UDC office at 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY.

The UDC's 2004 reorganizational meeting on January 8 (the second Thursday due to the New Year's holiday), will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Tusten Town Hall downstairs meeting room, located across Bridge Street from the UDC office. ❖

National Historic Register Adds Area Church Listing

The Hortonville Presbyterian Church in the Town of Delaware was recently added to both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The rural hilltop church was built in 1860. During research, congregation members located nearly all of the original church records but discovered that they are written in German, the predominant language of the church's founders. A fellowship hall was added to the original church structure around 1914. ❖

Next EagleFest Date Set

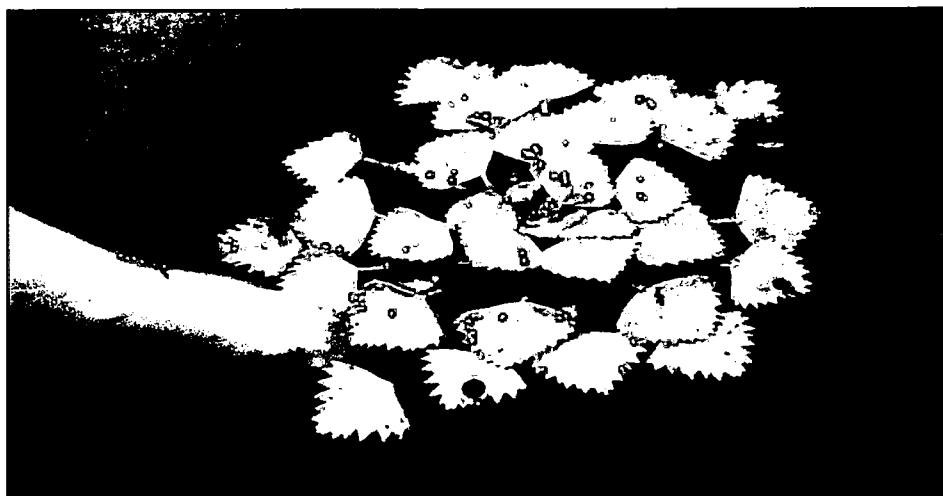
The Third Annual EagleFest will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2004, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Narrowsburg, NY.

The day combines entertainment and education to celebrate the return of the bald eagle.

Activities will include live bird demonstrations, staffed observation sites, guest lectures, films, eagle art, and a poster auction.

EagleFest is sponsored by the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce and Nature's Art LLC with the help of many community volunteers.

For more information, call festival organizer Yoke Bauer DiGiorgio at (845) 252-6509, Chamber President John Grund at 252-7409, or visit www.narrowsburg.org. ❖



The water chestnut, pictured above, is an aquatic invader of nutrient-rich water bodies. The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River wants to find out where these plant populations exist. (Photo by Jamie Myers, NPS)

NPS Hunting for Aquatic Invasive Plant Species

The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (NPS) is on the lookout for water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), an aquatic invasive plant species, in the Delaware River.

Water chestnut can form dense floating mats that severely limit light, a critical element of aquatic ecosystems. This plant can also, in some situations, reduce oxygen levels, which may increase the potential for fish kills. It competes with native vegetation and is of little value to waterfowl. Water chestnut infestations limit boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational activities.

This plant prefers quiet eddies and back channel slough areas of the river. It can be quickly identified by the rosette of floating leaves at the river's surface. The annual aquatic plant has a submerged stem that can reach 12-15 feet in length. Preferring muddy areas, the plant's very fine roots help to anchor it in place.

The fruit of this plant is a nut with barbed spines up to 4 1/2 inches long that can cause painful wounds if stepped on. The seeds can remain viable for up to 12 years.

NPS has been managing a small population of water chestnut for the past three years in a back channel slough area south of Skinners Falls on the Pennsylvania side.

A local fishing guide recently notified NPS of a new, larger population of water chestnut south of the Narrowsburg DEC Fishing Access on the New York side. NPS staff is interested to hear of other locations affected by this problem.

Anyone spying water chestnut populations is asked to please call the NPS Resource Management Division at (570) 729-7842 or e-mail Biologist Jamie Myers at jamie_myers@nps.gov with a description of the location. ❖

River Cleanup Numbers

Kittatinny Canoes' 14th Annual On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup occurred on July 14-17.

Canoeing, wading, snorkeling, and diving, a 344-member "volunteer navy" covered 70 underwater and shoreline miles from the Ten Mile River Access in New York to the Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

A total of 12.7 tons of trash was collected. Included in the tally were 297 tires, 153 lbs. of aluminum cans, and 2,300 lbs. of scrap metal.

Although the number of tires increased

from last year, the total tonnage in 2003 was down by over 0.3 tons. ❖

Help for Watershed Groups

C-SAW, the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds, is a team of specialists that provides technical assistance to PA watershed groups.

Requests for assistance are made through local Resource Conservation and Development Councils. The project is funded by a PA Growing Greener grant.

Visit <http://pa.water.usgs.gov/csaw> or call Canaan Valley Institute at 1-888-549-7640 for further information. ❖

GRANTS, continued from Page 1

are not located so close to the ridgeline as to cause erosion, sedimentation, or landslide conditions."

Another objective is to limit housing density (clustering) and intensity of uses in consideration of the river corridor's existing character. One proposed method is to establish overlay zoning districts to further protect areas of specific concern.

With their TAG funding, Shohola, Lumberland and Tusten will work with outside consultants to draft zoning ordinances or amendments that could require conservation design in overlay districts encompassing ridgelines, wetlands, steep slopes, and floodplains.

Residential development would be permitted at the underlying unit density on lots of reduced size, with identified conservation areas set aside as open space.

The standards created will then be made available to other river valley towns and townships for their consideration.

Town of Highland officials will also research the issue of protecting ridgelines through zoning, with a focus on prohibiting large-scale clear-cutting of ridges and cliffs viewable from the river.

The Urgency

In presenting his township's TAG application to the Project Review Committee on August 12, Shohola Supervisor George J. Fluhr said, "I cannot stress enough the urgency of spending planning money to improve zoning now, in order that the river corridor be controlled locally, preserved environmentally, and continued as private property."

Fluhr cited three factors that he believes historically helped to protect the river valley's scenic values.

First, the topography of the ridgelines made construction there difficult, if not impossible, and comparatively expensive.

Secondly, families with historic roots in the Upper Delaware and hunting clubs that owned property along the river were determined to leave those areas undeveloped.

And thirdly, realtors and builders were adequately occupied with available land parcels near the river corridor.

But Fluhr noted that those limiting factors are becoming obsolete.

"Technology and money can now make extensive changes in the corridor regardless of topography. Old families and hunting clubs are disappearing, and their successors see opportunities to make money. And the intense growth has left far less land outside the corridor available," he said.

Fluhr urged local municipalities to work cooperatively on ridgeline protection to avoid a duplication in research, and to remain open to new zoning concepts.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount that the UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988 to \$517,691.

Town of Lumberland Supervisor John LiGreci added his support to the collaborative planning effort in a recent *Times Herald Record* article.

He expressed concern that excessive land clearing on ridges can lead to run-off and drainage problems, destruction of wildlife habitats, and other environmental repercussions.

Maintaining the Upper Delaware's rural nature will require a proactive and consistent approach by local governments.

"We're lucky to live year-round in a vacation area," LiGreci told the newspaper. "And we have to act quickly to protect that."

Visioning Forum

Ridgeline protection has emerged as a concern of the Upper Delaware River Corridor Visioning Committee during its series of community meetings aimed at facilitating cross-river exchanges of ideas.

Later this fall, the committee will sponsor an informational forum geared toward town and township officials, and local planning and zoning board members.

"We will be looking at planning for growth and protecting open spaces," says Visioning Committee Coordinator Tom Kane, who may be reached at (845) 252-7414 for details of the forum that will take place at Central House Resort in Beach Lake, Pa.

TAGs Awarded

Technical Assistance Grants are available for research, planning, and studies conducted by the UDC's member towns, townships, and the river corridor counties.

Wayne County, Pa.'s four townships of Berlin, Buckingham, Damascus, and Manchester would be eligible to participate if the townships joined the Council.

Requests to the UDC for the 2003 TAG program totaled \$66,652.50, competing for an allocated \$25,000 funding pool, to which \$1,400 was later added.

The following projects were approved:

• Towns of Lumberland and Tusten (jointly) - \$4,667 to develop a ridgeline zoning overlay district.

• Shohola Township - \$4,083 to develop a ridgeline zoning overlay district.

• Westfall Township - \$3,500 to review and amend existing zoning and subdivision ordinances to alleviate any conflicts that may have surfaced over the last 12 years.

• Town of Lumberland - \$2,900 to compile a written history of the town's river corridor hamlets of Mongaup, Pond Eddy, and Hillside that will include a timeline of significant river-related events and noteworthy



HISTORIC PROJECT: Town of Lumberland Historian Frank V. Schwarz recently presented copies of "Historic Homes and Structures of Lumberland" to the UDC, marking completion of this 2002 Technical Assistance Grant project for which the town was awarded \$3,200. Schwarz coordinated the documentation of 35 historic buildings within the town's river corridor. The resulting information and photographs in the report offer a permanent record of the town's historic roots. (Photo by David B. Soete)

individuals over the past two centuries.

• Town of Cochection - \$2,367 to review the current Town Zoning Law, and make modifications and amendments as required to meet the challenges of these changing times.

• Town of Delaware - \$2,267 to update and print the Town Zoning Map using the latest Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology so that the map is both user-friendly and easily updateable.

• Town of Highland - \$2,000 to inventory the Enhanced-911 program, and update address records and 911 emergency services maps utilizing Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

• Town of Fremont - \$1,733 to sponsor a public workshop with conservation planning expert Randall Arendt presenting techniques for regions to control growth, protect viewsheds, and preserve agricultural land.

• Town of Highland - \$1,500 to research and develop or modify local laws to regulate ridgeline development and further restrict clear-cutting in the town.

• Town of Deerpark - \$1,383 to publish 120 copies of the town's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan upon which its zoning laws are based.

Applicants generally complete their projects in one year, although two six-month extensions may be requested if additional time is required. ♦

Public Workshop on November 5

Battling the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

By Don Hamilton

With their dense shade, hemlock groves and ravines offer cool sanctuaries on a hot summer's day.

They are also an important part of our regional forests and ecosystem, providing distinctive habitat, microclimates, and greater local and landscape biodiversity.

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) trees, Pennsylvania's state tree, dominate many ravines of tributaries that flow into the Upper Delaware River, providing shade, cooler water inputs, and stabilizing these streams' hydrologic regimes while making them less likely to dry up during the summer months.

Research and monitoring conducted at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area since 1993 has indicated that hemlock-shaded streams are three times more likely to have native brook trout, New York and Pennsylvania's state fish, than drainages with deciduous tree canopies. The species richness of aquatic insects was also found to be 37% greater in these hemlock-shaded streams.

Along with these species are entire natural communities of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and invertebrates linked to these environments for thousands of years with evolved interdependencies.

As the most shade-tolerant tree in the eastern United States, eastern hemlocks have no ecological equivalent. They can live to be 400 years old.

But a serious threat to the health of eastern hemlocks and the ecosystem of the Upper Delaware region has arrived in the form of a small, aphid-like insect.

Hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsuga*), a non-native invasive insect, has appeared on the scene after destroying hemlock forests from Virginia northward.

Adelgids feed at the bases of hemlock needles by extending a long proboscis into the needle to extract nutrition, causing the needles to die.

Defoliation and mortality of hemlocks can follow, sometimes in as little as four years, with a heavy infestation. A tree's tolerance to the insect attack correlates to the absence of other stressors like drought.

Believed to be native to Japan and China, experts think that hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) came to the U.S. on imported ornamental hemlocks. Adelgids were not a serious problem there because of an abundance of predatory beetles (with which they co-evolved) that kept them in check and the local trees' resistance.

The current most promising hope for



SAVE THE HEMLOCKS: National Park Service and NYS DEC employees count *Pseudoscymninus tsugae* beetles dislodged from trees onto "beat sheets." This follow-up monitoring in July was done to assess the dispersal of about 5,200 beetles that were released in June in the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area. The beetles act as a biological control agent, preying on hemlock woolly adelgids, the destructive non-native invasive insects that are threatening eastern hemlock trees in the region. (Photo by Don Hamilton, NPS)

controlling HWA is the introduction of one of five species of predatory beetles that feed on the adelgids.

Pseudoscymninus tsugae (Pt), a tiny black ladybird beetle, has been deemed suitable for release as a biological control agent following its evaluation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Pt can become established on healthy HWA populations, continuing to feed on them over time.

These beetles have been released for a couple years at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, where thousands of trees have already been lost to HWA.

National Park Service Resource Management staff at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River were able to obtain approximately 2,700 Pt beetles from a Scranton lab through funding provided by the U.S. Forest Service.

They were released this June in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at a site selected by the DEC in its Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Unit in Orange County. This followed an earlier release of 2,500 beetles by DEC staff at another location in the preserve.

Release sites must be selected according to predetermined criteria and monitored to assure the most efficient, effective use of the much-in-demand Pt beetles.

Besides biological controls, spraying individual trees with insecticidal soaps and

oils or injecting them with a systemic insecticide may be feasible options. But these methods are impractical for larger woodlots. Aerial applications of HWA-killing pesticides are not appropriate because hemlocks often grow near sensitive streams.

Additional concerns exist about what's likely to replace eastern hemlocks should they be lost to this insect attack.

Due to an overabundance of white-tailed deer, intensive overbrowsing will likely prevent the regeneration of native tree species. The lack of active vegetation management may lead to a proliferation of undesirable non-native invasive plants such as Tree of Heaven, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, and multiflora rose.

A public workshop, sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council and National Park Service, is planned for Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall meeting room in Narrowsburg, NY.

The objective is to inform landowners of the scope of this problem, describe how to detect HWA, and offer tips on management and treatment options. Speakers from several natural resource agencies will present information and answer questions.

No reservations are necessary. For more information, please call UDC at (845) 252-3022 or NPS at (570) 729-7842. ❖

(The author is the Natural Resource Specialist for the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.)

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council (UDC) activity highlights from mid-June to mid-September 2003, not covered elsewhere, include:

POWER LINE

At the Sept. 4 UDC meeting, National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent Dave Forney reported that Pegasus Power Systems of Ontario, Canada, has expressed interest in laying a 500,000 volt Direct Current electrical transmission line on the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way along the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to bring more power from Utica to New York City.

An agency-level informational meeting was scheduled after this issue's deadline to follow up on that preliminary contact.

The River Management Plan lists "major electric lines" as an "incompatible use" in the river corridor.

FLOOD CONTROL

Following a tremendously wet spring and summer that filled the three New York City Delaware watershed reservoirs above capacity, the UDC has asked the Delaware River Basin Commission to work on releasing some of that extraneous water to help reduce the potential flood risk to property along the Upper Delaware River.

"We are grateful that New York City recently agreed to increase bottom releases when the reservoirs were about to spill, providing cooler water for the cold water fishery; however, under these unusual hydrologic circumstances, we are still concerned about the potential for flooding as we head into the middle of the hurricane season," the UDC's Sept. 4 letter read.

ECOLOGICAL FLOWS

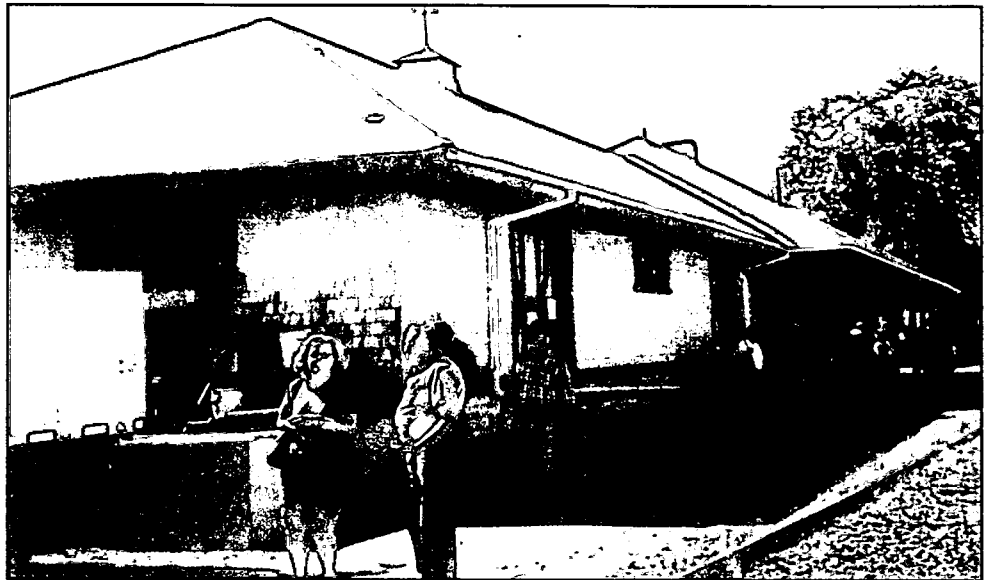
The Delaware River Basin Commission's Flow Management Technical Advisory Committee on July 8 recommended the creation of a Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF) to assist in the development of a formal process to evaluate the feasibility and limitations of achieving flow targets to address instream flow and freshwater inflow requirements for maintenance of self-sustaining aquatic ecosystems in the Delaware River Basin.

The subcommittee will replace the ad hoc Committee on the Ecological Function of the Upper River.

Work by SEF will be aided by the authorization of a federal appropriation of up to \$250,000 over a two-year period for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop enhanced flow and temperature modeling in the Delaware River Basin, contingent upon receipt of matching local funds.

STRIPED BASS

Proposed rulemaking by the PA Fish and Boat Commission would amend regula-



STATION TO STATION: The Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance's "Station to Station" tour on September 6 brought participants to the Callicoon Station for a historical talk and close look. The 1898 depot was centrally located for passengers and freight on the Erie Railroad's Delaware Division running from Port Jervis to Deposit. It is now used by Norfolk Southern Railroad as a maintenance facility. Other tour stops included the restored 1850s Cochection Station, the 1890s O&W Station in Starlight that now serves as the Buckingham Township Municipal Building, and the Equinunk Historical Society's Calder House Museum for a program on the former Lordville Station. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

tions to impose a two fish daily creel limit and a 28-inch minimum size limit for striped bass taken on the Delaware River and its tributaries from Trenton Falls upstream as of Jan. 1, 2004.

The UDC issued a comment letter Sept. 4 asking again for a decrease in the size limit of these "eating machines" to 18 inches, which would be consistent with other rivers like the Hudson in NYS.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

6/11-12, Watershed Management Seminar at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA

6/12, Stakeholders Meeting with newly confirmed PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Michael DiBerardinis in Milford, PA

7/11 and 8/1, Upper Delaware Visioning Committee community input meetings at various cross-river locations.

8/12, Delaware River Foundation's 3rd Annual "Day on the Delaware" Forum in Hale Eddy, NY

8/18, Dwarf Wedge Mussel survey orientation meeting with NPS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and University of Maryland, to kick off a \$50,000 grant project seeking data on how flows impact this federally endangered species that has been discovered at locations in the Upper Delaware River.

GIS PROJECT

At the July 15 meeting of the Upper Delaware GIS Work Group, details were shared of a \$100,000 NASA LandSAT pro-

gram grant that will be matched by NPS to develop a GIS-based science curriculum that can be used in river valley schools.

With Wayne County's July 22 decision to contribute its data to the GIS rural growth and development modelling initiative for the Upper and Middle Delaware, the project now has full participation.

UDC OPERATIONS

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell signed Executive Order 2003-5 on June 22, 2003 reaffirming the Commonwealth's support of the 1978 addition of the Upper Delaware to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and officially designating DCNR as the lead agency for implementing and administering state aspects of the River Management Plan.

In early spring 2004, updated "Visitor Information Map & Guide for Touring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" brochures will be available. The UDC approved a printing quote for 30,000 copies at its Sept. 4 meeting. The popular Council publication is now under revision.

The UDC also adopted a \$379,150 budget and work plans for its three committees covering Fiscal Year 2004 on Sept. 4.

RAFT TRIP

The UDC's 15th Annual Family Raft Trip on August 2 attracted 112 participants, fulfilling the goal of promoting awareness and stewardship of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River through direct contact with the recreational resource. ❖

In Memoriam:

NYS Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III

Jacob Edward Gunther III, New York State 98th District Assemblyman and a resident of Forestburgh, NY, died on July 9, 2003 from cancer-related illness at the age of 50.

He is survived by his wife, Aileen; three children, Mary Alice, Jacob IV, and Caitlin; his parents, Jacob and Betty Gunther; two brothers, William and LeRoy; nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Jacob E. Gunther III Scholarship for Environmental Studies, P.O. Box 621, Monticello, NY 12701.

The UDC passed the following resolution at its August 7, 2003 meeting to recognize Assemblyman Gunther's positive contributions to the river valley:

Whereas, The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) acknowledges the untimely death of Jacob E. "Jake" Gunther III on July 9, 2003 with great sadness; *and*

Whereas, Jake Gunther's representation of Sullivan County and portions of western Orange County in the 98th District of the New York State Assembly during five elected terms since 1992 included the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley region; *and*

Whereas, Assemblyman Jake Gunther's actions to benefit the Upper

Delaware River, its resources, and its communities included, in part: co-sponsoring the 1993 legislation authorizing the State of New York to lease property to the National Park Service for development of the future Mongaup Interpretive Center; securing \$25,000 in 2000 for economic development projects in the UDC's eight New York State member towns; addressing the local burden of tax-exempt properties; co-sponsoring the bill which led to Governor Pataki's 2002 designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway; and supporting the investment of funds for local arts, infrastructure improvements, emergency services, and tourism programs; *and*

Whereas, In his role as keynote speaker at the UDC's 14th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2002, Assemblyman Gunther reflected on his personal appreciation for the river valley and affinity for his public service work by saying, "There is never a time I don't drive along that corridor and not feel proud for being a representative of this region"; *and*

Whereas, Assemblyman Gunther's true character was revealed through his open-door availability to constituents, ability to place their needs ahead of politics, courage to speak his mind regardless of personal consequences, and the exercise



Assemblyman Jacob E. "Jake" Gunther III of his conservation ethic;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. mourns the loss of Jake Gunther as a friend of the Upper Delaware River Valley and an exceptional legislator; extends sincere sympathy to his family, friends, colleagues, and constituents; and celebrates with them his many life achievements.

In Memoriam: Matthew "Joe" Freda and Roland E. Flora

The Upper Delaware Council mourns the loss of two charter, advisory members of the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

Matthew Joseph "Joe" Freda of Callicoon, NY, owner of Matthew J. Freda Real Estate and decorated U.S. Air Force colonel who served in three wars, died on August 7, 2003 at the age of 84.

Roland E. Flora of Narrowsburg, NY, retired owner of Laurel Hill Cabins and a nationwide marketer of his handcrafted

Boy Scout neckerchief slides, died on August 21, 2003 at the age of 89.

Both men, Mr. Flora in 1990 and Mr. Freda in 1994, received UDC Volunteer Awards for enhancing quality of life in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Mr. Flora, a U.S. Navy World War II veteran and Mason, was a sportsman and conservationist active on the county and state level. Local memberships included the Tusten Lions Club and American Legion Post in Eldred.

Mr. Freda served on the Tocks Island Council, Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, Sullivan County Environmental Management Council, Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin, Neversink-Delaware Study Commission, and Wayne County Conservation District, among other community service groups. The Mason, Kiwanian, and local business booster also authored the former *Sullivan County Democrat* column, "River Ripples."

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 _____

Zip+4 _____

Old Address:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip+4 _____

Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

November 8 Business Expo Offers '97 Reasons to Meet on the Byway'

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. will present "97 Reasons to Meet on the Byway," on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Delaware Community Center in Callicoon, NY.

Geared toward visitor-oriented businesses on and near the NYS Route 97 scenic byway corridor, the expo will feature:

- an informational presentation on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway
- a keynote address by Seaway Trail, Inc. Executive Director Teresa Mitchell representing New York State's only National Scenic Byway, established 25 years ago and traversing 454 miles
- morning refreshments and a light lunch
- exhibit displays, events calendars, and brochures from tourism promotion agen-

cies and area attractions

- local business literature exchange table
Governor George Pataki officially added the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway to the New York State Scenic Byways System on August 6, 2002 in recognition of its spectacular scenic highway vistas, access to the Delaware River and its resources, and the uniqueness of its communities.

The Route 97 byway passes through the City of Port Jervis, Towns of Deerpark, Lumberland, Highland, Tusten, Cochection, and Delaware, and the Village of Hancock, largely paralleling the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and linking I-84 with the future I-86 (now Route 17).

There is no cost to attend the Nov. 8 event, but space is limited. Advance reser-

vations are requested by Nov. 5. To secure a place, please e-mail Laurie Ramie at udcramie@hvc.rr.com (preferred) or call (845) 252-3022.

For other inquiries, please contact Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Expo Subcommittee Chairperson Elaine Giguere at (845) 252-7576 or elaine@artsalliancesite.org. ❖

Visioning Committee Gathers Public Input

The Upper Delaware River Corridor Visioning Committee will conclude its series of river valley evening meetings to introduce its efforts and gather public input about issues of local concern on the following dates:

Oct. 15 at the Shohola Township Municipal Building in Shohola, Pa. - for Shohola and Lackawaxen Townships, and the Towns of Lumberland and Highland.

Oct. 22 at the Delaware Community Center in Callicoon, NY - for the Towns of Delaware, Fremont, and Hancock, and Manchester and Buckingham Townships.

Oct. 30 at the Westfall Township Municipal Building in Matamoras, Pa. - for Westfall Township, the Borough of Milford, City of Port Jervis, and Town of Deerpark.

Each meeting will be from 6-8:30 p.m. and will include a pot-luck supper. Public officials and private citizens are welcome.

Prior sessions took place on Sept. 29 for the Town of Cochection and Damascus Township, and on Oct. 9 for Berlin Township and the Town of Tusten.

For further information, contact Tom Kane at (845) 252-7414. ❖

Upper Delaware to Celebrate 25th Anniversary on Nov. 9

Dear Friends:

Please join the National Park Service and its partners on Sunday, November 9, in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a free tour of the Zane Grey Museum by Historian Dorothy Moon.

At noon, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Schultz will conduct a guided tour of Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct.

Come early for the tours, then join us at 1:00 p.m. for a reception with light refreshments at the Lackawaxen Volunteer Fire Department Hall.

At 2:00 p.m., there will be a program focusing on the area's history, controversies, partnerships, and the accomplishments of the Upper Delaware.

The United States Congress officially designated the 73.4-mile stretch of the Upper Delaware River from Hancock, NY to Mill Rift, PA as the 19th component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System on November 10, 1978.

For information, please contact Christina Fulton at (570) 729-8253, ext. 240. ❖

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. 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 St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 for specific meeting dates and agendas.

Upper Delaware Council
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