

The Upper Delaware

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

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new subscribers (free)!**

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SUPPLY AND DEMAND: Planning consultant Tom Shepstone, standing, discussed economic trends in the Upper Delaware River Valley at a November 17 program in Narrowsburg, NY sponsored by the Visioning Committee of the Upper Delaware River Corridor. Shepstone discussed the valley's variety of resources and business opportunities, as well as strategies for meeting the demands of the valued metropolitan New York market. (Photo by David B. Soete)

Economic Trends Forecast for Upper Delaware River Valley

Does greed breed growth in a region or is the other way around?

That was one of the questions raised as citizens of the Upper Delaware River Valley recently pondered how to maintain this area's rural character while assuring an economically sustainable future.

The Visioning Committee of the Upper Delaware River Corridor sponsored a Nov. 17 program with Honesdale, PA-based planning consultant Tom Shepstone in which he analyzed economic trends pertaining to the river valley.

"A key part of economic development is obviously understanding the market. There are two facets to it, the supply side and the demand side," Shepstone said.

The resources of the river valley that have made it so attractive to metropolitan New York area visitors, second home owners, and retirees are marketable advan-

tages that can appeal to business interests as well, Shepstone argued.

Besides its close proximity to the 21 million residents of the "metro" area, the Upper Delaware offers a slower-paced lifestyle, relatively inexpensive housing, good value labor, access from two interstates connected by a scenic byway, and a natural environment with nationally-recognized scenic and recreational qualities.

The Upper Delaware also has one of the best supplies of hardwood timber in the world, a rare commodity of bluestone, abundant farmland, and plentiful water.

Shepstone identified a number of economic opportunities that those resources can support.

Among them are tourism enterprises, home occupations through telecommuting, niche agriculture, construction trades, out-

Please see **TRENDS** on Page 4

Upper Delaware Profile: Nelia Wall

"It was a different life," Nelia Wall says of her post-college years pursuing acting and singing gigs in the competitive New York City market.

The life she ultimately chose for herself shifted from bright lights to open spaces, and from relative anonymity in a city of millions to playing an integral role in a community of just 2,088 residents at the last census count.

Since October of 2002, Wall has served as Secretary of Shohola Township, PA, where she has lived since 1988.

Responsibilities of her full-time position include budget development, bookkeeping, and payroll administration; all preparations for the monthly Board of Supervisors' meetings, communications, and the filing of meeting minutes; clerical assistance and scheduling for various township services; public reception and outgoing correspondence; representation of Shohola at relevant functions and on several county- and state-level committees; and grantwriting, among other tasks.

In short, Wall is the capable go-to person for Shohola Township affairs.

She applied for the job left vacant by the retirement of Shirley Brunner after having commuted for 11 years from Shohola to Middletown, NY, where she was a manager at Filene's department store.

A desire to work closer to home and to make a positive difference in her community motivated her.

"When I interviewed with George [Fluhr, the supervisors' chairman], he told me that they couldn't offer to pay me much but the work would be rewarding," she says with a laugh, "... and he was right."

Though this was her first foray into local government administration, Wall drew on her business experience and willingness to learn new skills and programs.

"I always felt like I brought a lot of expertise dealing with people. I had the ability to talk and negotiate on a personal and professional level. I'm still learning the nuances and legalities of local government. I try to take as many classes as I can for the technical aspects," she says.

It's a constant education process as new programs like Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code come into effect.

Wall serves on the PA State Association of Township Supervisors' Secretaries & Managers Committee, the Pike County Road Task Force, the Upper Delaware Council as Shohola's second alternate, the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy Board, and the Shohola Gardeners.

In just the past two years, Wall has obtained over \$350,000 in grant funding to benefit the township and the Shohola



Nelia Wall, Shohola Township, PA

Township Volunteer Fire and Rescue, of which she is an active member and her husband is the chief.

Recent grants include \$125,000 from PA DCNR for future site improvements at Rohman Park, \$78,291 to the fire company through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and \$2,500 from the PA Bureau of Forestry to plant 20 flowering trees along Richardson Avenue last May.

In addition to her successful grantwriting, Wall has a talent for scoping out good deals. She is ever mindful that tax dollars only stretch so far in a small township.

"You're spending someone else's money so you have to be as responsible as you can. I like to try to find a cheaper way to do everything," she says.

Originally from Montclair, NJ, Wall left there in 1969 to attend Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, where she double-majored in Theatre Arts and Education.

Aspirations to act and sing took her to New York City, where she supported herself by working in restaurants and retail while performing in Off-Broadway shows, musical theater, cabaret, with a rock band, and joining movie production crews.

Meeting Donald Wall, a Scranton native who favored country living and operates a landscape excavation business, happily changed her plans.

The couple, wed for 17 years, live in a house they built on a 16-acre property in Shohola with Donald's son, 20-year-old Jason. Donald's two daughters, Denise, 24, and Jessica, 22, and 18-month-old granddaughter Alissa Marie, live in NJ.

Wall quickly fell in love with Shohola and intends to stay involved in her community.

"It's beautiful and I wish it would stay this way forever, but I know that it won't. I'm not against development but I continue to explore plans to preserve our resources while allowing growth," she says. ❖

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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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Flood, Oil Spill Mar Delaware River

Fall 2004 was an unkind season for the Delaware River as a near-record flood and a devastating oil spill wreaked havoc.

Though Hurricane Ivan was downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it reached the Delaware River Valley, the approximately six inches of rain it brought in a 12-hour period on Sept. 17-18 proved too much for the saturated soils, above average streamflows, and full reservoirs.

The Delaware River at Barryville, NY crested to 24.09 feet at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18. At 17 feet above flood stage, it was the highest river height recorded in the Upper Delaware since the Aug. 19, 1955 Hurricane Diane flood.

At Montague, NJ, the Delaware crested at 28.39 feet at 11:15 p.m. that same day. While the normal flow rate on the river's main stem is 2,166 cubic feet per second (cfs), the flow at Montague peaked at 138,000 cfs at 8 a.m. on Sept. 19.

The alarmingly rising waters led to the evacuation of thousands of residents from low-lying areas on both sides of the river. While no fatalities were reported in the Upper Delaware, emergency crews rescued numerous stranded campground visitors and others in need, usually by boat.

Watercraft, boat trailers, portable toilets, campers, docks, construction equipment, and propane tanks were among the debris swept away by the raging waters.

The considerable property loss caused the National Park Service Upper Delaware



SWAMPED PARKING LOT: The parking lot at the National Park Service's Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA, located approximately 250 feet across Scenic Drive and up a hill from the Delaware River bank, was submerged in over eight feet of water as a result of Tropical Storm Ivan which hit the area September 17-18. Rising waters displaced the parking bumpers and slightly flooded the basement of the museum, but spared the western novelist's homestead from any major damage. (Photos by Patrick Connolly, Maintenance Foreman, UDS&RR)

Scenic and Recreational River to issue a reminder that there are no salvage rights on the Delaware River, and keeping found items is against the law.

Federal disaster declarations were approved for all five Upper Delaware coun-

ties in NY and PA. Sullivan County, NY alone calculated over \$19 million of public infrastructure and private property damages from Ivan's wrath.

On the night of November 26, one of the worst oil spills to ever affect the Delaware River occurred when the Greek ship Athos I, carrying nearly 14 million gallons of oil from Venezuela to a Citgo Petroleum refinery in Paulsboro, NJ, sustained two ruptures in the hull within 200 yards of reaching its Port of Philadelphia docking berth.

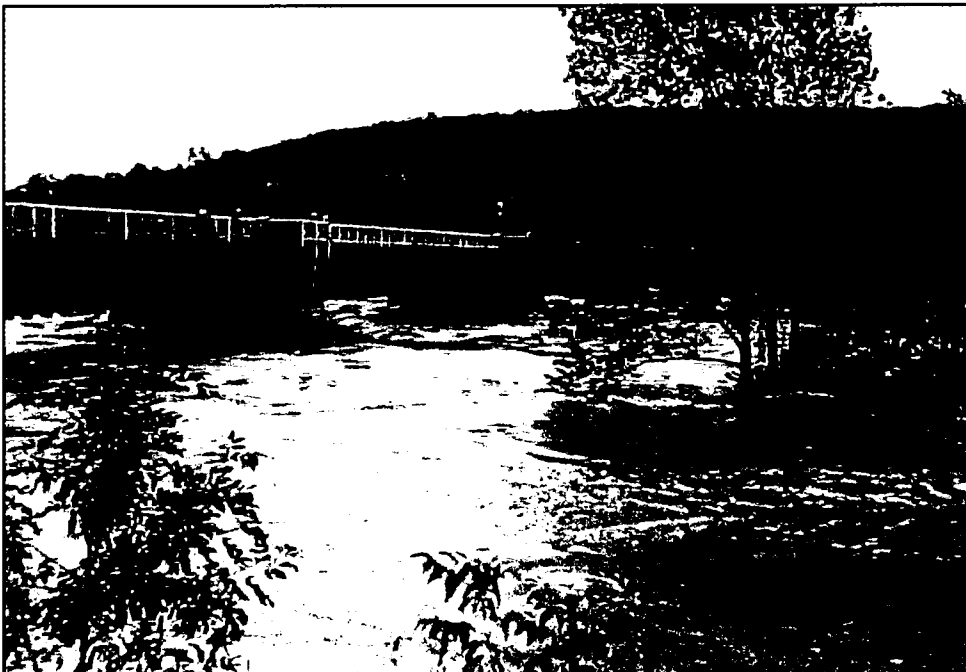
Initial reports of a 30,000-gallon oil spill quickly escalated to estimates of as much as 473,500 gallons of oil lost. Hardest hit was the area north of the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge.

The spill created a 50-mile-long oil slick that workers attempted to contain with control booms; tainted nearly 125 miles of shoreline in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware; and killed or injured hundreds of waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife.

Through sonar tests and dives, investigators subsequently discovered a 15-foot, U-shaped, corroded, cast-iron object sticking three feet up from the river bottom with traces of the ship's paint on it.

The multimillion dollar clean-up costs involving some 1,700 on-site workers will apparently be borne by the vessel's owner, Tsakos Shipping and Trading Co. The long-term ecological toll on the Delaware River will be more difficult to quantify. ❖

The Upper Delaware



RAGING UNDER ROEBLING: A small boat smashes against the icebreaker of the 1848 Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct due to the force of the flood waters that came within five feet of reaching the bridge's trusses in this photo taken from the Minisink Ford, NY parking area. The unexpected flooding conditions sent much loose property careening downriver.

Winter 2004-2005

Grants Benefit UDC's New York Towns And the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway

New York State Senator John J. Bonacic has secured \$110,000 to assist ongoing efforts to enhance Route 97 corridor communities and promote tourism in the Upper Delaware region.

State funding in the amount of \$60,000 will be awarded to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. and \$50,000 to the eight New York State town members of the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC).

The UDC will be compensated to work with the New York State Department of Economic Development to locally administer the two grant programs.

Sen. Bonacic announced the initiative on Oct. 26, saying, "I have made supporting the communities along the Route 97 corridor a priority. Individually, these communities are making great strides to ensure 'smart growth' and are working hard to diversify their economic development. I applaud that effort and want to continue to advocate for it."

Since 2000, the senator has provided \$100,000 in direct aid mini-grants to the river valley towns of Cochection, Deerpark, Delaware, Fremont, Hancock, Highland, Lumberland, and Tusten.

This latest 2004-05 funding round will provide each town with a \$5,000 reimbursement grant, free of any required local match. The funding can be utilized for municipal improvements, recreational enhancements, or beautification.

The UDC was reviewing the project proposals it received from the eight towns by a December 17 deadline as this issue went to press.

In the first grant round of FY 2000-01, the late Assemblyman Jacob E. Gunther III matched Sen. Bonacic's \$25,000 earmark to award \$50,000 to the towns.

The second round in FY 2002-03 provided \$75,000 that was divided equally among the eight towns.

Specific projects accomplished or facilitated by the towns with their \$15,625 cumulative, individual shares of this funding source to date are:

Cochection - Refurbishment of the Town Hall in Lake Huntington, including reshingling of the historic building and replacement of the entranceway.

Deerpark - Resurfacing of the Hook Road entrance to the New York State Department of Environmental Conserva-

"Individually, these communities are making great strides to ensure 'smart growth' and are working hard to diversify their economic development."

~ Senator John J. Bonacic

tion's (NYS DEC) Delaware River Access Site in Sparrowbush; construction of a Visitors' Information Communication Center in front of the Town Hall in Huguenot; and installation of welcome signs at 10 town entrance roads.

Delaware - Preliminary engineering work and reconstruction of sidewalk footage in the Callicoon Business District.

Fremont - Relocation of a historic marker and landscaping work in Long Eddy; enhancement of the town's Long Eddy River Access Site; and installation of three welcome signs at roads entering Fremont Center.

Hancock - Site improvements at the NYS DEC Delaware River Fishing Access in Hancock; installation of an exterior blue-stone walkway and interior brochure dis-

Please see GRANTS on Page 6

TRENDS, continued from Page 1

door recreation, low-impact specialty manufacturing, health care/senior living, natural resources products, and crafts/technology businesses.

These types of industries aren't likely to jeopardize quality of life issues, but do provide needed jobs, taxes, and services to help support the local communities.

"In an area like this, you have to recognize that you are going to have some development along the highways, but if you just have bedroom communities, that's not my idea of providing the services we need either," Shepstone said.

To achieve this model, government leaders should consider regional promotion, flexible zoning, planned development, "smart" design, efficient bureaucracy, and competitive incentives for employers.

Shepstone believes these strategies will help the Upper Delaware preserve its way of life while stabilizing its future.

Susan Sullivan of Lava, NY commented that she is disturbed by a "poverty attitude" she has perceived in this area that creates a desperation for business development at any cost.

"Greed is not growth. We're in charge of our opportunities. We can tell them, we have what you want. It's a mental shift of



LISTEN AND LEARN: Shohola Township, PA Supervisor George J. Fluhr advised concerned citizens to attend their local planning board meetings to learn about their community's futures, as Delaware Highlands Conservancy Executive Director Sue Currier looked on. (Photo by David B. Soete)

attitude," Sullivan said.

"The local town officials haven't seemed to grasp that we're in the driver's seat," agreed Barbara Yeaman of Milanville, PA.

To that, Shohola Township, PA Supervisor George J. Fluhr offered some advice.

"My suggestion to all of you who are interested in changing the way things are

occurring in the river valley is to go to the planning commission meetings and just listen. Don't be confrontational and demand immediate change. Everybody in local government is underpaid and overworked. They have people's best interests at heart. They need your help and input," he said.

Jeffrey Moore of Callicoon, NY pointed out that there are different types of growth and development.

"There is a great non-financial value to live in this place. We have a great advantage here and you dilute that by accepting just everything that comes along. The growth that we see over the next 10-15 years should be economically beneficial growth. It's guiding, through incentives, where you want it to go and how you want it to be," Moore said.

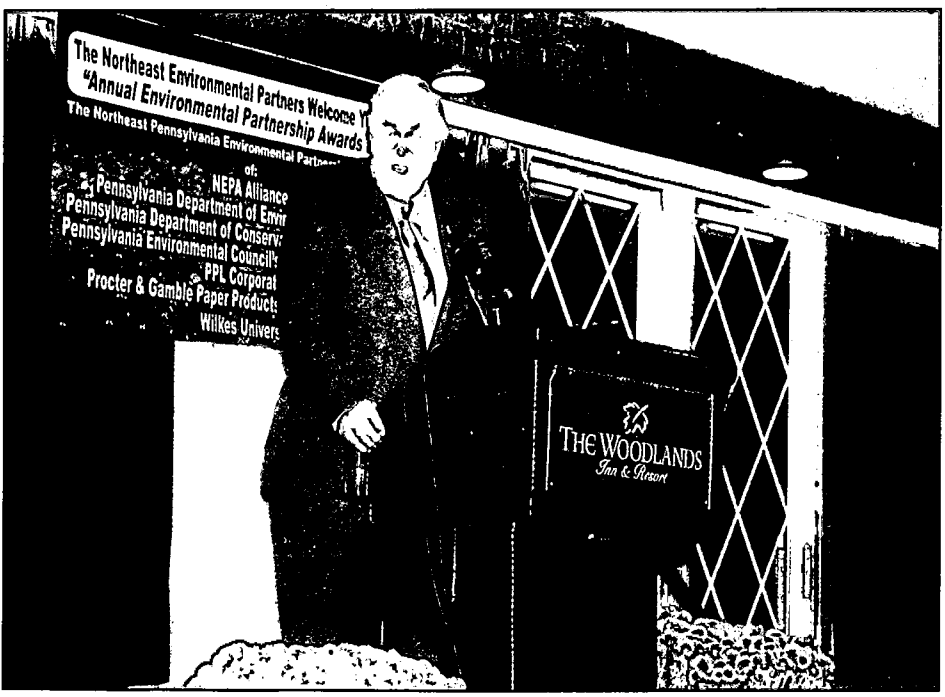
Shepstone's full presentation is available at www.shepstone.net/UDecon.pdf.

The Nov. 17 program was the 21st activity that the Visioning Committee sponsored in 2004 toward its aim to strengthen and preserve the Upper Delaware River Corridor through creative collaboration and regional thinking.

For information, write to P.O. Box 20, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; call (845) 252-3337; visit www.upperdelaware.com or e-mail visioning@upperdelaware.com. ❖



PIKE COUNTY SCORES: Three Pike County recipients were among the nine 2004 honorees at the 14th Annual Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment held October 20 at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre. Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, pictured below, gave the keynote address to the 400-plus dinner guests. Recognized were, in the top photo at left, Sally J. Corrigan of Hawley, and at far right, Peter Wulfhorst accepting on behalf of the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy of Shohola. Peter C. Pinchot, center, received the 10th Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award. The grandson of two-time PA Governor and founder of the U.S. Forest Service Gifford Pinchot has served as Pike County's "advocate general" in promoting sustainable forestry, ecological conservation, and sound land-use planning by working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation from his ancestral home in Milford. Corrigan played a significant role in the development of citizen-based watershed groups in her former role as Pike County Watershed Specialist. The Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy, organized in 2000, has worked to promote a better understanding of the watershed and its ecosystems, and to take action to protect, restore and enhance the watershed through proper management and stewardship. The group has initiated a volunteer water quality monitoring program, completed a watershed assessment, published a brochure and ongoing newsletter, and sponsored educational programs. (Photos by David B. Soete)



Upper Delaware Ethnic Diversity To Be Explored

"Trailblazers, Adventurers & Refugees: Stories of Those Who Came to the Upper Delaware Valley" will offer anecdotes in a historical context explaining how various ethnic groups settled in the river valley and describing their experiences.

The public program, sponsored by the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance (UDHA), will take place on Saturday, May 14, at the Central House Resort in Beach Lake, Pa.

A buffet lunch and refreshments are included in the program that will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For ticket inquiries, contact Laurie Ramie at (845) 252-3022 or udcramie@hvc.rr.com.

The period of interest for this symposium is 1750 to the present. Ethnic groups with Upper Delaware concentrations include the Irish, Germans, Ukrainians, and Norwegians, among others.

The UDHA welcomes input on relevant topics and speakers. Please contact the organizing committee via Mary Curtis at (845) 887-5454 or mc Curtis2@hvc.rr.com.

Delaware River Sojourn Paddle Begins June 19

Mark your calendars: The 11th Annual Delaware River Sojourn will be held during the week of June 19, 2005.

The goal of the Sojourn is to raise awareness of the Delaware River's diversity while promoting its stewardship.

A steering committee, comprised of non-profit organizations, government agencies, and interested citizens, organizes the multi-state event that includes daily canoeing and kayaking excursions, educational programs, and overnight camping.

Visit www.drbc.net/sojourn for details or call (570) 828-9692 to request a registration brochure. ❖

UDC Annual Report Out

The Upper Delaware Council's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2004 is available.

The report covers the period of October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004.

It includes a message from 2004 Chairperson Nadia Rajs, UDC activity highlights, objectives for FY 2005, the membership roster, a directory of FY 2004 Technical Assistance Grants and recipients of the UDC's 16th Annual Awards, and financial statements.

To request a copy, call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail udcramie@hvc.rr.com. ❖

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council activity highlights from mid-September to mid-December 2004, not covered elsewhere in this issue, include:

LAND PROTECTION

A 78-acre tract of undeveloped land at the base of Point Mountain in Hancock is the subject of a campaign by a coalition of regional and national non-profit conservation organizations, municipal leaders, and concerned citizens to acquire the property for passive recreational public use.

Barbara Yeaman of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy land trust made a presentation on behalf of the Coalition for Point Mountain Park to the UDC at the board's Dec. 2 meeting.

The property sits at the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Delaware River, dubbed by Native American settlers as the "Wedding of the Waters." It offers 5,000 feet of river frontage, anthropological and scenic resources, and a biologically diverse wildlife habitat.

Yeaman said that the parcel is attracting the attention of private investors who would subdivide it for residential development.

The Coalition would like to raise funds to acquire the property and maintain it in its natural condition instead. Yeaman requested the UDC's conceptual support.

The issue was referred to the Council's Water Use/Resource Management Committee for further discussion. Opinions are being solicited from both the Town and Village of Hancock.

PROJECT REVIEW

GRANTS, continued from Page 4

play area at the Town Hall; and expansion of the Town of Hancock web site.

Highland - Renovations at the circa 1867 former Highland Town Hall building in Barryville; and development of a Tourist Information Center kiosk with lighting at the intersection of Routes 97 & 55 in Barryville.

Lumberland - Installation of a climate control system at the Town Hall/Lumberland Museum in Glen Spey; restoration of the conference table; and construction of an exterior stairway on the side of the Town Hall administration building.

Tusten - Installation of a gazebo at the Tusten Veterans' Memorial Park in Narrowsburg; and interior improvements to the Town of Tusten Community Hall.

In addition to the funding for the UDC's New York towns, Senator Bonacic has awarded \$60,000 to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.

The municipally-appointed board of the non-profit organization is interested in pursuing a facilities improvement project, which was being specifically determined at press time.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway extends from the City of Port Jervis through the Towns of Deerpark, Lumberland, Highland, Cochection, Tusten, and Delaware, and through the Village of Hancock, linking Interstate 84 and the future Interstate 86 along New York State Route 97.

Larry H. Richardson, chairperson of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., said, "We greatly appreciate Senator Bonacic's steadfast support of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. This funding will enable the byway communities along State Route 97 to continue efforts to improve and showcase this beautiful highway resource."

Sen. Bonacic was a sponsor of the legislation which officially authorized the state scenic byway designation in 2002. ❖

- UDC staff attended a Nov. 10 public hearing sponsored by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) concerning the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the proposed Home Depot near Honesdale.

On Nov. 23, the UDC's Project Review Committee approved sending a comment letter which stated, in part, "Because of numerous complaints in the past regarding stormwater runoff in the region, and repeated and severe sediment pollution when Wal-Mart and the Federal Prison were constructed, we are concerned about the potential for erosion and sedimentation and increased stormwater runoff from the Home Depot project. The Lackawaxen River all the way down to, and including, the Upper Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River could be adversely affected if the project is not done properly."

- A letter of concern was also issued to the PA DEP on the matter of an underground fuel tank leak at the Narrowsburg Lumber Co. facility in Shohola, PA.

Test well results suggest that the decades-old leak, which was discovered in approximately 1995 when the tank was removed, is not creating any imminent threat to the environment. Remediation, however, has been stymied by the estimated \$1.3 million clean-up cost, its location on property leased from Norfolk Southern Railroad, and the lumber company's bankruptcy proceedings.

The UDC requested an exploration of solutions to retain the local business and jobs while achieving site remediation.

TRANSMISSION LINES

- Pegasus Transmission Company Ltd.'s spokesperson Chris Severs met with staff from the UDC and National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on Sept. 30 to discuss the status of the Canadian firm's proposal to install a new High-Voltage, Direct Current line through the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor, within the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way, to supply electricity to the metropolitan New York-New Jersey market.

Severs reported that the proposed ratepayer-funded project is "moving at a glacier pace." The company was starting to inventory specific concerns and issues. Consultants who completed a desktop survey advised that they had found "nothing here that can't be worked around." The UDC awaits receipt of digital maps and other documentation to review.

- Columbia Gas Transmission is proposing to replace an existing 14-inch pipeline with a 20-inch line from Easton to Milford, PA, a distance of 43.4 miles running through Northampton, Monroe, and Pike Counties. UDC staff attended a Dec. 14 PA DEP public hearing in Delaware Township.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Among the special meetings in which the UDC participated this quarter were:

-- Sept. 29, Conservation Subdivision Seminar, sponsored by the Visioning Committee of the Upper Delaware River Corridor, in Lake Huntington, NY.

-- Oct. 12, Delaware River Basin Commission's Subcommittee on Ecological Flows, Hawley, PA.

-- Oct. 14, Watershed and Stormwater Management seminar, sponsored by the Visioning Committee, Narrowsburg, NY.

-- Oct. 14, Pennsylvania State Water Plan Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee, Milford.

-- Oct. 15, Delaware River Basin Fish & Wildlife Management Cooperative, Bushkill, PA.

-- Oct. 20, D&H Transportation Heritage Council, Port Jervis, NY.

-- Oct. 28, Upper Delaware River Safety Committee, Narrowsburg, NY.

-- Oct. 29, UDC Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee meeting with NYS Assemblyman Clifford Crouch (107th District), Chenango Bridge.

-- Dec. 8, Current Issues and Solutions in Land-use Practices, sponsored by the Visioning Committee, Narrowsburg, NY.

-- Dec. 16, Management of releases from the New York City reservoirs informational meeting, sponsored by Assemblyman Crouch, Albany, NY. ❖

Park Ranger Internships Available

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a unit of the National Park Service, will offer Park Ranger Internships during the 2005 summer season.

The positions offered will provide invaluable work experience in the land management field, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the scenic wonders and the recreational pursuits of this pristine 73-mile stretch of river.

The Park Ranger Internship position is designed for college students who enjoy working with children and young adults.

Interns are responsible for developing and presenting a variety of educational programs to various summer camps and youth groups.

The intern will also staff river access kiosks; present river safety talks and provide area information to river users; perform river canoe patrols; and present programs on the Roebling Bridge and Zane Grey, the world famous fisherman and the "Father of the Western Novel".

The internship will run between May 16 and September 5, 2005. Dates are flexible to accommodate school schedules.

Five intern positions are anticipated at the Upper Delaware.

Housing, a weekly stipend, mileage reimbursement from residence to daily work site, and a uniform allowance will be provided.



FUN FUR: National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Park Ranger Intern Jay Brown presented an educational program on "fun fur" to visitors at the Ten Mile River Access this past July. (Contributed Photo)

To be considered for this position, send a resume and two letters of recommendation to Internship Coordinator Ingrid Peterec. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and early applicants will be given first consideration.

Resumes should be sent to: Upper Delaware S&RR, 274 River Road, Beach Lake, PA 18405, Attn.: Ingrid Peterec.

For further information about the Internship Program, contact the National Park Service at (570) 685-4871. ❖

Upper Delaware Council Leadership Changes Guard

Lackawaxen Township, PA Representative John S. McKay will chair the Upper Delaware Council in 2005.

Fellow officers are Vice-Chairperson Charles Wieland, representing the Town of Tusten, NY, and Secretary-Treasurer John B. Niflot, of the Town of Fremont, NY.

The officers were to be sworn in at the UDC's annual reorganizational meeting on January 6 (after this issue went to press).

McKay succeeds 2004 UDC Chairperson Nadia Rajs, Town of Lumberland, NY.

While this is McKay's first stint as leader of the board, he served as UDC vice-chairperson in 1995, 1999, and 2000.

McKay joined the UDC in late 1988 as an alternate and has been Lackawaxen's voting representative since 1994.

In other recent changes to the board, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appointed Dennis DeMara as its UDC representative in October 2004.

DeMara is the Recreation and Park Supervisor for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Northeast Regional Office, based in Scranton.

He replaces Marian Hrubovcak, who had served as UDC representative for 12 years before retiring from DCNR in June.

Another new face on the Council is Jim Rodgers, who was appointed by the Fremont Town Board in November 2004 as its UDC alternate representative.

The Long Eddy resident replaces Town Supervisor James Greier in that role. ❖

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, call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail udcramie@hvc.rr.com.

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[] Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

Winter Eagle Watch Underway

Bald eagles have arrived for their annual winter "visit" and The Eagle Institute is offering new initiatives to assist the thousands of people who come to see them.

Every winter, more than 150 bald eagles migrate from points north to the Upper Delaware region in search of open water, fish, and undisturbed habitat.

Large stands of trees along the Upper Delaware River and within the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area, managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Sullivan County, NY, offer an abundant food source and a safe haven for the eagles to survive the winter months.

Guided Excursions

New in 2005 are guided eagle excursions every Saturday in January and February, twice a day, and an interactive, web-based message board.

Both programs are being added in response to the growing numbers of people who are seeking information about the eagles and the Institute's goals to provide the "safest and least intrusive" eagle watching experience.

The guided excursions, funded in part with a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, cut down on the numbers of vehicles that visit the eagle watching sites and help address ongoing problems of visitor safety and eagle disturbance.

A trained guide meets participants at the Eagle Institute's winter field office in Lackawaxen, PA every Saturday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. After seeing a short interpretive video, eagle watchers are transported to habitat areas in search of eagles.

Vans fill on a first-come, first-served basis. A donation of \$10 (\$5 for members) per person is suggested. Participants

assist with monitoring and data collection. The guide provides information about eagle etiquette, and about private property and restricted area issues.

Eagle Forum

The message board, Eagle Forum, can be accessed through the Eagle Institute's web page at www.eagleinstitute.org. It offers daily information on eagle sightings, weather and road conditions, habitat conditions, and more.

Anyone with Internet access can read the information posted on the forum. A free registration process is required to report sightings or ask questions.

The message board and web page, funded in part with support from the Sullivan County Visitors Association through the Sullivan County Legislature, enhance the eagle watchers' experience by providing reliable, up-to-date information.

Viewing Locations

Every Saturday and Sunday from January 1 through mid-March, trained volunteers are posted at public viewing areas to assist eagle watchers and answer questions. They have spotting scopes and extra binoculars on hand.

Staffed locations are Lackawaxen, PA and Narrowsburg, NY (both on the Delaware River) and Forestburgh, NY (on the Mongaup Reservoir).

The Eagle Institute's winter field office, provided by the National Park Service and located at the end of the historic Roebling Bridge in Lackawaxen, is open to the public Wednesdays through Fridays from 1-4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in January and February.

Maps, literature, brochures, and an educational video are available.

For more information, phone (845) 557-6162 (NY) or (570) 685-5960 (PA), log on

Bald Eagles on the River

The Upper Delaware River is one of the largest and most important inland bald eagle wintering areas in the eastern United States. Sections of open water, a plentiful supply of fish, and adequate, undisturbed forest for perching and roosting provide the habitat that bald eagles need to survive challenging winter months.

More than 150 bald eagles migrate to the region each year from December in Maine, some from as far away as the Maritime Provinces of Canada. In addition to the large wintering population, an increasing number of breeding pairs nest and raise young along the Upper Delaware River.

Winter Watch
Winter watch is the best time to see bald eagles. They are most active during the day and are easy to see from the shore. They are most active during the day and are easy to see from the shore.

Winter Watch Tips
- Do not feed the eagles.
- Do not approach the eagles.
- Do not make the bird fly.
- Do not make the bird land.
- Do not make the bird nest.
- Do not make the bird roost.

Winter Watch Locations
- Lackawaxen, PA
- Narrowsburg, NY
- Forestburgh, NY

NEW SIGNAGE: Just in time for the winter eagle watch season, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River installed a new wayside exhibit on the Big Eddy observation deck in Narrowsburg, NY which includes this informative panel on bald eagles. (Photo by Bill Douglass)

to www.eagleinstitute.org, or e-mail eagleinstitute@yahoo.com.

Jan. 15 EagleFest

On January 15, The Eagle Institute is participating in the 4th Annual EagleFest with activities from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. throughout Narrowsburg. Call (845) 252-6509 or visit www.narrowsburg.org for a complete schedule of events. ❖

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.

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