

The Upper Delaware

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

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

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list by filling out the coupon
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TRYING HER LUCK: Fran Mainella, director of the U.S. National Park Service, prepares her fishing line as Ken Schultz paddles their kayak upstream of Milanville, PA. With a bit of beginner's luck and advice from Schultz, author of *Sports Fishing Encyclopedia*, Mainella hooked a smallmouth bass on her very first cast. Mainella toured throughout the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley on July 23-24. (Photo by David B. Soete)

National Park Service Director Pays Visit to Upper Delaware

The director of the National Park Service paid an official visit to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on July 23-24, and left impressed by what she saw.

Fran Mainella was appointed in 2001 by President George W. Bush as the 16th director - and the first woman - to head up the National Park Service (NPS).

With more than 30 years' experience in park and recreation management, Mainella was tapped for confirmation while serving as director of the State of Florida's Division of Recreation and Parks.

Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr. (D-22nd District-NY) fond-

ly introduced Mainella at a July 23 partners' meet-and-greet reception in Lackawaxen, PA hosted by the local NPS unit.

Noting how well she handles the "enormous responsibilities" of managing an agency with approximately 20,000 employees, 140,000 volunteers, and 388 units of the National Park System on 84 million acres, Hinchey also praised Mainella for standing her ground when necessary against his fellow members of the House Appropriations Committee and its Department of the Interior Subcommittee.

"Fran Mainella is a woman of enormous courage," he quipped.

"I do have the best job in the federal government," Mainella replied.

One reason for her enthusiasm is the

Please see DIRECTOR on Page 4



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

Upper Delaware Profile: Wayne Elliot

Within certain segments of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Wayne Elliot is also known as "The Dean."

"That's what my younger compatriots call me because I'm currently the longest tenured fisheries manager in the state," Elliot explains.

The moniker is understandable, given that Elliot has been a state employee for 37 years and has held the position of Fisheries Manager for DEC's Region 3, based in New Paltz, for a quarter-century.

The 62-year-old was born and raised on a 150-acre gentlemen's farm in the Berkshires of Massachusetts.

"The rustic setting made it very easy to become fascinated with living things and natural cycles, so when I enrolled in the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, I pursued a curriculum in biology and ecology," Elliot says.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology in 1964 and a Master's degree in Fisheries Biology in 1968.

Fresh out of graduate school, Elliot took a job as a fisheries biologist with the former New York Conservation Department in the Region 4 sub-office in Stamford.

"In the early years, I was one of only two fisheries biologists on staff, so I got to see a lot of the aquatic resource in the northern Catskills and upper Hudson Valley," he says.

As the Region 3 Fisheries Manager since 1980, Elliot heads up a staff of eight biologists and technicians.

Their duties include maintaining and updating a 70-year database on lakes and streams in the Region, developing stocking policies and regulation changes as necessary, acquiring and maintaining fishing easements and access sites, and participating in the regulatory review of projects with potential impacts on the resource.

Elliot carries additional responsibilities as the NYS Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources' liaison for release issues pertaining to the New York City Delaware Watershed Reservoir System.

In that capacity, he helps evolve and monitor release regulations for Pepacton, Cannonsville, and Neversink Reservoirs, and participates in negotiations to develop a discharge permit for diversions from Schoharie Reservoir to Esopus Creek.

Negotiations over the reservoir releases can get passionate and politically charged, but Elliot thrives on the challenge.

"You're dealing with three other states and New York City on a finite resource. Everyone has their own piece of the river that they're legitimately protective of. I'm fascinated by the science. I also really



Wayne Elliot, State of New York

enjoy the fishing community and the other people like me who go out in the field. There's a bond there that's pretty neat," Elliot says.

Although he has been regularly attending the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee since spring 2001, Elliot was officially appointed as the State of New York's alternate representative to the UDC in July 2005.

He welcomes the give-and-take of his committee participation.

"It's a great place to learn of other people's perspectives on the river and the corridor. I try to explain the pertinent things that New York and the DEC may be doing in turn," Elliot says.

"The UDC is pretty unique in that there are two states, multiple counties and towns involved, and it operates as a fairly pure democracy," he adds. "The Council plays a very useful role of working together to try to bring all those different viewpoints and interests to a consensus for the benefit of a resource that everyone really appreciates."

Not surprisingly, Elliot is an avid angler in his spare time.

"My real passion is stream fishing for trout with flies," he says.

Other hobbies are hunting, tennis, and cross-country skiing.

Elliot resides with his wife, Judy, a music teacher, and their 23-year-old daughter, Kate, a psychology student at Dutchess County Community College, in Gardiner.

Elliot is a member of the American Fisheries Society and recently authored an article on reservoir releases in "Clearwaters", the magazine of the New York Water Environment Association. ❖

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UDC Meets With NYS Assembly's Environmental Committee Chair

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) briefed the chairperson of the New York State Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation on issues pertaining to the Upper Delaware River Valley in an August 30 meeting arranged by Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (98th District).

Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli (16th District) has represented northwestern Nassau County in the Assembly since 1986. He also co-chairs the Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of New York State and Long Island.

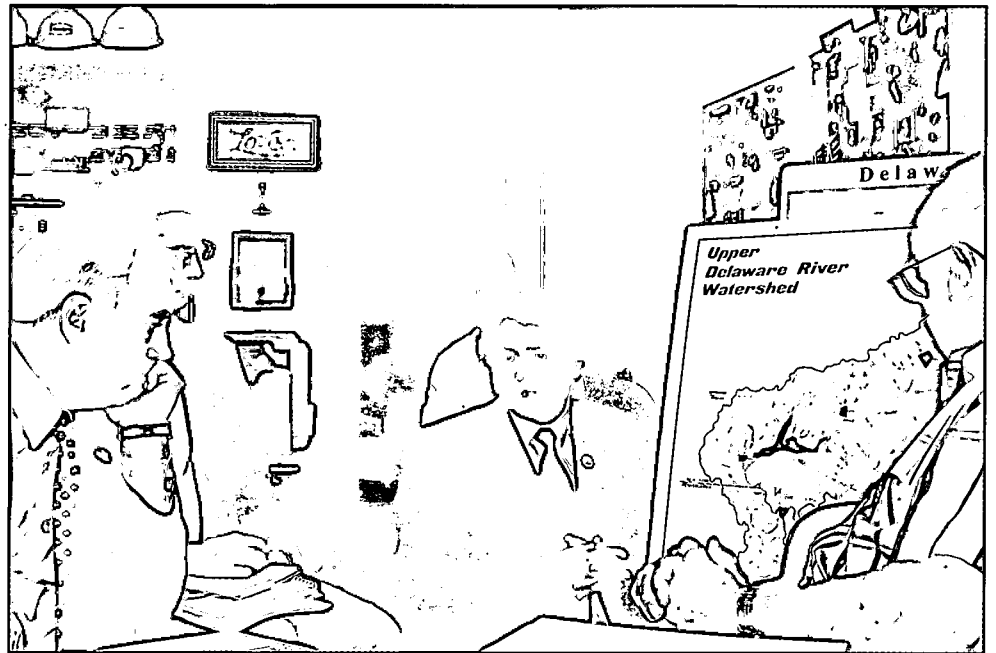
Attending on behalf of the UDC were Executive Director Bill Douglass and Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie; Town Representatives Lew Schmalzle (Highland), Phil Chase (Deerpark), and Larry Richardson (Cochecton); Delaware River Basin Commission Representative Carol Collier; and State of New York Alternate Representative Wayne Elliot.

"The UDC is all about partnering," Douglass told DiNapoli. "We're here to help protect the entire Delaware River Basin. Everything flows downhill, so what we do in the Upper Delaware affects everything below."

Douglass said that the UDC's most immediate water concerns pertain to the management of flows from New York City Reservoir System, protection of the fishery, and balancing the diverse needs of various river-related constituencies.

"The releases from the reservoirs are absolutely critical, not only to the resource but also to the economy," Elliot agreed. "Our goal is to keep conditions more consistent."

Collier said that the time has come for a thorough review of the four-state Delaware River Basin's entire management regime,



WATERSHED EDUCATION: Thomas P. DiNapoli, far left, chairperson of the NYS Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation, listens to a presentation by the Upper Delaware Council at an Aug. 30 meeting in Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther's Monticello District Office. Pictured to the right of Assemblyman DiNapoli are Alex Roth, a NYS Assembly Program staff member, UDC Town of Cochecton Representative Larry H. Richardson, Executive Director Bill Douglass, and Town of Deerpark Representative Phil Chase. (Photo by Laurie Ramie)

taking projected usage demands and other factors into consideration.

The Council also discussed Gunther's legislation to create an Upper Delaware River Greenway. Her bill was awaiting action by the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee at press time.

DiNapoli said the UDC's hour-long presentation addressed vital subject matter.

"Without the water resources being protected, in terms of quantity and quality, all the other underpinnings in the community fall apart," he said. "My main thought is,

keep up what you're doing. You already seem to take a regional approach. You also have an outstanding ambassador in Assemblywoman Gunther."

DiNapoli had accepted Gunther's invitation to tour sites in the Sullivan-Orange County area and meet directly with various organizations and officials.

Since time did not permit a visit to the Upper Delaware River, Laurie Stuart from the Upper Delaware Visioning Committee offered a virtual tour of the river valley to kick off the August 30 meeting. ❖

Interstate Bridge Commission Plans Work

Replacement of the 1941 Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA Bridge, at a cost expected to top \$11 million, is running behind schedule due to a modification of the original design and flooding events last fall and this spring that washed out the coffer dam, swept machinery downriver, and resulted in unexpected work stoppages.

Construction of the four-span, steel beam bridge got underway in February 2004 and should now be completed sometime in 2007, rather than the original target of August 2006, according to the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission.

The Commission held its annual meeting on June 28 at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Region 4 headquarters in Dunmore, PA to review plans for capital improvements and maintenance of the 10 crossings over the upper Delaware River.

One day later, a public meeting took place to discuss alternatives

for the single-lane, 1904 Pond Eddy Bridge that is currently posted at an eight-ton weight limit and therefore restricts large vehicles from the only access available to the 26 private homes and State and Forest Game Lands property located on the PA side.

Engineering consultants recommend building a new, two-lane, four-span, concrete bridge at an estimated cost of \$6.16 million.

Rehabilitating the existing bridge would result in comparatively higher construction and maintenance costs, a significantly reduced life expectancy, an inability to raise the load capacity to a standard weight limit, and the necessity to alter the bridge's historic design appearance, according to the Hatch Mott MacDonald study.

The Federal Highway Administration has assumed control of the Pond Eddy Bridge project due to the historic preservation concerns. Future public meetings will be scheduled. ❖

opportunity to visit beautiful and unique places like the Upper Delaware, she noted.

Made the Rounds

Mainella's Upper Delaware itinerary included visits to local NPS properties including the Zane Grey Museum, Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct, the Barryville and Milanville Offices, and the Narrowsburg Information Center, as well as the proposed Town of Lumberland, NY location for a future UDS&RR visitors' center.

While in Narrowsburg on July 24, Mainella stopped by the Upper Delaware Council office to learn more about the UDC's activities and made the rounds at the popular RiverFest street fair.

Mainella particularly enjoyed a chance to paddle and fish on the Upper Delaware River in a three-mile float from Damascus, PA to Skinners Falls, NY. Lander's River Trips provided livery services.

All About Partners

Mainella said it was clear to her that a 73.4-mile, linear unit of the National Park System which encompasses five counties and multiple local governments in New York and Pennsylvania could not exist without supportive collaboration.

"The Upper Delaware is the joining area, not the separation area, between the states," she said.

"As many of you know, I am a committed believer in the value of effective partnerships. The Upper Delaware demonstrates how we can achieve more working together than we could possibly do alone. The message we must continue to send is that we MUST join hands and reach beyond



MEETING PARTNERS: National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, center, greets George J. Fluhr, left, the Shohola Township Supervisor, Pike County Historian, and Upper Delaware Council charter member, while accompanied by Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Dave Forney, right, during the reception held in her honor July 23 at The Inn at Lackawaxen. The text of Fluhr's remarks appears on Page 5. (Photos by David B. Soete)

our boundaries to make sure that these units are going to go on for generations," Mainella urged.

National Safety Award

The July 23 reception also featured two special presentations.

Michael Reuber, NPS Upper Delaware's Chief of Resource Management, received the 2004 Andrew Clark Hecht Public Safety Achievement Award for coordinating the local National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP)

program for the past 26 years.

This national memorial award recognizes Reuber's work in developing training standards, operational procedures, and volunteer requirements for the NCSP chapter, as well as arranging the deployment of its members to assist boaters in need.

"His efforts have contributed significantly to reduce river drowning. Mike worked professionally with enthusiasm and attention to detail to provide the public with a premier educational and technical rescue organization, an operational necessity for the Upper Delaware," Mainella commented.

Zane Grey Campaign

Ten-year-old Elizabeth Nicholson turned over a \$1,000 check from her fundraising campaign to help NPS Upper Delaware to replace the deteriorated roof of the 1912, two-room summer kitchen that is located behind the Zane Grey Museum.

Zane Grey's West Society matched the donation. Member Henry Nardi also announced a petition drive to request the issuance of a U.S. postage stamp in 2010 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of Zane Grey's first commercially successful novel, "Heritage of the Desert." (See www.zanegreysws.org).

Mainella's Upper Delaware tour was bookended by visits to the NPS Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton for its 10th anniversary festivities on July 22-23, and to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area on July 25, where she participated in the 16th Annual On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup sponsored by Kittatinny Canoes. ❖



'ADMIRAL' HINCHEY: Sandra Schultz, center, assistant superintendent of NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and co-chair of the 2005 Delaware River Sojourn, and National Canoe Safety Patrol Past Commodore Dick Rhodes, left, present Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr., right, with a hat and certificate proclaiming him Lord High Admiral for the Upper Delaware section of the Sojourn that took place June 19-20. A conflict had prevented Rep. Hinchey from receiving his official salute then, but the reception guests happily obliged.

What's Special About This Place?

Address delivered by George J. Fluhr at the July 23, 2005 reception for National Park Service Director Fran Mainella

What's special about this place?

We are in the Upper Delaware Corridor. And the history of the counties, towns and townships that are part of this corridor is extensive.

More than a dozen American presidents have ties to the area. Glassware from White Mills in Wayne County has graced the tables of several of our presidents. Lincoln's blood stains the American flag at the Historical Society in Milford. Famous writers have lived and worked here. Among them are Zane Grey, Stephen Crane, Ned Buntline, and Charles Saunders Peirce.

Grey Towers near Milford is the birthplace of the American conservation movement. Honesdale is the birthplace of the American Railroad.

Here, Dan Beard founded a Boy Scout Camp, Horace Greeley started a commune, and an Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution is buried.

Here, John Roebling studied river currents and designed three Delaware River bridges, before he constructed the Brooklyn Bridge.

Here, movies were made, beer was brewed, and stone was quarried for the sidewalks of New York.

The discoverer of the North Pole, was it Cooke or Peary? Both have ties to this region. And local archeological finds date back over 4,000 years.

The centerpiece of it all is the Delaware River. It was first traversed by canoes, then plied by Durham boats carrying supplies, then ridden by lumber rafters.

In the 19th century, the river was bounded on one side by the Delaware and Hudson Canal running from Honesdale to the Hudson River and on the other by the Erie Railroad. Thus, down the river valley, was transported the lumber and coal which built the cities of America.

Two hundred years ago, the land along the Upper Delaware had just emerged from a generation suffering through the French & Indian War, the Pennsylvania-Connecticut War, the New York-New Jersey War and the American Revolution. By 1800 there were Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans from a dozen countries living along the river.

One hundred years ago, a brochure read, "The famous one hundred miles of beauty from Port Jervis to Deposit is of special interest to summer home-seekers, for several reasons: The healthful atmosphere, the pure water, the calm of the lovely valley, the gentle music of the flowing river, the inspiration of the overhanging hills, the unspeakable change of it all from the conditions of city life, appeal to thousands; while, for those who for fishing, boating and canoeing are particularly partial to the neighborhood of a river, there

are many points which are ideal."

And tens of thousands of New Yorkers came here to vacation.

The river was crossed in a dozen places by ferries, then bridges, and of course is now followed by a Scenic Byway Route 97. The Delaware River, with the canal and railroad, became the lifeblood of not only this area but of industrial United States of the 19th century.

For generations the Upper Delaware has been loved, appreciated, and taken care of by those who have lived along it.

We began by asking what is special about this place. In addition to the history, the beauty of the mountains, the purity of the water, the fish, the eagles, the deer and the bears, there is another very special thing about this valley.

It is special because many people, over many years, found a special way that the governments - federal, state, and local - could work together with property owners and citizen groups to preserve the river and the land along it.

The people of the Upper Delaware have long had a tradition of being protective of private property rights. A family that has held land a long time has a special relationship to that land. Indeed, not only hunters and fishermen, but also those who would hike in the woods, or explore historic or scenic spots, are still well advised to first ask permission of the property owner.

In 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act frightened many local people into thinking that the river valley would be condemned and confiscated. The wake of the extensive confiscation on the Middle Delaware for the Tocks Island project had left a powerful emotional legacy of fear of the Park Service.

The 1978 designation of the Upper Delaware as a National Scenic and Recreational River was seen as the first step in a federal land grab on the Upper Delaware.

But, at the same time, many residents and local government officials were concerned about the intense unpoliced use of the river by canoeists, as well as the long-range potential for construction of dams and environmentally objectionable industry along the banks.

The question was asked, Would it be possible to protect the Upper Delaware without confiscation?

The NPS Carroll Report clearly summarized the situation, saying that the federal presence was the subject of prolonged and highly publicized conflict which came eventually to pit a segment of valley residents against the NPS, their Congressional representatives, as well as some of their own political leaders and neighbors.

Then the people of the Upper Delaware found a better way, a way that would make this area very special in the annals of government.

The Upper Delaware became a National

We need only look at the logo of the Upper Delaware Council, which bears the words, Partnership: Land, Water, People.

Scenic and Recreational River, but the land along it did not become a national park. Rather, a unique cooperative management arrangement was made.

The Upper Delaware Council, whose members include the governments and agencies which have responsibilities in the corridor, was set up as a partnership for the protection of the river, the corridor land that affects it, and the rights of the local property owners.

The continuation of the private ownership of land was guaranteed by special statutory provisions, which specifically limit the amount of land that may be acquired by the federal government.

On the Middle Delaware, the river has been protected by creating a national park, but on the Upper Delaware, not a park, but a component of the National Park System, was created. Rangers were to have jurisdiction on the river surface, not on the private land. This distinction became critically important a few years ago when a proposal to merge the Upper and Middle Delaware administrations almost reignited old animosities.

The results of the partnership have been impressive.

Work of the Park Service in cooperation with private enterprise and citizen groups made the river safer. Funding to local governments made trash collection and police patrols possible.

Through the Upper Delaware Council, grants became available for local governments to develop special zoning ordinances. Historical research, pamphlets, and river user guides were also funded. Boat launch areas and Eagle Watch areas were identified.

Most importantly, the Upper Delaware Council provided review and recommendations regarding proposed developments and commercial ventures that might impact the river.

And very significantly, the Roebling Bridge - closed to vehicular traffic for 10 years, a topic which had been raised in almost every public meeting during those years - was reconstructed and reopened by the Park Service.

In 1989, Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall, speaking to the Upper Delaware Council in Matamoras, validated the process, saying, "This is important work that you are doing. I commend you for it, and I'm glad to be here. I suspect that what you are working on is a story that at some point the whole nation needs to hear and to understand."

The re-opening of the Roebling Aqueduct Bridge, in 1986, began the rehabilitation of

*Please see SPECIAL on Page 7
The Upper Delaware*

UDC Highlights Quarterly Activities

Upper Delaware Council activity highlights from mid-June to mid-September 2005, not covered elsewhere, include:

RAFTING RESULTS

The Upper Delaware Council's 17th Annual Family Raft Trip on Aug. 7 attracted 151 guests, including 27 children under 12, to float the river from Barryville to Pond Eddy. Kittatinny Canoes was the host livery. The Orange-Sullivan County Chapter of the American Red Cross distributed water safety information and bottled water.

FISHERY PROTECTION

In an effort to protect the Upper Delaware River's coldwater fishery during persistent hot and dry weather, the UDC sent Aug. 4 letters asking New York State and Pennsylvania to consider enacting a special regulation to prohibit anglers from fishing for thermally-stressed trout between Hancock and Callicoon when these extreme summer conditions exist.

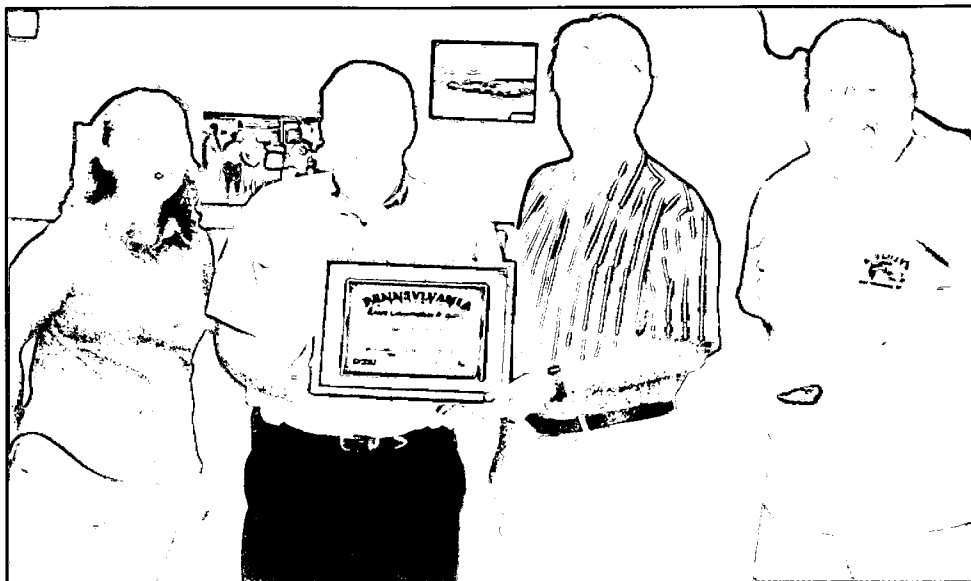
The UDC also issued a news release encouraging anglers to voluntarily refrain from fishing for coldwater species until those conditions improved.

While NYS has an experimental program in place to direct coldwater releases from the upstream New York City reservoirs to address warm water temperatures, the established thermal targets on the Main Stem of the Delaware River were abandoned after about one-third of the release allocation was depleted by June 10.

BRIDGE SUPPORT

The UDC affirmed its support for construction of a new bridge in Pond Eddy following a June 29 Consulting Parties public meeting to review alternatives.

Its Aug. 4 correspondence also requests the Federal Highway Administration and



RIVERS REGISTRY: Dennis DeMara, Northeast Regional Recreation and Park Supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), presented a certificate to the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. on August 4 recognizing the successful nomination of the Pike County portion of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Watershed to the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry. Pictured from the left are Nelia Wall, Shohola Township UDC alternate; DeMara; John McKay, 2005 UDC chairperson and Lackawaxen Township representative; and Alan Bowers, Westfall Township representative. Registry status, officially approved on March 15, 2003, opens up additional avenues of financial and technical assistance for the Pike County townships. (Photo by David B. Soete)

state Departments of Transportation to convene quarterly meetings to keep the community aware of the project's status.

LEARN AND SHARE

Some meetings and events in which the UDC participated this quarter included:

-- July 12 and July 21, respectively, UDC Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee meetings with NYS Senator John J. Bonacic (42nd District) in New Paltz and with NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (98th District) in Monticello

-- July 19, Presentation from the Alliance to Keep Pike Green at the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee. See www.keeppikegreen.org for details.

-- July 19, D&H Transportation Heritage Council quarterly meeting in Kingston, NY

-- July 24, UDC booth at the 15th Annual RiverFest, a music, art and environmental festival, in Narrowsburg, NY

-- July 28, Reservoir Release Program informational session for Decree parties and environmental organizations, hosted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, in Hawley, PA

-- Aug. 9, 5th Annual Day on the Delaware forum, sponsored by the Delaware River Foundation, at Hale Eddy, NY

-- Aug. 11, Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee meeting, for development of the PA State Water Plan, in Hawley

SCENIC BYWAY

The Federal Transportation Bill signed by President Bush on Aug. 10 includes a \$600,000 earmark, as secured by Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr., to design and construct an Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center at the Cohecton Station historic Erie Depot site in Cohecton, NY. The federal funding is an 80% project match.

Work will also begin shortly on local improvement projects along Rt. 97 made possible by a \$60,000 Legislative Member Item from Senator John J. Bonacic. ❖

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct. 18 - "Save our Land, Save our Towns", 7-9 p.m. program at the PPL Environmental Learning Center, Rt. 6, Lake Wallenpaupack, PA. Tom Hylton, author of the book by the same name, will speak on actions communities can take to protect their rural character and quality of life. The program is co-sponsored by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Lackawaxen River Conservancy, and Pike County Conservation District. To register, call (570) 226-8220 or e-mail pikedc@ptd.net.

Oct. 27 - "Understanding Local Government in PA", 7-9 p.m. program at the Delaware Township Building, Dingmans Ferry, PA. Peter Wulfhorst of Penn State Cooperative Extension and local planning consultant Carson Helfrich will explain local government structure, and how planning commissions and governing boards function in PA. Part of the Pike Conservation Workshop Series. See registration information above.

Dec. 3 - 8th Annual Eagle Watch Volunteer Orientation and Training, 10 a.m. at The Eagle Institute's Lackawaxen, PA Field Office. Mandatory for participation. Call (845) 557-6162 or (570) 685-5960, or visit www.eagleinstitute.org for more information.

Jan. 14 - 5th Annual EagleFest in New York's Eagle Capital, Narrowsburg, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at various hamlet locations. Assisted eagle viewing, lectures, live raptor demonstrations, children's activities, eagle poster auction, artwork, and exhibits. Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Eagle Alliance and the Narrowsburg EagleFest Committee. Call (845) 252-6509 or visit www.narrowsburg.org for the 2006 program itinerary.



11th ANNUAL SOJOURN: From June 19-25, participants in the 2005 Delaware River Sojourn paddled some or all of 80 non-contiguous miles of the Delaware and its tributaries in three states. Pictured above, Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Carol Collier helped orient the 77 Day 1 Sojourners as they prepared to launch their canoes and kayaks from Fishs Eddy to Hancock. "This is all about getting folks on the river," she said. Day 2 attracted 62 paddlers for the trip from Hancock to Lordville, including, at right, 7-year-old Sarah Rudge of Oliverea, NY. This year's theme was "Introducing the Delaware River Water Trail" to raise awareness about the effort underway to develop a recreational waterway on the 220 non-tidal miles between Hancock, NY and Trenton, NJ, complete with a trail guide, interactive web site, updated river recreation maps, and a stewardship plan. (Photos by Laurie Ramie)



Track Floods Online

The Delaware River Basin Commission has improved its Flood Information Web Page thanks to a Flood Hazard Education and Outreach Grant from the New Jersey Emergency Management Office.

The complete web page address is:
http://www.nj.gov/drbc/Flood_Website/floodinf.htm.

Available is flood potential data for specific geographic areas of the Delaware River Basin, river rise forecasting through the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, weather emergency tips, helpful links, and even "kid-friendly" content. ❖

SPECIAL, continued from Page 5

the National Park Service's image along the Upper Delaware.

Just as the area was blessed with so many people who put in the difficult, long hours that went into developing the Management Plan, so also the area has been blessed with Park Service superintendents and their staffs who appreciated the uniqueness of the management plan.

The plan has worked now for almost 20 years.

Today a booming real estate market and the feasibility of building in areas once considered unbuildable have made intense development attractive in some parts of the corridor. But townships and towns are moving to strengthen zoning to further protect the land along the river. And new individual landowner preservationists have appeared. Conservancies are purchasing development rights - a process which, if adequately funded, will be extremely important to the future of the river.

What is special about this place? We need only look at the logo of the Upper Delaware Council which bears the words, Partnership: Land, Water, People.

The Roebling Bridge, built in 1848 as a compromise between rafters and canalers, and rebuilt by the Park Service in 1986, stands as a symbol of the compromises between the people of the valley and their government to preserve the land, the water, and a people's way of life.

In so many ways, the Upper Delaware continues to be a very special place. ❖

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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UDC Awards Five Technical Grants

The Upper Delaware Council has awarded \$16,300 in Technical Assistance Grants for five projects that will address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The latest grant round brings the cumulative amount to \$559,292 that the UDC has given to its member municipalities since 1988. In all, 158 projects have been funded through the Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program.

2005 Recipients

Town of Lumberland, NY - \$4,300 to create a local history syllabus with text and imagery that will be offered to Eldred Central School grades 5-8 teachers as a learning tool to educate students about Lumberland's rich heritage. Lumberland Town Historian Frank V. Schwarz will direct the project.

Lackawaxen Township, PA - \$4,000 to help formulate a new comprehensive plan that will provide a vision and blueprint for future growth of the township, replacing the 1975 plan that was last amended in 1995. The township plans to contract with Chazen Engineering & Land Surveying Co., P.C., based in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Town of Tusten, NY - \$4,000 to review and update as needed the town's 1998 comprehensive plan; its zoning, land use, and floodplain laws; and to publish any new ordinances that result from this project. A citizens' advisory council will work with representatives of the town, its planning and zoning boards, and the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development on the update.

Shohola Township, PA - \$2,000 to develop a well siting and construction ordinance, including wellhead protection standards. The township will contract with Carson Helfrich of Community Planning and Management, LLC, based in Paupack, PA, as its project consultant.

Town of Fremont, NY - \$2,000 to produce a town-wide soil limitations mapping project to assist the planning and zoning boards in their decisions on various development proposals. The town will contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation Service.

For information on the TAG program, contact David B. Soete at (845) 252-3022 or udcsoete@hvc.rr.com. ❖



GREY DAYS: Paige Reuber of Narrowsburg, a seasonal ranger with the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, was among a group of period-costumed ladies to play a rousing game of croquet on the lawn of the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA during Zane Grey Days on July 16-17. Waiting for their turns are Sally Talaga, director of the Wayne County Historical Society, and Sandra Schultz, assistant superintendent of NPS Upper Delaware. Other activities to celebrate the 1872-1939 life of "The Father of the Western Novel" included lectures, movies based on Grey's books, a walking tour of the Grey property, an appearance by Cowboy Dentist Dr. Stephen Miller, children's crafts and games, exhibitors, and refreshments. (Photo by Ingrid Peterec, NPS)

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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