

The Upper Delaware

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

Volume 19 Number 3

Published by the Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

Fall 2006



In This Issue...

Flooding Takes a Toll ... Again
Pages 1, 5 and 8

Upper Delaware Profile:
Robert Burrow, Town of Highland
Page 2

Sparks Fly Over Power Line
Page 3

**Work Plans Revealed for
Upper Delaware Bridges**
Page 4

PPL Generates Hydropower
Page 5

**Dredging Concerns Raised;
UDC Awards Technical Grants**
Page 6

**NY Towns Complete Projects;
Sojourn Looks Ahead to 2007**
Page 7

River Heritage Trail Guide Out
Page 8

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

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



DELUGED: As viewed from the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge, Lander's Skinners Falls Campground was surrounded by water when the Delaware River overflowed its banks on June 27-28. Record crests were documented at several gaging stations during this third major flood to hit the Delaware River Basin in less than two years. (Photos courtesy of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River)

Solutions Sought to Lessen Flood Vulnerability & Impacts

Even when natural conditions conspire to cause floods, human solutions are available to help mitigate the severity of future flooding impacts.

Three major Delaware River floods in September 2004, April 2005, and June 2006 shattered the calm of a nearly 50-year period without any widespread main stem flooding, causing millions of dollars in damages and taking a psychological toll on those affected by the repeat emergencies.

Weather events in the form of Hurricane Ivan, snow melt runoff, and a prolonged, heavy rainfall bore the brunt of responsibility in each respective case.

While these natural causes can't be prevented, an exploration of ways to minimize the Delaware River Basin's vulnerability to floods is underway.

The most recent flood occurred when a

low-pressure storm system stalled over the East Coast from June 24-28, dumping 6-15 inches of rain in the Schuylkill, Lehigh and upper Delaware River watersheds.

The intense rainfall saturated the ground, raised the bank levels, triggered flash flood warnings, and set the stage for high runoff potential with any further precipitation.

When another 2-6 inches of rain came on June 27-28, major flood crests resulted in local emergency declarations, evacuations, and closures of roads and bridges.

The Delaware River at Callicoon crested well above its 12-foot flood stage to 20.37 feet at 5:15 p.m. on June 28, 2.57 feet above the previous record set during the April 2005 flood. The flow rate at Callicoon measured 141,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), compared to the historic daily median

Please see FLOODS on Page 5

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

Upper Delaware Profile: Robert Burrow

From joining the Peace Corps in the 1960s to serving his community on both the town board and school board today, Robert Burrow commits to his convictions.

The retired teacher has been a member of the Eldred Central School Board since 1998, a Town of Highland councilman since 2001, and the town's second alternate representative to the Upper Delaware Council and alternate to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. since 2005.

The 62-year-old Barryville resident also spearheaded a number of successful beautification projects throughout the town as president for the first five years of Highland Renaissance, a committee of which he remains an active member.

All of that community involvement pays off for Burrow.

"After having been here almost 40 years now, I know a great majority of the people in the Town of Highland and it's good to be able to say that," he reflects.

Burrow grew up in the Orange County Village of Highland Mills. After graduating from Monroe-Woodbury High School in 1962, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Industrial Design from Alfred University in 1966.

Inspired by the legacy of President John F. Kennedy, Burrow decided to enter the Peace Corps. It was a move that two of his three brothers also opted to make.

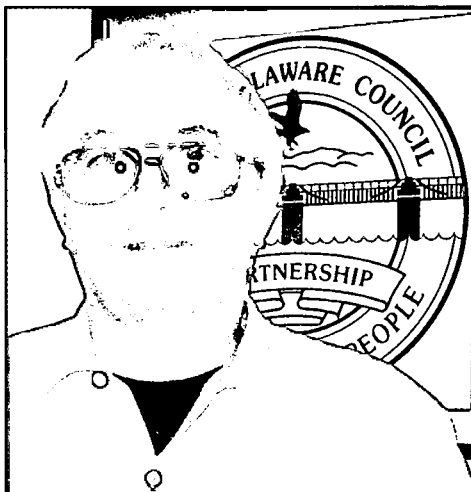
After an intensive training program in Ohio and Mexico, Burrow was assigned to serve in Ecuador. He lived with a local family for two years, fully immersing himself in the Spanish language that he learned for his post and in the Latin American culture.

Burrow initially focused on helping artisans to market their hand-crafted goods but found his true calling in an orphanage teaching children before his tour of duty ended in February of 1969.

While he faced times of danger and frustration in Ecuador, Burrow is forever grateful for the experience.

"It changed my life. It's the best thing that ever happened to me because it kicked me into public service and education," he says.

Burrow returned to the States to accept a job at Eldred Central School. It turned into



Robert Burrow, Town of Highland, NY

a 28-year career for Burrow in which he earned college credits during nights, weekends, and summers while variously teaching 5th and 6th grades, high school biology, and science disciplines full-time.

He had also found his home in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

"I remember the first time I drove up Route 97 for my teaching job. I was astounded by the beauty of it and still am. I like the smallness of the communities. I hope we can control that somewhat to keep that rural aspect. If not, we lose the value of the river valley," Burrow says.

"At the same time, you have to respect individual rights and there is a place for proper growth and development," he adds.

Burrow believes that the UDC has greatly assisted local governments on that front.

"It helps us to stay organized and keep up-to-date on issues. We need everyone's help and input, from the federal government to the local landowners," he says.

When he's not doing research or attending meetings on behalf of the town, school district and Highland Renaissance, or getting together with family, the unmarried Burrow enjoys woodworking and carpentry.

He has restored a 1956 vintage, wooden cabin cruiser that he moors in Clayton, NY. Burrow makes as many one-week trips upstate as possible in season to take it out on the St. Lawrence River and relax. ❖

President Nominates Bomar to Direct NPS

President Bush has nominated Mary A. Bomar of Philadelphia to replace Fran Mainella as director of the National Park Service (NPS).

Bomar had been serving as regional director of the Park Service's 13-state Northeast Region since July 21, 2005. In that capacity, she also served as NPS Representative to the Upper Delaware Council (UDC).

Mainella resigned in July of 2006 from the U.S. Department of the Interior post that she held since 2001. Her official visit to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on July 23-24, 2005 was featured in the UDC's Fall 2005 newsletter.

At press time, Bomar's presidential appointment awaited Senate confirmation. ❖

Upper Delaware Council, Inc.

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

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

2006 Officers

Chairperson.....Charles Wieland
Vice-Chairperson.....Alan Bowers
Secretary/Treasurer.....John B. Niflot

New York Town Representatives

Hancock.....F. Gerald Mackin
Fremont.....John B. Niflot
Delaware.....Jim Rodgers, Alternate
Harold G. Roeder, Jr.
Eric J. Nystrom, Alternate
Cochecton.....Larry H. Richardson
John A. Reggero, Alternate
Tusten.....Charles Wieland
Ben Johnson, Alternate
Highland.....Lewis J. Schmalzle
Stephen Barnes, 1st Alternate
Robert Burrow, 2nd Alternate
Lumberland.....Nadia Rajsz
John LiGreci, Alternate
Deerpark.....Philip D. Chase
Melvin Decker, Alternate

Pennsylvania Township Representatives

Lackawaxen.....John S. McKay
Brian Stuart, Alternate
Shohola.....Nelia Wall
George J. Fluhr, Alternate
Westfall.....Alan Bowers
George R. Jerus, Alternate

State & Regional Members

New York.....William J. Rudge, DEC
Pennsylvania.....Dennis DeMara, DCNR
Del. River Basin Commission.....Carol Collier

Partner

National Park Service.....Vacant
David C. Forney, UDS& RR, Alternate

Staff

Executive Director.....William E. Douglass
udcdouglass@hvc.rr.com
Senior Resource Specialist.....David B. Soete
udcsoete@hvc.rr.com
Public Relations/Newsletter.....Laurie Ramie
udcramie@hvc.rr.com
Office Manager.....Carol Coney
udcconey@hvc.rr.com

Printing Services: Courier Printing Corp., 24
Laurel Bank Ave., Deposit, New York 13754



Printed in the USA on recycled paper.
Copyright 2006, Upper Delaware Council

Power Line Battle Continues

It's back to the drawing board for New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI) after the New York State Public Service Commission rejected the company's original power line application as "deficient."

NYRI proposes to construct a High Voltage Direct Current electric transmission line approximately 190 miles between Marcy and Rock Tavern. Both the nominated route (generally adjacent to the Millennium Gas Pipeline) and the alternate route (on railroad rights-of-way in NY and PA) would cross through the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

The PSC ruled on July 26 that NYRI's Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need application, filed on May 31, did not meet the requirements to proceed with state review as submitted.

Ten deficiencies were identified in the categories of: service of the application on impacted municipalities; location of facilities, pertaining to maps; alternative routes; environmental impact pertaining to existing land use; design drawings; and engineering justification.

In a July 18 letter to the PSC, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) expressed numerous concerns with the scope and content of NYRI's application as well.

"Given the magnitude and complexity of the project and the significant deficiencies in the current application, DEC respectfully suggests that the Commission direct NYRI to engage in an application scoping process with regulatory agencies, local governments and members of the public to identify the relevant issues and necessary studies and evaluations to be completed and included in a resubmitted application," wrote the DEC's Transmission Projects Supervisor John J. Ferguson.

The \$1.62 billion project developer's

motion with PSC to waive six statutory requirements to provide certain specific information either entirely or until after a Certificate is issued also raised objections.

Communities Against Regional Interconnect (CARI) - an association representing eight New York counties and four non-profit organizations including the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) - pointed out in Aug. 14 comments to PSC by their law firm that "the waivers NYRI seeks would place the Commission in the untenable position of determining the environmental compatibility of the project without knowing where the facilities will be located, what they will look like, or what impact they will have."

The UDC addressed impacts at a public hearing on NYRI convened Aug. 17 by the NYS Assembly's Standing Committee on Energy in Ferndale (Sullivan County).

"The Upper Delaware Council strongly believes that this project not only violates the objectives of the River Management Plan and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, but it also jeopardizes our local economy through a potential loss of property values and tourism industry revenues. A line of overhead transmission towers would dramatically and permanently scar the natural, scenic quality that makes the Upper Delaware Valley so special to residents and visitors," UDC Executive Director William E. Douglass testified before Assembly Members Aileen Gunther (98th District), Ann Rabbit (97th District) and Energy Committee Chair Paul Tonko (105th District).

Representatives of NYRI, the PSC, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), Sullivan and Orange Counties and local governments, three Upper Delaware Valley conservation organizations, two anti-NYRI citizen groups, and Congressman Maurice Hinchey (NY-22nd District) also testified at the Aug. 17 hearing. A transcript will be made available.

On Aug. 30, Senator John J. Bonacic (42nd District) held a press conference in Monticello to announce that the Senate will make up to \$1 million available to expand a "legal offense fund" he launched against NYRI in May. The NYS Association of Counties will administer the funds, which come from discretionary monies included as part of the 2006-07 State budget.

"NYRI is about one thing - cheaper power for New York City and more expensive power and blight for upstate. Our region must stand together and tell NYRI, 'We don't want you anywhere, and we will fight you until the end'," said Bonacic.

In other recent, related developments:



FINANCING FIGHT: Senator John J. Bonacic announced on Aug. 30 that the New York State Senate will commit up to \$1 million to aid in the legal battle against the New York Regional Interconnection (NYRI) proposal. Bottom photo: Protest sign at a May 18 public meeting on NYRI in Callicoon. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie, top, and David B. Soete, left)

-The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released its National Electric Transmission Congestion Study on Aug. 8 which classifies the Atlantic coast area from metropolitan New York southward through Northern Virginia as one of two Critical Congestion Areas in the country. DOE sought public comments by Oct. 10 on its proposal to designate corridors where transmission facilities could be placed, under federal review, to alleviate congestion problems.

-NYISO issued a Comprehensive Reliability Report on Aug. 23 stating that there are feasible ways to supply the downstate metropolitan electrical markets for the next decade without having to resort to large-scale transmission projects like NYRI. Among these are building power plants in proximity to where electricity is needed.

-Legislation aimed at prohibiting NYRI, Inc. from exercising the right of eminent domain it currently possesses through its filing as a transportation corporation in New York State passed in the Senate and Assembly in June, and awaits action by the governor. Congresswoman Sue Kelly (NY-19th District) introduced a bill in Congress to limit the use of eminent domain under any National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designations. ❖



Work Plans Revealed for Upper Delaware Bridges

With the exception of the Kellams, NY-Stalker, PA Bridge, the 10 Upper Delaware River crossings maintained by the New York State and Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation (DOT) appeared to ably withstand the late June flooding conditions.

The Kellams-Stalker Bridge, built in 1890 and rehabilitated in 1990, remains closed indefinitely while the DOT works on developing a repair plan.

When inspection crews were safely able to get equipment into the receded river on July 21, they discovered that the force of flood-borne debris striking the bridge's beams caused the north side suspension cables to rotate 15 degrees, thereby compromising the truss supports in the middle of the structure and weakening the deck.

The closure has necessitated the establishment of a long detour route between the Town of Fremont, NY and Manchester Township, PA.

At the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission's annual meeting held July 20 in Binghamton and attended by UDC staff, additional updates were provided.

The \$11.34 million construction of a replacement Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA Bridge which began in February of 2004 is on track for completion in October 2006, with total site completion coming in 2007.

Once traffic can be switched over to the new, four-span steel beam bridge that features pedestrian overlooks and a faux bluestone finish, the original 1941 structure will be demolished.

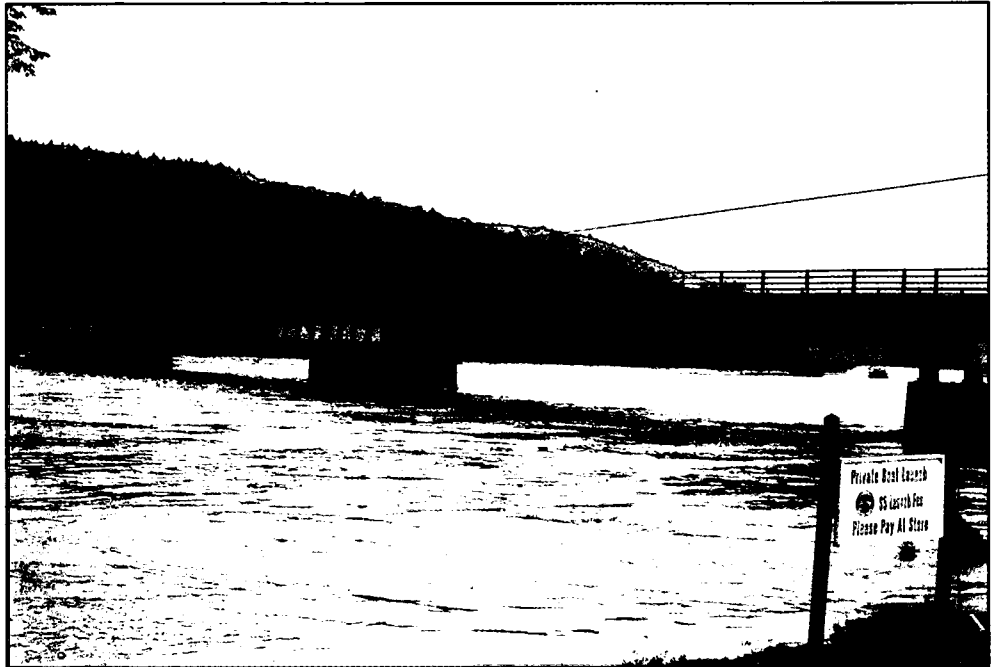
UDC Raft Trip Popular

The 18th Annual Family Raft Trip sponsored by the Upper Delaware Council on August 6 attracted 163 participants, fulfilling the UDC's goal of promoting awareness and stewardship of the river through direct contact with the recreational resource.

The large turnout included 126 adults and teens, and 37 children age 12 and under. Rafter's floated a 10-mile stretch between Skinners Falls and Ten Mile River featuring a variety of rapids.

Lander's River Trips was the host livery.

Next year's UDC raft trip is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, and will highlight a different section of the river. Watch the newsletter for details! ❖



COMING DOWN?: The 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge, seen here before the river finally crested at 20.37 feet on June 28, is being investigated by the New York State Department of Transportation for possible replacement in 2009. At a public information meeting held September 12 in Hortonville, engineers reported that they are currently analyzing rehabilitation or replacement alternatives due to concerns over repeated deficiencies observed during bridge inspections, such as corroded steel bearings, rusted plates, and spalling concrete on the piers. DOT expects to convene a second public meeting in June 2007 to discuss final design options and solicit community feedback. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Work on a \$69,200 contract for mortar repairs on the 1901 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge's stone piers got underway in mid-September 2006.

The Bridge Commission approved on its 2007 capital projects list an expenditure of \$242,000 to repair the abutment backwalls and pier expansion dam at the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge.

PENNDOT plans to present written analysis to a Washington, DC-based independent federal agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, to resolve the impasse over the fate of the 1904 Pond Eddy Bridge.

The one-lane span provides the only access from NYS Route 97 in the Town of

Lumberland to 26 private homes and lands belonging to the PA Game Commission, PA Bureau of Forestry, and Norfolk Southern Railroad on the Pennsylvania side in Shohola and Westfall Townships.

PENNDOT proposes to replace the bridge with a two-lane concrete structure with design embellishments that would increase the current eight-ton posted weight limit to 36 tons and carry a life expectancy of 75-100 years, at an approximate cost of \$6.2 million.

The citizens group Friends of the Pond Eddy Bridge has been advocating since 2002 to preserve the 1904 structure on the basis of its 1988 listings in the National, PA and NYS Registers of Historic Places. ❖

National Park Service Redesigns Website

The National Park Service has redesigned its website at <http://www.nps.gov>, with a grand unveiling on August 25, 2006 to mark the 90th anniversary of the agency.

The new homepage allows each of the country's 390 NPS units to be searched by name, location, topic or activity. Each park unit's expanded website contains park trivia, updated information, and enhanced multimedia including video and graphics.

The local Park Service unit's site may be accessed at www.nps.gov/upde. ❖

discharge of 1,100 cfs.

The U.S. Geological Survey also reported record high flows on the West Branch Delaware River at Walton, which crested to 16.85 ft., above its normal 9.5-ft. flood stage, and at Hale Eddy (19.10 ft. crest and an 11-ft. flood stage). Other gage readings on June 28 found the East Branch Delaware River at Fishs Eddy (13-ft. flood stage) hitting 20.54 ft., the Delaware River near Barryville (17-ft. flood stage) cresting to 28.97 ft., and the Lackawaxen River at Hawley (11-ft. flood stage) reaching 18.14 ft.

State and federal disaster declarations were made for counties including Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange in New York and Wayne and Pike in Pennsylvania to free up emergency relief and recovery assistance for those affected by the heavy flooding.

Citing \$100 million in National Flood Insurance damage claims from the Delaware River Basin over the last two years, a dozen Congress members called for special Congressional field hearings in NY, PA and NJ to discuss making a federal investment in flood prevention measures instead of repetitive payouts.

Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation recently requested an \$8 million federal appropriation to stabilize streambanks and remove debris, silt and sand along waterways impacted by June's floods to lessen the risks from future flooding.

The Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began work in July on a \$1 million federal study titled "Enhancing Multi-Jurisdictional Use and Management of the Water Resources of the Delaware River Basin" that includes flood mitigation solutions as a component.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) believes that a re-prioritization of federal funding is necessary to advance serious studies of flood mitigation alternatives.

"The risk of flooding is always present, but the damage occurs only during sudden, sometimes catastrophic, events. The nature of flooding has contributed to the difficulty in securing a steady stream of funds to address it," said DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier. "The DRBC's experience is that the approach to dealing with flood losses has shifted away from constructing new dams and levees to local measures such as property acquisition, flood proofing, floodplain regulation, and stormwater management."

After the June flood, the DRBC and its Flood Advisory Committee updated a list of 10 flood loss reduction recommendations

Please see FLOODS on Page 8

TOPPLED: The National Park Service estimated \$429,000 in damages to its various facilities from the late June flooding. Shown at right, kiosks and boats were strewn about on the muddy Milanville Office property. Flood waters destabilized the foundation of the Zane Grey Museum building in Lackawaxen, closing it until further notice. The historic Roebling Bridge sustained only minor damage from debris strikes on the icebreakers.



The Upper Delaware



FEEL THE POWER: Boys on the August 25 open house tour of PPL Generation's three-story power house in Hawley, PA feel the vibrations from a Westinghouse generator as water piped 3.5 miles downhill from Lake Wallenpaupack rotates underground turbines, which then spin the generators to produce up to 44,000 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about 35,000 homes. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

PPL Generates Hydropower From Lake Wallenpaupack

Eighty years ago, PPL created one of the largest man-made lakes in Pennsylvania to capitalize on the waterpower potential to generate electricity by damming Wallenpaupack Creek on the boundary of Pike and Wayne counties.

The hydroelectric facility near Hawley consists of a concrete dam measuring 1,275 feet long and 70 feet high, a 14-foot diameter steel pipeline running 3.5 miles above-ground to a surge tank, a penstock system with butterfly valves, and a powerhouse with two turbines capable of generating 44 megawatts of electricity. PPL operates the plant, remotely and as-needed to supplement its power reserves, from a control center 85 miles away in Allentown.

Once the lake water has circulated through the plant, it exits into the Lackawaxen River, a tributary of the Delaware River.

The water's source is the 5,700-acre Lake Wallenpaupack that fills what used to be a bowl-shaped valley prior to 1926. The 13-mile-long lake extends 60 feet at its maximum depth. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's license for PPL to operate Lake Wallenpaupack as a hydroelectric facility includes a mandate to provide year-round public access to the lake. Among the recreational facilities maintained by PPL are four campgrounds.

Adjacent to the dam is the 12,000-square-foot Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, opened in 2003, which offers displays, a science lab, library, 160-seat auditorium, and office space for the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District and the Lake Wallenpaupack Historical Society. To find out more, visit www.pplprojectearth.com or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com. ❖

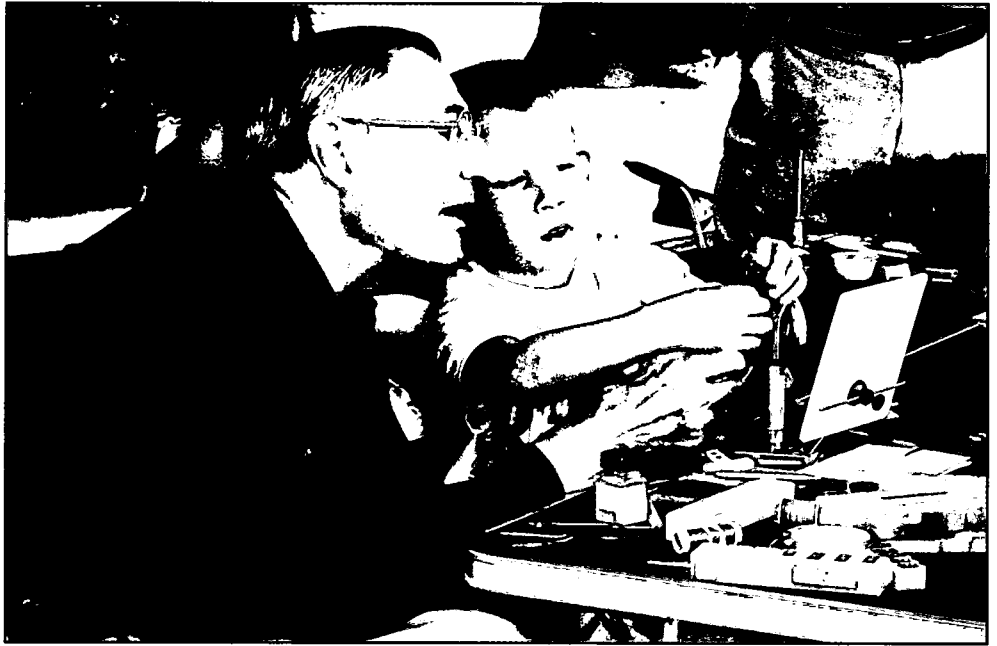
Anglers Raise Concerns Over Town Dredging After the Flood

The Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) served the Town of Hancock on Aug. 25 with a 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue for allegedly violating the Federal Clean Water Act through permitted actions taken in response to the June 2006 flood.

FUDR contends that beginning on or about July 1, the town authorized heavy construction equipment to enter into and dredge or fill at least 10 identified waterways that are known spawning streams for rainbow and brown trout.

"Destruction of these streams by dredging, channelizing and filling ... is a major disaster not only to the tributary streams but to the Upper Delaware River. All life in the streams has been destroyed by the actions of dredging and filling. The physical, chemical and biological integrity of these streams has been destroyed. In effect, naturally flowing, environmentally critical tributaries have been turned into storm drains," the notice states.

The legal document also names Hancock Town Supervisor Sam Rowe, Jr., Highway Superintendent Grayling Martin, and the four town board members individually. If violations were determined, U.S. District Court could impose civil penalties



TYING FLIES: Six-year-old Parker Hamill of Shohola, PA concentrates under the watchful eye of Clem Fullerton on learning how to tie a fish-catching fly at the Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited's booth during the 16th Annual RiverFest held July 23 in Narrowsburg, NY. Fullerton is a long-time active member of TU and authors the fishing column "The Complete Tangler" which appears in *The River Reporter* newspaper. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

of up to \$25,000 per day, per stream.

Trout Unlimited (TU), while distancing itself from the potential FUDR lawsuit, also opposes stream dredging in principle.

"The answers to the chronic flooding will not be found in the courts, but in working with the people and communities of the Catskills to fix undersized bridges and culverts, restore appropriate floodplains to absorb some of the flood energy, and ensure that the management of the exist-

ing reservoir system is flexible enough to provide flood protection," read a TU statement. TU is leading a conservation project to bring in technical experts to help municipalities in Delaware and Sullivan Counties assess and restore flood-damaged sites. ❖

Scenic Byway Wins Map Project Grant

The Federal Highway Administration has awarded the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) a \$12,000 grant to produce and copyright a professional base map of the designated byway route along New York State Route 97.

The map will be utilized for a variety of print and web applications, including on promotional placemats that will be distributed widely throughout the byway corridor to raise awareness of the route's identity and amenities.

The \$12,000 allocation represents 80% of the total project cost of \$15,000. The grant will cover the hiring of a consultant through a Request for Proposals process to collect the data and develop the map, as well as the purchase of graphics illustration software, and the design, printing and distribution of 100,000 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway placemats.

Through the auspices of an earlier FHWA Scenic Byway Marketing Grant, UDSB, Inc. is currently working with W Design Group of Barryville to re-design its www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org website. That project is expected to be completed by late fall 2006. ❖

UDC Awards 2006 Technical Grants

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) awarded \$25,000 through its FY 2006 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program at the board's September 7 meeting.

Since 1988, the UDC has given \$584,292 to its member municipalities to fund 165 projects that further goals and address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

This year's seven municipal recipients are:

Town of Fremont, NY - \$5,000 to develop a Comprehensive Master Plan to outline parameters for future growth and conservation in the Town of Fremont.

Shohola Township and Lackawaxen Township, PA (individually) - \$5,000 each to implement an automated municipal permit tracking system that will be cross-linked with Pike County's ArcInfo database programs through the county's new Community Planning Initiative.

Town of Tusten, NY - \$4,000 to network town offices through a central server to improve accessibility of information by the Records Management Officer, and to purchase Integrated Property System software for use by the Building and Code Enforcement Department.

Town of Cochection, NY - \$2,250 to create an Emergency Management Master Plan that will guide the actions of municipal officials, volunteer organizations, and others during any disasters in the Town of Cochection.

County of Pike, PA - \$1,900 to publish a map/brochure describing and depicting the benefits of best planning practices to promote the implementation of Pike County's updated Comprehensive Plan and its Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Plan.

Town of Lumberland, NY - \$1,750 to establish a water quality monitoring program for 32 Delaware River tributary streams in the town, from which the Town of Lumberland Emergency Management Council will compile a comprehensive baseline database. ❖

NY Towns Spruce Up with State Funds

The eight New York State member towns of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) invested their equal shares of a \$40,000 Legislative Member Item secured by Senator John J. Bonacic into projects designed to promote tourism, improve town-owned facilities, and enhance river access.

The eight projects met the August 31, 2006 deadline for completion under the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Community Projects State Grant program.

Senator Bonacic designated the UDC to work with the New York State Department of Economic Development in administering the funding initiative, with compensation provided.

The \$5,000 mini-grants allowed the towns to undertake a wide variety of helpful projects.

The Town of Cohecton corrected moisture-related structural damage in its Town Hall building in Lake Huntington to advance the goal of utilizing the basement area to safely store official records.

The Town of Lumberland contributed its \$5,000 toward the development of the Lumberland Circle Park, specifically for the purchases of 101 engravable paving stones for a memorial courtyard and of wood fiber to install as a safety base beneath the playground equipment.

The Town of Hancock finalized exterior improvements at its Town Hall, including a 20-foot flag pole on a bluestone platform, a bluestone bench inscribed with the town's founding year of 1806, outdoor lighting for the flag, and landscaping.

The Town of Delaware used the funds to reconstruct a 50-foot portion of deteriorating sidewalk on Upper Main Street in the hamlet of Callicoon to improve pedestrian safety.

The Town of Tusten ordered three custom-designed, 30 x 60-inch town welcome signs, cleared brush and debris from the Narrowsburg Bridge embankment, and installed a fiber mulch safety base at the town playground.

The Town of Fremont righted grave-stones and cleaned up the abandoned Basket Cemetery and Fernwood Cemetery in the Rock Valley area.

The Town of Highland did a custom replacement of the nine-foot-tall windows on the circa 1867 Town of Highland Justice Court and Constable's Office building in Barryville.

The Town of Deerpark installed historic plaques to mark the sites of the Delaware & Hudson Canal's Bolton Basin and the town's tannery factory; planted flower boxes around the town's welcome signs;

and assisted in the publication of a book by Historian Norma Schadt entitled "Hawk's Nest: A Newspaper History of the Road."

Since 2000, the eight towns have benefited from a direct aid total of \$140,000 made available through three successive rounds of state funding. The late Assemblyman Jake Gunther matched a \$25,000 Legislative Member Item grant in the initial FY 2000-01 round.

The UDC is currently administering a fourth-round Community Projects State Grant contract valued at \$50,000 for the towns, courtesy of Senator Bonacic. ❖



GO THATAWAY!: Dave Simon from the National Canoe Safety Patrol instructed Sojourners in the meaning of various paddle signals on the banks of the Ten Mile River Access in the Town of Tusten, NY as participants in the successful June 18-25 2006 Delaware River Sojourn prepared to launch on day one. The Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee has already begun planning for the 13th annual event, which will be held during the week of June 24. The theme will be "2007 Delaware River Sojourn: Celebrating Native American Culture." Anyone who would like to assist in the planning or offer program suggestions may contact 2007 Chairperson Bonnie Tobin, Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at the Delaware Canal State Park, at (610) 982-0161 or btobin@state.pa.us. To track the 2007 Sojourn planning effort, visit www.delawareriversojourn.org. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

New Subscribers and Address Changes Welcomed

If you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our free newsletter, we will be happy to add them to the mailing list. Please also advise us of any address changes to help update our records. Return this notice to the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail udcramie@hvc.rr.com.

New Address:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip+4 _____

Old Address:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip+4 _____

Check here to be removed from our mailing list.



COCHECTON CLOSED: On June 28, Delaware River flood waters continued to flow across and down Cochection's main street on County Road 114. Assessing the situation, from left to right, were Lake Huntington Fire Department members Katlyn Keesler and Kevin Darling, Town Councilman Larry H. Richardson, local resident Mark Mace, and firefighters Ed Boffa and Gary Cochrane. (Photo courtesy of Town of Cochection Supervisor Sal Indelicato)

FLOODS, continued from Page 5

(see www.nj.gov/drbc/Flood_Website).

The agency has proposed developing a comprehensive basin-wide flood mitigation plan that would address those types of non-structural measures as well as the impact of reservoir operations in the basin.

The Upper Delaware Council has long urged the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) to better utilize dedicated voids and consider raising the levels of the spillways at the Cannonsville, Pepacton and Neversink Reservoirs to assist with flood control.

While the NYC drinking water supply reservoirs were full and spilling at the time of the June flood, data indicates that they attenuated peak flows by 32-42% and actually reduced flood crests in the inunda-

tion area by 1-2.5 feet.

"Please remember that flood plain management and safety cannot be accomplished fully by reservoir operations. Close examination of flood plain use and settlement downstream should occur in order to prevent future damages," wrote David Warne, Acting Deputy Commissioner of the NYC DEP Bureau of Water Supply, in a Sept. 1 letter to the UDC.

The DEP is currently working on a new reservoir release program which would include higher releases from the Delaware reservoirs to help address flood mitigation, while the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is surveying the effectiveness of the Neversink and Pepacton Reservoir spill reduction program which will expire on Mar. 31, 2007. ❖

Guide Out for Delaware River Heritage Trail

The Minisink Valley Historical Society (MVHS) and the City of Port Jervis held a dedication ceremony on Sept. 23 to reopen an improved Delaware River Heritage Trail, complete with the publication of a new, 40-page trail guide.

The approximately six-mile long trail begins at Fort Decker, located at 127 West Main St.

The original trail was built in 1993 to allow for enjoyment of the city's historic sites and river vistas that have been immortalized in photographs, songs, paintings and literature.

A 1996 grant from Orange and Rockland Utilities allowed MVHS to double its length and enhance the route.

In 2006, the City of Port Jervis received a grant secured by NYS Senator John J. Bonacic to allow for further upgrades of the trail, including the development of three sections that are completely ADA-compliant, the design of new directional signage, and the creation of the trail guide.

The illustrated booklet, which includes a map of the trail and history of the area, was written by MVHS President Peter Osborne.

Copies are available through the City Offices, Tri-State Chamber of Commerce, MVHS, and local businesses.

The trail guide is the first book published under the MVHS's new imprint called the Minisink Press. Other forthcoming titles include: "Vigilance & Perseverance: The History of the Old Decker Stone House" that will be out later this year and "A Centennial History of Port Jervis" that will be available in March 2007.

To have a guide mailed, call (845) 856-2375 or e-mail history@minisink.org. ❖

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

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 11
CALLICOON, NY