



The Upper Delaware

Volume 3 Number 2

Upper Delaware Council

Spring 1990

Eleven Honored at UDC Awards Banquet

Eleven individuals and organizations were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Upper Delaware River at the second annual Upper Delaware Council (UDC) Awards Banquet held Saturday, February 24th at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York.

Some 125 persons attended the event honoring those who have contributed to the protection, safety, management, or enhancement of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Master of Ceremonies was Phil Fitzpatrick, Westfall Township's representative to the



U.S. Congressman Matthew McHugh, keynote speaker for the 1990 UDC Awards Banquet. Photo by Gerri Schwarz.

UDC. Awards were presented by Lackawaxen Township's Ed DeFebo, Council Chair.

Congressman McHugh Keynotes

Keynote speaker for the banquet was U.S. Congressman Matthew McHugh of New York, who has represented the 28th Congressional District for sixteen years. In 1978 McHugh co-sponsored, with Pennsylvania Congressman Joseph McDade, the legislation that added the Upper Delaware to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(See "Awards Banquet," on page 4)

Highland, Fremont Join UDC

Tusten Poised to Join

At its March 15, 1990 Town Board meeting, the Town of Highland, New York, voted unanimously to join the Upper Delaware Council. Soon after that, on April 11, the New York Town of Fremont voted to join. The Town of Tusten, New York, is also poised to join after a public referendum showed overwhelming support (four to one) for joining the UDC. If Tusten joins, every eligible New York Town will be participating in the Council. The towns are the first new members of the UDC since it began operations in January, 1987.

Says Ed DeFebo, Chair of the

Upper Delaware Council, "I am very pleased that Highland and Fremont have chosen to come aboard. I hope that soon other towns and townships now on the sidelines will join." If Tusten joins, eleven out of fifteen towns and townships will be participating in the Council. There are still four townships that have not taken the positive step to benefit from Council membership: Manchester, Buckingham, Damascus, and Berlin Townships in Pennsylvania.

Andrew Boyar, Supervisor of Highland, explains his town's reasons for joining: "Highland's interests are to preserve the river and to be left alone. We feel the way we can best do this is by participating in the Council. That is the way we can best protect both the river and the rights of private landowners."

By joining the Council, Highland and Fremont will benefit in many ways. Most importantly, UDC membership gives the towns a say in river management and protection efforts. Says Bill Douglass, UDC Executive Director, "The Upper Delaware Council is a unique forum where towns and townships are on equal footing with state and federal agencies." The

(See "New Members," on page 8)

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What's New?

"River Safety" — a new regular feature. See page 3

Draft Fishery Plan released. See page 3.

River Safety

Safe Boating is No Accident

This year, the week of June 3 - 9 is designated as National Safe Boating Week. It is a good time to remember the U.S. Coast Guard slogan, "Safe Boating is No Accident."

Whether you seek the challenge of successfully negotiating the sparkle and splash of the exciting rapids, or the solitude and soul-searching peacefulness of the lazy flowing scenic areas where river, sky and shore line set the mood for contemplation, quiet moments, or shared sociability, keep in mind that the river can be a friendly ally or a powerful adversary and should always be respected.

Safety Tips

A few simple suggestions, if followed, can add to your enjoyment and give you that extra measure of safety to ensure that Safe Boating is No Accident.

- Always wear your P.F.D. (Personal Flotation Device). Your P.F.D., or life jacket, greatly improves your ability to survive a boating accident. Canoes and other boats capsize and swamp, and boaters suddenly become swimmers, often where rescue is difficult. Almost all Upper Delaware drowning victims did not wear a securely fastened life jacket. Strap your P.F.D. on tight and wear it at all times.

- Never boat alone. A minimum of three boats is recommended to pro-

vide the necessary man-power to effect rescues or stabilize a situation while someone gets help. Never lose sight of your group.

- Avoid hazards when first sighted. Rocks, fallen trees or "strainers", stumps, submerged logs, bridge piers, and other objects can trap your boat by the force of the current. The current can sweep you into hazards quicker than you think.

- Keep your weight low in the boat. Kneel in your boat. You will be much more stable, and will paddle more effectively.

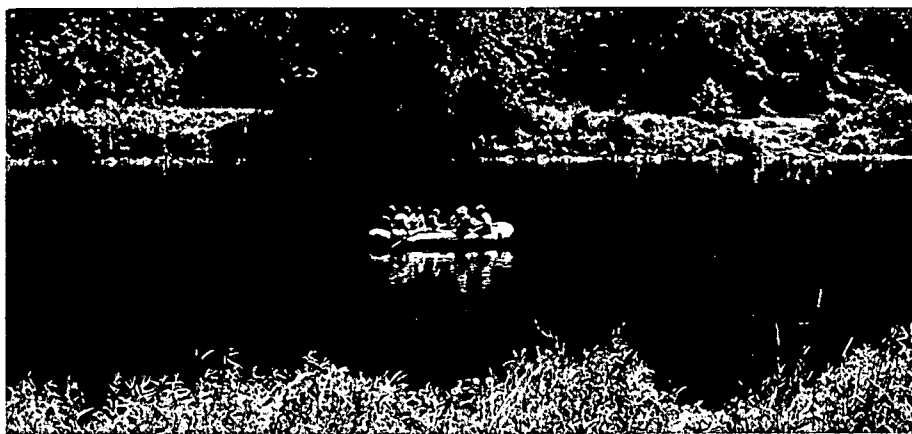
- Be alert for changes in the weather. Bring and wear rain gear for wet weather (remember, you'll get wet from spray and splash). Dress to avoid sunburn. Bring sun block, insect repel-

lent, and drinking water. Provide a change of clothes in a water-tight container or plastic bag. Remember that cold water robs your body of heat at least 20 times faster than cold air. Unless you become warm and dry, you might suffer serious exposure problems - called hypothermia - which can even be fatal.

- Select a section of river that you are familiar with and can handle. Ten to twelve miles, or four to five hours of paddling is usually enough. Beginners should paddle flat water or Class I rapids until more experienced.

- Learn and practice the safe way to swim in rapid water. Swim on your back, feet at the surface and pointed

(See "Safety," on page 8)



Every year, thousands of boaters paddle the Delaware's clean waters. Photo by Chuck Hoffman.

New York Draft Fishery Plan Released

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Region 4 Fisheries Office has published a report titled "A Draft Fishery Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Tailwaters". The Council will be cooperating with DEC to publicize the report and encourage public comments on the draft plan.

The plan describes the current status of the resource and proposes

strategies for achieving the long-term management goal of establishing a high-quality, nationally renowned trout fishery in the Upper Delaware Tailwaters. The term "Upper Delaware Tailwaters" refers to the East and West Branches of the Delaware and the Delaware main stem above Callicoon. Objectives of the plan will be met through improvements in reservoir releases, public ac-

cess, angling regulations, and trout stocking programs.

Copies of the 5-page executive summary, the draft plan itself, and the companion background document titled *History of the Fishery Resources in the Upper Delaware Tailwaters from 1800-1983* may be obtained from the DEC office at Route 10, Stamford, NY 12716, telephone (607) 652-7364.

("Awards Banquet," continued from page 1)

McHugh was presented with a UDC Award of Recognition for his work to protect the river. In his address, McHugh praised the efforts of local citizens and officials who put themselves at risk and expense to develop something altogether new: a locally developed management plan that satisfies local concerns while safeguarding the national interest and protecting the river. In reviewing the events from 1968 (the year that the Wild and Scenic Rivers System

for her success in preserving the memory of Zane Grey. The Davis family were friends of the Greys. For many years they maintained the Greys' Lackawaxen home, along with a museum of the author's artifacts. In 1989 the home and museum were sold to the National Park Service, giving permanent protection to one of the most important historic sites in the river corridor. Ed DeFebo, Council Chair and Representative of Lack-

"The Delaware River: Flowing to the Future" - held last November in Matamoras, Pennsylvania. As Chair of the steering committee and the conference, he personally shepherded his idea for the conference through many obstacles to what has been described by many as one of the most informative and interactive conferences they've ever attended. In accepting the award, Fitzpatrick challenged others to "spend some time getting to make the Delaware



Ten individuals hold awards presented to them and their organizations by the UDC. Pictured, back row, left to right: Thomas Hill, for the Town of Lumberland; Matthew McHugh; Phil Fitzpatrick; Frank Hartmann; Barbara Yeaman for the River Reporter and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Front row, left to right: Ed DeFebo for Mrs. Helen Davis, Dave Jones for Kittatinny Canoes; Eleanor Keesler for the Equinunk Historical Society; and Bob Everest, for the Delaware River Basin Commission. Photo by Gerri Schwarz.

was established) to the present, McHugh praised those who "were willing not just to give a lot of time, but to put up with harassment and conflict" to work out a plan that meets local needs.

Zane Grey Museum

An Award of Recognition was given to Mrs. Helen Davis of Lackawaxen

awaxen, accepted the award for Mrs. Davis.

Fitzpatrick Recognized

The UDC's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, went to Phil Fitzpatrick of Westfall Township. Fitzpatrick earned the award for his work on the UDC's first conference -

a part of your life, and help take responsibility for protecting this river."

Volunteer Award

The Volunteer Award was presented to Roland Flora, a resident of the Town of Tusten. Flora serves as a volunteer member of the UDC's



UDC Chair Ed DeFebo, left, presents 1989 Chair Frank Hartmann with the Oaken Gavel Award. Photo by Gerri Schwarz.

Resource Management Committee. An active sportsman, he is a past president of the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Association. With his wife Louise, he was the first to sign a Certificate of Compatibility with the National Park Service. The Certificate of Compatibility is a voluntary program developed to provide additional protection for property owners wishing to manage their property in harmony with the River Management Plan, but who are fearful that the failure of local governments to participate in the Council leaves them open to land acquisition by NPS.

Cultural Achievement Award

The Equinunk Historical Society received the Cultural Achievement Award. The Society was recognized for carrying out the Stockport Bicentennial celebration and publishing a 332-page book, "Samuel Preston 1789-1989 from Buckingham to Buckingham" that commemorates the Stockport settlement. Accepting the award for the Society was Eleanor Keesler, curator of the society's museum, and co-author of the book.

Two Merit Awards

Certificate of Merit Awards were presented to two agencies in recognition of outstanding actions taken to protect the River and support the principles of the Management Plan. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was one recipient for its commitment to and participation in the UDC's conference held last November. DRBC was also congratulated for their continuous, active support of UDC meetings and activities. Robert Everest, DRBC's alternate representative to the UDC, accepted the award for the DRBC.

The second recipient was the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. An active supporter of the UDC, Pennsylvania was recognized for an Executive Order signed by Governor Robert Casey on February 16. The Executive Order mandates that "To the maximum extent permitted by law, all administrative departments, independent administrative boards and commissions, and other state agencies shall act consistently with the goals, policies, and objectives of the Upper Delaware

Scenic River Management Plan." The award was accepted by Barbara Yeaman, Governor Casey's appointee to the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council (CAC).

Outstanding Community

The Town of Lumberland was honored with the Outstanding Community Achievement Award as the Town or Township that has taken the most significant action to protect the river corridor. Lumberland was the first town to be found in substantial conformance under the Upper Delaware legislation and plan. Town Supervisor Tom Hill was called upon to accept the award, but he, in turn, called upon the dozen or more Lumberland Town officials present to join him at the podium to receive it, noting that "these are the people that really deserve the credit."

Community Service Winner

The Community Service Award was presented to *The River Reporter* for its promotion of the Litter Pluck 89 event. Litter Pluck 89 encouraged citizens and groups to pick up litter along highways in river corridor towns. Accepting the award for *The River Reporter* was Barbara Yeaman.

Recreation Award

Kittatinny Canoes received the Recreation Achievement Award honoring the recreation provider who has worked to educate river users about such issues as safety, litter control, river etiquette, private property rights, and conservation. Dave Jones accepted the award for Kittatinny Canoes.

Hartmann Honored

UDC's outgoing chairman Frank Hartmann was presented with the Oaken Gavel Award. Hartmann, who represents the Town of Deerpark on the UDC, served as the second chairman for the organization. Hartmann expressed his appreciation to the UDC and the people in the Upper Delaware valley for their support during his term.

Lackawaxen, Land of Swift Waters

This is the fourth in a series of articles exploring the rich history of the Towns and Townships that border the Upper Delaware River. This article is adapted from John S. McKay's "Pike County Historic Site and Scenic Area Survey, Volume I: Lackawaxen Township," edited by George Fluhr, 1979.

Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania is the largest and northernmost township in Pike County. It was designated Lackawaxen Township in 1798. Named for the river that flows 12 miles through the township, Lackawaxen is an Indian word for "Swift Waters." The Delaware River marks the eastern boundary of the township and joins the Lackawaxen River at the village of Lackawaxen.

Less than three centuries ago, the Leni-Lenape and Iroquois lived among the beetling rock outcrops and flat lands bordering these rivers. The Indians never had any sizeable villages in Lackawaxen, but relics indicate that they hunted and camped in the area.

The first white settlers in Lackawaxen were Jonathan Conkling and John Barnes, who in 1770 lived near the present day village of Lackawaxen. During the American Revolution, the presence of marauding Indians incited by the English made it very perilous to be a white settler on the Upper Delaware frontier. On a hot July day in 1779, just across the Delaware River from Lackawaxen, 45 settlers lost their

lives to the English Colonel Brant and his band of Indians and Tories in the Battle of Minisink. In 1847 the remains of one patriot soldier killed in the battle were found and placed in the village of Lackawaxen, to become the Grave of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War.

During the early part of the 18th century, logging became the principal commercial activity in the township. Logs were fastened together and floated down river to Easton or Trenton. On the Lackawaxen, smaller rafts named "colts" were needed to navigate its "swift waters." During this period some 50 million board feet of lumber were taken down the Lackawaxen annually.

In 1828, the highly successful Delaware and Hudson Canal began operation between Honesdale, Pennsylvania and Kingston, New York, passing through Lackawaxen on the way. The canal linked New York City with the rich coal deposits of the Carbondale, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas.

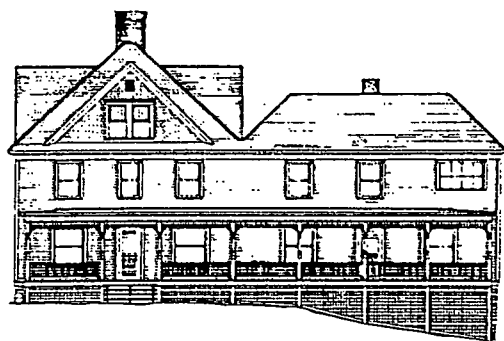
In 1848, the whistle of the New York and Erie railroad was first heard in the Township, signalling the beginning of the end of canal transport. But the canal era left behind many historic buildings and canal works, among them John Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct Bridge, the famous engineer's oldest surviving work and

possibly the oldest suspension bridge in the nation. The bridge has been repaired and restored by the National Park Service, owner of the historic structure, and is still used for vehicular traffic.

With the introduction of the railroad, bluestone quarrying became a major enterprise in the Township and the county. Cut bluestone was used extensively in the construction of nineteenth century buildings and city sidewalks.

While raw materials extracted from the area wended their way to the cities, trains bound in the opposite direction brought a new source of prosperity to the area: tourism. The rugged charms of the Delaware Valley became increasingly popular with urban excursionists seeking a summer retreat. Stations were constructed at Lackawaxen, West Colang, and Mast Hope, and elaborate hotels were established nearby to accommodate travelers.

One frequent visitor to the area was Zane Grey. The famous author married, built a home, and settled in Lackawaxen in 1905. There he launched his highly successful career, producing over a dozen western novels over a period of thirteen years, including *Riders of the Purple Sage*, *Desert Gold*, and *The UP Trail*. The Greys' former home near the Delaware River is now owned and operated as a museum by the National Park Service.



EAST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

Sketches of the East and West elevations of the Zane Grey House in Lackawaxen. Illustrations courtesy of the National Park Service.

Snakes Alive

Some five years ago a resident of the Upper Delaware valley told a story that went something like this:

"When I was a kid, me and a friend went to this abandoned rock quarry to pitch rocks. It was still early when we got there and we climbed to the top of this twenty or thirty foot high hill of rocks to play in this shed on top of it. Well, when we came out it was a hot, sunny spring day, and we could see that the entire hill on which we were standing was covered with snakes. And every one of them had a rattle on it."

Such a sight is not uncommon at a den of the timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*. The frequently vilified venomous viper likes to lounge about on rocks on sunny spring days. But the snake is becoming less common, and is now protected under New York law as a Threatened Species.

"...the entire hill on which we were standing was covered with snakes. And every one of them had a rattle on it."

Vanishing Snakes

Explains Alvin Breisch, Senior Wildlife Biologist for the New York DEC, "In the past, their numbers declined because they were killed and collected by many people. But now the main threat is loss of habitat." Continues Breisch, "they like rocky areas with thin soils, steep slopes, and heavy vegetation. These are places that people have avoided in the past. But that has changed because of second home development."

Of particular concern is the destruction of dens, rocky places where the snakes live during winter and early spring. Rattlesnakes usually stay within a mile of their dens throughout summer and fall, and return there during winter to hibernate communally with other snakes.

Snake Facts

The timber rattlesnake is one of only two rattlesnake species to exist this far north. (The other is the Massasauga, *Sistrurus miliarius*, listed as endangered in New York State.) *Crotalus horridus* is generally three to four feet long, although this may stretch to six feet in some large specimens. Snake color may vary from yellow to black. In the yellow phase, there may be brown or black cross bands.

By far the most distinguishing feature of *Crotalus horridus* is the series of

"In the past, their numbers declined because they were killed...But now, the main threat is loss of habitat."

—Alvin Breisch

interlocking, horny joints on the tail that form a rattle. Generally, the more joints on the rattle, the older the snake. However, contrary to popular myth, there is not one joint per year of age. A new joint forms whenever the snake molts, which may occur three or four times a year. Timber rattlesnakes have been known to live thirty years or more.

Being cold blooded, a snake's body temperature depends on its outside environment. Snakes like to keep their body temperature above 55 degrees. If it goes much below that the snake becomes lethargic or immobile.

Snakes fulfill a valuable function by eating small animals, including many rodents harmful to man. Timber rattlesnakes are normally timid, but will strike without warning if surprised or suddenly threatened. Anyone bitten by the poisonous reptile should immediately seek medical attention.

Change of Address or Ownership?

If your address has changed or you no longer own property in the Upper Delaware River towns and townships, please help us to maintain the accuracy of our records. Fill in your new address or the name and address of the new owner of your property and return this part of the page to the: Upper Delaware Council, P. O. Box 217, Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Thank you for your assistance.

Old Address

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check this line and return the form if you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list. _____

("Safety," continued from page 3)

downstream. Try to backstroke ashore. Hang on to your paddle. Remember, boating accidents quickly become swimming accidents.

● **Never stand up in fast water.** Your feet can get caught in rocks, and the current can push you under.

● **In rapids, get away from your boat quickly if it capsizes.** A swamped boat weighs the equivalent of over one ton and can thrash about in the rapids and batter you. Get upstream and rescue yourself. Someone will retrieve the boat for you later. **On lakes, you should stay with your boat.** Even a swamped canoe

will float, and you will be more visible to rescuers. You can also get back into a swamped canoe, cautiously, and paddle or hand-paddle to the shore.

● **Leave valuable items at home** or place them into a secure container tied to your boat.

● **Learn some basic canoeing techniques.** In addition to kneeling, learn to paddle on the opposite side from each other - the boat will go straighter. Learn the correct way to hold your paddle - upper hand over the top of the grip, and lower hand about one foot above the blade, on the shaft. Put some

muscle in your strokes. Keep your arms straight. Back paddle to slow down in rapids and to have your bow rise up. You'll take on less water and not capsize. Keep your boat pointed downstream, avoid rocks, and use your paddle in the stern (back of boat) to rudder (steer).

So this is June. As many times as you can, get out to enjoy the Upper Delaware. It's your river. Learn to enjoy it safely.

This article was written by Christian R. Nielsen of the National Canoe Safety Patrol.

("New Members," continued from page 1)

Upper Delaware Council oversees implementation of the locally developed River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recrea-

tional River.

Participating towns and townships are also eligible for UDC planning and technical assistance grants. The Coun-

cil has awarded over \$200,000 in grants over the past two years.

Upper Delaware Council Activity: June - August

UDC Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Delaware Council is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg, New York. The public is invited to attend. Upcoming meetings are now scheduled for June 7, July 5, and August 2.

UDC Committee Meetings

Each of the four UDC committees meet once each month. All meetings

are held at the Council office on Bridge Street in Narrowsburg. The Resource Management Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The Water Use Committee meets immediately afterwards at 8:30 PM. Scheduled dates for these committee meetings are June 19, July 17, and August 21.

The Project Review Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Scheduled dates include June 26, July 24, and August 28.

The Operations Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, before the regular monthly Council meeting, at 6:30 PM. Scheduled dates include June 7, July 5, and August 2.

UDC Summer Picnic August 4

The third UDC summer picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 4, at the Firemen's Field in Lackawaxen. The event will feature food, festivities, and fun, and everyone is invited. Contact the Upper Delaware Council for further information.

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