

The Upper Delaware

A newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River Valley in NY & PA

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The Upper Delaware
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WINNING PHOTO: Kurt Kreider of Barryville, NY won first place in the scenic category of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's inaugural photography contest held from June 1-Oct. 31, 2015 to usher in the National Park Service Centennial. Entries are now being accepted through Aug. 25 for the 2016 photo contest. Visit www.nps.gov/upde for rules, prizes, a list of 2015 winners, and a gallery of the award-winning images. (Contributed Photo)

Upper Delaware Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial

A calendar of interactive experiences to celebrate the national significance of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is in full swing as the National Park Service (NPS) marks 100 years in 2016.

NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis encourages all Americans to "Find Your Park - to discover a personal connection to a place or a story that provides inspiration or enjoyment, and to then join us in our second century of stewardship of America's most treasured places."

Upper Delaware Superintendent Kristina Heister is delighted to bring a local focus to the nation-wide milestone occasion.

"The Centennial is not just a reason to celebrate the National Park Service but also affords us an opportunity to celebrate the people and communities that we partner with in the Upper Delaware to manage and protect this exceptional resource for

future generations," she said.

A 2016 Upper Delaware photo contest is underway in which individuals are invited to submit digital entries in the four categories of scenery, geology, culture/history, and youth (under 18) by Aug. 25.

On April 16, an "Upper Delaware Virtual Tour" website will be launched in conjunction with National Parks Week.

Beautiful images and videos compiled by Quiet Light Films will allow viewers to visit the Upper Delaware River Valley from anywhere in the world.

Helpful information and visuals are offered on: River Recreation; Wildlife & Ecology; Hiking Trails; History & Culture; and River Accesses.

Consider signing up for the Adopt-an-Access program starting in April with a pledge to keep the Upper Delaware's pub-

Please see CENTENNIAL on Page 5

Upper Delaware Profile: Virginia Dudko

Virginia “Ginny” Dudko was schooled in the history of the Upper Delaware by personal experience and a four-generation family legacy.

Dudko was a familiar presence at Upper Delaware Council (UDC) meetings before she ever had an official seat at the table.

She would frequently accompany her father, Lew Schmalzle, who served as the Town of Highland’s UDC representative for 12 years until he passed away on Oct. 31, 2006 at the age of 83.

A two-time board chairman and 1993 UDC Volunteer Award recipient, Schmalzle worked with the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships in the 1980s to help draft the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

“My father always used to say, if we don’t do it, who’s going to? If you’re not willing to stand up, somebody is going to do it for us or maybe to us! So our voice needs to be heard,” Dudko says.

When the Deerpark Town Board asked the Sparrowbush resident to serve as its UDC alternate representative, she accepted the Oct. 17, 2011 appointment without hesitation.

“I had a fairly thorough training through Dad. Having lived here all my life, the river has always been an important part of my life. I’m also concerned for the balance of property rights,” the 66-year-old says.

Dudko grew up in Minisink Ford, NY. The river was the Schmalzle family’s backyard for a few years.

They enjoyed boating on the river and helped tend to an eel rack. Lew was a poultry farmer and a train engineer among many professions, while Ginny’s mother, Clara, taught home economics.

Her grandfather, who owned a sawmill, had maintained the timber on the 1848 Roebling Bridge, while his sister collected the 25-cent toll back when the wire cable suspension aqueduct was privately owned.

Dudko graduated from Eldred Central School in 1968, obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from SUNY Oneonta in 1972, and went on to earn a Master’s degree in the same major from SUNY Cortland in 1975.

“I always loved working with children and volunteered with my own kindergarten teacher at Eldred throughout high school, as well as waitressing at Brookside Lodge to earn college money,” she says.

Dudko returned to her home district to teach kindergarten from 1972 to 2002, only leaving then at the age of 52 to help care for her and her husband’s aging parents.

Ginny married Bill Dudko in 1972. Like her father, Bill was an engineer for the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad, which became



“Ginny” Dudko, Town of Deerpark, NY

Conrail, and later a local truck driver who now drives a school bus in retirement.

In 2007, Dudko returned to the classroom, offering her services as a volunteer, daily substitute teacher, and a long-term substitute for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade at Eldred Central School.

“I still love seeing kids learn. It’s a special feeling when you see that spark that they’ve understood. When I lose the love, the knack or the energy for it, I’ll stop,” she says.

In addition to her position with the Upper Delaware Council, Dudko has served as the Town of Deerpark’s delegate to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. since October 2011.

“With the byway, we’re starting to move more in the direction of bringing people in but we also want to protect the resource. It’s part of economic survival, but we have to be smart about it,” she says.

Dudko is the Chapter President of the women’s educational society Delta Kappa Gamma and serves as New York State President of its Educational Foundation, which awards grants for literacy projects in classrooms and communities supported by member donations.

Dudko is also a member of the Ethics Board for Bon Secours Hospital, and volunteers as a Deacon, Sunday School Supervisor and teacher at Redemption Lighthouse Church in Huguenot.

She and Bill live on a 30-acre property behind the Hawk’s Nest and have a second home they enjoy at Paradox Lake in the Adirondacks, an area that Dudko says reminds her of the Upper Delaware Valley she knew as a child. She enjoys hiking, fishing, and reading in her spare time.

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Vice-Chairperson.....Jeffrey R. Dexter
Secretary/Treasurer.....Alan F. Henry

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Fremont.....James Greier
George Conklin, Alternate
Delaware.....Harold G. Roeder, Jr.
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Cochecton.....Larry H. Richardson
Sean Nearing, Alternate
Tusten.....Susan Sullivan
Tony Ritter, Alternate
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Debra Conway, Co-Alternate
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Virginia Dudko, Alternate

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Michael J. Flaherty, Alternate
Pennsylvania.....Timothy Dugan, DCNR
Rhonda Manning, DEP, Alternate
Delaware River Basin Commission (non-voting).....Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director

Partner

National Park Service.....Michael Caldwell,
Northeast Regional Director
Kristina Heister, UPDE Superintendent, Alt.

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Resource Specialist.....vacant
Secretary.....Cindy Odell
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UDC Elects 2016 Officers

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. board elected Town of Hancock Representative Fred Peckham to lead the non-profit organization at the Jan. 7 annual meeting.

A swearing-in ceremony at which Town of Hancock Supervisor Sam Rowe Jr. administered the oaths of office to Chairperson Peckham, Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey R. Dexter (Damascus Township), and Secretary-Treasurer Alan F. Henry (Berlin Township) was held on Feb. 4.

About Officers

Peckham was appointed as Hancock's UDC alternate in 2008 and became its representative in January 2009.

He graduated from Hancock High School in 1978 and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from SUNY Oswego School of Business.

The Hancock native resided in Virginia for 18 years, first working as an outside sales representative for a company that offered plastics, adhesives, and tapes, then selling commercial construction coating products.

He transitioned from sales to construction, traveling the East Coast as a supervisor for the development of high-rise hotels and then working as a service foreman for a commercial roofing company.

In the early 2000's, Peckham decided to start his own business. He opened Fred Bluestone in Front Royal, VA, with the raw materials imported from Hancock.

When Peckham's uncle, George Frosch, died on Oct. 12, 2002, he returned to the river valley to take over his business of selling bluestone, sand, gravel, and topsoil from his 284-acre property known as Kilgour Farms upriver of Lordville, NY, where Peckham worked and played throughout his youth. Property maintenance responsibility includes Frisbee Island in the Upper Delaware River and



TAKES OATH: Town of Hancock Supervisor Sam Rowe, Jr., left, congratulates 2016 UDC Chairperson Fred Peckham after administering his oath of office.



2016 ROSTER: Upper Delaware Council, Inc. delegates gathered at the Feb. 4 meeting included, seated from left, Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Dexter (Damascus); Chairperson Fred Peckham (Hancock); and Secretary-Treasurer Alan Henry (Berlin). Standing from left to right are: Aaron Robinson (Shohola); Steven Tambini (Delaware River Basin Commission); Zoriana Gingold (Lumberland); Andy Boyar (Highland); Susan Sullivan (Tusten); Bill Rudge (New York State); Debra Conway (Highland); Kris Heister (National Park Service); Tony Ritter (Tusten); Larry Richardson (Cochecton); Tim Dugan (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania); David Dean (Deerpark); Jeff Haas (Highland); Jim Greier (Fremont); and Harold Roeder, Jr. (Delaware). Representatives from Westfall and Lackawaxen were absent. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

nearly two additional miles of river frontage.

Peckham is carrying on a family legacy of service to the Upper Delaware Council given that Frosch was the Town of Hancock's representative from the UDC's 1988 inception through 2002.

The 55-year-old chairs the Town of Hancock Board of Assessment Review, and serves as a volunteer member of the Equinunk Watershed Alliance and global moderator of the public forum website www.naturalgasforum.com, whose 3,700 members post opinions and findings on natural gas exploration topics.

Peckham enjoys watching wildlife, fishing, hunting, gardening, library visits, genealogy research, reading, and spending time with his fiancée, Cheryl Korotky.

Vice-Chair Jeff Dexter, who was instrumental in Damascus Township's July 21, 2008 decision to join the UDC, was appointed as 1st alternate in Jan. 2010 before assuming the UDC representative position in 2012.

That same year, he served as the Council's vice-chair, was elected chairperson in 2013, and filled the secretary-treasurer position in 2015.

The Cochecton, NY native graduated from Narrowsburg Central School in 1967, earned a 1971 Bachelor's degree in Resource Management from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University, and had a 31-year career working in the Arizona State Parks System before retiring in 2003 back to the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Al Henry was appointed by Berlin Township as its UDC delegate on Jan. 3, 2012. He chaired the Council in 2015 after having served as its secretary-treasurer from Aug. 1, 2013 through Dec. 31, 2014,

prior to the 2016 election.

A native of Beach Lake, PA, Henry was employed by the National Park Service for 32 years before retiring on June 1, 2009 as Chief Ranger of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The Honesdale High School graduate earned a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Parks from Penn State University in 1976 and studied Outdoor Education.

Board Updates

2016 brought new faces and positions to the UDC roster.

The Town of Hancock appointed Katt Judd as its alternate on Feb. 2, replacing Sam Rowe Jr.

Newly-elected Town of Highland Supervisor Jeff Haas assumed the UDC representative role in January, with former representative Andy Boyar serving as a co-alternate with Debra Conway.

Lumberland named two new delegates from its Town Board, Representative Leigh Sherman and Alternate Zoriana Gingold, replacing Nadia Rajsz and Jenny Mellan respectively.

Lackawaxen Township appointed Supervisor Tom Cardinale as representative and Judy Kuhn Conklin as alternate, succeeding John McKay and Brian Stuart.

For Shohola Township, Aaron Robinson and Patricia Jeffer switched roles as representative and 1st alternate, with George J. Fluhr continuing as 2nd alternate.

Staff Transition

Travis O'Dell, who began employment as the UDC's Resource Specialist on Oct. 4, 2012, resigned effective Feb. 26, 2016 to pursue other career opportunities.

The Personnel Subcommittee was in the process of conducting interviews for the full-time position at press time.

UDC Awards Local Grants

The Upper Delaware Council awarded \$35,000 in Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) and solicited proposals to assist with River and Shoreline Clean-ups.

The board approved 10 TAGs at its Oct. 1, 2015 meeting. The reimbursable projects must be completed by Aug. 22, 2016.

The recipients are:

Town of Lumberland - \$7,000 to review and update the Comprehensive Plan;

Shohola Township - \$4,902 to purchase historic kiosks for Rohman Park;

Town of Highland - \$4,500 to develop and print a "Revitalizing the Monarch Butterfly" brochure;

Town of Delaware - \$4,460 to complete the codification of town ordinances;

Damascus Township - \$3,218 to compile, generate, and distribute emergency action educational material;

Berlin Township - \$3,040 to purchase tax maps, create a base map of the township, and develop a municipal website;

Town of Tusten - \$2,300 to design a new town website;

Town of Highland - \$2,100 to develop a "Guide to Permits" brochure;

Town of Tusten - \$1,980 to plan a multi-generational park; and

Town of Lumberland - \$1,500 to develop a historical markers brochure.

The 2016 TAG round brings the cumulative amount to \$809,325 that the UDC has awarded since 1988, funding 240 projects.

For the third year, the UDC will offer mini-grants to support river and shoreline clean-up projects by member municipalities.

Project applications are due by April 18 and clean-ups must be finished by Aug. 15.

BioBlitz Returns

The Upper Delaware BioBlitz will return to the Ten Mile River Scout Camp in the Town of Tusten on June 24 and 25 after a two-year absence.

NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is leading the 2016 effort, with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy acting as fiscal agent. The property is owned and managed by the Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Teams of scientists and amateur naturalists will converge on the site June 24 to begin a 24-hour biodiversity survey. The public is invited for public programs on June 25. Visit www.upperdelaware-bioblitz.com or Facebook for details.

The UDC is a \$500 level sponsor.



REVITALIZE RESOURCE: An advance team from Leadership Sullivan joined staff from the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Feb. 1 to plan logistics for their May 21 project to clean up an overgrown section of the D&H Canal at the National Park Service's Corwin Farm located on NYS Rt. 97 between Barryville and Pond Eddy. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Business Leaders Tackle Canal Clean-up

The Leadership Sullivan Class of 2016 selected a community service proposal by the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) that will help advance natural resource protection and historic preservation of an intact local portion of the Delaware & Hudson Canal which operated from 1828 to 1898.

The 20-member class of Sullivan County, NY business representatives and emerging leaders will deploy their volunteer forces at the National Park Service's (NPS) Corwin Farm Ranger Station located between New York State Route 97 and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in the Town of Lumberland at 8 a.m. on May 21.

After receiving an orientation program and working under NPS supervision, they will remove overgrown woody material, shrubs, and non-native vegetation from the bed of the de-watered canal in order to protect the hand-laid stone walls and allow for a more accurate interpretation of this cultural resource for the public.

Leadership Sullivan is a business-supported program sponsored by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation to develop informed and committed leaders from all segments of the community who will apply their collective experience and skills to serve, strengthen, and improve the quality of life for all who live and work in Sullivan County.

During the 10-month class, members learn about such topics as government, health, education, the justice system, environment, tourism, recreation, culture, and economic development. They also solicit non-profit organizations to submit ideas for community impact service projects as a graduation requirement to foster team building and effective collaboration while benefitting a worthwhile initiative.

In addition to the D&H Canal Clean-up project, the 2016 class chose to help develop a playground at Monticello's Rutherford Elementary School in eastern Sullivan County.

The UDC's application noted that the 4.24-acre Corwin Farm site, owned by NPS since 1994 and adjacent to Lock 67, includes a locktender's house, barn, and outbuildings set within a landscape of mature trees, orchards, and lawns. The canal's stone retaining walls, earthen/gravel towpath, and causeway still convey its 19th century design and use.

The Leadership Sullivan class had visited the Upper Delaware River Valley on Oct. 7, 2015 to hear presentations from NPS, UDC, the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, and Lander's River Trips during a stop in Narrowsburg which followed a talk by Sullivan County Historian John Conway and bus tour of other county focal points such as Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and the future Montreign Casino development.

The next issue of "The Upper Delaware" will include before and after photos to highlight the work accomplished. The project will also be documented by video.

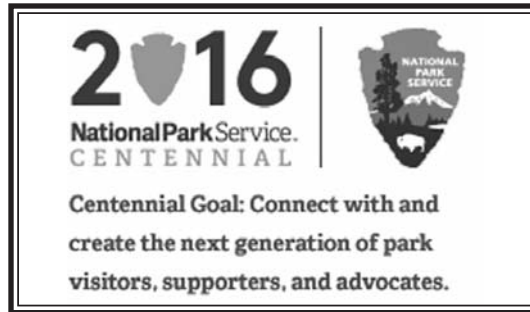
UDC Awards Banquet Set for April 24

The Upper Delaware Council's 28th Annual Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, April 24, at Tennenah Lake Golf and Tennis Club in the Town of Fremont (178 County Rt. 96, Roscoe, NY).

The public festivities at Wolff's 1910 Banquet Hall will begin at 3 p.m. with a reception offering hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. A hearty buffet dinner will be served at 4 p.m.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Superintendent Kristina Heister will give an address at 5 p.m. about the National Park Service Centennial celebration as a springboard for exciting new initiatives at the local park unit level.

The award presentations to follow will highlight the actions of individuals and organizations who have contributed to the quality of life or protected the



**Keynote Speaker
Kristina Heister**

resources of the river valley in NY and PA.

Tickets are \$28. Reservations are needed by April 15. Please contact the UDC at P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; phone (845) 252-3022; or email cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

CENTENNIAL, continued from Page 1

lic river accesses clean of litter and attractive for users. Call (570) 685-4871, ext. 6610 if interested.

World Fish Migration Day on May 21 will be marked locally with a free, guided float trip that will focus on American shad during the peak of their spawning run. Reserve at (570) 729-7842, ext. 3305 or jessica_newbern@nps.gov.

The Upper Delaware is launching a new "Take a Paddle!" program in June as a companion to "Take a Hike!". A cloth patch will be bestowed on participants who paddle all 73.4 miles of the river corridor.

In honor of the Centennial, a "100 Mile Paddle" will kick off June 4, extending from Hancock into 30 miles of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Each summer weekend will welcome residents, visitors, elected officials, and partner groups to join an NPS ambassador for pre-publicized paddling sections.

The park unit is hosting the June 24-25 Upper Delaware Centennial BioBlitz at Ten Mile River Scout Camp, and participating in the June 18-25 Delaware River Sojourn which has adopted the theme of "Find Your River: Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service".

Programming for the Zane Grey Festival on July 16 at the museum grounds in Lackawaxen, PA will be expanded to include a live raptor show, horse-drawn wagon rides to Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct, a living history presentation by the western author himself, and more.

On August 13, come to Narrowsburg for the NPS Birthday Bash and 100 Canoe Challenge to form that number with boats on the Big Eddy for a unique photo, and to enjoy fun games and refreshments on dry ground at the Narrowsburg Union.

The Centennial Celebration activities will wrap up with a Sept. 25 river clean-up to be done in recognition of National Public

Skidders Falls Bridge Fate Uncertain While Pond Eddy Bridge Advances

On Dec. 11, 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) suddenly closed the bridge connecting Skidders Falls, NY to Milanville, PA with a terse press announcement stating, "There is no scheduled timeline to reopen the 114-year-old bridge."

The bridge failed inspection after damaged stringers were found on the single-lane, timber plank, steel truss crossing.

The Upper Delaware Council and others consider the lack of any official information since then regarding repair or replacement options to be unacceptable.

"Municipal leaders, community residents, local business owners, and the traveling public are entitled to an explanation of the timetable and issues involved in deciding this bridge's fate," the UDC wrote March 3 while urging PennDOT to schedule a public meeting and provide an update.

Additional limitations to interstate traffic will come into play with the anticipated Spring 2017-Fall 2018 rehabilitation of the currently single-lane Narrowsburg Bridge, which is being used as a detour route.

The National Park Service, which operates a ranger office in Milanville, raised alarm over the potential hazard caused by delayed emergency response time in a

Lands Day. Sign up to help with Anya Shaunessy at (570) 685-4871, ext. 6610.

"We are very grateful for the support we have received from our partners, press, visitor bureaus, and others in making this year a defining moment that offers an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our joint accomplishments," Heister says.

Visit www.nps.gov/upde or follow the park unit on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for details and updates.

March 3 letter to PennDOT.

The Wayne County Planning Commission asked PennDOT on March 1 to determine the costs of replacing the damaged stringers and installing "headache bars" to prevent future illegal, overweight vehicles from crossing the bridge to keep it open.

More than 800 signatures appear on an online petition by those citing adverse impacts on local businesses, travelers, and emergency aid from the uncertain closure.

Downriver, the 1904 Pond Eddy Bridge recovered from an Oct. 21, 2015 accident in which a 35-ton dump truck lost its brakes, hurled across the 7-ton bridge, and crashed, requiring emergency repairs.

Bids on a new \$13.3 million single-lane structure will be advertised this spring with construction starting in the summer, proceeding in phases until it is expected to fully open to traffic by late Fall 2018.

During construction, the existing historic bridge will remain open for use, while boaters will be able to navigate around a temporary in-river rock causeway.



NO GO: The sudden, indefinite closure of the Milanville, PA-Skidder Falls, NY Bridge on Dec. 11, 2015 has caused consternation and concern. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of Upper Delaware Council activities and river valley issues from mid-September 2015 to mid-March 2016, not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, include:

RIVER ACCESSES

The UDC facilitated a 10/21 meeting on use of property below the Barryville Bridge for a commercial livery operation and followed up on signage issues with the public river access at the cul-de-sac in Barryville.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy completed acquisition in December of a riverfront parcel adjacent to the Long Eddy River Access with intentions of selling the property to the NYS DEC when funding is secured, but proposed improvements to the site have proved controversial.

An 11/24 response was received from the National Park Service (NPS) to the UDC's concerns over muddy conditions at the Ten Mile River Access, noting that any capital improvements would require action by the property's owner, the Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The UDC on 12/12 asked the PA Fish and Boat Commission to restore the traditional name of Darbytown to the Rt. 652 river access that is inaccurately signed and referenced now as Narrowsburg, PA.

UDC LETTERS

9/28 to the Sullivan County Visitors Association, requesting consideration of featuring the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in the 2016 Sullivan County Catskills Travel Guide to highlight the river valley's significance as a tourism draw in western Sullivan County and join in the celebration of the 2016 National Park Service Centennial Anniversary;

10/1 to the Town of Tusten, supporting a Big Eddy Riverwalk Grant Application;

1/7 to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection acknowledging receipt of a Nov. 25, 2015 detailed reply from Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush to UDC concerns over public safety below the reservoirs, with an offer to facilitate coordinating river valley emergency services for tabletop training exercises; and

2/16 to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 4, requesting improved signage for the NYS Bouchouxville Trail (Jensen's Ledges) in Lordville.

EEL DECISION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced on 10/7 that the American eel is stable and does not need protection under the Endangered Species Act.

This was the second time that the Service had evaluated this since 2007.

The finding determined that eels remain widely distributed throughout much of their historical range, despite habitat loss and



BASIN LAND USE: The Upper Delaware Council hosted a Watershed Identity and Scenario Development workshop for the "DRB2070" project on Nov. 10, 2015. Shippensburg University was awarded a \$1 million grant from the William Penn Foundation in February 2015 to develop a land use mapping, modeling and monitoring system for the Delaware River Basin. Among those discussing developments and issues that could affect the 13,500 square mile basin were, from the left, Jim Serio of Hancock, NY, Steven Schwartz of Equinunk, PA, former UDC Resource Specialist Travis O'Dell, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Assistant Carla Hahn, and Eric Roberts of the Orange County Land Trust. More information is available at www.drbproject.org. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

reduced numbers over the past century.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development projects reviewed or discussed included:

- Town of Highland: \$1.05 million Beaver Brook Bridge Replacement by NYS DOT over NYS Rt. 97, to occur in spring 2016

- Town of Lumberland: NYS DOT project to remove 200 cubic yards of unstable rock approximately 5 miles south of Barryville;

-Damascus Township: area variance to replace a residential home in Tammany Flats that was destroyed by flood in 2006;

-Shohola Township: Zoning Ordinance No. 79, met with the Planning Commission on 9/29; approved a 2nd draft Substantial Conformance Review Report on 12/15; and issued a letter on 3/3 recommending a positive determination by NPS following the township's approval of the ordinance;

-Federal Highway Administration: Plans announced on 10/19 to rehabilitate the Roebbling Bridge, requiring intermittent closings for short periods in Fall 2016;

-Town of Tusten: two special use permits for the Narrowsburg Union to allow higher education classes and a farmer's market;

-Town of Tusten: 12/8 hearing on a zoning amendment to regulate campgrounds, campsites, and recreational vehicles;

-Lackawaxen Township: 12/16 public hearing to amend the Sign section of the Zoning Ordinance;

-Town of Highland: 2/9 hearing, recommendations by Zoning Rewrite Committee for consistency with Comprehensive Plan;

- Town of Tusten: 2/29 notice of a planned culvert repair on Rt. 97 by NYS DOT to re-set an existing concrete pipe;

-Town of Highland: 2/29 notice of a planned culvert repair on Rt. 97.

NATURAL GAS

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. filed an application with FERC on 10/9 for the Orion Project, which would install 12.91 miles of a loop pipeline through Berlin, Lackawaxen, and Palmyra Townships to connect with the TGP 300 line, utilizing an open trench method to cross the Lackawaxen River over NPS objections.

The Millennium Pipeline Co. filed on 1/19 to build a second, larger compressor station on Hungry Hill Road in the Town of Hancock and to erect a \$63 million, also 20,400 HP size compressor station on 88 acres of the former Eldred Preserve property in the Town of Highland by 2018.

The Highland Town Board adopted a 3/8 resolution opposing the project, citing its 2012 local law which bans natural gas extraction and compressor stations in the town, among other concerns.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Special meetings included:

9/24, Water 101 Workshop: Fundamental

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

Water Resource Challenges and Needs, at the Delaware Youth Center in Callicoon, sponsored by Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Sullivan County Division of Planning & Environmental Management, Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition, and the William Penn Foundation;

9/30 and 2/17-18, Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Stewardship Council at Settlers Inn, Hawley;

10/19-20, Water, Water Everywhere: The Future of the Upper Delaware River, at West Branch Angler Resort in Hale Eddy, presented by Friends of the Upper Delaware River, with UDC as a sponsor;

10/22 and 2/18, Delaware River Basin Commission's Water Resources Management Committee;

10/30, Upper Delaware Geological Resources Inventory Project planning session with staff from New York State Geological Survey, NPS and UDC;

11/12, Stream Corridor Management Plan Advisory Committee, sponsored by the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition, at the Hancock Town Hall;

11/14, The first Future of History Forum, sponsored by The Delaware Company, at SUNY Sullivan, Loch Sheldrake;

11/19, USGS National Water Census Webinar to conclude the 3-year study of freshwater needs; and

1/21, Public update by PennDOT on the Pond Eddy Bridge Replacement Project, held at the Shohola Municipal Building.

UDC RESOLUTIONS

2015-#15: Approving Fiscal Year 2016 Technical Assistance Grants; #16: Executing a Contract with Environmental Planning & Design LLC; #17: Award the Printing of "The Upper Delaware" to Courier Printing for FY 2016; 2016-#01: Authorizing Signatories for the Council's Bank Accounts in 2016; #02: Enter Into a Contract with Eckersley & Ostrowski for FY 2016 Financial Audit; and #03: Resolution of Tribute to William E. Douglass.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Contractor Karen Carlson completed organization of the UDC attic space on 9/29 and prepared an inventory of files.

Three solar exhaust fans were installed in the attic by Buselli Solutions on 10/16.

Staff completed a 3-hour Records Management Training Program offered by the National Park Service on 10/22 and consulted with a professional archivist who provided resources and potential funding sources to assist with phase 3 of the UDC Records Management project.

ANNUAL REPORT

The UDC's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2015) was posted to the UDC's website on 12/31.

Decree Party Principals Agree to Meet

Having urged the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree Party Principals to resume good faith negotiations with the goal of approving a multi-year agreement for flow releases from the New York City reservoirs, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) was pleased to receive an invitation to an April 5 meeting at which Delaware River Master Robert R. Mason, Jr. said, "The Principals will endeavor to attend and hear public comments first hand."

That public meeting of the Delaware River Basin Commission's Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC) will be from 1-4 p.m. at Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA.

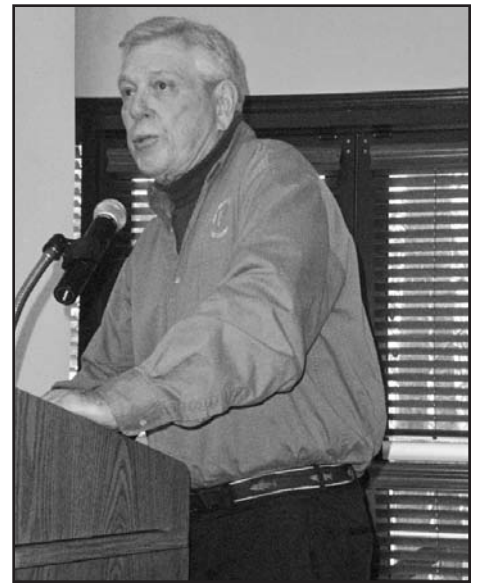
Mason's Feb. 18 invitation was in response to a Jan. 7 letter from the UDC which stated, "Given the May 31, 2016 expiration date of the current Flexible Flows Management Program, time is of the essence to avoid entering a fifth year of renewing virtually the same agreement because the Decree Parties are unable to work together to reach unanimity due to various contrasting positions."

The UDC referenced the last RFAC meeting held Dec. 3 at that same location.

"We were proud of the 100-plus audience turnout, the informative presentations made by Upper Delaware interests, and the passion of those offering public comments. One common theme was to express disappointment over the absence of any Decree Party Principals at the meeting to whom this constructive feedback could be directed. While it is duly acknowledged that Principal attendance is not required at meetings of RFAC, which has its own membership and governing structure, this overwhelming sentiment emphasized that there is a public clamor for an audience with the Decree Parties," the Council stated in its correspondence addressed to the governors of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the mayor of the City of New York.

At that meeting, UDC staff offered six recommendations to help achieve a more equitable, balanced regime of Delaware River flows and releases to protect the local fishery and river recreation industry that are so vital to the region's economy.

They addressed minimum conservation releases, basing water availability on actual New York City consumption, not counting water releases from Lake Wallenpaupack toward the Montague flow target under certain conditions to help maintain adequate flow and temperature in the Delaware River, establishing a river gage at Callicoon or further upriver to ensure habitat protection, repairing leaks in the City's aqueduct system to avoid wasting



PIECE OF MIND: Andy Boyar of Eldred, NY was among the speakers at the Delaware River Basin Commission Regulated Flow Advisory Committee's Dec. 3, 2015 meeting urging policy-makers to act for the good of the river. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

water, and implementing a thermal stress relief protocol to help safeguard the aquatic ecosystem and river-based economy.

Forceful comments were delivered by a long line of speakers.

"Our inability to get an audience with the Decree Party Principals is frustrating. Our constituents feel left out, which engenders suspicion, frustration, and occasional hostility," said Friends of the Upper Delaware River Executive Director Jeff Skelding, speaking on behalf of the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition, the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition, the Upper Delaware River Business Coalition, and the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed.

Delaware County Watershed Affairs Commissioner Dean Frazier agreed, "Whatever decisions you guys make affect us directly. We've got the resource, but we're [treated like] third class citizens!"

Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited National, traveled from Washington to say, "I'm here because the Upper Delaware River System is a national treasure. You all have the abilities to be such heroes here. Try to set aside some of the bickering, put the river first, and do what's right for the river."

Kittatinny Canoes co-owner Dave Jones offered to give RFAC members a free river trip next time the flow levels are so low.

"This is a huge industry. This is our business. This is our economy. If we don't have enough water, it has a short-term effect on the season and future implications on people deciding to never come back," he said.

National Geographic Brands Scenic, Wild Delaware River

A three-state, nine-county area anchored by the National Park Service sites of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area has joined with the National Geographic Maps Division in a regional geotourism branding initiative.

Nearly two years of work will culminate in May 2016 with the launch of an interactive, community-based MapGuide website titled "Scenic, Wild Delaware River."

It will serve as a travel guide to the

places most respected and recommended by locals, who were asked to nominate unique landmarks, attractions, activities, events, and small tourism businesses that define the region's distinctive appeal.

Over a three-month period which started in November when meetings were held in all nine counties - Pike and Wayne in PA, Delaware, Orange and Sullivan in NY, Sussex and Warren in NJ - through mid-January, 514 contributors input more than 700 nominations for sites within a 30-mile



drive range from the river.

Each MapGuide entry includes a narrative description; images, videos, and/or audio; contact information; a geo-located map; and tips on nearby places or experiences to assist with trip-planning. Sample itineraries are being developed.

Those with approved nominations receive a certificate, window sticker, and a website badge with a direct link to tout their National Geographic branding.

The Upper Delaware Council is among the collaborators who have helped steer development of the MapGuide as a Geotourism Stewardship Council member.

Once it launches with due fanfare to be announced in early May, that consortium will carry on the work of implementing the Scenic, Wild Delaware River Strategic Plan which was developed to outline how the website and new network between the Catskills and Poconos will be sustained.

The project was spurred by the National Parks Conservation Association securing a \$675,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation following NPCA's 2014 studies into the economic impacts the two park units have on surrounding communities.

Geotourism is defined as travel that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place - its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.

National Geographic estimates that around 55.1 million Americans fit the profile of a geotourist, whose average age is 43-55 years old, has a high level of education, 45% earn more than \$75,000 as an annual salary, they take four or more leisure trips per year seeking authentic travel experiences, and are willing to spend more time and money than the average tourist to protect or preserve the places they visit.

The Scenic, Wild Delaware River MapGuide is located at <http://delawariver.nat-geotourism.com> and now joins nearly two dozen geotourism programs that have launched since 2005 around the world.

Clear Choices, Clean Water Debuts

Residents and visitors of the Upper Delaware River region have a new on-line educational resource to learn more about water conservation and to pledge to take action to protect our lakes, rivers, and streams from pollution.

"Clear Choices, Clean Water: My Delaware River" is an interactive resource with suggestions everyone can implement to conserve water.

Both homeowners and renters can learn how to design and plant a rain garden; small changes to make around the home to

reduce water usage and save money on utility bills; alternatives to lawn fertilizers that contribute to algae growth; how to find volunteer opportunities throughout the region; and much more.

Website visitors have the opportunity to take a water conservation pledge and "put themselves on the map" to see the impact their actions are having on nearby rivers and streams, and see what actions their neighbors are taking to protect clean water.

The campaign is a cooperative effort among the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlands Conservancy, the Pocono Heritage Land Trust, and the Brodhead Watershed Association.

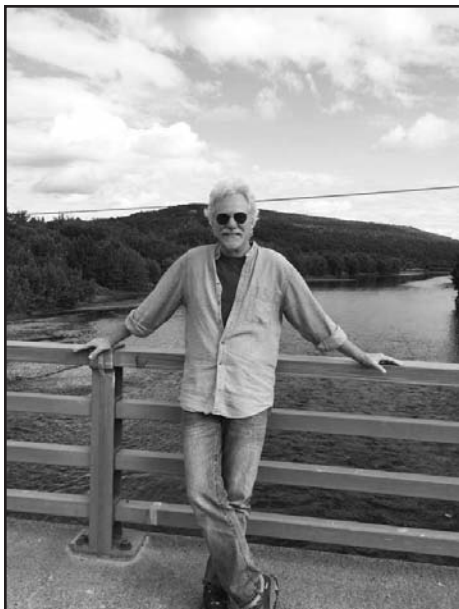
It is supported by funding from the William Penn Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's Community Conservation Partnerships Program Environmental Stewardship Fund, administered by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

A Sullivan County Arts & Heritage Grant funded by the Sullivan County Legislature and administered by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance enabled the development of the #MyWater project, which resides on the Clear Choices, Clean Water website.

Local artist Laura Moran worked with two 15-year-old students, Felix Freeland and Iris Fen Gillingham, to take photographs and collect quotes from Upper Delaware River Valley residents about the importance of water in their lives.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy hopes that people will continue using the "It's #MyWater. I Protect It" hashtag to post their unique stories of water's value on the DHC Facebook and Twitter pages.

Find the website at: MyDelawareRiver-ClearChoicesCleanWater (no dash).



#MY WATER: Joe Freda of Callicoon, NY says, "The Delaware River is the fixed point of my compass. Wherever I am, an internal needle constantly registers my location against that of the river. Proximity to the Delaware determines the state of my spiritual alignment. I grew up on the river, and I live here for the most essential of reasons: It's home." (Photo by Felix Freeland, NYC & Cochection)

UDC Presentations Cover Diverse Topics

The Upper Delaware Council learned about diverse subjects over the past six months.

American Shad were on the mind of Don Hamilton, Chief of Resource Management for the NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, on Oct. 1, 2015.

Hamilton reported on **Young of Year American Shad Sampling** that was a cooperative project between the PA Fish and Boat Commission, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, with the support of the Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Cooperative.

During the late 1800's, the Delaware River had the largest American Shad harvest of any river along the Atlantic Coast, with spring spawning runs of adults sometimes exceeding 10 million fish.

These days, 84% of historic stream habitat along the Atlantic Coast is blocked by dams and the shad population is suffering.

The Upper Delaware study's objectives were to identify practical, reliable sampling methods and locations, and produce data to compare with downstream locations. Monitoring at four sites had taken place in July, August, and September, with one more round to go in October at the time, deploying 300-foot seine nets and other methods starting at sunset.

Dick Comi, senior partner of The Center for Municipal Solutions, returned on Nov. 5 as a requested follow-up to the UDC's March 29, 2014 cell tower workshop.

Comi reported that 40% of U.S. homes have given up land lines and this number is increasing daily. Two types of **telecommunications technology** which are emerging are small cell sites in high-traffic areas and distributed antenna systems that can work on telephone poles with fiber optics, for example.

Asked how to get better wireless service where there aren't a lot of people or traffic, Comi acknowledged, "It's not a rosy picture but there are some opportunities."

There are significant federal funds available to extend rural broadband services but that is generally through macro sites that can cost a single carrier \$550,000-\$800,000 for the equipment alone, not counting the actual cell tower.

"You need to protect your area in terms of the aesthetics, the environment, and the value of your homes, and if you're looking to make money, that can be done also," Comi said, but only through community advance planning and regulations.

He recommended finding ways to reduce costs to the industry to provide the desired service, such as incentivizing them through grants and co-locating multiple antennas.



GEOLOGY TALK: Dr. Andrew Kozlowski, standing, Glacial Geologist/Senior Scientist with the NYS Education Department, presented on "Geologic and Natural History Mapping in New York State" at the UDC's January 7, 2016 meeting. Listening, clockwise from the left, are Chairman Fred Peckham (Hancock), UDC Secretary Cindy Odell, Larry H. Richardson (Cochecton), Harold G. Roeder, Jr. (Delaware), and David Dean (Deerpark). (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

At the Dec. 3 UDC meeting, former Chief of Law Enforcement at Upper Delaware (UPDE) and current Law Enforcement Operations Supervisor at Delaware Water Gap (DEWA), Joe Hinkes, gave an overview of the increased **collaborative law enforcement policies** after the first experimental season.

From May 17 to Sept. 7, 2015, UPDE had a volume of 58 incidents while DEWA dealt with 888. UPDE staff included six patrol officers while DEWA had 18.

Hinkes detailed the sharing of personnel, administrative duties, increased training opportunities, and morale-building.

"I've been pleased with how things have gone and I look forward to building this collaboration into the future," Hinkes said.

Superintendent Kris Heister said this arrangement will be evaluated annually.

Field work by the New York State Geological Survey (NYSGS) for Phase 1 of an **Upper Delaware Geologic Mapping** project will get underway this spring through fall 2016 from Hancock to Narrowsburg.

Dr. Andrew Kozlowski said in a Jan. 7 UDC presentation that scientists have not done geological mapping in this area in approximately 100 years.

"It really looks to be a fascinating story that we look forward to uncovering. We virtually have no information about this part of the world," he said.

The resource inventory is funded by the National Park Service to focus only on the NY side of the river. PA data has been previously collected and will be matched.

"The geology does not stop at the state

line, but we do," Kozlowski said.

He characterized the field work as low impact, with hand augers or ground-penetrating radar typically used to supplement visual observations while hiking.

"We look for where the geology is exposed. We're looking to partner with the landowners. They can best tell us where it's most interesting or unusual. That's the key to having successful projects," he said.

NYSGS will seek UDC assistance for introductions to landowners and return with a presentation of findings. They expect to take on Phase 2 of the survey from Narrowsburg to Sparrowbush in 2017.

"We all live on a landscape and we have to know what the lay of the land is," Kozlowski stated as the overall objective.

A six-month project to evaluate and recommend improvements to the UDC's **Project Review Workbook** wrapped up with a presentation to the board by consultant Andrew Schwartz from Environmental Planning & Design, LLC on March 3.

The UDC sought to streamline the 1988 document that guides the review of land use developments and ordinance changes in the river corridor in order to facilitate its use and effectiveness by the Council, the National Park Service, and municipalities.

Schwartz offered specific modifications in the categories of Roles, Responsibilities, and Timing; Workbook Presentation and Formatting; Outreach, Education and Awareness; and Information Exchange.

The UDC's Project Review Committee will now consider the recommendations and take action.

In Memoriam

William "Bill" Ernest Douglass died on February 13, 2016 at home in Honesdale, PA at the age of 66.

Born on April 17, 1949 in Johnson City, NY, he was the son of the late Kenneth L. and Eleanor Ruth Daniels Douglass.

Bill graduated from Vestal High School and studied at Hastings Boys' High School in New Zealand in a student exchange program. In 1971, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia with a Bachelor's degree in Geology.

Bill began his career working in Honesdale with Mark Zimmer Sr. as a surveyor. He later became the executive director for the Wayne County Planning Department for 11 years prior to his work with the Upper Delaware Council.

An active member of the community, Bill formerly served on the board at Wayne Memorial Hospital, the Wayne County Community Foundation, and the Economic Development Council of Northeast PA.

Bill was instrumental in the state designation of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (NYS Route 97), and served on the Upper Delaware River Roundtable, the Watershed Advisory Council for the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Upper Delaware River Corridor Local Waterfront Revitalization Committee, and the Northeast Pennsylvania Rural Transportation Planning Organization.

He was a member of the Oregon Township Planning Commission and coached in the Honesdale Soccer Club. He belonged to St. John the Evangelist Parish in

William E. Douglass First UDC Executive Director for 22 Years

Honesdale, and enjoyed golfing, skiing, and fishing at Elk Lake.

Bill is survived by his wife of 33 years, the former Mary Ellen Kelly, R.N. The couple married on July 17, 1982.

Also surviving are his children, Ian Douglass and wife, Fawn Dalton of Atlanta, GA; Molly Douglass of Providence, RI; and Zane Douglass and his wife, Kristie Douglass of Atlanta; and two grandchildren, Liam and Lyla Douglass; as well as his aunt, Nina Martin of Bethany; a cousin, Brenda Zeglen and husband, Barry, and their daughter, Natalie, all of Honesdale; and sisters Barbara Wilcox and husband Gerry of Vestal, NY, and Bonnie Moyer and husband Robert of Apalachin, NY.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Feb. 16 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale.

Memorial contributions may be made to ARC Dyberry Day Camp, P.O. Box 1121, Honesdale, PA 18431; or the Wayne County Community Foundation (Michael J. Bryant Memorial Fund), 214 Ninth St., Honesdale, PA 18431.

Arrangements were with the Hessling Funeral Home in Honesdale.

UDC Resolution

The Upper Delaware Council observed a moment of silence and approved the following resolution at the March 3 meeting:

Whereas, The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) hired William E. Douglass as



the non-profit organization's first Executive Director on March 13, 1989, a position he held with distinction for 22 years before retiring effective January 1, 2012; and

Whereas, As chief support staff to the Council, "Bill" was responsible for establishing the framework of programs and activities necessary to accomplish the UDC's mission of ensuring effective implementation of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in partnership with the National Park Service; and

Whereas, The position required Bill to demonstrate skills in intergovernmental coordination; organizational administration; budgeting; communications; strategic planning; staff supervision; outreach to board members, elected officials, media, and the public; and to have an extensive knowledge of land use development and resource management issues; and

Whereas, Bill performed his duties with diplomacy, studious research, a strong work ethic, an engaging demeanor, and dedication equaled only to his devotion to his beloved family and volunteer service to his community in Wayne County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, The membership and staff of the Upper Delaware Council mourns the loss and cherishes the memory of Bill Douglass (April 17, 1949 to February 13, 2016);

Now, therefore, be it resolved that,

1) The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. expresses gratitude to William E. Douglass for his impactful contributions to building and sustaining the successful legacy of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's cooperative management model; and 2) This resolution will be presented to Bill's family with condolences and respect.

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2016.



ON DUTY: In this July 24, 2005 photo, Bill Douglass explains the scope of the Delaware River Basin to Fran Mainella, who had been appointed in 2001 as the 16th and first female director of the U.S. National Park Service, during an official visit to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River that included a stop at the UDC office. (UDC File Photos by David B. Soete)

Get Involved in Valley Projects

~ Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is seeking volunteers to serve as **Watershed Stewards** for the 2016 visitor season in the program's fifth year.

Stewards will be stationed at some of the busiest river accesses on weekends from June 18 through Sept. 4 to conduct interviews and boat inspections aimed at learning more about and protecting against the invasion of aquatic invasive species.

An orientation and training session will be held on June 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA. Lunch will be provided, as well as official shirts and hats to wear on duty.

Please sign up with NPS Biologist Jamie Myers at (570) 729-7842, ext. 3301.

~ Help is sought through flexible hours at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA with preparing the Upper Delaware Oral History Collection for public availability.

Volunteers will assist with transcribing approximately 100 pending tapes from the 150 interviews that Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River conducted of local residents in the mid-1980s to capture the history of the region.

Oral History Transcribers should have an interest in local history as told from a first person perspective, the ability to work independently, and attention to detail. Familiarity with Microsoft Office and Adobe products is needed.

To apply, contact Museum Technician Lauren Hauptman at (570) 685-4871, ext. 6606 or lauren_hauptman@nps.gov.

~ The Upper Delaware was awarded a **2016 Active Trails Grant** of \$6,411 from the National Park Foundation for its project titled, "Experiencing Nature: Encouraging Underserved Youth and Senior Citizens to be Part of Nature through Guided Hikes, Canoe Trips, Biking, and Snowshoeing."

A series of free, seasonal activities will be announced to connect residents of Sullivan (NY) and Wayne (PA) Counties with health and wellness resources in the

Join UDC for Raft Trip

The Upper Delaware Council will host its 28th Annual Family Raft Trip on Sunday, August 7, 2016.

An exciting and scenic 10-mile paddle on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River from Skinners Falls to Ten Mile River is in store for participants who pre-register by July 29.

Lander's River Trips will provide the rafts, paddles, life jackets, safety instructions, and shuttle transportation. Minimum occupancy per raft is four people. Children must weigh a minimum of 40 lbs. and be able to swim. For optimum safety, all UDC rafters will be required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device when they are on the water for the duration of the trip.



The average length for this trip is 4.5 hours depending on the river level, wind, and each group's desired pace.

Pack a picnic lunch and drinking water. No glass containers are allowed. Dress to get wet, wear sunscreen and foot protection, and avoid bringing valuables. Small coolers and waterproof bags for items like cameras and keys may be tied into the raft.

Plan to arrive between 9-10 a.m. at Lander's Skinners Falls Campground, located at 40 Skinner's Falls West Road off New York State Route 97, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 to check in, complete the required waiver forms, and launch. Rafters will be shuttled back to their vehicles from the Ten Mile River Access.

The UDC's group discount rate is \$26 for ages 13 & up, \$16 for ages 5-12. Advance payment is requested with the reservation to include complete contact information, all guest names, and the ages of any minor children under 18 by July 29.

Please contact Cindy Odell at (845) 252-3022 or cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org with questions and go to the UDC's website to download the reservation form. Driving directions are available at www.landersrivertrips.com.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Call Anya Shaunessy at (570) 685-4871, ext. 6610, to learn more.

~ The National Park Foundation is giving \$8,349 through an "Every Kid in a Park" **Transportation Grant** to enable the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River to bring additional fourth grade students from area school districts to participate in its Delaware and Hudson Canal Days.

The 17th annual living history program open to pre-registered school groups only will take place in May, centered around Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct in Minisink Ford, NY and Lackawaxen, PA.

The program allows students to experience what life would have been like in the mid-1800s on a canal boat traveling alongside the Delaware River.



PROMOTE SAFETY: As Water Safety Month kicks off in May, the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is offering these lawn signs as public displays to raise awareness of the "Wear It" message. To request a new or replacement lawn sign this year, please contact Connie Lloyd at (570) 685-4871, ext. 6604 or email connie_lloyd@nps.gov. (Contributed Illustration)

Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or via postal mail. Please advise us if you wish to discontinue your mail copy, would like to sign up as a new mail subscriber, or if there are any changes to your name or address for our records. Return this notice to: Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; or call (845) 252-3022 or e-mail cindy@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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Upper Delaware Council
P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192
Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359
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*Working together to conserve the Upper
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The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Three standing committees meet monthly as follows: Water Use/Resource Management, third Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; Project Review and Operations, fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the UDC office, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY. All meetings are open to the public. Call (845) 252-3022 or visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org for specific meeting dates.

Upper Delaware News, Views and 'To Do's'

History Festival Apr. 16

The 3rd Annual Thomas Kennedy Local History Festival will be held April 16 from 12-4 p.m. at the Hawley Silk Mill, featuring exhibits from historical societies in Wayne and Pike Counties, PA.

The sponsoring organizations will debut a new "Passport to History" booklet to help describe historic sites in those counties, with stamps offered at each location.

Foods of the Delaware

The Annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands fundraising benefit for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy will take place on April 30 from 5:30-10:30 p.m. at The Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA.

The event will feature cuisine prepared with locally grown and produced organic ingredients, paired with fine wines, as well as exciting auctions offering a generous bounty of local businesses and products.

Honorary Co-Chairs are Mark Ruffalo, actor, activist, and founder of Water Defense; and Gary Beilman, president and CEO of The Dime Bank.

Tickets for the four-course dinner are \$125. An after-party upstairs with live folk

fusion music and an open bar will follow. Sponsorships are available. Contact (570) 226-3164 or land@delawarehighlands.org.

Mark the date of August 27 for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's annual Community Picnic from 12-4 p.m. at their Bethel, NY office. The event is free but requires reservations to (845) 583-1010 or info@delawarehighlands.org.

River Sojourn June 18-25

The 2016 Delaware River Sojourn: "Find Your River: Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service", will kick off its eight days of guided paddling June 18 with a trip from Skinners Falls to Ten Mile River.

After camping on the grounds of the Zane Grey Museum, Sojourners will paddle June 19 from Lackawaxen to Barryville.

Register by June 11 for the earlybird rate of \$80/day for adults and \$60 for children 15 and under, plus \$5 ACA fee. First-time paddler scholarships may be available.

Go to www.delawareriversojourn.org for the full itinerary and registration details.

Rep. Gibson to Speak

U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19) will deliver the keynote address at the

annual commemoration of the 1779 Battle of Minisink on July 23 at 4 p.m. at Sullivan County's Minisink Battleground Park in Minisink Ford, NY, presented by The Delaware Company.

That ceremony will be preceded on the Pennsylvania side of the river that day by the Grave of the Unknown Soldier observance at 1 p.m. in Lackawaxen, presented by the Pike County Historian.

Hancock Arts in the Park

Gateway Cultural Arts will debut a 2016 "Summer Nights Live on the Square" series in Hancock, NY, with exciting free performances held every first and third Friday at the Hancock Town Square from June through September.

There will also be a May 29 season kick-off with a community yard sale, picnic, and music; special shows by French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts; and a juried "Arts in the Park" fair Aug. 6 for which fine artists, photographers, craftspeople, and authors are sought. Contact (607) 637-2870 or DestinationHancock.com.

The series is made possible in part from receiving a New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization grant.