

# The Upper Delaware

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

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**available on-line or by mail!**

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**ROADSIDE REFUSE:** This pull-off area along New York State Route 97 in the Town of Tusten sees its share of illegal dumping with garbage bags, boxes, and assorted litter strewn carelessly. The Upper Delaware Litter Sweep set for April 22-25 will tackle problem areas throughout the bi-state river valley and engage people in litter prevention. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## Upper Delaware Litter Sweep To Celebrate 50th Earth Day

Feeling helpless, restless, and motivated to make a difference locally as the coronavirus pandemic creates chaos globally?

Planning for the first-ever 2020 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep starting on April 22 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day has pivoted from in-person meetings to virtual communications via

phone, email, Facebook, and the event website, searchable under the Google sites name of the Upper Delaware Litter Clean-up & Prevention Project.

Get involved by signing up online as an individual clean-up volunteer, becoming a community organizer, offering donations of goods and services, and participating in its educational and artistic projects.

The idea is to focus on roadway, public property, and front yard clean-ups throughout the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley in New York and Pennsylvania between April 22 and 25.

Organizers hope that the sweep will culminate with a volunteer recognition reception to feature the opening of a local recycled art exhibit and Litter Letter project on April 25 at The Narrowsburg Union.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) initiated planning last summer. In January, *Please see LITTER on Page 10*



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

# Upper Delaware Profile: Dan Paparella

Stepping forward to coordinate the Upper Delaware Council's first-ever litter cleanup comes naturally to Dan Paparella, who does not shy away from ambitious projects... in fact, he initiates them.

The Beach Lake, PA native and 2015 Sullivan West High School graduate earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in water resources from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 2019.

At college, he became a member and Hiking Leader with the UMass Outing Club, then went out to Bozeman for a year and a half domestic exchange program at Montana State University where he volunteered with a shop called The Bike Kitchen to repair and rebuild donated bicycles, and became the president of the Solar for Everyone non-profit organization.

The 23-year-old was inspired to return to his roots and organize the Upper Delaware Recreation Project, which he envisions as a way to parlay his outdoorsy interests into a community-building organization.

"I moved back home to apply my education to the sustainable development of our area. Part of that puzzle for me is working on building a sustainable food system, and of course working on this Recreation Project, which is aimed at bolstering our economy and community through the development of public trails, parks, clubs, and programs mainly related to outdoor recreation. I am very much looking forward to meeting more like-minded individuals and pushing this project forward for years to come," Paparella says.

The Upper Delaware Recreation Project, which obtained its 501(c)3 non-profit status through ENGN in Callicoon, also focuses on the environmental, social, and physi-



**Dan Paparella, Town of Tusten**

cal/mental health benefits that can result from expanding recreational opportunities.

"I care deeply about community development, and keeping kids away from substance abuse and active," Paparella says.

He has been working to develop mountain biking trails at Damascus Park, talking with Sullivan West School District officials about after school activities, and discussing the start-up of a Bike Kitchen used parts model at Cosmic Wheel in Callicoon.

His sustainability ethic extends to agriculture, water, transportation, and energy, noting, "It's all connected; these are the systems we depend on."

The son of Richard, a Honesdale barber, and Lisa, a biology and chemistry teacher at Sullivan West High School, has been working seasonally at Willow Wisp Organic Farm in Damascus, PA and the Campanelli Chicken Farm in Fosterdale, NY.

This summer, he will be a volunteer operator for the new Town of Tusten compost-digester unit (see page 10).

Paparella was appointed as a UDC 2nd alternate representative by the Tusten Town Board on September 10, 2019, initially to substitute seasonally for Evan Padua on the Water Use/Resource Management Committee, but he subsequently joined the Operations Committee and has regularly attended Project Review and full Council meetings as well.

"These organizations need to exist to make sure the needs of local people are met. It's great that the Delaware is an exceptional Wild and Scenic River. I spent a lot of time swimming in the river near the Narrowsburg Bridge. Now I'm more into fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. I realize how important it is to protect our water resources," he says.

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*The Upper Delaware* is a free publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) 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.

### 2020 Officers

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

### New York Town Representatives

Hancock.....Fred Peckham  
Timothy Newman, Alternate

Fremont.....James Greier  
George Conklin, Alternate

Delaware.....Harold G. Roeder, Jr.  
David Peters, Alternate

Cochecton.....Larry H. Richardson  
Sean Nearing, Alternate

Tusten.....Susan Sullivan  
Evan Padua, 1st Alternate

Dan Paparella, 2nd Alternate  
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Alternate-vacant  
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Daniel Rutledge, Alternates

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Paul Henry, Alternate

Lackawaxen.....Doug Case  
Judy Kuhn Conklin, Alternate

Shohola.....Aaron Robinson  
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Westfall.....Michael Barth

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Michael J. Flaherty, Alternate

Pennsylvania.....Timothy Dugan, DCNR  
Alternate-vacant

Delaware River Basin Commission (non-voting).....Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director

### Partner

National Park Service.....Gay Vietzke, Rep.  
Northeast Regional Director

Kristina Heister, UPDE Superintendent, Alt.  
**Staff**

Executive Director &  
Newsletter Editor.....Laurie Ramie

Resource Specialist.....Vacant  
Secretary.....Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

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## UDC 2020 Transitions

Completing terms on the Upper Delaware Council at the end of 2019 were: Town of Highland Representative Kaitlin Haas, after joining in Jan. 2018; Town of Highland co-alternate Debra Conway, who had been appointed in Jan. 2011; and Westfall Township alternate Roland Edwards, Jr., who served on the board for one year.

Town Councilman James Gutekunst was appointed as Highland's new UDC representative in 2020.

On the UDC staff, Pete Golod resigned as Resource Specialist on Jan. 10 after holding the position since April 23, 2016.

Golod has moved to Seattle, WA to embark on a new career in the marine shipping industry.

The UDC is in the process of filling that full-time job vacancy.



**ANNUAL MEETING:** Gathered at the Jan. 2, 2020 meeting were, seated from the left: Secretary-Treasurer Alan Henry (Berlin); Chairperson Larry H. Richardson (Cochecton); Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Dexter (Damascus); and 2019 Chair Harold G. Roeder, Jr. (Delaware). Standing: Dan Paparella (Tusten); Bill Rudge (New York State); Roger Saumure (Shohola); Jennifer Claster (National Park Service); Aaron Robinson (Shohola); Fred Peckham (Hancock); Tim Dugan (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania); Doug Case (Lackawaxen); Virginia Dudko (Deerpark); Michael Barth (Westfall); Patricia Jeffer (Shohola); Nadia Rajsz (Lumberland); Jim Greier (Fremont), Susan Sullivan (Tusten), and David Dean (Deerpark). Absent were representatives for the Town of Highland and the Delaware River Basin Commission. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

## Upper Delaware Council Elects 2020 Officers

Town of Cocheton Representative Larry H. Richardson took his oath of office to serve as 2020 chairperson on Feb. 6 following the non-profit organization's annual election on Jan. 2.

UDC Representatives Jeffrey R. Dexter of Damascus Township and Alan F. Henry of Berlin Township were re-elected as vice-chairperson and secretary-treasurer.

This is Richardson's fourth stint as chair, having previously served in 1993, 2001, and from May 5-Dec. 31, 2011.

He was the UDC's vice-chair in 1992, and its secretary-treasurer in 1990 and 2000.

The Town of Cocheton appointed Richardson as its delegate in 1989, one year after the Council's establishment.

Raised in Ferndale, NY, Richardson graduated from Liberty High School in 1965 and Sullivan County Community College in 1968.

In 1991 he began employment with the Yaun Company, a plumbing, heating and electrical distributorship with headquarters in Liberty, for which he served as Vice-President of Sales and Service for many years, and is now semi-retired.

Richardson has a long history of public service beyond his UDC participation.

He served on the Town of Cocheton Planning Board from 1989-1996, before winning election as a Town Councilman

which he continued 19 years through 2015.

Richardson is a founding member of the Cocheton Preservation Society and has served as treasurer since 1992.

Since its 2002 incorporation, Richardson has represented the town on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee and has acted as its treasurer for many years.

Ongoing memberships include the Sullivan County and Town of Cocheton Democratic Committees, the Fosterdale Cemetery Association Board of Directors,

and he recently joined the Catskill Regional Medical Center Foundation's Board of Directors.

Married for 51 years, Peggy and Larry Richardson are the parents of Russell Richardson, who resides with his wife Jennifer and four children in Binghamton; and Erin Shirling, who lives in Yorktown Heights, NY with her husband Lewis.

His free time is spent planting gardens, maintaining a growing fruit orchard, fishing, and hunting.



**SWEARING IN:** The Hon. Steven Sauer, Town Justice for the Town of Cocheton, administered the oath of office to 2020 Chairperson Larry H. Richardson at the Feb. 6 UDC meeting.

# Mark Calendar for 32nd Annual UDC Awards Ceremony June 7

Pennsylvania Representative Jonathan Fritz will deliver the keynote address at the Upper Delaware Council's 32nd Annual Awards Ceremony on June 7 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA.

\*\*Please note that this is a change from the original banquet date of May 3, and plans will be further adjusted if public health precautions for gatherings remain necessary to manage the spread of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.\*\*

Rep. Fritz was elected to represent the 111th Legislative District of the PA House of Representatives in November 2016.

The district is comprised of parts of Wayne and Susquehanna Counties.

During the 2019-2020 legislative session, Rep. Fritz serves on the House Appropriations, Commerce, Environmental Resources & Energy, and Aging and Older Adult Services Committees.

He also served his first term as a deputy whip for the House Republican Caucus.

Rep. Fritz previously fulfilled two terms as Honesdale mayor and two terms as a Wayne County commissioner.

A product of the private business sector, he was general manager and head of sales for a local tractor and farm machinery dealership for many years.



**The Honorable Jonathan Fritz,  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

The Honesdale High School graduate earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University in 2001.

He resides in Honesdale with his wife, Donna, and their three children.

## Reserve by May 29

The Sunday, June 7th, ceremony will open at 3 p.m. with a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the resort located at 81 Milanville Road.

A bountiful buffet dinner will be served at 4 p.m. The menu includes tossed green salad with house dressing, dinner rolls, fresh fruit medley, pasta salad, slow-roasted prime rib, chicken breast parmesan, baked salmon with maple glaze, scalloped potatoes, long grain & wild rice, green beans with almonds, iced tea, coffee, tea, and a dessert choice of cheesecake with strawberry puree or Fruits of the Forest pie a la mode.

Rep. Fritz's keynote address and the presentation of awards to those who have acted to enhance the quality of life and protect the resources of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley will follow.

Visit [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) to see the 2020 list of award recipients.

The public is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$28 per person.

Reservations with advance payments are required by Friday, May 29.

Please contact UDC Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at (845) 252-3022 or [ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org) to confirm the event date and reserve seats.



**Jessica Weinman**

## Acting Superintendent at NPS Through May 30th

The National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River welcomed Jessica Weinman as its acting superintendent from Feb. 3 until May 30.

Weinman is filling in for Superintendent Kristina Heister, who returned on Jan. 30 for a second, 120-day detail to Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site as deputy superintendent after previously serving as acting superintendent for those NPS parks from April 5-August 12, 2019.

Since 2017, Weinman has been Chief of Facilities at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, where she manages a budget of over \$3 million and leads a staff of approximately 30 individuals.

"I am very appreciative of the opportunity to serve as acting superintendent for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River," Weinman said.

"I feel truly honored to assist, even for a short time, with the protection of this site. I chose the National Park Service for a career because it allowed me to contribute to public education and the preservation of our country's diverse resources, history, and culture. I am very excited to be part of a team that actively aims to successfully manage such an important local and national resource. I look forward to working with my National Park Service colleagues, park visitors, partners, and the local community," she said.

Originally from Rennerdale, PA, Weinman resides in Pleasant Mount, PA.

She began her NPS career as a seasonal park guide at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

After that, she served in a variety of facility management positions at national parks including Wind Cave, Great Smoky Mountains, and Zion. She was Chief of Facilities at Devils Tower National Monument before taking that position at Steamtown.

## Watershed Funds Up

The Federal Fiscal Year 2020 budget increased the Congressional appropriation for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program to \$9.7 million, a 62% boost for watershed projects in NY, NJ, PA and DE.

Applications were due by April 2 for a third round of grants coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## PA, NY Grants Awarded

Local Share Account grants generated through gaming revenue collected by Pennsylvania from the Mount Airy Casino have resulted in funding awards of:

-\$190,625 to Westfall Township to build a six-bay maintenance garage for storage;

-\$50,000 to Shohola Township to buy two emergency generators for the municipal building and township garage; and

-\$76,500 to the Wayne County Commissioners to revitalize the historical Hankins Pond Dam in Mount Pleasant Township that was subject of a 2019 UDC award.

The Town of Delaware, NY was awarded a \$1,859,890 Empire State Development grant to move its town highway garage out of a floodplain in the latest round of New York State regional competitions.

# Locals Advocate for Upper Delaware Bridges

Two Upper Delaware River bridges that connect the Town of Cochecton and Damascus Township are causing concern.

The Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA #5 Bridge remains “closed indefinitely” since the results of an emergency safety inspection stopped all traffic on October 16, 2019.

With plans for the Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA #6 Bridge to undergo a major rehabilitation in 2021, its potential temporary closure would require a detour without the next downriver bridge being available.

On March 4, a Joint Position Statement signed by the Wayne County Planning Commission, Damascus Township Supervisors, Cochecton Town Board, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Upper Delaware Council, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Chamber of the Northern Poconos, and Lake Huntington Fire Department was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (DOT) urging the agency to develop a definitive plan of action for the 1901 “Skinners Falls Bridge” and emphasizing the reasons the crossing is needed for emergency response, economic importance, historical value, and alternative local roadway connection conditions.

That same day, the New York State DOT met with local officials and emergency personnel to discuss ways to minimize impacts when the deck of the 1953 “Cochecton Bridge” is replaced next summer.

Option 1 would be close the bridge for 2-2 1/2 months with an off-site loop detour on NYS Rt. 97 to Callicoon to PA Rt. 191 to



**SENATOR VISITS:** New York State Senator Jen Metzger, far right, accepted an invitation by Upper Delaware Council Chairperson and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Cochecton Representative Larry H. Richardson, second from right, to visit the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge March 8 to learn about the local impacts of the bridge’s indefinite closure since October 16, 2019. Sharing their thoughts as well were, from the left, Town of Cochecton Supervisor Gary Maas; Rick Lander, whose Lander’s River Trips business operates a campground at the DEC’s Skinners Falls River Access; and Jeff Dexter, a Damascus Ambulance Corps volunteer and Damascus Township’s UDC Representative. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie)

PA Rt. 371 of approximately 22 miles.

Option 2 would be to do staged construction allowing one 9’4” travel lane to remain open with a controlled signal for an estimated 6-7 months if the job was expedited.

“That detour is an unworkable solution, and too detrimental for commerce and

emergencies,” said Cochecton Town Supervisor Gary Maas to the seemingly unanimous agreement of those raising hands in favor of the longer work period.

While both bridges fall under the authority of the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission and their costs are shared by both states, PennDOT has lead responsibility for Bridge #5 and NYS DOT is in charge of Bridge #6.

NYS Senator Jen Metzger (42nd District) visited the Skinners Falls Bridge on March 8 and pledged her support to find out the status of the engineering evaluation.

When the Bridge Commission holds its annual meeting, typically in late May, they are also expected to advance a major rehabilitation of the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge, with that construction originally scheduled for 2023.



**DETOUR DEBATE:** A proposal to close the Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge for up to 2-1/2 months in 2021 for a deck replacement with a 22-mile detour was trounced on March 4.



On the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge

# Upper Delaware Council Activity Highlights

Highlights of UDC and river valley issues from mid-November 2019 to mid-March 2020, not mentioned elsewhere, include:

## UDC FUNDING

The UDC's 10/28 request for a 12.5% share of funding allowed under the Federal government's Continuing Resolution (CR) #1 period of 10/1-11/21 was approved with the release of \$37,500 on 11/19. A second CR extended operations to 12/20, the date on which President Trump signed the final Federal Appropriations bills to avoid a shutdown. The UDC submitted its request for the \$262,500 balance of its \$300,000 annual allocation on 1/7, which National Park Service (NPS) approved 2/25.

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

After a special UDC workshop on 12/5, lengthy discussions, a 1/8 meeting with Upper Delaware Superintendent Kris Heister, and three drafts of a letter, the UDC returned comments on the FY 2021-2025 Cooperative Agreement renewal and a corresponding Five-Year Budget to the NPS on 1/16 for Department of the Interior review. The current CA expires 9/30/20.

## FIVE-YEAR PLAN

With a July 1 deadline to submit a new Five-Year Operating Plan to the NPS, the UDC has scheduled a strategic planning board retreat on May 30 at the Damascus Manor Community Center, which has donated the venue, and is hiring a facilitator for which interviews took place on 3/13.

## PROJECT REVIEW WORKBOOK

The Project Review Committee ap-



**WATERSHED ALLIANCE:** Representatives of the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed met with New York State Senator Jen Metzger on Feb. 20 in her 42nd District Office in Liberty to discuss a budget proposal she introduced through the Senate Environmental Committee to include a \$500,000 line item in the State's \$350 million Environmental Protection Fund. The funding would be used for Upper Delaware Watershed long-term protection projects, and to provide a 1:1 matching funds source required for the federal Delaware River Basin Restoration Program grants. Among those attending were, from the left, Jeff Skelding, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR); Kelly Knutson, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed; Lisa Darrigo, New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV); Wes Gillingham, Catskill Mountainkeeper; Sherri Resti Thomas, FUDR; Angela Hotaling, NYLCV; Sen. Metzger; Patricia "Sam" Decker, Eastern Waters Council of Fly Fishers International; Laurie Ramie, Upper Delaware Council; Jeremy Schneider, Orange County Land Trust; Molly Oliver, FUDR; Dan Plummer, FUDR; and Wayne Decker, Orange County activist. (Contributed Photo)

proved the contents of the final "Project Review Workbook Version 2.0" on 11/26 after this update was initiated in 2016.

A print booklet and on-line version with fillable forms is being produced by graphic design contractor W Design of Barryville. Dorene Warner presented a mock-up of the cover and formatting on 2/25.

A series of orientation workshops will be held in early June. The National Parks Conservation Association is partnering with the UDC and NPS to assist with production costs and planning of the roll-out sessions.

## RENEWABLE ENERGIES

The UDC approved a Position Paper on Utility-Scale Solar Energy Systems on 3/5, finding this land use is incompatible within scenic segments of the river corridor, and appropriate with conditional or special use criteria set by towns and townships in recreational segments and hamlets.

A Letter of Interpretation was issued 2/6 for the incompatibility of Utility-Scale Wind, Geothermal, and Hydropower based on existing definitions in the Land and Water Use Guidelines, with NPS 3/5 agreement.

## PROJECT REVIEWS

Town of Delaware - Relocation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Callicoon Sewer District out of a floodplain  
Damascus Township - NPS 12/5 concurrence to UDC's 11/2 substantial conformance recommendation for East Central Wayne County Comprehensive Plan  
Damascus Township - NPS 2/13 concur-

rence to UDC's 1/2 substantial conformance recommendation to convert the former Wayne Delaware Manor nursing home on Rt. 652 into a 28-room hotel by Foster Supply Hospitality as less non-conforming  
Shohola Township - Continued assistance for Zoning Ordinance amendment

Town of Tusten - Three area variances for Wayne Bank parking lot for town use  
Town of Highland - Highland River Access Improvements coordinated by Sullivan County, 3/5 UDC recommendation of substantial conformance sent to NPS

Town of Highland - NPS 12/27 concurrence with UDC 11/7 recommendation of non-conformance of the 2019 Zoning Ordinance; Zoning Rewrite Committee working with NPS to address issues

The UDC on 1/24 executed a Consulting Services Agreement with Shepstone Management Company of Honesdale, PA to provide interim project review services during the UDC's staff vacancy.

## WU/RM ISSUES

Water Use/Resource Management issues discussed this period included:

A Feasibility Re-evaluation Study for the F.E. Walter Dam being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District which owns and operates the 1961 dam on the Lehigh River, in partnership with the Delaware River Basin Commission and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, for a proposal to

Please see HIGHLIGHTS on Page 7

## UDC Family Raft Trip Aug. 2 for 32nd Year

Join the Upper Delaware Council for an exciting and scenic 8-mile raft trip on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on Sunday, August 2, from Minisink Ford to Pond Eddy.

Lander's River Trips will provide the rafts, paddles, life jackets, safety instructions and shuttle transportation.

Minimum occupancy per raft is four people. Rafters rendezvous between 9-10 a.m. at Lander's Pond Eddy Base at 2395 NYS Rt. 97 to park, check in, and shuttle up to the Minisink Base. Average trip length is 4.5 hours.

The group discounted cost is \$29 for ages 13 and up, and \$19 for ages 4-12. Registration with advance payment is needed by July 27.

For further details, contact Ashley Hall-Bagdonas at (845) 252-3022 or ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

## HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 6

release additional water under drought conditions to repel salinity downstream. The study, running through Sept. 2022, is being monitored for any impacts it could have on Delaware system releases.

A report by the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network revealed that 2018 was the second wettest year ever recorded for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River since 1895 with 61.1" of precipitation, as well as increasing trends in annual average temperatures.

### UDC LETTERS

-12/5 to Barbara Yeaman, participant in the River Management Plan development, for 95th birthday well wishes on 12/16

-1/2 to Friends of the Upper Delaware River, support for Invasive Species Citizen Outreach Project Grant

-1/2 to NPS Regional Director Gay Vietzke and Superintendent Heister, objecting to statements in their 12/27 letter regarding Town of Highland zoning considered as derogatory towards the UDC

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

Besides having liaison roles with the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee, NPS Water Safety Committee, and D&H Transportation Heritage Council, staff participation included:

11/14 - Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Council, Narrowsburg Union;

12/4 - Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge Strategy meeting convened by Wayne County, Damascus Township Building;

1/10 - Local History Roundtable at Wayne County Historical Society museum; 1/13, 2/6 - Upper Delaware BioBlitz calls (decision made to postpone until 2021);

1/14 - USGS Integrated Science in the Delaware River Basin Update Webinar;

3/4 - Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Planning Sessions at UDC office.

### UDC RESOLUTIONS

2020-03: Approving Finalization of the Fiscal Year 2019 Draft Audit (12/5/19)

2020-04: Contracting with Eckersley and Ostrowski LLP for the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Review (12/5/19)

2020-05: Adopting the National Park Service's Records Retention and Disposition Schedule (12/5/19)

2020-06: Authorizing Signatories for the Council's Bank Accounts in 2020 (1/2/20)

2020-07: Adopting a Budget for the Balance of Fiscal Year 2020 (2/6/20)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Elected as 2020 committee chairpersons and vice-chairs, respectively, were: Water Use/Resource Management (on 1/21), Andy Boyar and Virginia Dudko; Project Review (on 1/28): David Dean and Susan Sullivan; and Operations (on 1/28): Larry Richardson and Jeff Dexter.



**CORRECTING HISTORY:** The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's property near Pond Eddy formerly known as the Corwin Farm will now be known as the Cowen Farm. A "Sneak Peek" event is planned on May 16 and 17. (Contributed Photo by NPS)

## New Name for Old Canal-Era Property

"What's in a name?" asked William Shakespeare. "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

After research uncovered historical inaccuracies, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's canal-era property in the Town of Lumberland, NY known throughout the National Park Service's quarter-century of ownership as Corwin Farm will now be named Cowen Farm.

A decision was finalized in December 2019 to correct the name based upon newly-discovered documentation that it was Joseph Cowen who constructed the farmhouse on the property around 1838.

The Cowen family remained associated with the property through the existence of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, which ceased operations in 1898. A closer inspection of 1865 D&H Canal survey maps revealed the name "J. Cowin". Due to Corwin having been a common name in the area during that time period, the misspelling was assumed to have been Corwin instead of Cowen.

The name Joseph Cowen, first realized during a chain of title search for the property, was confirmed through census records and is referenced in John Willard Johnston's 1901 book, *Reminiscences*.

Further analysis of the 1865 survey maps that were obtained by the D&H Transportation Heritage Council primarily through the dedicated efforts of member Kerron Barnes revealed a second misinterpretation.

The belief that the farmhouse belonged to a lock tender was found to have been an error. On the D&H Company maps, it can

be easily seen that the lock tender's house was actually on the north side of the property line, near the lock that was filled in many years ago, and not on the National Park Service property.

Instead, the lower level of the farmhouse was used as a small store front that opened up to the canal towpath to sell goods to those traveling on the canal. The terrace on which the Cowen Farmhouse sits was created by the construction of the Delaware and Hudson Canal which left behind raised levels of easy-to-plow soil to plant crops and gardens.

Joseph and his wife, Phoebe, lived on the property until their deaths in 1864 and 1890, respectively. Before they died, the property was passed down to their daughter, Caroline, who married Albert Stage, a lumber merchant, teacher, and member of the Sullivan County Board of Supervisors.

The Stages continued to live in the farmhouse until Caroline passed in 1914 just before Albert died in 1915.

The property was owned by several other families, most significantly the Strenz family from the 1920s through the 1960s, prior to the National Park Service purchasing the land in 1995.

Keep an eye out this spring for new pages on the [www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde) website that tell the story of the Cowen Farm.

There will also be an opportunity for the public to stop by the property located at 2995 State Route 97 in Pond Eddy and speak with a ranger about its history and current use during the Sullivan County Sneak Peek on May 16 and 17 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (please confirm online).

# New Book Tells “The Delaware River Story”

1973 marks the year that Lee Hartman “fell in love” with the Delaware River.

“That was my first time to experience fishing up here,” he says, contrasting how growing up around polluted “sulfur creeks” in Schuylkill County, PA made him appreciate the clear, clean waters of the Delaware and its tributaries even more.

After 47 years of fishing for business and pleasure, as well as dedicating himself to conservation of the resource, Hartman has written *The Delaware River Story: Water Wars, Trout Tales, and a River Reborn*, a 267-page, meticulously indexed book full of color photographs and historical tidbits.

It represents three years of research for the 76-year-old Equinunk, PA resident, who operated Indian Springs Fly Fishing Camp in Lordville, NY from 1992-2007, organized international tours through World Angling Travels for 16 years, and continues to work as a fishing guide - while claiming (again) this will be his last year.

A co-founder of Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) in 2003, Hartman serves on its board and co-chairs the Delaware River Committee for the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited.

Hartman studied and checked facts from the 1600s to present day, saying, “I wanted to make sure it was perfect.”

He dedicates the book to the memory of Phil Chase (a long-time UDC board member) and Dr. Peter Bousom “for their sacrifice to protect and preserve the Delaware River cold-water fishery.”

Its chapters include Rivers of Coal; A Place Called Stockport; The Admiral of the Delaware; The Vanishing Brook Trout; The Legacy of Tocks Island; The Fish that Saved America; Birth of a Trout River; The Ghost of Lordville; Fishing When the Sun Don't Shine; Unnatural Flows; Water, Water Everywhere; and Rainbows Under a Pot of Gold.

The book is more about culture and regional history than fishing tales.



**ANGLER & AUTHOR:** Lee Hartman of Equinunk, PA, with his faithful companion “River”, displays a hot-off-the-press copy of *The Delaware River Story: Water Wars, Trout Tales, and a River Reborn*, published on March 1, 2020 by Stackpole Books, an imprint of The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

“I’m passionate about this river. I wanted to tell this story to learn from the problems of the past, and raise awareness of what’s needed to improve and protect the main stem of the Delaware,” he says.

Despite never considering himself to be a writer, this is actually Hartman’s second book. He self-published a memoir called

*Trails in a Wild Frontier* about his fishing travels throughout Siberia and the Kola Peninsula from 1990 to 2013.

Hartman, who received the UDC’s Community Service Award in 2014, will be honored as the Conservation Hero at FUDR’s 13th Annual One Bug banquet rescheduled from May 1 to Oct. 2.

## NYS DEC Releases Angler Survey Report

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released a new report on Jan. 28 revealing a 140% increase since 2007 in “angler effort” for the Delaware River, particularly renowned for its trout fishing.

The DEC’s Statewide Angler Survey compiles data on angler statistics, patterns, preferences, and attitudes, which will help the DEC assess both the biological and human dimension aspects of managing New York’s freshwater fisheries.

The DEC has conducted these surveys every decade since 1973. The recent report is from a survey conducted in 2018 to summarize input provided by approximately 11,000 anglers who fished during the 2017 calendar year. Combined economic impacts of freshwater angling in NYS totaled an estimated \$2.14 billion and supported 10,961 jobs that year.

The NYS DEC is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020, having been established on the first Earth Day in 1970.

Visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) to access the Angler Survey Report and social media at #DEC50 for anniversary celebration special events and features throughout 2020.

## DRBC Forms Climate Change Committee

The Delaware River Basin Commission is establishing an Advisory Committee on Climate Change, based on a resolution unanimously approved on Dec. 11, 2019.

It will be comprised of up to 18 individuals with relevant expertise, split in half between reserved (appointed by the commissioners or their alternates) and non-reserved (appointed by the executive director, representing academia and research institutions, environmental and watershed organizations, business and industry, and/or water/wastewater utilities) members.

Part of their initial charge is to help inform DRBC’s future water resource planning efforts, support development of a comprehensive study on climate impacts to the basin’s water supply and water quality; and organize a Delaware River Basin Climate Forum.

The committee is authorized for 10 years and can be renewed or extended prior to its expiration in 2029. To learn more, please visit [www.drbc.gov](http://www.drbc.gov) or follow DRBC on Twitter at @DRBC1961.

# PA Grant Funding to Aid UDC, Townships

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is making its first direct investment in the Upper Delaware River Valley thanks to the efforts of PA State Representatives Jonathan Fritz (111th District), Mike Peifer (139th District), and Senator Lisa Baker (20th District) to secure a \$100,000 grant for the Upper Delaware Council (UDC).

The funding will support a multi-faceted series of projects by the non-profit organization and its five PA local government members under the title of "Upper Delaware Council Townships, Technology & Sustainability".

The UDC's Jan. 24, 2020 application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development was approved on Feb. 14. The DCED executed a contract for the term of July 1, 2019 (retroactive to the start of PA's fiscal year) through December 31, 2021.

"I am truly pleased that the Upper Delaware Council has been able to realize some much-needed dollars in order to complete key projects in multiple municipalities and furthering the shared mission of being good stewards of our land, resources, and natural assets," Fritz said.



**OUTHOUSE REPAIR:** Two restroom buildings at the Damascus Forest Trail will be renovated thanks to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development grant secured for the Upper Delaware Council. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

Nearly three-quarters of the funding at \$72,123.09 will be passed through to the UDC's PA member townships based on the Council's solicitation of proposals for community improvement needs:

**Damascus** (\$15,000) - A 320 sq. ft. addition to the Community Center will be

constructed to allow expansion of the Damascus Food Pantry. The township will also renovate the outhouse buildings at the Damascus Forest public hiking trail.

**Berlin** (\$15,000) - The township will improve its municipal website and update its security camera system; restore the "Beech Lake" Keystone historic marker; renovate the message board, replace the property line fence, and pave the parking lot at the Berlin Township Community Center; and purchase a vehicle-mounted distance measuring instrument for road project bidding use.

**Shohola** (\$15,000) - Shohola Township will dedicate its funding toward replacing the roof of its Municipal Building.

**Lackawaxen** (\$15,000) - The Care Cabin Food Pantry located on township property and run by the Growing Lackawaxen non-profit organization will receive financial support for the balance owed on its Sept. 2019 construction, and benefit from purchasing shelving for the storage of provisions, a laptop computer, desk, chair, and printer.

**Westfall** (\$12,123.09) - The parking lot of the Township Building will be repaired and resurfaced to improve safe access and add new spaces to accommodate the move of the Eastern Pike Police Department into the lower level of the municipal building.

The Upper Delaware Council will fund two new projects, as well as invest in technological upgrades for the business office.

The first project is to allocate \$3,000 to subsidize the hiring of a coordinator for the

*Please see GRANT on Page 10*



**CARE CABIN:** Dot Kerkowski, Bergit Pinkston, and Marie Kunda unpack supplies at The Care Cabin Food Pantry which was constructed in September 2019 on Lackawaxen Township property. The non-profit organization Growing Lackawaxen partners with Second Harvest to feed local and other PA residents in need. (Contributed Photo by Laurie A. Guzda, Growing Lackawaxen)

# Our Shared Waters and Food Rescue Discussed

The Upper Delaware Council board and audience heard about the "Our Shared Waters" campaign from Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Director of External Affairs and Communications Peter Eschbach on Feb. 6.

Eschbach explained that every five years, the DRBC produces a State of the Basin Report. With funding from the William Penn Foundation, the agency expanded its scope to conduct a research project to develop tools and strategies that enable taking a more comprehensive, interactive, and collective approach.

The goals were to seek input from a wide range of stakeholders and increase public awareness about the Delaware River Basin's critical role in supporting their various water needs, while encouraging them to get involved in water efficiency, healthy watersheds, water-based economic activities and recreational opportunities within the four-state, 13,539 square mile Basin.

Based on research through an online discussion group and phone survey, a web-based Crowdsourced Basin Waters Evaluation Site to share water quality observations, OurSharedWaters.org website, and a Facebook page were all set up.

These are coupled with arranging community events through partnerships and experiential opportunities to get target audiences out on the water.

On March 5, the Tusten Community Food Scraps Composter/Digester that the town was able to acquire after winning a NYS DEC grant of \$138,100 was the sub-



**BIOENERGY:** Tusten Energy Committee Chair Brandi Merolla, left, and grant-writer Jennifer Porter described the Community Food Scraps Microdigester unit, shown above, that the Town of Tusten plans to implement this July during the March 5th UDC meeting.



**SHARED WATERS:** Peter Eschbach from the Delaware River Basin Commission spoke at the Feb. 6 meeting as DRBC Deputy Executive Director Kristen Kavanagh, left, Jennifer Claster, center, and Jessica Weinman from the National Park Service listened. (UDC Photos by Laurie Ramie; top left contributed)

ject of a UDC presentation. Town of Tusten Energy Committee Chair Brandi Merolla and grantwriter Jennifer Porter described the High Solids Organic Waste Recycling System with Electrical Output (HORSE) unit that will be located at the Tusten Highway Barn starting in July to

convert food scraps and green waste into probiotic liquid fertilizer and renewable biogas energy that can be used for heat and power. Its capacity is two tons per month and 1,000 lbs. per week, producing 100 gallons of the plant food per

week. Volunteers will operate the anaerobic digestion system twice a week, utilizing material provided by local businesses initially, then eventually offering a public component, such as setting up a site at the Narrowsburg Farmers Market to collect organic waste and distribute the product.

## LITTER, continued from Page 1

Upper Delaware Recreation Project founder Dan Paparella came on board to serve as logistical coordinator.

He is available at (570) 468-3904 or paparelladan15@gmail.com to offer assistance with route planning, safety training, equipment distribution, connections to other volunteers, and information on free litter disposal in various areas. The website offers numerous resources as well.

Litter sweeping is an activity that can be

## GRANT, continued from Page 9

done with family and friends as a fun, safe, and productive way to get some fresh air and positively contribute to the health and well-being of the watershed.

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 is credited with launching the modern environmental movement and continues to have international significance. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action.

### Recycled Art Call

The Narrowsburg Union, in collaboration

with the UDC, the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, and the National Park Service, is seeking entries for "Earth Day 2020", an exhibition of works created from recycled materials that will run from April 25-June 6. The call for artwork is open to all artists who have a connection to the Upper Delaware River Valley. Submissions can be made through April 15 and drop-off is Sunday, April 19. Interested artists should email up to eight images of their piece(s) to curator@narrowsburgunion.com, along with the artist's name, full contact information, title of the work(s), medium, dimension, and year created. Extended descriptions of the recycled materials are welcome. While "Earth Day 2020" is due to open on April 25, public health concerns may require adjustments. Visit www.narrowsburgunion.com for updates and the timing. Large-scale "Litter Letters" crafted into inspirational words will be installed on the front lawn of the Union located at 7 Erie St. in Narrowsburg, awaiting litter to fill them.

first-ever Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, a volunteer-powered trash clean-up within the land-based portion of the Upper Delaware Watershed to be held on April 22-25, 2020. The second UDC project will allocate \$10,678.47 to commission a long-term business plan for economic sustainability to guide the organization's fiscal operations and explore how to diversify funding sources. Technology and presentation services at a total of \$7,198.44 will enable the UDC to update four desktop computers from Windows 7 to the Windows 10 operating system; purchase three laptop computers and carrying cases for the staff's portable use; buy a multimedia projector cart, projection screen, and laser pointer for educational presentations; and install a professional conference phone with a 20-foot wireless range.

The final \$7,000 of the \$100,000 grant award will cover the cost for a required government project audit by Eckersley and Ostrowski, LLP, CPAs, of Scranton, PA.



**MOTOR SAFETY:** This guide rail section on New York State Route 97 in the Town of Delaware has failed, with many of the orange barrels placed there by the Department of Transportation as a safety precaution also rolling down the steep slope. (UDC Photo by Laurie Ramie)

## Failed Guide Rails Raise Safety Fears

News that some severely deteriorated guide rail segments along New York State Route 97 will not be addressed until 2021 has alarmed the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) and the Sullivan County Legislature.

On Nov. 19, 2019, the UDSB Committee wrote to NYS Department of Transportation Region 9 Director Nicolas Choubah to inquire about the status.

“Our committee is primarily concerned that this potentially hazardous, libelous situation jeopardizes the safety of motorists who wouldn’t have that level of protection against leaving the roadway if an accident occurred,” the group wrote.

“Secondarily, the aesthetics are clearly not appropriate for a state-designated scenic byway.

“We respectfully request consideration of accelerating this project’s schedule as a maintenance priority for DOT Region 9.”

Choubah responded on Dec. 3 by stating that while the agency “shares your con-

cern” regarding the guide rail’s condition and expects to award part of the project this year, certain runs that are down due to the slope behind the rails failing require “substantial geotechnical design effort” that will push that project into 2021.

Sullivan County Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty directed letters to NYS Senator Jen Metzger and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther on Feb. 27 stating, “As a safety issue alone, this is an intolerable situation for the traveling public. What is the point of a guardrail when it cannot serve as a guard against vehicles plunging off the edge of the road?”

“Considering, too, the status of Route 97 as the ‘Upper Delaware Scenic Byway’, offering unparalleled views of the Delaware River and its environs, this deteriorated state of the guiderail is unacceptable - not to mention potentially harmful to the economies of the tourism-based communities which line the route,” Doherty wrote.

Prompt, permanent repairs are sought.

## Scenic Byway Offers Grants

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) has renewed three grant programs in 2020 to offer funding assistance for projects that promote the preservation of monarch butterfly habitat, open up scenic vistas from New York State Route 97, and design new or refurbished local signage for installation along the byway route from Hancock to Port Jervis.

Applications are accepted on a rolling, monthly basis for as long as the funding allocated in the non-profit organization’s 2020 budget allows.

The grants are funded through voluntary operating expense contributions by nine UDSB municipal members, including an increased \$25,000 donation from Sullivan County this year.

Find guidelines and application procedures on the Grants page of the UDSB website at [www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](http://www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org), or direct informational requests to that URL’s [info@](mailto:info@) email or the UDSB toll-free hotline at (866) 511-UDSB.

## Trailkeeper Relaunches

A joint effort of Sullivan County’s Division of Planning & Community Development, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, and Morgan Outdoors, Trailkeeper.org now features more than 80 trails on the redesigned website.

Funded by a Sullivan County Plans & Progress Grant with contributions from Trailkeeper partners, the site was redesigned by B. Martin Studios to include interactive maps, GPS coordinates, trail characteristics, difficulty levels, natural resources, and descriptions of local communities, lodging and camping spots.

The website pairs with Trailkeeper’s Facebook page to offer the latest updates and group events.

There are also opportunities to suggest the addition of new trails to the list.

## Please Help the UDC to Update Our Mailing List

The Upper Delaware Council offers its free newsletter on-line at [www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://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 [info@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarecouncil.org).

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Check to be removed from our mailing list because  I no longer wish to receive or  I will access the newsletter on-line.



Upper Delaware Council  
P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge St.  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0192  
Phone: (845) 252-3022; Fax (845) 252-3359  
[www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org)

*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](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org) for specific meeting dates.

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

*Due to the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, please check with the organizers or the UDC at (845) 252-3022 or [info@upperdelawarecouncil.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarecouncil.org) to confirm the dates or potential cancellation of all events and activities.*

### Rt. 97 Bridge Renamed

The New York State Route 97 Viaduct Basket Bridge in Long Eddy will be officially renamed the "Specialist Allan Milk Memorial Bridge" on April 18 at 2:15 p.m.

Spec. 4 Allan Arlyn Milk was killed in action in Vietnam on Nov. 1, 1966, one month before his 21st birthday. Originally from Goulds in Delaware County, he is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery, Long Eddy.

Gov. Cuomo signed legislation sponsored by Senator Jen Metzger and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther into law on July 24, 2019 with support from the Sullivan County Legislature, Town of Fremont, Basket Historical Society of the Upper Delaware Valley, and the Allan Milk Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7276.

A reception with refreshments will follow the ceremony at the Long Eddy Hotel.

### Local History Festival

The Thomas Kennedy Local History Festival will be held on April 25 at the Dorfinger Factory Museum in White Mills,

PA, starting with a 10 a.m. lecture by Carbondale Historical Society & Museum President Dr. S. Robert Powell on "The Legal Battle between the D&H and the PA Coal Company." Exhibits by northeast Pennsylvania local history organizations will be open until 3 p.m., all free of charge.

### Sneak Peek May 16-17

Private places, secret spaces.

See beyond the public venues as Sneak Peek Sullivan Catskills opens the doors to some fantastic places that are little known treasures during the May 16-17 weekend.

The Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, along with the Sullivan County Division of Planning, Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, and Sullivan Renaissance, is sponsoring this free event open to the public.

Upper Delaware River Valley sites may include the Cowen Farm in Lumberland; Cochection Train Station; Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History and Delaware Valley Arts Alliance in Narrowsburg; and the St. Volodymyr's and Sts. Peter and

Paul Ukrainian Churches in Glen Spey.

A handy "Passport" section will be published in the *Sullivan County Democrat*. Call (845) 887-5200 for more information.

### Sojourn Focus on Fish

The 2020 Delaware River Sojourn theme from June 20-26 will "Focus on Fish".

Participants may paddle the entire Sojourn or register for certain sections at \$90/day for adults and \$60 for ages 15 and under. The fee includes a guided river trip with single or tandem kayak rental if needed, shuttle/livery transportation, educational programs, some meals, and optional camping sites.

Kick off June 19 with a volunteer river clean-up in Hancock, NY and camping at Northeast Wilderness Experience (NEWE) in Equinunk, PA nightly from June 19-22.

Locally, paddle June 20 from Hancock to Buckingham, PA; June 21 from Buckingham to the NEWE Camp; June 22 from NEWE Camp to Damascus, PA; and June 23 from Damascus to Narrowsburg, NY.

Visit [delawareriversojourn.com](http://delawareriversojourn.com).