

## Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

### *2007 SUPERINTENDENTS ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT*

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) Legislation specifically outlines NPS *cooperative management with communities* along UPDE to preserve the "...outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural... *and* other similar resource values that qualified UPDE for inclusion the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System". Through interaction with the fifteen townships, two states and five counties bordering the Upper Delaware, we are responsible for managing 56,000 acres of land, while we literally *own* 30 acres. "Cooperative management" is our modus operandi.

Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct (referred to locally as Roebling Bridge), the oldest existing cable suspension structure in the nation, and the Zane Grey House and Museum are key cultural resources which we own in fee, while we partner with many local organizations to protect cultural resources that we do not own—archeological sites and the 108-mile-long Delaware and Hudson Canal among them. The entire 73.4-mile-long, northern most segment of the mainstem Delaware River is the longest free-flowing river in the Northeast. Upper Delaware water quality continues to be above the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) "exceptional" standard, due in no small part to the vigilance of our staff and natural resource partners.

Our FY 07 accomplishments are numerous; many are described below. Our staff focused time and resources to meet specific challenges and restore flood-interrupted services; while developing new programs, improving visitor services and developing new resource management initiatives: coordination with Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), Upper Delaware Council (UDC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the NPS Regional Hydrologist to examine and analyze the DRBC-proposed Flexible Flow Management Plan and develop recommendations to further protect water quality and promote sustainable flow; reopened the Zane Grey Museum and hosted a special event, "The Zane Grey Festival". UPDE was selected for two new NPS resource management pilot projects, and we are currently developing protocols for the Watershed Condition Assessment (USGS) and Ecological Condition Assessment (Woods Hole Institute). We were one of five pilot parks to complete a new Park Asset Management Plan.

### *Flood Recovery*



Hope after flooding at Corwin Farm  
Photo by UPDE Dispatcher Laura Sletner

In response to a PMIS request for Repair/Rehab and Emergency funding, UPDE received \$1,148,938 to continue recovery from the 2004, 2005 and 2006 floods. You may remember that each succeeding flood event out-stripped the previous for "near-record" status, until the 2006 flood became the new "flood of record" for the Upper Delaware.

### ***Roebling Bridge Wall Collapse and other Flood Damage***

Through our Program Specialist's persistence and the unwavering support of Bob Holzheimer and his FLHP Program staff, Federal Highways (FHWA) reconsidered their initial approval of \$40,000 for repair at Roebling Bridge under the Emergency Repair of Federally-owned Roads (ERFO) program. FHWA agreed on April 9 to approve \$830,000 in ERFO funds toward reconstructing the northeast dry laid stone wing wall, stabilization from both the 05 and 06 floods, cleanup, ice breaker repair, pier stone loss repair, and flume wall repair. Further, at our request FHWA *advanced* those funds to our agency. ERFO approved work, but reserves approval of eligible work through in-depth documentation of the project *and* expenditures before they will close out expenses. Not all work at the site is eligible for the program, however, and advancing funds to deal with emergency stabilization and construction was necessary.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent had obtained funding from many different ONPS sources to enable us to stabilize the embankment twice (June '06 flooding took out much of the substantial stabilization) and begin to fund some of the final repair.

We anticipate completing construction of the wall and cleanup and repair of the ice breakers by December 1.

### ***The Towpath Trail***

At FLHP Manager Holzheimer's request, Denver Service Center assigned a Landscape Architect to the Towpath Trail Restoration project. Initial estimates place the cost of restoration in the \$600-700,000 range. We have requested the services of Olmstead to perform a site survey and remove flood-deposited trees and branches from the trail, and we plan a survey in spring of '08 to plan further. We must wait for completion of the adjoining Roebling Bridge work to proceed.

### ***Zane Grey House***

The Museum collection stored at Steamtown during mitigation of flood damage to the Zane Grey House and Museum in 2006 was returned to the Upper Delaware under supervision of the park curator, who assembled a team consisting of NPS Curators and a Forest Service Curator to unpack and inventory the returned collections. The Curator then re-installed museum exhibits and the Interpretive staff restored and reopened the Eastern National outlet and exhibits outside the museum. The Zane Grey House and Museum was re-opened on Memorial Day weekend, 2007.

### ***Furnaces, Facilities, Accesses and Parking Areas***

Only the Headquarters site escaped flood damage in 2006; *all* of our other sites withstood some form of damage. Our maintenance team oversaw restoration of services, including heating, water, sewage and occupancy, to four buildings and several accesses throughout the valley.

### **Power Line Arbitration**

Canadian based NYRI (New York Regional Interconnect) submitted their application to the New York State Department of Public Service for a "Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need" for a 400KV power line. The application was deemed to be incomplete, and arbitration was ordered. The National Park Service was included as an interested party in arbitration sessions before the New York State Public Service Commission Administrative Law Judge during the winter. We orchestrated funding for viewshed assessments and made specific recommendations for protecting the Upper Delaware from the visual impact. We thank Kate Costenbader of the Regional Solicitor's office and Northeast Region Wild and Scenic Rivers Manager Chuck Barscz for their support and advice.

### **Maintenance and Facility Management**

UPDE was one of five Pilot Parks selected for formulation of a Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP). Students from the Facility Manager Leaders Program traveled to the park for two week-long sessions and worked side by side with park personnel throughout the four month process.

*In addition* to the aforementioned flood recovery and repair, the four Maintenance people—including the acting facilities manager and secretary—assured that the following projects were completed in FY-07:

- Replaced sprinkler heads at Zane Grey Museum. This voluntary change by the manufacturer continues into FY-08
- Installed two additional water tanks for the undersized sprinkler system at Zane Grey House
- Replaced the Roebling Bridge Toll House roof and purchased materials to continue intensive restoration of the balance of the structure
- Oversaw restoration of the historic stone wall and barn foundation at the Corwin Farm by the Dry Stone Conservancy
- Installed special reverse osmosis filtration systems to remove Arsenic from the drinking water at Zane Grey House, as indicated by the results of "nine-year water testing" protocol



Maintenance Employee John Hart exhibits traditional wood working during D&H Canal School Days

- Prepared the Zane Grey Landscape and building for the second annual two-day Zane Grey Festival
- Conducted programs about the site, including "Dolly's Garden Path"
- Supported Interpretation in preparing for, and presented programs during, the annual "D & H Canal School days"
- Supported our partners, The Eagle Institute and Narrowsburg New York's Eagle and River Fests
- Installed programmable setback thermostats in some buildings to reduce cost of operations
- Installed an Automatic Standby generator at the Barryville (Dispatch) Office
- Moved and secured fuel oil tanks for the Milanville Storage garage
- Maintained landscapes of the five operating facilities
- provided trash pickup at the river access sites throughout the valley

### Interpretation and Education

*Personal Services* – Twenty-six on-site community programs were presented to 440 visitors and thirty-six off-site community programs were given to 1,039 people, including formal programs at youth groups, scout camps, libraries, river access sites, and the Zane Grey Museum; and safety programs at four river access sites and during roving canoe patrols Thursday through Sunday throughout the summer. Two summer programs, *Backyard Biology* and *River Readings*, continue to be very successful.



"River Readings" River Safety Education

We participated in various festivals, including EagleFest, Kid's Fest, Festival of Wood, Meadow Party, PP&L's (electric company) Open House, RiverFest, and Earth Day at the Harvest Festival. Contacts totaled 2,378 people.

*Outreach Educational Programs* included *The Lenape, D&H Canal, Water Safety and Water Snapshot*; in-service training for K-12 teachers at Damascus, and Wallenpaupack Schools; Invasive Plant programs for local citizens, and

working with NASA on a core educational group. We presented 89 on-site curriculum-based

education programs, including *D&H Canal School Days* off- and on-site programs for students grades 1-4. Traveling trunks about the Lenape Indians, Birds of Prey, Animal Tracks, Puppets and Wildlife were seen by 890 students. Information on the park's education programs was sent to K-6 grade teachers in the eight school districts that border UPDE.

The protection staff conducted cold Water/ice Rescue training for UPDE Staff and public safety agencies and a two-day New York/Pennsylvania-sanctioned Hunter Safety course to 50 hunters of all ages, though young people were prevalent.

Our Biologist conducted four Japanese Knotweed programs to 100 participants, continued the "Water Snapshot" program with three schools, conducted a teachers training session for Wayne Highlands School and a Summer Learning Camp for teachers.

Our Curator developed two interpretive programs of particular interest: a program to help a Boy Scout troop achieve their archeology merit badge and a program on Zane Grey and his family for the Zane Grey Days celebration.

*The Zane Grey House and Museum* was open Friday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend, then weekends through October 21, 2007. 325 museum tours were presented to 1,190 visitors to the house. The annual Zane Grey Festival was presented in partnership with Zane Grey's West Society on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for 333 visitors.

The *Narrowsburg Information Center* was open Friday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day and weekends through fall foliage season. Narrowsburg's Eagle Festival and River Festival attracted 780 visitors and generated \$1,007 at this Eastern National outlet.

Interpretive staff collected photographs for four slide shows and converted park site bulletins for posting on the web page. The self-guiding exhibits at the Roebling Bridge and Toll House were utilized by 36,310 visitors. Two TIS radio stations provide seasonally updated orientation and safety information at the northern and southern termini. A short range TIS unit in



Volunteer Rich Egan receives 2006 Harzog Award.

Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania, provides a five-minute interpretive message about the Delaware and Hudson Canal and Roebling Bridge. In 2007, UPDE added a short range TIS unit to provide a five-minute interpretive message at the Zane Grey Museum, and we are working with the Eagle Institute to add another short range TIS unit along NY State Route 97 for eagle viewing information.

*Volunteers*—UPDE Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) contributed 8,187 hours to our programs; among them two interns, the National Canoe Safety Patrol, the Zane Grey's West Society, and the Eagle Institute.

Of particular note, however, retired chemist Rich Egan, Ph.D., received the 2006 George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Over the previous four years he performed extensive work in water sampling *and* transformed and analyzed a decade's worth of past sampling data, creating summary tables

and trend lines and establishing a clear path forward to future studies *in addition* to removing a hillside full of non-native invasive multiflora rose *and* mapping vegetation in the park. Boy Scout projects throughout this report are also largely the result of his other volunteer pursuit as Scout leader.

## Resources Stewardship

### *Natural Resource Management*

Resource Management Specialist Don Hamilton received the 2007 NPS Eastern Rivers Summit "Watershed Sciences Award for Outstanding Achievement" for his dedication to the Upper Delaware. "Don provides an example of how NPS managers can actively identify research needs, channel resources to complete studies, and use this information for river management" said Regional Hydrologist Alan Ellsworth in the nomination.

Don has been the leader in accomplishing the programs discussed below "to define necessary scientific information, procure appropriate researchers, successfully identify and compete for funds, and actively utilize information to support management decisions along the Upper Delaware". Information gathered through these efforts support UPDE, DEWA, and management of the greater river ecosystem.

*Vital Signs*-Monitoring protocols are being developed for the Vital Signs identified and prioritized with the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network (ERMN) in 2005. UPDE has reviewed and provided feedback to the ERMN network coordinator during this process.

Our Inventory and Monitoring Vegetation Mapping project is in the final stages of development. Five of 12 outstanding data sets for UPDE have been acquired for the basic natural resource inventories identified for all parks.

A Fish Inventory by the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and a Targeted Mammal Survey by East Stroudsburg University are in progress.

### *Stream Restoration/Flood Mitigation*

The June 2006 flood (determined by USGS to be a 500-year event on the West Branch and a 200-year event on the upper mainstem) was particularly devastating to the upper reaches of the Delaware River Basin. Funds provided by the NPS Water Resources Division Watershed Condition Assessment Contingency Program enabled local agencies and the Town of Hancock to acquire services of a fluvial geomorphic consultant to design a stream restoration and flood mitigation project on Humphries Brook (a steep gradient tributary that left its banks and destroyed much of an important roadway that runs alongside it, down a narrow valley), thereby to complete a project to stabilize the stream channel, protect their infrastructure, and improve fish habitat in the stream.

### *Watershed Condition Assessment Pilot Project*

UPDE and DEWA were selected to participate in a NPS Water Resources Division Watershed Condition Assessment (WCA) Pilot Project. We are working collaboratively to identify and compile existing datasets to be evaluated by Penn State University staff and input into an "Expert System" model to determine landscape and the health of watersheds draining into both parks. As a result, ours is one of four pilot project teams invited by WCA to present our methods at a conference of aquatic professionals at Fort Collins in February 2008.

### *Containing Exotic Plant Species*

The target Japanese knotweed containment area on the river bank near the Zane Grey House, restored with Riverbank wild rye in 2004, continues to remain Japanese knotweed free. The knotweed stands treated by the Exotic Plant Management Team near the Milanville Resource Management Office are being effectively controlled. In 2007 we expanded knotweed treatment to include the Roebling Bridge Towpath Trail at Minisink Ford, NY.

We also continue to support the Japanese Knotweed Initiative, and provided technical support to community demonstration project sites during 2007.

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy's grant-funded project, "Assessment and Prioritization of 'No-Regret' Riparian Plant Community Targets on the Delaware River", the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) conducted field surveys during 2007 to assess and prioritize high-quality riparian plant communities within the 100-year floodplain, along the Delaware River. This condition assessment included collection of information sufficient to assign a quality rank. A protocol was also developed for data collection, to include species composition, physiognomic structure and environmental variables, as well as the presence and relative abundance of exotic versus native flora.

2007 was the sixth year for removal of the invasive "water chestnut" from the Delaware River watershed. A survey of the mainstem of the river did not produce any growing populations in the three known locations where we removed it in the past. Once again a tremendous effort was put into removing the plant from a private pond with an outlet to the Delaware River in Narrowsburg, NY. Damascus Boy Scout Troop # 122 assisted with this "Service to America Badge" project again this year.



Japanese Knotweed



Biologist Jamie Myers with "R22", an immature bald Eagle

Approximately 3,000 biocontrol beetles, *Galerucella pusilla*, were released at Pond Eddy, NY for the fourth year in a row. It is hoped that this biocontrol agent will begin to "manage" the exotic plant species *Purple loosestrife*, by feeding on the plant and preventing seed production.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

We work with the USGS and a Penn State University principal investigator on a PMIS project to determine host fish species for the Federally Endangered dwarf wedge mussel. Two species previously not known to be suitable host fish for dwarf wedge mussel have been identified, with implications to species and flow regime management. Another PMIS project to determine minimum flows required for dwarf wedge mussels in the Upper Delaware River is in the final stages following peer review of a draft report.

We continue to work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation principal investigator and field staff in an ongoing PMIS-funded project to determine the most important Delaware River habitats for bald eagles. Satellite and radio transmitters placed on a number of captured birds document their movement and habitat use. This information will be used to identify and prioritize land for habitat protection and aid recovery efforts. Bald eagles continue to be a high profile species of management concern at UPDE, though officially delisted this year.

### *Invasive (non-native) Animals*

UPDE continued to cooperate with state agencies and local land owners to identify and monitor Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) infestations in the river valley. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) feels that the front for new HWA infestations has moved beyond the Delaware River Watershed, further into central New York; they no longer support releasing "Pt" beetles in this area. We continue to keep an eye on park property for evidence of infestations, and we continue to educate the public about HWA.

### *Water Quality*

The entire 74-mile Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River continues to exceed state and DRBC standards for "exceptional Basin Waters". We continue to collaborate with DEWA and DRBC to coordinate water sampling and pursue our water quality goals: a) protect park visitors and resources; b) find the source of discharges and determine the residual impact of high water events; c) proactively identify point source dischargers before the permitting process begins; and d) work with DEWA and DRBC to determine sampling strategies, especially with respect to high water events. Our staff collected quality data bi-weekly from 7 Delaware River main stem and 6 tributary sampling sites between May and September.

Meanwhile, the Scenic Rivers Monitoring Program (SRMP), also in cooperation with DRBC, gathered complementary information through a combined NPS/USGS Upper Delaware study to define existing water quality benchmarks for tributaries of the mainstem.

The National Water Quality Monitoring Network distinguished the Delaware River watershed as the top-ranked of three regions selected to implement a pilot project to examine current monitoring and identify information gaps in relation to proposed Network design specifications; the mission is to address and integrate watershed, coastal waters, and ocean monitoring based on common criteria and standards, and provide information on water quality that, when interpreted with other information such as economic and land use data, would provide relevant scientific information to assist resource management and decision making.

The Lackawaxen Township, Pennsylvania, Sewage Enforcement Officer requested our assistance to collect and test water samples at an effluent "outfall" believed to be contributing point source pollution into the Delaware River. Test results affirmed the allegation. Lackawaxen Township and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection continue to oversee resolution.

### *Water Quantity*

The *USGS Decision Support Framework for Water Management in the Upper Delaware River* report has been finalized.

As participants in the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF), we continue to advocate to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (and other members of DRBC) for better flow regimes in behalf of the river's resources through identifying key biological resources, setting desired objectives for riverine habitats and processes, evaluating flow regimes according to these objectives, and providing recommendations to the Regulated Flows Advisory Committee (RFAC).

### *Cultural Resource Management*

Three funded PMIS projects began: "Research at UPDE sites for Archeology Overview and Assessment" (PMIS #107083); "Pre-planning work on the upgrade to the Zane Grey Museum" (PMIS #14793) with Harpers Ferry and NEMSC staffs; and production of a "treatment proposal for the Lillian Wilhelm frieze's in the Zane Grey Museum" (phase one of PMIS #64100).

### Protection

UPDE protection staff were particularly busy this past summer because of exceptionally nice weather and a nearly unbroken string of warm, sunny weekends. Rangers combined forces to patrol with law enforcement partners from various New York State and Pennsylvania agencies. Regrettably, there were two drowning deaths this season. Neither person was wearing a life jacket.

We verbally upgraded a dispatch agreement between UPDE and DEWA. During unusually high radio traffic or in emergency situations, we can now request DEWA dispatchers to monitor our radio traffic and dispatch or provide assistance. Having learned that the radio link between both parks had failed, we obtained funding to repair the link and oversaw the necessary repairs.

Our Chief of Protection secured use of the U.S. Penitentiary firearms range at Canaan, PA for firearms qualifications by UPDE, STEA, and others.



*Upper Delaware Fishing Guide*

Protection equipment, facilities and resources upgrades included radio equipment, a new protection vehicle, two new RADAR units, dispatch phone and radio recorder, low water deployment boat roller bunks for NPS 6, three new Automated External Defibrillators, outfitting a flood response trailer, upgrading nine smoke/fire detectors at Headquarters, implementing annual life safety fire testing at all UPDE facilities through Vector Security, and initiating transition from NYSPIN to e-justice.

In accordance with revised agency directives, we issued 65 two-year Commercial Use Authorizations for boat liveries, fishing guides, camps and nonprofit organizations.

### Partnerships and Community Involvement

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifically addresses cooperation in managing components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Growth and development continue to be a major issue for UPDE management. Many communities and organizations have come to realize that the outstanding resource values, scenic beauty, rural character and open space that espoused creation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are the same values they cherish to maintain the community quality of life. Through dialog and education, partnership groups throughout the Upper Delaware have been progressive in providing opportunities for learning, change and action. Upper Delaware staff participates with these and other organizations as together we strive to protect the river:

*Upper Delaware Council (UDC)*—continued to coordinate the formal partnership of local, state, and federal interests dedicated to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River during its 19<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation. Fiscal Year 2007 highlights include:

- fact-finding relevant to New York Regional Interconnect, Inc.'s proposal to develop a High Voltage, Direct Current electrical transmission line that would cross the boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor
- awarding \$25,400 in FY 2007 Technical Assistance Grants for eight projects that will address needs identified in the River Management Plan and completing administration of a \$60,000 third-party Legislative Member Item grants program benefiting its New York member towns
- conducting reviews of water or land use development proposals, new ordinances, zoning variance requests, and permit applications to determine any impacts on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor
- providing staff support to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway
- monitoring legislation to create an Upper Delaware River Greenway Council
- convening a Strategic Planning Workshop on August 11, 2007 that focused on priority issues to facilitate the development of its fifth, Five-Year Operating Program for FY 2008-2012.

*Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC)*—UPDE developed a Centennial Challenge partnership with DHC to provide a funding source for scenic easements within the river corridor. Currently only 6% of the approximate 56,000 acres is protected. The Superintendent participated in strategy meetings with Pennsylvania Department of Community and Natural Resources, the Upper Delaware Council, and DHC to leverage the grant to include Pennsylvania Growing Greener II and Pike County Open Space Bond.

*Pike County Partnership*—a workshop of fifteen state, federal, county and non profit organizations established FY 07 goals to support an integrated system of open space, enhance community involvement, and promote economically viable communities. Numerous public education programs were presented to meet these goals that included programs such as Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, Realtors Workshop, Understanding the Cost and Revenue Impacts of Residential Development, and Understanding Local Government. Collectively these programs provide viable community information on landscape preservation techniques. The Superintendent serves as an active planning team member.

*The Sleuth Growth Model*—a forecasting tool that can be utilized by counties and townships to determine rate and types of growth thirty years into the future. In FY 07 we received \$11,250 through the Regional Scientist to establish a cooperative agreement with Shippensburg University to develop a NPS model to forecast growth for the entire Upper Delaware watershed. In August the Superintendent launched a “think tank”, introducing approximately 20 scientists and state/federal land managers and soliciting their input to develop a growth forecasting tool. The group contributed to developing growth scenarios and watershed ecological measurement factors which will provide predictive analysis to measure land use change and project how growth will impact the Upper Delaware watershed. The agenda incorporated Landstat 7 Landcover Change Trend Analysis, Sleuth Model Development and Forecasting and NASA/NPS Ecological Forecasting.

*Upper Delaware Greenway*—management participated in two concept meetings to formulate mission, goals and strategies in support of a Pennsylvania/New York Upper Delaware Greenway. New York State Assembly and Senate members already support legislation to establish the program.

*Zane Grey's West Society (ZGWS)*—In addition to helping stage an annual public event (described above), ZGWS is promoting a Zane Grey commemorative postage stamp, and donated \$1,000 to help with flood recovery, stabilize structures on the property, develop interpretive programs, and advocate for the site. Volunteers served 80 hours on- and uncounted hours off-site.

*Eagle Institute*—Each December eagles return to winter beside the Upper Delaware because the tailwaters below the region's various dams do not readily freeze. The Eagle Institute uses NPS facilities and runs programs that include recruiting and training volunteers to provide eagle counts to resource managers. They lead education programs and tours for visitors. One program, EagleFest, attracts over a thousand people to the river valley in mid-January, eager to see our national bird. The EI donated 2,090 volunteer hours.

*National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP)*—The NCSP was founded in 1979 to encourage and promote boating safety. These volunteers assist our staff by providing safety education and canoe skills training, a shore and boat based safety presence, and rescue and recovery assistance during summer weekends. Members donated 2,625 hours in 2007.

*Delaware River Sojourn*—UPDE participated in, and provided leadership to, the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Delaware River Sojourn. This year's river trip focused on Native American heritage; the UPDE segment featured a hands-on program on primitive technology including atlatl throwing. In addition to planning four days of the trip in UPDE and at the DEWA, the NPS provided telecommunications support through the Rails, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) office. Event participation was up for all seven days of the trip. The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers provided significant funding toward the event.



*Delaware River Water Trail*—unveiled its River Map and Guide, as well as its management plan, at an event staged at Washington Crossing in April. UPDE, DEWA and the RTCA program were active participants in this program, largely funded by a Growing Greener grant from Pennsylvania, with NPS support.

*Upper Delaware Visioning Committee*—This ad-hoc group of concerned citizens actively partners with other community organizations to promote wise development and growth in the region. Together they staged numerous workshops and offered training for citizens and local planning and zoning board members and staged field trips to model developments in the area. They have a website and, with the support of the local newspaper and the contributions of guest authors, they provide a Visioning newspaper column nearly weekly. Most recently the Visioning Committee held Roundtable workshops to expand their coordination efforts.

*Upper Delaware Round Table*—As an outgrowth of the Visioning Committee, the Round Table consists of eleven New York and Pennsylvania county, state and non-profit organizations that share project information and coordinate and develop education outreach forums for elected officials.

*Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance (UDHA)*—Founded in 1980, the UDHA served the heritage community in the Upper Delaware for more than 25 years. Having met their goal of incubating heritage and preservation interest, they voted go out of existence this year. They leave behind a formidable list of accomplishments, including sponsoring many of the river valley's National Register Districts and advocating for the preservation of the Roebling Bridge and the Zane Grey House.

*Delaware and Hudson Transportation Heritage Council (D&HTHC)*—The coalition of site owners and operators along the 150-mile long Delaware and Hudson Canal and Gravity railroad corridor advocates for the historic canal, including the NPS-owned sites. They maintain a webpage and cross promote D&H sites. The bi-state canal system operated from 1828 to 1898 and parts of it (including the Roebling Bridge) are a designated National Historic Landmark.

*Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (NYS Route 97)*—obtained numerous New York State grants for “bricks and mortar” enhancements, marketing, brochures, and a first class website.

*Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition (UDPC)*—an activist grassroots organization, its members mobilized around two issues: the Pond Eddy Bridge replacement and the proposed NYRI power line. UDPC members have testified before congressional committees, developed a website, raised funds, and participate in a New York State coalition of county governments and citizen organizations. The UDPC succeeded in having American Rivers designate the Upper Delaware as one of the nation's Most Endangered Rivers.

*Sullivan County Charter Commission*—The Assistant Superintendent has served on this citizen commission for the past eighteen months. Appointed by the Sullivan County legislature, the charter commission is reviewing the county's charter and making recommendations for improving county government. Some recommendations will go to a referendum vote.

*Mongaup Visitor Center—New York State*—UPDE continues to work with New York State and the Town of Lumberland to develop a Visitor Center at the park's primary southern gateway. The change in New York State's governor last election required that we work with the new administration to develop new proposals. We thank Bob Holzheimer, Michael Morelli and Denver Service Center for their continued support of this project.

*Pond Eddy Bridge - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*—NPS was asked to be a consulting party on this project. There are two, somewhat conflicting issues: the Scenic River and the fact that the bridge is on the National Register. We thank Cheryl Sams O'Neil and Chuck Barscz for their guidance and support on this issue. They have attended meetings with us, helped write correspondence dealing with the legalities of the various issues, and have been just a phone call away when we needed them.

### **Support to Region and Service-wide Accomplishments**

#### ***Administrative Leadership***

*The Administrative Officer (AO)* continues to provide administrative oversight and support to Northeast Region parks at the Regional Comptroller's request. Both she and her staff have stepped up to assist:

- *Manhattan Sites & Gateway NHS*—Our AO was detailed for three months as administrative liaison with the Administrative Officer and Superintendent
- *Martin Van Buren NHS*—Our AO and our Administrative Program Support Assistant were both detailed for three months as administrative advisor to the Superintendent and to provide finance and budget assistance respectively. Both will continue to support MAVA until their administrative support assistant is hired and trained
- *Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHP*—Our AO continues to mentor the new AO
- *Upstate New York sub-cluster and the Delaware Valley Subcluster*—UPDE's Purchasing Agent's expanded responsibilities as “computer and other major equipment ordering agent” for both subclusters resulted in processing over \$107,700 in those types of orders. This responsibility spans purchasing, finance and property administrative lines
- *Upstate New York Sub-cluster*—UPDE's Administrative Program Support Assistant accepted a lead role in the property management function
- Our purchasing agent processed and prepared a large contracting workload for *DEWA*, as well as UPDE, in support of the June 2006 flood recovery
- *As Lead Administrative Officer for the Delaware Valley sub-cluster*, our AO is active on the newly formed Business Management Council, which is developing an action plan for the new major acquisition buying offices (MABOs) and a Human Resources restructuring plan

- As NPS Servicewide Lead Instructor/Coordinator for the Introduction to Park Program Management (IPPM) training team, our AO coordinated or instructed 7 classes for WASO, SERO, KATM, SEKI, SAGU, GRTE, and MWRO; she continues to participate in the team that is training eight (8) new IPPM instructors

### ***NER Records Management Program***

The Regional OCIO began funding a portion of the Program Specialist in support of the Records Management Program, a regional responsibility with increasing commitment provided 1996. During FY-07, she accomplished the following:

#### ***E-Discovery***

- Synthesized e-Discovery issue, including DOI Solicitor's guidance, and prepared interim guidance for the Assistant Regional Director and NER/parks managers
- Collaborated with WASO IT/Records Management to prepare Servicewide e-Discovery guidance
- Prepared final Regional Director guidance to the field, with associated documentation, released to NER managers and posted on the NER Records Management webpage in early October

#### ***Training/ Information***

- Prepared a records management program overview for NER Senior Management.
- Prepared and presented a PowerPoint presentation and other handouts on the NPS Records Management Program and new "regional" assignment for the Administration Conference. This spurred later requests for support and information from about 10 parks
- Taught a four-hour Records Management Fundamentals class at the request of the Delaware Valley Subcluster
- Presented a two-hour Records information session for approximately 18 Regional Office senior managers
- Taught an expanded "Records Management Fundamentals" class to 16 regional office staff. Distributed and discussed DO-19 Records management policy, the Records Management Handbook, and the NPS Records Schedule, among other issues
- Introduced Outdoor Recreational Planner Peter Iris-Williams to Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center manager to enable sharing planning documents prior to archiving the information. Many Regional Office Participants indicate they are largely storing the *original* documents in the building long-term
- Assisted in revising draft Regional guidance and offered classroom training as an alternative to mandatory on-line DOI Records Management training (requested by Acting RD Latschar)
- Began working with NER IT to reinvent a NER Records Web Page

#### ***NER Records Program Plan***

- Together with the National Archives, drafted a 3-year vision, resulting in a Northeast Region Records Management Strategic Plan reflecting the IT and NER Business Plans. The plan, approved by the NER Business Council, calls for a NER Records Management Program Workgroup to flesh out and implement the plan's vision:
  1. Assign records management responsibilities and appoint Regional Office and park files liaisons
  2. Coordinate records management projects and communication within the region
  3. Create records management procedures
  4. Develop records management competency and expertise through training and practice
  5. Increase compliance with records management directives and guidelines
  6. Assure sustainability of the NER Records Program
 Museum Services and INDE's curator have been invited serve on the Workgroup, which will meet in FY-08.

#### ***Servicewide Records Management Program Council***

- Represent the Northeast Region during monthly RMPC conference calls to establish a Servicewide program, resolve records management questions and raise issues requiring further attention
- Serve at WASO's request on a subcommittee of four, working with National Archives to develop a new NPS records schedule compatible with electronic, paper and other formats. The draft schedule identifies 10 categories of records, and intends to schedule those categories holistically. The subcommittee has prepared a Decision Tree for guiding records to the appropriate categories; we are testing the draft schedule by creating draft file plans to complement the work

#### ***Other Assistance to the Region***

- One of our rangers was deployed to "security 1" detail at the Montana fire, and UPDE rangers assisted Delaware Valley Subcluster members at events at DEWA, ROVA, STEA and WEFA, and we assisted during Millbrook Days

## Farewells

As our dedicated staff strives to protect the Upper Delaware, we have taken time to celebrate with two of our colleagues who retired this fiscal year. Chief of Maintenance Bob Price and Chief of Resource Management Mike Reuber both bid farewell as coworkers, though both remain UPDE residents. They are sorely missed.

## Conclusion

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is an often misunderstood gem in the crown of the National Park Service. Though we own 30 acres, we are responsible to protect 56,000. Though we have a staff of only 25, we strive to protect 73 miles of river valley with our partners in two states, five counties and fifteen townships. We are commanded to cooperate with all who have an interest in the Upper Delaware and, as our reporting indicates, they are many: Friends, partners and agencies numbering in the hundreds look to us for leadership. One of us meets at least daily, nearly every evening and frequently on weekends with organizations whose diverse missions are fused with ours to create a network of protection for the Upper Delaware valley, a tribute to the interest and dedication of our friends and staff—and to the allure of this unspoiled river.



*Superintendent Dave Forney presents farewell token to Retiring Mike Reuber*

David C. Forney