

The River Unites Us:

Stories about the Scenic Wild Delaware River by those who know it best

Photo by East Branch Outfitters



Sharon Davis
Delaware River
Program Manager
NPCA

This month's column features
Jeff Skelding, Executive Director,
Friends of the Upper Delaware River

The River Unites Us: What is the mission of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR)?

Jeff Skelding: To protect, preserve, and enhance the cold-water ecosystem and the economy of the Upper Delaware River watershed and to address all environmental threats in our area for the benefit of local communities, residents, and visitors to the region.

TRUU: As a geotourism program, the Scenic Wild Delaware River (SWDR) program encourages recreational travelers to experience our region's authentic natural, historical and cultural sites. How does this fit with your work at FUDR.

JS: FUDR works to protect and restore a world class wild trout fishery in the Upper Delaware River that attracts thousands of anglers from around the globe every year. We also work hard to generate river-related tourism opportunities on the river such as hiking, boating, and birdwatching. We believe the quality of the river and the watershed is inextricably linked with healthy communities and the local economy. When people experience the river and the Upper Delaware region firsthand, they will gain an appreciation of its awesome beauty and natural resource value and will understand the need to keep the water and the land clean and healthy. This will help ensure a sustainable future for the watershed and foster responsible and sustainable tourism activities that will help stimulate the local economy in a region that desperately needs rejuvenation.

TRUU: What economic benefit does trout fishing bring to the local community?

JS: In 2014, FUDR partnered with local community leaders on an economic report that calculated the monetary value of fishing, boating, and second home investment in the Upper Delaware region. The report

concluded that the current net present value of the cold water fishery is an estimated \$414 million. One of the interesting findings of the report indicated that improved water releases from the NYC Delaware basin reservoirs, one of FUDR's priority advocacy campaigns, would increase the value of the river to \$274 million.

TRUU: What issues are most critical to protecting the Upper Delaware's cold-water trout fisheries?

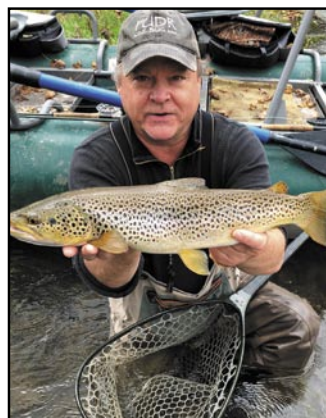
JS: There are a number of very important issues that could help ensure the long-term protection and restoration of the Upper Delaware River. These include:

- 1) Improved releases of cold water from the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs. Water releases from the reservoirs play a major role in the health of the river every day and the economic vitality of the communities and people that rely on it for their livelihood.
- 2) Protecting and restoring tributaries to control erosion and accelerated sedimentation, one of the top threats to water quality and aquatic habitat in the Upper Delaware River.
- 3) Ensuring that proper protections are put into place to address threats like illegal harvesting of fish, and unlicensed guiding and angling. Expansion of catch and release requirements is also some-

thing that should be seriously considered by NY and PA fishery agencies.

TRUU: Finally, tell us some of the "Must See and Experience" places that you recommend for travelers that can be found at www.scenicwilddelawareriver.com

JS: We've got some great lodges and resorts here in the Upper Delaware River including West Branch Angler and Delaware River Club. We also have world class guides and outfitters that can dramatically shorten the learning curve for the visiting angler including but not limited to Cross Current Outfitters and East Branch Outfitters. These places and others will supply all your angling equipment needs and information about fishing the river.



Jeff Skelding

This column is syndicated by the *Blue Valley Times*

About The Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Project:

Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism is one of only 23 geotourism programs created by National Geographic worldwide. Working collaboratively in the 3 states along the middle & upper Delaware River region, the Program promotes and sustains the region's resources for long-term economic and environmental vitality. NPCA helps staff this program. Visit the interactive travel website showcasing local experiences at

www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com



www.npca.org

For more information contact Sharon Davis, sdavis@npca.org or tel: 570.460.4468



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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Modern Comfort

Everyone gets used to the way their heating and air conditioning system operates whether it is right or wrong. Older furnaces had fewer choices of fan speeds and boilers had one set temperature that the water was heated to. Modern systems are very configurable and it has been proven that certain settings make the system more efficient and also more comfortable for the occupants. Because I size a system correctly for the home it is in, many times we will be installing a smaller furnace than the one presently used. Overkill used to be prevalent until fuel prices increased and made sending half of the heat up the chimney unaffordable. The problem is that when we startup a new system and set the parameters that will make it work best, it is usually noticed right away by the homeowner. Remarks like "there is hardly any air coming out" or "the drapes used to sway in the breeze and they don't do that now" or "I used to be able to dry my clothes on the radiator and it doesn't get as hot now" are common. Our goal is not to make the drapes sway or create a clothes dryer it is to keep the indoor temperature at the setpoint without you ever realizing the system is on. When it works that way, there is no noise or draft or hot and cold spots in the home. The minimum amount of fuel is used and the life of the system will be increased. It is not important that it used to run for 10 minutes on a cold day and now it runs 30 minutes because instead of blasting hot air and shutting off, it now gently circulates warm air. Most of the new systems have 2 stages of heat or cool. That allows them to match the homes requirement for heat or cool year round. Low stage may be fine until December and then it will use high stage if needed to keep the house warm. They are fully automatic and you never even know which is operating.

When we do a new installation, we measure all of the parameters that we adjust to be sure the equipment is working within its design limits and that it will be efficient for its entire lifetime. It is a bit awkward when someone asks if we can make the new system work like the old one. I suggest that they give the new system a week or two and see if they get used to it and nobody has complained yet.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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Thursday, May 16
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The Grand Eastonian
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Free film screening and panel discussion sponsored by the Lehigh and Northampton Chapter of PennAEYC. Please go to Eventbrite to get your free ticket.



Ginger Greenhouse & Garden Ctr. Workshops

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Ginger Greenhouse & Garden Ctr. hosted 2 workshops over the weekend, one for kids who enjoyed strawberry pot painting and planting. The other class was a fund raiser for girl scout troop 874 where adults were able to make a planter or hanging basket.

Check their website or their Facebook page for the next event at www.gingergreenhouse.com

