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Sojourn

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“Oh my gosh, it’s eye-opening,” Horn said. It’s one thing to drive on the highway that hugs the river but being on the water offered a

whole new appreciation for what nature has to offer, she said. “It’s breath-taking,” she said of what she described as the “crystal-clear water” and the discovery that eagles populate the river corridor.

Chance Babish, an interpretive river ranger with the National Park Service, led the paddlers in an exercise to better understand how their perspective could change upon further inspection. Relying on a prop – a cardboard “door” with a cutout window – he asked a volunteer to look through the window and count how many people she could see seated in the pavilion. She then took a few steps back, and, with her perspective through the window changed, she could see a great many more people.

Such is the experience of being on the river, Babish said, adding that he even noticed a difference in perspective after being on a stand-up paddle board instead of in a kayak. He said visitors might come to Kittatinny Point to use the rest rooms, picnic and access the river and think it represents the totality of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

What they don’t see is that the recreation area is made up of 70,000 acres that boast a rich cultural history, trails, waterfalls and an abundance of wildlife. Among other highlights, the recreation area features one of the oldest commercial roadways in the country, Old Mine Road, which was built in the 1600s, and Raymondskill Falls, the tallest in Pennsylvania, he said.

“Visitors are often pleasantly surprised when they realize what the park has to offer,” he said.

The middle two days of the canoe/kayak/camping sojourn, June 20-21, stretched from Bushkill, Pa., to Worthington State Forest, N.J., and then to Ramsaysburg Historic Farmstead, N.J.

The theme of this year’s trip was “The River Rocks” and included educational programming about the unique geology of the Delaware River Basin.

In addition to taking in the natural setting of the river, paddlers got a glimpse of unique manmade structures as well, said Troy Bystrom, a sojourn registrar. Among them: an abandoned railroad viaduct built in the 1920s that is heavily covered in graffiti and known locally as “Alice in Wonderland.” The viaduct, which is between Mount Bethel, Pa., and Columbia, N.J., gained its nickname because visitors have to go through a manhole to access it, much like the rabbit hole in “Alice in Wonderland,” Bystrom said. (He was quick to add that the site was off limits and he was not encouraging trespassing.)

On the sojourn was Alex Jackson, executive director of the Broadhead Water Association, a partner in the Pococos-Kittatinny cluster of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, which works to protect and enhance the resources of the Upper and Middle Delaware Rivers, and supports the sojourn.

“We’re here all to celebrate the natural resources in the Upper and Middle Delaware,” which enjoys excellent water quality because it is so heavily forested, Jackson said.

He spoke with pride and wonder at spotting so many Mayflies and stoneflies, which are pollution intolerant. That there was such a robust population of the insects is a “testament to the health of the water,” he said.

The sojourn honored Sherry Acevedo as one of its “High Admiral Award” recipients for a lifetime of work dedicated to conservation. Acevedo sported a cap with golden braids on the brim bestowed to her as part of the award. She said she was deeply honored – and surprised – at the recognition.

Acevedo, who is the conservation coordinator for parks and recreation for Northampton County, Pa., has led land protection efforts over a career spanning three decades, including spearheading the

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Community-Minded Individuals Wanted- Plainfield Township

Zoning Hearing Board

The Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors is seeking applications from Township residents who wish to serve on the following positions of the Township starting as soon as possible in 2022:

- Zoning Hearing Board (One Term Expiring January 1, 2027)
- Zoning Hearing Board Alternate (Two Terms Expiring December 31, 2022)

Interested residents of the Township must complete the *Plainfield Township Boards and Commissions Application* (available at <https://plainfieldtownship.org/appointment-process-for-boards-and-commissions/> and at the Plainfield Township Municipal Office, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064, Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:30PM) and submit it to the Plainfield Township Manager via email to manager@plainfieldtownship.org no later than **Thursday, August 4, 2022** to be considered for any of the above-listed positions. The Board of Supervisors (or a designated committee of the Board) may schedule interviews with applicants. These interviews will be open to the public.

REQUIREMENTS: All positions require proof of Plainfield Township residency. All positions generally require the ability to read and interpret the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Plainfield, PA and the Second Class Township Code, as amended. Applicants interested in the Zoning Hearing Board must also be able to read and interpret the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and the Plainfield Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended.

If there are any questions about the above positions, please contact Tom Petrucci, Township Manager, at (610) 759-6944 ext 102.

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