

**DARBY  
CREEK  
VALLEY  
ASSOCIATION**

**The  
Valley**



*Spring 2016*

## ***PRESIDENT'S PEN***

### **The Delaware River Watershed Initiative**

**By Jaclyn Rhoads, DCVA President**

The William Penn Foundation led the charge a little over two years ago to realign its foundation giving into focus areas throughout the Delaware River Watershed. Darby Creek Valley Association was invited to participate in this process and join with Lower Merion Conservancy to monitor water quality along the Cobbs Creek which drains into the Delaware River and is an 11.8-mile-long tributary of Darby Creek and help conduct outreach and education programs about the importance of protecting the creek.

Each year since the initiative began, William Penn Foundation hosts an all-cluster winter gathering which brings together partners from each of the clusters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey under the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI). It is a two-day retreat focused on the work of each of the clusters, the William Penn process, feedback from clusters to the foundation, and opportunities for partnering within clusters and across clusters. The Foundation also invites other foundation partners that have joined in this initiative including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Open Space Institute and other institutional partners such as the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Institute for Conservation Leadership.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides funding under the DRWI for restoration work, and the Open Space Institute primarily funds land acquisition. The Academy of Natural Sciences is responsible for monitoring and working with funded organizations who monitor as well. DCVA is a partner in monitoring on the Cobbs for the Suburban Philadelphia Cluster.

The William Penn Foundation is getting ready to supply details on its expectation for partners to modify/update the first 3-year plan created at the beginning of the Initiative in 2014. Partners, including DCVA, will be participating in an 8-10 month planning process to identify additional opportunities for water quality improvement through education/outreach and restoration for four sub-watersheds within the cluster including the Cobbs Creek. An updated plan will be developed, and our hope is to share these goals with our members.

Board members from DCVA have participated in each of the gatherings, and it is amazing to hear from the array of diverse organizations throughout the region working together to protect our water resources. We are honored to have the opportunity to participate and represent the interests of residents in the area at these events.

More information about the cluster work can be found on DCVA's website as well as our partner, Lower Merion Conservancy's website:

[http://lmconservancy.org/watershedconservation/delaware\\_river\\_watershed/](http://lmconservancy.org/watershedconservation/delaware_river_watershed/)



*At left: Comcast file photo*

## A History of the Founding of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum:

### A Story that spans 35 Years, Part II

By

Jean Diehl



**Editor's Note:** We are pleased to host guest columnist, Jean Diehl, former president of Concerned Area Residents for Preservation of Tinicum Marsh in this issue of *The Valley* and the Fall 2015 issue. The first half of this article can be viewed at [www.DCVA.org](http://www.DCVA.org).

Jean lived in Tinicum Township as a child, and tutored by her dad who hunted and fished in the marsh, used the marsh as her stomping ground. When she returned from the service she married and had a family. She learned about and became interested in the preservation of Tinicum Marsh at her daughter's Girl Scout meeting. Concerned Citizens for the Preservation of Tinicum Marsh (**CARP**) president Rhoda Gribbel introduced Mrs. Diehl to state environmental officials and involved her in all of CARP's infant activities. This article is Mrs. Diehl's personal account of the events that lead to the preservation of the marsh and the formation of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Mrs. Diehl is active in The Friends of the Heinz Refuge and is the editor of *Marsh Musings*, their newsletter.

The fall 2015 issue of *The Valley* contained the beginning of Mrs. Diehl's article on of the founding of the refuge. That contribution described the monumental efforts taken by area citizens that led to June 30, 1972 when Public Law 92-326 creating the Tinicum National Environmental Center (now called the Heinz Refuge) was signed into law by President Nixon. However, it would take as much work after that day as it did before the law was signed to establish a national wildlife refuge at Tinicum. The article ended by recounting some of the many benefits of preserving the marsh. CARP used these points to convince the even greater number of people that were needed to join the effort to firmly establish the refuge.

---

#### Part II Begins here:

**CARP partnered with many other area organizations** - The new partners spread the word in their own newsletters and wrote letters of support when needed. The Valley Forge Audubon Society Camera Club even created an awesome narrated slide show for us to take around. This approach doubled, tripled, and then quadrupled public support for saving Tinicum Marsh. The shock value of the presentation energized public and (gradually) municipal support. It also generated donations, new members, and lots of referrals.

**CARP often staged publicity events with news coverage** - Lots of friendly news media to give us attention. In one event, we staged interstate commerce to prove (to the Corps of Engineers) that Darby Creek was not only historically, but also currently commercially navigable. Along with minstrels, and the news media, a cavalcade of about 20 canoes started in Jersey, picked up produce, crossed the Delaware and paddled up Darby Creek, trading their produce at the Ridley Marina, The John Morton House in Prospect Park, Montgomery Park in Folcroft, The Refuge and finally at the junction of Darby and Cobbs Creeks. Needless to say the trip had to be carefully planned with the tides in mind, because by the time they reached the Darby/Cobbs confluence there was precious little time that would elapse between high and low tides at that point.

**Another of CARP's strategies was to find ways to transform governmental antipathy into governmental respect and support** - CARP members became knowledgeable about municipal codes and the PA Municipality Planning Code. We attended all public meetings at which discussion on Tinicum Marsh might occur, and offered input where appropriate. At first we were always challenged and ridiculed. However we always had documentation with us to prove our points. Over time CARP gained grudging respect, then grudging support and finally outright support. When we began, there were no politicians anywhere in Delaware County who supported the preservation of Tinicum Marsh. By the time we were finished there was no politician to be found anywhere in Delaware County who did not say they ALWAYS supported it. CARP developed a strong working relationship with state environmental officials including the state

environmental strike force, which resulted in our being able to halt fly-by-night dumping. We had spotters everywhere, and when dumping was discovered, it was reported immediately. Our high level of respect by state officials resulted in their immediate response and dumpers were immediately halted. Dumpers were once overheard in a public restaurant complaining that CARP had little old ladies in tennis sneakers hiding behind every bush, and that as a result no one would be successful in finding dumping spots in the area without being certain to be prosecuted.

**CARP worked with state environmental officials in a number of ways:**

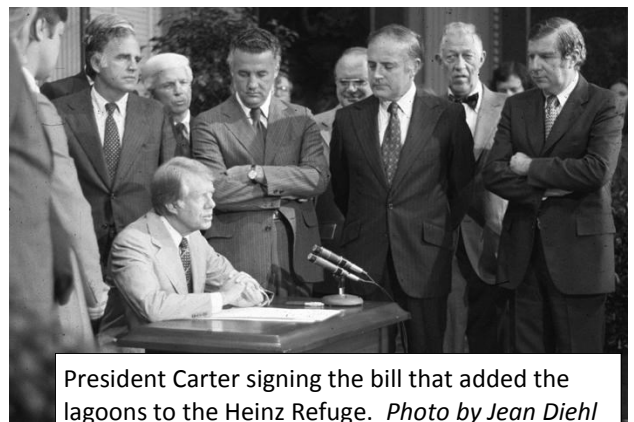
- We monitored activities on both Folcroft and Clearview landfills and the Delaware County Incinerator # 2. CARP utilized canoe “spy patrols” to gather photographic documentation of illegal activities which were ongoing at each of these facilities. The results of this collaboration included the eventual closing of the incinerator and Folcroft Landfill, but CARP was never successful in closing the Clearview Landfill.
- While CARP filed suit several times in Delaware County Court against the Folcroft and Clearview Landfills, utilizing the same information that we had given to the state, but the “landfill judge” always threw the suits out. This was one battle we never won - at least in this court, but not for lack of trying.
- CARP worked with state Bureau of Water Quality to institute a ban on connections by new construction to the Darby Creek Joint Sewer Authority. The existing system was frequently spewing raw sewage into Darby Creek because it was over design capacity. This sewer ban was to stay in place until the authority either updated their capacity, or connected to the regional sewer authority whichever came first.
- CARP, along with other organizations, finally convinced PennDot to relocate the final segment of I-95 away from the bow of Darby Creek, and the impoundment.
- Since the founding legislation was incomplete, CARP spearheaded 5 additional pieces of Tinicum Marsh legislation over the next 10 years which authorized purchase money for refuge lands, and restored lands to the refuge boundaries which had been cut from the original legislation. Senator Bob Edgar was the primary sponsor for all five of these bills.

Four of the pieces of legislation passed easily, the one in 1976 didn't. That bill, as written, would have added the Folcroft Landfill and the Tinicum Lagoons to the refuge's boundaries. Both tracts had been stricken from the original legislation. The owners of both tracts were seeking permission to develop them, so preserving them was critical to the integrity of the newly established wildlife refuge. The owner/developer of the Folcroft Landfill had petitioned Folcroft Borough to put a trash transfer station on it. Since the landfill protrudes like a thumb into the remaining marshes, this type of activity would have been totally incompatible, and finally, this person had an established reputation as a notoriously bad neighbor. The lagoon owners had advertised in the PA Bulletin for a permit to re-fill the lagoons and develop them commercially.

Congress approved having the Folcroft Landfill added to the refuge, but advised CARP that if we wanted the lagoons added we would have to show them more public support first. Translated, that meant raise some money (suggested amount \$100,000.00) and then come back to ask them again to add the lagoons.

**CARP formed a partnership with the Delaware County Council of the Leagues of Women Voters (Rosalie Piersol was their energetic representative) and together we sponsored a fundraiser we called “The Tinicum Fund” - A** groundswell of public support ensued in spite of a recession and the area being primarily blue collar, and in a little over 2 years we raised over \$113,000. Donations ranged from pennies from school children to a \$50,000 grant from the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Endowment Fund. The funds were presented to the FWS at a celebratory function held at the Ramada Inn in January 1980.

In the next session of Congress CARP (and partners) once again petitioned for the Lagoons to be added to refuge boundaries, and we were finally successful. The final piece of Tinicum Marsh legislation increased Refuge appropriations to a max of 19.1 million dollars “in perpetuity”. The designation “in perpetuity” means that the use of the funds has no expiration date. They have not yet been fully expended.



President Carter signing the bill that added the lagoons to the Heinz Refuge. Photo by Jean Diehl

## John Bartram, Seeing God's Design in a Simple Daisy

By John Haigis with editing by Jan Haigis

One of our area treasures is Bartram's Garden, located on the Schuylkill River at 54th and Lindbergh Boulevard in Philadelphia. In addition to a stone house overlooking the river, there are a wide variety of plants and trees in a lovely setting and a cider press carved into the rock of the river bank across from Point Breeze. It is a wonderful place to visit, and think about a famous botanist who "saw God's design in a simple daisy."

John Bartram, sometimes called the "Father of American Botany" was born in 1699 on the family farm on the west bank of Darby Creek on Springfield Road in Darby (present day Collingdale, Pennsylvania.) The farm, located on what is believed to have been a section of the Minquas Indian Path later became Eden Cemetery.

Bartram was a Quaker and a member of Darby Friends Meeting and as a Quaker became aware of the gifts of God's natural world. There is a story that one day Bartram cut down a daisy and was struck to his very core by its beauty, its symmetry and its complexity. He is reputed to have said to himself, "I've looked at these things all of my life but before today have never SEEN one." Inspired, he bought a Latin grammar and the treatise by Carl Linnaeus on botany, taught himself Latin and the Linnaeus classification system, began America's oldest botanical garden, America's first seed catalog company, and was eventually appointed Royal Botanist to King George III in 1765.

In 1728 he bought the Swedish plantation of Aronimink on the west bank of the Schuylkill River in what was then Kingsessing Township and built a stone house still standing, overlooking the river. He and his son William would travel the colonies studying and collecting specimens of plants and corresponding with the worldwide scientific community of the day. That community included English Quaker Peter Collinson who was instrumental in helping Bartram in 1743 obtain the books to begin Darby Library, the oldest continuously operating public library in the United States.

In 1758, Bartram was disowned by Darby Meeting for his refusal to accept Trinitarian doctrine, but continued to worship at that Meeting. In 1761 he carved



above the door of his greenhouse a quote from Alexander Pope: "Slave to no sect who takes no private road, but looks through Nature up to Nature's God," writing in a letter "It is through the telescope I see God in his glory." Carved into a stone below a window of his house are the words: "It is God alone, Almyty Lord, the Holy One by Me adored". John Bartram 1770"

With little formal education but insatiable curiosity, Bartram, along with Benjamin Franklin, co-founded the American Philosophical Society and once wrote to Benjamin Rush, "I hope a more diligent search will lead you into the knowledge of more certain truths than all the pretended revelations of our mystery mongers and their inspirations." Bartram died in September 1777 and was buried in the Darby Friends Burial Ground. In June of 1993, he was posthumously reinstated as a member in good standing of Darby Friends Meeting in whose burial ground he rests.

Bartram's home and gardens, located at 5400 Lindbergh Blvd in Philadelphia, are now under the care of Philadelphia's Fairmont Park and are easily accessible by the No. 36 Trolley from Philadelphia's City Hall. Among his other accomplishments, the Encyclopedia Britannica claims Bartram was the first North American experimenter to hybridize flowering plants. In this and so many other ways, Bartram's life and legacy continue to inspire us all.



## The Valley House

By

**John Furth, Aaron Wunsch, John Haigis, and Jan Haigis**

The Valley House is a circa 1844 stone structure, soon to be part of history, located on the greenway along Darby Creek in Upper Darby Township, just upstream from the Swedish Cabin. Although the building has strong stone walls and "good bones," the structure is compromised by a long-term leak in the rear left quadrant and was slated for demolition. Professor Aaron Wunsch of the University of Pennsylvania believes the building is eminently fixable and can be fully rehabilitated for around \$200,000 and the Township was asked to hold off on demolition and transfer stewardship of the building for a nominal amount with an agreed upon timetable for restoration for use as a guest house/writer's retreat and rest-stop along the greenway. After initial indications such an agreement was being prepared, the Township voted to demolish the structure on December 17, 2015. The building might have been an opportunity to teach the unique skills of building conservation including plaster and wooden window repair and its beautiful, natural setting on the greenway, reminiscent of "Valley Green" along the Wissahickon, is unique in the area. An adaptive reuse could be an enhancement to the greenway, the Township, and to the region, however, the fate of the building is likely an opportunity lost.

The factory workers who lived in the building are largely unknown to history and the only battle that occurred there was the battle for survival. The historic significance of the building points to it being the largest surviving remnant of the Tuscarora Mills, developed in 1844 by English emigre George Burnley (1804-1864) on the site of a Revolutionary War-era paper mill. The history of Burnley's enterprise, which produced cotton goods and spun yarn, is amply documented, and this is among the few buildings remaining to commemorate Upper Darby's mid 19th c. industrial history. It's also worth noting that Burnley's enterprise kept going into the 20th century and played a key role in the township's social history. The story isn't an especially happy one (it seems to

involve significant amounts of child labor) but it is certainly important. The house is significant and is believed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a building "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" or a building that embodies "the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." This means, among other things, that if the township used Federal money to buy it, or proposes to use Federal money to demolish it, the Township may be required to abide by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Although a series of alterations over the past 170 years muddied the historic record, the building might have been an opportunity to teach the special skills of working with historic buildings, a unique tourism opportunity, and an asset along the proposed greenway connecting to the Swedish Cabin downstream, Burnley Manor upstream, other parklands, and eventually to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

*For of all sad words of tongue or pen,*

*The saddest are these, "It might have been!"*

*John Greenleaf Whittier. 1807–1892*



*Oil Painting from the 1930s by artist J.P. Hoot and presented by the artist to the Birch family who lived nearby in 1947. Photo courtesy of the Birch Family*

## EASTWICK IN ACTION

by  
EARL WILSON



December 23, 2015 is a date that will not be easily forgotten by the residents of Eastwick. After fifty (50) years of living under the shadow of not knowing what was going to happen to the undeveloped, 135 acres located between the Philadelphia International Airport and the John Heinz National Wildlife Reserve, one could only imagine the anxieties that resulted from this unknown factor over the past decades. Then, on December 23, 2015, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA), after several years of negotiating with Korman (Korman Residential Reality) voted unanimously to purchase the 135 acres and return it to the city. Korman's rights to develop the property, except one small parcel, has been eliminated. The culmination of this event has caused major increase in interest among the residents because they can now envision the opportunities to help determine how their community can be developed with their input.

It is very important for the readers of *The Valley* to know of at least a brief history of what has transpired over the fifty (50) years that Korman was in control of the 135 acres. Prior to Korman, however, government officials took part in acts that were reprehensible to the residents of Eastwick, then known as "The Meadows". The area, once a very viable, diverse and vibrant community with its own business sector and more than forty (40) churches was first classified as a "blighted" community. This designation indicated that the area was impoverished, according to the officials. This was as though the officials had given up on the area without providing additional resources. Once the blight certification was in place, the "door" was opened for the declaration of "eminent domain". This declaration gave the officials the right to began forcing residents from their homes/properties by (1) buying homes/properties (from residents) at a price below market value, (2) block-busting tactics, and (3) in some recorded cases, forcibly removing residents from their homes. More than two thousand (2000) acres were made available for redevelopment, once the eminent domain process was activated. Many of the residents who were uprooted on this process are deceased or are living in another community. There are some residents, who resisted the eminent domain process, still living in the area and are more than willing to tell their traumatic experiences about what was done to them, their families and their neighbors.

Several years ago, Korman made an attempt to activate its rights to build 700+ apartments and parking spaces for 1000+ cars on the 135 acres of land adjacent to the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. That activity attracted the attention of the residents who live in the immediate area. These residents quickly organized the "Committee of 10" and eventually evolved into what is now known as the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition. This coalition is made up of the Eastwick Action Committee, Darby Creek Valley Association, Friends of Heinz Refuge, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Sierra Club and Keystone Trust. The legal arm of the coalition is represented by the Public Law Center of Philadelphia and Dechert, LLC.

After years of community activism, vigilance, testifying and protesting at City Hall, an uncountable number of strategy meetings, and gaining the support of our Councilman, Kenyatta Johnson, the residents can say that the community is in a better place because Korman is no longer a part of the future planning process.

**An additional note:** Several months ago, two new companies have reached a agreement to purchase the Penrose Shopping Center from Korman. These companies have already started to plan for improving the shopping center and reducing the number of store vacancies. This is a definite welcomed benefit to the community.

***Eastwick in Action continued from the previous page...***

Eastwick residents are actively involved in the Lower Southwest District Planning meetings, sponsored by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC). Residents have assisted the PCPC in identifying a wide range of issues, including housing, economic development, transportation, public transit and what to do with the 135 acres. The discussion phase with the PCPC is an ongoing process with many moving parts that have yet to be discussed in their entirety. However, there are future planned meetings in which Eastwick will be represented. Please stay tuned for an update on these discussions in the next issue of *The Valley*.

**CONTACTS:**

Eastwick Lower Darby Area Community Advisory Group ([eldca.cag@gmail.com](mailto:eldca.cag@gmail.com))

Go to the LDCA Website and sign-up to the EPA Listserv to receive monthly updates and other timely information (<http://go.usa.gov/vQv3>) or [ldca2015site@gmail.com](mailto:ldca2015site@gmail.com))



**Borough of Narberth Open Space Management Plan for Indian Creek**

**Compiled By**

**Carl Dupoldt**

More than four-fifths of the land in the Borough of Narberth (268 out of 320 acres) drains to the East Indian Creek watershed. Indian Creek is part of the Cobbs Creek–Darby Creek watershed, which drains into the Delaware River. The East branch of the Indian Creek headwaters are in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County which completely surrounds the Borough of Narberth. The west branch of Indian Creek arises in Penn Wynne in Lower Merion Township. The two branches flow across City Line Avenue near Friends Central School and Lankenau Medical Center. They combine in Morris Park, Philadelphia near Haverford Avenue before flowing into Cobbs Creek right behind SEPTA's 69<sup>th</sup> Street Station.

The east branch of Indian Creek is unusual for streams just upstream from Philadelphia in that, for most of its length it has not been placed in underground pipes called culverts or concrete channels. Only short segments of the creek have been "culverted" in the Borough of Narberth. However, through most Narberth it has been channelized (straightened). It is possible to restore sections of the Creek to their natural state thereby regaining more of the original beauty of Indian Creek and its ecosystem roles. "An Open Space Master Plan for Narberth Borough" provides a great deal of information on the creek and the plan at: <http://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3353>

In Narberth, the main culverted section of the Creek runs beneath the Narberth Park/Playground. Here the creek provides a textbook example of how a culverted creek is prevented from doing its job for the surrounding landscape. The segments of the creek that are not culverted (so-called "day-lit segments" because they are open to the sunlight) are almost all channelized. Water flows quickly through those straightened/channelized sections because they are overly straight and receive inflows from all the impervious lands that surround them.

*Narberth Open Space Plan continued from previous page...*

In both the channelized and the natural sections the Creek its banks maintained lawn right to the edge of the Creek's bank. The lack of dense natural vegetation along its banks and riparian zone allows water to run quickly from the land into the creeks causing it to rise quickly and flood. Maintaining lawn up to the edge of the Creek also allows lawn fertilizer and chemicals to flow unabated into the Creek. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the water table in Narberth is naturally high, only about 1 to 6 feet below the land surface. These situation works in conjunction with the loss of communication between the soils (because they are covered with paving and buildings) and Indian Creek allowing runoff from rain and snow melt to flow very quickly into the Creek causing flooding. Twice in 2004 parts of Montgomery County including Narberth were declared federal disaster areas due to flooding from storms.

The Philadelphia Water Department and our colleagues at the Lower Merion Conservancy monitor Indian Creek's water quality and promote its restoration. The Open Space Master Plan for the Borough of Narberth contains many ideas for how Indian Creek could be restored so that it can resume its natural role of containing stormwater and providing habitat for wildlife, as well as providing recreational opportunities and aesthetic experiences for humans.

More information about Indian Creek and the open space master plan can be found at this link.

<http://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3353>



Derron LaBrake of DCVA and Patrick Gardner formerly of the Lower Merion Conservancy collecting Macroinvertebrate samples to monitor water quality in the East Branch of Indian Creek behind the Saunders House on City Line Ave.

*Photo from Lower Merion Conservancy <http://www.lmconservancy.org>*

## **The Insect identification Workshop was Huge Success!**

**By**

**Alan Samel**

We had our annual Insect Identification Workshop January 16, 2016 at the Haverford Reserve. The environmental room is a great place for us to set up and take a look at the samples we took from stream the past year on April 18, 2015. We also had lunch supplied by DCVA, too! Beautiful!! Many thanks to the folks who came out and made the Workshop a success.

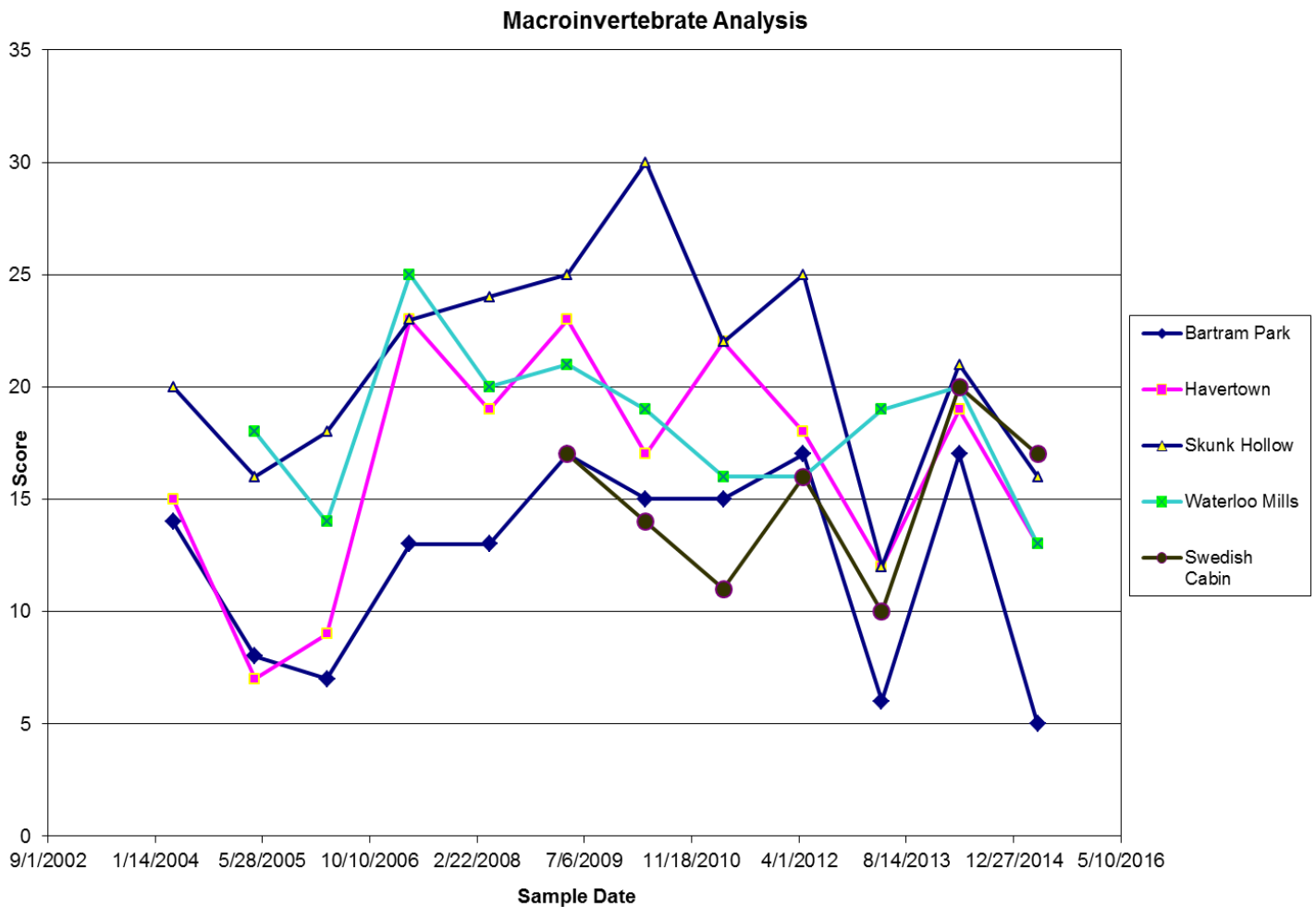
The annual Stream Watch was April 18. We took 10 samples, 2 from each site. Thanks to the small army of volunteers who helped make this a great day. It was a beautiful day to get wet! It was sunny and about 65°F. Samples were taken from five locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby, Darby Creek Road in Havertown (downstream from the Haverford Reserve), Skunk Hollow in Radnor, the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown, and the Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby.



The insects and bugs we collect provide a snapshot of the health of Darby Creek. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> year of intense sample collections and identifications. From this long-term sampling, a trend of the stream health at each site has been determined. Each year we compare our findings from the water quality determinations from the previous years. It's a way of getting the big picture from a lot of very small bugs! But getting into the stream and collecting the bugs is only part of the streamwatch program.

The next step was to identify the bugs pulled from the stream. We then can identify the level of water quality for that section of the creek. The purpose of the workshop is to identify the aquatic organisms taken in samples during the Stream Watch. The results provide an assessment of the water quality of Darby Creek at each site during that period of time will be assessed based on the organisms present during sampling. The 2015 samples showed decreases in water quality at all locations. While one year does not point to a problem, we will monitor this closely. The next stream watch is scheduled for this coming April 16<sup>th</sup>.

This insect identification workshop is not anywhere near as hard as it sounds. Yes, we use microscopes. Yes, the bugs are small. And yes, there is mud and twigs and leaves. But NO, it is not difficult. Heck, this year we had kids and even teenagers process samples collected! Yes, teenagers!! You know, almost adults with no attention span. Those teenagers. And they did a great job. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> year for this workshop, so we have gotten pretty good at it. If you are interested in the stream watch and insect identification workshop, please contact me at [alan.samel@verizon.net](mailto:alan.samel@verizon.net).



## Stream-Watch is Coming Soon!

By Alan Samel

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual DCVA Stream Watch will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. It's hard to believe that we have been doing this for over 10 years! This is a tribute to the legions of volunteers that have helped in the past and continue to help. If you have never participated in the Stream Watch there's no better time than now. Like the Vernal Equinox, the Stream Watch occurs once a year. And now is the time for you to get involved. The Stream Watch is one way for us to give back to our communities in our continuing and non-stop effort to enhance the Darby Creek Watershed.

Over the years we have experienced glorious and, uhm, less than glorious days. Last year we had fairly normal conditions! This year, we're hoping for incredibly glorious weather...right. It's always easier to get into the stream on a beautiful day; but this is a rain or shine event and the show must go on. We plan to start at 9:00 and hope to finish around 3:00. People come to all sites and people help out at some sites. Anyone with an interest can come when they can.

This is a great opportunity for you to get in the creek, take samples, work with the samplers, and see what is living in Darby Creek. We take samples from five locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby, Darby Creek Road in Havertown (downstream from the Haverford Reserve), Skunk Hollow in Radnor, the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown, and the Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby. What a great way to meet others and learn more about Darby Creek!!

The insects and bugs we collect provide a snapshot of the health of Darby Creek. This is the ninth year of intense sample collections and identifications. From this long-term sampling, a trend of the stream health at each site has been determined. Each year we compare our findings from the water quality determinations from the previous years. It's a way of getting the big picture from a lot of very small bugs! But getting into the stream and collecting the bugs is only part of the stream watch program. The next step will be to identify the bugs pulled from the stream. We then can identify the level of water quality for that section of the creek. The Insect Identification Workshop will be scheduled for this coming fall. Please check the DCVA web-site for more information as we get closer to this time.

## Learn How to Start a Rain Garden Program in Your Town

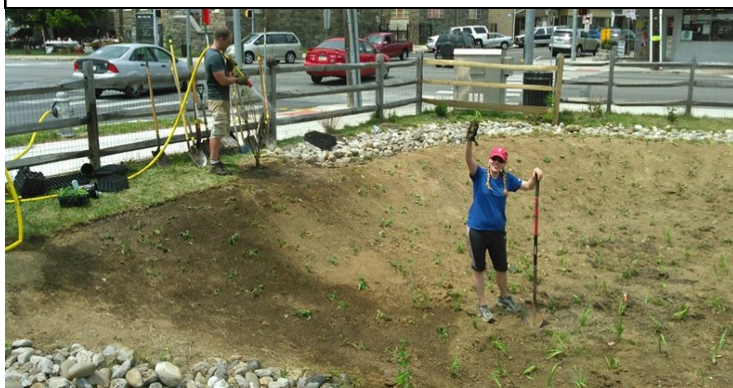
by Peter Puglionesi

Environmental Advisory Committees (EACs) and other interested local groups are welcome to learn how to develop their own rain garden programs by participating in the Haverford Township Hav-a-Rain Garden program. Under a grant discussed in the Summer 2015 Valley, the Haverford EAC started its Hav-a-Rain Garden program which helped install 10 residential rain gardens in 2015. While grant applications for formal classroom training and support for developing Rain Garden programs in other Townships are uncertain, Hav-a-Rain Garden is planning to install another 10 residential rain gardens each year until it meets its goal of 100 rain gardens built in Haverford in 10 years.

All it takes to start your own local program is a few dedicated volunteers and some training. The best way to learn is by doing, so Hav-a-Rain Garden is inviting EACs or other local groups to join us and learn how it's done. You will have access to their assessment and design tools and advice on starting a program in your town.

Email [havaraingarden@gmail.com](mailto:havaraingarden@gmail.com) with your name, phone and organization's name and whether you are interested in just participating in a few "build" events or if you want to participate in the core team activities of assessing residential properties, designing gardens and building them.

*Diana Andrejczak of the Pennsylvania Resources Council planting a rain garden in Norwood. Photo by Jamie Anderson.*



## Cricker's Corner

### Eastwick's "Bartram Hall"

#### Tom Roy Smith

Eastwick of Southwest Philadelphia has been subject of DCVA sisterly concern. *Valley* space is afforded here to inform readers about Bartram Hall, built by the man after whom Eastwick is named.

Sit back and revel in Bartram and Eastwick insights.

A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philadelphia 'Cyclopedia' used the word "genial" to tout Eastwick. Particularly the word 'genial' described the mansion poised to the west of Bartram's Gardens. The mansion bore the botanist's surname, Bartram Hall.

Bartram Hall's builder, Andrew M. Eastwick (1810-1879), deserves perennial salutes for having saved the John Bartram homestead and gardens, because both sites were eyed by mid-1800's developers. Eastwick bought the gardens from Bartram's descendants and built Bartram Hall for his home there.

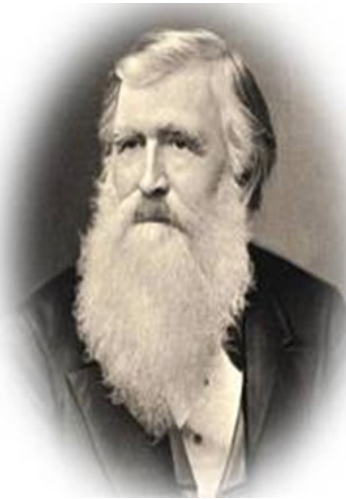
The city sectional name, Eastwick, honors A. M. Eastwick. Interesting sidelights about Eastwick that could be shared here are omitted; my story is kept pertinent to life lessons here. My message is that A. M. Eastwick understood stewardship—he esteemed John Bartram's legacy gardens; he preserved and maintained them.

Andrew M. Eastwick fortuitously combined his plan to erect a permanent home for himself with civic need. Eastwick bought the botanical tract and he proved to be ideal as owner of John Bartram's life-work. Sensitively pragmatic as a landholder, Eastwick grasped and respected 'his' temporal role as steward; his part in brown patch and green patch stewardship.

The 'Genial' mansion of Andrew Eastwick is no more. But the Gardens survive, owing to timely intervention and care. Upon John Bartram's land, Andrew M. Eastwick showed us how to best become a *colleague with the environment*. (A Cricker phrasing that works.)

John Bartram was a colleague to Nature. As we all ought to be. Eastwick was a sustainer. As we all ought to be, too. Putting the men together has formed a complete lesson.

Thank you for listening.



Andrew M. Eastwick  
From: *Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography*, Vol. 14,  
Lewis Publishing Co., New  
York, 1914

---

### ***Residents of the Cobbs Creek watershed and other DCVA members and friends:***

*You may be interested to learn about the 18 green infrastructure initiatives being carried out by the Philadelphia Water Department and Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation at this website: <http://www.phillywatersheds.org/what-were-doing/green-infrastructure/cobbscreek>*

---

### **DCVA Members and Friends: Watch for the announcement of "How to Have a Creek Friendly Backyard Workshops" by Jamie Anderson**

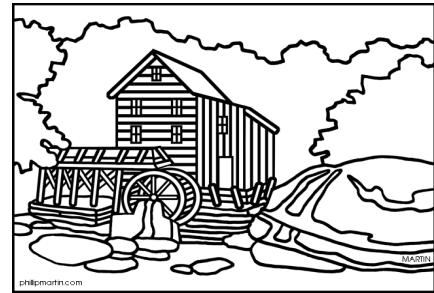
Please watch the DCVA website <http://dcva.org> or the Pennsylvania Resources Council website <http://prc.org/programs/conservation-workshops/watershed-rain-barrels> for the announcement of specific dates, times, and locations for two "How to Have a Creek Friendly Backyard" workshops. There will be 2 workshops in the Darby-Cobbs watershed this spring. The focus will be on general storm water information including rain gardens and how to build and use your recycled rain barrel. Workshops are not limited to a certain number of attendees, but the first 50 people who arrive will receive rain barrels. We hope to see you there!

*Cricker's Corner Continued . ....*

## The Fall Line

By

**Tom Roy Smith**



“Welcome! Welcome!” Today my lesson touches the role of both the Darby Creek and the fall line in Atlantic Coastal history. The Atlantic coastal fall line is created by the first line of high hills west of the Atlantic Ocean where the Piedmont meets the Coastal Plain. Where rivers cross the fall line the rapid change in elevation creates water power that was used in the past for grist mills and saw mills.

Captain John Smith was the first to record the existence of the fall line. He must have been perplexed as he sailed up river after river, and poked into stream after stream, always finding anew that the way was blocked by rapids or waterfalls. He was the first to map in 1612 the area where the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna now stands- Conowingo means “at the rapids” in the language of the Susquehannock. The fall line’s connectedness led Captain Smith to grasp its form running from north to south. Overall, it is about 900 miles long.

Around 1638, the Swedes seated first just below modern Wilmington. They explored inland by going up the streams, paralleling the hills. Starting around 1634 they were the first to extensively explore the Darby Creek. Several factors led them to establish settlements in the creek delta area where the Darby reaches the Delaware River. Why? The “whys” are rarely stated- here they are recited:

- The Swedes early found ample beaver in the Mid-Atlantic region. Promptly they entered the fur trade competing against the Dutch and the English. The Darby Creek valley had clutches of beaver.
- An aged Native American trail paralleled the Darby Creek. The Swedes barter traded with the Native Americans, purchasing the beavers these local people harvested.
- The Darby Delta claimed a pair of delta isles: Big and Little Tinicum. Big Tinicum Island on the west side of the Delaware River served as a governing seat, fur trading post, and fort from which a cannon ball could be shot across the bow of vessels sailing up the Delaware. Dutch and English ships venturing up the river had to stop and indicate non-hostile intent before they were permitted to go forth.

The Dutch had forts on the New Jersey side of the river that were imposingly surrounded with tall palisades but in reality manned by a token few soldiers. The Swedes of Darby Creek quite likely would have held place longer, however, they imprudently crossed the river and caused the surrender of a Dutch fort. Famous New Amsterdam based Peter Stuyvesant (1612-1672) sent a Dutch flotilla and the Swedes surrendered. A-gaming continued; after bits of back and forth, the English muscled their way in and took final control of the region.

Before 1680, the area of future Philadelphia had sparse peoples of Swedish, Finnish, Dutch, and English stocks. Each national stock had met and come to respect the fall line. Each saw the fast river current zone that the fall line created as an important stretch of waterway for mill power. Along the Atlantic coast, people of all nationalities tended to erect the same pair of mills: grain mills and saw mills. The town that came to be named Darby, which gave the stream and the valley its name, started as a milling center in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Thank you for listening. I close.

**by Tom Roy Smith (aka William Penn)**

## Green Burial

### “Where I Wanna Go When I Die”

By  
Toni McIntosh

Five years ago my Mother in law died. She had decided, after conferring with family, that it would save money and be easier on the family if her body was cremated when the time came. Her decision set the wheels turning in my head. I began to formulate a plan for the disposal of my own remains.

“Live simply so that others may simply live” has been a favorite Gandhi quote of mine for many years. My husband and I have tried to incorporate this philosophy into our everyday behaviors to tread lightly on the earth. It seems fitting, therefore, that my final goodbye should make such a statement.

I began my investigation about low impact funerals. I asked our family funeral director about a “green burial”. His reply was rather vague but he did suggest there might be one cemetery in the Philadelphia area that might honor such a request.

Next, I did an internet search. I was unable to find any cemetery nearby that met my standards for green burial. Interestingly, at about that time, there was an article in the paper telling about such a place in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Located in Steelmantown, it meets all of my requirements. Now, I am not a person who visits cemeteries often. Usually when I do, it is because the place has some historical significance. However, there may be family members who might visit my final place of rest so it is important to me that they would not travel too far. New Jersey did not seem feasible.

My quest became sidelined over the next few years but was not forgotten. It took the death of my brother two years ago to make me get serious again. I knew I really must make my wishes known to my loved ones. I began bringing up the subject to family members who asked “What have you done about this?” I realized that I really cannot leave them scrambling to fulfill my wishes at the time of my death.

Back to the internet search I went. I can report that it seems more options are available for green burial.

There is now an organization called Green Burial Council (**GBC**). GBC says “Green burial is a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that furthers legitimate ecological aims such as the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and , and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat.” They certify cemeteries as “green”, reporting that there was only one cemetery certified in 2006. Now, there are 340. GBC publishes a newsletter and invites inquiry. They espouse “Four Ways to Ensure an Eco-Friendly Burial”:

#1 Forego embalming - It inhibits the decomposition process.

#2 Forego concrete vaults - They create a barrier between the casket and the earth, prohibiting the natural decomposition process.

#3 Replace toxic burial containers - Some caskets are made with toxic chemicals. Their construction may require a lot of energy.

#4 Maintain and protect natural habitat - “One of the most compelling reasons to choose green burial is the promise that it preserves or restores natural habitat.”

In addition to their Going Out Green tips, the GBC publishes a Green Burial Planning Guide. They encourage its use to assist in the planning and facilitation of a green burial. Copies of this completed planning guide can be given in advance to family members, estate planners, approved funeral establishments and cemeteries.

GBC provides a listing of the 340 “green” cemeteries which they certify. In Pennsylvania there are 4 listed. However only one, West Laurel Hill Cemetery, is in the Philadelphia area. Not certified by the Green Burial Council is the Friends Southwestern Burial Ground on Powell Lane in Upper Darby. Although they offer conventional burials in concrete vaults, they also offer simple burials in just a coffin or a shroud.



*Green Burial continued from previous page...*

Should this article move you to thinking about how your demise could lessen your footprint on the earth, you may want to consider that the “annual ecological impact of traditional ground interment in US cemeteries includes the burial of:

- 30-plus million board feet of hardwoods (much of it tropical)
- 1,636,000 tons of reinforced concrete (vaults)
- 827,0600 gallons of embalming fluid
- 90,272 tons of steel (caskets)

These figures do not reflect the chemical fertilizers and pesticides that cemeteries use each year or the emissions from grass trimming and cutting equipment”. Let you think that now cremation is looking like an attractive option, consider that “cremating a body requires non renewable fossil fuels.” According to the Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve, you could drive roughly “4,800 miles on the energy used to cremate someone - and to the moon and back 83 times on the energy from all cremations in one year in the U.S.”

If the idea of green burial appeals to you, it is time now to begin your investigation process. Involve your family and friends so that difficult decisions do not need to be made in a time of grief. Use of the internet can be a great way to begin to educate yourself about all of the issues surrounding this topic. Consider the words of Marie Allewelt, a life coach whose husband Gil was the first person interred at Penn Forest Natural Burial Park near Pittsburgh - “The simplicity was to us important because that was the way we lived.”

#### References:

The Green Burial Council: [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org)  
[www.GreenBurials.org](http://www.GreenBurials.org)  
[www.naturalburial.org/greensprings](http://www.naturalburial.org/greensprings)  
 Steelmantown Cemetery, Steelmantown, N.J.  
 McCafferty Sweeney Funeral Home 215 333 0500  
 West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, PA Contact  
 Tom Cavanaugh: 610 668 9900  
 Friends Southwestern Burial Ground  
[grahamgarner@gmail.com](mailto:grahamgarner@gmail.com) or 610 357 5011



## **Cobbs Creek: Cleaning Up and Improving the Cobbs**

**By Ann Jackson**

The Delaware River Watersheds Initiative (DRWI) funded by the William Penn Foundation (WPF), has provided funds to monitor Cobbs Creek, as a sub watershed section of the Upstream Suburban Philadelphia Cluster. Lower Merion Conservancy (LMC) has partnered with Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA), Eastern Delaware County Storm Water Collaborative (EDCSC), Villanova and St Joseph’s Universities, and Friends Central School to monitor Cobbs Creek upstream from Philadelphia. The Partners, together monitor 11 sites along main stem Cobbs Creek, Naylor’s Run, and the east and west branches of Indian Creek. The monitoring of stream/habitat health is assess improvements tied to the implementation of on-the-ground projects that facilitate working towards achieving the above stated goals.

**Monitoring:** DCVA volunteers led by Derron LaBrake collect macroinvertebrates annually and measure pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, salinity, total dissolved solids, temperature and turbidity) quarterly at sites in Naylor’s Run at Naylor’s Run Park, Bailey Park, and Llanerch Country Club; and at sites in Cobbs Creek at Township Line (Rte #1), Hathaway Lane and McCall's Golf Center. Volunteers from LMC and DCVA use HACH and LaMotte test kits measure water quality (dissolved oxygen, chloride, pH, nitrate, phosphate, alkalinity and temperature) monthly at about 10 of the 11 sites. Contact Derron LaBrake at [dlabrake@wetlansandecology.com](mailto:dlabrake@wetlansandecology.com) if you would like to participate in this scientific monitoring work.

Macroinvertebrates collected in 2014 and 2015 are in process of being sorted, counted and identified. The 2016 sampling is scheduled for March 5/6, 2016. Monitoring results will provide baseline and ongoing data that measures the health of Cobbs Creek and will provide the very important “before” water quality data to which water quality data after projects are completed can be compared.

#### **Restoration and Educational Activities:**

LMC has been awarded a WPF/NFWF grant for monitoring work and two projects on the east branch of Indian Creek in Narbrook Park. Riparian restoration using coir blankets and logs, live stakes, boulders, riparian buffer plantings, trees and ground cover will be used to stabilize eroding stream banks, reduce erosion/sediment/stormwater run off ([www.lmconservancy.org](http://www.lmconservancy.org)).

Diana Andrejczak from the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) and Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative (EDCSC) Coordinator Jamie Anderson have been busy in the Cobbs watershed (*The Valley*, Summer, 2015). They conducted hands on workshops for all the 7th graders in the Upper Darby School district and all 9th graders in the William Penn School district. Students learned the sources and effects of stormwater runoff. They collected and identified macroinvertebrates and measured water chemistries for Naylor's Run at Drexel Gardens Park and Naylor's Run Park; and for Ridley Creek (a cleaner stream for comparison) at Ridley Creek State Park". In addition, Jamie, Diana and Kate Goddard ran several macroinvertebrate identification workshops for Upper Darby High School Environmental Club members and environmental science students.

PPRC and EDCSC implemented and conducted Back Yard Buffer and Rain Barrel Workshops throughout the Darby-Cobbs Watersheds. PRC and EDSC also implemented the construction of demonstration rain gardens in public places in Haverford, Yeadon, Sharon Hill. The Haverford EAC rain garden task force with PRC and EDCSC have created a frame work for the construction of rain gardens on residents' properties. Seven rain gardens were completed in Spring, 2015 with a goal of 100 over 10 years (*The Valley*, Summer, 2015). It is estimated that about 50% of these will be in the Cobbs Creek Watershed. Further, in Fall, 2014 about 230 large trees and small shrubs were planted in the Naylor's Run flood plain in Drexel Gardens Park. And of course-there is THE DARBYCREEK/COBBS CREEK WATERSHED WIDE CLEAN-UP!!

With all of this attention one would think that the Cobbs must be pristine. But, alas, not quite yet! In "The Valley", Spring 2015, Kate Goddard reported that water quality scores determined by the PA DEP based on macroinvertebrates were 11-28 out of 100 in the middle and lower Cobbs and results from all testing sites showed the Cobbs to be moderately or severely impaired (See the PA DEP report entitled: [Aquatic Life Use Assessments in Pennsylvania's Southeast Region.pdf](#) on the DCVA homepage by clicking on "Educational Resources and Other Documents" at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)).

Do not despair. In 2014 the Philadelphia Water Department scientists noticed a "slight up-tick" in the number of finger net caddisfly larvae from the 2000 levels in various watersheds. Unfortunately they also speculated that this increase could just be a return to normal after the intense storms of 2004 and 2005. ([www.phillywatersheds.org](http://www.phillywatersheds.org)). SO KEEP WORKING!!!

### JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

*The Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of all of the watershed's resources, including water, wildlife, historical sites, and the floodplains. The organizations immediate goals are to prevent all forms of pollution in the Darby Creek and its tributaries, to prohibit dumping and construction on the floodplain and to expand our educational programs for all residents within the watershed. It Also seeks to improve water quality and maintain a debris-free stream through clean-ups and public education. DCVA works to preserve historic properties, such as the Swedish Cabin and the Blue Bell Inn. The Association would like to set aside the more than 30 miles of valley for use as a greenway for all residents to enjoy. We need your support. Help us continue to protect the environment for ourselves and our children.*

**We invite you to fill in the form below, check member category, and mail form with your check to:**

**The Darby Creek Valley Association, PO Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual member.....\$25                      Family member.....\$35                      Corporate or Municipality.....\$50

Senior Citizen or Student.....\$10                      Non-Profit Group..... \$35                      Life Member .....\$250

**DCVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization– All Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.**

# CALENDAR

Insect Identification Workshop.....January 16, 2016 Community  
Recreation and Environmental Center, Haverford, PA

DCVA Annual Meeting.....February 27, 2016 Community  
Recreation and Environmental Center, Havertown, PA

DCVA Board Meetings .....Saturday of each month Delaware  
County Peace Center

2016 Darby Creek Clean-Up .....April 23, 2016 throughout the watershed

Printed on Recycled Paper

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #29  
Upper Darby, PA

