



October 2017



## *Presidents Pen*

**By DCVA President Jaclyn Rhoads**

What is DCVA? You all know it's a watershed organization that is registered as a non-profit. You also know that we organize and lead a watershed-wide clean-up, collect water samples, offer workshops, help install rain gardens and the list can continue on. But who does all this work? I'm sure your answer is volunteers which is correct, but most of these volunteers are board members of DCVA.

The board members are the back-bone, the life-blood of the organization. These individuals have made a commitment to the watershed that goes beyond just showing up at board meetings. For example, four board members arrived at our annual canoe race this weekend. They got up early on a Sunday morning to talk with people, share information about the Darby Creek, and help people enjoy their time on the water. Granted it was a nice day, but if it wasn't they still would have been there.

The number of tasks, last minute meetings, and daily work that goes into running DCVA for the benefit of protecting and restoring our watershed is mind blowing at times; yet, this organization functions on all this volunteer power and the dedication of people that have participated as a board member for decades. I know that I have been on the board for almost 10 years and so many of my colleagues have been with the organization for twice if not three times that long.

What I am trying to say is thank you to my board members and I want to recognize their efforts and brag about them, because we rarely do that. We share so much about activities and events and important developments in our watershed, but we say so little about the board members that make this all happen.

I encourage individuals who have a passion for the environment to consider joining our wonderful group of board members. We can always use help and we would love to meet you. Feel free to contact me at [president@dcva.org](mailto:president@dcva.org) if you have an interest.

See the next page for a list of our board members. When you see them, please say thank you.



<u>General Board Members</u>		<u>Emeritus Board Members</u>
Donna Adams	Derron LaBrake	Ed Ambrosio
Jamie Anderson	Robin Mann	Dave Cannan
David Bennett	Toni McIntosh	Jan Haigis
Dick Carroll	Marty Milligan	John Haigis
Tim Denny	Peter Puglionesi	Tom Houghton
Tim Devaney	Mandy Santiago	Carol Laws
Kathryn Goddard Doms	Ed Silberstein	Jan Marie Rushforth
Carl DuPoldt	Maya Silva	Andy Saul
Jeannette Guess	Alan Samel	Jim Stultrager
Rich Horowitz	TomRoy Smith	Fritz Thornton
Clyde Hunt	Earl Wilson	Olga Thornton
Ann Jackson	Jaclyn Rhoads	Greg Vitali
Barbarann Keffer		Joseph Ackerman*
Rosemary Kesling		Bill Buchanan*
Gerry Krieg		Robert Doherty*
Scott Maits		*deceased Bill Frasch*



## In Memory

### Jan Marie Rushforth

Jan Marie has left us  
 Jan Marie has moved along  
 Courage in her struggle  
 Grief of parting strong  
 Looking back with wonder  
 At the things she did  
 Bright her love light shining  
 Under bushel seldom hid  
 For ecology and justice  
 Her work was strong and clear  
 The world is now a better place  
 Because Jan Marie was here.

John Haigis

# Jan Marie Rushforth

By Tim Denny

Jan Marie Rushforth died peacefully on July 29 after a three year battle with ovarian cancer.

I first met Jan Marie back in 1998. She had recently moved to Haverford Township from Lansdowne. At that time Haverford State Hospital had just announced it was closing its doors. The big question in our township was what would happen with the 209 acres on which the hospital buildings stood; especially the 125 acres of open space which contained wetlands, forests and first order streams. The property Jan moved into was on Darby Road and her back yard was adjacent to the open space.

Jan became a passionate voice for preserving the open space and I saw in her an ally for saving the majority of the grounds for community use, rather than development. Her gracious, joyful persistence was inspiring. For 9 years she came to the monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners, always dressed in green, to promote the preservation of the open space at the hospital site.

Over the years I worked with Jan on a number of projects. Most significant was the grant Haverford Township received in 2006, from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to do an ecological inventory of the open space at the site. By that time Jan had become an active member of DCVA. She served as DCVA president and was named the winner of our Ribbon of Green Award.

Because Haverford Township was being audited in 2006, the township could not accept a Federal Grant. Working with Jan and DCVA we were able to accept the grant through DCVA. That study, completed by Natural Lands Trust, laid the groundwork for preserving the 125 acres of open space and creating a wonderful community recreation complex, including a LEED Certified Environmental Center, which opened in 2012.

Jan Marie was a crusader for the environment both locally and globally. She served as president of our township's Environmental Advisory Committee from 2010-2014. She also became very active with the Citizen's Climate Lobby, urging bi-partisan support in Congress for a Carbon Fee. Shortly before her death she passionately addressed our Board of Commissioners, asking them to pass a resolution to send to Congress saying; climate change is real, impacted by humans and urging Congress to act. It passed 9-0; pretty remarkable considering the political makeup of the board. She also made a short video with the same message. Jan said, "We are the first generation to see the effects of climate change, and the last generation able to head off its worst effects."

Jan Marie was a tireless positive force for the environment, peace and human dignity. She always had a smile on her face and a pleasant word, even in her final days when her body was weakened by the cancer. She exemplified a life well-lived and helped to make this world a better place. We are fortunate to have known her. We plan to carry on her work and her message. She will be missed. Here is the link to the obituary for Jan.

<http://www.stretchfuneralhome.com/obituary/JAN-MARIE-RUSHFORTH/Bryn-Mawr-PA/1743555>

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## Meadowbrook Run Wetland Meadow Rehabilitation at Sacred Heart Academy Phase 2

by  
Ann Jackson

Sacred Heart Academy 480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave. Bryn Mawr, PA 19101 called upon DCVA to help to restore a wetland and woodland to native plant loveliness. The collaboration between the students, parents, expert volunteers, and DCVA has turned out to be a great success! Thanks to the volunteers who weed whacked, dug up, cut, and hauled the invasive plants including Aileen, Ann, Derron, Kathleen, Robin, Rocco from DCVA. Thanks also to Master Watershed Stewards: Carol, Cindy, Tom and Community volunteers Gina, Tom. The SHA students who participated were Amanda, Catherine, Colleen, Glenna with SHA parents Carolyn, John, Tuan, William and William. A special thanks to Carolyn, Amanda and William who hauled the bagged invasive plants and woody debris.

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**Four restoration areas have been identified.**

Section 1: The Plateau/“Classroom with a native plant meadow that increases biodiversity and creates habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. (Upland area)

- Section still covered with invasives. Weeds, Inc. will apply appropriate herbicide this fall.
- William Santora, a father of a SHA student, will provide a bull dozer to level the plateau, purchase and install a gazebo on the plateau, and create a wood chip path.
- Section to be seeded this fall with annual rye grass and red clover to compete with invasives and stop erosion. Deer Resistant Meadow Mix and Warm Season Grass Mix seed mixes are also going to be hand broadcast.
- Educational signage will be installed when project is completed.

Section 2: The Wetland Meadow and Riparian Area. A native plant wetland meadow ( Wet!!!)

- Volunteers manually removed invasives this summer but alas, they grow back.
- NO herbicide application, so manual invasive removal continues.
- Section to be seeded this fall with annual rye grass and red clover.
- PA Piedmont Province OLB seed mix in 2018
- Native shrubs along riparian areas, Spring 2018.



Section 3: Wetland Cattails.

- Manual Invasive removal

Section 4: Woodland with tree canopy.

- Manual invasive removal.
- Eventual nature trail.

This wetland rehabilitation will provide students and the community with educational opportunities and “hands on” experience with maintaining wetland integrity and increasing bio-diversity. The SHA teachers, staff, and Head of School attended a day long wetlands training program at the Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mill, MD. The workshop introduced them to wetland vegetation, soils, hydrology, and function as well as management options that can be learned thru fun activities. Participants learned how to incorporate wetlands into reading, math, social studies, art and physical education, as well as the science curricula.

**Volunteers are still needed in October to continue to remove invasives, rake and haul debris, and hand broadcast seed.** Please bring your own shovels, pick axes, loppers, rakes, hand pruners, weed whackers, saws. Wear long pants, long sleeves, hats, gloves. There is poison ivy. Contact Anna Jackson [annasingerjackson@icloud.com](mailto:annasingerjackson@icloud.com) or Derron LaBrake [dlabrake@wetlandsandecology.com](mailto:dlabrake@wetlandsandecology.com), or Michael Kearney [kearney19041@gmail.com](mailto:kearney19041@gmail.com).



# Landscaping to Control Stormwater, Invite Pollinators, and Please People

## *A church at the top of the Darby Creek watershed changes the way it treats stormwater*

By

Mary Westervelt

Degraded water quality is not just a characteristic of lower Darby Creek. Water quality tests performed on Darby Creek waters in Easttown Township label the river as impaired, largely because of sedimentation. When it rains, storm sewers in Berwyn, PA direct vast amounts of stormwater into the local tributaries of Darby Creek. The water carries with it pollutants from streets and lawns. Storm surges scour the creek bed and create the sedimentation noted in the water tests.

In 2015, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, decided to do what it could to reduce its contribution to the local stormwater runoff problem. Trinity used to be landscaped the way most suburban churches are landscaped: Lawn bordered by a few shrubs, with color added using annuals that were changed out each season. Stormwater from the massive roofs often flooded the basement. To remedy the flooding, water from the roofs was directed to the edge of the property, where it ran into the streets, and from there into the storm sewers and into Darby Creek.

Trinity had a natural spot for a rain garden at the edge of the courtyard where water was already directed from the education-wing roofs. The water from roughly 5,000 square feet of roof was funneled into 144 linear feet of gutter and transported underground to an outflow in a bed of river rock, and from there to the street. As part of a larger re-landscaping project undertaken to introduce native plants into the existing gardens, the church members voted to install a rain garden in that spot.

Replacing that unattractive bed of river rock with an attractive garden became the Eagle Scout Project of Conor Bryan and his fellow Scouts in Troop 219 of Wayne. Native plants were donated by Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens of Devon. The resulting rain garden has successfully held the water from rain storms since the fall of 2015, while providing an eye-catching garden at the edge of the courtyard.

On the east side of the sanctuary, the church had another opportunity to capture stormwater while at the same time improving the appeal of the property to people, birds, and pollinators. Water from the sanctuary roof sheeted onto the ground on this side, running from there onto the sidewalk and street. The existing vegetation was weedy and unattractive. Two overgrown burning bush (*Euonymus alata*) hid the stained-glass windows while providing little in the way of habitat or visual appeal.

Here, the landscaping was changed to use terraced beds to hold the water in place. Shrubs were chosen for the beds with four criteria in mind: First, they should be native to the mid-Atlantic region and provide berries and cover for birds; second, their maximum height should stay below the stained-glass windows; third, they should thrive in moist soil but not mind drying out between rainstorms; and finally, they should be visually appealing to people. To provide cover and color while the shrubs mature, native flowering plants attractive to pollinators were added to the mix.

The resulting terraced gardens along Main Street catch the attention of passers-by and are full of finches, butterflies, and both native and honey bees – all while keeping the stormwater out of the streets and storm sewers!

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*These projects and others at Trinity Presbyterian Church have been led by Mary Westervelt, who initiated them as part of her capstone project for a Master of Environmental Studies degree earned at the University of Pennsylvania. Their installation and ongoing care has involved volunteers from both the congregation and the community.*





Photos by Mary Westervelt

Top Left: East (Main Ave) side of Trinity Presbyterian Church in 2015, prior to garden installation

Top Right: East (Main Ave) side of Trinity Presbyterian Church in 2017 after garden installation

Bottom Left: Boy scouts help with rain garden installation in the church courtyard

Bottom Right: Author Mary Westervelt enjoys the rain garden. Photo by U. of Penn Professor Sally Willig.



will be starting a new Superfund cleanup at the Clear-

view Landfill in late summer 2017. The goal of the cleanup is to address contamination stemming from the Clearview Landfill, which is part of the Lower Darby Creek Area (LDCA) Superfund Site.

The first step of the cleanup will be to continue addressing residential yards in the Eastwick neighborhood that have contaminated soil related to the Clearview Landfill. The yard cleanups will remove soil contaminated with elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), as well as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and lead.

At least 80 homes are currently eligible for the yard cleanup based on EPA's sampling results and more yards may also be eligible. EPA previously cleaned up 33 contaminated residential yards with the highest levels of soil contamination. The entire yard cleanup project will likely take over a year and last into 2019. The clean up will cover one row of properties at a time (typically 6 to 8 homes), and each row will take about two weeks. The exact order and schedule for the yard work has not been determined and will be based where EPA has been given legal access. If your yard qualifies for testing or cleanup, an EPA representative has or will contact you.

The excavated soil from yards will be placed in a storage area on top of the Clearview Landfill. The storage area will have a low wall around it, known as a berm, and will be covered with a thick plastic cover. This will prevent the contaminated soil from being blown by wind or washed away during rain events. Eventually, this soil will be placed under the new landfill cover that will be built over the landfill.

#### IS THERE AN IMMEDIATE HEALTH RISK?

The levels of contaminants found do not pose an immediate health threat to the residents. Long-term exposure over an extended period (30-70 years) may increase potential cancer risks. Additional information about PAHs is included on the next page. Please note the last page of the fact sheet for Eastwick Park soil safety tips.

#### WHAT SAFEGUARDS WILL BE IN PLACE DURING THIS WORK?

EPA has developed a Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) that details steps being taken to protect the community during the cleanup work. The CHASP is available at: [www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby) or can be viewed at the Eastwick Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library (2851 Island Avenue). Specific health and safety activities will include monitoring dust levels in the air during the cleanup, minimizing dust in work areas, installing safety fencing around work areas and heavy equipment, using routes that minimize truck traffic through the neighborhood, managing stormwater and planning for large storms, and providing for on-site security.

#### WHAT ABOUT OTHER PARTS OF THE LDCA SUPERFUND SITE?

All air quality monitoring data and other information will be available at [www.epaos.org/ldca](http://www.epaos.org/ldca).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby)

#### EPA CONTACTS

##### *For Technical Questions:*

Remedial Project Manager  
Joshua Barber

(215) 814-3393

[barber.joshua@epa.gov](mailto:barber.joshua@epa.gov)

##### *For General Questions:*

Community Involvement  
Coordinators

Larry Brown  
(215) 814-5527

[brown.larry@epa.gov](mailto:brown.larry@epa.gov)

Gina Soccia  
(215) 814-5538

[soccia.gina@epa.gov](mailto:soccia.gina@epa.gov)

OR EMAIL: [R3\\_LDCA@epa.gov](mailto:R3_LDCA@epa.gov)

### COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, September  
21st 6:30pm to 8:30PM

Eastwick Regional Park  
Recreation Center  
S.80th St. and Mars Place  
Philadelphia, PA

Join us at the community meeting to ask questions about the soil removal work and get an update on the ongoing cleanup work at Clearview Landfill.

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#### ADDITIONAL WORK AT CLEARVIEW LANDFILL

Other parts of the remedy include permanent relocation of the businesses on the landfill (also to start in 2017), removal of contaminated soil from the City Park, construction of the new landfill cover, and stabilizing the streambanks. There will also be work to capture the runoff from the landfill and treat it on site with constructed treatment wetlands. This work is expected to begin in 2018.

#### LDCA OPERABLE UNIT (OU) 2: FOLCROFT LANDFILL

EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are currently reviewing the updated Remedial Investigation Report for the Folcroft Landfill. This report is expected to be finalized in late 2017. The Feasibility Study for this landfill is underway. The Study will evaluate cleanup options for the Folcroft Landfill and the related contaminated groundwater. EPA is in the process of developing the aquatic risk assessment, which evaluates all human health and ecological risks from contaminants in the creeks around the LDCA Site, sediment, as well as fish and turtle tissue. This report is expected to be complete in 2018.

#### LDCA OU3: CLEARVIEW LANDFILL GROUNDWATER

The Remedial Investigation report is being developed by EPA. It will be provided to PADEP for review in fall 2017. After the Remedial Investigation report is completed, EPA will begin the Feasibility Study, which will evaluate cleanup options for the groundwater. Please note that your drinking water comes from nearby rivers and is provided by the Philadelphia Water Department. Groundwater in this area, including that which is impacted by the Clearview Landfill, is not used for drinking water.

#### LDCA COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN (CIP) NOW AVAILABLE!

The CIP identifies the community's issues, needs, and concerns, as well as specific activities, outreach products, and programs EPA will use to address the community's concerns. It is a flexible guide for EPA's communications with community residents, businesses and organizations. The CIP can be viewed at: <https://sempub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2245021>

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- ◇ Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area Community Advisory Group (ELDCA CAG) [www.eldcacag.org/](http://www.eldcacag.org/)
- ◇ Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Recipient <http://www.dcva.org>



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**PA Department of Environmental Protection**

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**Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site**  
**Clearview Landfill Cleanup Project**

**Site Command Post: S. 83rd St. and Buist Ave**  
**To obtain more information on this Site, See Below:**

- . EPA Hotline: 800-553-2509
- . Email: [R3\\_LDCA@epa.gov](mailto:R3_LDCA@epa.gov)
- . Visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby)

**THIS INFORMATION IS FROM THE US EPA WEBSITE. SEE THE WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**



# **Lawn and Garden Care in an Urban Watershed in the Advent of Climate Change**

## **Compiled by Carl DuPoldt**

Scientists agree that global warming is well under way, the result of a buildup in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other gases generated by human activities including the burning of fossil fuels. These gases act like a blanket, trapping heat in our atmosphere and altering weather patterns around the world. This climate disruption is likely to have wide-ranging consequences not only for our own health and well-being, but that of other living things as well.

Gardens are a great way to add value to a property, provide green space for relaxation and improve aesthetics in many settings. In a traditional sense, plant selection comes down to visual appeal and environmental requirements, such as exposure, water requirements, and nutrient preference. However, many gardeners already see evidence of global warming in their own backyards. Summers are getting hotter, and winters are getting milder—meaning that plant hardiness zones are shifting. These changes can make planning your garden—which plants to choose, how soon to put new seedlings in the ground, and when to harvest vegetables—more of a challenge. While a longer growing season will benefit some gardeners, climate disruption is also projected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather (for example, droughts, floods) and to benefit some pests and weeds. We should consider our use of both lawn fertilizers and pesticides on our watersheds in this era of accelerated climate change.

### **Lawn Fertilizers:**

Lawn fertilization is among the most widespread behaviors we engage in that affects watersheds. A significant fraction of homeowners can be classified as “over-fertilizers” who apply fertilizers to their lawns two or more times a year. Unlike farmers, suburban and rural landowners are often ignorant of the actual nutrient needs of their lawns. Our ignorance about lawn nutrients is not surprising given where we get our information on lawn care. Study after study indicates that product labels, store attendants and lawn care companies are the primary and almost exclusive source of lawn care information for the average consumer.

In recent years, many communities have attempted to educate residents about lawn care and nutrients. The educational message they send, however, is often ambiguous and complex, and typically is geared more to better turf management than better water quality. This is evident in outreach materials that consistently promote a message to use less fertilizer, fertilize in the right season, test soils, use slow-release fertilizer or grass cycle and keep clippings on lawn.

It seems appropriate that watershed education programs strongly advocate no chemical fertilization, reduced turf area and the use of native plants adapted to the ecoregion if only to balance the pro-fertilization message that is so effectively marketed by the lawn care industry.

### **Lawn Pesticides:**

The major source of pesticides in urban streams is home applications to kill insects and weeds in the lawn and garden. Cutting down on their use will benefit the aquatic invertebrates which are susceptible to these chemicals and the birds that feed upon these insects when the insects become flying adults.

### **Some considerations for lawns and gardens with changing climate in urban watersheds:**

Plant diversity helps to support growth during periods of drought, temperature variability and extreme rainfall events. In addition, the use of compost and mulch to hold moisture in the soil helps to keep gardens sustainable. The best strategies will mimic the natural hydrologic system – porous pavement, rain gardens, and swales are good examples of engineered efforts that mimic natural systems, simply want to allow rainfall to infiltrate the soil. Whether you grow summer vegetables, annual flowers, or perennial borders, there are periods of time—perhaps as much as half the year, depending on your local climate—when plants are not actively growing. During these times, bare soil is vulnerable not only to erosion and weeds but carbon loss as well. The use of cover crops—grasses, cereal grains, or legumes that can be grown when other plants cannot—is a mainstay of organic farming systems because it

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helps develop healthy and productive soil, reduce the need for energy-intensive chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and store large amounts of carbon. Cover crops are not meant to be harvested but to stabilize, build, and add nutrients to soil that would otherwise remain bare.

If you have space in your yard, planting and maintaining one or more trees or large shrubs is an excellent way to remove more heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over a long period of time. All plants absorb carbon dioxide through their leaves, storing the carbon in their tissues. Trees and shrubs, however, because they are large, woody, and long-lived, can store larger quantities of carbon than other plants, for longer periods of time. Gardeners can help reduce the global warming pollution associated with waste disposal by turning leaves, grass, woody garden clippings, dead garden plants, and kitchen waste into mulch or compost, then using it in the garden. "Recycling" these wastes will not only reduce methane emissions from landfills but also improve your garden's soil and help it store carbon.

Compost, which can be any mixture of decaying organic materials (for example, leaves, animal manure, food scraps), is created by a natural process in which bacteria, fungi, and other organisms break down wastes into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. While composting does produce global warming gases, studies indicate that the best practices for creating and using compost have a smaller climate impact than landfills. That's because efficient composting takes place aerobically (that is, in the presence of oxygen), which minimizes the formation of methane. By contrast, landfills lack oxygen circulation, so organic materials are broken down primarily by bacteria that thrive in the absence of oxygen and produce methane. One study suggests composting is also better than incinerators for reducing heat-trapping emissions from organic waste disposal.

A growing body of research indicates that soils covered in turf grasses can capture and store significant amounts of carbon. On the other hand, a small number of newer studies have shown that lawns have the potential to generate heat-trapping nitrous oxide. Some have found these emissions to be significant; others have not. Although the science is unsettled, it appears that practices designed to maximize lawn growth and health with minimal inputs of fertilizer and water may achieve the best balance of carbon storage and nitrous oxide emissions. The grass height should never be less than 2 to 2.5 inches in midsummer. Raising the mower height to 3 to 3.5 inches during drought periods will provide a better chance of survival. Taller grass will develop a deeper root system and tend to shade the soil surface making it cooler and preventing weed seeds from germinating. Scalped lawns develop shallow root systems and are more apt to die out during the heat of summer. They are also more prone to weed infestation and tend to grow poorly under drought stress. Never mow off more than a third of the height of the lawn as a general rule of thumb. This will go a long way to preventing weed, insect and disease problems.

It is not necessary to remove the clippings from the lawn. Leaf clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup and when left in place, will reduce fertilizer needs by about 25%. If the lawn has grown beyond the capacity of the mower to return them to the surface, plan to mow the area twice, removing smaller amounts and waiting about 48 hours between the first and second mowing. Mulching mowers can be used to efficiently return clippings to the lawn. These machines generally have increased blade speeds that chop the leaves several times before they settle down to the lawn surface. The smaller pieces will filter down and fall to the soil surface where they are quickly decomposed by soil microbes. If clippings are deposited onto the lawn surface and clump, use a rake to redistribute them or mow the clipping mounds until they disappear. Always remember that rain gardens are a great way to trap rain water that falls on the property and retains the moisture on site for plants to grow.

**Reference Links:**

<http://www.ecolandscaping.org/09/land-management/taking-it-to-the-extremes/>  
[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/chesbay\\_chap03.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/chesbay_chap03.pdf)  
<https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/epa-science-matters-newsletter-climate-change-and-watersheds-exploring-links>  
<http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/media/resources/Understanding%20Watershed%20Behavior.pdf>  
<http://www.ecolandscaping.org/09/native-plants/using-gardens-for-climate-change-adaptation-and-conservation/>  
[https://mpls-synod.org/files/EcoFaithToolkit\\_-\\_Our-Watershed-Moment.pdf](https://mpls-synod.org/files/EcoFaithToolkit_-_Our-Watershed-Moment.pdf)  
<http://www.manataka.org/page2204.html>  
<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Portals/0/Gardening/Gardening%20Help/Factsheets/Lawns%20-%20Maintenance30.pdf>

# Support the Clean Water Rule ... again!!!

By

Robin Mann

The fervor among agricultural and other industry interests for weakening federal environmental protections reached a fever pitch during the 2016 elections and elicited promises from candidate Donald Trump to scuttle Obama era environmental rules. President Trump's administration is now delivering on those promises, including on the commitment to rescind the Clean Water Rule [CWR]. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Douglas Lamont have issued a proposal to eliminate the CWR. They have announced they intend to come out later on with a revised definition of the "waters of the United States" tracking late Justice Antonin Scalia's views, which would remove federal protection from a vast proportion of the nation's streams, wetlands and other waters, granting permission for draining, filling and dumping pollution in them without a permit.

The Obama administration's CWR, finalized in 2015, was the result of a massive undertaking to settle the definition of the waters protected by the federal Clean Water Act after over a decade of uncertainty. The U.S. Supreme Court's 2001 ruling in the *SWANCC* case, the G.W. Bush administration's exaggerated interpretation of it, and the Supreme Court's subsequent and confusing ruling in the *Rapanos* case, left widespread uncertainty and a widespread call for greater clarity as to what waters are protected.

In 2011, the EPA and Army Corps undertook to resolve the uncertainty, and after extensive consultation, they came forward with a proposed rule defining the "waters of the United States" and invited public comment on it for over 6 months. The agencies received more than 1.1 million comments, over 80% of which supported the proposed rule. Over that same period, the EPA conducted an extensive scientific review and produced a peer-reviewed report finding that the health of downstream waterbodies depends significantly on headwater streams, wetlands and other waters. The report was reviewed by the independent Science Advisory Board, and EPA received over 130,000 comments on it. In addition, the EPA met with over 400 stakeholders to discuss the proposed rule. As a result, the final CWR adopted by the Obama administration reflected widespread input from the public and various stakeholders, a comprehensive scientific justification as well as a firm legal footing.

The resulting rule restores Clean Water Act protection to many -- but not all -- of the waterbodies that enjoyed it prior to the 2001 *SWANCC* ruling. And in fact it even adds to the exemptions from permitting requirements for farming and silviculture activities. That has not kept industry from crying foul. Throughout the CWR development process major obfuscation and confusion was sowed, especially by agricultural interests, characterizing the proposed rule as a drastic overreach of federal authority. As Oklahoma Attorney General, Scott Pruitt championed that claim and led a group of states to file suit against it. Now as EPA Administrator, Pruitt is driving the process and drumming up support from polluter interests for scuttling the CWR. On his recent state tour, mostly in the nation's heartland, Pruitt devoted much of his time to visiting with ranchers and farm groups, falsely characterizing the rule and urging those audiences to submit comments favoring its removal. For example, in a videotaped interview for National Cattlemen's Beef Assoc., Pruitt claimed:

"The Obama administration reimagined their authority over the Clean Water Act and defined a water of the United States as being a puddle, a dry creek bed and ephemeral drainage ditches all across this country, which created great uncertainty, as you might imagine."

Reporting the interview on August 21, 2017, a Greenwire piece noted: "But the regulation specifically lists puddles among features that are not considered waters of the U.S. and also specifies that it excludes dry creek beds that do not have a bed, bank and high-water mark and ephemeral ditches that "flow only after precipitation."

Many of *The Valley* readers took part in the process establishing the 2015 CWR, submitting comments to the EPA in support of protecting the small streams and wetlands in the headwaters of watersheds. How clearly our Darby Creek illustrates to us that failing to safeguard the headwaters from pollution and minimize their elimination for development makes it harder to have healthy downstream waters supporting all life. We know that holding the line by

*Continued from previous page:*

keeping existing Clean Water Act protection in place is critical to give us the best chance of ensuring the best possible conditions here in the Darby watershed and all across the country in the years ahead. So please join in submitting a brief comment letter to the EPA and the Army Corps urging the agencies to accept that the 2015 CWR is based on very solid legal and scientific grounds, is strongly supported by the public, and should not be scuttled but rather kept in place. Submit a brief comment letter at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203-0001>.

Here's a sample letter:

Re: Docket EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203

Dear Administrator Pruitt and Mr. Lamont:

The last thing we should do is weaken protections for clean water. I oppose the proposed repeal of the Clean Water Rule.

This roll-back is dangerous. Clean water is the backbone of healthy communities and essential to a strong economy. Repealing this commonsense safeguard puts that at risk. It will remove Clean Water Act protections for the streams that feed the drinking water sources for more than 1 in 3 Americans. It will endanger 20 million acres of wetlands that provide habitat for wildlife throughout the nation. It could allow the pollution and destruction of the water resources small businesses like craft breweries and outdoor recreation companies rely on.

Repealing the Clean Water Rule is shortsighted and flies in the face of public opinion. More than 800,000 Americans supported the Clean Water Rule when it was proposed. It is grounded in science and the law. It is an essential tool to help us to get to goal of ensuring all of our waters are swimmable, fishable, and drinkable. Please stop the repeal process and get back to EPA's mission - protecting human health and the environment. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,



DCVA Treasurer Dick Carroll in a  
the 2015 Canoe Ramble

### ***Editor's Note***

**All back issues of *The Valley* can be found on the DCVA website. If you would like to receive *The Valley* in color by email please email [kgoddard@ursinus.edu](mailto:kgoddard@ursinus.edu).**

**Sincerely, Kate G. Doms**

# The Son of the Railroad Prince Serves his Nation in the Great War

By

John Haigis

[www.DarbyHistory.com](http://www.DarbyHistory.com)

The latest jewel in the County's crown of public parks and open space is the property known at various times as the Heights of Darby, The Scott Estate, Woodburne, and Little Flower Manor. The 55 acre plot overlooking the Darby Creek contains several buildings including a magnificent but horribly vandalized mansion designed by famed architect Horace Trumbauer in 1906. The mansion was commissioned by Edgar T. Scott Sr. son of railroad prince Thomas A. Scott. Edgar Scott Sr. became a casualty of the First World War (also known as the Great War, and the War to End War) and in this centennial year, as we remember the impact of the First World War on Delaware County and the nation, it may be interesting to take a closer look at this Delaware County Connection.

Edgar Thompson Scott Sr (son of Thomas Scott) was educated at Harvard (class of '93) and from May to October 1917 served as director of transportation for the Norton-Harjes Ambulance Corp with the French army. Norton-Harjes was a volunteer ambulance service created by Richard Norton, (Harvard '92) in 1914. Norton, a noted archeologist and son of Harvard professor Charles Elliot Norton, like many Americans, became disturbed by rising death tolls from the delay getting wounded soldiers to aid stations. With the help of sponsors and donations, including French millionaire banker Henry Herman Harjes. Norton-Harjes motorized ambulances could get the wounded from the first-aid stations in from ten to twenty minutes instead of the hours-long trip of earlier days. Norton and others recruited volunteers from various colleges and the ambulance service drivers (sometimes called the "gentleman's ambulance corps") included Edgar Scott's son, Edgar Scott Jr (Harvard '20) and literary figures such as John Dos Passos, E.E Cummings, Harry Crosby, William Seabrook, Malcolm Crowley, Henry James, Robert Service, and Ernest Hemingway. The Norton-Harjes American Volunteer Ambulance Corps started with two cars and four drivers and eventually grew to thirteen sections comprised of six hundred American volunteer drivers and three hundred ambulances. The service became part of the American Red Cross working with the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) following the American entry into the war in 1917.

Edgar Scott Sr. died October 20, 1918 serving in Chaumont, France during the Saint-Mihiel offensive. He is buried in France but a marker in his honor is located at Woodland Cemetery next to the grave of his father, Thomas Scott. His widow, Mary Howard Sturgis, one of the "four celebrated Sturgis sisters" sold the property to the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer in the 1930's operating an orphanage and nursing home there until 2005. One interesting additional sidelight is that Edgar Sr's son, Edgar Scott Jr, married Hope Montgomery (Scott), the inspiration for *the Philadelphia Story* but that is another story for another time.

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## 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL DCVA CLEANUP/APRIL 29, 2017

By David Clark Bennett

2017 and 2018 Cleanup Chair

[Dster21@comcast.net](mailto:Dster21@comcast.net)

It was a dark and stormy night, Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>. The next morning, we awoke to a beautiful sunny day on the banks of the Darby and Cobbs Creeks, and all their tributaries within our watershed. In spite of various setbacks, we had 399 volunteers show up for this year's harvest of trash. Our date of the event was a bit too late to get the trash out of the banks due to various weeds, vines, and Knotweed that concealed the bulk of the trash. We were at the mercy of scheduling conflicts that late in April. We agreed recently that next year we will hold our main event two weeks earlier on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. So it was necessary for some of our site captains to hold their cleanups on different days.

*Continued from the previous page....*

We covered a total of 35 sites including 3 in Philadelphia. Other important stats are that we cleaned an estimated 200 acres of parkland and dedicated open space and trails, 50 miles of streams, and 5 miles of roadways. We collected 20 tires which were recycled, picked up 374 bags of trash, and filled 6 dumpsters. One of our conflicts was that April 29 coincided with the NFL Draft Pick event in Philly and because of the need for dumpsters in the city, 3 dumpsters were delivered late. Even so, all the trash was disposed of properly.

Philadelphia gets three honorable mentions here: The most trash in one place award goes to the Blue Bell Tavern site where we got 15 tires and 60 bags of very ugly trash. Thanks to the Clean Air Council, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, and Wells Fargo volunteers for making it work out. Eastwick wins the prize for the largest amount of space covered for our second year there. Our newest site is the stretch of Cobbs Creek from Marshal Road to Baltimore Pike was done by a group of West Philly neighbors joining in with members of a Mosque working out of the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center. The group is named "Muslims 4 Humanity" and is dedicated to all modes of public service. These volunteers, 18 in all, get the award for a successful first year.

The John Heinz cleanup was on April 15 because the lowest tide on a Saturday in April fell on that day. We had Lansdowne Friends School do a cleanup on March 9, and 2 cleanups on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 more on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. One more was done on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

We lost 2 volunteer captains this year: Roy Sandstrom, President of The Grange Estate, and my friend Steve Simpkins, and horticulturist. May they rest in Peace. We also lost two leaders to injuries although one of them was able to attend the event and help organize. I must mention the passing of Jan Marie Rushforth after the event who was a former cleanup chair as well as President of DCVA, and perennial site captain. She was so many things and is sorely missed.

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## **An Artist Behind Every Tree-The Art School Location Discovered**

**by John Haigis, [www.DarbyHistory.com](http://www.DarbyHistory.com)**

The Darby Creek Valley has long been known for its natural beauty. Writer Christopher Morley once described the Darby Creek as "a laughing little river that preaches sermons unawares" but my wife Jan and I were surprised a few years ago when we received an e-mail from someone, originally from Delaware County and now living in Germany. This person asked if we knew anything about a Darby Summer Art School, started in 1900, which specialized in plein air (open air) painting?

The school was started by Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts instructors Thomas Pollock Anshutz and Hugh Breckenridge. We didn't know anything about it, but the call went out to historian friends: DCVA stalwart Tom Smith recalled the phrase "An artist behind every tree" from the large number of artists drawn to the Valley's natural beauty. Historian Keith Lockhart found an article from the July 13, 1900 edition of the Chester Times which said "Just outside of Darby, on the shady banks of the creek, along which the Darby ram\* of song and story was formerly wont to roam at large, a class of fifty odd earnest young men and women are busily engaged daily in digging from the heart of nature her hidden secrets and transferring the same, reeking with paint, to an equal number of canvases and sketch blocks." The article described the school and said it was located a half mile from the trolley stop.

The quest was on for the location. The Scott Estate and the Fleeer Estate were two possibilities but then a month or more ago I saw a man taking pictures of the Darby Library (America's oldest public library in continuous use, founded 1743). The man turned out to be Mark Sullivan, a professor in Art History from Villanova University who is writing a book



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\*The Darby Ram is a song that was reputed to be George Washington's favorite. The Darby ram is the mascot of Darby Fire Company Number One, chartered 1775.

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about the summer art school. His research indicated that the art school was located in a barn at 1016 Main Street, (the airplane house) owned by William Painter and that Anshutz and Breckinridge had boarded for a while in the Library building. Not only that, he discovered the building at 1016 Main was designed by Minerva Parker Nichols, one of the first women architects to be successful in her own firm (See Preserving Minerva website: <http://www.minervaparkernichols.com/>). The house was commissioned by Dr. Painter, an early advocate for women's rights and the land was once owned by abolitionist Passmore Williamson, and before that by the Sellers family, all very involved in human rights. The foundations of the barn may still exist. Research is continuing and these are stories for another day.



Photo by John Haigis

The Airplane House

The article Keith Lockhart found:

<http://dtimeshistory.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2016-01-29T16:49:00-08:00&max-results=7&start=107&by-date=false> (Posted December 2, 2015)

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## Cricker's Corner

### Life's Funny Moments

By Tom Roy Smith

Today a funny event gets recited, one more profound in lesson than funny (ha-ha). In my boyhood, beyond the backyard fence, lay an abandoned quarry. Being young, the quarry - as such - simply did not register with me-- "quarry" was just a place name, for the place I loved. To me it beckoned marvelously, because flora and fauna thrived there. Err, I mean, flora and wildlife re-throve there, but I did not know that fact.

Darby Creek undulated beyond the west rim. That I knew. I did not know nature had marvelously re-trimmed decorously the defunct quarry. I thought my favorite place was as it always had been. The day I learned the truth has sustained, profound unforgotten.

I recall unlatching the back gate, zooming into the backyard and swooshing through the gate near the rear kitchen door. With a door slam I blazed into the house. Once inside, I yelled: "Mom-mm!" Mother forever was tasked at what we called, "doing the clothes." No surprise I found her in the basement. Hearing the smack of the kitchen door and the pound of my feet she reasoned I wasn't dead; nor yet lame. Finding her I gushed, "The area we call a 'quarry' really was a quarry!"

Mom snapped a towel, double folded, put it down. Done, full of mom calm and charm, she just smiled down at me. -- That instant I felt silly. Quarry corners and disperse evidences came to mind. Insight unlocked subtle proofs. My inter-naturalist set free.

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Significantly, I took-in a profound Darby Creek valley lesson which was this: Nature in the Darby Creek Valley fights back or as I like to say 'curls back.' By learning stages I became keenly informed on - valley quarries. Below is some quarry history which I picked up.

Briefly, the local economy in 1800's Darby Creek watershed was based on three industries: First, dairy farming; then textile manufacture; last, quarrying of stone. The evil of quarrying stone, likely would never have been so blasted successful, but for a great need of stone for the Delaware Breakwater. From the 1820's to 1850's newspapers devoted space in every issue to glories of the "Storm wall." Ads stoked interests: 'Stone and more stone - Needed for ready cash.'

The Darby Creek valley was blessed with hard stone. Lots of it. Soon quarrying assumed a third position in the local economy. Fast money trumped the adverse effects. Sensibly the easiest way to get at stone was the way to go. Lucky locals started at flood plain level and carved into stone pockets of facing hills on either side of the creek. Others needed to dig down, but the lucky needed only to scoop out. Unlucky in both means was the local environment. Let loose soil gave a muddy appearance to streams. Back then this was a non-issue, because it was a positive sign of 'progress.' Collaterally, an 1800's Frank Smith moved into a bitty burg near the creek. Formerly, during farm labors Franklin Pierce Smith had seen smoke rise from the burg's two wagon maker shops. Smoke meant 'progress!' "Smoketown" soon claimed Smith. (The lore supports how persons defined progress.)

Quarries—considered contributors to progress then, had environmental effects. The consequence of hillside removal was loosened earth, which via wetness, flowed into watershed streams. Another rub, quarries sorely hazarded animal habitats. Thus wildlife and environment suffered in the heyday of local quarries.

Era different, my special put boyhood placed me near an old ceased quarry. Lapse time had permitted Mother Nature to do her 'touch work.' Hence my quarry boyhood was flora, fauna, valley grand. Sum good news: In the last century many quarry segments of Darby Creek valley nobly fought back by maxing slow and steady curl back. And to favor extent wildlife availed to the chance to make returns.

I thank you for listening.

Finis.

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## **Another Contribution from Cricker Tom Roy Smith this month.....**

### **A Mill Worker Bridge**

#### **By Tom Roy Smith**

Very young I started skedaddles in the direction of Darby Creek. Below, in my closing paragraph, I am going to relate a personal memory. – It is enough to say here at the start that I had planned to cross over the crick via an old a mill bridge. Some front history enables understanding for the fullest.

An old heavy slab concrete foot bridge, long used by mill workers, connected the area immediate to the 1600's Swedish log cabin, to an across creek textile factory. A rare early 1900's photograph supports old-timer testimony that several mill dweller houses, and a long singular row of mill residences, clustered near the Swedish cabin. All sum dwellings were factory owned rentals. (All but one - long ago razed). Dwellers were obliged to let the mill owner keep one week a month's wages—a senior local told me great loads of lore. In another encounter with local older folks, one husband-wife Cricker pair exactly pointed out for me some building sites on both sides of the creek. My informants told me most cost \$3; I learned that one high end house rented for \$6...As I recall there was five-er, too.

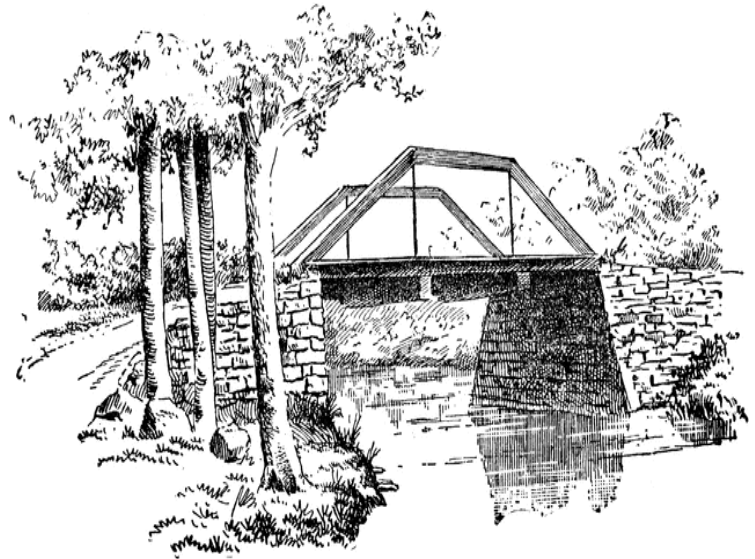


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More on the concrete foot bridge. The abutments for the old bridge can yet be found, opposite facing, just a wee upstream from the Swedish cabin. There is a 1906 post card that reveals much, by capture of the bridge when it was in a prime form, which was unknown to this Cricker. I never knew it when the bridge was picturesque. In its prime the bridge strode longer, farther on the cabin shore side. The cited old post card picture shows the bridge had pretty side rails. Note: Circa 1951 township authorities moved the Creek Road from a hill base hug-along position, to a lower floodplain one. Yes, indeed, that was exceedingly dumb! From a study of the cited 1906 picture it seems that the concrete bridge got fore-shorn when the road was put on the floodplain. Hence, a once picturesque bridge, with pleasing side iron railing, was given a "bob" haircut. Moreover, it daunted thereafter with an inordinately steep step climb to the bridge paveway. Now comes my bobbed bridge story.

As a tike, I often crossed the bridge. Once, of great surprise, each of my arms was grabbed. A pair of sisters wrongly reasoned that I, a young boy, must be lost. Their captive, I was trudged uphill crest to their Westbrook Park home. ME Lost! I knew the creek valley - for a good mile, upstream-downstream - like the palm of my small hand. Wee years I was, but I knew my home phone number: Clearbrook 9 – 6696. After a call was made I got a drive home. Me lost. As yet I did not know the word indignant, but I knew the feeling.

Thank you for listening.



### 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

CVA Board Meetings ..... Third Saturday of each month Delaware County Peace Center

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