



MAY 2017



President's Pen

By DCVA President Jaclyn Rhoads

Do you live in a community with a shade tree committee? What about an environmental advisory council? If you are not sure or you don't have either, then now is a good opportunity to learn more and/or help create one.

Darby Creek municipalities have engaged and active residents that may welcome getting involved in more activities within their communities. A shade tree committee can help to secure funding for and plant shade trees, street trees, native plants, and other plantings. These committees can also help to review landscape plans for development applications and educate residents about natives and invasives. There are many other possibilities that municipalities will welcome.

Environmental advisory councils (EACs) have a much broader role. EACs can do all of the same things as shade tree committees plus get involved in reducing the energy use in the town, find opportunities for alternative energy sources or conservation measures, review development applications for environmental impacts, apply for grant funding to improve parks, conduct a litter clean up and so much more.

If these activities aren't intriguing enough, DCVA is working on creating a mini-grant program that will help shade tree committees and EACs implement on the ground projects like planting of trees, native plants or shrubs and green storm-water infrastructure projects like rain gardens. The mini-grant program will be open only to shade tree committees, environmental advisory councils, or green teams. We are doing this in an effort to help support these great teams, but also to help create more councils/committees in the communities.

If you are interested in creating one of these committees in your town and don't know how, feel free to contact DCVA for help. Contact us at:

Darby Creek Valley Association P.O. Box 732 Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Email: president@dcva.org Phone: 484.222.2502





The Singer may sing a new song
Created from rock with a memory long
Of comings and goings along Darby Creek
There has been some excitement there this week

Up above on the property once owned by the Scotts
On the "Heights of Darby," which was by the Nuns bought
Now a park for the County it's slated to be
And now is the planning for what it can be

It may be a challenge but well worth the candle
To look at potential from different angles
The nature, the buildings, the people, the space
May they all come together in uniqueness of place.

The Minquas who traveled, the troops who encamped
The Railroad Prince son and the Trumbauer stamp
The Singer who watches the Darby Creek Flow
The future is open, who knows where it will go?

By John Haigis 6/30/16

Photo by S. Borders

Congratulations to DCVA President Jaclyn Rhoads

Dr. Jaclyn Rhoads was named **Environmental Advocate of the Year** by the National Association of Women Business Owners, South Jersey Chapter. Jaclyn received her award at the “Beyond the Glass Ceiling” Awards Gala on February 16, 2017 at the Merion, Cinnaminson, NJ. Dr. Rhoads received this award because of her work on behalf of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance where she is executive director. In addition to being president of the Darby Creek Valley Association, she is president of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge. She also teaches environmental policy at Drexel University. Dr. Rhoads received her B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees at Drexel University and she also earned a certificate in Nonprofit Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Jaclyn lives in Norwood with her husband Bill and her two athletic young sons. Needless to say, we do not know how she does it and does it all so well! Congratulations to Jaclyn!

Source: Marsh Musings Vol 0117 Spring 2017

DCVA'S 32nd Annual Meeting

By Ann Jackson

Jaclyn Rhoads and Tim Denny welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center (CREC). Jaclyn highlighted DCVA's 2016 accomplishments and The McIntoshes provided an outstanding selection of coffee break snacks and luncheon soups, sandwiches, salads, desserts! Thanks!!!

A Very Short Synopsis of Presentations by Speakers

Lamar Gore, Manager John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge reported that the major mission of the Refuge is to educate, engage and connect the urban population with the importance of wild life and habitat conservation. Philly'sNEST, and 'Pocket Parks" promote these goals. Protecting the fresh water tidal marsh is still one of the primary purposes of the Refuge.

Richard Horwitz and Will Ryan-Academy of Natural Science, Drexel University (ANS) presented "The Delaware River Initiative: the basin and Cobbs Creek". The Initiative is focusing on smaller areas where restoration will make a difference to water quality. A new modeling GIS tool is being developed to support selection of focal areas. Standard scientific measurements of sources and flow of streams and drainage areas are needed to follow pollution sources. The habitat, metrics, macroinvertebrates, fish, and algae, (noting fast responders to water quality change) are being monitored by standard scientific methods. Cobbs Creek was impaired before water quality monitoring was initiated. The ANS is monitoring algae, fish, metrics, macro invertebrates, etc. on the Cobbs. Pervious pavement, rain gardens forested canopy, and better municipal storm water control measures are needed to control water run-off. Riparian buffers, downstream are not enough.

Ken Hemphill, Save Marple Green Space presented tools and methods which are important for the preservation of open space, urban forests, improved air and water quality. He noted that Delaware County was omitted from the 1957 Act 347 which permitted PA to get federal money for open space. See web page Save Marple Green Space for details.

DCVA Blasts

David Bennett, Alan Samel, Jaclyn Rhoads, Peter Puglionesi, and Derron Labrake present updates about the Clean-Upstream Watch, Canoe Ramble and TAG, Rain Gardens, and Whetstone run. See various issues of "The Valley" for more details.

Thanks to Everyone for the Posters: Remember, "A picture says a thousand words."

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Notes from Annual Membership Business Meeting the followed the DCVA Annual Meeting

Derron LaBrake was awarded the Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Award

Re-elected incumbent board members are: Dick Carroll, Carl DuPoldt, Kate Goddard-Doms, Rich Horwitz, Clyde Hunt, Barbarann Keffer, Rosemary Kesling, and Earl Wilson.

There were no new nominees for the Board.

At the Board meeting the Board elected the following officers; Jaclyn Rhoads, President; Alan Samel, 1st Vice President, Derron LaBrake, 2nd Vice President, Earl Wilson, 3rd Vice President, Dick Carroll, Treasurer, and Ann Jackson, Secretary

**Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Awarded to
Derron LaBrake
By Ann Jackson**



Jaclyn Rhoads presented Derron LaBrake, DCVA's 2nd V.P.-extraordinaire, and Principle at Wetland and Ecology, Inc with DCVA's highest award. Derron is an expert in all things wetland. Put him in a wetland meadow, swamp, vernal pond, or stream and he effervesces with enthusiasm. He uses his knowledge of sediments, ecological risk assessment, eco-friendly storm water control measures, macro invertebrates, plants, bugs, wetland habitat restoration, Tussock Sedge, bog turtles, and peepers to assist DCVA and the community with a wide range of projects. From participating in DCVA's Stream Watch and Insect Identification Workshop; To conducting the Spring Peeper Walk at Haverford CREC; To restoring the Meadowbrook Run wetland at Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, To spear heading metric and macro invertebrate collection at 4 sites for the Delaware River Watershed Initiative; To expanding macro and metric collection to 13 sites; and To collecting macroinvertebrates at Whetstone Run and submitting the data to PA Environmental Quality Board which voted to have PA-DEP perform a study to determine if the southern tributary meets criteria to be redesignated as a High Quality Water, Derron is a tireless advocate for the protection of the environment and the community.

DCVA President Jaclyn Rhoads presented the Ribbon of Green Award to Derron LaBrake Photo by Kate Doms

How Urban Trees Save Lives



Compiled by Carl DuPoldt

More than 70% of the world's population is predicted to live in cities by 2050. The combination of heat and air pollution will become an increasingly important issue as cities increase in size. We should be aware of this issue, plan for it, and take steps to decrease its effect. Heatwaves kill more than 12,000 people every year around the world. More people are killed by heat waves than any other weather-related event. Heat is particularly dangerous in cities which act as "urban heat islands". In addition, cities tend to have higher levels of air pollution, which already contribute to more than 3 million deaths every year.

One relatively simple solution to this problem is to plant more trees in cities. Trees have several benefits: they cool the air by casting shade and they release water vapor. These attributes lead to moderation of air temperature and can reduce energy use for air conditioning. In addition, their leaves can filter out fine particulate matter generated from burning biomass and fossil fuels. The Nature Conservancy has studied the effects of trees on air quality in 245 of the world's largest cities and documented the findings in the Planting Healthy Air report. For more information see link at - <https://global.nature.org/content/healthyair>

There are several ways to maximize the benefit of trees in urban settings:

- Care for trees so that they are as healthy as possible and select long lived, low maintenance, pollution tolerant species to avoid the cost and pollution associated with removal and replacement
- Use of low volatile organic compound emitting trees (there is a great difference between species)
- Sustain large, healthy trees (large trees have greatest effects per tree)
- Plant trees to shade parked cars
- Supply ample water to vegetation
- Plant trees in the most polluted and populated areas
- Plant evergreen trees for particulate matter reduction yearround

For more information on urban forest management see - http://www.ncufc.org/uploads/nowak_trees.pdf

And to view a graphic on How Trees Protect the Urban Environment:

http://www.sactree.com/assets/files/greenprint/benefits_of_trees/air_quality/treestheairpollutionsolution72006.pdf

Managing Stormwater Runoff At The Municipal Level

Compiled by Carl DuPoldt

In forested and undeveloped areas, storm water soaks into the ground like a sponge. In more highly developed areas with large amounts of impervious surface covering the landscape, rain and snow cannot soak into the ground, but quickly runs into creeks instead. This fast moving, high volume of water causes erosion on its way to streams and also in stream beds. The sediments carried by creeks after a storm that turn the creeks to café au lait color have many harmful effects: they raise water temperature, smother macroinvertebrates and their benthic habitat, smother fish eggs and spawning grounds, and make it difficult for fish to breathe and see. Stormwater runoff, particularly in areas with high impervious surface can carry road salt, bacteria, gasoline, oil, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and other pollutants into our streams and rivers.

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The [Stormwater Management Act of 1978](#), also known as Act 167, is the legal basis for stormwater management in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Act 167 requires counties within 376 designated watersheds to develop stormwater management plans that are approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Each of the 2,566 municipalities within these watersheds must adopt specific stormwater ordinances to implement their Act 167 plan.

An ordinance is a piece of legislation enacted in a specific municipality. Ordinances can deal with noise and many other activities that a municipality seeks to regulate. The ordinances that address Act 167 are designed to reduce stormwater and pollutants carried by stormwater. Depending on the municipality, these ordinances regulate the amount of new development in the municipality, regulate construction site practices to reduce run-off, restrict what type of chemicals can be used near streams, and other best management practices. They can also include fines and other penalties for polluters. Enforcement of these ordinances is essential to maintain water quality for the people and aquatic life within a municipality and also for our neighbors downstream.

Source: Land Studies - <http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2017/05/may-newsletter-now-available-from.html>

Meadowbrook Run Wetland Rehabilitation

By Ann Jackson

Under the guidance of DCVA's Derron LaBrake, Clyde Hunt, and Ann Jackson and Country Day School of the Sacred Heart (CDSSH)'s Mike Kearney, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee; Kathleen E. V. Gallagher, Director of Institutional Advancement; Deirdre Cryor, Head of School; and Lisa Braiton, the community project to rehabilitate the 3 acre Meadowbrook Run Wetland is underway. Native and invasive plants, as well as, trees to be saved, safety pruned, or cut down are identified. Invasive vines are being cut by CDSSH volunteers. Jamie Higgins Landscaping, Inc. provided a Bobcat/Brush Cutter, and for two days, "shredded" large areas of invasives. **However, we need volunteers to hand pull/dig out/or cut the remaining invasive plants/vines in the cleared areas before the invasives grow back!!!**

To celebrate Earth Day and the wetland rehabilitation progress, 50 volunteers planted 53 native trees/shrubs (Service-berry, crab apple, witch hazel, redbud, winterberry holly, sweet bay magnolia, steeplebush, and black haw) at CDSSH. Thanks to the volunteers, the Delaware County Conservation District (DCCD) that funded the container-grown native trees and provided the planting trailer/equipment, plus the demonstrations of how to plant bare root trees by Clyde Hunt, how to plant container-grown trees by Ann Jackson, and how to cut vines by Mike Kearney the event was a huge success.

So Let the Seeding Begin. Wetland sections are identified according to future use, moisture and sunlight characteristics. The DCVA participants are selecting the appropriate native wetland/and more upland seed mixes that include blue flag iris, golden rod, New York iron weed. meadow and swamp milkweed, purple stemmed asters, green headed coneflowers, purple coneflowers, cardinal flowers, beebalm, Joe-pye weed, marsh marigolds white turtle head, and various sedges.

This wetland treasure has the potential to be an outdoor "classroom" where the community and students can learn about the native plants that support pollinators and beneficial insects. The CDSSH teachers and staff, some of whom have completed environmental courses, envision habitat trails, and an educational area complete with gazebo on the "Plateau" area which overlooks the wetland.

Remember we need help now to remove invasives. If you or anyone you know can help out please contact Michael Kearney at kearney19041@gmail.com or Derron LaBrake at 2ndvp@dcva.org. It is going to take a combined effort to rehabilitate this important wetland!

Meadowbrook Run Wetland Rehabilitation at Country Day School of the Sacred Heart



Top Left: Meadowbrook Run

Top right: Derron LaBrake identifying plants

Middle Left: Vines overcome and kill trees

Middle right: Crushing and removing invasives

Bottom Left: Planting on Earth Day

Photos by Ann Jackson



stream smart

STORMWATER HOUSE CALLS



The Rain Garden at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center demonstrates a beautiful way to control stormwater.

Photo by Jamie Anderson

Stream Smart Stormwater House Call

By Jamie Anderson

Stormwater pollution is uncontrolled runoff of rainwater from hard surfaces such as roofs, driveways, roadways, parking lots and even lawn areas. This water enters our storm sewer system where it is discharged untreated to our local creeks contributing to water quality issues and leaving our streams designated impaired. The Stream Smart Stormwater House call is a free program created to assist homeowners in assessing their properties for ways to better manage stormwater through best management practices. These can be as simple as reducing pesticide use to installing rain barrels, rain gardens, and riparian buffers.

Studies have shown that stormwater management improvements can increase your property value. This program is sponsored by multiple organizations working within the Darby Creek, including DCVA, the Pennsylvania Resources Council, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative, and the Lower Merion Conservancy. The program is free and is available to any private property owner within the Darby Creek. Participants will be eligible to receive a free rain barrel as well as native plants. Every resident of the watershed deserves drinkable, swimmable, fishable water in their streams. It will take all of us making small changes to our properties to achieve this goal.

For more information, or to schedule a house call please visit:

streamsmarthousecall.org

or call 1-888-683-9992.

Open Space Preservation Along the Darby

by John Haigis (johnghd@yahoo.com)

In the sixteen hundreds, Susquehannocks carried their furs across the land along the Great Minquas Path on their way to the Dutch and Swedish trading posts on what would later be named the Delaware River. In 1777, during the British occupation of Philadelphia, troops encamped there on the "Heights of Darby." Before the American Civil War the land was owned by a Southern sympathizer, then was owned by a railroad prince who served in Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet. In 1906, Edgar Scott, father-in-Law to Hope Montgomery Scott, made famous in "The Philadelphia Story," commissioned famous architect Horace Trumbauer to build a magnificent mansion on the site, and in 2016, the 37 1/2 acre parcel known at various times as Woodburne, Villa St Theresa, and the Scott Estate became the latest jewel in Delaware County's crown and part of the green ribbon of beauty along Darby Creek.

The land which is partially in Upper Darby and partially in Darby Borough was purchased from the Sisters of the Devine Redeemer who acquired the property in the 1930's and was used as an orphanage and nursing home before being put on the market in 2005. The property overlooking the creek was believed to be one of the largest pieces of open space in Eastern Delaware County. DCVA member John Furth, State Representative Nick Micozzie and many others played significant roles in its acquisition. The mansion has been horribly damaged by vandalism and water infiltration and the County has set up a task force to study the best way to utilize and preserve the property. According to an article in the Daily Times, "With this purchase, Delaware County now has 1,116 acres of county parks and 17,000 acres of protected open space, both public and pri-



See photo
credits on next
page



Photo Credits

On previous page top left : The Trail *Photo by J. Haigis*

On previous page top right: Barn on the property, the author was told it was build as an abattoir and was also once used as a thrift shop. *Photo by J. Haigis*

On previous page bottom center: Postcard in the author's collection

On this page above left: Darby Creek through the trees. *Photo by J. Haigis*

On this page above right: "The Singer" *Photo by S. Borders*

PRUNING SUGGESTIONS FOR HOMEOWNERS

By Clyde Hunt

Why Should We Prune?

We prune to control size and for healthier, more beautiful and more shapely plants. We do well to remove diseased, dead or damaged parts before they look unsightly. Root shoots, crossing limbs or longer, unbalanced growth are examples which may be removed when you see a problem. Weak crotches or multiple leaders should be removed when first noticed and before they grow larger.

When Should You Prune?

A quick off hand answer might be, when your saw is sharp! Sharp tools do less damage to the remaining plant. Unless you have many extra hours to spend in your garden, you may not have the luxury of coming back at some later time with a saw or shears to remove any offending woody materials such as a branch. Otherwise, spring-blooming plants should not be pruned in the dormant winter season or you might remove a major share of the next spring's flowers. Prune these as soon as the blooms fade unless these are trees from which you hope to harvest fruits. These then are best pruned after harvest. A word of caution don't prune current wood late in the growing season (after the flower buds have formed for the next spring).

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Pruning Fruit Trees

This changes our objectives. Grafted dwarf fruit trees and closer spacing are used when you don't want to climb ladders to pick the crop. A short trunk and limited numbers of fully filled crowns. Dwarf trees often have short spur shoots which bear the flowers and fruits. These are to be encouraged. Limbs which dip toward the ground with secondary branches often flower sooner and with greater regularity. Fruit trees left unpruned develop longer, scraggly limbs of weaker wood which may yield less fruit often of lower quality.

How To Prune

If your objective is to keep your plant in check-- say not too tall, not too broad, nor too dense, this would call for shortening upright limbs, heading back long limbs or thinning back crowded limbs or crossing branches. If you mow under your tree consider elevating the crown above your head so you don't get a face-full or you can walk past without receiving an eye-full.

How to Remove Limbs

Don't leave stubs! They leave scars and may serve as entry points for diseases. When pruning close to the trunk it is good to use three steps. First, an undercut nearly half-way through the limb some 6 to 10 inches from the trunk. The second cut a few inches beyond the first, cut from top down until the limb falls from its weight. The final cut is made at the branch collar near the ridge on the trunk. Cut from top down. Some additional support assures a clean cut without tearing the bark.



Now clean your sawblade, find a problem spot to eliminate and go for the solution!



EASTWICK IN ACTION -- PUBLIC LAND DEBATE

By Earl Wilson

In the last issue of the "VALLEY", this article mentioned the fact that future articles will spotlight new articles that are focusing on the improvements of the Eastwick community. One major issue (that you might want to see) is the renovation and expansion of the Penrose Shopping Center, which includes the construction and addition of many new stores. The residents are beginning to get excited about the changes that are taking place in an area that looked almost like a "ghost town". These changes, said some of the residents, are long overdue.

On April 24, 2017, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA), Gregory Keller, Executive Director and a team of urban experts selected by multiple city agencies, including a mixture of Eastwick residents, called a community meeting to discuss the use of the undeveloped public land in the Eastwick. This meeting brought together the interested stakeholders who have had previous discussions and were provided with an opportunity to inject additional input into the planning process.

The above meeting included the company that was selected to provide the expertise, and to work with PRA and the community to help develop the available parcels of public land in the Eastwick area. The company's name is INTERFACE STUDIO LLC. Scott Page is its Principal and Dr. Mindy T. Fullilove is its President. Both of these leaders have already shown their desire and expertise in dealing with multi-faceted communities in need of many solutions.

The main focus of the above meeting was to summon the resident to discuss how to utilize the undeveloped parcels of public land in four (4) specific areas of Eastwick. Parcel #1 is located at the corner of Lindbergh Boulevard and 84th Street. Parcel #2 is the area around the George Pepper - Comp. Tech Schools (84th Street). Parcel #3 is the 135 acres (former Korman Site) adjacent to the Heinz National Urban Wildlife Reserve and the railroad tracks. Parcel #4 is the

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Eastwick Community Gardens located at Island and Bartram Avenues. The meeting was attended by more than 150 residents, who were more than willing to show their passion about how they thought these parcels should be developed. After the meeting, the residents were allowed to move to another room to record their positions and statements for the record. The data from this meeting will be compiled and summarized for the next meeting.

Additional meetings are planned for this process in the near future, with some degree of finality coming in September. Prior to that time, there will be meetings on May 22, June 2, and June 8. Information about these meetings can be obtained from the web site: eastwickpublicland@gmail.com. I will bring you up to date in the next issue of the "VALLEY".

Kent Dog Park, Upper Darby Was Once the Site of a Textile Mill

Notes by "Cricker" Tom Smith

The current Kent Dog Park site was owned by Thomas Kent and his descendants. The Kent Textile Mills near the site of the current park, functioned into the 1950's. The current parkland was donated for county parkland in the 1930's. Almost forgotten, the abutment ruins of an 1888 bridge are downstream of the 1927 Lindberg Bridge. Visitors to the park are encouraged to walk along the creek to see if they can find the ruins of this bridge.

It is interesting to note that the lower Darby Creek watershed was home to many textile mills in the past. The creek edge was long lined by mills and millworker houses. Nearly all traces are gone. Visitors to the park are no doubt aware that lofting above the creek stands St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Among the earliest textile mill owners in this area was Charles Kelly. Irish Catholics lived in "Kellyville", which started in the 1840's. The original center of this old mill community was on either side of Darby Creek where it crosses Baltimore Pike. After a 1888 fire, the Kellyville community shifted to the higher ground mostly in level line near and around St Charles.



The postal card at left captures the Kent Dam in the era it served the Thomas Kent Textile Mill. Note the houses on the hill crest. The hill was called "Polish Hill" for Polish who clustered there. From the author's collection.



Editors Note:

The Kent Park dam was removed in October 2012.

Top Left: The flow over the breached dam was dangerous prior to the removal of the dam. *Photo by Adam DiCaprio*

Top Right: Lindberg Bridge as seen from the dog park. *Photo by Kate Doms*

Middle left: Princeton Hydro crew stabilized part of the bank with coconut fiber cloth ("coir"). It was then planted. The bank is fully vegetated and very natural looking now. *Photo by Sarah Polekoff*

Middle right: Immediately after the dam removal and while the bank repair was occurring, the sediment that had accumulated behind the dam turned the water café au lait colored for a few days. It was quickly swept downstream. *Photo by Sarah Polekoff*

Bottom left: The Darby Creek is wide and shallow both above and below the former dam site. *Photo by Sarah Polekoff*. A long term study is being conducted by Ursinus College in which we are comparing the macroinvertebrate community both above and below the dam after dam removal to the community before dam removal.

Stream-Watch another Huge Success!

By

Derron LaBrake

The annual DCVA Stream Watch was completed on April 15th. It's hard to believe that we have been doing this for more than 15 years! This is attributed to the core volunteers that have helped consistently for many years, and the many volunteers we have continue to come along to help out. If you have never participated in the Stream Watch you are missing out on a great time in our streams. Everyone learns a little something new every year. Like the Vernal Equinox, the Stream Watch occurs just once a year. The Stream Watch is a great way for us to keep track of water quality in our huge watershed and give back to our communities in our continuing efforts to improve Darby Creek's Watershed.

Over the years we have experienced many a glorious spring day with plants re-awakening after their winter slumbers, and occasionally a less than glorious day. This year we had glorious conditions! It was a beautiful, sunny day that hovered in the low-50s the entire day and we had around 15 samplers over the course of the day. Some folks came for a single site or a few sites, so there is no expectation that you need to be there for the whole day.

For the younger participants, this is always a great chance to get in the creek, gather a few samples, learn from the more experienced samplers, and to see firsthand what is living in Darby Creek. This year we collected samples from five locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby Borough, Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby, Darby Creek Road in Haverford Township (downstream from the Haverford Reserve), Skunk Hollow in Radnor Township, and at the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown Township. What a great way to meet others folks from throughout the watershed and learn more about Darby Creek!!

The insects/bugs we collect provide a snapshot of the health of Darby Creek. From our long-term sampling record, always sampling the same locations, we can see trends in the health of our Creek at each site. Each year we compare the data we gathered to the previous years' data and compare this year's water quality findings to those from previous years. It's one way to get a big picture view of our watershed from a lot of very small bugs!

Getting into the stream and collecting the bugs is only half of the Stream Watch program. The next step is to identify the bugs we collected from the Creek in the spring at the winter Insect Identification Workshop. This winter we again gather another group of volunteers, some stalwarts who are always there will be sprinkled in among an ever increasing number of new faces. We all get a chance to see firsthand what was in our Creek samples from the spring. The Insect Identification Workshop will be scheduled in early 2017, usually in January. Please check the DCVA web-site for more information as we get closer to January.



Macroinvertebrates similar to the ones pictures here are encountered in the Darby Creek Watershed.

Top left: common netspinner caddisfly
Photo from www.usgs.gov

Bottom left: stonefly
Photo from www.usgs.gov

Top right: blackfly larva
Photo from www.episcopalparish.org

Bottom right: mayfly
Photo from www.kingcounty.org

Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward

By Derron LaBrake

The Penn State Master Watershed Steward program was established to strengthen local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers, by educating and empowering volunteers across the Commonwealth. The program provides interested individuals with extensive training in watershed management. In return for the training, participants dedicated volunteer time to educate the community about watershed stewardship, based on University research and recommendations. Delaware County recently joined the ranks of the other MWS programs in Pennsylvania, including Berks, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Lehigh, Northampton, York, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming and Allegheny Counties.

DCVA has a Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward on our Board of Directors from the first class to be graduated in Delaware County. On April 12, 2017, Derron LaBrake, a member of DCVA's Board, took and passed the final exam with 14 other classmates to become a Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward in the 2017 Class. The MWS program requires attendance at 12 three-hour training classes that began in January (to be educated about a wide variety of watershed topics), passing a 100 question exam with a minimum of an 80%, and volunteering 50 hours of time beginning at the start of the course. By the end of the class Derron had documented more than 121 hours of volunteer time so he met all the criteria. Derron will continue to meet monthly with the Delaware County MWS as the Delaware County MWS program develops and takes on watershed improvement projects and continues to educate community members throughout the County.

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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Upper Darby, PA

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Darby Creek Valley Association

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Drexel Hill, PA 19026

