



From the President's Pen: Reflections from the creek bank.....

By Jaclyn Rhoads, DCVA President

The Darby Creek Valley Association was invited to do an interview on Comcast newsmakers to promote our annual watershed cleanup in April. The host noted that she did several interviews on cleanups from a variety of organizations in the region. It made me think how far watershed advocates, environmentalists, and care-takers of our communities have come in taking care of our natural places.

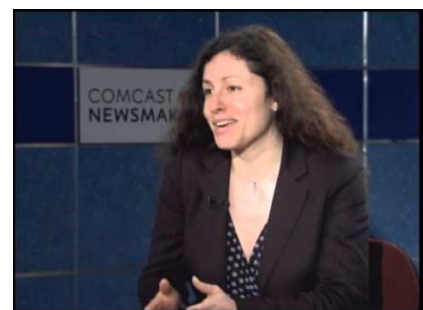
It's not that people in general haven't cared for the earth's resources, but if you compare where society was back in the 1970's right before the first Earth Day to today, we have truly accomplished a lot to clean up the trash and pollution and chart a better path to how we operate in the world. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the first Earth Day, and Darby Creek Valley Association does a pretty good job celebrating it with our actions.

DCVA has organized over the past 30 years clean-ups in over 20 municipalities with more than 30 clean-up captains and tons of supporters. The amount of trash we clean out of the streams is immense and yet some sites see so little trash now that volunteers remove invasives and plant trees instead. I think this means a lot to show that some areas are improving year-to-year, and the volunteers are making a big difference.

It is important to note our successes, but it is also important to remember that we have so much more to do to clean up our waterways. Especially in the Darby Creek watershed, we experience significant non-point pollution from stormwater which carries runoff from the lawns, parking lots, streets and sidewalks into our water. This pollution drives the water quality down which increases costs for cleaning our drinking water and kills off aquatic organisms – plants and animals.

It doesn't have to be Earth Day or "Earth Month" to focus on improving the watershed. There is something we can do every day such as limiting our waste, recycling, eliminating pesticide use on our lawns, using rain barrels, planting a rain garden or trees, and the list can go on. DCVA is a resource to the community for many of these actions. We offer trees and help in plantings. We can provide workshops on backyard buffers and rain gardens and just provide information on these and other actions by connecting you with other organizations and resources. *Continued on page 2...*

Go to www.DCVA.org to see DCVA President Jaclyn Rhoads interviewed on Comcast Newsmakers about the Upcoming Stream Cleanup



From the President's pen continued...

So enjoy Earth Day, celebrate the earth's resources, clean up your nearby waterway and remember to do a little something for the earth every day. This may just mean supporting a local group like Darby Creek Valley Association. The more members we have, the more we can do and the more you do for the earth.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you would like an electronic version of the Valley in addition to or instead of a paper version (save paper!) please send your email address to Kate Doms at kgoddard@ursinus.edu or Jaclyn Rhoads at Jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com.

Also please indicate in your email if you would like to be on the DCVA email list of legislative updates and event announcements such as meetings and raingarden workshops. Please note that a color version of each *Valley* will appear on the DCVA website. If you receive the email version yourself, that will also have color photos.

Low Impact Development to manage stormwater discharges in urban areas

By Carl DuPolt

According to the EPA, Low Impact Development (LID) is an approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treat stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product. There are many practices that have been used to adhere to these principles such as bioretention facilities, rain gardens, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, and permeable pavements. By implementing LID principles and practices, water can be managed in a way that reduces the impact of built areas and promotes the natural movement of water within an ecosystem or watershed.

Some Best Management Practices for Low Impact Development include:

Bio-retention cells/Rain Gardens	Filter strips
Cistern collection systems/Rain Barrels	Disconnected impervious areas
Clustering Homes	Concentrate Development and Mix Uses

There is a perception that LID projects may have to sacrifice good access to achieve the goal of reduced impact on natural systems. This is a real issue, but one that planners, engineers, public safety officials, and regulators can manage with careful design and common sense.

Key issues and concerns include:

Adequate street width for everyday traffic, parking, snow removal, service vehicles, and emergency vehicles; Adequate turning radii for school buses, service vehicles, and emergency vehicles; Adequate surface and structural integrity of permeable pavements for emergency vehicles; and safety and maintenance of roadside swales and other surface vegetated stormwater management practices.

Cost Issues:

Some critics of LID have raised the question of whether it costs more to design, implement, and maintain LID practices than it does for conventional practices. While this is a very simple question to ask, the answer can be quite complex. First, the term "cost" must consider all costs, including: planning, design, and capital costs; long term maintenance costs; land values; and potential environmental impacts. One cannot simply assert that a practice costs less if it is less expensive to construct, since it may cost more to maintain, may result in environmental degradation, or lead to decreased property values in the long run.

What can DCVA members do to promote LID's?

Low Impact Development (LID) as an approach to development is slowly making its way into the vernacular of development related codes and ordinances. This approach emulates the natural landscape through the efficient infiltration of rain water versus forcing it offsite. It is a simple concept.

As citizens of the 31 municipalities within the Darby Creek watershed, we need to expect that an approach incorporating LID becomes the norm. Codifying this expectation is an important step in ensuring the health of our rivers.

Building Conservation, An Idea Whose Time May Have Come

By

John Haigis

Among the challenges facing our cities and inner ring suburbs is the lack of space for new development and the need to protect our precious few remaining areas of open space. Urban renewal often tears out large swaths of "blighted" older buildings, clearing the area, and building new. This is expensive and reviews are mixed on how well it works. Another, and possibly better, approach is looking at our older housing stock as assets, fixing up these older structures, and extending their useful life and value as long as desired in ways that are compatible with their original design and fabric. This can create new life and opportunities for buildings, people, and communities.

We are gradually realizing that the "greenest" building is the one already built because of the embodied energy of materials and past investment. Buildings that are 50, 100, 150 or even 200 years old testify mutely but eloquently of the enduring nature of time-honored crafts, but time, water, and gravity take their toll. Working on old buildings requires a different skill set, but because so few people are trained in skills like plaster or window repair, it may be unnecessarily expensive. Knowing how buildings were constructed, knowing their interstitial spaces, and knowing how older buildings operate can help keep them alive.

It is generally agreed that the best way to learn a skill is hands-on under experienced supervision. Medical schools use a "watch one, do one, teach one" model and a similar approach can be useful in the skills of conservation. There are literally millions of buildings across the country built before 1940 in need of care and attention and fewer people trained in such care. Training in the care, maintenance, and energy upgrade of older structures can lead to lucrative, lifelong careers.

Taking care of our existing housing stock can also be good business. Study after study shows that communities who recognize, protect, and utilize their historic fabric benefit from jobs, tax revenues, and enhanced quality of life. Heritage tourism is one of the world's leading growth industries and many of our older communities may be beggars sitting on a pile of gold. For additional information visit www.AcademyofBuildingConservation.org



Old Borough Hall

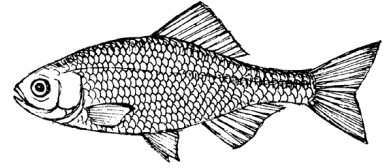
Darby, PA

<http://www.darbyhistory.com/sitebuilder/images/OBH-1902-LockhartCollection-327x264.jpg>

Cobbs Creek

By

Rich Horwitz



Cobbs Creek rises (at elevation of about 385 feet above sea level) in the Piedmont in Bryn Mawr, drops steeply in Havertown and Philadelphia onto the Coastal Plain, and joins Darby Creek in Eastwick (at 15 feet elevation). The Cobbs figured prominently in regional history and culture—e.g., Printz’s (Swedes) Mill Dam, Bluebell Tavern, The Grange, Pont Reading, the Gunpowder Mill, Millbourne (1757)—which means it has over 300 years of ecological abuse. The various anthropogenic impacts on the creek overlap in time and interact in effect, but I’ll try to tease out the major lines of cause and effect. In this installment, I will discuss land clearing and construction of dams. In a later issue, I’ll discuss impacts related to urban, industrial and suburban development.

Land clearing. Forests were cut for lumber, fuel and to develop pastures, crop fields and buildings. The impacts of each activity would have varied with intensity and factors such as slope, soil type and distance from streams. Two widespread effects, erosion and hydrological change, are well known. Large amounts of land erosion led to deposition of sediment in streams. Deposits accumulated in floodplains of streams and in impoundments upstream of dams. These deposits can be seen in various places in the valley where they are exposed by dam failure or stream erosion. These deposits often still have low organic content and low water holding capacity, leading to low soil moisture during drier periods. It is possible that these dry conditions provide an advantage to Japanese knotweed, which typically occurs on dry slopes in its native range. These deposits remain a source of stream bank erosion, creating a paradox—steep, eroding stream banks are a sign of the stream cleaning itself from old deposition.

Hydrological change occurred through combined upland erosion and deforestation plus channel deposition. Changes in the uplands resulted in decreased infiltration and increased runoff. These in turn led to higher storm flows and lower base flows (flows from ground water as opposed to storm flows). This concept is not new, though it has been forgotten and has had to be relearned several times. Peter Kalm, a Swedish scientist who visited Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1748-1749, noted (of the area, not particularly the Cobbs Creek drainage) that springs dried up after land was cleared. Classically, in his dialogue *Critias*, Plato says that before the cutting of forests in the mountains, “the land reaped the benefit of the annual rainfall, not as now losing the water which flows off the earth into the sea” (Benjamin Jowett translation). Deposition in the floodplain also lowered water storage capacity of the floodplain, increasing downstream effects of high flows, although this effect may have been relatively small for the largest flooding events. These dams wouldn’t have had the major effect on high and low flows that are created by flood control, water supply and hydroelectric dams, but they would have had large effects on habitats for aquatic organisms, water temperature, and downstream channel shape. Remaining small dam impoundments show a very different fauna than undammed stream sections, and dam removal in the area (e.g., on Manatawny Creek) have led to faunal changes—away from the pond fauna supported

by the dam towards a typical stream fauna. It is hard to know how much the dams on Cobbs Creek blocked fish migration. The primary migratory fish in the creek was probably the American eel, which can ascend or get around many small dams. The lowermost dam likely blocked other migratory species, such as river herring. Remaining dams may also prevent recolonization of organisms after improvements in water quality. effects of high flows, although this effect may have been relatively small for the largest flooding events.

I don't know of any detailed studies of the amounts of different types of farmland over time in the Cobbs Creek valley. Development wasn't necessarily a one-way process. Farm abandonment or changes in farming practices could lead to local reforestation. With its proximity to Philadelphia, horse pastures or hayfields may have been an important land cover when horses were the dominant form of transportation. Much of the valley was probably rural into the early 20th Century (look at photos in the historical panels at the 69th Street Station). Urban development added new impacts to Cobbs Creek; I will discuss these impacts in future articles.

Damming. Dams were built to power mills. Sawmills were often built early during settlement, followed by grist mills and a variety of industrial mills (on Cobbs Creek, these included the Nitre Hall Gunpowder Mill, textiles, woolen, snuff, plaster, and iron manufacturing mills). The 1826 Report of the Committee of Delaware County on the subject of manufactures, unimproved mill seats, &c (accessible at www.phillyh2o.org, the Philadelphia Water Department website, which contains a great deal of relevant information, compiled by Adam Levine) lists 14 mill sites (presumably all partly or entirely manmade dams) on the main stem of Cobbs Creek, with a total drop of 212 feet. This total comprises over half of the total drop of the creek. The amount of stream length covered by impoundments would have been less, since most mills are built in steeper parts of streams. Additional dams and mills were built on tributaries. Two of the main stem dams remain (one above Main Street near Bluebell Tavern and another above Market Street in Millbourne). In addition to the historical record, old dam sites may be evident from dam remnants on the land, by flat areas of fine sediment representing deposits in the impoundment of the former dam, or by steep, bouldery drops, which may look like natural rapids.

The impacts discussed above would have been evident in some form from the earliest European settlement and would have been widespread in the drainage by the mid-nineteenth Century. Another major group of impacts involved more urban development, pollution, and major changes in tributary drainages. Some of these effects, such as various types of pollution, also started with earliest development, but the greatest impacts started in the early to mid-nineteenth century and continued through to today. I will discuss these in another installment.

This is the first in a series of articles about the Cobbs Creek. The portion of the William Penn Foundation Grant to the Darby Creek Valley Association is for stream monitoring and stormwater remediation in the Cobbs Creek and Naylor's Run. We hope that more DCVA members and friends will become involved in these projects.



Stream-Watch a Huge Success!

By Alan Samel

The 12th annual DCVA Stream Watch will be April 18th 2015. It's hard to believe that we have been doing this for over 10 years! This article 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. Volunteers have the opportunity to 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!!

This is a great opportunity for everyone to get in the creek, take samples, work with the samplers, and help out at some sites. Anyone with an interest can come when they can. The insects and other macroinvertebrates 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 website for more information as we get closer to this time.



Thank you very much to these Stream Watch 2014 Volunteers!

Report on the 30th Annual DCVA Annual Meeting
January, 24, 2015 at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center
By Ann Jackson

In January 2015 the Darby Creek Valley Association celebrated 30 years of cleaning the watershed, 20 years of monitoring water quality, and 30 years of protecting Darby Creek and its tributaries.

Speakers

Lamar Gore, Refuge Director, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR)

“Conservation through Engaging Community: Refocusing from the Refuge and Beyond.”

To increase participation of culturally diverse people in environmental stewardship, JHNWR’s Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership and Philadelphia Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship collaborated to create linkages between schools, watersheds, neighborhoods, and the Refuge. Some activities include: (1) Native plant propagating at Fairmont Park (2) Creating and restoring gardens at schools, parks, backyards, the Refuge and at “Pocket Parks” on vacant lots to increase habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife, (3) Developing a citizens science program (water testing, back yard buffers, etc.) around a web cam installed at the Refuge, (4) Bringing targeted audiences to the Refuge (3 schools within 3 miles of the Refuge), and (5) Reaching out to focus groups in Eastwick.

Another goal for Director Gore is to maintain the tidal marsh. He reported that research is needed to determine how JHNWR can restore tidal flow to the marsh and continue to have walkways and the impoundment. Further, studies are needed to determine if the types of birds at the Refuge will change if the impoundment removed. In the Question and Answer period, DCVA Board Member John Furth suggested that the Morton Morton House be incorporated into the Refuge.

Jan Haigis, DCVA Board Member & Clean-Up Co-Chair

“30 Miles of Beauty; 30 Years of Clean-Ups” (See *The Valley Summer 2014* for more information)

Jan Haigis began by recounting the history of the Darby Creek Cleanup. The cleanup began when Bob Doherty of Darby Borough lead a group of scouts in a Clean-Up there. In 1984 he spear-headed DCVA’s first official Darby Creek Clean-Up. When Jan and John Haigis became co-chairs of the clean-up in 2005, there were only about 10-14 sites. *By 2014 there were 41 sites with 640 volunteers, 7.53 tons of trash in 8 dumpsters, and countless bags of trash!*

Jan and John created the “placemap” - a placemat distributed for free to restaurants in the region that shows a map of the creek, a storm water/watershed awareness game, and attractive drawings. They enlisted sponsors and dumpsters, and had a picnic for volunteers. Barbarann Keffer joined them in 2011 as volunteer coordinator and recruited more volunteers and sites. Although the Darby Creek watershed is getting cleaner, Jan observed that there is still a lot of “Cleaning” to do! Volunteers and sponsors needed! Jan organized the oldest Clean-Up T-shirt contest for the annual meeting to highlight the longevity of the Clean-Up Toni McIntosh won with a 2002 Clean-Up T-shirt. (The T-shirt was the oldest-NOT Toni!) True to the Haigis tradition, Jan and John finished their presentation by harmonizing in a song of Watershed stewardship.

Alan Samel, Regulatory Ecotoxicologist, DuPont DCVA Vice President

“Fourteen Years of Monitoring Water Quality of Darby Creek by the Critters that Live There”.
(See *The Valley Summer 2014* for more information)

For 14 years Alan Samel has led the Stream Watch and Insect Identification Workshop-DCVA’s water quality monitoring programs. He reviewed the concepts and results of these programs.

Stream Watch: Every year on a Saturday in April, Alan and volunteers wade into Darby Creek at five sites to collect the “critters”. The critters are macroinvertebrates- animals without backbones such as crayfish, snails, worms and insects

Annual Meeting Report by Ann Jackson Continuedand caddisflies are the groups that are most sensitive to pollution, erosion, low oxygen, and elevated water temperature. The young insects are called larvae and nymphs and live on rocks in the stream and the stream bottom. These insect young are important food for fish including trout. The collection is done in early spring before the insects “hatch” into adults and fly away to mate. The insect larvae are freed from their homes by scrubbing rocks and scraping the stream bottom and caught in a net as they float downstream. They are preserved for identification.

Insect Identification Workshop: Every year in the fall, Alan and volunteers, armed with magnifying glasses, and microscopes identify the “critters”. The sensitivity to habitat impairment of each species has been determined by freshwater biologists over many years. The water quality at each site at the time collected is determined by the species present. The greater the diversity and number of sensitive species in the sample, the higher the water quality is determined to be.

Water Quality: “Fair” water quality is characterized by critters that are tolerant of stressors such as pollution and erosion. “Good” water quality is characterized by critters that are tolerant of some stress, but the habitat is clean enough to support some sensitive species (such as stonefly larvae). “Very Good” water quality and habitat supports more sensitive species of macroinvertebrates. “Excellent” water quality is indicated by a diverse community of macroinvertebrates topped off with a high number of species that are sensitive to pollution, erosion, and other stresses. The fish community usually mirrors the macroinvertebrate community, so as local fishermen know, a cool, shaded stream with mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies is a good place for trout.

he 2014 water quality results at each of the 5 collection sites:

- Borderline Fair/Good: Bartram Park-(most downstream). First Good rating since 2009.
- Good for Swedish Cabin (upgrade from historical norm), Drexel Hill
- Darby Creek Road, Bryn Mawr
- Skunk Hollow, Radnor
- Waterloo Mills, Berwyn (The Good rating for Waterloo Mills, the most upstream site, is a downgrade from the historical norm. It was Very Good in 2007; Fair in 2012; and Good in 2014. This requires monitoring.)

Year to year fluctuations are not uncommon. DCVA looks for long term trends.

Derron LaBrake: Wetlands and Ecology, Inc, DCVA Vice President

“Whetstone Run, an Imperiled Waterway” (See *The Valley Fall 2014* and DCVA website).

When DCVA learned that the Archdiocese was going to sell about 200 acres at the Don Guanella site (Rte. 320/Reed Rd/ Eagle Rd) for development a few members walked the Whetstone Run and its tributaries. They discovered that although Whetstone Run was degraded, it was better than other streams in the area. The southern tributary flows through woodlands and is in excellent condition and supports a community of sensitive macro invertebrates that rivals Holland (Hotland) Run (designated Exceptional Value by PADEP). The Whetstone tributaries do not have the same protection given Holland Run because Whetstone Run has been designated Warm Water Fishery by the DEP. DCVA’s options to protect these streams are to: (1) Ask Marple Township to request the following when they review the developer’s plans: 100 ft. riparian buffers on both sides of Whetstone run and tributaries; No construction or disturbing soil on slopes greater than 20% or erodible soils; Detain/Infiltrate first 3 inches of rain that fall on impervious surfaces; Protect 100 year old trees; Vegetative buffer along Rt. 476 (2) Ask Marple Township to disallow rezoning, the property is zoned residential; the developer wants it rezoned to Commercial/Residential (3) For long term protection, apply to PADEP for re-designation to High or Exceptional Value stream. (PADEP, in 2001 evaluated the southern tributary and identified macro invertebrates significant for a high quality stream (4) offer to make presentations to Marple Township Commissioners; EAC; Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission; Delaware County Planning Department (5) Offer to help the developer to identify areas where water quality protection measures can be used to protect the streams (6) Petition PADEP to re-designate the non-degraded tributaries of Whetstone Run as High Quality streams (7) Write articles for local newspapers.

Annual Meeting Report by Ann Jackson Continued

DCVA Annual Membership Business Meeting

At the Annual Membership Business Meeting Jamie Anderson, Jeanette Guess, and Mandy Santiago were elected unanimously to the Board of Directors.

DCVA Annual Board of Directors Meeting

At the Board of Directors Meeting on January 24, 2105 the following officers were elected: Jaclyn Rhoads, President, Alan Samel, 1st Vice President, Derron LaBrake, 2nd Vice President Richard Carroll, Treasurer; and Ann Jackson, Recording Secretary.

Many thanks to the speakers and also to the organizers Alan Samel, Jaclyn Rhoads, Dick Carroll, Tim Denny, Rosemary Kesling, and thank you for lunch to Toni and Jack McIntosh.

Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Awarded to Gary Stolz By Ann Jackson

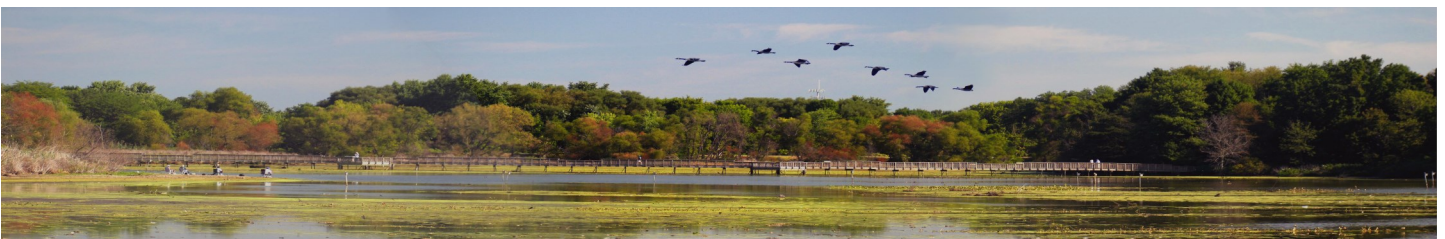
Gary Stolz, Director of John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR) (2002-2014) received DCVA's highest award for his accomplishments at the JHNWR and support of DCVA activities.

Gary's commitment to the environment started in childhood. After obtaining degrees from Michigan State in natural resource management he joined the Forest and Park Services in the 1970's as a naturalist and biologist.

In 2002 Gary started working at JHNWR where he coordinated and implemented projects that preserved and restored tidal marsh, habitat, native species, migratory birds. His work helped to keep urban encroachment at bay. The programs he supported increased accessibility and environmental education via boardwalks, lookouts and walkways. Under his administration the Cradle of Birding, junior duck stamp contest, and many other programs and partnerships that increased community awareness of the importance of preserving natural spaces and protection of the Refuge were started or developed. During Gary's tenure as refuge manager the comprehensive conservation, habitat management and other long term management plans were completed.

Gary has been a good friend to DCVA. From participating in the oiled wildlife recovery efforts after the Athos I oil spill to DCVA's 30th anniversary celebration in the educational pavilion, the Refuge has been an integral part of DCVA activities. Other DCVA projects at the Refuge include: The Darby/Cobbs Watershed-Wide Cleanup; Delaware County Environmental Summit; Watersheds Roundtable Seminar, DCVA Kayak Challenge and Canoe Ramble;and Cradle of Birding. Thanks Gary!

After 33 years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Gary retired in 2014 but is as environmentally active as ever!. His words of wisdom for us are...."As a rare remnant of the Garden of Eden buried deep within a sprawling concrete jungle, the importance of JHNWR and our cities other precious urban green spaces grow more in value every day. Here we can rediscover our backyard native roots through protected wildlife habitat that cleanses our waters and sustains a broad diversity of life.....including us humans. Study it, understand it, and protect it for our children and theirs to follow.



31st DCVA Darby-Cobbs Watershed-Wide Cleanup

April 25, 2015, 9-12 noon *(unless noted *)*

By Jan and John Haigis

On the last Saturday in April, as they have since 1984, volunteers will gather throughout the 77 square miles and 31 municipalities of the Darby Creek Watershed to clean the trash, litter, shopping carts, tires and other debris from the creek which writer Christopher Morley called a "laughing little river that preaches sermons unawares." Most cleanups will take place on Saturday, April 25; however some cleanups will take place on other days. For instance, the Cleanup at the Heinz Wildlife Refuge will take place on April 18 because of tides. "It truly is a community labor of love," said Jan Haigis in her last year as Cleanup Coordinator. "The DCVA Cleanup has been so successful because its leadership is decentralized. Each Captain is responsible for recruiting his or her own volunteers. That is why we ask folks to contact the Site Captain directly, if they wish to volunteer. A list of Site Captains, contact information, and Cleanup dates are available in this newsletter and also at the web site www.dcva.org. The website list will be updated, if additional sites and captains are added. We appreciate the dedication of the volunteers, sponsors, and municipalities who have made the DCVA Cleanup successful for the past 31 years. By cleaning the section of the Darby/Cobbs watershed near and dear to them, hundreds of volunteers have helped to preserve and beautify the ribbon of green that is the Darby Creek.

Sites and Captains as of 3/17/2015

To volunteer, please contact Site Captain.

Bryn Mawr/Ithan Creek

Jan Marie/Alan Rushforth 610.520.1968

Clifton Heights/Kent Pk –Swedish Cabin

Susan Witkoski 610.733.8153

Clifton Heights/Rockbourne Falls

David Bennett 610.626.1344

Clifton Heights/Swedish Cabin Area

Matt Silva 610.803.9057

Collingdale Pk/Jackson/Hermasproda

Joe Ciavarelli 610.586.0500

Colwyn/ John Bossocco Park

Freddy Leshner 610.800.3414

Darby/above & below Bartram Pk

Special Project/No volunteers needed

Darby/Trolley Bridge/Springfield Rd

Jan & John Haigis 610.583.0788

Darby Town Center/MacDade Blvd

Jim Mullarkey/Hilldale Deli 610.237.1270

Drexel Hill/Bloomfield&Rosemont

Joyce Fortunato 610.259.7547

Drexel Hill/Bond Av Pk Footbridge

Ann Jackson 610.585.5038

UpperDarby/Gillespie Pk to Penn Pines Pk

John Pecko 610.999.9756

Drexel Hill/ Collen Brook Farm

Clyde Hunt 610.449.9333

Drexel Hill/Mansion Park *(pre-4/25)

Tom Hamilton 610.789.5009

Drexel Hill/Idle Hour Tennis Club

James Santora 484.571.5219

Folcroft/Glenolden

Ruth Nowrey 610.532.0123

Glenolden

Joe Dolan 610.583.7680

Haverford Twp/Glendale Pk/Merry Place

Tim Denny 610.446.9397

Haverford Twp/Grange Estate

Roy Sandstrom 610.446.4958

Haverford Twp/Karakung Dr & Nitre Hall

Peter Puglianesi 610.446.2145

Haverford Twp/Merwood Pk

Greg Bannett 610.299.6803

Lansdowne/Hoffman Park

(Go to Bonnie's Wondergardens)

Bonnie McShane 610.259.1733

Vanessa Bullock 484.410.4831

Lansdowne/Pennock Terrace

Jack Kelly 610.623.5156

Lansdowne/Marlyn Park

Dave Eldredge 610.284.1713

Newtown Square/Fox Run

Marty Milligan 610.353.7024

MORE CLEANUP SITES:**Norwood/Morton Morton House* (4/18)**

Judy Anastasi 610.583.3002

Norwood/Various Areas *(4/18)

Jaclyn Rhoads 484.494.3090

Philadelphia/BlueBell/Cobbs Crk

Frank Tarant 215.764.7538

Sharon Hill / Meet @ Borough Hall by 9am

Scott MacNeil 484.832.6816

Springfield Swim Club/Indian Rock Park

Dave & Melanie Damon 610.544.5432

Tinicum/ John Heinz Wildlife Refuge* (4/18)

Mike McMenamain 610.804.3552.

Upper Darby/Marshall Rd/Old Church Ln* (4/18)

Joanne Davis 610.734.3307

Upper Darby/Naylor's Run Pk/Garrett Rd.

Pete Leahy, Upper Darby Marines 610.622.0320

Upper Darby/Valley House

Barbarann Keffer 610.716.5196

Yeadon, Cobbs Creek Pk/65th & Chester

Call Yeadon Borough Office 610.284.1606

**Clean-Up Committee:**

Barbarann Keffer: Volunteer Coordinator

Jan & John Haigis: Funding/Placemaps/Tees

Ed Silberstein, Logistics

Ann Jackson, Committee

David Bennett, Committee

Thank you to our 2015 DCVA Creek**Cleanup Sponsors**

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.

Benett's Men Store/Darby (610) 583-1000

David C. Bennett, DCVA Board

Brandywine Conference and Visitors Bureau

Delaware County Community Service Court

Delaware County Conservation District

Delaware County Solid Waste Authority

Jan & John Haigis, darbyhistory.com

Haverford Twp Community Rec & Environmental Center

Ann Jackson, DCVA Board

Raeleen and Gaeli Keffer-Scharpf

Marvil Funeral Home, Darby

FriendsofMountMoriahCemetery.org

PennDOT

RedtoGreenFundraising@gmail.com

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Rushforth Engineering

Andrew Saul, DCVA Emeritus Board

Sharon Savings Bank, Darby

Sierra Club-Southeastern PA

<i>Clean—Up Crew. Photo by John Haigis</i>
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EASTWICK IN ACTION

By Earl Wilson



The Eastwick Action Committee (EAC), working with the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition, has been involved in coordinating efforts to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to do the schedule a meeting with the EPA and other community groups to:

1. discuss the formation and progress of the "Record of Decision (ROD)". This document is a comprehensive response from the EPA that includes, among other data, answers to all of the questions that came from the community.

2. to allow the participants to plan additional community public meetings, especially for the residents who live close to the superfund site. This was an effort by the EPA to develop an "outreach" program for the affected community.

The EPA, in previous meetings, has stated that it realized the need to communicate more with the community. It is planning to establish an "800#" telephone system, an updated email list and (possibly) a command post in the area once the work gets started on the superfund site. The Eastwick Action Committee and The Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition will be working closely with the EPA to move the above issues forward. We want to make sure that as many lines of communication are made available to the residents and others who have been most affected by the superfund site.

ADDITIONAL EASTWICK INVOLVEMENTS

The Eastwick Action Committee, and the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Darby Creek Valley Association. The events scheduled were enjoyable, enlightening, educational and fun. Kudos to the organizers and a strong, proactive organization -- The Darby Creek Valley Association.

A cadre of volunteers represented by the Eastwick Action Committee, Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition, The Sierra Club, and the Delaware River Network distributed more than 3,000 flyers in support of a scheduled public meeting at the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge on September 18, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss aspects pertaining to the superfund site. The featured speakers for that meeting were: Josh Barber and Larry Brown, EPA representatives; Derron La Brake, P.S.W. (DCVA) Ecological Consultant; Dr. Marilyn Howarth, Director of Community Outreach and Engagement Core. Center for Excellence in Environmental Toxicology, University of Pennsylvania and it was moderated by Amy Laura Cahn from the Public Law Center of Philadelphia. The meeting, including its questions/answers session was very informative.

The 3,000 flyers mentioned above had attached to them an informational card that announced and supported the "Peoples' Climate March" that occurred in New York on September 21, 2014. Members from the Eastwick coalition boarded a tour bus at Penrose Plaza and traveled to New York to participate in the march to help magnify the environmental and climate change issues. We were joined there by more than 310,000 other participants. The march was very festive, meaningful and provided the participants with a very memorable experience.

The Eastwick community and the EPA are presently working together to form a Community Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG's function will be to enable the EPA and the community to exchange information in a manner that will benefit both sides. In order to implement the formation of the CAG, The EPA has brought on board a facilitator, Marion Cox, to help the community form the CAG according to EPA's requirements.

The CAG formation process has been making very good progress since February 3, 2015. The next scheduled meeting on April 8, 2015, should give everyone an idea as to what the CAG will look like relative to its voting members and the various advisory teams. The community is feeling very positive about the progress that has been made, especially when told that the Design Phase is already in progress and that a contract has been signed and money has been procured to start and complete this phase. All is looking good so far!

Update on Whetstone Run, Marple Township, Delaware County, PA

By Carl DuPolt, Alan Samel, Derron LaBrake

Development proposals are expected in May for a more than 200 acre site at the former Don Guanella Village on Sproul Road in Marple. The site falls within the Whetstone Run tributary watershed to the Darby Creek. The Fall 2014 Valley article had extensive details on this important 1.1 square mile (704 acre) watershed. Before the sale, DCVA approached both Marple Township and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and offered, in partnership with Natural Lands Trust, to conduct a formal survey of the land's resources. Marple and the Archdiocese declined. The Archdiocese referred us to the prospective purchaser of the property. We recently made the same offer to the developer, Goodman Properties of Jenkintown, and they have not yet responded.

While Marple and other agencies have rules that provide some protections for sensitive areas during development, these do not currently recognize the actual quality of one of the tributary streams, just one of the natural resources on the site that warrant further careful assessment. In addition, exceptions are often made during the approval process, allowing development on steep slopes. This evident in many new developments, including the recent Ravenscliff development in Marple.

Marple government, Marple residents and Delaware County may not recall that there were greater ambitions for preserving the natural attributes of this site which may be squandered by allowing a "maximum development" approach. The Delaware County Planning Department 2010 Greenway Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed identified the Archdiocese property of one of only 3 regional conservation hubs in the watershed within Delaware County. The plan indicated that:

"The Archdiocese of Philadelphia land containing Cardinal O'Hara high School and the Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery is one of the largest expanses of open space in the watershed. The Township has proposed trails (currently existing as desire paths) to partly follow Whetstone Run and a tributary stream through the dense woods. Use of the property for trails has not yet been negotiated with the Archdiocese. The Delaware County Transfer Station property in Marple is a potential important greenway hub which contains open space acting as a woodland stream buffer."

The Township didn't act on this opportunity to preserve the space after the 2010 plan, but it is not too late for Marple Zoning and Planning authorities to require a thorough and independent study of the most critical environmental resources on the site and require the best protection strategies available. The property that was purchased by the developer is zoned for low-density residential use. The high-density and commercial uses that the developer is proposing are not permitted on that land "by-right" so they must seek a rezoning of the land or an exception from Marple Township's Zoning Board. Marple can learn from other townships, like neighboring Newtown and Haverford Townships, which succeeded in integrating trails and open space in most major developments using available ordinances and consideration for zoning modifications. The township may want to consider granting these density and land use concessions in exchange for greater open space preservation.



This topographic map below shows the watershed and slopes involved.

Monitoring Cobbs Creek and Naylor's Run as part of the William Penn Foundation Grant

By Kate Goddard Doms

In collaboration with the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative, the Lower Merion Conservancy, Villanova University, St. Joseph's University and Friend's Central School, the DCVA is studying the waterways in our area of Pennsylvania. The ultimate goal of this research, funded by the William Penn Foundation, is to identify stretches of creeks that can be restored and and/or infrastructure to handle stormwater constructed. DCVA is focusing on Cobbs Creek and Naylor's Run.

The project includes monitoring stream water quality such as dissolved oxygen. The project also includes doing a physical assessment of the streams and their banks. The project includes monitoring water quality through the use of macroinvertebrate collecting and analysis.

On dry land, the project also includes educating municipal officials and the public about stormwater and other water quality issues. The grant has provided excellent educational opportunities for DCVA volunteers as we have and will continue to receive training from area experts including the staff of the Stroud Water Research Center and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. It has also provided an opportunity for us to involve the community. For example, Upper Darby H.S.



Sampling in the Cobbs Creek and Naylor's Run in March 2015. Photo by Jamie Anderson

Students in the honor's environmental science class and the Environmental Science Club are presorting the macroinvertebrate samples. The samples will be identified to species by undergraduates at Ursinus College and double checked by DCVA Board members. This is an opportunity for the high school and the college students to gain marketable research skills and be involved in an important regional research project: they will be able compare the water quality in the Cobbs and Naylor's Run to other area streams.

Derron LaBrake has already started to write grant proposals to fund the stormwater abatement and other infrastructure projects that he has identified through this project as needed in the Cobbs and Naylor's Run.

Crickers Corner

Darby Creek Rhythm Maker of the Valley

by Tom Roy Smith, aka, William Penn

The tempo, the pace, the rhythm of Darby Creek Valley, owes tempo-pace to the sweep of creek rhythm. Historically in the Darby Valley when unimpeded by severe weather the stream flowed just orderly, just paced. All whilst valley 'denizens' held attentive to the rhythm. Wildlife and plant life long followed the creek valley rhythm. Wildlife and plants long sipped the creek, tiptoed upon it, tap toes to its rhythmic beat. Waves as yore before...Yes in the wet valley old sameness waves as yore before, But changes sputter impossible to ignore.

Today, Trouble today brews up, lathers up – befuddles the rhythm maker. In torrential rains the valley creek banks are un-seaming, by means of whipped up lashes upon melting shoreline. Standing near the creek after a storm, one hears the abrasive sound of modern sweep and scour – the creek no longer speaks sweet babble. The creek bed bottom - once hidden, more and more comprises of poke-surface dry rocks. Poke gravel and wide patches of sand and wee size tumble stones compound the mounting mix. The creek, in the same manner as human locals has become: rush-run. -- Rush, rush, and more rush. – Unable, as formerly, to find quiet time. If Darby Creek could talk it might gush: "Gentle babble? That was yore yesteryear."

Once buffer rich shore bank, thick with rooted trees and tall hemming grasses, now, the banks are weak shoulders, currently the stream brew is melting away its home. Darby creek proper and its branches have become inundated conduits of runoff, drains aimed at the sea. Of Yore much local water trickled back into ancient pools of groundwater. Local water stayed put; stayed underfoot. Yore and not so yore, local (groundwater) water tables refreshed at stable levels. Today surface water gets counted as mere runoff. . (The word runoff is of relatively recent creation.) All whilst - melts wildlife and plant life. (Invasive plants, however, are having a field upon field day.) Nature let along self-monitors self - by wee refinement. Darby Creek Valley for yore, for millenniums, self-monitored. The creek today currently finds self - beyond easy self-correction.

Hear Ye! Mankind has blundered away from benign. Mankind must stabilize: benign-minded. Darby Creek Valley strives hard to re-bound recharge, re-surge. The valley rhythm maker needs be, pleads be: re-heard. I close. I thank you for listening.

Crickers Corner Continued...



Ancients aren't so ancient after all... Darby Creek was and is a wonderful teaching laboratory for those who venture to see and think. Often the "what" we have seen requires an "after-think". Please hear me out.... Let me give you an example of an "after think" experience. And in a larger sense, I wish to recite an early life choice. A life choice that helped to hone my reverence for Darby Creek stretches!

My first ten years I spent on the last residential street in Drexel Hill. To near rear was the Swedish cabin and Darby Creek proper. The era was many years before birth of DCVA and the rescue of the venerable Swedish Cabin. Set between my rear yard fence limits and the crest overlooking the creek squat an abandoned quarry. Few knew the area which time had rejuvenated into a tangle of green. It swarm full with pheasants, raptors, groundhogs, creepers, crawlers, hop toads, snakes and more! This secret place lay hid out of sight behind the hill-lip overlooking the creek. It was called the Tuck Preserve. To me, it was familiar ground. Wonderful!

It might surprise the reader to know that the last of the local deer had disappeared in the 1940's. Since that time, of course, they have over replenished. But as a boy in the 1950s I was delighted to find a deer jawbone in my private copse. I took it to an old local who taught me of the 1940's disappearance of the deer. I knew nothing of ancient ways and feelings and yet what I did with the bone serves as a reminder of 'our links' to early man. The bone beckoned; I obeyed. I carried it back down into the Tuck Preserve quarry. Alone in that hidden place, watched by teeming wildlife, I slowly and reverently tugged loose from the jaw one deer tooth at a time. Each I cast in a different direction, to the winds... Then I gave a ritual final toss of the jaw. Now many years later, and many "after thinks" as to why I did what I did, I believe that it was not the destructive act of a small boy. I believe it was to return it to the Earth, just as I now imagine ancients people did thousands year yore. Now many years later, it seems it was an innate sacred ritual in regard for nature. The "after- think" has helped mankind to evolve to where we are today. Please tap the "after-think", dear reader! The privilege of living near the creek and all of that wildlife undoubtedly made me a lover of nature; it led me to the life choice to become a conservationist and lifelong member of DCVA. May we preserve the creek so that the children of tomorrow can have this experience! Thank you for listening to Old Cricker.

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

Annual Stream Watch

Saturday April 18th 9 to 3 PM Contact Alan Samel for details at alan.samel@verizon.net

Annual Stream Cleanup

Saturday April 25th at scores of sites on the creek!
Contact John or Jan Haigis at johnghd@yahoo.com
Or contact site captains listed in this issue of *The Valley*

DCVA Board Meetings

Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield, PA
3rd Saturday, Monthly (Subject to Change)

Except where otherwise noted, please check www.dcv.org for dates and additional information

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