### DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION





www.dcva.org Fall 2005

#### President's Pen:

#### **View from the Stream Bank**

As the steamy days of August took their toll, it gave me a boost to observe the unflagging energy of DCVA stalwarts busily planning activities for the fall or chipping away at important tasks they have undertaken for the organization. Bob Shaner and Bette Ferrill are marvels. Together with the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, the Tinicum Township Historical Society, and the Heinz Refuge, they are leading the effort to bring back to the Darby Creek the popular Governor Printz Canoe Challenge, coming on September 24.

Meanwhile, unsung but indispensable is our dedicated Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Dick Carroll. He has been working hard this summer! We continue to throw new challenges at him – new grants to be accounted for, new computer software to master. He does it all with wonderful patience and a smile.

We are eagerly awaiting news of the listing of the Darby Creek Watershed on Pennsylvania's Rivers Conservation Registry, which will enable us to begin seeking funds to make some of the watershed improvement and protection

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#### The Darby Creek Valley Association Presents:

#### The Johan Printz Challenge VI



The Darby Creek Valley Association invites everyone to canoe five miles of the largest freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania! Join us for the Governor Printz Canoe Challenge. The race will be held Saturday, September 24, 2005, beginning at the Heinz Refuge and proceeding to Governor Printz Park (see map on page 5) The race is open to experienced kayakers, competitive

canoers, and "cruisers"—those who like to set their own leisurely pace. Sign-in time for kayakers is 7 a.m., for canoers is 7:45 a.m, and for leisure paddlers is 8:15. The entrance fee is \$20 per canoe or kayak team or \$10 for a one-person kayak. Other sponsors are the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, Friends of the Heinz Refuge, and the Tinicum Township Historical Society. Prizes will be awarded at Governor Printz Park at the end of the race.

Note these rules: Personal Flotation Devices are required of all paddlers. All competitive entrants must be 18 and older; leisure entrants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Launches after 9:30 are at your own risk, due to tidal conditions. A driver must be available at Governor Printz Park to transport the canoe after the race. Canoe rentals are available for \$25 upon request. Competitive racing canoes are welcome to participate but are not eligible for prizes.

The race is part of the Riverfront Ramble and the Cradle of Birding Festival at the Heinz Refuge. There will be many forms of continuous entertainment, sporting events, and fantastic foods during the day.

To register for the canoe race, fill out the form on page 5. Call Bob Shaner at 610 449-7297 for more information.

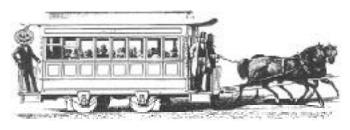
#### Second Annual Insect Identification Workshop Scheduled for Saturday, October 8

On October 8, we will have our second annual insect identification workshop. The purpose of the workshop will be to identify the insects we sampled from 4 locations on Darby Creek on April 23. The 4 locations were in Darby (Bartram Park), Havertown, Radnor (Skunk Hollow), and the Brandywine Conservancy, a new site. Taking samples from the creek is the easy part! You get to wade into the stream, you get a little wet, you get a little dirty, you collect your samples, and you have a lot

of fun. And we did. But, it takes a lot of time and a lot of commitment to separate the 'bugs from the crud' and identify what you have in each sample.

Why is it important to take samples of water bugs from the creek? The bugs we take from each site tell us a story about the water quality of Darby Creek at that particular site. Some organisms, such as mayflies, are known to be sensitive to pollutants. If the mayflies are in the sample, the water quality at that site

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# OcTrolleyFest 2005 A Celebration of Transportation Heritage and Community Saturday, October 15, 10 am – 4 pm.

For nearly 150 years, streetcars and trolleys have connected our communities with the wider world and with each other. Accessible public transportation remains one of our chief assets. On Saturday, October 15, a vintage streamlined PCC trolley sponsored by Sharon Bank will celebrate Philadelphia's oldest surviving trolley line by traveling a loop between Colwyn, Darby, Eastwick, Elmwood and Yeadon with events sponsored by participating organizations along the route. Tickets to ride are free and will be available at Darby Library and Yeadon Library. The trolley will run from 11 am until 3 pm.

Other events being planned for the day include pump-kin contests, music, decorations and displays in store windows, awards for civic involvement, book signings (including Joel Spivak's *Philadelphia Trolleys*), a mural, educational displays, food, historic tours, reenactments, ghost stories and more.

For additional information or to participate, call John W. Haigis, coordinator, 610 583-0788 or email johnghd@yahoo.com. More information is also available on the website: www.darbyhistory.com.

## **Boy Scouts Befriend the Swedish Cabin**

The Boy Scouts from Troop 220, St. Andrew's Parish in Drexel Hill, have begun community service projects at the Swedish Cabin.

The scouts have visited the cabin twice; together the scouts and the Friends of the Swedish Cabin have assembled a list of chores, projects and activities that would be appropriate for the Scouts' growth and for the Cabin's welfare. The list includes a "Gourd Garden," trail development and maintenance, white-washing the Cabin's chinking, and leaf cleanup in the late fall.

In return the Friends of the Cabin are looking forward to hosting the scouts for "campfire meetings" and other activities that will help the scouts with merit badges and Eagle Scout attainment. The Township of Upper Darby enthusiastically approves of the Troop's activities. Working together is benefitting all groups involved.

#### Plans for Greenway Moving Forward

In August, under a matching grant from the DCNR, the Delaware County Planning Department worked to complete a Request for Proposals which will enable it to hire a consultant to assist in developing a Delaware County Greenway Plan. Steve Beckley of the Planning Department said the department hopes to select a consultant by October and that the planning phase is expected to take two years.

One responsibility of the consultant will be to facilitate public participation in greenway planning through open meetings and other means to obtain input from local residents. Another step in the plan will be to do an up-to-date inventory of open space in the county, including existing parks, wooded areas, floodplains and other parcels that could be incorporated into a greenway. The plan will also identify and recommend specific linkages where gaps in the future greenway path now occur. Such linkages might be achieved through acquisition of small parcels or through use of conservation easements on privately owned land. Many municipalities in the watershed have already recognized the urgency of taking steps to preserve strategic parcels of open space within their boundaries for recreation and conservation in light of continuing development pressure.

Implementation of the county greenway plan will be carried out in different focus areas and will begin with a pilot project focused on the Darby Creek corridor between Upper Darby and MacDade Boulevard.

#### **EPA TAG Grant Approved**

The DCVA has received approval for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Technical Assistance Grant for the Lower Darby Creek Superfund Site. The area covered is from the former Clearview Landfill down through the former Folcroft Landfill area. The award is for \$50,000 with a match by DCVA in-kind services of \$12,500 over a 3 year period.

This project will enable a DCVA committee to contract the assistance of one or more technical advisors to interpret and review technical information developed by EPA. By interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating the information developed by EPA, the technical advisor[s] will aid DCVA in commenting more productively and effectively on remedial activities at the site.

The DCVA committee consists of Bill Frasch, John Furth, Andy Saul, and Dick Carroll. The committee plans to coordinate a public information effort with the staff of the Heinz Wildlife Center, the Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge, the Eastwick Project Area Inc., and the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement. The technical advisor will assist the committee in public forums to be held in the site area over the 3 year period of the grant.

The site is currently in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study stage of the EPA Superfund process. The next step for the DCVA committee will be to begin the process of contracting a Technical Advisor. For more detailed information, visit the EPA website: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/region3/grants/index.htm">www.epa.gov/region3/grants/index.htm</a> or contact Bill Frasch at 610 583-2986 or at williamfrasch@yahoo.com.



TreeVitalize, a partnership to restore tree cover in the fivecounty region in Southeastern Pennsylvania, is offering classes this fall to educate resi-

dents about planting and caring for trees. The classes in Delaware County will be October 11, 18, and 25, from 6 to 9 pm each evening, at the Ridley Creek State Park office.

TreeVitalize aims to educate as many as 2,000 citizens in tree planting and care over the next three years. The \$8 million program also has a goal of planting more than 20,000 shade trees in neighborhoods in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources spearheads the TreeVitalize project with many public and private partners. The training was designed and is being taught by staff from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Penn State Cooperative Extension. It will be beneficial for both lay people and experts and will offer nine hours of classroom and field training covering the following topics: tree biology; urban stresses, tree identification, pruning, rootcare, fundraising, media outreach, volunteer management, and working with local governments. Students are expected to volunteer time to community tree planting projects in exchange for training. Groups also may qualify for free or discounted trees upon completing the program.

Registration is required. Classes are open to all residents of the five-county region. For more information, contact Mindy Maslin at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society at (215) 988-8844 or register online at <a href="https://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org">www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org</a>. For more information on TreeVitalize visit www.treevitalize.net.

#### **DCVA Will Co-sponsor Conference**

Stay tuned: DCVA has agreed to co-sponsor a Stormwater Retrofit Technical Assistance Workshop that the Pennsylvania Environmental Council is planning for January or February, 2006. Other workshop partners include the Delaware County Planning Department, Delaware County Conservation District, and Eastern Delaware County Council of Governments. The workshop will include: (1) stormwater retrofit projects based on retrofit design concepts developed during the ongoing phase (presentations by Borton Lawson/Cahill Associates) including retrofit opportunities and limitations (2) presentation relating to wetland restoration opportunities/limitations; (3) stormwater facility operation and maintenance issues. The target audience is: municipal officials, engineers, public works department staff, EAC members, property managers, as well as interested residents and professionals.

Visit DCVA's Website: www.dcva.org



The 2005 Darby Creek clean-up was a great success with many volunteers helping at stations up and down the creek. A total of 20.62 tons of trash was collected and removed from the area. DCVA thanks all of the sponsors listed on the next page, and our coordinators, John and Jan Haigis. Above, workers in the Yeadon area show trash that they have collected. On the next page, a worker in the Springfield Swim Club area collects thrash from the creek in an abandoned boat. DCVA is already preparing for the 2006 cleanup. It will be held on Earth Day, Saturday April 22nd, 2006.

Plan now to help!

#### **Insect Identification Workshop**

Continued from Page 1

is considered to be relatively clean. If the mayfly is not in the sample, and it should be, its absence is an indication of questionable water quality at that site. The little bugs provide a big picture of the water quality of Darby Creek.

At last year's identification workshop, we had a lot of fun! There was about 6-9 of us going through the samples and identifying what we collected. Heck! We even had a sponsor who paid for our lunch; many thanks to the folks at the Springfield Farmers Market. This year I want more. We increased the number of sites by one, increasing the number of samples by three. Sounds tough? Sounds hard? Sounds like rocket science? Forget about it! We had a teenager, we had someone who never saw a mayfly before, and we had some people with some knowledge (okay, maybe more than some knowledge). By the end of the day, everyone could identify the bugs at the level needed. It was a lot of fun. We spent a lot of time talking about the watershed, stressors to the watershed, and ways to improve the watershed; anything was up for discussion.

The workshop will be at the Peace Center at Friends Meeting in Springfield. Many thanks for letting us take over the room on that day. If you have questions, please contact Alan Samel (610) 446-1658 or alan.samel@verizon.net.

#### **News from the Municipalities**

#### **Haverford Township:**

Haverford Township still has not made a decision about the development of the former state hospital site. There has been some political shifting on the board of commissioners that has led to more consideration of an earlier plan featuring less development and more open space. The developer who has a contract with the township dating November 2003 has actually tried going directly to the public in an effort to get things moving; an alternate plan is more favorable to its interests. DCVA continues to monitor the plans, encouraging the township to protect Darby Creek and to preserve as much open space as possible.

#### **Ridley Township:**

Ridley Township has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The grant will be used to build a new boat ramp and dock to provide additional public recreational access to Darby Creek.

The township owns 17 acres of recreational land along the creek, operating the former Morrow's Marina, and plans to seek additional grants to improve the area.

#### **Tinicum Township:**

Tinicum Township has finally purchased the Lazaretto property. The 10 acre parcel is adjacent to the Delaware River and includes a building that once functioned as a quarantine station. The Commissioners paid \$3.1 million for the land and plan to use matching state-grant monies to build a firehouse on the site. The township is hoping that the investment will spur riverside commercial development, thus boosting Tinicum's tax base.

The Lazaretto building is being studied by a committee of historical groups, including the National Park Service, to decide what can be done with the historical site.

#### **Morton Borough:**

In August Morton Council approved an application for Delaware County Renaissance Program funds to preserve the westbound passenger shelter at the SEPTA train station. Springfield Township will partner with Morton on the restoration. The application asks for \$48,474; Morton Station Preservation Committee has already raised \$22,350 in matching funds.

#### **Tredyffrin Township:**

Wesley Horner, Principal Planner with Cahill Associates, will discuss stormwater management on the municipal level at a September 21 presentation from 7-9 p.m. in Keene Hall at the Tredyffrin Township Building. Mr. Horner will present a stormwater primer and identify problems with traditional stormwater management. He will also introduce both structural and nonstructural BMPs (best management practices). These BMPs include clustering and conservation design, porous pavement, and rain gardens. A question and answer session will follow.

The Tredyffrin Township Environmental Advisory Council, the event sponsor, encourages municipal officials, planning commissioners, zoning hearing board members and all interested citizens to attend.



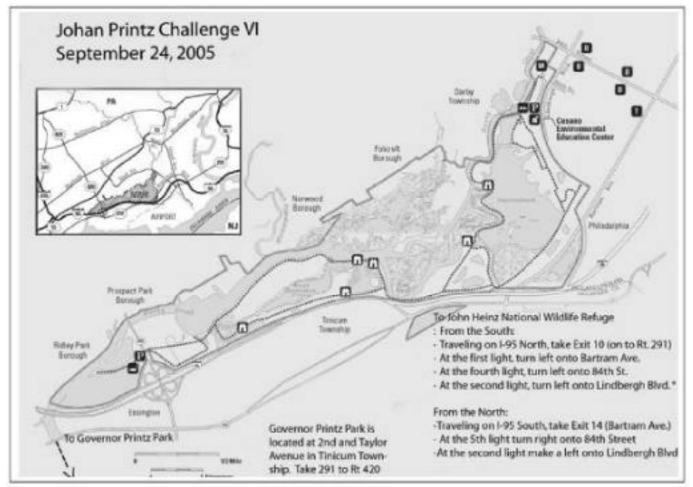
#### 2005 Cleanup Sponsors

Accurate Metals, Darby & Lansdowne Benett's The Complete Men's Store, Darby John M. Bergin, General Contractor, Secane Brandywine Conference & Visitors Center The Breakfast Club, Clifton Heights **BFI Waste Systems** J L Blosenski and Sons Burger King, Yeadon Capitol Adjustment Cavello Auto Body The Country Squire Diner, Broomall **Darby Free Library** Darby Township Highway Department **Delaware County Community Service Court Delaware County Conservation District Delaware County Council Delaware County Solid Waste Authority** Delco Furniture, Collingdale DJ's Endless Garage Sale, Holmes Dollar Island, Aldan Doyle's Deli & Grille, Lansdowne Robert Dudash, Esq. Family Style Pizza, Yeadon Good 4 The Soul Eatery, Yeadon J & K Trash Service Luigi and Giovanni Catering, Newtown Square Lump's Restaurant, Clifton Heights MacDade Diner, Collingdale McDonald's, Darby Main Street Insurance Center, Darby E.J. Meloney, Inc, Lansdowne John T. Molloy Roofing, Philadelphia The New Marlane Diner, Upper Darby Newtown Township Republican Party Opdenaker Trash Removal, Inc. PastTimesPresent.com, Darby **PennDOT** Penn Pines Diner, Aldan Sciarrino's Pizza, Darby & Springfield Secane Civic Association **Sharon Savings Bank** The Sierra Club The Springfield Inn Restaurant Train Stop Restaurant, Secane Trieste Restaurant, Prospect Park Waste Management

The Wild Onion, Radnor

Senator Connie Williams

Zac's Hamburgers, Secane



#### Johan Printz Canoe Challenge VI Registration Form

Mail forms and check to Bob Shaner, P.O. Box 422, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Make checks payable to Darby Creek Valley Association

#### Race Terms/ Waiver

Racer agrees to operate the canoe in a safe and careful manner and to use every reasonable precaution to prevent injury to self and third person or property of third person and to indemnify owner against claim for any such loss. In consideration of your acceptance of this entry application, I hereby for myself and administrators waive any and all damages I may have against the Township of Tinicum, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Essington Fire Company, the U.S. Coast Guard, FSC, DCVA, FOHR and representatives, for any and all injuries suffered by me in the Governor Printz Challenge.

Name of Team:			
	Kayak		Recreational/leisure
	(Circle one) Yes No r canoe. Minimum of 2 p	If yes, include \$25 rental fee versons per canoe.	vith registration.
Participant 1 Name:		Signature	
Phone Number/E-mail	l		
Participant 2 Name:		Signature	
Address			
Phone Number/E-mail	[		

#### President's Pen

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projects included in the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan a reality.

We look forward to collaborating with Delaware County, watershed municipalities, and other public and private entities to make progress on the Greenway and other projects of shared concern.

We greatly appreciate the support for the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan that has been shown to date by the watershed's communities. So far, resolutions of support for the Plan have been passed in: Folcroft, Lansdowne, Marple, Morton, Narberth, Norwood, Philadelphia, Prospect Park, Radnor, Rutledge, Sharon Hill, Springfield, Tinicum, and Upper Darby. Thank you! We look forward to additional support from other municipalities in the watershed.

An important objective of the Watershed Conservation Plan, building on the implementation of the Act 167 Stormwater Plan for the Darby Creek system, is to promote stormwater remediation projects in key locations where stormwater-caused water quality and flooding concerns are especially problematic. A number of the municipalities in the Darby watershed have taken steps to identify parking lots and other good candidates for stormwater retrofits within their borders. We look forward to supporting their efforts to move those projects off the drawing board and into the funding and installation phases.

And we are excited about new opportunities to work with municipalities and the County Conservation District to educate our residents about good stewardship of their Darby watershed.

In these pages that Rosemary Kesling assembles for us so well you will read about the variety of other endeavors in which DCVA is involved. But don't just read about them. Come join us!

Robin Mann

#### Darby Creek: Canoeing and Kayaking

by Fritz Thornton

We have a jewel of wildlife, wetlands along the lower Darby Creek.

Put in at the ramp at John Heinz Wildlife Refuge and paddle towards the Delaware River. When the vegetation is high in the summer you will see only sky and an occasional airplane above. But look around and you will see turtles, cat tails, pond lilies, muskrats, pickerel weed, big carp jumping, egrets, hawks, herons and many other birds and animals.

The best time to start out is 2 hours before high tide (there is a 5 foot tide in the lower creek). The tide times and other information areavailable by calling 215-365-3118 or visiting the Cusano Center at 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19153. Website is www.fws.gov/northeast/heinz/

Go and see the refuge by water – you will be glad you did.

Editor's Note: The Johan Printz Challenge would be a great time to take Fritz's advice!

#### Sunoco Settles Lawsuit over Oil Spill; Wildlife Refuge Expects Some of the Compensation

Sunoco has settled a federal lawsuit over the pipeline leak five years ago that spilled 192,000 gallons of oil into the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. The company has agreed to pay \$3.6 million. More than \$2.7 million of the settlement will go to a federal fund and be used to cover cleanup or damages from oil spills. The rest, \$865,000, will be paid to the Department of the Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program, and is expected to be used for improvements to the Heinz refuge.

Kate McManus, refuge manager, is hoping to use the money to remove dredge spoil and to restore the normal tidal flow to the marsh.

### Penncrest National Envirothon Champs

Delaware County's winning Envirothon team from Penncrest High School first won the state contest and then won the national competition at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Canon Envirothon July 18-24 at Southwest State University in Springfield, Missouri. The team competed against teams from 44 states and eight Canadian provinces. This was the second consecutive year that Penncrest represented Pennsylvania.

The team finished a convincing 36 points above the second place team, placing especially high in the wildlife testing station and outscoring all other teams in three of the four remaining categories. It also scored highest in the competition's oral presentation. The team members each received a \$5,000 scholarship. They are Joe Walker, Aimee Davis, Michelle Henry, Emily Mobert, and Vic Janmey.

## Valley<sup>The</sup>

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcva.org. Articles for this newsletter were written by Dave Anderson, Gwen Coronway, Molly Duffy, Bill Frasch, John Haigis, Rosemary Kesling, Robin Mann, Alan Samel, Bob Shaner, and Fritz Thornton. Photographs courtesy of John Haigis. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. 3 Printed on recycled paper. 2005.



#### Volunteers - Lifeblood of Conservation

by Fritz Thornton

DCVA has come a long way since 1983 when first incorporated. Darby Creek has changed from an "open sewer" to a class 1A stream rated by the Fish and Boat Commission.

How has the DCVA helped this to happen?

- Volunteers: concerned citizens of all ages working through these venues.
- Education: Schools, libraries, civic groups, elected officials, news media, businesses in the watershed.
- Current Pressures: On municipalities to enforce pollution and littering law and to prevent irresponsible development.
- Organized Cleanup: Concentrating on last Saturday in April with creek section captains each with a crew of volunteers working with local governments. Record haul 84 thousand pounds of "stuff" after Hurricane Floyd. Average haul is 12 15 thousand pounds.
- Monitoring: Ongoing monitoring of water quality led by qualified engineers and biologists supervising other volunteers of all ages who test for and count "critters" which provide information about the life of the creek. Information on this testing is maintained in a watershed database.

DCVA always needs volunteers. Turnover of students, families moving and etc. creates a constant need for replacements. The work we do is hard but there is a great sense of satisfaction that, as a result of the work we do, we can enjoy

a clean creek with shade trees and hiking paths, good fishing and canoe/kayak trails.

Continuing vigilance, monitoring and cleaning is needed by all concerned citizens in order to keep the Darby Creek Valley clean and green and a source of pride for those who live in or near the creek. There are 500,000 inhabitants in the 31 municipalities that line the creek in Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery and Chester counties.

The job will never end, but we volunteers will always be there to do it.

#### **Grower Greener Update**

In May the voters of Pennsylvania approved the Growing Greener II bond initiative. The General Assembly then approved the enabling legislation on July 7, 2005 and the governor signed the bill on July 13th. The result is that \$625 million is available over the next six years to fund urban parks, protect natural areas, clean up rivers and streams, preserve farmland, and create recreation areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will fund up to \$37.5 million in matching funds for community parks and creation grants and \$90 million for open space preservation across the Commonwealth. \$90 million of the funding can be tapped directly by the 67 counties.

#### 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 floodplain. The organization's 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. P.O. Box 732. Drexel Hill PA 19026

Name	Date
Address	
	State Zip
Telephone	Your Municipality
Representative (if organization member)	
Type of Membership: (The Board recently approved an	increase in the dues structure to support our programs.)
☐ Individual Member\$25.00	□ Nonprofit Group\$35.00
☐ Individual Member\$25.00	

## **CALENDAR**

Saturday, September 24, 2005 Johan Printz Challenge VI and Riverfront Ramble

Saturday, October 8, 2005 Insect Identification Workshop, Springfield Friends Meeting

October 11, 18, & 25, 2005 TreeVitalize Workshop, Ridley Creek State Park

Saturday, October 15, 2005 OctrolleyFest, Darby Borough and surrounding municipalities

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 15, 2005 DCVA Board Meeting

9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield

Saturday, November 19, 2005 DCVA Board Meeting

9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting. 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield.

Sunday, December 4, 2005 Friends of the Swedish Cabin Trim-A-Tree Party

2-5 p.m. Swedish Cabin, Upper Darby Township

