



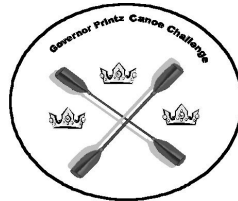
President's Pen:

View from the Stream Bank

The more we know about the world around us, the more we are connected to it and feel a responsibility to protect, improve and preserve it. This is true with our watershed and its resources, as it is with our social and cultural resources. Helping to connect people to the Darby Creek watershed and inspire them to help care for it is much of what DCVA is about. As is demonstrated by our line-up of fall activities and planning for 2009, we do this in many ways.

Our Governor Printz Canoe and Kayak Challenge offers a fun way for people to experience the creek and become oriented to it. Canoeists and kayakers who have never paddled down the Darby find out where the creek actually goes. They are part of it as it flows through the Heinz Refuge. They see how its flow is what sustains the marshes. They witness what we all know in principle: everything we put in its tributaries winds up in the Delaware River and estuary, sooner or later! Our great thanks to Jaclyn Rhoads who

—Continued on Page 8



**Paddle for Preservation:
Governor Printz Canoe and Kayak
Challenge and Ramble 2008**

Darby Creek Valley Association has once again organized the Governor Printz Canoe and Kayak Challenge and Ramble for Sunday, September 21, 2008. The canoe ramble will be a sightseeing historic and natural resource tour of the Darby Creek beginning at the Cusano Environmental Education Center, John Heinz Wildlife Refuge, 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard, and ending at the Morton Homestead. Registration begins at 1 p.m.

Registration for the Governor Printz Challenge begins at 12 noon, with the race at 1 p.m. Although the deadline has passed to rent canoes, those who have their own canoes or kayaks may still participate. For more information, call 215 209-9637 or e-mail jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com. A donation of \$15 per person or \$25 per couple is suggested.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and watch the race. The event will be held rain or shine. Refreshments and exhibits will be available at Governor Printz in Essington at the end of the race. Visit www.dcva.org for more details, including information about all of the events taking place that weekend as part of the Delaware County River Ramble.

**Insect Identification
2008 Workshop**

By Alan Samel

Saturday, April 19, was a beautiful day! We took stream samples from four locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby, Darby Creek Road in Havertown (downstream from the state hospital), Skunk Hollow in Radnor, and the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown. In addition to the samples taken for later insect identification, water chemistry samples were taken for analysis with a recently purchased water quality test kit. We had a great turnout! Thanks to the small army of volunteers who helped make this a great day. Everyone had a

—Continued on Page 4

**OcTrolley
MusterFest
Rocks and Rolls
October 18**

By John Haigis

Celebrating 150 years of light rail connections, OcTrolleyFest 2008 rolls through Eastern Delaware County on Saturday October 18 with food, fun, and surprises for all. Started in 2004 as an annual celebration of transportation heritage and community, OcTrolleyFest is joining this year with Darby Fire Company No. 1 (chartered in 1775 and one of America's oldest volunteer fire companies) in a Fireman's Muster, and also celebrating the dedication of

—Continued on Page 6

Inside This Issue:

Cleanup Report.....	2
Looking Ahead: 25th Anniversary Party	3
Backyard Buffers Project.....	3
Log Smoke House.....	4
Haverford State Hospital Update ...	5
First Suburbs Public Forum	6
Review: <i>Bringing Nature Home</i>	7
Streamflow-gaging Network	7
County Envirothon Team	8
Crickers Corner.....	9
Membership Form.....	9

2008 DCVA Watershed-Wide Darby/Cobbs Creek Cleanup: Veteran Captains! New Captains! New Sites Cleaned! New Generations Pitching In!

By Jan Haigis, Co-Chair, 2008 DCVA Cleanup

It is always exciting to report a job well done by the many volunteers who love and work hard to maintain the health and beauty of the Darby Creek watershed. The Darby Creek Valley Association has been blessed over the years with countless stalwarts who work tirelessly on behalf of the watershed. The twenty-fourth DCVA Watershed-Wide Cleanup held on April 26, 2008, saw the return of 26 veteran Captains and Co-Captains who have been donating their time and energy year after year to this annual event. Thank you all!

The other excitement is that, at the 30 sites cleaned this year, there were 8 new Captains cleaning 8 new sites! They included Barbara Keffer at Gillespie Park in Clifton Heights, Joe Ciavarelli and his youth baseball team helpers at Collingdale Park, Bob Stump on Darby Creek Road near the Marple Road entrance to the Haverford State grounds, Mrs. Nowry and her Girl Scouts in Folcroft, Jean Marie Lorello at Naylor's Run in Bailey Park, Roy Sandstrom on Cobbs Creek at the Grange Estate, Barbara Marinelli and the Pilgrim Gardens Civic Association at CollenBrook, and Tom Hamilton at Mansion Park. We are delighted that these folks have joined us and hope they will plan to reprise their good works next year as we celebrate the 25th anniversary year of both the DCVA organization and its Watershed -Wide Cleanup.

The third cause for excitement is that some of our newer Captains are still in high school! Eliza Bronson contacted us in 2007 and captained a Cleanup in both 2007 and 2008 at Glencoe Road on Cobbs Creek across from her Upper Darby home. A new generation from the Damon family led the Cleanup at the Springfield Swim Club/Indian Rock Park site this year. When usual Captain Dave Damon and his wife had a "must be there" appointment elsewhere, daughter Melanie took over the Captain's role and even used the experience of running the Cleanup as part of a school project. We hope the idea of younger people as Captains will catch on because that's where our new ideas and new DCVA leaders will come from.

A few other statistics from 2008: We had 17 sponsors for our placemaps this year (see list to the right.) The newest addition was Eastern Mountain Sports in Haverford. This opportunity came through a member of their club who is also a member of DCVA. She mentioned the Cleanup to their Public Relations person who was interested not only in becoming a sponsor but also offered to place our display in their store to help us recruit volunteers for the Cleanup. We were very pleased to have their assistance. Without the contributions of all our individual and business sponsors, the Cleanup would not be possible. Thanks for caring!

More than 700 people participated in our 2008 Spring

Cleanups, mostly held on April 26, but some were held before or after that date due to tidal condition, as at Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum, or for the convenience of their volunteers. In addition to the placemap sponsors, we especially want to thank the many agencies that enable us to do our job by doing their part so well: Delaware County Community Service Court; Delaware County Conservation District; Delaware County Solid Waste Authority; Penn DOT; and all of the waste haulers who provide us with dumpsters.

—Continued on page 3

2008 DCVA Cleanup Sponsors

Our thanks to the following DCVA Cleanup Placemap sponsors whose contributions covered the cost of our 2008 placemaps and T-shirts:

Benett's Men's Store, Darby
John M. Bergin, General Contractor, Secane
Brandywine Conference and Visitors Bureau
Darby Community Development Corporation, Darby
Kathy and Bob Doms and family, DCVA Board
Eastern Mountain Sports, Haverford
Jan and John Haigis, DCVA Board
Alvin Holm, AIA, Philadelphia
Robin Mann, President, DCVA
The Radnor Conservancy
Radnor Valley Country Club
Jan Marie and Alan Rushforth, DCVA Board
Andrew Saul, DCVA Board
Sierra Club of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Sharon Savings Bank, Darby
Nancy Bonsall Shultz, descendant, Darby's Bonsall settlers (1683)
Jaclyn Rhoads, DCVA Board, Residential Mold Services

We also wish to thank the following agencies who provide supplies and in-kind services on behalf of the DCVA Cleanup every year: Delaware County Solid Waste Authority, Delaware County Community Service Court, Delaware County Conservation District and PennDOT. We also wish to acknowledge the help of the municipalities who regularly arrange for pick up of the bagged and piled debris we collect in areas where we can't provide a dumpster.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for your generous and continuing support of our efforts! Because of you and our Cleanup captains and volunteers, the Darby Creek Valley gets cleaner and healthier every year!

DCVA Planning 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Board of Directors of the Darby Creek Valley Association has authorized the initiation of the DCVA 25th Anniversary Celebration. The organization has been in existence since January, 1984, with the completion of its bylaws. It was incorporated in June, 1984. Therefore, during 2009 the DCVA will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary! Various activities during the anniversary year are being planned with the culmination coming on Sunday, November 8, 2009, with a banquet at the Llanerch Country Club in Havertown, PA. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the preparation and celebration of this event. The board welcomes stories, photos, and special happenings in the Darby Creek Watershed from 1984 to the present. Please send these, along with your ideas about the festivities, to the DCVA 25th Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. And mark your calendar now to join your friends and neighbors on this special afternoon.

2008 Cleanup Report:

Continued from page 2



On the day of the Cleanup, with the historic Blue Bell Inn in the background, a Delaware County truck and a Fairmount Park truck show intercounty cooperation during this year's cleanup of the Darby Creek.

And a very special thank you to the staff at Bennett's Men's Store in Darby, who every year donate the screen and finish artwork for our tee shirts, and, especially Bud Teaford, who oversees the process so well.

Finally, thanks to each of you who cleaned or recruited or donated snacks or remembered bug spray or whatever your role was in our successful Cleanup this year. DCVA is only as good as the sum of its parts! And what great parts we have! We hope we can count on you and your kind assistance again next April!

DCVA Backyard Buffers Project: Promoting Better Stream Health, one Backyard at a Time

As any streamside property owner knows, stormwater runoff can be a powerful, and even destructive, force. And as development has paved and built on more of the Darby Creek watershed over the years, the problem has worsened on all stretches of the creek. DCVA has endorsed and encouraged many of the strategies put forward to address the problem—especially stormwater management planning and municipal ordinances, based on 21st century engineering, protection and restoration of riparian areas through the development of a 'ribbon of green' along the Darby and its streams.

We are now launching a new initiative to augment the above programmatic strategies—the Backyard Buffers Project. The aim of this initiative is to build increased awareness among streamside property owners of best backyard practices to improve stream health, and engage them in taking part in individual and organized efforts.

With the help of Jamie Anderson, former Delaware County Conservation District watershed specialist, DCVA is developing and compiling educational materials to circulate to streamside property owners in target areas of the watershed. The material will promote best practices, such as planting native trees and shrubs along streams in place of mown lawns, to capture and absorb stormwater runoff and reduce streambank erosion. Streamside residents will also be invited to educational workshops to learn more about managing stormwater to the benefit of their property. This effort is being launched in coordination with the Darby Partners, a collaboration of the DCVA, the Delaware County Planning Department, the Delaware County Conservation District, the Philadelphia Water Department and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Together, the Darby Partners are developing a broader outreach effort throughout the Darby Creek watershed.

These efforts align with DCVA's promotion of better state-level protection of riparian areas. The Department of Environmental Protection will be releasing proposed new rules this fall requiring the establishment of vegetated riparian buffers along streams in all new development. The rulemaking is directed particularly at urbanizing areas, in order to prevent some of the severe problems that many of the communities in areas such as the Darby Creek watershed now face.

We need to take advantage of all of these tools—individual efforts in backyards, better stormwater planning, improved municipal stormwater management and retrofitting, and stronger state regulations encouraging preventive measures—to maintain and restore healthy conditions in our streams.

To find out how you can get involved in the Backyard Buffers Project, contact us at info@dcva.org.

Congressman Sestak Convenes Watershed Summit

On August 14, 2008, Congressman Joe Sestak brought together experts from universities and state and federal agencies for a summit meeting to discuss emergency preparedness and comprehensive watershed management to reduce flood damage and vulnerability. The focus of the meeting was the comprehensive watershed based approach to flood management that the Congressman is seeking to initiate in the Darby, Crum, Chester and adjoining watersheds. The summit included presentations on stormwater management by Villanova University's Robert Traver, as well as PADEP and EPA officials, on floodplain mapping by Jeffrey Featherstone of Temple University's Center for Sustainable Communities, on flood hazard emergency management and mitigation, and on comprehensive watershed assessment by Janet Harrington of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Congressman Sestak is seeking federal funding of a "Reconnaissance Study" of the watersheds, to assess the existing data, define the problems and outline what alternative solutions might be undertaken. If this study is funded and proceeds, a second "Feasibility" phase, which would require matched funds from PADEP or another local or state agency, would produce a detailed plan to reduce flood risks, flood damage costs and environmental degradation through infrastructure replacement and repair and environmental restoration.

Congressman Sestak's remarks and the presentations by university and agency representatives underscored that the significant vulnerability to flooding in the Darby Creek and adjoining watersheds has not been created overnight and will take time and coordinated efforts by the "centers of excellence" and local, state and federal representatives to resolve. The Congressman also underscored the importance of participation by the region's watershed associations. DCVA members can rest assured we will be there!

Donated Log Smoke House Being Rebuilt at the Swedish Cabin— Volunteers Needed to Complete Project

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin have announced a new project for the site on Darby Creek Road. An 18th century log smoke house, or *rokhus*, from Catocin, Maryland, has been donated to the Friends. Norman T. Glass, a noted historical preservationist, made the donation.

This smoke house was used by early colonials to process meat and fish for their tables, a necessary and common practice in the 1600s through the early 1900s.

The foundation for this addition to the Cabin site has been completed by the Upper Darby Township Public Works Department, Bodar Construction Company, and a work party from the Delaware County Community Service Department. Now that the foundation is in place, the rebuilding of this authentic log structure will begin in September.

The Friends are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping
—Continued on page 8

Stream Identification Workshop

—Continued from Page 1

chance to get in the creek, work with the samplers and see what is living in Darby Creek.

On Saturday, November 8th, the Fifth Annual Insect Identification Workshop will happen at the Peace Center at Friends Meeting in Springfield. The workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the workshop will be to identify the aquatic organisms present in the samples taken during the April 19 StreamWatch. The results provide an assessment of the water quality of Darby Creek at each site during that period of time. The sites will be assessed based on the organisms present during the sampling. The 2007 samples showed an improvement in water quality at all sites. Hopefully, we will continue to see that trend in 2008.

This is not anywhere near as hard as it sounds. Yes, we use microscopes. Yes, the bugs are small. And yes, there



is mud. But NO, it is not difficult. Heck, last year teenagers processed over half the samples collected! Yes, teenagers. You know, almost adults with no attention span. Those teenagers. And they did a great job. This is the fifth year for this workshop, so we are getting pretty good at it. But we need your help and participation to make this work even better. If you are interested, please contact me at alan.samel@verizon.net.

Did I mention that lunch is included?.....I'll try anything!

Haverford State Hospital Site Update Haverford Reserve Ribbon Cutting Planned

By Commissioner Jan Marie Rushforth

The HSH project keeps chugging along. All of the 26 (or so) buildings have been re-mediated, demolished, and removed. Road networks are in process. Approved road improvements are happening along Darby Road, Marple Road, Darby Creek Road and at Williams and College Avenue, including a new gas line going from Route 320 - Sproul Road to the entrance of Haverford Reserve. Haverford Commissioners approved the work to build Outdoor Recreational Fields along with the first set of trails. The first trail will be overlooking the South Brook on the existing utility line path. Approval was just given for Tim Denny to write and broadcast a Request for Qualifications for design of an Indoor Recreational Facility and Nature Center at HSH.

Natural Lands Trust has provided its interim report on its Ecological Assessment including Stewardship Issues. One of the most pressing issues on the forest health has

been over browsing of vegetation by over abundant white tailed deer, which have been denuding all good vegetation below 5 feet. In a very courageous move, the Haverford Township Commissioners voted 7-1 on August 11, 2008, to implement a lethal cull of deer, using police sharp shooters. Extensive planning and research preceded this decision, with full support of Natural Lands Trust, most of the former Ad Hoc Haverford State Citizens Advisory Board, and similar decisions endorsed by the Audubon Society.

Reducing the deer population should help the vitality and health of the forest trees and vegetation, reduce our high incidence of Lyme disease, reduce vehicle-deer accidents, and put some balance back into our natural and human eco-system.

Natural Lands Trust is doing its Ecological Assessment under a grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for which DCVA is the Pass-Through Fiscal Agent. We are most appreciative of the extra time and book keeping and auditing that DCVA is doing to assist on this grant, especially by Treasurer Dick Carroll and President Robin Mann.

The grant also includes educational work for students and teachers under Dr. Victor Donnay, Dr. Don Barber, Dr. Blythe Hoyle and Dr. Joe Martin, along with Bryn Mawr College and the Haverford Township School District.

Weather testing in the Meadow and Water Quality Testing in the North Brook are happening and are part of this grant under Dr. Don Barber.

Save the date! On Friday, September 19, 2008, there is to be a Haverford Reserve Ribbon Cutting from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Haverford State Hospital, 3500 Darby Road, Haverford. Come to witness the opening of the gateway and take a tour of the Reserve. Alex's lemonade stand will be there. For construction photos look up: <http://pohlig-builders.com/athertyn.htm>.



In the Photo from the left in the back row: Dr Blythe Hoyle of Bryn Mawr College Geology and the Grant Committee; Katharine Fisher; Dr Victor Donnay, Professor of Mathematics and Co-Principal Investigator of the Math Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia and the Grant Committee; Holly Harper, Director of Stewardship Planning from Natural Lands Trust; David Steckel, Senior Stewardship Planner from Natural Lands Trust; Michelle Alvarez from Park and Rec Board/ Ad Hoc HSH Citizens Advisory Board; Roy Sandstrom from the Grange and Greenways; Peter Hickman of the Shade Tree Commission and the HSH Grant Committee; Bill Davis of Haverford Township Civic Council. Front row: Andrea Stevens of NLT; Tim Denny, Assistant Township Manager/ Park and Rec Department Chair; and Commissioner Jan Marie Rushforth, Grant administrator/ DCVA corresponding secretary.

This photo was taken June 25, 2008, at the Haverford Township Quatrani Building. It was the Progress Report Meeting between Natural Lands Trust and the HSH Grant Committee, followed by a caravan of cars driving up the road to see the impact of invasive plants overtaking the HSH green space.



Holly Harper, Director of Stewardship Planning at Natural Lands Trust, stands by a tree overtaken by invasive vines on the grounds of the HSH forest.

OcTrolley Fest

—Continued from Page 1



Darby streetcar from the collection of Judith Devon showing her conductor Great Great Grandfather John Guest

a marker commemorating Pennsylvania's first water-powered grist mill built by Swedish Governor Printz in 1645. In addition to seeing antique fire equipment in operation, listening to Rock and Roll Legend Charlie Gracie, learning about trolleys, visiting America's oldest public library (1743) and learning about our original Lenni Lenape inhabitants, visitors will have the opportunity to ride a vintage 1947 PCC (President's Conference Committee trolley) through 362 years of Pennsylvania history (free, space permitting).

"Streetcars pulled by horses first came to Darby in 1858 over the same route as today's No. 11 Subway-Surface (Green) line, connecting the communities of Delaware County with Philadelphia, with each other, and with the wider world," said Jan Haigis, co-coordinator of the event. "In these times of high gas prices, sprawl and global warming, celebrating an existing, non-polluting, economical form of transportation simply makes sense."

For more information about OcTrolleyFest and OcTrolleyMusterFest, please call (610) 583-0788 or visit www.occrolleyfest.org.

Cradle of Birding Wildlife and Conservation Festival

The fifth annual "Cradle of Birding" Wildlife and Conservation Festival will be held at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum on Saturday, September 20, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free festival will include exhibits, live animals, a birds of prey show, a bird-a-thon, live music, food, games and workshops. Congressman Joe Sestak will kick off the day at 9 a.m. in the Visitor Center Lobby, speaking about his work on numerous green legislative bills. The keynote speaker will be Paul Baicich, an active birder and author. His program, "Our North American Breeding Birds: What We Know and Don't Know About Them" will be at 2 p.m. in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Visit <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/heinz> for more information.

First Suburbs Public Forum: Advancing an Agenda for Regional Change

Sunday, September 28, 2008, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church,
714 DeKalb Street, Norristown, PA 19401

On September 28, 2008, over 600 suburban leaders will convene at St. Patrick's Church in Norristown to unveil an agenda for change centered on three policy areas: education finance, infrastructure, and housing. This agenda will be presented to the dozens of state senators, state representatives, and county commissioners who have committed to attend. These elected officials will hear agenda for change that has specific, actionable steps that will benefit the older developed suburbs of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the region as a whole.

The agenda that will be presented has been developed by hundreds of suburban leaders, who have participated in working group sessions over the course of the past year. The First Suburbs Public Forum builds from the previous gatherings of the First Suburbs Project. In December of 2007, at the First Suburbs Summit at Bryn Mawr College, over 350 suburban leaders launched Issue Action Groups in the three policy areas of education finance, infrastructure, and housing. In May, 2008, at the First Suburbs Issue Convention at Bishop McDevitt High School in Abington, over 300 suburban leaders reconvened to review the principles developed by each Issue Action Group and to select the immediate priority issue for the organization. Since then, the Issue Action Groups have continued to meet to develop specific action steps, consistent with the principles they identified in May.

The First Suburbs Public Forum is free and open to the public. Space is limited and filling quickly. Please pre-register for the event by e-mail or phone: E-mail: firstsuburbsproject@gmail.com. Phone: 215-868-4905.

Resources Available from the Center for Watershed Protection

Two resources are available online for free download from the Center for Watershed Protection:

- **Pollution Prevention Manual.** Discusses how to discover pollution sources in the community and how to reduce pollution through education, training, direct municipal service, and subsidies. Includes information about permits, ordinances, inspections, and enforcement. Download free at <http://www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/USRM.htm>
- **Runoff Reduction Method Technical Memo.** Outlines an innovative system for stormwater design and methods for determining BMP effectiveness. Download free at www.cwp.org

A Book Review

By Andy Saul

BRINGING NATURE HOME How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens

By Douglas Tallamy, PhD

This is a book that worries about the loss of diversity now seen almost around the world. There are many academic references, personal observations and lots of photos of beneficial insects – Dr. Tallamy is an entomologist at the University of Delaware.

Many of our readers probably have read books on butterfly gardens in which the authors encourage us to plant shrubs and flowers that are attractive to butterflies, moths and other colorful insects. This book enlarges on this concept looking at the absolutely vital role plants play in providing the food (read, source of energy) that insects, animals and humans need.

He cites the Chestnut blight of the early 20th Century. The fungus that wiped out the American Chestnut – a tree that was very valuable for wildlife – came in on a Japanese Chestnut species and was quickly spread around the country as nursery men trucked these alien species around the country.

He notes many bird populations – formerly numerous and now close to extinction. One reason is because too many gardens have planted imported flora that, while attractive to our eyes, are avoided by native insects. So the insects die and the birds that depend on these insects, especially during their breeding season, disappear. In discussing this invasive plant – native insect problem, Dr. Tallamy cites two reasons. One, plant importers sought plants that were/are pest free. Unfortunately when such plants escape from our gardens they can out compete native plants that many species of insects weaken by eating their leaves, etc. This allows the alien ornamental to proliferate. The second reason is that often it takes native insects and wildlife even centuries to adjust their eating habits. All plants have their natural defenses – plant smells, unpleasant or toxic chemicals in their makeup that local insects and wildlife learn to avoid and only slowly learn to tolerate.

This book, to me, is a compelling call to try and remove the hundreds of alien ornamentals – that do our native wildlife almost no good and wipe out the biodiversity that our forbearers loved, appreciated, and existed on.

USGS Streamflow-gaging Station Network

DCVA Advocates a Lower Darby Creek Gage

By Carl DuPoldt

The National Weather Service (NWS), which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is widely known as the Federal agency in charge of weather forecasting and warning for the nation. Many people, however, are not aware that the NWS also is charged by law with the responsibility for issuing river forecasts and flood warnings. The National Weather Bureau Organic Act of 1890 (U.S. Code title 15, section 311) mandates that the National Weather Service is the responsible agent for “the forecasting of weather, the issue of storm warnings, the display of weather and flood signals for the benefit of agriculture.”

The NWS uses many sources of data when developing its flood forecasts. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the principal source of data on river depth and flow. Chartered in 1879 by Congress to classify the public lands and to examine the geologic structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain, the USGS is the nation’s leading earth science information agency. As part of its mission, the USGS provides practical information about the nation’s rivers and streams that is useful for mitigation of hazards associated with floods and droughts and defines the hydrologic and hydraulic characteristics needed for the design and operation of engineering projects, such as dams and levees.

The primary source of this information is the USGS streamflow-gaging station network. The USGS operates and maintains more than 85 percent of the nation’s stream-gaging stations, which includes 98 percent of those that are used for real-time river forecasting. Currently, this network comprises 7,292 stations dispersed throughout the nation, 4,200 of which are equipped with earth satellite radios that provide real-time communications. The NWS uses data from 3,971 of these stations to forecast river depth and flow conditions at 4,017 forecast-service locations on major rivers and small streams in urban areas.

DCVA supports the installation of a gage in the lower Darby Creek, to improve flood forecast information for the nearby communities. It is important for a local sponsor to step up to help support such a gage.

For more information go to www.usgs.gov <<http://www.usgs.gov>>

**For more information about
DCVA, including previous
editions of *The Valley*, visit
www.dcva.org.**

County Team Wins Pennsylvania State Envirothon and Goes on to Take Third Place in the National Contest

A team of students from Penncrest High School in Delaware County was the winner of this year's State Envirothon competition held May 19-20 at Penn State University, Centre County. Led by team advisors Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz, the winning team members are Elizabeth Freeburg, Katie Ferguson, Katie Davis, Jennifer Walker, and Alex Senko.

High school students from 66 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event. The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to each other and human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil/land use, wildlife and a current environmental issue.

An oral component event was held before the testing event. The oral component consisted of a team presentation to a panel of judges based on the current issue theme. The competition tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and then make a presentation before a group of judges and answer their questions. This year's oral component scenario was based on recreational impacts on the natural environment. The Delaware County team from Penncrest placed second in this oral competition.

The 2008 Pennsylvania Envirothon champions then represented the Commonwealth at the 21st Canon Envirothon North American competition July 28–August 3 at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. There the Penncrest team took third place honors.

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Technical expertise is provided by the

following agency partners: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Game Commission, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Scholarship prizes are sponsored by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

Historically the Pennsylvania teams have done well. In fact they have won the North American event 10 times in the previous 20 years, more than any of the other 48 states and eight Canadian provinces that participate. DCVA congratulates the members of the Penncrest team.

President's Pen

--Continued from Page 1

so capably organizes the event for all to enjoy.

Our StreamWatch program offers the chance to see up close some of the magically intricate life that inhabits our streams. This fall's Insect Identification Workshop puts under a microscope the "bugs" collected last spring. There is always something new to see and learn from Alan Samel, our dedicated StreamWatch coordinator.

The new Backyard Buffers project we are launching will help streamside residents and business owners appreciate how the management of their own property affects, and potentially improves, stream conditions.

And as we launch the planning for our year-long celebration of the DCVA's 25th anniversary year in 2009, we will connect watershed residents to the story of the Darby Creek and human activity in it – past, present and future. Join us!

Robin Mann

Log Smoke House

—Continued from Page 4

put a piece of history back together at this historic site. No experience is necessary, only the ability and desire to work. The donor, Norman Glass, will be on hand to give instruction and oversee the reconstruction. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at the site.

A dedication ceremony is planned and will be held once the project is completed.

Interested volunteers should call Grace Conran at 610 237-8064 or Dave Anderson at 610 449-3577.

The Valley

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Cricker’s Corner: Minnie Memories

By Tom Smith

It was my wonderful life experience to know persons who recalled 1900 and even the last years of the 1800’s. These fond persons regarded the term “Cricker” as a badge of pride. Twice I gave a talk entitled, “The Darling of the Darby Creek Valley – Minnie Chadwick.” This is the first of a series of “minnie memories.”

Minnie’s family arrived in Addingham when she was ten in 1902. A farm girl she took to the creek valley, and with her sister, Lillian, she thought life along Darby Creek—and work in a textile factory—the best of all worlds. No place was more beautiful. Minnie’s family found their way in a forced way. Her parents needed to leave a rented farm. Minnie recalled her father saying, “There is one place we have not looked at. It is famous for its good springs: Addingham.”

Minnie memories propose to be short and telling. It is safe to sum that while there were (are) many runs and springs along Darby Creek, those in Addingham were the most famous in the Darby Valley. Village proper Addingham was laid out about 1872 by Nathan Garrett, who bracketed it with two springs. After 1900, and for many decades, Charles Beaver, Sr. and Jr. operated Addingham’s claim to drinking water fame: “Beaver Springs.”

DEP’s Alternative Energy Investment Fund Offers Rebates and Other Incentives to Homeowners and Small Businesses

The new \$650 million Alternative Energy Investment Fund was created in the energy bill signed into law by Governor Rendell on July 9th. The Fund will provide grants and loans to implement alternate and renewable energy sources, construct green buildings, help low-income consumers, and promote cleaner energy generators. It will also support energy efficient projects, such as home weatherization, and the development of solar energy projects.

Money will be available to individuals and small businesses. Guidelines are being developed; it is hoped that the application process will be finalized by the end of the year. DEP spokesmen say that the department has already received many inquiries about the program.

Homeowners and businesses can receive more information on-line. If you would like to receive e-mail updates on the Fund, register at www.ahs2.dep.state.pa.us/aeifsignup.

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 _____ E-mail _____

City _____ 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.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Group..... \$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Member \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Municipal \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen / Student..... \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$250.00

To support the many DCVA projects, I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____ in addition to my dues.

CALENDAR

Friday, September 19, 2008 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting at Haverford Reserve. Haverford State Hospital property, 3500 Darby Road, Haverford
Saturday, September 20, 2008 9 a.m.	DCVA Board Meeting Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield
Saturday, September 20, 2008 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	"Cradle of Birding" Wildlife and Conservation Festival John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum
Sunday, September 21, 2008 12 p.m.	Governor Printz Canoe and Kayak Challenge John Heinz Wildlife Refuge. <i>See page 1 for details.</i>
Sunday, September 28, 2008 4 to 6 p.m.	First Suburbs Public Forum St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 714 DeKalb Street, Norristown.
Saturday, October 18, 2008	OcTrolley Fest, Darby Borough. Visit www.octrolleyfest.org .
Saturday, November 8, 2008 9 a.m.	Insect Identification Workshop Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield
Saturday, February 21, 2009	4th Annual Delaware County Environmental Summit— Expanding Environmental Education Visit http://delcoenvironmental.tripod.com for registration and additional information
Sunday, November 8, 2009	Looking Ahead: DCVA 25th Anniversary Celebration Llanerch Country Club, Havertown



Darby Creek Valley Association

P.O. Box 732

Drexel Hill, PA 19026