



President's Pen

Reflections from the Creek Bank

DCVA Never Sleeps!

For many, the winter months are a time of reflection and holidays. For DCVA, it is all of that and more! January 26 was our Annual Meeting. The committee responsible for the meeting did an incredible job organizing the meeting and finding speakers that gave us impressive presentations of events occurring in the lower part of Darby Creek, which was the focus of the meeting. We want to thank the Haverford Community Recreation Center for sponsoring the meeting. What an incredible place! If you have not been there, go and be amazed. During the Annual Meeting we also elected our new Board of Directors and our Executive Committee. Congratulations to our newest Directors: Steve Tessler, Donna Adams, Peter Puglionesi, and Gerry Krieg. The Executive Committee is: Alan Samel (President), Olga Thornton (1st Vice President), Ann Jackson (2nd Vice President), Richard Caroll (Treasurer), Jaclyn Rhodes (Secretary), and John Haigis (Corresponding Secretary). Congratulations to all!

Like a blooming tulip, spring is our time to be noticed. Our 10th annual stream watch will be Saturday, April 20. This is a decade of work by a small army of volunteers who go out into the Creek and take samples of stream organisms to determine the health of the stream. Read more about the stream watch in an article in this Valley.

On Saturday, April 27 we will have the annual stream clean-up. This is THE event that many in our communities associate with DCVA. If you were to ask someone what they know about DCVA, the response would be the stream clean-up. And it's no wonder, with over 35 sites up and down the stream and hundreds of volunteers to pull tons of trash out of the stream. Read more about the stream clean-up in an article in this Valley.

And DCVA is much, much more. We are trails. We are historical sites. We are education and outreach. We are the voice of the watershed in letters of support of communities like Eastwick who are fighting against the flow of new housing in flood prone areas in their community. We are passionate about the Darby Creek watershed and the communities within the watershed.

In jest, someone told me that we are the goody goodies of the watershed. I sat there and thought about this because I'm not sure I like the term goody goodie. But the more I thought about it, the more I liked the title of goody goodie of the watershed. I am involved with DCVA because I care about my community and the communities around me and I want to give back to my community where I can. So, if that makes me a good goodie, I am good with that.

I want you to be one, too. With all the spring projects that we are doing, this is a perfect chance for you to get involved and to make a difference in your community. We have stream watch, the stream clean-up, trails, trees, historical sites. If you have a passion for something that will enhance the quality of the watershed and the communities within it, we'll add that to the list, too. Here's all that you need to know. We have a big watershed and a lot of communities within the watershed. And the best way to enhance this watershed and the communities is for you to get involved. So, one last final message...

Come out and make a difference!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

DARBY CREEK OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

WILL NOW BEGIN!

This years activities will include the 29TH Annual Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek Watershed-Wide Cleanup, Saturday, April 27, 2013. This event is our longest running project. Cleanups were a starting point with pins created for local clean up sites. Further information on the Cleanup can be found on Page 3. We have expanded our creek initiatives beyond anything we may have imagined then. This edition of our newsletter highlights some of many ways you can both enjoy the beauty of the Darby Creek Watershed and contribute to the ongoing enhancement of our "Ribbon of Green". Please read, enjoy and participate.



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Series of Hikes along the Cobbs and proposed trail to Valley Forge

Submitted by Scott Maits and Jed McKee

Scott Maits, DCVA board member, local historian, former Caretaker of Historic Blue Bell Inn in Cobbs Creek Park, and a transportation/land use advocate, is leading an unprecedented series of hikes this year, covering existing and future trails along the entire Cobbs Creek half of the Darby Creek Valley watershed. These hikes will also explore a proposed greenway corridor extension of existing trails to Valley Forge. In each hike/future trail segment Scott will be giving detailed background on the creek, parks, existing and planned multi-use trails, historic sites, and communities. The hikes are transit oriented, starting and ending at major SEPTA stations. Because the hikes are one way to cover more of the watershed on each segment any participants who drive to the start will have to ride transit back to their car on an easy connection.

The next two hikes in the ongoing series are a longer one scheduled Sunday March 17th from 69th St Terminal to Haverford via the west side of the Cobbs (with multiple transit turn back options on the #100 Norristown High Speed Line), and then a short one Sunday, June 2nd from the Township Line Rd Station of SEPTA's #100 Norristown High Speed Line, along the east side of the Cobbs Creek to the Haverford Heritage Days Festival (also creekside on Karakung Drive) where there will be many activities to enjoy before easy return on the adjacent high speed trolley which runs quite frequently.

The first hike in this series was on March 3rd, and had nature breaks that also allowed sit down time to view trail planning materials for the coming new Cobbs Creek Trail Extension/East Coast Greenway south to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge trail network, as well as the major proposal to extend the existing Cobbs trail north, roughly following SEPTA's Norristown High Speed Line beyond the Cobbs to the Radnor Trail and eventually down the Great Valley to the National Park. On March 10th the coverage of the entire Cobbs continued, starting at the Historic Blue Bell Inn trailhead where John and Jan Haigis gave a us a send off tour of the most historic point in the watershed. Hikers then trooped up to the temporary end of the Cobbs Creek Parkway Multiuse Rec Trail/ECG route at 70th St/Church Lane, continuing through bi-county Mt. Moriah Cemetery straddling the creek before following the Cobbs to Baltimore Ave. for a midpoint restaurant take-out break. That hike on the existing trail finished up with a stop along the Cobbs Creek Environmental Center before the 63rd and Market Elevated was reached for returns.

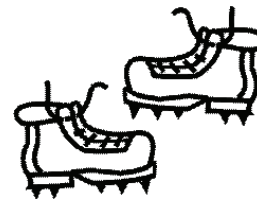
All the hikes are 11:15am on Sundays from key transit accessible locations, have midpoint nature breaks, and offer options for early return/ride back. (Many of them have an additional different transit stop option to meet us at 11:45am, for those running late.) These hikes are being sponsored by the Philadelphia Hiking Meetup Group and require a easy on line sign up on the web at www.meetup.com/phillyhikes where you will find more details of the hikes. As noted above, the hikes are all one way, with easy transit return to the start point for any drivers needing to get back to their cars.

A third hike is scheduled for Sunday, March 17th. We meet at 11:15AM in the old Philadelphia Rapid Transit main waiting room, one of the last great active traction terminals in the U.S. We know this station as the main waiting room (right inside the main door) of SEPTA's 69th Street Terminal. After looking over some historic materials there we will begin by following an old rail trail right-of-way along the creek through Millbourne to 63rd Street, where we will meet any latecomers at 11:45. We then cross the creek and walk the Sellers Woods trails. As we are leaving Philadelphia and entering Haverford Township, we begin to parallel the High-Speed Line/#100 trolley which has convenient stops every half-mile allowing for any optional early returns. Our next highlight will be briefly exploring the Grange

Estate with its historic buildings. We will finish our hike along Kara kung Drive with an optional pause for refreshment at Wynnewood Lanes (Bowling Alley and Lounge). The NHSL #100 trolley is available for quick return to 69th Street and other connections. This hike is a little longer than others in this series, and we will maintain a fairly brisk pace.

A bit over two months later (on Sunday June 2nd, 11:15am), we will hike from the Township Line Road station (of SEPTA #100 Norristown High Speed Line trolley) to the Haverford Township Heritage Festival, arriving around 12:30pm. On our way there we will look at the trail possibilities and requirements along the Creek on the side opposite the Grange Estate, including a missing estate bridge that would need to be re-installed for a better connection from the Grange to Manoa Road and the Haverford Trails network along Karakung Drive (which is also part of historic Powder Valley paper and gunpowder producing area). More info about the Heritage Day can be found here: www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/news-a-events/117-2013heritagefestival.html The #100 line offers quick and frequent return via adjacent Penfield/Manoa Road & Beechwood/Brookline stations.

Additional hikes in the Heinz-Valley Forge Future Trail series will be announced through the DCVA newsletter, on www.meetup.com/phillyhikes, and other publications as the summer progresses. We will be looking at a through route for Haverford College, Bryn Mawr and Villanova to reach the popular Radnor Trail, and hiking from Strafford to the expanding Chester Valley Trail and for connection to the Valley Forge National Park.



FREE Backyard Buffers & Rain Barrel Making Workshop

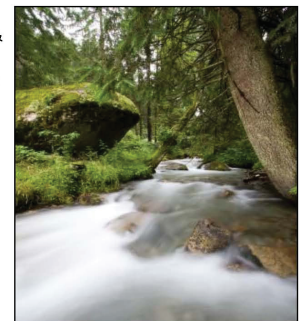
"Simple Steps to Protect the Darby Creek at Home"

The Pennsylvania Resources Council and the Darby Creek Valley Association present "Backyard Buffers & Rain Barrel Making," a free, interactive presentation to inform residents on water conservation and storm water management practices to help protect the Darby Creek.

During the multimedia presentation, workshop attendees will learn about the problems associated with stormwater runoff, ways to conserve water in their homes, and watershed friendly landscaping techniques.

After the presentation, attendees will construct fully functional rain barrels from recycled food grade barrels to take home and use on their properties.

Funding for these workshops is provided by the Growing Greener Grant Program.



UPCOMING WORKSHOP DATES

Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 6:30 PM
Collingdale Municipal Building
800 MacDade Blvd
Darby, PA 19023

Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at 6:30 PM
Twentieth Century Club
84 South Lansdowne Ave
Lansdowne, PA 19050

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 6:30 PM
Upper Darby Township's Senior Cafe
1074 Pontiac Rd
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Register online by visiting

www.prc.org

You can also call PRC at

(610) 353-1555 ext 232

Online Registration is Preferred

Rain Barrels limited to 60 per workshop and 1 per household



DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION
29TH Annual Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek
Watershed-Wide Cleanup, Saturday, April 27, 2013

Contributed by Jan and John Haigis

The DCVA 2013 Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek Watershed-Wide Cleanup Committee is pleased to invite you to join us for a day of care-taking, companionship and fun amid the beauty of a local treasure: the 77 square miles of watershed we call our own – the Darby Creek Valley.

If you always wanted to be part of the fun of good people doing good things for the Darby Creek Watershed, your annual opportunity arrives on the morning of Saturday, April 27, 2013. At more than 40 sites, Cleanup Captains and crews of volunteers disperse to clear another year of debris from up and down the watershed that surrounds us. Trees, tires, trash, recyclables, even shopping carts, sofa beds, and the occasional hot tub are no match for the enthusiasm and muscle power of our intrepid volunteers.

Although not yet complete, our Placemaps, with the watershed game and map, and a list of Sponsors, Captains, Sites and Contact information, will be at the printers by the time you receive this newsletter. The Placemaps will be available for distribution to local restaurants and libraries at the beginning of April. (If you know a restaurant that will use the Placemaps for free during the month of April, please call John or Jan Haigis at 610.583.0788 to let us know.)

As soon as the Placemap copy goes to the printer in mid-March, you can check out the Captain and Site List at our website, www.dcv.org. Please contact the Captain and let him or her know you are planning to be a crew member, so that they can have enough Cleanup supplies on hand at their site. If April 27th is already booked on your calendar, you are still in luck because a few of our Captains do their Cleanups on alternate dates. Be sure to check for that when you visit the DCVA website.

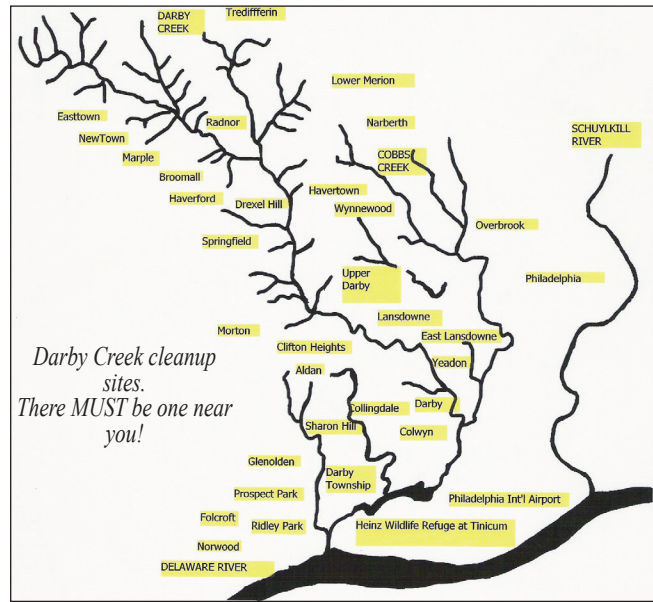
You can be best prepared to help as a crew member by wearing sox and boots, as well as long pants, with the legs tucked into the sox to keep out any ticks which may be in the vicinity. If you have sturdy gloves, please bring them along. If not, Captains will have gloves and trash bags available. Some sites have dumpsters and others pile up their debris for pick up by their municipality.

If this information is old hat to you because you have been a Cleanup crew member in the past, please pass these details to someone new and bring them along with you. In the Darby Creek Valley Association, we are all volunteers and new additions to Cleanup and to DCVA membership are always welcome.

We already have 5 new sites to be cleaned this year. If you have others we are missing that need cleaning, please contact us, especially if you or someone you know would like to be a Captain there!

2013 DCVA Darby/Cobbs Creek Cleanup Committee
David Bennett, Jan and John Haigis,
Barbarann Keffer, Ed Silberstein

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA, 19026. Website: www.DCVA.org. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by: John Furth, Clyde Hunt, Jaclyn Rhodes, Alan Samel, Jamie Anderson, John and Jan Haigis, Scott Maits, Jed McKee, Kathleen Carey and Peter Puglionesi, Editor: Olga Thornton



Stream-Watch Huge Success!

Contributed by Alan Samel

The tenth annual DCVA Stream Watch will be April 20. It's hard to believe that we have been doing this for ten years! This 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. This year, we're hoping for incredibly glorious! 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. People come to all sites and people help out at some sites. Anyone with an interest can come when they can.

This is a great opportunity for you to get in the creek, take samples, work with the samplers, and 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!!

The insects and bugs 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 streamwatch 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 web-site for more information as we get closer to this time.

DCVA Annual Meeting

2013 Annual Meeting focuses on activities in the lower creek

The DCVA Annual Meeting was held this year in the Haverford Reserve Community Recreation and Environmental Center. This was a fitting follow up to our last annual meeting when Tim discussed strategies used to make change in a community and preserved 120 acres of open space at Haverford Reserve. Tim welcomed DCVA to the building stressing the commitment of the center to the environment.

Presenters this year focused on initiatives in the lower creek. Josh Barber from the Environmental Protection Agency updated DCVA on actions taken by EPA to mitigate the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site. Josh reviewed maps of the site, studies that have been completed and results of those studies. Josh reviewed cleanup options that have been assembled and evaluated against 9 criteria. Next steps include various health assessments, Clearview/Eastwick Flooding coordination and putting the Clearview Landfill Proposed plan out for public comment and a public meeting. This is scheduled for early 2012. Josh also noted that any cleanup effort needed to ensure at a minimum zero impact on flooding in the area.

Debbie Beer of the Eastwick Friends and Neighbor's Coalition presented an update on the activities of that organization related to the intent for Korman to build apartments on a 128 acre parcel of land that they had obtained in the 1960's. Debbie provided a very interesting history of the area that included the disruption of a very stable culturally diverse urban community in the name of "urban renewal". Homes were rebuilt on the area and now those who live there are fighting to protect 128 acres from being developed. Following very strong community opposition Councilman Kenyatta Johnson announced that he would withdraw the bill stating "The community has spoken". EFNC recognizes that the battle may be won but the war is not over will continue to monitor this situation while also expanding their education of the local community on environmental issues and empowering them to make informed decisions about their community.

Our next two speakers discussed the dam restoration project which has been outlined in the last two newsletters. Laura Craig, Ph.D., Associate Director, River Restoration Program, American Rivers presented "Darby Creek Dam Removal Project - the history, the science, the construction, the future". Laura noted that while the goals of the project were focused on river conservation there is sensitivity to the community and the history that may be lost. While on site at the projects she spoke to an 80 year old man who told her that his father swam in the creek behind the dam. Another interested group were young men who had lost homes due to local flooding. They returned often to monitor the project.

Geoffrey M. Goll, Professional Engineer, Princeton Hydro, LLC discussed "Engineering the Darby Creek Dam Removal and Streambank Restoration". Geoffrey gave us an understanding of the planning that took place to prepare for the removal of the dams and the restoration of the banks to prevent negative impact of the dam removal. He gave an overview of how trees removed during the project were reused as part of the buffer. He also gave an overview of the natural materials used for bank stabilization. For more information : www.dcva.org.



Tim Denny Welcomes DCVA Membership to the Haverford Reserve Community Recreation and Environmental Center



Debbie Beer discussing the Eastwick initiative to prevent Korman development



Laura Craig reviewing the Darby Creek dam removal project



Geoffrey Goll discusses the assessment, design and mplementaiton phases of the Darby Creek Restoration Blockage Removal project.

Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Awarded to Tim Denny and Alan Samel.

Jan Marie Rushforth presented Tim Denny, Director of Parks and Recreation/Assistant Township Manager for Haverford Township is a lifelong resident of Haverford Township with the DCVA highest ward. Tim has demonstrated his commitment to the community and to the mission of the DCVA in countless ways. His commitment to the appropriate development of the Haverford Reserve is just one example of his tireless efforts to protection of both the environment and the community.

Olga Thornton presented Alan Samel, current president of DCVA has found the perfect way to use his knowledge and serve his community with the award. Alan is an Aquatic Ecology scientist and has brought significant knowledge of stream management to DCVA. His primary role, both as president and before is the stream monitoring program. Alan has both run the program and educated many as to the critters who live in the creek and what they demonstrate of it's health.

Congratulations to both Tim and Alan.



Jan Marie Rushforth presenting to Tim Denny



Olga Thornton presents award to Alan Samel



Annual Meeting Attendees - Back Row: Unk, Tom Smith, Peter Puglionesi, Jeanne Angell, Andrew Puglionesi, Palmer Dalesandro, Scott Maits, John Haigis, Dave Bennett, Roy Sanstrom, Brian Bennett, Robin Mann, Gerry Krieg, John Furth, Tim Denny, Kiet Luong, Ann Jackson, Donna Adams, Jaclyn Rhoades Front Row: Rosemary Kesling, Alan Samel, Toni McIntosh, Steve Tessler, Chris Whiting, Olga Thornton, Jan Marie Rushforth, Jan Haigis, Fritz Thornton

Environmental Summit helps raise awareness for residents

Published: Sunday, February 17, 2013

By KATHLEEN E. CAREY

kcarey@delcotimes.com

TINICUM — From chemicals in the Delaware River to toxins in our body to safe paint, noxious elements were the focus for the Eighth Annual Environmental Summit at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

About 40 people spent part of their Saturday learning about “Emerging Toxins in the Environment and Home” at the Delco Concerned Citizens for the Environmental Change event.

Jaclyn Rhoads, one of the event organizers, said she’d like to see the event evolve to creating a blueprint at the 10th summit for what action is needed here in Delaware County. “I think we’re building up a momentum,” she said.

Fran Miller has been attending the summits with her husband, Ron, almost since the beginning. The Springfield couple went from never having visited the refuge to now serving on its board. “We love being with like-minded people,” she said. “We’re interested in what’s going on in Delaware County and the environment. It starts with our hometown.” She said she found the summit to be full of good, usable information.

Some of it may have included the toxin detox regimen that naturopathic doctor Jaie Bosse shared with the participants. “Sources of toxicants are pretty much everywhere,” she said. “Are you toxic? Yes, probably you are.” She said humans are exposed to thousands of toxins that can cause everything from fatigue and high blood pressure to asthma and cancer. To reduce it, she first recommended prevention.

“The key to avoiding exposure is realizing what you can control and what you can’t control,” she said, encouraging participants to wash hands frequently, don’t wear shoes in the house, filter water and make your own cosmetics and household cleaners.

She also suggested doing a 28-day cleanse at least once a year to purify the liver, skin, bowels, kidneys, lymph and lungs. She said that cleanse would include good sleep every night, daily exercise and meditation, as well as eliminating gluten, dairy, sugar, caffeine and alcohol to aid in cleansing the liver. For skin, she recommended exercise, sauna use or taking a hot bath with a cup or two of Epsom salts. For the bowels, Bosse said fluid, fiber and movement are best.

Drinking half your body weight in ounces of water daily is beneficial for the kidneys, according to the doctor. Brushing your skin from the outer extremities in towards the torso with a drink skin brush works for the lymph. For the lungs, she suggested taking 100 deep belly breaths a day, or three deep breaths every hour.

In another session, A. Ronald MacGillivray, an environmental toxicologist with the Delaware River Basin Commission, shared some findings from a commission study evaluating the chemical pollutants in the Delaware River from 2007 to 2009. It found there were higher than anticipated levels of codeine

and diabetes drug, metformin, in the river, as well as stain repellents.

MacGillivray said a grant from the Pennsylvania Water Research Center and Pennsylvania Sea Grant will enable the river commission to study the Schuylkill River and some tributaries to identify the concentrations and sources of the chemicals.

As the summit host, Gary Stolz, refuge manager, said he fully supported the summit organizers and participants, as they and the refuge share an affinity for conservation. “I love it,” he said. “They’re speaking our language. These guys are the active citizens in teaching people how to care for the land. Stolz highlighted the interconnectedness of caring for the environment. “If wildlife is hurting, we’re going to feel it as well,” he said. “We may not just see it as quickly.” That’s why, he said, education, combined with action, is key towards a better tomorrow.

“It’s one world we share,” Stolz said. “If you go up in a space shuttle and see the Earth, we’ve got no place to go.

It’s in our hands.



DCVA Attendees:

Dave Bennett, Jan Haigis, Ed Silberstein, Jacqlyn Rhoads, John Furth, Gerry Kreig, Tim Denny, John Haigis, Toni McIntosh

Volunteers for DCVA are Welcome!

Come Join Us – You will have fun!

As you read through the pages of this newsletter you are learning about the work done by the members of the DCVA - all of whom are volunteers. As you read through the articles you can appreciate the work that has and continues to be done by some very talented and enthusiastic people.

You can be one of them!

Even if you don’t volunteer directly, you can help just by picking up trash as you are enjoying walks along the creek and being observant and reporting problems that you see along the creek bank or anywhere in the watershed to: message@dcva.org

If you want to be involved in a bigger way there are opportunities throughout this newsletter. We look for volunteers with the Community Liaison group, Darby Creek Clean Up, Education, the TAG grant.

Come join us – we are a great group doing good work. Membership and support information can be found on page 10

Memories of Bob and Vickie Shaner, Founding Members of DCVA

Contributed by John Furth and Clyde Hunt

Once or twice a winter, when Bob Shaner was in his eighties, one of us [most often John Furth] would join him on a ski trip to the Poconos. On the way to the slopes John Furth would drive because Bob was almost blind and they chatted....

Bob told about his early life on a farm, his experiences getting an education, his military service—he was a bombardier during WWII, his ski trips in the days before Pocono ski resorts and long before snow making, his experiences as a traveling salesman, and his early efforts at getting Haverford Township residents to recycle. Before Haverford Township recycled, Bob arranged pick up of glass, aluminum and paper at Pilgrim Gardens shopping Center. Bob and Vicki spent many Saturdays doing this. Later, they supervised recycling at the Skatium in Havertown. All this was before the founding of the DCVA.

Bob met Victoria Freyer at a ski weekend and by and by they were wed. She was also an avid skier. They were a team, not only in their skiing, but in most of their activities. Bob was a driving force behind the formation of the PA Ski and Winter Sports Museum and Hall of Fame (now the PA Snow Sports Museum). Bob and Vicki's two children, Ken and Roberta were also avid skiers. The family went on many trips together, even after Bob's glaucoma led to increasing loss of vision.

John Furth was involved with Bob in environmental affairs. They had become concerned when the Lansdowne Expressway, which would connect the Blue Route to a Cobbs Creek Expressway and then connect to the South Street Expressway, was proposed. As a result, they formed an organization, the "Association for the Preservation of the Darby Creek Valley". When DCVA was established, the Association they had formed donated its P.O. Box to the DCVA.

Bob and Vicki were founding members of the DCVA and more than any other members, with the exception of Bob Doherty, made the new organization a success. At the clean-ups Bob Shaner would manage the trash collection at Merry Place and Vicki arranged the refreshments for the workers.

Vicki was the premier fund-raiser for the DCVA. With Bob Doherty she arranged annual banquets, replete with raffles and ad books. She arranged a flea market, held at Fitzgerald Mercy's parking lot and an art auction, held at St. Dorothy's. Since their retirement there have been no similar fundraisers organized.

Bob was active in the DCVA's Historical Sites Committee, notably the efforts to save the Swedish Cabin. He was a founding member of the Friends of the Swedish Cabin and the efforts to save it proved successful. He wrote the By-Laws for the Friends of the Swedish Cabin and was on its Board for many years.

Vicki died August 29, 2003 from complications of diabetes which had slowed her down only slightly. Bob died July 29, 2012 at the age of 93.

Had there been a suitable occasion, we would have offered a modification of an old Scottish toast: Here's to Vicki and Bob Shaner. There's few like them and they're all 'daid.



Bob and Vickie Shaner

Earth Day Weekend, April 20-21

A wide variety of environmental activities will be held at Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center to celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day. Haverford Township Recreation, the Environmental Advisory Committee and groups like Tree Tenders will host activities ranging from Darby Creek hikes to tree planting to a Green Vehicle Expo to outreach on stormwater, energy conservation, etc. The full program will be posted on <http://www.haverfordtownship.com/parks/> by Mid-March. To participate in outreach/activities, contact Peter Puglionesi at peter.puglionesi@appliedehs.com.

DCVA works on next round of TAG funding

Submitted by Jacqlyn Rhoads

DCVA is applying for additional funds through the EPA to continue its review of the evaluation and clean-up options for the Clearview Landfill.

The Technical Assistance Grant first received for fifty thousand is nearing the end of available funds. DCVA was selected to review the Lower Darby Creek Area (LDCA) superfund site with this initial round of funding. Through the years, EPA separated the site to have a separate evaluation and process for the Clearview Landfill and Folcroft Landfill. It was important to separate the sites for two reasons: 1) the sites were physically separate, and 2) responsible parties were identified for the Folcroft Landfill.

The Clearview Landfill is reaching the end of its evaluation process and the feasibility options are to be provided to the public. DCVA will review these options and hopes to receive additional funds to finish the Clearview work and then proceed with Folcroft.

As always, you can contact Jaclyn Rhoads – TAG Manager – at 267-221-5274 or jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com if you would like more information about the TAG Grant or its activities

The Lingering Impact of Road Salt

Contributed by Jamie Anderson

As winter draws to a close, and the spring bulbs begin to emerge, icy roads will soon be a distant memory. However, the damage done to our natural environment from the countless tons of road salt used to treat our street surfaces, parking lots and sidewalks will linger long into the future.

The most commonly used deicing agent today is Sodium Chloride (NaCl) which is readily available and relatively inexpensive. It is estimated that the annual usage of deicing agents for the United States is 18 million tons. While it is important to keep our roadways clean and passable during and after storm events it is also important to consider the ecological impacts of overuse of Sodium Chloride and similar compounds.

Sodium Chloride readily dissolves into solution with water, making it easily transported from roadways through snowmelt, release from accumulation in soil, and through stormwater runoff from subsequent rain events. The salt remains in solution and there are no natural removal mechanisms: meaning the salt persists in the environment.

In addition to its transport to aquatic systems, road salt can easily travel to nearby soils through wind, runoff, and bouncing from the road surface during application.

The presence of deicing compounds in terrestrial and aquatic systems has serious negative impacts that build up over time as the sodium chloride accumulates. Studies by the United States Geologic Survey indicate that the impacts to aquatic life occur at levels once believed safe. Research has shown that chronic elevated exposure to deicing agents can decrease biodiversity among benthic macroinvertebrates. This is most likely associated with the impacts to the periphyton community, the bottom of the food web. Without these lower parts of the food web, there can be impacts on higher order predators. Moderate elevations of chloride levels have also been associated with decreased reproduction in amphibians.

In addition to these aquatic impacts, sodium chloride can have detrimental effects on plants. Impacts include the inhibition of water uptake and the reduction of root growth. Sodium Chloride can also impact the availability of nutrients in the soil and the ability for uptake by plants leading to browning of vegetation. These impacts can destroy vegetation along roadways that receive heavy loads of salt and are particularly hard on many species of trees. In some instances, the sodium chloride levels in soil can become so high, that salt loving plants will move in and displace native vegetation.

The most successful way to combat environmental impacts from the use of salt is to reduce the amount of salt in the environment. It is important that applicators have properly calibrated machinery. It is also important that all storage of deicing agents prevent saturation by water and are not located near stormsewer inlets.

Newer technologies such as brining are also successful in reducing sodium chloride usage and subsequent introduction to aquatic systems. Brine is a liquid mixture of salt and water. It is applied to roads before a winter weather event begins. The solution prevents an ice layer from forming between the snow and road surface making subsequent plowing able to expose the road surface. This further reduces the need to apply additional salt.

Haverford and Marple Townships began a brining operation located at the Haverford Township Public Works Department in 2011. Each municipality has several trucks that pretreat the road up to 48 hours before a winter event. In addition to reducing the overall amount of road salt applied to the road in these townships each year, it also greatly reduces the costs of winter road treatment. The Townships estimate that it costs \$60 to treat a mile of road with salt, but only \$.18 to treat the same road with brine.

In addition to these new road maintenance techniques, it is also important that private applicators monitor the amount of road salt they are using. They need to ensure that their equipment is calibrated properly and they are not using more salt than necessary. As the winter comes to an end it is imperative that leftover salt must be stored properly throughout the spring, and summer until the first flurries fly next winter.

Sources:

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Haverford Township brine equipment

Hiking and Biking and Building Haverford Trails

Friends of Haverford Trails organizes Hikes and Bike Rides along Haverford trails, builds and maintains trails and promotes improved bicycle/pedestrian road safety and facilities. You can sign up for regular email updates on hikes, bike rides and trail developments in and around Haverford Township at www.havtrail.com – click on “sign-up page”. Below are a few examples of some recent activities:

Saturday March 2, 2013 we took the Marywatersford “Hurt” Ride. We started at 9AM. It was a Level C 12-15 mph 20 mile ride, short and punchy with some steep climbs. We wanted to get the legs in shape. We met at Wynnewood Valley Park in Wynnewood, headed through overbook to the Art museum and returned via Manyunk and Narberth. The ride included the brutal climb past La Collina to Marywatersford Rd

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 1 PM we took a short hike (2.5 miles of level terrain) from Llanarch Shopping Center to the YMCA. On the hike we were able to envision improvements to this trail that can link Llanarch, Manoa and Oakmont and provide a safe, quiet alternative route for access to parks, schools and the new YMCA. Afterward, some stayed to help in some light clearing.



**Report on Partnership for the
Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit**
January 27th -30th, 2013:
Three days of outstanding presentations on Delaware Estuary
Issues and Research.
Contributed by Kate Goddard

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (“PDE”) Science and Environmental Summit is held every two years in January at the Grand Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey. This three day meeting has no rival for providing an outstanding opportunity to learn about Delaware Estuary issues and research findings. The 2013 theme was “Weathering Change-Shifting Environments, Shifting Policies, Shifting Needs”. This theme acknowledges that environmental change is occurring, and that its effects on the Delaware estuary are already measurable.

According to the PDE website, nearly 300 people attended the meeting. Attendees include representatives of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware government agencies, representatives of a number of federal government agencies, watershed organizations, environmental consulting groups and companies, university and college scientists and their graduate and undergraduate researchers. The Darby Creek Valley Association was represented in a poster on the effects on stream invertebrates of the Kent Park Dam Removal project. This poster was presented by Kate Goddard and her research students from Ursinus College. Alan Samel, DCVA president, has also attended some of the biannual summits.

There was much to be learned at this meeting. The presentation by Eric Eckl, entitled “Water Words that Work”, revealed the importance of wordsmithing in altering public perception of environmental issues. Mr. Eckl is founder of Water Words that Work LLC which, according to his website, helps “nature protection and pollution control organiza-

tions professionalize and modernize their communications.” In his presentation Mr. Eckl explained that political consultant Frank Luntz “suggested that the phrase “global warming” should be abandoned in favour of “climate change” in a memo to the Republican Party (The Guardian 3 March 2003). The public, it seems, is less worried about climate change than they are about global warming. Mr. Eckl showed that Google hits on the phrase “global warming” went down over the years after the new phraseology was widely adopted, and yet Google hits on the phrase “climate change” did not rise.

Several talks and posters dealt with interesting organisms that inhabit our area, some of which are very important economically and/or ecologically including: American oysters, freshwater mussels, horseshoe crabs, and hard clams. An interesting poster was given by Dr. Jonathan Sharp and others from the University of Delaware School of Marine Science and Policy. Their poster explained a novel water sampling method for the waters at the mouth of the Delaware Bay- the installation of water sampling equipment on the Cape May Lewes Ferry.

The talk entitled “Evaluating the Restoration of the Fairmount Dam Fishway with Application to Anadromous Fish Restoration in the Schuylkill River, Pennsylvania by Lance H. Butler and Joseph A. Perillo of the Philadelphia Water Department told of the building of the fishway in 1979 and the vast improvements that were made to it by 2009. To date, 28 species of fish including 5 anadromous species and one catadromous species have been seen using the fishway.

Other presenters discussed the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the consequences of sea level rise, and gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Slides from the presentations and the posters are displayed on the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary website. The availability of these materials on the website <http://delawareestuary.org/> provides an excellent opportunity to learn very up to date information on regional waters. Take a look!



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 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 _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My phone is _____ email is: _____ Municipality _____

- Individual Member.....\$25.00
- Family Member.....\$35.00
- Senior Citizen or student.....\$10.00
- Corporate or Municipality.....\$50.00
- Non-Profit Group.....\$35.00
- Life Member.....\$250.00

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Please check all the items that apply above.

DCVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization - All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law

CALENDAR

Earth Day Weekend.....April 20 & 21, see page 7 for details

Stream Watch.....Saturday, April 20, 2013

Annual CleanupSaturday, April 27, 2013

Rain Barrel Workshops.....See Page 2 for information

Spring Tree Planting.....April 20, Haverford Reserve (Tree ID in PM)
April 21, Veterans Field and Oakmont Parking Lot.
For information contact Jeanne Angell angellsrus@comcast.net

Trail Planing/Maintenance Day.....Saturday, March 23, 2013

Hiking and Biking Opportunities.....See articles Pages 2&8

9th Annual Octrolley Fest.....October 12, 2013
<http://www.octrolleyfest.org/>

DCVA Board MeetingsDelaware County Peace Center, Springfield, PA
3rd Saturday, Monthly (Subject to Change)

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

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