



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

2001 was a year of dramatic change; because the change was slow and quiet, it wasn't as obvious and dramatic as Floyd and its aftermath.

We've been in drought conditions since 1999 (with the exception of Floyd) and our current dearth is over 10 inches. Upstream reservoirs are at 25% of capacity instead of the 95% for this time of year. DEP has mandated 10 to 20% reduction in water use, yet I still see people wasting water as though we have an endless supply.

We must treat water as a precious resource. Before paving over more wetlands with streets and houses, we should ask ourselves, "Do we have the resources to handle the new development?" Developers leave behind water and sewer problems which remain because of poor planning beforehand. In our watershed, rateables cost more than they bring in because of damage to the infrastructure and environment. Municipalities and planners are beginning to realize this, but the community's citizens must keep the pressure on for the

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Annual Meeting Will Be January 26th

DCVA's annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 26, 2002, at 9 a.m. at the Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield and Old Sproul Roads. At the meeting Cahill Associates will update attendees on the status of the DCNR Rivers Conservation Grant.

At the meeting, members of the board of directors will be elected. The nominating committee has recommended that the following be elected to the board for a 3 year term (incumbent directors running for re-election are noted with an asterisk):

- Bill Brainerd
- *Dick Carroll
- *Tom Houghton
- *Clyde Hunt

- *Rosemary Kesling
- Derron LaBrake
- Joanna McGrath
- *Olga Thornton
- *Grace Wheeler

In addition, one member is running for a 1 year term:

Jan Marie Rushforth

Nominations will be accepted from the floor. After the annual meeting, a short board meeting will be convened to elect officers for 2002. The nominating committee consists of Vicki Shaner, Chair; Gila Hunt; Rosemary Kesling; Bob Shaner; and Grace Wheeler.

All members and interested watershed residents are encouraged to attend. Call 610 789-1814 if you have questions.

Growing Greener Grants

The application deadline for the next round of Growing Green grants is February 8, 2002. Organizations in Delaware County applying for a grant should contact Bill Gothier, Delaware County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, for a pre-application evaluation. Bill's number is 610 892-9484.

Grants can be used to fund a variety of projects, including organizing a watershed group; watershed assessments; development or implementation of watershed restoration and protection plans; demonstrations; and education and outreach programs.

The Conservation District offers the following tips to help in preparing an application:

- Detail your budget as much as possible.
- In this round, DEP will allow paper documents, plans, studies as a deliverable. However, it is important to include an on-the-ground component

in your proposal.

- Lengthy project backgrounds are unnecessary.
- Keep it simple and sweet.
- Letters of support from local municipal officials in the area you will be working are important and are viewed favorably by DEP.
- When your partners write letters of support, have them commit to what service they will be providing. Limit the number of project partners to four or five strong partnerships.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**DCVA's Annual Conference
will be March 9, 2002.**

Details will be mailed in February. If you do not receive your information, call 610 789-1814.

An Update on the Status of the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Will Be Given at the DCVA Annual Meeting January 26

A preliminary draft of the Darby Creek Rivers Conservation Plan is being reviewed by the DCVA Steering Committee for comments and will then be presented to the Advisory Committee and municipalities for their input.

At the Advisory Committee meeting on September 20 and the Municipal Partnership Meeting on October 2, the following were among the issues and problems discussed:

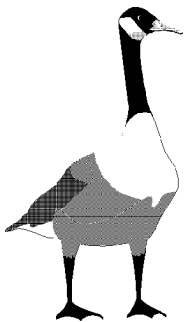
- Water quality
- Impervious cover
- Increased stormwater and reduced stream baseflow
- Floodplain encroachment
- Loss of riparian buffers
- Increased need for active and passive recreation
- Need to protect our historical and cultural resources
- Need for greater awareness of the aesthetic/scenic benefits of watershed protection
- Need for municipalities to work together for watershed protection
- Need for greater public involvement and education.

The next step will be to identify possible solutions and to target options for funding. Priorities will then be set on a watershed-wide basis, and the public will have an opportunity for input, which will be key to the success of the plan!

Controlling the Resident Goose Population

Resident Canada geese are causing problems with the water supply in this area. The geese supply nutrients that contribute to algae blooms, which then are a source of taste and odor compounds in drinking water. Philadelphia Suburban Water Company and the Delaware County Conservation District are working together to control Canada geese populations. In the spring of 2001 they concentrated their work on the Springton and Lower Crum Reservoirs. To keep the populations of geese in check, they added eggs—a procedure that makes the egg non-productive without destroying the shell. The eggs are left in the nest so that the mother goose will continue to incubate the eggs, rather than lay new eggs.

Egg addling has been found to be an effective method of control. However, a permit must be acquired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before nests can be disturbed. The Conservation District and the water company are planning to continue the control project this spring and would like to expand throughout the County. If anyone knows a site that would benefit from geese management, call Bill Gothier at 610 892-9484, as soon as possible. Each site has to be named on the permit.



Trash or Recycle Bin: What To Do With Those Old Products

Did you receive a new computer or T.V. for Christmas and are you wondering what to do about the old one? What about all those packaging peanuts left over from the holidays? Maybe your cell phone battery has died from all those holiday greetings and you're wondering whether or not to throw the old one out on the curb. Perhaps you're longing for spring and looking forward to cleaning out the garage? What will you do with those old lead paints and burned out fluorescent bulbs? What will you do when all those alkaline batteries you bought for that new Harry Potter toy go bad?

While Delaware County sponsors many Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections across the County throughout the year which accept most hazardous waste products (full schedule of dates and locations can be found on its website at www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/ or in the Verizon Phone Book on the last yellow page), the collections do not accept TVs, computers, fluorescent bulbs, or several other products (full list on the webpage). So should these be put on the curb? No! There are several other independent companies and organizations that will accept these used products.

Alkaline batteries no longer contain lead or mercury and therefore are not considered hazardous. They can be thrown in the regular trash.

Cell phone lithium batteries, however, are hazardous. They can be taken to the County's HHW collections, although it can be hazardous to store them until a collection. They need to be kept in a warm dry area to prevent combustion. If you do not want to keep them around, most Radio Shack stores will accept them.

Computers, fluorescent bulbs, and packaging peanuts, along with many other products not accepted at the HHW collections can be recycled by various companies, which are listed on the County's webpage. Some companies accept items as donations while others charge a fee. Also, some companies will only accept large quantities of items, so it would be a good idea to have several neighbors or possibly an organization gather the waste together. The website also has information on how to recycle greeting cards and how to stop junk mail.

Electronics can be sent to a company called Envirocycle, a company located in northern Pennsylvania. They will recycle your television (under 25") for a fee and use the parts for other new and used TVs. It is also a good idea to contact your local municipality to see if it has special collection days for some of these hard to dispose of products.

Below are some helpful numbers of recyclers:

Computers: 610-337-4434

Fluorescent bulbs (large quantity): 1-800-554-2372

Lead Paint: 1-800-424-LEAD

Packaging Peanuts: 1-800-828-2214

Batteries: 1-800-8-BATTERY

Envirocycle: 1-800-711-6010

PA DEP Recycling Hotline: 1-800-346-4242

POSTER CONTEST JUDGES WANTED

The Delaware County Conservation District would like to announce the theme for the 2002 Poster Contest: The Gift of Trees. The contest is open to students in grades K-12. The District will be setting up posters for judging on May 1st at the Rose Tree Park Hunt Club which will be open from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Judging is simple and fast. You are provided with a form and instructions and can walk through the posters on your own time. The more judges the better! If you are interested in participating or would like to get more information on the contest, please call Monica Starr at the DCCD at 610-892-9484.

Conservation District Awards Mini Grants

The last round of mini-grants for 2001, totaling \$2,300, were awarded this November by the Delaware County Conservation District. Five organizations in Delaware County received grants to do restoration, environmental education, and water monitoring projects.

The Delco Anglers and Conservationists received \$500 for supplies needed to remove invasive species along Ridley Creek in preparation for a riparian buffer restoration project.

Tree The Streets, a volunteer based native tree nursery in Ridley, was awarded \$500 to continue growing native species for use on public land and along streams.

The Western Delaware Valley Lions Club was awarded \$500 to establish a riparian buffer along the Chester Creek in Thornbury Township.

Haverford Township Civic Council received \$500 to purchase supplies for a new environmental curriculum that will teach students the relationship between elementary schools and their watersheds.

Aware, Haverford High School's Environmental Club, received \$300 to purchase water quality monitoring kits to study the quality of the Darby Creek behind Haverford State Hospital.

The deadline for the next round of Mini Grants is April 1, 2002. For more information, contact Bill Gothier, 610-892-9484, at the Conservation District.

DCVA Holds Successful Award Dinner October 14th

A surprised and delighted Rosemary Kesling was the recipient of the *Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Award* at the DCVA annual dinner on October 14, 2001. Rosemary was honored for her contributions not only to environmental issues but also to the DCVA. A super dinner committee team worked out all the details. Many thanks and much appreciation to Vicki and Bob Shaner, Carolyn Laws, Gila and Clyde



As Judy Rice, dinner chair, looks on, Rosemary Kesling thanks DCVA for the Ribbon of Green Award

Hunt, Olga Thornton and Rosemary Kesling. The dinner was delicious, the place lovely. Speaker Bob Wendelgass of *Clean Water Action* gave an interesting and informative talk (see below) and the musical entertainment by Jan and John Haigis was delightful. The event was a social and financial success! Thanks to all who made it so!

Speaker at Dinner Encourages Work of Watershed Volunteers

Bob Wendelgass, the speaker at DCVA's annual dinner, is state director of Clean Water Action. In his remarks he credited the 1972 federal Water Pollution Control Act—the Clean Water Act—with broad improvement to surface waters. Shad returning to the Delaware River and revival of the Great Lakes are examples of the act's success. Yet its goals of making all waterways fishable and swimmable by 1983 and of zero discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985 haven't nearly been met. Nationwide 40% of stream miles are not fishable or swimmable. In Pennsylvania 20% of assessed stream miles are not. In southeastern Pennsylvania 75% of surface waters are impaired or threatened according to EPA. And in 1999 the nation still dumped hundreds of millions of pounds of pollution into streams and lakes.



Bob Wendelgass speaks at DCVA Annual Dinner

To meet the Clean Water Act goals, Bob has three recommendations. First, DCVA and all watershed groups must continue their good work. Second, nonpoint source pollution must be reduced. We should take advantage of government grants made available for this purpose. We should demand enforcement of the TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) at last being developed by states. Third, point source pollution must also be reduced. We should demand that permits issued to polluters not just be renewed every five years but that stricter standards be set and stricter limits maintained, culminating in zero pollution. NPDES, the CWA acronym for the point source permit program, means national pollution discharge elimination system.

DCVA members present at the dinner were gratified that Bob's points validated many of the activities of the organization.

Coventry Woods Development Project Update

The last time the Planning Commission of Springfield Township discussed the Coventry Woods Development project was in September of 2001. At that time the developer, Claude DeBotton, presented revised land development plans for the Coventry Woods housing development. The revised plans illustrated a small reduction in the number of homes, now at 36 homes on approximately one-third of the parcel's acreage. A number of issues continued to remain outstanding and the developer was asked by Springfield Township officials to come back with resolutions to these issues. Every month since the September meeting, the developer has not returned but has requested the Township continue the project to the following month.

Some of the outstanding issues identified by CRLUS (Citizens for Responsible Land Use in Springfield), the grass-roots citizens group, regarding the current plan include: (More detailed descriptions of these and other issues can be viewed at the CRLUS website www.crlus.org)

- Revised plans do not adequately consider preservation of existing topography, woodlands, wetlands, streams and seeps.
- Although revised plans reduce the number of houses, the amount of land disturbance has not been reduced and destruction of the existing ecosystem is likely.
- Planning deficiencies still remain with regard to building setbacks, landscape design, insufficient identification of waterways, soils and bedrock, as well as inadequate consideration towards existing flooding conditions.

CRLUS has hired a number of experts to assist in the evaluations of the submitted plans and the existing conditions of the site. These experts include:

John Wilmer, Environmental Attorney
John has provided legal advice and interpretation of the issues associated with Coventry Woods. He has prepared a legal brief outlining the numerous issues associated with the Coventry Woods development and has led CRLUS at the monthly Planning Commission meetings.

Cetin A. Okeuglu, P.E., Geotechnical Engineer, President, Geotech, Inc.

Chet has prepared an assessment of the geotechnical aspects of the proposed de-

velopment. He has evaluated the topography of the site, evaluated documents pertaining to the existing rock formations and soil composition, and provided recommendations regarding geotechnical studies necessary to properly plan for development of the Coventry Woods site.

Thomas H. Cahill, P.E., Environmental Consultant, Cahill Associates

Tom has prepared a written site evaluation that focuses on storm water management and flood storage issues associated with the streams, seeps and wetlands present on the site. Tom has provided testimony at Springfield Planning Commission meetings and has attended consultation meetings with CRLUS and the township engineering staff. Tom's work with DCVA and knowledge of the Darby Creek Watershed has been invaluable.

James A. Schmid, Ph.D., Ecologist, President, Schmid & Company Inc.

Jim has evaluated the delineation of wetlands and soil studies by the developer, as well as provided expertise on the potential environmental impact. He attended consultation meetings with CRLUS and the township engineering staff.

CRLUS experts continue to review relevant documentation, contact and consult with governmental agencies having jurisdiction over wetlands and waterways, as well as continue to advise CRLUS, Springfield citizens and Township officials. If you have any questions for our expert team, please contact CRLUS through our website.

At the time this update was written, the developer had submitted no new plans. Activities at the site do suggest, however, that the developer is in the process of preparing aerial topography. Township officials, due to major deficiencies with the most current topographic plan, had requested the developer undertake this action. At the December 2001 Planning Commission meeting a decision was made to ask the developer to notify all the neighboring properties when plans are submitted, due to the length of time elapsed since the plan was last on the agenda. For continuing project updates please refer to the CRLUS website.

Submitted by Joanna McGrath and Keith Mock, board members of CRLUS

Part of Little Darby Creek Listed as Impaired

Just one segment of Darby Creek above West Chester Pike is on DEP's 303(d) list of impaired waters. It is the headwaters of Little Darby, the creek that feeds the popular "duck pond" just upstream from Radnor Township's showcase parks—the Willows and Skunk Hollow.

Little Darby Creek headwaters begin near the Strafford train station in Tredyffrin Township, run under Lancaster Avenue (Rt. 30), the expansive K-Mart shopping center parking lot, and emerge channelized in concrete in Radnor Township in a densely developed area downstream of Sugartown Road.

For its first 1.73 miles, Little Darby drains an enormous amount of impervious surface; there is little soil exposed to allow for stormwater filtration and the cleaning opportunities of a riparian buffer.

Dave Cannan, DCVA member and a Radnor commissioner, saw a chance two years ago to protect the headwaters of Little Darby and Darby Creeks when PennDOT announced plans to widen Lancaster Ave. between Rt. 252 in Paoli and Sugartown Road—the western border of Radnor Township.

Cannan had noted the large number of stormwater inlets on this section of Rt. 30 all drained directly into the Darby Creek watershed.

Inviting PennDOT to a Board of Commissioner's meeting, Cannan proposed the state agency consider using a variety of innovative stormwater management techniques—such as those promoted by the nationally known firm Cahill and Associates—to allow for groundwater recharge as well as cleansing stormwater of pollutants as it runs into these environmentally sensitive headwaters.

Unfortunately, PennDOT declined to do so, citing costs. Cannan commented, "It seems fiscally prudent to protect the Darby Creek watershed at the same time this major highway renovation is being done. Anyone taking the time to look at a map of the headwaters of the Darby Creek watershed and the amount of polluted stormwater being dumped directly into these headwaters from Rt. 30 would recognize this as a major missed opportunity to protect one of Delaware County's most precious natural resources."

Environmental Improvements Continue at Radnor's Saw Mill Park

Judy Sherry, DCVA member and Radnor School Board Director, led the latest efforts to continue to make Radnor's Saw Mill Park an environmental showcase.

After the recent completion of the successful 7th annual Fish Derby at Saw Mill Park, Sherry, a master gardener, enlisted the assistance of members of local gardening clubs to develop a plan to provide natural landscaping for the park which would assist in natural stormwater filtration, a seasonal pallet of color to be enjoyed by park visitors and improved habitat for wildlife.

Enlisting the full and unwavering support of Radnor's Director of Parks and Recreation, Tom Blumstrom, the appropriate advisory boards, and securing a modest budget of \$500.00, Sherry scoured local nurseries for the best purchasing deals and accumulated an incredible assortment of native plants.

Additional native plants and shrubs



Judy Sherry, Master Gardener, puts the finishing touches on a planting at Saw Mill Park.

were donated by Radnor's Public Works Director of Special Projects, Burt Grossman, many transplanted from his own garden. A well-sized river birch was also donated by local landscaper Mayfield Gardens, a perennial supporter of these volunteer-based environmental projects in Radnor.

Sherry then organized a weekend to have the plantings installed and watered, enlisting the support of a diverse group of volunteers including local professional and amateur gardeners; neighbors, Tredyffrin Township police officer and Saw Mill Fish Derby organizer, Ed Spiller, and Radnor commissioners Dave Cannan and Enrique Hervada.

Sherry and her group of dedicated volunteers are now anxiously awaiting the coming of spring in anticipation of the seasonal colors and environmental improvements that will come as a result of these native plantings.



At Saw Mill Park, master gardener Joanne Becker gets assistance from Christopher Hervada, age 2.

In Memoriam

DCVA is saddened to report the untimely death of Susan L. Lucas, 52. Ms. Lucas, history teacher at Paxon Hollow Middle School and preservationist active with the Delaware County Historical Society, died suddenly this fall. Born in Darby and educated at Marple Newtown High School, Kutztown University, and the University of Pennsylvania, she led tours at the Thomas Massey House in Broomall and at Newlin's Grist Mill in Glen Mills. She wrote *A Short History of Newtown*, published in 1970. Memorial contributions may be made to the Marple Historical Society, Box 755, Broomall 19008.

Radnor Township's EAC Announces 2001 Accomplishments

Vince Cerniglia, chair of Radnor Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), recently announced some of the environmental accomplishments in 2001 of his township advisory board:

- Developed a Riparian Buffer Ordinance which requires a 35 ft. riparian setback from streams and wetlands. Introduced by Board of Commissioners and currently under review by Planning and other advisory boards.

- Acted as liaison with Township staff on continuation and expansion of free compost program in six locations around Township. Compost comes from leaves annually collected curbside from township neighborhoods and is put in windrows and regularly turned and composted at the township environmental park Skunk Hollow

- EAC members made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners concerning stormwater management, discharge and watershed planning, relaying information and regulations from information presented at a conference on Municipal Stormwater Requirements at Villanova University.

- Assisted in planning of environmental park at new Radnor Elementary School.

- Organized and coordinated a "Save Fenimore Woods" Day with John Munro of Munro Ecological Services and over 50 volunteers to educate the community about invasive species, the need for park maintenance and restoration, and to have them participate in the removal of invasives in the park.

- Developed an informational video in conjunction with Township staff for use on government access cable TV station on composting, the process of composting Township leaves and the value of using composted material.

DCVA congratulates Radnor's EAC, a regional leader in environmental protection and educational issues, on another very productive year.

County Continues Work on Stormwater Management Plan

At the end of October Delaware County Council approved the second phase of the grant agreement with Pennsylvania DEP to prepare the Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek stormwater management plan. The second phase will consist of a preliminary look at the watershed to specify how municipalities can control water runoff from new development. The plan can then be used to influence new building or redevelopment so that the flow of water is controlled.

In the grant agreement the County will contribute \$21,951 and DEP will contribute \$65,853. The plan is expected to be completed by 2004.

Report Issued On CSO's

After 3 public hearings and 9 months of research, the Pennsylvania Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee has issued a report on the problem of combined sewer overflows (CSO's) in Pennsylvania. CSO's are those designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. Such systems usually conduct all wastewater to the sewage treatment plant; however, during heavy rains, volume can exceed capacity. When that happens, the overflow is discharged directly into waterways. The City of Philadelphia has such a system; Darby Creek is one waterway impacted by the overflows.

DEP reports that Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of CSO outfalls, and EPA has estimated that it would cost \$4 billion to solve the problem in Pennsylvania. The Committee report makes 8 recommendations; the primary one is a call for passage of legislation that would provide state-secured bond funding for upgrades and capital improvements to sewer systems plagued with CSO's. A current piece of state legislation, Senate Bill 150, would establish a CSO grant program, funded by a \$1 billion bond issue to be administered by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

Copies of the CSO report are available by contacting the Joint Conservation Committee at 717 787-7570.

Comments Sought on DEP Stormwater Management Policy

DEP is seeking public comment on a proposal to update and improve its current stormwater management program. The new draft policy addresses the need to improve water quality, sustain water quantity, and integrate upcoming federal stormwater management obligations.

DEP proposes in the draft that a best management practices approach be adopted that will minimize runoff by allowing stormwater to soak back into the ground whenever possible. Administratively, DEP proposes to integrate its permitting programs with stormwater management plans developed on a watershed basis under the Stormwater Management Act.

The draft stormwater proposal is available on the DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us (directLINK "comprehensive Stormwater Policy") or can be obtained by contacting Kimberly Chism at 717 787-5267, e-mail to kchism@state.pa.us, or writing DEP Office of Water Management, Bureau of Watershed Management, 10th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555.

The deadline for public comment is January 28, 2002. Comments should include your name, address and telephone number. DEP will accept comments by mail or e-mail. Facsimiles or voice mails will not be accepted. Comments received by the deadline will be considered in the formulation of the final guidance for a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Policy.

Publication Available to Assist Municipalities

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) has a new publication produced to help municipal officials in Southeastern Pennsylvania: "Environmentally Sound Community Planning." The 46-page booklet, funded through a Growing Greener Grant, includes profiles from 19 non-profit organizations and non-profit agencies that can assist municipalities with decisions that impact land and water resources.

To obtain a copy of the book, call Amy Thut at PEC, 215 563-0250.

Drought Warning Issued for Area--Residents Urged to Conserve Water

On December 18th, with reservoir storage and ground water supplies well below seasonable averages, the Delaware River Basin Commission declared a drought emergency in the Delaware River Basin. Over 17 million people rely on the waters of the Basin.

Our area in Pennsylvania is currently under a drought warning. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall in mid-December in the Philadelphia area was about 12.3 inches below normal for the year. Residents are therefore being asked to voluntarily reduce water use by 10-15%. Here are some suggestions from DEP to help us control our water usage:

- Replace an old toilet with a new 1.6 gallon-per-flush model to save a typical household 7,900 to 21,700 gallons of water per year;
- Save over 1,000 gallons per year by placing a plastic jug of water, brick or commercial "dam" in older toilet tanks to cut down on amount of water needed for each flush;
- Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets (flapper valves are usually the cause) to save more than 10 gallons of water per person per day. A faucet dripping at one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons per year.
- Wash clothes and dishes only when you have a full load. When replacing an older machine, consider high efficiency models, which use an average of 30 percent less water and 40 to 50 percent less energy, saving about nine gallons per washing machine cycle and 7.5 gallons per dishwasher cycle;
- Install a water-efficient showerhead to save one to 7.5 gallons per minute. Taking a quick shower can save an average of 20 gallons of water; and
- Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving to save more than five gallons per day.

DEP statistics indicate that the average person uses about 62 gallons of water per day, including 19 gallons for toilet flushing, 13 gallons for washing clothes, 13 gallons for showering and nine gallons for faucet and other use.



This is the Morton Morton House, built between 1730 and 1760. It is reached via a driveway next to 517 Winona Avenue in Norwood. The Norwood Historical Society is raising money to restore this house. Call Judi Anastasi, president, at 610 583-3002, for information about how you can help. More pictures are available at www.norwood.freehomepage.com.

DCVA Member Writes Book about Log Cabins

The Log Cabins of New Sweden, a new book written by DCVA member George Ambrose, is being published by the New Sweden Center in Wilmington DE. A picture of the Swedish Cabin along Darby Creek in Drexel Hill is on the cover and the Friends of the Swedish Cabin have announced that a press reception is being planned at the cabin to promote the publication of the book.

The book includes a history of the colony of New Sweden from 1638-1655; illustrated details of log construction; a directory, photographs and driving directions to log cabins in the tri-state area; and an extensive bibliography of works related to both New Sweden and log construction.

Heinz Refuge Invites All to Winter Activities

The John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum invites everyone to the Refuge during the winter. The Refuge is open every day offering a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities, including bird walks and photography workshops.

A Nature Photography Workshop will be held February 23rd, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bill Buchanan will show participants the proper equipment and techniques for quality outdoor photographs. Pre-registration is required. For information about this program and all of the Refuge's nature programs, call 215 365-3118. The Cusano Environmental Education Center is located at 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard in Philadelphia.

News from Watershed Municipalities

Darby Borough Will Be Location of New SEPTA Transportation Center:

DCVA is monitoring a new SEPTA transportation center in Darby Borough. The center will connect Main Street to MacDade Boulevard along Darby Creek, featuring a 240-foot-long platform enclosed with glass, a cement path and a new 90-foot pedestrian bridge. In November Delaware County approved \$100,000 of federal Community Development Block Grants for use in the project. The county plans to handle some of the demolition of buildings along the creek, as well as the construction of a park along the waterway. The project seems to be on the fast track; the targeted construction date is late spring of this year.

Marple Township Is Honored for Installing Energy Efficient Traffic Lights:

Marple Township has been honored by EPA for its participation in the Energy Star program. The township has upgraded its traffic lights to energy-efficient LED lights. The total cost of the upgrade was \$50,000, but the township expects to recoup its money in just 34 months because the new lights are saving the township \$1,454 and 12,900 kwh each month. In addition, the township held an educational energy-efficiency workshop last March to inform community residents on how they can save energy in their homes.

The Energy Star Buildings Partnership works to reduce pollution by promoting energy efficient upgrades. For more information about the program, visit EPA's website at <http://www.energystar.gov>.

Haverford Township Commissioners Consider What to Do Next about the State Hospital Site:

The Haverford Township Commissioners have discussed authorizing a Phase II environmental study of the Haverford State Hospital site. The township engineer, David Pennoni, reported to the commissioners in December that such a study would cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The commissioners are planning to meet with state officials this month (January). The study may be one of the topics of discussion as some of the commissioners feel that the state should pay for the work. At any rate, the township will need to know what cleanup costs must be undertaken before they can proceed.

Water Treatment System Finally Functioning:

The Havertown Superfund site on Eagle Road finally has a permanent water treatment system in place. The facility will prevent contamination of the shallow groundwater at the site by removing PCP, benzene and other organic materials. Temporary equipment at the site and the surrounding area is being removed, and the area will be landscaped in the spring. Deep ground water at the site will be tested in the spring to see if it requires treatment. The surface water and sediment along Naylor's Run Creek will also be tested.

If you would like more information about the site, call EPA's remedial project manager, Jill Lowe at 215 814-3123 or email Jill at lowe.jill@epamail.epa.gov.

Environmental Educator Receives Award

George Ambrose, a board member of DCVA, teaches computers at Penn Wood West Junior High School in Darby Borough. One of his courses is a ninth grade elective in computer environmental applications. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has given George and his class a certification for an outdoor garden they constructed on the school grounds. To qualify the garden had to provide shelter, food, water and a place to raise young insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, or any combination of these.

For their garden, the students wanted a place protected from dogs and litter. They found a site 20 by 25 feet, hemmed in by the school building on one side and fenced on two more; the fourth side was open but hidden by a hedge. There they placed a brush pile, inverted flower pots with broken rims, a bird house and a ladybug house. They planted a dogwood tree and a butterfly bush. Out of a wide pan they made a birdbath. When the garden was done, George sent photos and a description of it to NWF, which then chose the garden for the award. He estimates 1000 schools have been honored for thoughtful construction of schools and habitats.

This is the same class to which George teaches the biotic stream monitoring he explained at DCVA's annual conference last March. Students catch aquatic insect larvae in leaf packs, learn how to distinguish species and the pollution tolerance of each, then count their catch.

This year George is also teaching his students chemical monitoring, using kits provided by Earth Force. The students test for dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, phosphates, nitrates, and turbidity. Last school year George and his class planted 50 trees along Darby Creek in the new Bartram Park, so named at the suggestion of DCVA's Bill Frasch. The trees, donated by Riverkeeper, are the start of a riparian buffer. George says they are doing well.

One of the goals of DCVA is to educate citizens in the watershed. George Ambrose is working with us on that goal.

DCVA Director Elected to Public Office

Speak respectfully to Tom Houghton. He is a DCVA director, a lawyer, and now a supervisor of London Grove Township, Chester County, population 5,500. He and a fellow Democrat were elected this fall to the formerly all Republican five-member board of supervisors for a six year term at \$2,500 per year. (He's keeping his day job.)

Tom credits his win to his campaign for cleaner air and against a proposed road project. The township chokes on excessive emissions of hydrogen sulfide and other noxious gases from composting of mushroom waste. Tom promised to seek enforcement of a court order obtained by the township several years ago against a large composter but since ignored. Tom also opposed an effort by mushroom farms and composters to expand their operations 50%.

Until 1999 Tom, 33, was a lifelong resident of Prospect Park. He recently moved his wife, one young child, and his law practice to south central Chester County. Undoubtedly he travels farther to DCVA meetings in Springfield than any other director—25 miles one way.

For the last two years Tom has chaired our creek cleanup. He has been especially devoted to the Darby Borough cleanup site location--one that always needs work and never seems to have enough help.

DCVA thanks Tom for all of his work on the creek's behalf and congratulates him on his election win.

President's Pen

Continued from page 1:

ultimate good of the community.

Finally, DCVA gives hearty kudos to Senator Dick Tilghman for his tireless efforts which have done immeasurable good for our environment during his long service in the state legislature.

Thanks Dick.

Fritz Thornton

Dinner Program Addition Lifetime Supporters

Some of our lifetime members were listed in the dinner program; however, we have additional lifetime supporters that were left out by mistake. The complete list is as follows:

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce M. Brown
Mr. William C. Buck
Ms. Constance de la Cova
Mr. & Mrs. William Frasch
Dr. Elmer H. Funk
Mr. Thomas V. Gargan
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hunt
Mr. Jack Kelly
Ms. Robin Mann
Dr. Martina Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mask
Ms. Cynthia Moses
Ms. Betty Schmidt
Ms. Nancy Bonsall Shultz
Mr. Conrad Simmons
Ms. Mary Jane Smith
Mr. James Wisniewski

Delaware Co. Solid Waste Authority

The Valley

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 Anne Ackerman, Bill Brainerd, David Cannan, Bill Gothier, Rosemary Kesling, Joanna McGrath, Keith Mock, Judy Rice, Vicki Shaner, Monica Starr, Fritz Thornton, Olga Thornton, and Grace Wheeler. Photographs by Bill Brainerd, Dave Cannan and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2002.



Welcome to New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Piasecki, Haverford
 Samuel Roberts, St. Davids
 Robert Montgomery Scott, Villanova
 Cuz'n Company Salon, Drexel Hill
 Lansdowne Borough Tree Advisory

WREN Grants Available

Water Resources Education Network (WREN) grant applications are available from the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund. Partnerships of local or regional organizations may apply for funding of community based, education projects that raise citizen awareness about the protection and improvement of either the drinking water source waters for the community's public drinking water system or the community's watershed.

The maximum amount of a grant is \$5,000. The deadline for applications is Wednesday April 3rd. For questions or to request application materials, contact Sherene Hess at 724 465-4978.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

The fifth Keystone Coldwater Conference "Headwater Habitats: The Importance of Native Plant and Animal Diversity" will be held Saturday, February 16, 2002, at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College. The meeting will discuss the benefits of biodiversity and native plants in maintaining and improving the quality of both upstream aquatic and terrestrial communities. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Sue Thompson of the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. An illustrated talk, "A Sojourn into Penns Woods," will be given by Naturalist-Photographer Mike Ondik at an optional evening dinner. Posters from watershed organizations and other groups that wish to share a project through this media are invited. They should be submitted by February 1 to Dr. Jack Williams, 1385 Spring Road, Summerville, PA 15864. Exhibitor space is available at \$20 for nonprofit groups and government agencies and \$100 for businesses. Registration of \$25 includes lunch. The optional dinner cost is \$25. For details, contact Nancy McDowell at 814 863-5100 or visit www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/coldwaterconservation.

The Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Workshop "Planning for Success" will be held March 2-3, 2002, at Temple University's Ambler campus. The goal of the workshop is to "build capacity in citizen monitors to ask the right questions about why they are monitoring, who will be using their data, how they will relate information gained, and how to use the data to make decisions." The workshop will be interactive, with participants working in small groups to learn from each other. The fee is \$30, which includes all workshop materials and meals. Scholarships for travel and lodging are available for nonprofit representatives and watershed volunteers. For information, contact Lesley Moore of Canaan Valley Institute at 888 549-7640 or email lesley.moore@canaanvi.org.

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 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Your Municipality _____

Representative (if organization member) _____

Type of Membership:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member.....\$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member.....\$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Business Member\$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen\$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member\$100.00 |

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 26, 2002	DCVA Annual Meeting, 9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield
Wednesday, February 8, 2002	Deadline for Growing Greener Grant Applications
Saturday, February 16, 2002	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting
Saturday, Sunday, March 2-3	Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Workshop Temple University's Ambler Campus
Saturday, March 9, 2002	DCVA Annual Conference. Watch mail for more information
Saturday, March 9, 2002	Pea Soup, Sponsored by Friends of the Swedish Cabin
Saturday, March 16, 2002	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield
Saturday, April 27, 2002	Annual Darby Creek Clean-up

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