



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

We are all volunteers in DCVA. This means we must constantly refill our ranks with new faces as the old guard retires, moves away, etc.

Getting younger folks with new energy to fill our ranks is a constant challenge. Many families feel they have no time to spend on protecting and enhancing Darby Creek Watershed's resources. We should realize our efforts are needed to preserve the quality of water, wildlife, flora and fauna, historical sites and flood plains. The benefits of the improvement of quality of life will inure to the younger folks and their children. We need you to step up and help protect and conserve our creek and its environs. You and yours will be the beneficiaries.

We need help in the following areas: clerical (average 4-6 hours per month), public relations, communications and planning. All are important as we combat urban sprawl and irresponsible development. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a list of some of the areas that DCVA has identified as experiencing change. Some of the changes are happening now; others are anticipated. Some of these projects are ben-

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Mark Your Calendars for our annual DCVA Watershed Conference on Saturday, March 3, 2001. The conference will include an update of various projects underway in the watershed, including the Rivers Conservation Plan. Watch for details to be mailed in early February.

Important Public Meeting about Haverford State Hospital Site to be Held January 22

Area residents are encouraged to attend a public meeting about the Haverford State Hospital site on Monday, January 22, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Haverford Township Middle School auditorium, 1801 Darby Road in Havertown. This meeting is the first of three public meetings to be held by the consultant hired to develop a master plan for the site.

The Haverford Township Board of Commissioners on November 27, 2000, approved a contract with the Doylestown firm of Carter Van Dyke to prepare the plan. This firm was recommended by the members of the Site Planning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Mary March, after six responses to a Request for Proposal had been whittled down to a short list of three applicants. These three applicants were then interviewed at a public meeting, Saturday, November 18, at which time Carter Van Dyke was selected by the committee. The firm has also been

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Annual Meeting To Be Held January 27th

DCVA's Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, January 27, 2001, at 9 a.m., at the Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield and Old Sproul Roads, in Springfield. Joseph P. Martin, Ph.D., P.E., will be the guest speaker. His presentation, "Stream Geomorphology: Why It's the Shape It Is," will help us understand the mechanisms that cause the Darby and Cobbs to be in the physical condition that they are and will explain the scientific basis for bank and aquatic habitat restoration.

Dr. Martin is head of the Civil and Architectural Engineering Department at Drexel University, where he has taught since 1982. He has three degrees in civil engineering, a BS from Tufts University, an MS from Northeastern University, and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University, and is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania.

His main areas of expertise are geotechnical, hydrologic and environmental engineering. Recent research and consulting work includes environmental investigations, stormwater treatment, landfill containments, and recycled waste re-use.

Dr. Martin lives in Havertown and is chair of the Haverford Township Environmental Advisory Committee and is a member of the Haverford State Hospital Advisory Task Force.

Also at the annual 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):

- George Ambrose (Lansdowne)
- *Helen Berger (Ardmore)

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Goals for Watershed Conservation Plan Presented at October 30th Public Meeting

Over 50 people attended the meeting at the Springfield Township Municipal Building on October 30, 2000. Key issues raised were concern for increased flooding and need for better stormwater management, uncontrolled development, the need for greater public education for all residents, and the need for intermunicipal cooperation in watershed management.

Michelle Adams, Cahill Associates, presented these goals for the Darby Creek Rivers Conservation Plan:

- **Restore stream and tributary corridors, provide riparian buffers, and protect and restore wetlands**
- **Restore floodplain where feasible**—removing fill and abandoned structures. Prevent future filling and encroachment
- **Manage stormwater differently**—manage quantity and quality for both new development and re-development
- **Change development patterns**—including re-development practices, to protect or restore stream corridors, maintain open space, and protect ecological resources
- **Provide open space and recreation**—restore access to stream corridors and awareness of stream. Protect existing open space and create new open space
- **Foster intermunicipal cooperation and involvement**—coordinate efforts to encourage municipal interaction and planning on a watershed basis. Coordinate with and support the on-going efforts of the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership and its members.
- **Educate**—educate residents, municipal officials, teachers and others, and increase awareness of the watershed and its resources and problems
- **Identify and protect our historic, cultural, and ecological resources**
- **Manage land activities that affect water quality**—fertilizer and lawn maintenance, animal waste, and hazardous waste degrade water quality; non-point source pollution
- **Identify both long-term and short-term projects and “action items” to meet these goals.**

Who are the Consultants for our Watershed Management Plan?

Cahill Associates

Cahill Associates is an environmental consulting firm specializing in water resources management, environmental planning, and sustainable site design. The firm is committed to managing and sustaining our valuable land and water resources while meeting the demanding needs of society. It has been performing environmental studies and water resources projects throughout the U.S. since 1974.

Andropogon Associates, Ltd.

Andropogon Associates, Ltd. is a landscape architecture firm in Philadelphia that is nationally recognized for planning and designing sustainable development projects. Formed in 1975 to bring an ecological perspective to problem solving in landscape architecture, Andropogon has emerged as a leader in the field and has established a reputation for ecological planning and design excellence. The firm has extensive experience in the adaptive re-use and rehabilitation of historical, urban, and regional sites.

Campbell Thomas & Co.

Campbell Thomas & Company is an environmentally and community oriented firm of architects, engineers, and planners with an award winning record in “green” transportation, community planning and revitalization, accessibility, historic preservation and practical design and construction. The firm’s mission has focused on developing projects which are socially, environmentally, and technology innovative and important. Campbell Thomas & Co. has been recognized as a leader in the fields of conservation, preservation and community development by awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, SEPTA, Preservation Pennsylvania, the American Institute of Architects, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the Foundation for Architecture.

Winter/Spring Rivers Conservation Plan Agenda

- GIS (Geographic Information System) data gathering is in process.
- Campbell Thomas Associates will focus on the historical element of the plan; Andropogon Associates will focus on the ecological element.
- Field visits are underway to study the main stream of the Darby and its tributaries to identify restoration needs and opportunities.
- January 18th, 8:30 a.m. meeting with municipal officials representing the communities within the watershed. Cahill Associates will present the proposed time frame for the preparation of the Rivers Conservation Plan.
- Public participation meetings to be scheduled in February and March.
- Annual DCVA Conference to be held in March.
- The “action” plan will be developed in April and May and restoration areas will be targeted.

Deadline for the 3rd Year of Growing Greener Grants is March 9

DEP is now accepting applications for watershed restoration and protection grants for the third year of the Growing Greener Initiative. Grants totaling more than \$50 million are available to fund a variety of watershed projects, including organizing a watershed group; watershed assessments and development of watershed restoration and protection plans; implementation of watershed restoration or protection projects; demonstration; education/outreach programs; reclaiming abandoned mines and oil and gas wells; and addressing acid mine drainage polluted streams. The deadline for grant applications is March 9th.

During the first full year of the program, \$42 million in grants was awarded for 328 projects, covering all 67 counties in the state. For more information on “Growing Greener,” or to apply for a grant online, visit <http://www.GrowingGreener.org> or call the DEP Grant Center at 717 705-5400.

DCVA to Testify Against Development Proposal in Springfield Township

DCVA is concerned about a possible development of 15 acres of the Elocin tract in Springfield, an area of sloping woodlands and wetlands south of State Road. In December developer Claude de Botton proposed to the Springfield Township Planning Commission a development plan for 41 single-family homes to be called Coventry Woods. De Botton's plan would require 5 variances and the cutting down of most of the trees now on the land. The commissioners voiced strong concerns at the meeting that the development would cause flooding of 2 Darby Creek tributaries.

Clyde Hunt, DCVA past president and current board member, has prepared the following testimony to be presented to the Commission when it next considers this proposal—scheduled for February 1, 2001 (If you are interested in attending the meeting, we recommend that you call the township first to verify that this item is on the agenda.)

The Darby Creek Valley Association recommends against the proposed plan for the development of Coventry Woods as drafted by G.D. Houtman & Son, dated 11/23/00, for the following reasons:

1. Limitations of the site due to steep slopes and the filling of flood prone areas raise doubt about the quality of nearly half of the proposed lots. Some lots encroach onto the wetlands and still barely meet minimum lot size. Flood prone boundaries may have been shifted so that all homes may appear to be constructed above flood level. The developers need to prove that they have accurately mapped the contours of the flood plain where they do not match from one side of the stream to the other.
2. Storm Water Basin #1 seems to have berms constructed entirely in the flood prone area. The outer portion of the basin is constructed over a sanitary sewer line. No emergency spillways were shown for either of these basins. Thus in peak runoff or flood periods, the entire basin could be undermined and washed downstream. The inflows and outflows of these basins are in such close proximity that sediments will continue downstream rather than be trapped in the basins.
3. Retaining walls are shown as holding soils in place and structures from slipping into the wetlands (see especially lots 35 and 36 and the intervening cul-de-sac). Who will have the responsibility to maintain these walls, the home owner or Township?
4. Because of the steep and very steep slopes, most lots will require grading. This results in the removal of most all of the protective vegetation. If adjacent tree and riparian vegetation are not given adequate protection during construction, they will also die. Such dead trees will become the liability of the new property/home owners. The removal of so much of the vegetation from very erosive soils makes the name "Coventry Woods" moot. Perhaps "Coventry Mud Barrens" would be more fitting!
5. Our organization stands for reasonable and responsible development; however, the site limitations pose risks to sev-

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More on the Darby Creek Trail: DCVA Applies for Grant to Make Trail a Reality

In the April 2000 issue of the Valley, board member John Furth wrote an article about a walk along Darby Creek, from Kent Park to the Swedish Cabin. He noted that it is possible to continue on—all the way to Rosemont and Bloomfield Avenues. The path winds up the hill past the Cabin along the old right of way of Creek Road (abandoned by Upper Darby Township some years back). Halfway up the hill the path goes off to the left and traverses the steep slope close to the ridge line. Just before the Garrett Road high bridge the path passes Indian Basin and Indian Head Rock, a granite outcropping from the rock hillside. From Indian Head Rock the trail winds down to the Creek, enters the Thayer tract (Tuscarora) and continues along the Creek under the Garrett Road bridge. The view from the ridge portion of the trail is magnificent even in winter (see picture below.) With the creek about 200 feet below, it does not seem possible that this is eastern, urbanized Delaware County.

Some years back, Delaware County developed a plan for a Darby Creek Stream Park, to extend from the Swedish Cabin to Darby Borough. For a number of reasons the plan was never implemented. DCVA is now seeking Growing Greener funds to resurrect the plan and extend the Park upstream, encompassing the area described above.



Indian Head Rock—one of the sites along the proposed Darby Creek Stream Park.

November General Membership Meeting Provides Insight into Grant Activities and Creek Issues

This year's general membership meeting featured Michelle Adams from Cahill Associates as our speaker. Cahill Associates is the consulting company that has been chosen by DCVA to work with us to develop the Rivers Conservation Plan under the DCNR Grant.

Michelle's presentation included photos taken along the creek from its source to just below Route 1 where Darby Creek forms the boundary between Springfield and Upper Darby Townships. Her photographs dramatically highlighted how, as a result of development, we have put Darby Creek and its feeder streams through pipes and channels, beginning right at the headwaters. On land adjacent to the creek, parking lots, homes, roads and lawns have replaced the natural forest, wetlands and meadows that once lined the creek. The result is that storm waters do not get the chance to spread out over the banks and percolate into the soil, seeping into the groundwater, as nature intended. In addition, the water, when tunneled underground, becomes sun and oxygen starved and water flowing out of these pipes is brown due to the organisms that grow in a sun deprived environment, again not natu-

ral to the creek and detrimental for the critters living there.

Michelle had other slides including graphics of the creek outlining the breakout of the segments that the consultants will be looking at and the pie chart seen below. This pie chart is an important document because it identifies the percentage of the creek that is in each of the municipalities along the creek. The Rivers Conservation Plan is only as good as the ability to implement it. The ability to influence local government is the single most important tool that DCVA needs to use to get the plan implemented. This pie chart highlights municipalities' importance according to percentage of land in the watershed.

We heard other things both positive and negative, including: only a small amount of rain will open the combined sewer outlets along Cobbs Creek, the city of Philadelphia is working to maintain open land within the city limits in order to "keep water in the city" and the Fairmont Park Commission is doing specific planting designed to create meadows within the park along Cobbs Creek.

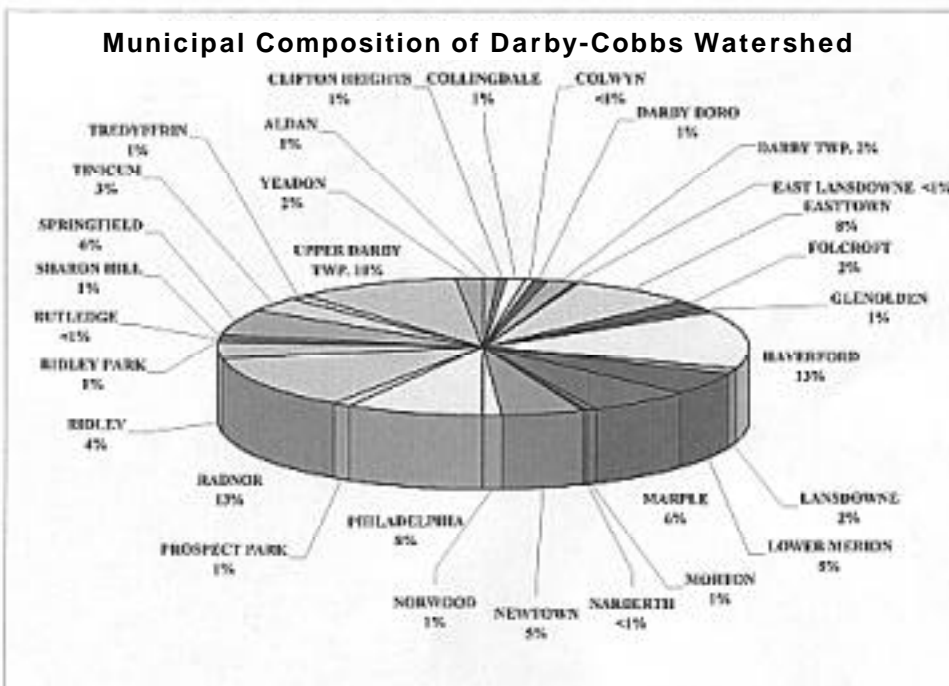
Michelle highlighted some of the many things that we need to consider

when developing our plan. There is a lot to be done, and we would like to suggest that each of you has a role. Pay attention to what is happening in your neighborhood and do whatever you can to prevent further development. We cannot restore what we have already lost, but we can prevent things from getting worse.

Properties to Watch Along the Creek

The following properties are undergoing changes or are expected to change. If you know of any others, please contact DCVA at 610 789-1814, Box *2.

1. Haverford State Hospital
2. Stoney Creek - Church Road Site
3. Springfield - Elocin Coventry Woods Tract - 63 Acres
4. McDade Bridge at Baltimore Pike
5. Colwyn Swim Club
6. Sorenson Tract in Colwyn below B&O station
7. Colwyn/Darby/Sharon Hill area
8. Lansdowne - Hoffman Park
9. Thompson Tract - Providence Road in Upper Darby
10. Drexelbrook - Open Space along creek
11. Blue Route Farm on Glendale Road
12. Sharples Tract in Marple Township
13. Large Tract off Lawrence Road at Blue Route Bridge - ripe for development
14. Morrow Marina - Ridley Township is trying to acquire



This spring's Darby Creek cleanup will be Saturday April 28th. Reserve the date to do your part in our ongoing campaign to improve our watershed!

A Fun Evening at Annual Award Dinner October 21st

The Annual Ribbon of Green Award dinner was a great success this year. The dinner was held at Charlotte's Restaurant in Newtown Square on a Saturday evening in October, a change from a Sunday at the end of May as in the past.

About 60 members joined in congratulating Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, as winner of the annual Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Award (see the next column.)

Our guest speaker was Terry Hough, Grant Coordinator for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Terry is the coordinator for the DCVA awarded grant that is currently being implemented. Terry focused on the grant goals and the Rivers Conservation Plan that the grant was awarded to DCVA to develop. Terry also discussed options for DCVA now and in the future for implementing this plan. He noted that other grant monies can and should be applied for by DCVA or by communities within the watershed even now, that would eventually result in realizing the goals of the Darby Creek Rivers Conservation Plan.

We were delighted yet again by Jan and John Haigis, who entertained us with their Darby Creek Valley Song and other wonderful tunes. The Haigis were winners of the Basket of Cheer, raffled off during the evening.

If you missed us this year, plan to join in the fun next fall.

Maya van Rossum Receives Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Award at Annual Dinner



DCVA president Fritz Thornton presents Maya van Rossum with Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green award

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, was this year's recipient of DCVA's Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green award. Presented at the 14th Annual Awards Dinner by DCVA president Fritz Thornton, this honor is well-deserved by Ms. Van Rossum who is considered by many to be the premier advocate for the preservation of water resources in the Delaware River Basin.

Since assuming the leadership for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network in 1996, van Rossum has worked hard to change the way people think about stormwater management and encourage implementation of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) by municipalities and homeowners. Most noteworthy is her unselfish willingness to respond to small-scale watershed issues such as assisting grassroots efforts to prevent the draining and destruction of minute wetlands or taking the time to testify before local municipal advisory boards against implementation of environmentally-destructive 1950's-style stormwater management techniques. She does this while managing to provide leadership on larger watershed issues such as fishkills at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station and the proposed Delaware Ship Channel Deepening.

An environmental attorney, van Rossum is also a native of the Darby Creek watershed. She literally spent much of her childhood playing in Ithan Creek in Radnor Township and was inspired to pursue a career in environmental protection under the tutelage of Ed Silcox, co-creator of Radnor Middle School's internationally-known Watershed program.

It was a pleasure for DCVA to honor Ms. van Rossum and acknowledge her accomplishments.



Terry Hough speaks to dinner attendees about DCVA's Rivers Conservation Grant.

DCVA Welcomes New Members

Mary Catherine Bolster, Berwyn
 Christian P. Doring, Wayne
 Terry Hough, Harrisburg
 Joanna McGrath, Springfield
 Rocco J. Polidoro, Springfield
 Lynn Yeakel, Rosemont

Cusano Environmental Education Center to Open to Public January 20

After years of anticipation, the Cusano Environmental Education Center at the Heinz Refuge will open to the public January 20th. About 200 invited guests were able to preview the Center on December 14th. They saw a 14,000 square foot facility featuring classrooms with wetlabs, a resource library, a multipurpose meeting room with a full complement of audiovisual equipment, an exhibit and display area with a "cross section of Tincum Marsh" diorama and a gift shop which is operated by the refuge's Friends Group.



At the Cusano Environmental Education Center Preview Event on December 14, 2000, a guest looks over the Friends of Heinz Wildlife Refuge Gift Shop, "Tincum Treasures," in the new center.

The CEEC, designed as an environmentally friendly building, was constructed almost entirely through private donations from area corporations, philanthropic foundations and smaller groups, as well as individuals. The initial donation came from the will of Antonio Cusano, who lived near the refuge and left \$2.5 million dollars to the Department of the Interior to promote and/or preserve the environment.

The Refuge is open every day 8 a.m. to sunset with the visitor center open from 8:30 a.m to 4 p.m. For more information on the new Cusano Center or the Refuge and its various programs, call (610) 521-0662 or visit <http://heinz.fws.gov>.

Congressional Funding for Administrative Building at Heinz Refuge Is Appropriated



In front of nearly completed Cusano Environmental Education Center, l-r, Congressman Curt Weldon, Friends of Heinz Wildlife Refuge president, Jean Diehl, and refuge manager, Dick Nugent. Weldon and Diehl display plaques of appreciation for the work they did to have funds appropriated for the administrative wing.

Representative Curt Weldon (R-7) announced on October 31st that \$800,000 has been appropriated to fund the administrative wing of the new Cusano Environmental Education Center (CEEC). The wing had been included in the original plans for the center but was cut from the plans when cost overruns and inflationary factors left the project short on funding.

After it became apparent that more money was needed, Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge began lobbying Congress for the needed funds. After 2 years

of work, Weldon, with bipartisan support in the House and support from both Senators Specter and Santorum, succeeded in getting legislation passed to allocate the money. Weldon is going to continue to press Congress for an additional \$2 million for a 100 foot, handicapped accessible viewing tower at the CEEC and for a visitor contact station on the western end of the Refuge.

Friends of the Swedish Cabin to Hold Annual Pea Soup Benefit

On Saturday March 24, 2001, the Friends of the Swedish Cabin will sponsor the annual Pea Soup Benefit, serving the traditional Swedish "Thursday night fare:" pea soup, Swedish breads and cheese, and homemade carrot cake. The event will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lansdowne, starting with punch and nibbles at 5:30 p.m. and soup at 6 p.m. The reservation deadline is February 15; cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. To attend, mail your check made payable to Friends of the Swedish Cabin to Dave Anderson, 410 Achille Road, Havertown PA 19083. Proceeds benefit the Cabin Furnishing Fund.

Celebrate with the Norwood Historical Society

The Norwood Historical Society (NHS) is hosting a fund-raising "Presidential Wine & Cheese Party" at the Morton Morton House in Norwood on February 17, 2001, from 4 to 6 p.m. (non-alcoholic beverages will also be served). Tickets are available at \$15.00 per person or two tickets for \$25.00. Tickets are limited due to the size of the house. Call Judy Anastasi at 610-583-3002 for reservations or additional details.

During the party the NHS will unveil its new web site which provides a virtual tour of the Morton Morton House. The virtual tour will visually reinforce the need for contributions for the restoration of the House. An architectural preservation plan completed in September 2000, through a grant, projected an estimate to restore the Morton Morton House at \$400,000.

Additionally, the Norwood Historical Society is continuing its ongoing lecture series in 2001. In line with President's Day, the first lecture, "Washington: The Essential Man," will be held on Thursday evening, February 15, 2001, at 7 p.m. at the Norwood Borough Hall, 10 W Cleveland Avenue, Norwood. Admission is free. Please call Frank (Pro) Boyle for additional information at 610-532-0467.

Many events are planned for 2001; we look forward to meeting many new friends of history.

Around the Darby Creek Watershed: County and Municipal News

Repair of Bridge is Delayed

The bridge on Old West Chester Pike near the Haverford Hospital will probably not be completed in 2003 as hoped. In December a spokesman for PennDOT said that, though it would like to repair the bridge sooner, the completion date is now 2004 because other projects have higher priority.

The supports to the two-lane stone bridge, which spanned Darby Creek, were swept away by Hurricane Floyd. Both Haverford and Marple Township officials feel that the bridge provides an important access route for ambulances and paramedics to use from Lawrence Road to the hospital. Without the bridge, emergency personnel must use a busy section of West Chester Pike,

The bridge is expected to cost \$1.5 million. After the project is completed, Haverford and Marple Townships will become joint owners of the bridge.

County Asks EPA to Exclude Property from Superfund Site

In November Delaware County officials asked EPA to exclude the Emergency Services Training Center property, which the County owns, from the Lower Darby Creek Superfund site. The County contends that it has already spent a half a million dollars cleaning up the site; it feels that it can complete the job in less time and for less money than EPA can. It also argues that the contamination from the area is minimal, presenting less risk than other properties that have not been included in the Superfund designated area.

Ted Erickson, Delaware County executive director, accused EPA of not including 2 polluted sites in order to decrease the government's cleanup expense. One of the areas is part of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. It has soil from dredging which includes heavy metals. The other is 51 acres along Darby Creek in Norwood that was formerly a trash dump. It has been proposed that part of that property (36 acres) be added to the Refuge. EPA responded that it may still include those properties in the Superfund site. It also says that it is willing to work with the county to conduct the cleanup.

Ridley Township Will Receive Grant for Parkland

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has just announced more than \$1 million of Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. Ridley Township is the recipient of one of the 6 grants—\$250,000 to acquire about 17 acres along Bullens Lane for a passive park. The federal grants are approved by the National Park Service and administered in Pennsylvania by DCNR. The grant program has funded over 1,300 projects in Pennsylvania worth about \$140 million since the program's inception in 1965. This series of grants, however, is the first awarded since 1995 and was made possible when Congress recently allocated new funding to the program.

Vandals Cause Toxic Water Spill in Haverford Township

This fall Haverford Township residents expressed concern to the EPA about contaminated water spilled from a temporary water treatment plant in the rear of the Philadelphia Chewing Gum Corporation factory. The plant was being used to treat water flowing from the Superfund Site on Eagle Road in Havertown toward Naylor's Run Creek, a tributary of Darby Creek. Soil and water at the Superfund site is contaminated with dioxins, pentachlorophenols, arsenic and other toxins.

In September a vandal evidently gained access to the site after pushing over a temporary fence. He then turned on a pump, causing two storage tanks to overflow onto two or three residential properties in the area. Between 15,000 and 20,000 gallons of untreated water containing the toxin pentachlorophenol flowed into the backyards, pooled there and then ran off into Naylor's Run. After testing samples from the spill, EPA assured the residents that the spill was not a threat.

After the vandalism, EPA increased security. The temporary treatment plant has since been moved from the Chewing Gum Factory property to the Superfund site itself and a permanent treatment center is expected to be completed and functioning on the site in March or April.

Tinicum Township Is Trying to Save Lazaretto

Tinicum Township officials, distressed that the Lazaretto might be demolished to make room for an airport parking lot, have decided to join preservationists and state officials in an effort to save the property. The Lazaretto, the oldest landmark in the township, was a quarantine station for Philadelphia-bound ships for 100 years. It was called the "pest house"—for pestilence because it could isolate up to 500 people infected with communicable diseases such as yellow fever. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it may be the most historic building in Delaware County. What remains is the former administration building, a three-story, Georgian style structure topped with a white cupola, and the physician's house on a 10-acre site located along the Delaware River.

After the Lazaretto ceased being a quarantine station, it served a variety of functions, including as a post office and a private resort club. In June the site was purchased by Island Marine Partners for about \$2.15 million. The new owners have submitted development plans to the township that would involve demolition. They say, however, that they would consider selling the property to the township for \$3.1 million.

At first township officials said that they had no power to stop the development; after additional historical research, however, they decided that the building is so historically significant that they have to try to save it. They are hoping to pay for the land with grants and private and public donations.

Marple Township to Use Growing Greener Grant to Repair Creek Bank

Marple Township has received a \$60,000 Growing Greener grant to stabilize an area of Darby Creek's bank destroyed by Hurricane Floyd. The section of creek is near the Lawrence Park Condominiums on Lawrence Road. The grant will be used to repair eroded areas, stabilize about 60 feet of earth, and build a small berm. The project is expected to be completed in May, 2001.

President's Pen

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eficial; most are not. DCVA's role is to work with the communities involved to help them further the ecologically good changes and discourage the bad ones.

Maybe it's me, but I think leaving a clean creek and natural parkland as a legacy for the future is more important than fancy material goods. If you feel this makes sense, get more involved. We need all the help we can get—not just at clean up time but all year long. Remember Floyd; only responsible development can prevent repetition of this devastation.



Coventry Woods Testimony

Continued from page 3:

eral of these proposed house lots. Even though they will be assessed as if they were fully valued for tax purposes, they will be no bargain! Maintaining normal vegetation on steep, erosive slopes will be difficult. Sump pumps may be required because the new owners will not want to retain storm waters in low floor areas after heavy rains. We may eventually read that some of these proposed homes may ultimately be condemned, as were the five homes on North Rolling Road following Hurricane Floyd.

6. If only Springfield residents suffered damage as result of this proposed plan that would be trouble enough! Communities downstream will soon be witnessing additional storm water and siltation as a result of the extensive disturbance to the slopes and vegetation. In spite of the well-intended sediment basins and silt fences, once the trees and roots are removed, less moisture will percolate into the soils and each storm will carry off more soil—as roads, driveways, roofs and sidewalks cover more of the tract.

7. Some current residents will be forced to move as soon as construction begins. Deer will head to nearby yards to find food and retreat to other woods for shelter. Other wildlife that now grace the neighborhood may join the ranks of the homeless.

Haverford State Hospital

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approved by the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The contract is being funded by a \$50,000 grant from the state and a matching \$50,000 from the township.

Carter Van Dyke is developing three plans for the site; the January 22nd meeting is the first of three public meetings that it will hold before it completes its work in June. The Haverford Township Civic Council has issued an urgent request for concerned residents to attend these meetings. There have been many proposals for the use of this environmentally sensitive land, including a push recently for a golf course and other revenue producing commercial development. In a survey, Haverford Township residents expressed a preference for recreation and the preservation of open space. DCVA's formal position is that the undeveloped portions of the property should remain undeveloped. This meeting is our chance to make our position very clear.

If you wish to be kept informed about the status of this issue, please send your name, address, and phone number to the Haverford Township Civic Council, P.O. Box 1072, Havertown, PA 19083, or email the Council at civiccouncil@aol.com Also check out The Consulting Task Force's web site at www.ecofront.com and the Civic Council's postings under *Community* at <http://www.myhavertown.com>. Information is also available at the office of Manager Tom Bannar at 610 446-9403 and on the Township's Cable TV Channel 22.

Remember our annual cleanup: April 28th!

Correction:

In the Fall 2000 DCVA newsletter, page 3, it was incorrectly stated that the students at Penn Wood West Junior High School in Darby received a grant from the William Penn Foundation. The grant was actually from the William Penn School District. We regret the error.

Annual Meeting Notice

Continued from page 1:

*Bill Frasch (Darby)

*John Furth (Lansdowne)

Ken Lesage (Lansdowne)

Vivian Leimseider (Lansdowne)

Toni McIntosh (Lansdowne)

Jim Stuhltrager (Holmes)

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

*Andy Saul (Rose Valley)

Nominations will be accepted from the floor. After the annual meeting, a short board meeting will be convened to elect officers for 2001. The nominating committee consists of Vicki Shaner, Chair; Bob Doherty, Bill Frasch, Gila Hunt, Rosemary Kesling, Bob Shaner, and Grace Wheeler.

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

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, Judy Anastasi, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, John Furth, Clyde Hunt, Rosemary Kesling, Judy Rice, Fritz Thornton, and Olga Thornton. Photographs by John Furth, Susan Rachlin, Tom Reeves and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. © 2001.



Compost Bin Giveaway

In response to the success of the Backyard Compost Bin Giveaway Program available this fall, DEP has announced that the program will be offered again in the spring of 2001. The next round of workshops will start during the first week of May as a kickoff for National Compost Awareness Week.

Many Pennsylvania residents took advantage of the composting program this fall, attending workshops conducted by Penn State county extension master gardeners and county recycling coordinators. After completion of the workshops, attendees took home a free backyard compost bin.

"We are reaching Pennsylvania residents on a grass-roots level and getting them to think about the waste they produce," DEP Compost Coordinator Patti Olenick said. "Backyard composting is something everyone can do to recycle organic wastes and reduce the amount going to landfills."

For more information on composting, visit DEP's website (directLINK "compost") or contact Olenick at 717 787-7382 or e-mail at peck-olenick.patricia@dep.state.pa.us.

Watershed Monitoring Workshop

"Building the Network" is the theme of Pennsylvania's second statewide summit of volunteer watershed monitors. The conference will be held February 23-24, 2001, at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA. Anyone interested in watershed monitoring is invited to attend this summit sponsored by PA DEP Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program, the Volunteer Watershed Monitoring Network Steering Committee and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers. Registration materials are now available. To receive materials, call (717) 787-5259 or visit <citizens.monitoring@dep.state.pa.us>.

Applications Being Accepted for Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2001 Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship. Any Pennsylvania business, government agency, municipality, nonprofit organization, individual, farm or agribusiness engaged in watershed restoration efforts in Pennsylvania is eligible. The award is available for initiatives in the following categories: watershed partnerships; watershed assessment and planning; watershed protection and restoration projects; and watershed demonstrations, education and outreach. Some portion of the project must have been implemented during the 2000 calendar year in order to be eligible for the award.

To receive an application or to find out more information, contact PA DEP Grant Center at 717-705-5400 or email growinggreener@dep.state.pa.us. The application deadline is January 26, 2001.

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:

- Individual Member.....\$10.00
- Family Member\$15.00
- Senior Citizen\$5.00
- Student Member.....\$5.00
- Organization Member\$20.00
- 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 20, 2001 DCVA Board Meeting, 8:45 a.m., Marple Friends Peace Center.
- Saturday, January 20, 2001 Cusano Environmental Education Center at John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum opens to the public.
- Monday, January 22, 2001 Public Participation Meeting on Haverford State Hospital Site, 7:30 p.m. Haverford Township Middle School, Havertown.
- Saturday, January 27, 2001 DCVA Annual Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Peace Center.
- Saturday, February 17, 2001 DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Peace Center.
- Saturday, February 17, 2001 Presidential Wine & Cheese Party, Sponsored by the Norwood Historical Society, 4-6 p.m. Morton Morton House, Norwood.
- Saturday, March 3, 2001 Annual DCVA Watershed Conference. 9 a.m. Details to follow in February.
- Saturday, March 17, 2001 DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Peace Center.
- Saturday, March 24, 2001 Pea Soup Benefit, Sponsored by the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, 5:30 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, Lansdowne.
- Saturday, April 28, 2001 Annual DCVA Darby Creek Cleanup, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.
- Saturday, April 28, 2001 Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Marple Township Transfer Station, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Rain or Shine.

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

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