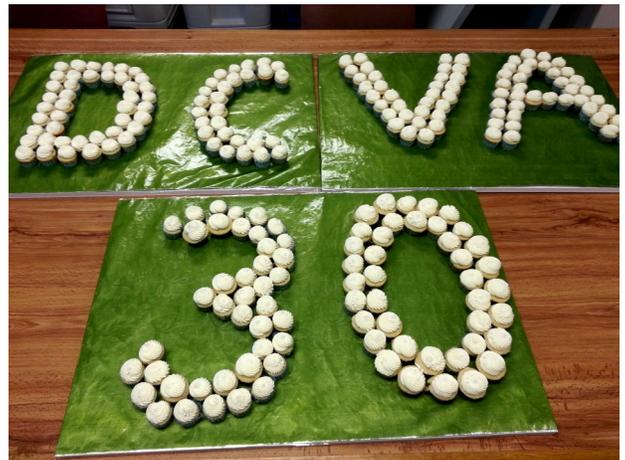




**Happy 30th Anniversary  
DCVA!**



*The 30th Anniversary Cake was the highlight of an excellent picnic.*

*Kayak Race Winners pictured with some of the 30 anniversary picnic attendees at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge*

***From the President's Pen: Reflections from the creek bank.....*** DCVA enjoyed a fantastic 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic on September 13th. DCVA celebrated at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge with board members, DCVA members and friends. Despite the rainfall that accompanied the event, kayak racers participated in another yearly race and provided entertainment to the guests. A big thanks to Friends of the Heinz, Eastwick Friends and Neighborhood Coalition, and the Wildlife Refuge for attending and helping with our event. DCVA also received support from Starbucks in Springfield, Wilderness Canoes in Delaware, and Divine Cakes (who created the lovely DCVA 30 cake above).

Our 30<sup>th</sup> year will end with a new look to DCVA as we finish up our new website. I look forward to receiving feedback from all who visit the site at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org). Some new features will include an electronic newsletter, signing up for email notifications, paying membership dues on line and much more. DCVA would like to enlist the help of its members to share their email address, so we can continue to improve our communications and expand the work that we do in year 31 and beyond. Feel free to contact me personally with this information or other suggestions at [jaclyn\\_rhoads@yahoo.com](mailto:jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com).

***By Jaclyn Rhoads, DCVA President***

## **DCVA News**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DCVA ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2015 10 AM AT THE HAVERFORD RESERVE

For

poster session, lunch, and presentations on environmental and  
historical activities and events in the Darby Creek Watershed

All DCVA members are Invited!

Bring a Friend!

*If you would like to present a poster, please contact Alan Samel at  
alan.samel@verizon.net by January 1, 2015*

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**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!**

If you would like an electronic version of the Valley in addition to or instead of a paper version (save paper!) please send your email address to Kate Doms at kgoddard@ursinus.edu or Jaclyn Rhoads at Jaclyn\_rhoads@yahoo.com.

Also please indicate in your email if you would like to be on the DCVA email list of legislative updates and event announcements such as meetings and raingarden workshops.

Please note that a color version of each *Valley* will appear on the DCVA website. If you receive the email version yourself, that will also have color rather than black and white pictures.

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**The Darby Creek Valley Association is pleased to support...**

The Friends of Heinz Refuge funding program to which teachers or schools can apply for funding for buses to bring their classes to visit the Heinz Refuge for educational visits.

The DCVA board would like to inform DCVA members that DCVA has contributed \$600 to this excellent program.

## More Photos from the DCVA 30th Anniversary Picnic

By Charles Ford



*Debbie Beer of the Eastwick Action Committee and Gerry Krieg of DCVA prepare to lead a bird walk through the Heinz Refuge at the 30th Anniversary picnic. They are joined by Earl, Wilson (center) and a young guest (foreground).*



*DCVA board member John Furth and DCVA President Jaclyn Rhodes chatted at the picnic*



*Off they go!*



*The EnviroScape teaches children about storm-water run-off and the pollution it carries into streams. Kids love it!*



*The new pavilion at the Heinz Refuge was perfect for a picnic in rainy weather .*

## DCVA's 30th Anniversary Picnic.....Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain.....

*By Ann Jackson*

Rain did not dampen the spirits or curtail events at DCVA's 30th Anniversary Picnic (held in conjunction with the Paddle for Preservation) on Saturday 13, 2014 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR). After all, rain is "inventory" to the watershed. We were in our element! We all donned rain gear, got wet and celebrated with family, friends and people who strolled through the Refuge. Jaclyn Rhoads navigated us through the day. It was a group effort!!!! Some highlights included:

- Rocco Masticolo and Rich Horwitz paddled and guided paddlers during the Canoe Ramble. Robin Mann and Ann Jackson were among those who steadied canoes and hauled them up the boat ramp as paddlers finished. The Kayakers, some running as they carried their kayaks to the boat ramp, raced in the rain.
- Debbie Beer, Friends of Heinz Refuge (FOHR) and Gerry Kreig conducted a nature/bird walk.
- Jamie Anderson, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative (EDCSC), brought her children who used the Enviroscope to help demonstrate the sources of and solutions to the pollution caused by rain water run-off into our streams. Kate and Bob Doms, and family dog, "Sophie", brought Kate's macro invertebrate samples and macroinvertebrate identification game.
- Earl Wilson and members of Eastwick Action Committee (EAC) and Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition (EFNC) joined in the festivities and shared the latest information from the EPA and resident concerns.
- Donna Adams and Rosemary Kesling cheerily greeted participants at the sign in table. They offered free DCVA water bottles to new members, gave away DCVA tee shirts, accepted donations, obtained contact information and oversaw the Starbucks gift basket raffle. Dick Carroll, and his wife, Mary handled the finances.
- Toni and Jack McIntosh hauled and set up a marvelous spread of picnic food, snacks, and beverages in the pavilion. Ron Miller, president (FOHR), and Toni McIntosh braved the downpours to grill hot dogs.
- Gila Hunt brought fantastic potato salad.
- Jan and John Haigis harmonized in a medley of their songs that extol us to be good stewards of our watershed. David Bennett aka Davey Sprockett and the Rumble Strips had a sing along. David sang and played his guitar.
- We ate cake! The 30TH ANNIVERSARY CUPCAKE CAKE (donated by Divine Cakes, Inc.) was just reward for celebrating DCVA's mission of protecting the Darby Creek watershed for 30 years!

*Thanks to all those who planned, hauled, shopped, cooked, ordered, guided, paddled, raced, greeted, educated, mingled, socialized, entertained, and donated.*

*Thanks also to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Staff, FOHR, Starbucks, Divine Cakes, Inc. Wilderness Canoe, Inc., Mompops, Discount Mugs, and DiFabio's Catering.*

*DCVA board member David Bennett sang and played the guitar in the beautiful new pavilion at the Heinz Refuge where the 30th anniversary picnic was held.*



## **EPA Clearview Landfill Update**

*By Jaclyn Rhoads*

The EPA has released its record of decision on the remedy for the Clearview Landfill. Provided below is the brief summary of the remedy provided by EPA. More information will follow from DCVA once we've had a chance to review the full document. The full report can be found at the following website:

[http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PASFN0305521/reports/OU1\\_ROD-ALL\\_FINAL\\_9-26-14.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PASFN0305521/reports/OU1_ROD-ALL_FINAL_9-26-14.pdf).

### **Description of the Remedy**

The remedial action described herein comprises the final action for the part of the site labeled as operational unit 1 ("OU1") i.e., the waste, soil, and shallow leachate associated with the Clearview Landfill. Historic waste disposal activities at the landfill have resulted in organic and inorganic contamination in surface and subsurface soils, leachate and groundwater. This remedy is designed to control the source (landfill waste and soil) to prevent human and ecological receptors from contacting with site waste and contaminants, reduce contaminant migration (shallow leachate) to groundwater and surface water, prevent erosion and transport of soils and waste into nearby surface water bodies and residential areas, and mitigate all principal threat wastes. The remedial action for the portion of the clean-up labeled as "OU3" will address remaining contamination in groundwater, surface water and sediment, associated with the Clearview Landfill, if necessary, upon completion of the feasibility study (OU3 RI/FS). The Folcroft Landfill (OU2) will be addressed under a separate response action pending completion of the OU2 RI/FS.

The selected remedy for OU1 is Alternative 7, an Evapotranspiration Cover. The estimated cost is \$23,955,276. This remedy includes:

1. Pre-design investigation (PDI) activities to delineate waste and contaminated soil boundaries.
2. Installation, maintenance and monitoring of an evapotranspiration (ET) Cover System over approximately 50 acres, including relocation of on-site business and demolition of all structures within the ET Cover boundary, site grading, storm water controls and erosion controls along the east bank of Darby Creek.
3. Removal and off-site disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) principal threat wastes.
4. Excavation and consolidation of wastes and contaminated soils above cleanup levels within and beneath the ET Cover.
5. Construction and maintenance of a leachate collection trench along the Landfill creek banks down to the mean high tide elevation of the creeks and construction, maintenance, and monitoring of engineered wetlands to treat contaminants to surface water discharge requirements.
6. Long-term monitoring of groundwater, leachate, landfill gas, surface water and sediment, to evaluate remedy performance and effectiveness.
7. Land and groundwater use restrictions to be implemented and maintained through institutional controls (ICs) and engineering controls to protect the integrity of the selected remedy including the ET Cover, leachate collection trench, engineered wetlands, and prevent exposure to soils outside of the ET Cover above cleanup levels. Additional fishing advisories may also be required. Signs will be placed along the stream bank to warn fisherman of all fishing advisories and the potential risks from fish consumption. An Institutional Control Implementation and Assurance Plan (ICIAP) will be developed for OU1 during the remedial design (RD) to ensure appropriate land and groundwater use restrictions are implemented, and monitored and maintained against future land owners.

Source: [http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PASFN0305521/reports/OU1\\_ROD-ALL\\_FINAL\\_9-26-14.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PASFN0305521/reports/OU1_ROD-ALL_FINAL_9-26-14.pdf).



Rain Garden construction in Haverford.

The program is described in the article below.

## Grants will support Rain Gardens to encourage the construction of even more rain gardens in the Darby Creek watershed.

*By Jamie Anderson*

The Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) and the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative (EDCSC) received a National Fish and Wildlife Fund (NFWF) grant as well as an Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Foundation Grant. In addition, the Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Department received a WREN grant to construct a demonstration rain garden at the Community Recreation and Environmental Center (CREC) to capture runoff from the soccer field.

These grants will fund the creation of five demonstration rain gardens on public lands in the Darby-Cobbs watershed. Starting first in Haverford with the “Hav”-A-Rain Garden initiative, a larger drive to build rain gardens (“The Darby Cobbs Rain Garden Initiative”) will begin to take shape. A resource team that will assist in the creation of additional public as well as private rain gardens will be trained.

The garden construction shown above was the kick off for the (Haverford) “Hav-a-Rain Garden” initiative which is a key component of the larger Darby Cobbs Rain Garden Initiative that is designed to educate

and engage residents in stormwater management. In particular, this initiative focuses on encouraging and educating residents about how to install rain gardens on their properties.

The NFWF grant will provide the seed money to plant the first 10 of 100 rain gardens on private residential properties. The framework developed through the Hav-A-Rain Garden initiative will be transferred to other EDCSC member communities to create additional gardens on private property and engage residents in re-thinking how they manage stormwater on their property.

The end result of the grant will be to begin creating a shift in how property owners, both public and private, manage stormwater on their land-- a shift from directing rain water towards our streams as quickly as possible to managing it on properties through green infrastructure such as rain gardens.

It is only through getting to this “new normal” that we can begin to mitigate past impairments to the Darby and Cobbs Creeks from stormwater pollution and begin to see improvement in the health of our local streams.

## Whetstone Run, Marple Township, Delaware County, PA

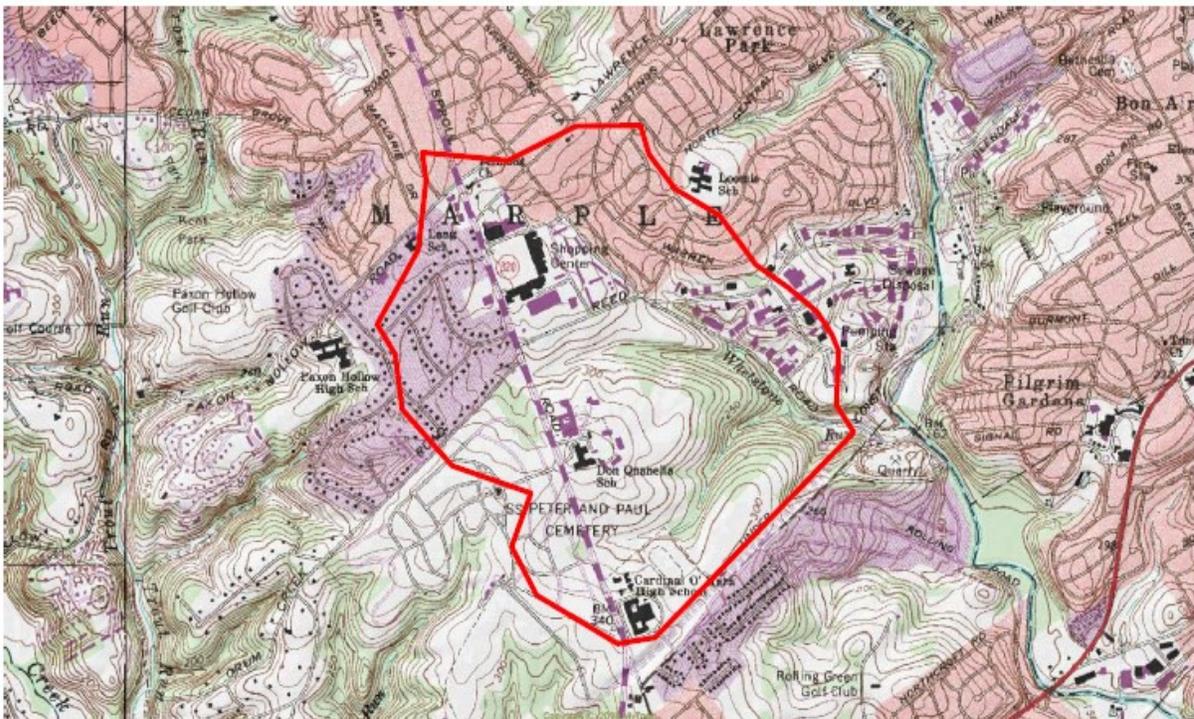
*By Carl DuPolt, Alan Samel, Derron LaBrake*

Whetstone Run is a tributary to the Darby Creek and exists totally within Marple Township, Delaware County, PA. Its watershed occupies 1.1 square miles (704 acres). Two of Whetstone Run's tributaries, a northern one and a southern one, both begin on edge of St. Peter & Paul Cemetery and flow across the property that the Archdiocese recently sold to a real estate developer. The third tributary is completely inside of a pipe along Robinson Drive, across Parkway Road from the Governor Sproul Apartments and remains in a pipe along the edge of the Marple business park to a point near Marpit Road, where it crosses under Reed Road and finally sees the light of day. The northern tributary on the former Archdioceses land parallels the full length of Reed Road. Whetstone Run crosses under Reed Road near the intersection of Reed and Eagle Roads and joins Darby Creek, behind a newly constructed self-storage business.

When DCVA first became aware that the Archdiocese was marketing the property, a few board members took multiple hikes on the property to see what natural resources it has. We found extensive wetlands near the intersection of Sproul and Reed Roads, and very steep slopes along the streams on the eastern half of the property. As DCVA is interested in the health of our watershed's streams we looked at the macroinvertebrates in the stream. The reach of Whetstone Run along Reed Road exhibits many of the typical characteristics of a degraded urban stream, but with the benefits of the extensive wetlands and groundwater discharges from the forested land it is in much better condition than the rest of the streams in eastern Delaware County. The southern tributary that flows through a wooded landscape is a real gem of a stream and is in excellent condition.

We were very surprised to find a macroinvertebrate community composed of sensitive macroinvertebrates. The macroinvertebrate community we observed rivals that of Hotland (Holland) Run, the only PADEP-designated Exceptional Value waterway in Delaware County. The presence of such an excellent macroinvertebrate community was a complete surprise and at the same time a great disappointment, because it does not have the same protections afforded Hotland Run, so it will be lost upon the development of the property. The proposed development will only need to meet the lower protections afforded Whetstone Run, because of its broad-brush DEP-assigned water quality status of Warm Water Fishery. There will be no requirement to preserve the actual water quality that it currently has, only to preserve its lower water quality designation, so it is destined to become just like all rest of the degraded streams in eastern Delaware County.

DCVA approached Marple Township and offered, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, to conduct a formal survey of the land's resources. Marple never responded to our offer so we took that same offer to the Archdiocese. We unfortunately were late in contacting the Archdiocese, because they had already signed a letter of intent with the prospective purchaser of the property.



This topographic map below shows the watershed and slopes involved.

### *Whetstone Run Update Continued....*

It would be a shame for this generation and future generations to lose such a great stream. At this time all we can do is ask Marple Township to request of the developer, when they are reviewing the developer's plans, to request the following, none of which the developer is required or obligated to do:

1. Ask for riparian buffers along Whetstone Run and its tributaries of 100 feet on each side;
2. Ask for the protection of all of the steep slopes on the property that are greater than 20% (i.e., no building on or disturbing of those steep slopes);
3. Protection of highly erodible soils (i.e., no building on or disturbing those soils);
4. Detain and infiltrate up to the first three inches of precipitation that falls on any of the new impervious surfaces;
5. Protection of the old forest (trees greater than 100-years old): Leave a wide vegetative buffer area along I-476 to help mitigate traffic noise throughout the area and to help absorb some of the vehicular emissions.

Another approach to help insure the long-term protection of Whetstone Run would be to apply to PADEP for re-designation to High Quality or Exceptional Value Status. In January 2001, PADEP evaluated the southern tributary in response to a heating oil spill from tanks at Cardinal O'Hara High School. The macroinvertebrates that PADEP identified in the samples indicate that the stream possesses some of the qualities of a high quality stream. DCVA has a copy of the PADEP report, should anyone want a copy to review.

Before we give up hope for this treasure it is important to note that the property that was purchased by the developer is zoned for low-density residential use. The high-density and commercial uses that the developer is proposing are not permitted on that land "by-right" so they must seek a rezoning of the land or an exception from Marple Township's Zoning Board. DCVA feels strongly that losing this amazing resource to more of the same, when there is neither a shortage of housing in the County, nor a shortage of commercial space would be a shame. Representatives of the Darby Creek Valley Association hope to help in the following ways:

1. DCVA will make presentations to the Marple Township Commissioners, Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and Environmental Advisory Council.
2. DCVA will make a presentation to the Delaware County Planning Department
3. DCVA will offer to help the developer identify important resources on the land and work with the developer to use green infrastructure and other water quality protection measures to preserve the quality of the streams on the property. If as a society, we profess to understand storm water so well then we should want to manage the storm water on this property to actually succeed in preserving the quality of those streams.
4. DCVA will take steps to petition to PADEP for designating the non-degraded tributaries of Whetstone Run as High Quality Stream status, since in fact that is the way they currently function.
5. Be an advocate for natural resource protection through the DCVA newsletter and public news media.

The satellite image below shows the land cover on the site.



**Nominations for the Board of Directors.**  
**Please Review Prior to the Annual Meeting**

The Board appointed Nominating Committee consisting of Tim Denny, Clyde Hunt, Ann Jackson, Jaclyn Rhoads, and Earl Wilson have conferred and are putting forth the following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors.

New Board Nominees are:

Jamie Anderson, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative. There are no conflicts of interest She is not being paid by DCVA to write grants.

Jeanette Guess: Eastwick Action Committee, Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition.

Mandy Santiago, history of working with land trust/conservancy; participated in Springfield Environmental Advisory Committee activities.

Incumbent Board Nominees are:

David Bennett

Tim Devaney

Scott Maits

Robin Mann

Alan Samel

Ed Silberstein

Maya Silva

All have agreed to serve a 3 year term. (class of 2018)

Emeritus Board Status Requested by:

Don Barber

Palmer Dalesandro

Olga and Fritz Thornton

Khiet Luong

Honorary Member

Gary Stoltz

Anyone interested in serving on the Board please contact DCVA @ [message@dcva.org](mailto:message@dcva.org). Additional nominees for the Board may be made in writing to the secretary using the address noted above prior to the Annual Meeting (Jan. 24, 2015) or from the floor at the annual meeting. Nominees must have paid dues to DCVA, been contacted by a DCVA member and given consent to serve. The Board may consist of 9-35 members. The Board, including the new and incumbent nominees listed above would consist of 30 members.

## Cricker's Corner

### The Ghost of William Penn: Recall of Branch Cobbs

*By Tom Roy Smith, aka, Ghost of William Penn*

Welcome! Welcome! It is a wonderful day in Pennsylvania.

*Governor William Penn speaking...*

Today I recall the largest branch of the Darby watershed: The Cobbs. An easy tap for the treat of Pennsylvania themes I perked when a DCVA member asked for a history of the branch Cobbs. In comply I picked up my quill pen. My four sheet inky tally I share.....

Sensibly, all streams once had Native American tags. I (W.P.) am credited as having learned native language and friendly thereby, able to speak directly. Truth told I thought, "I love these people but why bother to learn stream names? "

Just how did a local stream gain the name Cobbs? Short answer, it was named for William Cobb. Beyond begs a fuller answer. ...The bottom of fast current flow on branch Cobbs is found where Woodland Avenue intersects with Cobbs. The advantageous place - in the 1640's - was the place at which the first-arrived Swedes erected a grain grinding mill. (A rude - so-called, "tub mill".)

The Swedes, for quickness of remedy, erected their first (above cited) mill only inches above the streambed course; by corner streambed set, uplifting stilt timbers. Water currents by gate and sluice tapped the natural coursing power flow. Up gate -- the rude mill functioned; down gate -- the blocked off power flow ceased the turn of mill stones. Flow with me, friends for the rest of the story...

The needy Swedes did not have luxury time to dig mill raceways beside the Cobbs which enabled other mills to be erected parallel, and margin (safer) from flood destruction. Waterpower astute, the Swedes grasped that to erect a mill structure on bigger (threat) Darby Creek proper was a sure way to be quick cut of their mill by an angry floodtide. Sensibly the Swedes erected their first mill on lesser Darby---the Cobbs. Neededly their mill was built sturdily to take more mill friendly Cobbs flow.

Hear ye.....Some 40 years later, upon my 1682 arrive I was interested in the infrastructure which two generations of Swedes had carved upon the land. Thin in number the Swedes had little to boast beyond settler log cabins and two rude churches and the ramshackle remains of a palisade fort at Tinicum (Essington). Infrastructure assessing, my ears perked when I heard that a shell of a Swedish grain mill (with grinding stones) yet stood on a stream just beyond then Philadelphia County boundaries (later Philadelphia City). Quaker Yippee! I hastened a corporate franchise of several of my settlers. All Quaker, standout William Cobb was the biggest investor. "Bill" Cobb had a quarter share stake and was top shareholder in the mill we built on the old Swede site. Primacy gave Bill rights to mill name, hence: Cobb's Mill. Surname Cobbs soon attached self to the stream way. Now in know. I close.

Thank you for listening,

William Penn  
Aka, Tom Smith



***Crickers' Corner Continued...*****Memories of Boyhood Pleasures in Darby Valley, Garrettford (aka Drexel Hill)*****By Tom Roy Smith***

Mark Twain as a boy shivered at dead leaves and dried dead weeds. They would no longer know a new year of spring-time vital life. I was opposite – I did not sadden at peeks of nature death – gave it not a thought beyond acceptance. -- More on target I liked the crackle sound of padded feet treading upon fallen dried leaves. As for plants I liked to walk and feel.... walk more..... feel more..... liked the sensory feel as I pad-walked. I walked in this peculiar manner; one which I recommend to others, especially the young, that I call pad-walking. I walked with my palms facing downward. With fingers spread. I glided them, my hands and fingers as I pad walked. In woods and wild meadows I went literally feelingly along. I learned by tactile feel and perked peeks.

I hold no grudge against the modern “screen means” of tapping knowledge. And yet I wish that the flattened senses – all five – were given a reality check. I mean that to see a plant or animal or mineral on screen is not really seeing any one of the sighted. Looking at a screen a person cannot hold or rattle any... A person cannot know if it has a snap sound when pinched or hollow feel if thumb and finger crushed. No screen viewer knows if the object seen has a sweet smell or odor. I do champion the use of screen-handy sourcing of knowledge. I also champion the outside world feel of real reality. The show is free. Tickets only cost the opening of door to the out-of-doors. You may stumble, but in the stumble if you worm eye your surroundings you may come up the wiser. I speak of experience. I suppose with certainty - if asked what part of Darby Valley I preferred over others, it would be in hearing range of creek babble. Truly, at heart I am a ‘Cricker.’ A Darby Creek Cricker. Thank you for listening. It is wonderful day in Pennsylvania.

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**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 organizations 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, PO Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual member.....\$25	Family member.....\$35	Corporate or Municipality.....\$50
Senior Citizen or Student.....\$10	Non-Profit Group.....\$35	Life Member .....\$250

***DCVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization– All Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.***

# CALENDAR

## Annual Meeting January 24, 2015

### Haverford Reserve

Program will include poster session, speakers who will update us on the environmental and historical events and activities in the watershed, and lunch.

DCVA Board Meetings..... Saturday of each month  
Delaware County Peace Center

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