

*Darby  
Creek  
Valley  
Association*

The  
**Valley**



**September 2016**

*President's Pen*

**Remembering Our Friends**

**By Jaclyn Rhoads DCVA President**

Even as a young girl growing up in Philadelphia, I had a passion for protecting the environment. Pursuing a career in environmental science and policy was a natural path for me, but I also wanted to devote my free time as well toward this passion. When I moved to Delaware County in 2003, I sought to find others in the community with the same passion. Shortly after this time, I met John Furth.

A friend in Delaware County and I started the Delaware County Environmental Summit – an annual event for sharing information and hearing from professionals and advocates about environmental issues affecting the county. The first summit was held in 2005 at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge. I met dozens of people that I didn't know and wanted to start a volunteer organization to help with local environmental issues. Dr. John Furth was interested in my work, and pursued me (in a nice way) to learn more about Darby Creek Valley Association instead of starting a new organization.

I was skeptical at first, because I had grand plans (don't we all?). I met with John, and he explained more about the organization and some of the work that he did for the organization. John was a retired medical doctor who served on the board of DCVA for many years. He secured a grant from EPA, so that DCVA could hire an expert to oversee the clean-up of the Clearview and Folcroft Landfills. He also organized a canoe paddle and race on the Darby Creek every year. He also fought to protect some of the last remaining open spaces in the county including Little Flower Manor in Darby.

Needless to say John was smart, and he pushed me to get involved, so I could take over these tasks for him, which I did! He wanted to pass on the legacy of great work and make sure DCVA continued to educate the public and advocate for strong protections of the watershed. John passed away this summer. He brought me to DCVA, and I thank him for leading me down this path. I just hope that I help continue his legacy of great work for even a fraction of the decades of time he devoted to our community. Dr. John Furth is remembered fondly by many, and is in the heart of DCVA.



# John Furth

By Barbarann Keffer

We each have our own memories of spending time with John. I have only known him for the last nine years. Much of the time I spent with him was active time, working time: creek clean-ups and board meetings with the DCVA or knocking on doors while collecting signatures for petitions or meeting voters. From him I learned that the politicians who make policy is important, but also that one can affect change without holding office. He showed me how not to take disagreements personally or to take myself too seriously.

John got things done.....Single-stream recycling (he was “for”), the re-zoning of the Thompson and Mozino tracts in Upper Darby Township (John was “against”), the development of Little Flower Manor (he was passionately “against”). These were all issues he worked on, among countless others. For example, John was involved in the preservation of the Swedish Cabin, and particularly fond of this project. Making calls, writing letters to the editor, collecting signatures, speaking out at public meetings, running for office---John impacted our community in many ways, over decades. He was very supportive of others who were active too. John was generous with his time and energy. His stamina was amazing to me.

This from the pamphlet of his memorial ceremony at Lansdowne Friends: “John had a curious intellect and caring soul that believed in the common good... he cared deeply about peace, good governance, the democratic process and equality for all.” It was encouraging to see so many DCVA people in attendance there.

Korean War Veteran, Doctor, Research Scientist, Husband to Mary, Father of Three Daughters, Grandfather... so much in a full lifetime. John had a twinkle in his eye and often laughed at himself. He loved to dance. He loved to spend time in Maine with Mary. He was active there, too, and would be delighted with Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument which recently became a reality.

John was a good person and a good friend.

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## An Appreciation of John Furth and the ‘Foursome Force’

Tom Roy Smith

*This life appreciation touts much in favor of stewardship and mentoring.*

I cannot say I recall John Furth the first time we crisscrossed, it was no doubt at “The Willows” in Radnor Township, very long ago. I am very certain others of the vanguard Darby Creek Valley Association first pressed shoulders against John Furth on the same monumental day.

The place was a small whitewashed building at the rear of “The Willows.” The meeting structure was without a door, a somewhat comic metaphor for our environmental openness, but it was truly open to the brisk cold and the layer of white snow clung to grassy surroundings. Behind was Darby Creek. I shiver in remembering!

Gayle Lawrence had called a public meeting to discuss the founding of a Darby Creek Watershed group. The mission was to form an association dedicated to watching over and caring for Darby Creek and its valley. Lawrence wanted a valley Watershed organization, not a myopic stream one.

Although I don’t recall talking with John at the first meeting of the Darby Creek Valley Association, I do recall Furth’s mentor. And where his mentor went, John traced. I refer to the late Bob Shaner.

Bob Shaner was uniformly respected and a standout civic leader. John Furth, Shaner’s junior, met Bob in political party circles. John quickly recognized Bob’s wisdom and leadership abilities and they became good friends. Mary, John’s wife connected with Vicky, Bob’s wife. Together a foursome force!

*Continued from previous page...*

A shared mindset of environmental interest pathed John and Bob to the momentous, Lawrence's clarion call, 'to gather and associate.' Darby Creek proper babbled behind Bob and Vicky Shaner's Haverford home; it swept larger and faster near John and Mary's Lansdowne home. Hence the Darby Creek was a familiar on-mind-joy. You might almost say the founding of a watershed group was right up the foursome's alley. John Furth remained close to Bob up to the hour of his mentor's passing.

Anne Ackerman, another founding member of DCVA, once lit up in agreement when I tagged John Furth as the "Tom Paine" of the DCVA. -- Anne amicably agreed with my quip because John was a shaker-up.

John Furth's life stirs this Cricker's own message to *The Valley* readers: each generation can positively impact the next. True mentors inspire in life and after life. John was mentored in environmental stewardship and was a mentor himself. We should follow his example. John will be missed. Thank you for listening.



John Jacob Furth, M.D.,

Scholar and Environmental Activist

Professor emeritus at the School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, a resident of both Upper Darby, PA and Surry, ME, passed away in Philadelphia on July 6, 2016 at age 87.  
- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delcotimes/obituary.aspx?pid=180685730#sthash.ZDZIDXHe.dpuf>

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## **Stream-Watch a Huge Success!**

**By**

**Alan Samel**

The annual DCVA Stream Watch was April 16<sup>th</sup>. It's hard to believe that we have been doing this for almost 15 years! This is a tribute to the legions of volunteers that have helped in the past and continue to help. If you have never participated in the Stream Watch there's no better time than now. Like the Vernal Equinox, the Stream Watch occurs once a year. And now is the time for you to get involved. The Stream Watch is a great way for us to give back to our communities in our continuing and non-stop effort to enhance the Darby Creek Watershed.

Over the years we have experienced glorious and, uhm, less than glorious days. This year we had glorious conditions! It was a beautiful, sunny day that hovered in the mid-50s the entire day.

*Continued from previous page...*

This is always a great opportunity for us to get in the creek, take samples, work with the samplers, and see what is living in Darby Creek. On this day, we took samples from five locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby, Darby Creek Road in Havertown (downstream from the Haverford Reserve), Skunk Hollow in Radnor, the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown, and the Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby. What a great way to meet others and learn more about Darby Creek!!

The insects and bugs we collect will provide a snapshot of the health of Darby Creek. Since we have been doing this for almost 15 years, trends of stream health at each site has been revealed. Each year we gather data and compare our water quality findings from previous years. It's a way of getting the big picture from a lot of very small bugs! But getting into the stream and collecting the bugs is only part of the stream watch program.

The next step will be to identify the bugs pulled from the stream. We then can identify the level of water quality for that section of the creek. The Insect Identification Workshop will be scheduled for this coming early 2017. Please check the DCVA web-site for more information as we get closer to this time.

Bruce Bayne (r) and Rocco Masticolo (l) removing a kicknet sample from the net in the 2016 Streamwatch

*Photo by Alan Samel*



Nora Schmidt and Derron LaBrake prepare to take a macroinvertebrate sample using a kicknet for the DCVA Streamwatch 2016.

*Photo by Alan Samel*

# 12th Annual OcTrolleyFest, Saturday October 15

By Jan and John Haigis

What do Darby, Media, Norristown, Yeadon, Sharon Hill, Collingdale, University City, Center City, Upper Darby, the Delaware River Waterfront, The Philadelphia Zoo, Bartram's Garden, the Grange Estate, and a myriad of other historic sites have in common?

The answer is they are all accessible over an existing light-rail network connecting us with each other and with the world. **On Saturday, October 15**, the 12<sup>th</sup> annual OcTrolleyFest will once more celebrate these connections along with transportation heritage and community and you are invited to "Get on Board" and explore a new (and old) world on a trolley. "It's like we live in Disneyworld." said John Haigis who coordinates the annual event with his wife Jan." One difference is we have the real thing connecting all of us. OcTrolleyFest is a good chance to celebrate our historic sites and places we call home."

OcTrolleyFest started in 2005 to celebrate the first streetcar (horsecar) line to come to Delaware County in 1858, still running over its original route as the SEPTA route 11. Since then OcTrolleyFest has expanded as participants are encouraged to explore the entire region through the purchase of a SEPTA One-Day Excursion Pass which provides 8 rides on any bus, subway or trolley for \$8.00. Folks can also use their own SEPTA pass. The journey is the show.

The day will begin at 10:00 am at St. Joseph Church on Bartram Avenue in Collingdale (on the SEPTA Route 102) as the Collingdale Historical Society's History Day celebrates a transportation theme and the 125<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the Borough. Events will include trolley songs sung by John and Jan Haigis, a baking contest, scarecrows from recycled materials, information, the cathartic "Bubble Wrap Stomp," with fun and surprises. Events will then move to Darby. Additional information and a complete schedule can be found by calling (610) 583-0788 or visiting [www.OcTrolleyFest.org](http://www.OcTrolleyFest.org)

Since 1858 when the first horse car lines connected Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, the entire Philadelphia region, and Darby in particular, have been blessed by a remarkable historic transportation network and our history in many ways is the history of our transportation networks. Rivers like the Delaware and the Schuylkill brought settlers to Southeastern Pennsylvania, and the presence of water power along the Darby Creek and other streams was a major reason people stayed. The extensive rail network connecting us all was a major factor in the development of commuter towns and "streetcar suburbs."

A perennial favorite of OcTrolleyFest is the Art Contest sponsored by Sharon Savings Bank, open to 5<sup>th</sup> graders with prizes awarded for the best trolley picture. "They are all variations on a theme," said Jan Haigis who helps coordinate the event, "and it is wonderful to see the creativity and talent of our young people." The artwork will be on display at Sharon Savings Bank, Chester Pike in Darby.

For more information visit [www.DarbyHistory.com](http://www.DarbyHistory.com) or [www.OcTrolleyFest.org](http://www.OcTrolleyFest.org)



William Penn selects his route

Photo by John Haigis



Tom Roy Smith as William Penn

*Photo by John Haigis*

## **IMPORTANT**

***Please review before the Annual Meeting***

### ***Nominations for the Board of Directors (the Board)***

The Board appointed Nominating Committee consisting of Jamie Anderson David Bennett, Clyde Hunt, Jaclyn Rhoads, and Ann Jackson, has conferred and is putting forth the following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors

#### **New Board Members:**

**No names have been submitted for nomination to the Board**

**Members may submit names of potential nominees to [president@dcva.org](mailto:president@dcva.org)**

Incumbent Board members who have agreed to serve (3 year term-2020) if re-elected are:

Richard Carroll

Carl DuPoldt

Kate Goddard

Rich Horwitz

Clyde Hunt

Barbarann Keffer

Anyone interested in being on the Board must be a DCVA member and agree to serve. If interested please contact DCVA at [president@dcva.org](mailto:president@dcva.org). Additional nominees for the Board may be made in writing to the secretary at the above address prior to the Annual Meeting or from the floor at the Annual Meeting, 2017-(date to be announced).

**If the nominee or current board member has not paid dues or can't remember if they paid dues in 2016, contact Rosemary Kesling for latest paid membership list. Dues must be paid before the Annual meeting.**

The Board may consist of 9-35 members. The Board, including the incumbent nominees listed above would consist of 28 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Jackson  
Secretary, DCVA

# Tree Vitalize Plantings in 2015-2016 on Upper Darby Townships Sites (New, transplanted and replacement plantings) by Clyde Hunt

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Aronimink E School	2
Blanchard Play Area	2
Collenbrook Historic Area	3
Drexel Gardens	20
Drexel Hills M S.	20
Dermont Play Area	1
Garrettford Fire Company.	1
Garrettford E S.	5
K/Day Care Center	2
Long Lane and Parking Lot	12
Marshall Road Play Area	5
St. Bernadette School	3
St. Laurence School	3
Shadeland Passive Park	2
Swedish Cabin Historic Park.	2
Ward Two Play Area	8
Westview Play Area	5
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>



**Plus 4 trees in tubs held for site-prep =100**

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## Lansdowne Friends School Celebrates Completion of their Habitat/Native Plant Gardens by Ann Jackson

On May 10, 2016 Lansdowne Friends School (LFS) students conducted tours of the habitat/native plant gardens that they created at the school. Students explained that each of the three gardens that they created is a mini eco-system that uses native plants to attract beneficial insects, pollinators, and small animals.

"Garden #1" is a partial shade garden beneath the school's pergola and provides habitat for turtles and toads.

It features:

- May apples: attract box turtles that eat the "apples".
- Christmas ferns: provide cover for small animals.
- Virginia blue bells: attract bees, butterflies, and moths in early spring.
- Trillium: attract caterpillars of two species of moths- American Angle shades and Black patched clepsid that feed on the leaves.
- Trout lilies: attract bumble, honey, mason, and mining bees. The mining bee *Andrena ertyronii* bee specializes in pollinating trout lilies.
- Wood poppies: are nectar source for honey, bumble, and certain solitary bees. Chipmunks eat the seeds.

These plants tolerate shade because they grow and bloom in early spring before trees and shrubs leaf out and block the sun.

"Garden#2 features Pennsylvania sedges as an alternative to turf lawn and bunch grasses. Sedges look like grasses but the stems are triangular in cross section rather than round. Native sedges provide habitat for several species of butterflies including the brown-eyed butterfly and the broad winged Skipper. The chestnut sided warbler searches the sedges for insects, including caterpillars that are attracted to the to these plants.



Garden " 1 Partial shade garden  
*Photo by Ann Jackson*

Garden #3 highlights pollinators and beneficial insects. Students explained that leaves of native plants provide food for native insects. Many species of plants contain chemicals that are hard to metabolize and even poisonous. These chemicals, along with thorns and fuzzy leaves are anti-herbivore devices. In any part of the world, native insects have evolved to thrive on native plants by metabolically combatting the plants' chemical defenses. Insects often cannot eat the leaves from plants from other geographical regions because they have not been exposed to them over evolutionary time. Adult moths, butterflies and other insects feed on flowers of our native plants and serve as pollinators for these same plants. Many insects lay their eggs on native plants on which their young (larvae or caterpillars) can feed. For example, native butterflyweed (orange milkweed) and swamp milkweed attracts native butterflies including the fritillary butterflies that feed on the flowers. A smaller number of types of insects can tolerate the chemical defenses of the milkweed leaves and stems including, of course, the monarch butterfly. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed and their caterpillars can feed on the leaves. Black eyed Susans, another native plant, attract green metallic bees. Aromatic native asters provided nectar/pollen for many local bees, butterflies, and hover flies-one of the best pollinators. Hover fly larvae feed on aphids and adults drink nectar. Native purple cone flowers provide nectar for skippers, eastern swallow tails, many bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Goldfinches, local residents, eat the seeds.

John McKinistry, Head of School, and teachers welcomed the Honorable Anthony Campuzano, the Mayor of Lansdowne, Brian Vadino, Delaware County Conservation District (**DCCD**) Watershed Specialist, Dan Duran, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biodiversity, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, Drexel University and the father an LFS student; Deron LaBrake and Ann Jackson, DCVA; PA Department of Environmental Protection (**PADEP**) representatives and other guests to the celebrations. Informative signs along the sidewalk in front of LFS gives passersby a mini-education in habitat creation. The project was part of a PADEP grant awarded to LFS in partnership with the DCCD.



Above: Dan Duran and LFS student explain features of habitat/native plant eco-systems. At right: "Garden #3" Pollinator Garden Photo by Ann Jackson

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## Everything "Fishy" about DCVA's Participation at Family Fishing Day at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

By Ann Jackson

Dick Carroll, Ann Jackson, Rocco Masticolo, Jaclyn Rhoads, and Nora Schmidt represented DCVA at the Family Fishing Day at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge on July 25, 2016. Adults and children had the opportunity to learn about fish and fishing. Catch and release was a big part of the fun. DCVA contributed to the educational opportunities for the public at this event:

- At DCVA's educational table participants identified "fish food" using DCVA's macroinvertebrate identification game. Macroinvertebrates are that do not have backbones such as insects, crayfish, and aquatic sowbugs (i.e. pillbugs, or roly-polies) that are large enough to be seen without a microscope. The game consists of unlabeled jars filled with local aquatic insects and other macroinvertebrates which must be matched to their names. Each species of fish has its own diet. Some fish eat other fish, some fish even eat seeds, yet many fish eat insects. In the jars the participants had the opportunity to view and identify insects that are high quality "fish food" such as stonefly nymphs (young). Fly fishermen emulate stoneflies and other macroinvertebrates with the fishing flies they create to catch trout or bass.
- The public also had the opportunity to learn more about stormwater issues using the Enviroscape kindly provided by Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative. The Enviroscape is a table top plastic model of a landscape on which participants can see how sediment (represented by colored table sugar) erodes into creeks and makes them opaque and dark. Muddy water created by erosion can clog fishes' gills, smother fish eggs and raise water temperature. The DCVA participants explained how homeowners can prevent erosion by growing dense native plants along streams (i.e. riparian buffer), by building rain gardens, using rain barrels and other methods. The Enviroscape also provides an opportunity to learn about pollution. For example, a tiny model gas station on the landscape can leak oil (represented by chocolate syrup) into streams. The DCVA representatives handed out DCVA's Creek Friendly Lawn & Garden Care brochures so that participants could take the lessons home with them.
- At the banks of Darby Creek, Rocco Masticolo helped everyone bait hooks, cast, catch, land, unhook and release fish.

**DCVA looks forward to participating again in the future at this great event.**

Px from Family Fishing Day



Learning to cast at Family Fishing Day JHNWR.



Nora and Jaclyn practice fish painting.



Dick Carroll, Ann Jackson, Jaclyn Rhoads (not pictured (Nora Schmidt)).

Rocco ready to bait hooks, cast, land, unhook & release fish.



*All Photos by Ann Jackson*

# **EASTWICK IN ACTION**

## **THE REMOVAL OF CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM RESIDENTIAL YARDS**

**By Earl Wilson**

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent soil testing results have shown that toxic (carcinogenic) compounds have been found, not only in the areas around the Clearview Landfill, but also in the yards of residents living adjacent to the landfill. This discovery was made when the EPA, during its systematic "core sampling" activity followed the underground trail of the contaminated soil from the landfill to the yards of the residents. The revelation that the discovery of toxic contaminants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) was present in residential areas caused the EPA to revise its methodology to include a more precise and expansive investigation, along with a plan to mitigate a clean up process for this new phase of work.

The EPA informed the Community Advisory Group (CAG) about its findings and began setting up meetings with the residents who were immediately impacted by this new information, and the surrounding community as well. The initial and most immediate plan was to inform the residents as to how to safely protect themselves, their children and pets from coming into contact with the toxic soil. In order to accomplish this plan, the EPA and the CAG's Technical Work Group and the Health, Safety and Communication Work Group designed two information flyers for distribution to the residents. These flyers were very specific to the following areas of concern: (1) How to avoid disturbing the contaminated soil in residential yards, and (2) How to avoid disturbing the contaminated soil in the Eastwick Regional Park.

Specific information about these flyers can be obtained at the following web sites:

CAG's web site -----[eldcacag.org](http://eldcacag.org)

EPA's web site -----[epa.gov/superfund/lower Darby](http://epa.gov/superfund/lower%20Darby)

Notices were also sent out to residents and meetings were held to inform them about how the clean up and removal process would be implemented and how this would affect them: First, the residents would have to sign an agreement with the EPA, allowing the agency access to their property so that the yard soil could be tested. Once that was done, the soil sample would then be sent to an EPA approved lab for testing.

The EPA, upon receiving the soil testing results, contracted with a toxic soil removal company and charged them with the task of extracting the toxic soil from the yards of the residents who had given access to, and whose yards were tested positively for the PAHs. The clean up process for the contaminated residential yards is as follows:

- (1) A picture will be taken of the "before" condition of the yard.
- (2) The toxic soil removal contractor will remove (to a depth of) approximately 12+ inches of the toxic soil and replace it with "good" soil.
- (3) The yard will be returned to its original state, including the replacement of plants that had to be removed during the clean up process.

The toxic soil removal process will commence this Fall (2016) and will be conducted even as the work continues on the Clearview and Folcroft Landfills. The EPA and CAG members are hoping that additional residents, especially those living adjacent to the Clearview Landfill and who have yet to give access to the EPA to have their yards tested, will do so as soon as possible. The message here is that there is this opportunity to reduce additional exposure to contaminated soil if these residents give access to the EPA to have their yards tested.

The next VALLEY issue will delve into the Philadelphia City Planning Commission's plans for the development of the Eastwick and Lower Southwest Philadelphia District. The community is extremely anxious and optimistic about playing a major role in this process. I can't wait to give you an overview as to how progress is being made in the Eastwick Community. Thanks for reading the VALLEY!

# 32<sup>nd</sup> DCVA Creek Cleanup, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

## Final Wrap Up Report

It was a dark and stormy morning.....but 400 plus volunteers appeared at the various sites to volunteer to clean our watershed of trash and debris. This year, we had 31 listed sites spread around our 32 municipalities within the waters of Darby Creek, Cobbs Creek, Naylor's Run, Ithan Creek, and all their tributaries. No injuries were reported.

Total weight in the dumpsters, donated to our cause by the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority, was 11.64 tons including 9.66 tons for our sites within our municipalities and 1.98 tons collected by the independent effort at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge. For those areas where we had no dumpsters, we estimate we collected around 1.5 tons picked up by various municipalities including Philadelphia for Eastwick. That brings our total collected weight up to 13 and a half tons. This was our first year to include the Cobbs Creek area between the Clearview Landfill site and Island Avenue in Eastwick.

Over the years that John and Jan Haigis ran the cleanup, the trash and debris collected in the northern parts of our watershed has been reduced due to our past efforts and the environmental consciousness of the public. In addition, more of our creekside open space has been preserved. We applaud Radnor and Haverford Townships for their efforts. At the same time, there is a growing amount of litter, trash, and stuff that winds up at John Heinz, Eastwick, Darby, Clifton Heights, Yeadon, Lansdowne, and Upper Darby. We do not blame those towns for the problem; its simply that due to storm water runoff, unconscientious individuals and unnecessary packaging for food and other items brings the debris into our lowest flowing waters

I am grateful for all our volunteers, captains, sponsors, municipalities, county agencies, elected officials, and all the DCVA Board members who helped guide me through my first year as cleanup chairman. I plan to do much better next year after learning what, where, when, who, why and how this past year.

Thank you all,

**David Bennett**

**Chairman, DCVA Cleanup Committee**

**2016 and 2017**

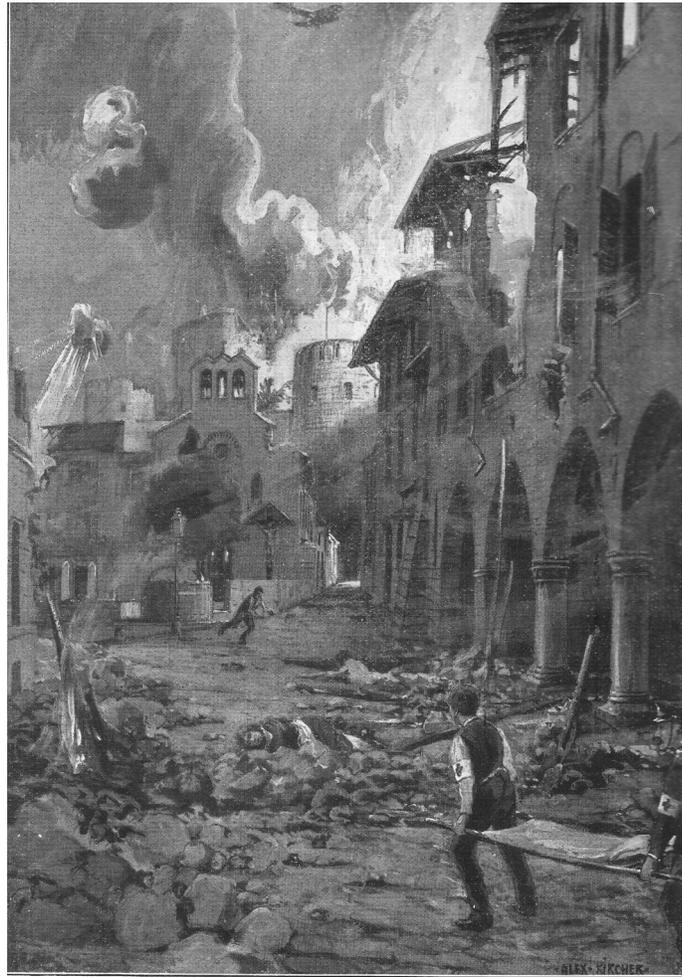


Clean up volunteers at the newest DCVA cleanup site in Eastwick, April 2016.  
Left to right: Kaitlyn Mansterski, Jasmine Sadat, Loida Hopkins, Joseph Small, Brittany Salen, Russell Zerbo, Earl Wilson

## War and Place

### By John Haigis

People know that their environment has an impact on how they feel. This is known by anyone who walks along the Darby Creek. The feeling of calm and peace is palpable. Less well known is the effect of the built environment on our mood and well-being. For example, the placement and proportions of the pillars in ancient temples such as the Temples of Karnack in Egypt are believed to have a vibrational, healing energy. A walk through Society Hill may also bring feelings of peace and proportion. Our streetscapes matter. Syrian Architect Marwa al-Sabouni in a recent piece in the New York Times authored by Stephen Heyman (Sept. 14, 2016) takes this a step further and suggests the destruction of the traditional, tree shaded city, and its replacement with modern apartment blocks, may have contributed to the Syrian Civil War. Architect Sabouni, who spent two years trapped in her apartment as the historic heart of her city of Homs was destroyed said in a TED talk, "there is a sure correspondence between the architecture of a place and the character of the community that has settled there.....architecture plays a key role in whether a community crumbles or comes together"



The article notes Syria has traditionally been a place of diversity with a Sunni Muslim majority and Christian and Alawite minorities "In the old town.... sacred, residential and commercial sites occupied shared spaces. Mosques and churches sat side by side. The souk (open air market) was a hive of economic activity that forced rival groups to deal with each other. Interwoven into the cityscape were squat houses of local basalt connected by twisting alleyways that provided shelter from the sun.....There was a human scale to these cities, a generosity to them, with water fountains, benches and 'the cool shade of trees that gave joy throughout the year with their fragrances and fruits.' " She notes "people lived and worked with each other in a place that gave them a sense of belonging and made them feel at home." The article talks about changes that came to Homs and other Syrian cities under the banner of "progress," including "colonial-era geometric street plans that tore up the traditional architecture, and massive apartment blocks that isolated their occupants from the city center." The article states "As Homs and other cities grew, ghettos sprouted on the urban fringe that were often divided according to religion and class. By 2010, Ms. Sabouni said, almost half of the Syrian population was living in "informal housing" — shantytowns that were sorely lacking in infrastructure and amenities. Some of the earliest battle lines in the fighting were drawn along such segregated areas."

There are many factors involved in the Syrian conflict. "Of course, I'm not saying that architecture is the only reason for war, Sabouni is quoted as saying, "but in a very real way it accelerated and perpetuated the conflict.....this place promoted anger, it promoted revenge." In light of the tendency of some of our architecture to ignore what Sabouni calls "proportions and sizes based on principals of humanity and harmony," when we are losing elements of our historic built environment and open space at alarming rates, the role of architecture in our well-being is perhaps food for thought.

*Illustration above from "Der Weltbrand" published in Germany in 1920*

Here is a link to the TED lecture on the topic

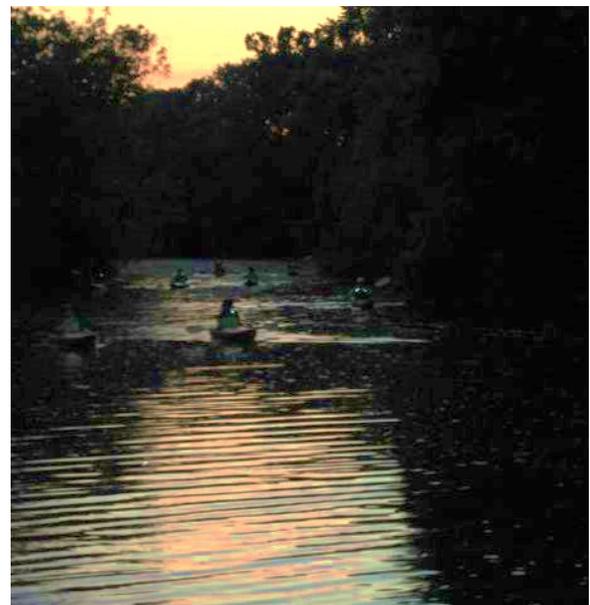
[http://www.ted.com/talks/marwa\\_al\\_sabouni\\_how\\_syria\\_s\\_architecture\\_laid\\_the\\_foundation\\_for\\_brutal\\_war](http://www.ted.com/talks/marwa_al_sabouni_how_syria_s_architecture_laid_the_foundation_for_brutal_war)



The Governor Printz Canoe Challenge  
First Ever Dusk Paddle September 9, 2016



Top Left: Paddlers leaving the dock  
Center photo above: DCVA president Jaclyn Rhoads in her kayak.  
Nora provides stream friendly brochures at sign in  
At upper right: Representative from LLBean gives kayaking safety and paddling tips  
Bottom right: Paddlers return at dusk.



# Paddle for Preservation: Darby Creek “Canoe Ramble and Kayak/ Canoe Challenge

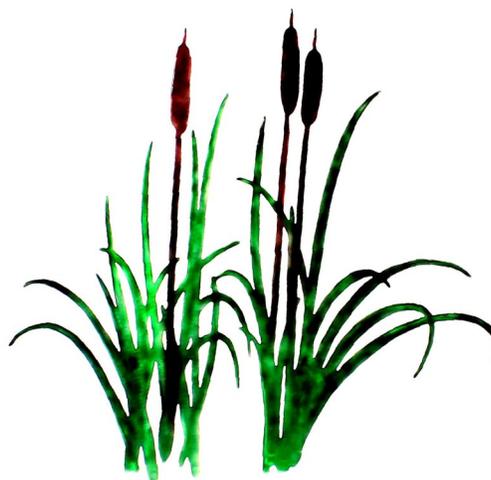
## Congratulations to all Paddlers and Racers

### by Ann Jackson

The Ramble: Dusk on the Darby

This year L.L. Bean, Inc representatives volunteered to lead the enthusiastic paddlers down Darby Creek in Kayaks supplied by L.L. Bean, Inc. Before launching the kayaks, L.L. Bean representatives explained safety precautions and the fine points of kayak paddling. As you can see from the photos on the previous page, the paddlers looked like “pros” as they embarked from the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge boat ramp in the early evening and returned at dusk. Dusk on the Darby is spectacular! This event showcases the beauty of Darby Creek and the need to preserve this natural resource.

Thanks to Jaclyn Rhoads, David Bennett, Nora Schmidt, and Ann Jackson John Heinz Wildlife Refuge, and L.L. Bean, Inc and all who worked to make the event a huge success.



### 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

# CALENDAR

- TrolleyFest .....Saturday October 15, 2016
- DCVA Board Meetings .....Saturday of each month Delaware County Peace Center
- Insect Identification Workshop.....TBA
- 2017 Darby Creek Clean-Up ..... TBA Spring 2017 throughout the watershed

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**Darby Creek Valley Association**

**P.O. Box 732**

**Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

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