



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

A recent Daily Times editorial stressed that volunteer groups need help. Ours is an example: older members are not being replenished by younger folks in the numbers needed. Why? Time. People need two incomes for the material things they covet. With taxes, expensive homes and autos, the good things that used to make up our communities are ignored.

We thought 9/11 would make us re-examine our priorities—volunteerism and community service instead of big homes, fancy cars, big taxes and latchkey kids. Is a BMW more important than enough time to help with open space, wetlands, clean water and air?

What of tax money? We pay government our money; it creates a department bureaucracy to process and return 20 cents on the dollar after much paperwork to interminable studies.

Seems that we could spend less time working for government and more time solving our local problems. We know more about them and can solve them

—Continued on page 12

Inside This Issue:

Critical Watershed Issues	2
Cleanup Contact List	3
Darby Borough Projects.....	3
Coventry Woods Update.....	4
Norton Visits the Refuge	5
Haverford State Hospital Update ..	5
Blue Bell Restoration.....	5
Growing Greener.....	6,7
Fish Derby in Radnor	7
Educational Programs	8-9
Invasives Workshop in Radnor	10
Conservation District Grants.....	11
Heritage Conservancy Project	13
Membership Form.....	13

Annual Cleanup Will Be April 27th

DCVA's annual creek cleanup will be Saturday April 27th from 8 am to 1 pm. This is our 18th cleanup! In terms of debris in the water, the creek is still suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd even though it has been two and a half years already since that event. Volunteers are greatly needed, especially in the Darby area. So put the date on your calendar, and plan to join in the cleanup effort.

Anyone who has questions can call the cleanup chair Tom Houghton at 610 268-1414 or one of the section captains listed on page 3.

New Membership Brochure Available

Enclosed with this newsletter is DCVA's new membership brochure. The committee, consisting of Grace Wheeler, Anne Ackerman, John Furth, and Rosemary Kesling, started work last summer to develop a professional piece to promote the organization and to recruit new members. If anyone would like copies to pass out at a meeting or to display at a tabling event, please contact membership chair, Grace Wheeler, at 610 525-4179 or president Fritz Thornton at 610 789-1814.



Historic Darby Library prepares for May watershed exhibit in celebration of National Watershed Awareness Month. (l-r) William Frasch, DCVA board member, holding our new membership brochure; Sue Eshbach, librarian for the Darby Free Library; Betty Barnes, circulation assistant, Darby Free Library.

Thank you to Fritz and Olga Thornton and Bill Buchanan for help in finding appropriate photographs; to Clyde Hunt and Bill Frasch for proof reading the draft; and to Cahill Associates for the watershed map.

It's Streamwatch Time Again!

On Saturday, April 20, we will be hip deep in water collecting insects from Darby Creek. Why insects? I'll tell you. Collecting insects is easy. You get in the water with a net, you shake up the bottom, and then you see what kinds of insects get caught in the net. The type of insects we collect tells us if the water quality is good, or not so good. There are certain insects that need high quality water and others that do not. If we collect a lot of mayflies, for example, that is a pretty good indication that the water quality at that site is pretty good. Mayflies can not live in stressed or polluted water. A real simple way to gather important information about the water quality of Darby creek.

This year we will monitor the upper, middle, and lower portions. The upper portion sampling will happen at skunk hollow; the middle portion will occur in

—Continued on page 12

Watch for DCVA President Fritz Thornton on Cable TV

DCVA will be highlighted on CN8 Newsmakers 5 minute interviews on CNN Headline News to be repeated throughout Delaware and Chester Counties at 55 minutes after the hour for one week during the month of April. President Fritz Thornton will be stressing our mission, The River Conservation Plan and the April cleanup. He says the camera adds at least 20 pounds!

DCVA Has Full Schedule of Projects This Spring

The Darby Creek Valley Association is working on a number of projects this spring. Our major immediate goal is to complete the Rivers Conservation Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed and the Action Plan for implementation. The draft plan should be ready for public comment by early May 2002. We are also exploring options for funding the suggestions of the Munro report - a report commissioned by Darby Borough, Colwyn Borough and Sharon Hill Borough in 1997 that addresses flooding issues in the area.

Specific activities in April include our annual creek cleanup, the celebration of Arbor Day, and our spring volunteer water monitoring of the creek. In May we will celebrate National Watershed Awareness Month with a watershed-wide celebration focused on the proposed development of the greenway and parks/recreation plan for the Darby Creek Watershed as outlined in the Regional Plan for the Tri-State District in 1992. We will also be promoting our environmental education program through exhibits in all of the public libraries in the watershed. And we will continue to educate the public about our historic and environmental treasures, especially the Lazaretto in Tinicum Township.



The crisis committee is monitoring a new development in Collingdale at Oak Avenue and MacDade Boulevard. According to Borough Manager Steven Beckson, water management issues are being addressed by EPA, DEP, and the Army Corps of Engineers to prevent further flooding problems downstream.

Critical Issues Identified as the Rivers Conservation Plan is Developed

The following are the major critical issues identified by area residents and the DCVA in the development of the Rivers Conservation Plan. (Information about some of these issues appears in other articles in this newsletter):

- The natural lands of the former Haverford State Hospital site in Haverford Township (see page 5).
- The 2 Superfund sites, (the lower Darby Creek site and the Havertown site); the Llanerch landfill; and the de Francesco Quarry on Burmont Road.
- The Coventry Woods site in Springfield (see page 4) and the Normandy Road development tract in Haverford Township.
- The John Costalas site in Marple Township.
- The leaking sewage system in various areas.
- Streambank stabilization needs on Stoney Creek and the main stem of the Darby at Lawrence Road and West Chester Pike.
- Crisis in historic preservation with the proposed demolition of the Maris House in Springfield (page 4).
- Protection of Cobbs Creek Corridor - particular focus on the SEPTA transportation yard and adjacent area in Upper Darby and Millbourne; enhancement of the open space at the confluence of the Cobbs and the Darby in Colwyn.
- Pollution problems, especially in impaired areas of the watershed.
- Particular bridge sites that have been key areas of flooding such as at the main stem of the Darby at Township Line and Drexeline (cleared 3/02); Baltimore Pike and Shadeland Avenue; MacDade Blvd & Chester Pike; Naylor's Run at Marshall Road.
- Thompson Tract in Upper Darby - preservation of the steep slope adjacent to the creek.
- Stevens Tract in Upper Darby (purchased by Upper Darby Township.)
- The Marina in Ridley (purchased by Ridley Township.)
- The Drexelbrook stream side development, particularly of the parking lot adjacent to the stream bank.
- Acquisition and preservation of all sites impacted by Hurricane Floyd identified for removal by FEMA.
- Darby Creek in Upper Darby Township - need for identification of parcel ownership and action plan to preserve the area from Rosemont Avenue to Baltimore Pike ie: the Fritz and Whalen tracts in particular.
- Streambank Protection in Hoffman Park in Lansdowne.
- Preservation of the Morton Morton House in Norwood.
- The landfill in Haverford Township at the old Llanerch Quarry adjacent to Naylor's Run.
- Proposed sale of the Philadelphia Roman Catholic Archdiocese property in Marple Township.
- The removal of trees in drainage area on Darby Creek for the Quarry Street area in Darby, just beyond Chester Pike.

Creek Cleanup Contact List

Saturday, April 27, 2002.
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rain or shine.
General Chairman:
Tom Houghton, 610 268-1414

For information about the Cleanup, contact the coordinator in your community:

Upper Karakung, Powdermill Park, Havertown: Larry Arata, 610 449-6479

Clem Macrone Park, Radnor: Dave Cannan, 610 525-3755

Glendale Park, Havertown: Tim Denny, 610 446-2672, Ext. 8 and Joe Ackerman, 610 449-9095

Naylor's Run, Upper Darby: Pete Leahy, 610 622-0320

Springfield Swim Club, Springfield: Dave Damon, 610 544-5432

Kent Park, Clifton Heights: Dave DiPhillipo, 610 284-3319 and John Pecko, 610 453-7583

Hoffman Park, Lansdowne: Jane Young, 610 623-7300 (Borough office) or 610 623-9215

Darby: Tom Houghton, 610 268-1414

Ridley Township: Bob Moorehead, 610 532-7007

Glenolden: Joe Selfridge, 610 586-1740

Brookside Park, Fox Run, Newtown Square: Lisa McCaulley, 610 359-9810

Briarcliffe, Crescent Park tributary: Lisa Simmonds, 610 237-1691

Idle Hour Tennis Club, Drexel Hill: John Buggy, 610 446-8048

Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum: Cyrus Brahme, 215 365-3118

(This year the cleanup at the Refuge is the same day as the general cleanup.)

Welcome New Members

Susan Baraldi, Lansdowne
Mr. & Mrs. W. Thacher Brown, Devon
John Butler, Broomall
Michael J. Coglan, Darby
John & Joanne Delia, Bryn Mawr
Franklin Lane, Aldan
Anne Livingston, Drexel Hill

DCVA Monitors Projects in Darby Borough

Darby Borough has two projects developing in the flood plain of Darby Creek. Developer Frank Aleardi of Broomall recently acquired the building on Quarry Street known locally as the "Big Bear Building." One of the possible tenants of the multi-storied building may be the Delaware County Community College. (The college's present location in Collingdale does not currently meet the standards required for academic accreditation.) The developer of the site has already removed a large number of mature trees on the west end of the steep slope of the property. He was cited by DEP on March 1, 2002, "for failure to develop a written Erosion and Sediment Control Plan," and for failure to implement "effective Best Management Practices," and for "site conditions which present a potential for pollution to waters of the Commonwealth." All of this and more is contained in the Earth Disturbance Inspection Report of March 1st from the DEP, Bureau of Water Quality Protection.

The second project is the proposed relocation of the SEPTA bus terminal. Detailed drawings were not available locally until they were displayed at a Darby Borough Planning Commission meeting on March 5, 2002. The Delaware County Planning Commission approved the plans on February 21, 2002. The new Darby Planning Commission met March 5, 2002, but since neither the borough engineer nor the representative from the Redevelopment Authority were present, no action was possible. The relocation site would have a one way road between Main Street and Mac Dade Boulevard, exiting to Mac Dade Boulevard. Apparently this would compress the existing William Penn School District school bus parking facility further west. There does not appear to be any proposal for stabilization of the creek bank. Nor does there seem to be any consideration for controlling runoff of pollutants from vehicles. The next meeting will be in early April when these concerns will be expressed by members of DCVA.

PENNVEST Approves Loan to Morton for Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) on March 20th approved \$82.5 million in low-interest loans and \$13 million in grants for 56 drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects to serve communities in 34 counties across the Commonwealth. One wastewater project is in Delaware County. Morton Borough will receive a loan for \$407,675 to replace terra cotta sanitary sewer collection lines with PVC pipe to eliminate wet weather infiltration and inflow that result in surface discharges of raw and inadequately treated sewage and backups into residential basements and backyards.

Easttown Plans Tricentennial in 2004

Easttown Township plans to celebrate its tercentenary in 2004, marking 300 years since the name William Thomas first appeared in records of the County Court. Thomas was appointed Constable of the township in 1704. Easttown was first inhabited by Welsh Church of England settlers who established a church there shortly after 1700.

The theme for the observance will be: "Easttown Township: Old in History--Young in Spirit." Planning is underway for events throughout the year 2004.

Marple Township Appoints DCVA Board Member to EAB

The Marple Township commissioners have increased the size of the township's Environmental Advisory Board from seven to nine members. One of the new members has been appointed: William Brainerd, a member of DCVA's board and an active environmentalist. Before his appointment Bill had been working with the EAB to install "No Dumping, Drains to Creek" stickers at storm sewer inlets throughout the township.

Coventry Woods Development Update

Developer Claude DeBotton has submitted new land development plans for the Coventry Woods project. The plans are largely unchanged from previous submissions, except for technical details that have been revised as a result of a more accurate survey of the property. The current proposal includes



A tributary of Darby Creek flows tranquilly through Springfield Township land owned by Claude deBotton while area residents worry about proposed development.

building 36 single family detached homes on 14.64 acres with development plans for the remaining 49.16 acres of the site undisclosed. Plans are also undisclosed for the adjacent 2 acre parcel and historic Maris House, purchased by Claude DeBotton from Charlie Sexton (see article in the right column.)

The Planning Commission was supposed to review the latest plans at its meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2002. However, DeBotton withdrew the plans before the meeting, and the Commission adjourned shortly after convening.

After almost three years of submissions, critics charge that the project is in violation of numerous Springfield Township zoning, subdivision and land development codes. It is a wooded site with steep slopes, streams and wetlands. Construction would lead to erosion and flooding downstream on a tributary of Darby Creek that is near the proposed houses.

CRLUS (Citizens for Responsible Land Use in Springfield) is concerned about the following issues:

1. Steep Slope Waiver – The Springfield Township Land Development and Subdivision Ordinance provides that a Waiver may be granted to build in steep slopes provided, “that such roads and driveway are aligned predominantly parallel to the contours.” The current submitted land development plan pro-

poses roadways perpendicular to the contours.

2. Uphill Stream Setbacks – The current submitted land development plan does not delineate the presence of a tributary of Darby Creek and the required 50-foot setback from the stream bank. The Plan also represents the relocation of the creek and therefore, by code, this relocation requires approval by DEP.

3. Stream and Wetland Destruction – The submitted land development plan shows roadway crossings that will cause adverse effect and ultimately destroy the existing wetlands.

4. Proposed Summit Road Access Legal Action – Property utilized for proposed vehicular access roads to Coventry Woods from Summit Road are currently contested through legal action by Summit Road property owners. Approval of the submitted land development plan will adversely impact these Springfield homeowner's efforts to protect their property rights. These property rights should be settled prior to any plan approval. Municipal officials should not be viewed as taking sides in legal matters.

5. Flooding – Existing flooding conditions downstream have not been addressed.

6. Sketch Plan – Applicant has not submitted a Sketch Plan showing the development planned for the remaining 49.16 acres of this 63.8 acre site. This Sketch Plan is required by the Springfield Township Code and would provide an insight into proposed uses and infrastructure, specifically roadways and storm water management concepts, and

any adverse impacts such as flooding. This sketch plan must be submitted before an informed and comprehensive review of the submitted land development plan can be completed.

7. Sanitary Sewer – With regard to surcharge condition at the Darby Creek trunk line, the applicant notes in a narrative part of the submitted land development plan; “The Applicant understands that Springfield Township is taking the necessary steps to correct this condition.” What is the intention of the Township? Have the necessary steps been taken and when will the corrections be completed? Will the approval of this plan obligate Springfield Township to make significant improvements to offsite sewer infrastructure and if so, at whose expense?

8. Endangered Species – Applicant has not noted nor apparently investigated designation by the PA Fish & Wildlife Commission of a federally listed species of special concern on or near the Coventry Woods site. A study must be conducted to identify the presence of federally listed species.

Maris House Threatened

Adjacent to the Coventry Woods site is an historic home at 412 North State Road that Claude de Botton purchased recently from township GOP leader Charlie Sexton. Original plans were to demolish the house, known as the Maris estate; Springfield Township issued a demolition permit effective on March 12th. Bulldozers arrived that day and started the demolition with the garage. However, protests by area residents, political leaders including Sexton, and local historical preservationists ensued, and the project was put on hold. As of this date, the house is still standing.

The homestead dates back to the mid-1700s; the house was built in the 1860s. It is listed on the township's inventory of historic sites; however, Springfield Township does not have an historic preservation ordinance and does not protect historic properties from demolition. DeBotton is said to be investigating how the house could be incorporated into his plans for developing the surrounding property.

Secretary of the Interior Visits the Refuge

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton visited the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum on January 31, 2002. While there she announced a new program, the Cooperative Conservation Initiative, that will give landowners, landuser groups, environmental organizations, communities, local and state governments and industries the resources to undertake conservation projects that advance the health of the land and benefit people.

About 100 invited guests heard her remarks after Refuge Manager Dick Nugent took her on a personal tour of the new Cusano Environmental Education Center. The Secretary seemed impressed by the facility which has already racked up several national awards for its use of recycled material, economic use of energy and water resources, and many other sustainable design features.

Norton said the President would request \$100 million in his 2003 budget for the new "cost-share" program to remove barriers to citizen participation in the stewardship of natural resources and to help citizens take conservation into their own hands by undertaking projects at the local level. The president will also ask congress for \$40 million for the Landowner Incentive Program, which will provide funds to states to make cost-share grants to landowners who voluntarily participate in the protection of threatened species on private lands. The budget also includes \$10 million for a Private Stewardship Grant Program, which directly assists individuals or groups involved in the voluntary conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

Norton also assured the audience that, "President Bush and I are firmly committed to good stewardship of the refuge system and other public lands." She pointed out that the President is requesting an additional \$56.5 million for the



At the Cusano Environmental Education Center, outside of the Center's wastewater treatment plant (the Marsh Machine), l-r, Representative Curt Weldon, Refuge Manager Dick Nugent, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton.

National Wildlife Refuge System in his 2003 budget, the largest increase ever. This includes \$30.7 million to address the system's long-standing maintenance and natural resource backlog. At Tinicum the funding would help with projects including installation of a new high band radio communication system, rehabilitating eroding embankments and cleaning up and restoring land in the refuge.

Following her press conference, the Secretary sat down with Congressman Curt Weldon, Refuge Manager Nugent, and others during lunch to discuss specifics at Tinicum.

Blue Bell Restoration Anticipated in Summer of 2002

The Friends of the Blue Bell (Friends), an all volunteer group dedicated to the restoration of the Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek (7303 Woodland, Philadelphia), have received a letter from William E. Mifflin, Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Commission. The letter sets out a tentative schedule for restoration of the building which was closed to the public after damage from Hurricane Floyd prompted safety concerns. The Park Commission, who owns the building, terminated public access while it sought funding for restoration.

The letter, dated December 22, 2001, indicated that the contract for the Blue Bell design was awarded to the architectural firm of Janice Woodcock. The letter stated that the design documents were anticipated to be completed by this spring so that construction could begin in late spring or early summer, 2002.

"The Bell has been sheltering travelers on this gateway between Philadelphia and Delaware Counties since 1766 and maybe earlier," said Jan Monk Haigis, president emeritus of the Friends of the Blue Bell. "It is truly a little architectural gem. We are pleased that the Park supports our desire to provide public access to the site once restoration is completed, and look forward to working with the Park, as we have done for the past 15 years."

Haverford Township Begins Negotiating with the State to Buy the Former State Hospital Grounds

On March 11, 2002, the Haverford Township Commissioners voted unanimously to begin negotiating with the state to buy the Haverford State Hospital grounds. This does not mean that the township will actually buy the property; it does mean, however, that it is taking a step toward the purchase. If Haverford buys the property, it will control any future development. If it does not buy it, the State would probably sell the property to a developer. The township's only control then would be through the zoning approval process. There is also a possibility that the township and state could work in a partnership to preserve some of the grounds and to develop the rest.

Although the majority of citizens who have spoken at Commissioners' meetings have urged the township to buy the land and use it in the community's interest, preserving as much open space as possible, some citizens have expressed fears about the costs of buying and maintaining the property.

State Deficit Threatening Environmental Programs

By Bill Brainerd

State government is expected to run a deficit of at least \$600 million this fiscal year 2001-2002. In response Governor Schweiker has frozen \$310 million in spending and has proposed withdrawing the rest from the Tax Stabilization Reserve or Rainy Day Fund. This fund has a \$1.2 billion balance. His fiscal year 2002-2003 budget would increase state spending a modest \$118 million.

Two environmental programs are affected:

1) Growing Greener. Since 1999 this program has had \$130 million yearly for grants: \$100 million from the General Fund, \$25 million from the Recycling Fund, \$5 million from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. The governor would cut its General Fund appropriation by \$50 million this year and \$50 million next, when it is to expire. He says it can be extended one year to make up for the cuts, but someone else will be governor then.

2) Key 93. The Keystone Recreation Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993. \$50 million raised for the fund by a bond issue that year is spent, but it still gets 15% of the Realty Transfer Tax. This year the Fund should get \$55.1 million from the tax. The Governor would cut that amount by \$7.5 million. Next year it may get \$46 million. He'd cut that by \$25 million. Because Key 93 is funded by a dedicated tax, he needs legislative authorization to do it.

These two programs cost the state \$185.1 million, .8% of the \$20,888 million it plans to spend next year, yet they will bear \$75 million or 24% of the governor's cuts that year. Seven agencies get Growing Greener and Key 93 money. Dollar figures are before cuts.

Growing Greener, \$130 million:

- Department of Environmental Protection, 37.4%, \$48.6 million for water quality improvements.
- Department of Agriculture, 14.8%, \$19.2 million for farmland easements.
- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, 23.7%, \$30.8 million water and sewer facility construction.
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 24.1%, \$31.4 million.

Key 93, \$44.1 million:

- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum

Commission, 13%, \$7.2 million for (a) renovation and maintenance of state-owned historic properties and (b) non-capital programs of local historic societies.

- State System of Higher Education, 18%, \$9.9 million deferred (low priority) maintenance.
- Department of Education, 4%, \$2.2 million library construction and maintenance.
- DCNR, 65%, \$35.8 million.

DCNR allocates its 65% of the Keystone Fund to these programs:

State parks and forests	10%
Park rehabilitation & development	25%
Rivers conservation	10%
Rails to trails	10%
Land trust, open space	10%

DCNR gets 24.1% of the Growing Greener fund. It allocates 77% of that to state parks and forests, 23% to the other four programs where most needed. DCNR says it won't cut all five categories by the same percent. State parks and forests will be cut by the highest percentage, but even if land trust/open space isn't cut at all, it is expected to get half as much money next year as this year because of the decline in real estate sales.

Growing Greener and Key 93 are popular with constituents, so politicians are defending them. Senators Mary Jo White and Raphael Musto, Republican and Democratic Chairs of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, wrote the Governor reminding him of the promises of his predecessor that Growing Greener would get \$130 million in each of its five statutory years. Representative Kate Harper's HB 2345 would raise the tipping fee per ton of trash landfilled or burned in Pennsylvania, now \$2 dedicated to the Recycling Fund, by \$5 and dedicate the increase to Growing Greener indefinitely. That would generate an extra \$130 million per year, enough to fund Growing Greener fully with no further need to divert \$30 million from the Recycling and HazSites Funds. The bill has passed the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and has a good chance of becoming law. Growing Greener money would come from a source other than the General Fund, i.e., taxes. Half would come from the out-of-state haulers who bring Pennsylvania half of its trash; the

average Pennsylvania household would pay \$1 a month more for trash disposal. The waste industry calls any tipping fee a tax.

Representative David Levdansky's HB 2385 raises the tipping fee \$4 for ten years and diverts the money to Growing Greener, anti-sprawl urban revitalization, Wild Resources Conservation Fund, Fish and Boat Commission, and Game Commission. Representative Sara Steelman's HB 2334 authorizes a \$150 million bond issue for Growing Greener.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council supports Harper's bill, with \$30 million from the General Fund for Key 93, urban revitalization, and Wild Resources Conservation Fund.

Candidates for governor are speaking out, too. Republican Mike Fisher would raise the tipping fee \$2 for two years to generate \$100 million for Growing Greener. Democrat Ed Rendell wants Pennsylvania to spend \$1 billion for the environment over five years. He backs Steelman's bond issue and a \$5 tipping fee increase for that period. Democrat Bob Casey, Jr., proposed \$1.375 billion over ten years. He backs \$425 million in bond issues and a tipping fee increase of \$3 for two years, \$5 for eight.

Delaware River Is River of the Year

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has chosen the Delaware River as 2002 River of the Year. As such, it will be the subject of the June Rivers Month 2002 poster to raise awareness of the beauty and recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

The Delaware River is the longest, undammed river east of the Mississippi River. It provides water to more than 17 million people in four states. It serves Philadelphia and a cluster of other nearby riverbank cities, which collectively comprise the world's largest freshwater port. Darby Creek flows into this river.

We agree with DCNR Secretary John C. Oliver who said, "The Delaware is a river of extraordinary quality and purpose. The river and the people who work so diligently to protect and enhance it are well-deserving of this recognition."

Latest Growing Greener Grants to be Awarded in July

The DEP Grants Center reported that 548 Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant applications were received by the February 8th deadline. In this, the 4th year of the program, grant requests topped \$91 million. Nearly two-thirds of the grant money requested was for watershed protection, with the remaining requests for mining projects and Source Water Protection Grants.

Some of the applications from the Darby Creek Watershed include the following: Springfield Township for West Rolling Road riparian restoration that would create a 1,000-foot riparian buffer in the watershed; Bartram Park Streambank Restoration and Buffer Enhancement in Darby Borough for 350 feet of streambank restoration and a riparian buffer along 800 feet of the creek; the Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council for the "Only Rain in the Drain" project to mark storm drains with discs reading "No Dumping, Drains to Creek."

Winners of grants in this round will be announced in July. A report of the second year of the initiative is now available. The report offers a complete discussion of the environmental accomplishment achieved so far, as well as a look into several of the hundreds of projects being implemented statewide contributing to the success of Growing Greener. To receive a copy of the Growing Greener second year report, e-mail GrowingGreener@state.pa.us or call the DEP Grants Center at 717 705-5400.

Advisory Issued on Stocked Trout

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks area streams, including Darby Creek, with trout from the Huntsdale hatchery in Cumberland County. The problem is that PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) have been found in the trout. The Commission has therefore issued an advisory that the hatchery trout not be eaten more than once a month.

The reason for elevated levels of PCBs is unknown though the Commission has examined water supplies, feed and soils and sediments in and around the hatchery. It has asked the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State to conduct a detailed assessment of the hatchery to try to find an answer.

PCBs are a group of chemicals used prior to the 1970s in a variety of industrial and electrical products. They are persistent chemicals, a suspected carcinogen, and even though they have not been manufactured for more than 20 years, trace levels remain in the environment. In fish, PCBs accumulate in fatty tissues. People can reduce their exposure to PCBs in fish by removing the skin before cooking. Any visible fat should be trimmed and the fish should be broiled or grilled to allow any remaining fat to drip away. For stocked trout, a meal would equal the fillets from two fish. The state says that the fish is safe within the guidelines.

For more information on fish consumption advisories, visit the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission through the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "hatchery."

Fish Derby at Radnor's Saw Mill Park to be Held Despite Drought

Ed Spiller, DCVA member and organizer of Chester Valley Sportsmen Association (CVSA) annual Fish Derby at Saw Mill Park in Radnor, announced that the event is still scheduled despite the recent loss of more than 3000 fish at its fish nursery in Berwyn due to this year's drought.

Low water flow along with a warm winter have created hostile conditions for raising the nursery's brown, rainbow, and brook trout. Nursery manager, Ray Andrews, believes that this latest drought has caused the most damage he has observed in his 19 years on the job.

Andrews and his volunteer staff are working overtime to try and preserve the remaining fish which will be used for the Fish Derby as well as to stock Pickering and French Creeks.

Radnor's Commissioner and DCVA member Dave Cannan, who steadfastly supports and annually attends all the fishing sessions for CVSA's popular Fish Derby at Radnor's Saw Mill Park commented, "Ed Spiller and his group of volunteers are a resilient bunch. Despite a recent killer oil spill that polluted their nursery's water supply, and now this drought, they always manage to bounce back and find a way to stock our local streams and have enough fish for the enjoyment of our kids at the Fish Derby."

For more information on Chester Valley Sportsmen Association call Ed Spiller at 610-356-7458.

Chester Valley Sportsmen's Youth Trout Derby

Darby Creek at Saw Mill Park in Radnor Township

Friday and Saturday, May 10th and 11th, 2002

(Rain date: May 17th and 18th)

Boys and Girls ages 5 - 13

Limited to the first 150 Registrants (50 for each session--first come first served):

Session #1 - Friday, May 10th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Session #2 - Saturday, May 11th, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Session #3 - Saturday, May 11th, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE!

Trophies awarded for the Five Biggest Fish, Each Session

Hot dogs and Sodas will be provided

Rules:

All PA Fish Commission Rules Apply; Parents may cast and net fish ONLY; No artificial lures or flies; No wading; One adult (over 18) per fisherman

Applications Radnor Police Station

- Officer Martha Gurney (610) 688-5606 ext. 120
- Tredyffrin Police Station
- Officer John Dimaio (610) 408-3667

Questions

Ed Spiller (610) 356-7458

Stormwater, Students, and Swamp

By Chuck W. Leeds, Horticultural Supervisor, Villanova

Villanova University has a new landscape feature. It is a two-acre swamp. Actually, it is a stormwater wetland. In engineering terms it is a BMP (Best Management Practice). By whatever name you might choose, it is an example of what can be accomplished when faculty, students, and staff work together.

The wetland is the result of redesigning and restructuring a preexisting stormwater detention basin. This basin, as originally built, held stormwater temporarily and then quickly discharged the water into a local stream. The newly constructed wetland is designed to hold water from small storms for a more extended time. This should allow for sediments and pollutants to be removed from the water before it leaves the site. In greater storms, the site still functions as originally designed.

The project was conceived and designed by Dr. Robert G. Traver and his students in Villanova's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Dr. Traver is heavily involved in stormwater work in his career as both a civil engineer and as a professor of environmental engineering. He saw this project as an opportunity to reduce non-point source pollution and to create a permanent research and demonstration site.

The wetland drains about 41 acres of urbanized land on the Villanova campus that includes parking lots, many buildings, and a railroad. The potential for non-point source pollution here is great. The waters eventually flow into the Schuylkill River and then to the Delaware River estuary. The Delaware estuary is home to a variety of fish and other wildlife protected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and, as such, is of great interest to the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Professor Traver was able to obtain grants from the DEP to fund the construction and part of the cost of plantings. This cooperative project brought together students, faculty, facilities management staff, and several outside agencies. The innovative crossing of traditional lines allowed a diverse group of people to create a living laboratory for engineering, biology, and environmental studies for Villanova University while addressing a serious water quality issue to the benefit of our local region.

Best Management Practices Demonstrated in Video Series

A new video series is available that demonstrates the latest stormwater best management practices (BMP). It was created by the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, in cooperation with the Environmental Fund of Pennsylvania, Greenworks, and the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Funding was provided by a Growing Greener grant.

The seven minute videos are available on the following subjects: naturalized basins, vegetated swales, sediment forebays, wet ponds, porous paving, retrofit basins, bioretention islands, and riparian buffers. They were produced to help municipal land planners improve existing stormwater plans.

For more information or to view the videos on line, visit www.greenworks.tv/stormwater/index.htm or contact the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy at 610 287-9383.

Delaware County Envirothon to be Held April 30

April 30 is the date of this year's Delaware County Envirothon at Ridley Creek State Park. Teams of five high school students will spend the morning outdoors taking five half-hour tests in aquatics, soils, wildlife, forestry, and invasive species. Back again will be Bonner, Glen Mills, Haverford, Interboro, Penncrest, Penn Wood, Springfield, Strath Haven, and Sun Valley. New this year is Archbishop Prendergast, recruited by Joe Dolan, Bonner's Envirothon coach who has also agreed to coach Prendie. Nonparticipating schools who have expressed interest in future Envirothons are Marple Newtown, Ridley, Academy Park, Garnet Valley, and the Haverford School. There will be two home school teams from Chester. Most of these students will be new to the Envirothon, but one who won't be is Maeve Stevens. Last year as a ninth grader she placed second out of 22 in aquatics.

The team with the highest total score goes to the state Envirothon May 20-21. Last year Penncrest's two teams placed first and second in the county competition, a record Coach Mark Samilenko has maintained since 1995, when his second team placed third. He starts preparing his teams in the fall. In his spare time he teaches ninth grade biology.

At the state Envirothon Penncrest placed second out of 66 to Erie County, who went on to win the national Envirothon. The year before, Penncrest won the state and national competitions. In the last 14 years, the Pennsylvania team has won the national Envirothon eight times.

Watershed Snapshot

DCVA's streamwatch program will be part of the statewide Watershed Snapshot sponsored by DEP's Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program. Individuals and groups statewide are collecting water quality data between April 19-28. Monitoring options include water chemistry, habitat, and benthic invertebrates.

Watershed Snapshot is an annual event that takes place for 10 days each April during Earth Week. Volunteers across the Commonwealth monitor and assess the health of Pennsylvania's watersheds. This effort is an ongoing partnership among organizations and individuals dedicated to understanding the environment and protecting natural resources in Pennsylvania. The purpose of snapshot is to work cooperatively to promote environmental awareness and a connectedness between people and our water resources. The information gathered helps us see the overall "picture" of water quality across the state, in major drainage areas, and in individual streams.

The data collected is submitted to DEP's Bureau of Watershed Management and utilized to compile an up-to-date, educational and informative report, which is distributed to all participants and posted on the DEP website. For more information on Watershed Snapshot, contact Diane Wilson at 717 772-5807 or e-mail Diawilson@state.pa.us or visit the DEP website (directLINK "snapshot").

May Is Watershed Awareness Month

May 2002 has been designated Watershed Awareness Month with the theme: The Watershed Connection: Land, Water and You! Interested watershed organizations and agencies in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia are working with their state officials to plan educational and community activities during the month. The ultimate goal in future years is to have all states participate, making Watershed Awareness Month a national event. The importance of watersheds will be promoted by encouraging and supporting volunteer community organizations, educators and other groups to conduct watershed education and awareness activities during the month of May.

As Part of Watershed Awareness Month, Friends Central Students to Hold Environmental Conference

"Watershed Stewardship in the Darby Creek Watershed—Networking for Action" is the theme for the watershed conference Friends Central students will hold May 18 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in celebration of National Watershed Awareness Month. Participants will include students from surrounding school districts and area private schools as well as residents from the area drained by the East and West branches of Indian Creek. The goal of the conference is to bring together the many stakeholders in the area, in particular, municipal officials, business leaders, religious leaders, civic associations and scout leaders. Topics for discussion will focus on how we as stakeholders and local stewards of our watershed can improve the area.

DCNR Watershed Education Program Available Online

DCNR's award-winning Watershed Education Program is now available online at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: Watershed Education.

The Watershed Education Program integrates technology through a website and database. This technology provides for a more interactive learning experience, allowing students to research information, enter and compare data, and share what they have learned. The program enables teachers or civic group leaders to attend workshops hosted by area state parks by park environmental educators. Teachers and their students are encouraged to pick a waterway and focus their studies on its historical, cultural and geological features, while also noting physical, chemical and biological features. The program addresses many of the new statewide education standards, and DCNR recently received approval from the state Department of Education to offer professional education hours to teachers who participate in watershed education training. Teachers interested in more information should contact Terri Kromel at 717 783-4356.

DCVA is working to integrate its "A Sense of Place: Knowing Home" environmental education program with the DCNR curriculum.

8th Grade at Friends Central Participates in Earth Force

By Michael Wriziger

For the 6th year and counting Friends Central's eighth grade has participated in a nation wide organization, Earth Force. The purpose is to create a lasting solution to environmental problems. Friends Central, with the help of other neighboring schools, has completed several projects in order to help restore the environment to its natural state. Such accomplishments such as helping to clear the area of Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant that inhabits an area, then rapidly spreads. Inspired by an artificial wetland built in their classroom, students are able to observe the way life is in an eco-system within the classroom. This helps us to make decisions out in the field. In turn it is no surprise that the Friends Central wetland restoration group has been extraordinarily successful. It is a model project for the Natural Lands Environmental Education program.

The Friends Central Earth Force program has been so successful that only in their fifth year of running it received a 75 thousand dollar grant to help increase the success brought to them by this project. This money is being used wisely and has gone to restoration of the natural habitat surrounding Friends Central School which includes Indian Creek East and West.

Although the Earth Force project in Friends Central School is focused on the 8th graders, around thirty times a year, the students of all grades (5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th) get a chance to go down to the stream and work to solve the environmental problems. During this time, called "Stream Watch" students record data about the stream and try to tackle problems that have been troubling the community for years. Fortunately most of these problems have been solved.

Whether it is with trash, plant life, or education there will always be more that can be done to help the earth. Earth Force, alongside with Friends Central, will continually strive to make the world a better place. It is appropriate to end with the few lines of an Earth Force speech which sums up what it is really all about. The speech is written by Friends Central's own Sarah Brown. "The lasting legacy of Earth Force is the problem solving pattern it has given us: how to learn about an issue and then put this knowledge into practice to make things better. Above all Earth Force has taught us that we can make a positive difference in our world."

Michael is an 8th grade student in Doug Ross's class at Friends Central Middle School.

Aware Club Plans Spring Events

The Aware Club (Haverford High School's environmental club) is doing two stream studies this spring, both in Darby Creek: one in April and one in May. Township senior citizens will join the students at the May event for an intergenerational event. On April 23rd the club will go to Ridley High School to participate in an Environmental Issues Forum for students of Delaware County, and on April 30th, the Aware Club will participate in the county Envirothon.

Invasives Workshop at Radnor's Clem Macrone Park a Success: Villanova University and Radnor Township Join Hands to Stop the "Silent Invaders"



Members of Radnor Boy Scout Troop 284 get instructions from environmental consultant John Munro on how to identify invasives.

serious threat to the health of our parks and waterways," said 7th Ward Commissioner Dave Cannan, who represents the Garrett Hill and Rosemont sections of Radnor, is the commissioner liaison to Radnor's EAC and a member of DCVA.

"The expert training provided by the township's environmental consultant John Munro at these workshops will guide us toward success in the battle against these silent invaders in our parks as well as in our own backyards."

Cannan had recommended the township hire John Munro Ecological Services as a permanent environmental consultant because of his well-known success using innovative and effective techniques to solve the environmental problems common to the area's municipal park systems. "Invasive plants are non-native plants whose reproductive systems along with a lack of natural predators allow them to rapidly take over a woodland and deprive native plants of vital sunlight and nutrients," said Munro. He estimates that of the thousands of alien plants that have been introduced to the United States, about 1400 are scientifically recognized as pests and currently about 94 kinds of foreign weeds are officially recognized as noxious weeds.

Coach Linda Goss started the morning leading over 20 members of Villanova's women's softball team in removing an excessive overgrowth of Multiflora Rose and Japanese honeysuckle. Not to be outdone, champion miler and Villanova's track and field coach, Marcus O'Sullivan, marched out his 20-plus group of runners along with a similar-sized group from Villanova Coach Larry Sullivan's men's soccer team at the afternoon session. Matching the adult participants stride for stride was Radnor Boy Scout Troop 284 under the supervision of scout leader, Tom Masterson. Obviously well disciplined and ready for action, they felt right at home working in the woods and stream.

Radnor's Public Works employees Ray Wolper and Chris McLaughlin barely took a break all day as they worked to keep up with workshop participants and grind the steady stream of removed invasive plants into tiny wood chips.

Commissioner Dave Cannan, obviously delighted by the turnout, noted, "I am proud of the hard work of the neighbors of Garrett Hill and Rosemont, our local Boy Scouts, the sports teams of Villanova University, Ray and Chris from our Public Works Department and parks director Tom Blumstrom." He added, "While the main task was to rid Clem Macrone park of invasives, more importantly we demonstrated today a genuine partnership between Villanova University and our neighborhoods that shows we can work together as we continually strive to make this a better community."

Residents Appreciate March Rain

Delaware County residents have been happy to see rain fall lately. March actually had more rain than normal for the month. Unfortunately we are still in a drought. We will need rain to continue for several months to replenish groundwater and streamflow and fill reservoirs.

We can now monitor the situation at a new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) website: <http://pa.water.usgs.gov/monitor/>. The site shows precipitation, stream flows, groundwater levels and the Palmer Drought Severity Index. The USGS is the nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency.

For more information on drought conditions, visit the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "drought." Additional information can be obtained by calling Pennsylvania's toll-free drought hotline at 888 457-6653.

Miscellany Of Interest to DCVA Members:

- At its regular meeting on February 26th, Delaware County Council announced that it has hired an engineer to work on stormwater management and stream restoration issues in Darby Borough and nearby communities. Walter F. Staret will work part time to obtain grants for creek restoration activities and to coordinate county activities with state and federal regulatory agencies. He will also work with municipalities in the southeastern part of the county on creek floodplain and open space issues.

- The Historic Sites Committee of DCVA is expanding to include arboreta and gardens. Plans are underway to prepare a brochure for distribution in May in celebration of National Historic Preservation Week.

- The Priory of Regina Mundi in Easttown Township was demolished the first week in April. This house at Waterloo and Fairfield Roads was built in 1905. It was designed by architect Horace Trumbauer and was one of the largest remaining examples of his work on the Main Line. Plans for the development of the 21-acre property call for the building of 10 new multimillion-dollar homes.

DCEN Receives Conservation District Mini-Grant

The Delaware County Environmental Network (DCEN) has received funding from the Delaware County Conservation District mini-grant program for its project "Expanding Environmental Awareness and Local Stewardship in Delaware County." The \$500 will be matched by DCEN and will be used to expand the number of annual DCEN newsletters from 2 to 4 and to expand public awareness of and participation at the annual DCEN Conference held in October. The ultimate goal of the Steering Committee is to increase membership in the DCEN to make its mission self-supporting.

From its founding in 1990, membership dues in the DCEN have been modest to avoid competition for funding with any organization which raises funds for particular environmental projects. Founding of the DCEN was the outgrowth of a small group of Delaware County residents who participated in the Quality of Life 2000 Conference sponsored by Delaware County in 1990. To date, the DCEN is the only permanent result of the conference. DCVA was a founding member of the organization.

In addition to its newsletters and annual conference, the DCEN is responsible for the publication and updating of the Delaware County Environmental Resource Guide—the first such guide in the Commonwealth. Funding has come from private and public sources with in-kind services of the Franklin Mint, which provided the original format for the guide. The cost of the guide was minimal owing to many dedicated volunteers. Updating continues and the guide is now available on the Internet to further minimize costs and to keep information as current as possible.

Two other Darby Creek Watershed projects have received mini-grant funding this spring:

- The Eco-Technology class at Penn Wood West Junior High School has received a grant of \$500 to improve the school's garden and turn it into an outdoor classroom.
- The South Ardmore Betterment Alliance has received a \$320 grant to hold a public workshop on issues of stormwater management, specifically the management of a 1.2 acre area in Ardmore that is the main stormwater control for the neighborhood and the last remaining open space.

Composters Should Avoid Clopyralid

Backyard composters, take note: the United States Compost Council and the Pennsylvania Compost Association are warning composters about the herbicide "Confront." This product contains clopyralid, a chemical widely used by professional lawn care services and one that will soon be released for homeowner use. The herbicide remains in finished compost and affects plant growth. The manufacturer of the herbicide, Dow Chemical Company, issues this warning on the label of the product: "Do not use compost containing grass clippings from turf treated with Confront within the growing season of application."

For more information about the warning, visit the GrassRoot Recycling Network website at www.grrn.org or the Pennsylvania compost Association at www.pacompost.org.

Marple Beautification Association Working to Improve Area

Those people you saw picking up road litter on March 9 and last November 17 weren't DUI offenders working off their community service. They were 30 members of the Marple Beautification Association (MBA, a group recently organized by four people who'd seen enough: the Levengoods, Sandy and Jeff, and the Tanenbaums, Jill and Jay).

Marple Beautification Association wishes political signs were taken down soon after an election. It wishes there were fewer free newspaper receptacles on sidewalks. One member has offered to buy a wrecked car on private property to get rid of it. MBA has applied to PennDOT to adopt West Chester Pike and Sproul Road for regular cleanup. It plans to plant flowers in the Pike's grassy median.

Response to MBA's effort has been excellent. The township is buying five handsome wrought iron trash receptacles to be placed along the Pike. The Broomall Rotary has pledged \$1,000. Several individual businesses have made generous donations.

For information, call 610 356-0130 or email jilltanenbaum@aol.com.

Beechwood Civic Association Sponsors Plantings

The Beechwood Civic Association in Haverford Township has embarked upon a decorative planting project at the intersection of Beechwood and Karakung Drive. Because of flooding and heavy rain storms, the hill at the intersection had eroded away. Since the site is located at a focal point of the community, the Civic Association voted to do decorative planting of flowers and shrubs on the hill. A Delaware County Conservation District mini-grant provided some funding for the project.

Heinz Prepares for Centennial of National Wildlife Refuge System

In October the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin a year-long party to celebrate the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In anticipation of many exciting events, the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is recruiting new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved, call the volunteer coordinator, Cyrus Brame, at 215 365-3118, extension 104.

In the meantime, check out the Refuge during its Earth Week activities. Special displays and presentations will be offered at the Cusano Environmental Education Center. On April 21st, there will be a bird banding demonstration from 7 – 11 am.

Activities in May include a nature photo walk on May 4th, a Darby Creek Canoe Trip on May 5th (pre-registration required), a family program "Ready, Set, MOLT!" (Snakes and their skins) on May 5th, and Bird-a-Thons on May 11th. For information on any of these events or for a complete spring calendar of nature programs, call (215) 365-3118.

Marple's Commissioner Butler Receives EPA Award



**John Butler receives award from EPA Specialist
Mindi Osno.**

lighting in the township building and library from T12 to T8 florescent lights and adding occupancy sensors in the hallways, rest rooms and meeting rooms.

Butler also notes that a major cost reduction in energy this year came from auditing Marple's bills and discovering that the municipality was on the wrong rate structure on one major account, overcharged on equipment as well as incurred improper demand charges. This yielded a \$51,000 annual savings of energy costs.

Marple's major equipment upgrade was changing the traffic lights to LED on 2/3's of the township's intersections with an outside contractor. That alone saved taxpayers over \$23,000 per year in electrical costs.

Butler commented, "Energy Star has helped Marple Township accomplish our cost reduction efforts by showing us that there are products out there that can deliver cost savings and help our environment. We also have been able to attend or sponsor workshops where we are able to exchange ideas with fellow peers to help us do a better job. Energy Star with its many publications and support helps us find the information that we need to make better energy choices."

DCVA congratulates Commissioner John Butler on his successful efforts to educate the public on ways to use energy more efficiently and thus reduce the need and associated costs of wasteful energy usage practices.

Streamwatch

Continued from Page 1:

Havertown; and the lower portion will be conducted in Darby. Each site occurs in a different setting in our watershed and should provide a good indication of water quality in Darby Creek from the upper to lower portions. But we need your help. We need volunteers to help with streamwatch. Last year we had a great time! We spend a lot of time looking at the surrounding landscape, take water chemistry readings, and, of course, look at the critters we pull out of the stream. It really is a great chance to get involved and learn more about the water quality of Darby Creek and how aquatic insects can be a treasure and not a pest to our surroundings. Sampling will start at the site in Darby at 9:00, move to the Havertown site at noon, and finish at Skunk Hollow around 3:00. If you are interested in learning more about the streamwatch, or if your school group or other organization wants to help, call either Alan Samel or Dave Cannan.

If you want to have an impact in our watershed and you don't mind getting a little bit wet and you don't mind getting up a little bit early, then give us a call for more information!

Alan Samel (610) 446-1658

Dave Cannan (610) 547-6836

President's Pen

Continued from page 1:

better locally. Do we want to be the richest guy in the graveyard, have the most toys, or be known for helping preserve and improve our own habitat?

Hey, developers, go someplace else. Redevelop brownfields. Don't stress our infrastructure any more. Municipalities—help preserve our potable water, our sewage, our road traffic capabilities. We need ground water. Dumping, building and paving over wetlands are not progress. These activities destroy communities. We need volunteers, concerned citizens of our community to get these abuses corrected. You youthful folk—it's your land, your community. Volunteer! Bring your kids, too. You'll be glad you did!

Fritz Thornton

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcva.org. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Bill Brainerd, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Bill Frasch, John Haigis, Tom Houghton, Rosemary Kesling, Chuck Leeds, Christina Lieb, Joanna McGrath, Alan Samel, Fritz Thornton, and Michael Wigrizer. Photographs by Joe Ackerman, Dave Cannan, Ned Connelly, Bob Doherty. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. Printed on recycled paper. 2002.



Heritage Conservancy Assessing Need for Riparian Buffers in Darby and Other Southeastern Pennsylvania Creeks

Heritage Conservancy has initiated a project to assess the need for riparian forest buffers along several creeks in Southeastern Pennsylvania: Ridley, Crum, French, Pickering, Naamans, Pennypack, Wissahickon, Poquessing, Tookany, Tacony-Frankford, Darby, Cobbs, Brock, Martins, Mill, Queen Anne, Rock Run creeks and the Lower Schuylkill River. Riparian forest buffers are strips of woodland beside streams. They provide benefits such as shading and cooling the water, trapping nutrients and sediment run-off, stabilizing riverbanks, and providing food and cover for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

The initial phase of the project included an aerial videotaped assessment of stream corridor conditions along the main stem and selected tributaries of the creeks, which was accomplished by a series of helicopter flyovers. Heritage Conservancy will use the videotape along with year 2000 (1" = 200') aerial photographs from Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to digitize areas that are currently lacking a forested buffer. The end product will be a series of computerized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps and digitized photos at 1" = 200' scale showing each section of creek needing a riparian forest buffer. The GIS maps will be provided to groups involved in riparian restoration efforts. Also, the data will be posted on the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access System

(PASDA), and will be accessible to the public, free of charge.

The GIS maps will assist river protection groups in visualizing where buffer planting efforts are most needed. River protection groups and other users can assess soil types, slopes, land uses and other data, enabling them to identify local priority buffer planting sites. Also, GIS provides zoom capabilities, further enabling users to see riparian buffer coverage on the creek or tributary of interest.

The project will include a series of public workshops for local watershed associations. A set of final maps will be displayed and information about prioritization schemes, funding for riparian buffers, restoration designs and best management techniques will be presented.

The project is being funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Coastal Zone Management Program. For more information about the project, contact Sharon Yates at Heritage Conservancy at (215) 345-7020, ext. 124. For information about PA DEP's Stream RELEAF program, contact Pat Pingel at (717) 772-5637.

Heritage Conservancy is a non-profit membership supported organization committed to "preserving our natural and historic heritage." Its offices are housed at Aldie Mansion, 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, Pa. 18901.

JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

The Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of all of the watershed's resources, including water, wildlife, historical sites and the floodplain. The organization's immediate goals are to prevent all forms of pollution in the Darby Creek and its tributaries, to prohibit dumping and construction on the floodplain, and to expand our educational programs for all residents within the watershed. It also seeks to improve water quality and maintain a debris-free stream through clean-ups and public education. DCVA works to preserve historic properties, such as the Swedish Cabin and the Blue Bell Inn. The Association would like to set aside the more than 30 miles of valley for use as a greenway for all residents to enjoy. We need your support. Help us continue to protect the environment for ourselves and our children.

We invite you to fill in the form below, check member category, and mail form with your check to:

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Your Municipality _____

Representative (if organization member) _____

Type of Membership:

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

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

CALENDAR

- | | |
|--|---|
| Saturday, April 20, 2002 | Streamwatch Water Monitoring on Darby Creek.
See page 1 of this newsletter for information. |
| Saturday, April 20, 2002
12 noon - 4 p.m. | 3rd Annual Awareness Day Celebrating the Heritage of the Morton Morton House in the Borough of Norwood. Sponsored by the Norwood Historical Society. Rain date Sunday April 21. Program includes Colonial Interpretations; 18th Century Medicine; Blacksmithing; Tours of the house; "Intro" to the Darby Creek Watershed. Light refreshments for sale. |
| Saturday, April 20, 2002
12 noon - 3 p.m. | Celebration of NarbEarth Day in Historic Narberth. At the Narberth Playground, 80 Windsor Avenue. A fun and education filled afternoon for all ages, with special focus on environmental issues and how residents can become involved. |
| Saturday, April 20, 2002
9 a.m. | Annual Clean-up of the gardens and grounds of the Historic Grange Estate in Haverford Township. Come prepared to work!! |
| Saturday, April 27, 2002
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Annual Darby Creek Cleanup at many sites along the creek.
See page 3 of this newsletter for information. |
| Sunday, April 28, 2002
1 - 4 p.m. | Annual Arbor Day at the Historic Grange Estate. Free. Music; tree planting; Welsh Program CALAN MAI, welcoming spring. |
| Saturday, May 18, 2002
9 a.m. | DCVA Board Meeting.
Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield. |

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