



President's Pen:

View from the Stream Bank

2004, A Busy Year!

Our 20th Year was busy; finishing the River Conservation Grant, coping with heavy floods in early fall, working for responsible development of the few remaining open spaces on the watershed, achieving a successful change of chairpersons of our cleanup program.

• Tom Houghton, cleanup chair for many years, deserves big kudos for his running of the effort long after he had moved from the watershed and assumed many other civic and family duties. John Haigis, his successor, has moved right in and taken firm charge of what has to be done.

• River Conservation Grant Chair, Anne Ackerman, and her committee finally completed their tough job of creating an accurate workable plan for us all. Many, many thanks.

• Our e-mail info on fast moving events keeps us up on Haverford State as well as Llanarch Golf Club. Thanks to Jan Rushforth, our corresponding secretary.

We need more like these folks, and Rosemary Kesling who does such a great job on our newsletter. But, all these folks need help, your help, so we can preserve our watershed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fritz Shmidt".

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**DCVA Annual Meeting To Be Held
Saturday January 29, 2005**

DCVA's annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 29, 2005, at the Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield and Old Sproul Roads. A celebration of the organization as it starts its 21st year will begin with a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. The annual meeting will follow at 9 a.m. During the meeting, Karen Holm, Delaware County Planning Department, will speak about the status of the county and state open space and watershed management programs.

Also during the meeting the annual "Ribbon of Green Award" will be presented to an individual who has helped preserve the environment in our watershed.

Directors and officers of DCVA will be elected for the coming year. The nominating committee has recommended that the following be elected to the board for a 3 year term:

Richard Carroll
Katherine Goddard Doms
Clyde Hunt
Rosemary Kesling
Joanna McGrath
Grace Wheeler

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

After the annual meeting a short board meeting will be convened to elect officers for 2005. The nominating committee suggests the following slate:

President: Robin Mann
First Vice President: John Furth
Second Vice President: Katherine Doms
Recording Secretary: Gwen Coronway
Corresponding Secretary: Jan Marie Rushforth

Treasurer: Richard Carroll
DCVA thanks the nominating committee: Gisela Hunt (acting chair), Bob Shaner, Judy Rice, Jan Marie Rushforth, and Toni McIntosh.

**DCVA Completes
River Conservation
Plan for the Darby
Creek Watershed!**

The River Conservation Plan is finished! We are awaiting approval by DCNR, and then the plan will be presented to the municipalities in the watershed and to the public. It is expected that the compete plan will be available for download from the Internet.. Details about the availability will be included in the DCVA conference materials. The Executive Summary will be presented at the annual meeting.

**Annual DCVA
Conference
Tentatively Scheduled
for First Saturday
in March**

The annual DCVA conference will focus on plans for implementing the recently completed River Conservation Plan. Watch for details in your mail in early February.

DCVA and Creek Clean Up Come Of Age

January, 2005

An Open Letter to DCVA members and friends,

This year the Darby Creek Valley Association celebrates 21 years of work to clean up and green up the Darby Creek Watershed. One of the most significant events of every DCVA year is the Darby Creek Clean Up which uses teams of volunteers at several sites along the Darby and its tributaries to pull debris and trash out of the water and from along the banks to help restore the Creek to proper balance and help unblock areas of possible future flooding.

This year my husband John and I are Co-Chairs directing the Clean Up effort which as usual will be the last Saturday of the month, April 30. We hope, in this twenty-first year of the CleanUp, we can add some new locations to the site roster, Not only does the event provide an annual Spring cleaning for several parts of the watershed, but it also offers an opportunity to educate more folks about all of the work of the DCVA. Every recruit that we can add to a Clean Up crew is another potential ambassador for the needs of the watershed, another advocate to help us change the minds, hearts and actions of the people who live and work here.

We are planning to send a letter in January seeking old and new volunteers to act as Captains at various Creek locations. Please search your schedule and your conscience and heart to see if this is the year you can be a Captain at a new or old site. If not, please be sure to hold the date and personally make a commitment to be a part of someone's team and to bring some friends and family members along with you.

Another way you can help between now and April 30 is to think about all of the organizations and groups to which you and your family members belong. Are you a member of Rotary, Federated Women's Clubs, a church or synagogue, a Girl or Boy Scout Troop, Little League, soccer, a book club, a historical society, a dance troop, a bowling league, Chamber of Commerce, a "Y"? If so, please mention it to your friends and colleagues to hold the date and see if you can help encourage a group to adopt and clean up a Darby Creek site in the neighbor-

hood where you meet or where you live.

Every time you mention the Clean Up, you will add possible workers and, even more important, increase the number of informed people who live and work and play in the watershed. When we send out our Captain's request letter, we will include an information sheet about DCVA and the Clean Up to help you pass the word along to your friends, whether you become a Captain or not.

If this letter sounds a bit like a DCVA pep rally, it is! John and I have been involved in the DCVA Clean Up since 1986, when we first did a Cobbs Creek Clean Up at the Blue Bell. Since moving to Delaware County in August of 2001, we have been doing clean ups here in Darby. We know firsthand the satisfaction of pulling everything including the kitchen sink out of the Creek. We also know what a great learning experience it is for folks who help do the cleaning.

Many of you who read this have been involved even longer than we have and have similar good feelings about the work we do. However we must continue to get younger folks involved because the needs of the Creek will continue to be an issue for future generations as well.

So as you reflect on the spirit of the holidays just past and make plans for 2005, remember that the DCVA and the watershed it serves need the gift of your time and energy this year. Please make a list of how you can help and then do whatever you can to help us get the job done before and on April 30, 2005.

If you have ideas to share about the Clean Up, or are already inspired to volunteer to be a Captain, please be in touch. Our contact information is listed below. Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm, good will, and commitment. With your assistance, we know it will be a good year!

May you find peace, joy and good health in abundance in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Jan Monk Haigis, Co-Chair
Darby Creek Clean Up
(610) 583-0788
janmonk@webtv.net
johnhaigis@rcn.com

Delaware River Oil Spill – 2004

On Black Friday, the oil tanker Athos spilled up to 475,000 gallons of heavy crude oil into the Delaware River after striking an uncharted object near the Citco dock.

Thanks to quick work by various agencies, a boom placed across the mouth of the Darby Creek prevented major amounts of oil from coming in with the tide and moving upstream. This along with major rainstorms and strong winds prevented major damage to our flora and fauna upstream from the Ridley Marina. Not so lucky was the Jersey side of

the river and Mantua Creek's eagle population.

Heinz Wildlife Center turned its maintenance buildings into a staging area for oil-wounded wildlife. Teams of wildlife experts and amateurs worked night and day to collect damaged birds and ship them to the Tri-State Bird Sanctuary in Newark, Delaware.

The damage to wildlife, especially the hundreds of birds already treated, is immense and will grow as the oil goes up and down the food chain for the next decade.

First Annual Insect Identification Workshop a Success!

By Alan Samel

On October 12, we had our first insect identification workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to identify the insects we sampled from 3 locations on Darby Creek on April 17. The 3 locations were in Darby (Bartram Park), Havertown, and Radnor (Skunk Hollow). Taking samples from the creek is the easy part! You get to wade into the stream, you get a little wet, you get a little dirty, you collect your samples, and you have a lot of fun. And we did. But, it takes a lot of time and a lot of commitment to separate the 'bugs from the crud' and identify what you have in each sample. Why is it important to take samples of water bugs from the creek? The bugs we take from each site tell us a story about the water quality of Darby Creek at that particular site. Some organisms, such as mayflies, are known to be sensitive to pollutants. If the mayflies are in the sample, the water quality at that site is considered to be relatively clean. If the mayfly is not in the sample, and it should be, its absence is an indication of questionable water quality at that site. The little bugs provide a big picture of the water quality of Darby Creek.

A group of 6-8 people got together early Saturday morning to get started. Our goal was to process all the samples collected during the April Stream Watch, 6 large sample jars full of bugs, mud, and crud! Our collection procedure and identification procedure was based on the PA Snapshot worksheet provided by the Pa Department of Environmental Protection, Citizens Volunteer Monitoring Program. The procedure we used in the identification workshop was to pour everything out of the sample jars into flat trays and visually separate any bugs seen in the sample. We did this for approximately 90 minutes. We then spent the next 90 minutes identifying the kind of bug we found. We used microscopes, available reference material, such as textbooks, and the identification chart provided by the PA Snapshot people. Once identified, we categorized the insects as either sensitive, moder-

ately sensitive (facultative), or tolerant, based again on the PA Snapshot information.

Sounds tough? Sounds hard? Sounds like rocket science? Forget about it! We had a teenager, we had someone who never saw a mayfly before, and we had some people with some knowledge (okay, maybe more than some knowledge). By the end of the day, everyone could identify the bugs at the level needed. It was a lot of fun. We also spent a lot of time talking about the watershed, stressors to the watershed, ways to improve the watershed; anything was up for discussion.

What did we learn? What was the water quality of Darby Creek? I use the term 'was' because the stream is ever moving and ever changing. The water quality one day can be very different the next day. That is why the streamwatch event is called a snapshot. Here is what we learned....The water quality at Bartram Park, the most downstream site sampled, was found to have a 'Fair' water quality rating. The Havertown site was found to have a 'Fair' water quality rating. The Radnor site was found to have 'Good' quality rating. 'Fair' means that the insects identified were either in the tolerant or facultative category. 'Fair' indicates that a stream location is stressed either by pollutants, changes to the surroundings around the stream, or by changes to the stream itself. 'Good' indicates that, in addition to the tolerant and facultative insects identified, sensitive species were also identified. 'Good' means that the stream conditions at that site are such that it can provide adequate habitat and environmental conditions for some sensitive species; but there is room for improvement.

What's next? We keep sampling, of course! Our database is very small and needs to be expanded. We need to determine water quality over time for a



DCVA members identify insects collected from Darby Creek.

long period of time. We also need to increase the number of sample sites to get a bigger picture of Darby Creek. Three sites do not cover a lot of territory, but it is a start. Here's where you come into the picture; we need your help. We need more volunteers for the streamwatch and we need more volunteers for the insect identification workshop. The next streamwatch will be this coming April. The next insect identification workshop will be in October. Stay tuned for the specific dates. And remember, we can only do as much as you are willing to do yourself.

The workshop was at the Peace Center at Friends Meeting in Springfield. Many thanks for letting us take over the room for the day. Also many thanks to the folks at the Springfield Farmers Market for providing food!

DCVA Welcomes New Members

Theodore W. Friend,
Villanova

Colleen S. Hendrick,
Prospect Park

Annie Johnson,
Upper Darby

Barbara Marinelli,
Drexel Hill

Ed Riedlinger,
Berwyn

Congratulations to DCVA on its 20th Anniversary, 1984-2004

In our 20 years, the Darby Creek Valley Association, an all-volunteer organization, has sought to address community concerns about all aspects of the watershed and to formulate environmentally friendly plans to better the communities in the Darby Creek Valley. We have been successful in large measure due to the leadership of our four presidents: Gayle Lawrence, Clyde Hunt, Fritz Thornton, and Derron LaBrake.

We note our indebtedness to colleagues, now deceased, who contributed greatly to the success of DCVA's endeavors--Anne Batista, Eugene Finn, Carl Flinterman, Harold Lockwood, William Miehle, Zoe Maske, Vicki Shaner, and James Way.

Several of our board members have compiled a list of some of the many activities and accomplishments of the organization during its history--many of these activities are ongoing. The list reflects our stewardship program:

- Initiated the first watershed education program for the Darby Creek Watershed - "A Sense of Place - Knowing Home."
- Initiated a comprehensive watershed stream monitoring program.
- Initiated a stream-wide clean-up of Darby Creek.
- Co-founded the Delaware County Environmental Network (DCEN), an "educational arm" of the Delaware County Conservation District; a founding member, helped to initiate publication of the DCEN resource guide to maximize networking among the environmental organizations within the county and the multitude of environmental resources available.
- Initiated the local stewardship program for the Darby Creek watershed under the Adopt-A-Stream program of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.
- Initiated the first Darby Creek Watershed Conference in 1990.
- Initiated a network to include the municipalities, historic sites and gardens in the watershed and general public in a mission of local stewardship.
- Initiated and completed the Darby Creek River's Conservation Plan (RCP) on behalf of the municipalities within Delaware County in partnership with Delaware County Council and DCNR.
- Initiated the publication of the Darby Creek Valley Association newsletter - "The Valley."
- Organized the efforts to save the Swedish Cabin by forming an Historic Sites Committee which became the leading force in saving the Cabin and having it restored on its original site.
- Assisted in obtaining grants for Darby Borough's Bartram Park stream bank restoration and riparian plantings.
- Supported the planting of trees and teaching about the values of riparian areas. An estimated 1100 trees have been planted.
- Through the Glendale Trail Fund, a bequest from the Manoa Library Association, DCVA has supported the identification, development and maintenance of trails in Haverford Township.

URBAN FORESTS

If urban trees didn't exist, it is estimated that the Delaware Valley would have to spend more than \$105 million on stormwater storage units to control stormwater runoff.

Urban trees also provide wind barriers as well as shade from summer heat.

Delaware Valley's urban forest is declining at an alarming rate - about five million trees lost in the last fifteen years.

We need more trees for their major contribution in reducing air pollution (they use carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen), filtering our big city noises, providing a calming sense of greenery as well as a place for birds to live and kids to play.

How can you help? Contact DCNR or Tree Vitalize at <http://www.treevitalize.net>

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's Clean Water Partners Program

Could water quality in local creeks benefit from less stormwater runoff pollution?

Do local merchants and business owners have responsibility for helping to control stormwater runoff pollution and preventing pollutants from entering streets, storm drains and streams?

The answers to these questions are YES! The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's Clean Water Partners program is helping communities take a more active role in improving water quality in our region.

The Partnership is providing technical assistance to help community groups and municipalities address stormwater runoff pollution. Clean Water Partners reaches out to businesses and encourages business owners and operators to employ good housekeeping practices that keep our streets, storm drains and streams clean. Clean Water Partners can be tailored to address issues in individual communities. It also:

- Provides incentives that encourage chronic polluters and businesses with poor housekeeping to keep their sites clean and maintain stormwater facilities;
- Protects investments of time and money in stream restoration and clean-up projects;
- Protects drinking water by helping control non-point pollution in groundwater recharge areas and near public water supplies; and
- Helps achieve compliance with municipal NPDES Phase II requirements.

This initiative, being made possible through funding from several regional agencies and organizations committed to improving water quality in the Delaware Estuary, is being piloted in Norwood Borough and several other municipalities around the Delaware Estuary. For more information, call the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, 1-800-445-4935 (Ext. 20 Liz Feinberg).

Another Year on Haverford State

By Jan Marie Rushforth written 12/23/2004.

As printed as an Op Ed in the Delaware County Daily Times 1/8/2005

When I think about Haverford State Hospital over the year of 2004, what comes to mind are concepts like too much development with too little recreational and public space; and images like tilting soccer fields on steep slopes; and actions associated with incompetence, deception, illegality, negligence, and delay.

Haverford Township purchased the property from Pennsylvania in December 2002 for \$3.5 million. January 2003 began with gates to Haverford State being open to the public and with an optimistic spirit of hope, and community inclusion, which ended quickly.

Jeffrey Rotwitt was hired as Development Consultant in March of 2003. Amid bidding wars, at Rotwitt's recommendation, the Commissioners' selected Goldenberg-Pohlig (Haverford Hills) to win the development rights in November of 2003 for \$30.56 million. An Agreement of Sale was signed between the Commissioners and Haverford Hills on December 30, 2003, even though a final plan had not been submitted. In spite of vocal protests from citizens and lawyers that the agreement was poorly written, not benefiting or protecting the Township, and that the Commissioners had not done due diligence, the Agreement was signed and went forward.

On the morning of December 31, 2003, a fax from Jeffrey Rotwitt demanded that Township Manager, Mike English, sign off on a \$600,000 illegal secret payment to Jeffrey Rotwitt's firm, Obermeyer, to be taken from the \$5 million developer refundable deposit, in escrow at Rotwitt's law firm. With Solicitor Leo Sereni and Commissioner President Joe Kelly unavailable and the Township closing for the year in under 2 hours, Mike English called Commissioner Fred Moran, who induced Mike English to sign the amendment. This \$600,000 payment to Jeffrey Rotwitt was made in secret. Only extensive investigations by Commissioner Andy Lewis and attorney Pat Biswanger uncovered the illegal transaction. When that deceptive transaction was publicly exposed as illegal violations of the General Laws of Haverford Township, the Sunshine Law and the Home Rule Charter, Rotwitt returned the funds to the Township. In spite of this, the Majority Commissioners still extended Rotwitt's 6% of gross proceeds contract, a payment which will be made regardless of whether the deal goes through or not. Additionally, the Majority Commissioners agreed to pay the legal fees incurred by Rotwitt, a high priced Philadelphia lawyer, if Rotwitt sues the Township. Go figure.

Since then, the developer has not kept to scheduled deadlines. The Revised Conceptual Plan was due to the Township on January 31, 2004 and the Critical Path Schedule was due February 16, 2004. It is now December 2004 - many months later - and the interested public has yet to see either the Plan or the Schedule.

There was a problem with the survey indicating 3 fewer acres than a prior survey had identified at the property - 212 acres became 209 acres. There were attempts by the Developer, by Rotwitt, and by the Majority Commissioners to take those 3 acres away from the public. It took State Representative Greg Vitali and State Senator Connie Williams to get the State to clarify and for the State to threaten to "quiet the title" in order to protect the 135 acres - 120 acres for passive recreation and 15 acres for active recreation.

The number of acres allowable for the development became an issue when it became clear that internal roads to service the 298 housing units were not included in the 61 +/- development acres as agreed. Other developers had included their internal roads within their smaller parcels, and had offered more money, with fewer units, and less traffic. Again it was Commissioner Andy Lewis who discovered this discrepancy, or the Township would be giving away approximately 15 acres to Goldenberg-Pohlig at a value of about \$7 million. The residents won that battle in that the internal roads will be within the 61 +/- acres at this time. The Spine Road is still not included in the 61 +/- development parcel.

One of the outstanding issues includes where the storm water management retention basins, etc. would be placed - within the development parcel of 61 +/- acres, or dumped into the wetlands and streams at the bottom of the housing ridge. Putting them at the bottom of the ridge could disrupt the fragile natural ecosystem and potentially create the conditions for additional flooding down stream.

Sewers and who pays for expensive and necessary upgrades are an upcoming concern.

In order to comply with the 61 +/- acres as in the Agreement of Sale, the Developer wants the same number of units (298) with higher density by going up to 5 floors on condo units, and with fewer single family houses. For this *concession*, the Developer wants to pay several million dollars less money to the Township. This item is still in negotiation.

One bright spot of news on HSH in 2004 was the approval of Commissioners Andy Lewis and Steve D'Emilio to act as Liaisons with the Developer and Rotwitt for the Township. Lewis and D'Emilio volunteered to keep residents abreast with monthly reports and quarterly public meetings - one of which is hoped for in January.

Most important, the recent plan by the developers looks nothing like the Master Plan approved by the Township three years ago. In place of community facilities like a Pool, a Recreation Center, a new Township Building and playing fields, the plan now calls for mostly high-density high-rise housing. And the developer wants to drop the price! Because of this, Haverford Taxpayer Alliance is calling for the HSH developer, Goldenberg-Pohlig, to either honor the agreement

--Continued on Page 10

Merry Place Flooded Again

Five years ago, Hurricane Floyd wiped out the boardwalk and fishing pier at Merry Place, the handicap-accessible park on Glendale Road in Havertown. As soon as possible, with the help of federal disaster relief funding, the boardwalk was rebuilt, even better than before with environmentally responsible plastic lumber and a 50 year guarantee. But alas, Hurricane Jeanne arrived in October 2004 and swept the new boardwalk from its foundation, leaving only the steel framework.

Haverford Township submitted a claim for the damage to its insurance company, but the claim was denied. That finding is being challenged because of the way the insurance company defined the boardwalk as being over water. In reality, 95% of the destroyed area is not over water. The township has not yet heard whether its appeal will be successful. In the meantime, Tim Denny, Director of the Park and Recreation department and a member of DCVA's board of directors, tells us that he has begun raising money to rebuild the boardwalk. It has not yet been decided exactly how the project will be designed—engineers and consultants may recommend a different approach to the structure. But plans are to rebuild in a way that corresponds to the original intentions of the park—to make Darby Creek accessible, to make the area aesthetically pleasing, and to proceed in an environmentally responsible way. In the spring, the volleyball courts and trails which were destroyed along with the boardwalk and pier will also be repaired. From the beginning the community has been supportive of the park, and Tim expects continual improvements to be made despite the recent setbacks.

5TH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA WATERSHED CONFERENCE

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty delivered the keynote speech at the fifth annual Pennsylvania Watershed Conference last October.

McGinty predicted that water, more than oil, will be our most precious commodity and has the potential to become a major national security issue.

She also encouraged students attending the conference to think twice about moving to areas of the country that seem attractive but lack the resources to sustain growth. McGinty predicted a "boomerang effect" of population growth coming back to Pennsylvania as people and businesses move back from the American Southwest due to future water shortages.

McGinty also reminded conference attendees of the need to encourage the Pennsylvania legislature to pass Governor Rendell's Growing Greener II funding plan.

2005 Delaware County Envirothon

The 13th Annual Delaware County Envirothon will be held in April 2005. The Envirothon is an environmental competition in which teams of five students, grades 9 through 12, compete against other Delaware County high school teams in five subject areas: Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry, and a current issue topic which is updated each year. This year's current issue topic is "Managing Cultural Landscapes." Each high school is permitted to send two teams of five to the event. Professionals in each area of expertise develop the tests: PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, DCNR - Forestry, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Envirothon locally is sponsored by the **Delaware County Conservation District, the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, D.C.N.R. - Bureau of State Parks, and the Delaware County Environmental Network.**

The first place team is eligible to compete in the statewide Envirothon competition, taking place at Bloomsburg University this year. The Statewide competition involves over 60 teams from across Pennsylvania, with one entry from each County. The local winner receives funds to assist with expenses in attending the state competition. The winner of the State competition then goes on to the International Competition. Last year, Penncrest HS placed first at both the local and Statewide competitions. They then went on to place 6th at the International Competition held at Wesleyan College in West Virginia. The following schools also competed in last year's event: Ridley HS, Sun Valley HS, Penncrest HS, Strath Haven HS, Springfield HS, Haverford HS, and Glen Mills HS. For more information and a complete listing of last year's results, check the District's website at www.delcocd.org.

Delaware County Conservation District Poster Contest

Once again, The Delaware County Conservation District will sponsor its annual Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Celebrate Conservation," chosen to highlight the benefits conservation has brought to both the environment and the lives of people, and to celebrate 50 years of Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The contest is open to all school students, from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Entries will be divided into categories based on grade level, and first, second, third, and fourth place prizes will be awarded in each category. Two of Delaware County's winners from last year's contest, "The Living Soil," also won at the state level. Their posters were then entered in the National Competition. Brochures for this year's Poster Contest will be mailed to schools in early 2005 and judging will take place in the spring. For more information, visit the District's website at www.delcocd.org/poster_contest.htm or call Bridget Thompson at 610-892-9484.

2nd Annual Sarah McCarron Trail Clean-up Held At Skunk Hollow in Radnor Township

A remarkable young woman with a passionate love for nature is how those who knew her remember Sarah McCarron. To honor her spirit and love for the outdoors, approximately 100 volunteers attended the 2nd annual Sarah McCarron Trail Clean-Up which was held October 4th at Radnor's 100-acre Skunk Hollow Park.

The afternoon began with a brief workshop on how to create and maintain environmentally-friendly hiking trails by Radnor Township's environmental consultant, John Munro, of Munro Ecological Services. Afterwards, the participants immediately put these concepts to work by enthusiastically improving the existing trails as well as picking up trash and clearing debris from the paths.

Ms. McCarron, a 2001 Radnor High School graduate, was struck and killed by lightning two years ago at the young age of 20 while hiking in the Uinta mountains in northeastern Utah.

"Everyone I meet who knew her tells me of her deep love and appreciation for the wilderness and beauty," said DCVA member and Radnor Township commissioner Dave Cannan, "which is why working on the Skunk Hollow trail with her family and friends every year in the fall is such a wonderful and meaningful way to remember Sarah."



Approximately 100 participants attending the 2nd annual Sarah McCarron trail clean-up listen to Radnor Township's environmental consultant, John Munro, of Munro Ecological Services, as he gives a brief workshop on environmentally-friendly trail construction.

Urban Watershed Conference to be Held January 21st

The 2005 "Urban Watershed Revitalization Conference" will be held Friday and Saturday, January 21st and 22nd, 8 a.m. to 4:25 p.m., at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. The conference will highlight national and local Southeastern Pennsylvania programs and initiatives that explore the value of the watershed management approach, as it balances public health and environmental goals with a community's objective to remain economically viable. The conference costs \$35 for one day or \$50 for 2 days, if you register prior to January 20th. It is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Philadelphia Water Department, and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. For more information or to register, please visit the following website: <http://www.greentreks.org/pec/conference.asp>

Resources Available on the Internet

Publications of interest to Darby Creek Valley Association members are available on the web.

- "Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth." This is a US EPA document that suggests ways that state and local governments can achieve smart growth and water quality goals. This 116 page publication is available at <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>. Alternatively call 1 800 490-9198 and request EPA publication 231-R-04-002.

- The Heritage Conservancy has published a series of publications for municipalities and groups interested in preserving open space. The series consists of "Growing with Green Infrastructure," "Opportunity Knocks—Open Space as a Community Investment," "Implementing a Municipal Open Space Program," "Public Finance For Open Space," "Using Conservation Easement to Preserve OpenSpace." This series is available at: www.heritageconservancy.org.

- "Common Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas." This Pennsylvania Field Guide by PA DEP is available in the WREN website library: <http://pa.lwv.org/wren>

- "Pollution Prevention Practices," the 8th manual in a series of 11 urban subwatershed restoration manuals from the Center for Watershed Protection is available for free download at www.cwp.org

- The Pennsylvania Soilmap website is an on-line, interactive web-based program that gives access to mapped soils data for Pennsylvania. Developed by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Geospatial Technology Program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and PASDA, individuals can view and print aerial photos, topo maps, soil maps and other details of a watershed. Visit <http://soilmap.psu.edu>.

**Visit DCVA's website at:
www.dcva.org**

Ursinus College Offers a Course on Darby Creek Watershed and Student Involvement in Watershed Conservation

By Erin Walsh, Ursinus College, Class of 2005

In the spring of 2005, there is a new opportunity for DCVA members to interact with both college students and elementary school students to help them learn more about the Darby Creek watershed. A newly developed college course is being constructed dealing with the Darby Creek watershed, and it needs your help! Kathy Doms, DCVA member and associate professor at Ursinus College, won a Project Pericles grant from the college to develop a course to involve college students in the community while they learn about freshwater ecology, particularly the Darby Creek watershed. The board of DCVA approved participation in the community outreach part of the course as a DCVA activity.

The course that will be offered at Ursinus College involves interested college students working with the local school children to discover the effects of pollution on the invertebrate inhabitants of the Darby Creek watershed. The children will visit the creek to sample macroinvertebrates and note the relationship between the species present and the local pollutants. By entering their data on a communal website, they will get the chance to compare their findings with schools in other parts of the watershed with more or less pollution. This unique opportunity allows both college and elementary students to learn about the watershed and pollution's effects, as well as incorporate a sense of community service.

The project is a much abbreviated, non-quantitative version of the quantitative study of stream organisms that DVCA and other organizations conduct on watersheds every year. The children will collect and identify organisms with a very simple identification key. They will also make some observations such as the temperature of the creek, its flow rate, and the amount of shade above the creek. With your help, we will introduce the children to the environment around them and teach them how to care for it. We are currently exploring the watershed for schools that are within safe walking distance of the creek in parts of the creek that represent a variety of habitat types and pollution levels.

We would like to invite the members of DCVA to participate in this valuable experience. Seeing college students work with members of the community will make this a memorable experience for the children, as well as everyone involved. There will be three trips to each of the four elementary schools (dates TBA) so there are plenty of opportunities for you to participate. More information will be provided in a later newsletter. We hope you will be as excited about this as we are! For more information you can contact us at kgoddard-doms@ursinus.edu or 610-489-4111 x2327.

Narbrook Park Historic District

Narbrook Park Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 7, 2003, is a planned residential community located two miles from Philadelphia city limits in the Borough of Narberth, Montgomery County, PA. The 14-acre district contains 35 single houses built from 1915 to 1938 that surround dedicated open space, through which the East Branch of Indian Creek flows toward Cobbs Creek as part of the Darby Creek Watershed. (The source of the East Branch of Indian Creek is two always-active springs located a few feet south of Montgomery Avenue, which is a ridgeway; one of these springs is in Narberth Borough and the other in Wynnewood in Lower Merion Township. The creek-flow from each of those springs travels southward and joins together in Narbrook Park, continuing south as a larger stream. The West Branch of Indian Creek has as its source a spring near Church Road, Ardmore, just north of the Amtrak rail line and south of Montgomery Avenue, a couple of miles from Narberth).

The Garden City idea and Arts and Crafts influences that animate Narbrook Park are reflected in its community planning, landscape architecture and in the architecture of a number of the architect-designed houses of this community. Narbrook's supervising architect was D. Knickerbacke Boyd. Town planners involved were New Yorkers George Burdett Ford and R. Anderson Pope, the latter a former student in Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s landscape architecture class at Harvard, the first such course at an American college. This community's sponsor throughout was the Narberth Civic Association, and participants in the project drew numbers from a hat to develop the lots, which initially had deed restrictions. When completed, Narbrook's open space was intended originally to have become publicly-owned parkland serving the whole borough as its only park. But in the mid-1920s, the town's present large playground was created adjacent to Narbrook Park to serve that purpose instead.

The residents' organization, Narbrook Park Improvement Association, founded in 1920, has maintained outstanding vitality through the years and is therefore credited with the cohesiveness this community still manifests as its most striking trait. One result is that Narbrook Park's common areas achieve constant enhancement through the volunteer activity of members of that association's standing committees, one of which has long been the stream committee, that makes regular reports. Narbrook Park Improvement Association also stages twice-yearly "work picnics" with well-defined tasks for all members. No sooner did a September 2003 tornado cause significant damage here, than a large crew of Narbrook residents turned out one weekend and planted more than a half-dozen new street trees in flattened roadside areas near Narbrook's entrance beside the stream.

(The above information was written by Victoria Donohoe, Philadelphia Inquirer art critic and member International Association of Art Critics, January 24, 2004)

Volunteers Develop Wetlands at Garrett Hill Park

By Ryan Richards, *Suburban and Wayne Times*, 11/18/04. Reprinted with Permission.

A steady reverberation echoed through the chilled late-morning air in the vicinity of the tennis courts. But instead of tennis balls smacking against rackets, it was the pounding of a fence post into the ground just a few feet away. Volunteers toil in murky water to erect a fence to protect newly planted saplings and grasses.

Wetlands, anyone?

On Saturday, volunteers helped to develop a wetlands habitat at Clem Macrone Park in Garrett Hill. Wearing waders, boots and thick gloves, Dave Cannan, 7th Ward commissioner, stood in the muddied water tending to the young plants.

"It's already naturally wet," explained Cannan about the soaked ground below him.

Adjacent to Valley Run stream, the rectangular swatch of turf, about 100 feet by 35 feet, is often subject to flooding conditions.

The project is under the direction of Cannan, a member of Darby Creek Valley Association, and Radnor Township consultant John Munro of Harleysville-based Munro Ecological Services. The township's Environmental Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Board and Board of Commissioners gave the go-ahead.

Funding was provided by a grant from the PA DEP Wetland Replacement Fund. Cannan said the DEP's Bureau of Watershed Management approved Radnor's wetland project for funding.

The commissioner said the project was also made possible through the time and donations of area companies.

The project, for example, includes an approximately 100-ft-long, five-foot-wide angular walking deck through the wet-

lands, and Pohlig Builders provided the deck's design and labor, while Tague Lumber Company provided the materials, and Pickering Valley Contractors of Chester Springs lent an auger for digging.

"This whole project is done with either grants, donations, volunteer labor, at no cost to the taxpayers," explained Cannan. "It's another wonderful addition to Radnor's park system."

When completed, said Cannan, signage will identify the various plants. An asphalt walkway is planned for the perimeter of the park and funded by the township will connect with the deck. The deck, made with Trex Decking, a synthetic material, includes a toe guard and is wheelchair-accessible.

Taking a break from his labor, Munro said the plantings include native grasses such as sedges and rushes. They are adaptive to living in wet places," he remarked.

Trees, now just saplings, include red maples and a few non-native bold cypress, which have become acclimated to the region's temperature.

Munro referred to the project as an "educational wetland," where "you will be able to see a lot of species in here."

Cannan described Saturday's effort as a "real nice community project." Among the volunteers were Merritt Jenkins and Sean Mahoney, Radnor High School students interested in the environment and ecology. They chose spending the day knee-high in water as a Junior Class in-service day project.

"It will be really interesting to come back here in a few years to see how it looks and see what we accomplished," stated Mahoney.

A dedication is planned for the spring, said Cannan.

Cobbs Creek Park: Students Plant 300 Native Trees in an Effort to Solve Nonpoint Source Pollution Problems

Hundreds of school children were at Cobbs Creek Park in November armed with shovels and plant material to give their Cobbs Creek a new native tree buffer. They called their Cobbs Creek efforts "*TreeVitalize the Cobbs Creek*" in observance of the Commonwealth's *TreeVitalize Initiative*.

The event was sponsored by a public-private partnership including Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fairmont Park Commission - Cobbs Creek Park District, and student volunteers from seven public, private and parochial schools within the Cobbs Creek watershed. The students received environmental instruction at the urban environmental center - 63rd and Catherine Streets - that included habitat and non-point source pollution awareness and watershed education. Then students planted 100 native trees and shrubs each of three days.

For more information call Drew Paul at (215) 685-1900.

Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center (CCCEEC) Offers Environmental Science Pilot Course

With its environmental science course, CCCEEC, in cooperation with Lincoln University and the University of the Sciences, currently offers twelve high school students the opportunity to engage in advanced study and research in environmental science, while preparing them to take the environmental science AP exam for college credit. The yearlong course emphasizes scientific principles, analysis, and writing, and includes a significant laboratory/field study component. Students will participate in at least one citywide science competition: options include the Wistar Institute Science Writing Competition and the Washington Carver Science Fair. Classes occur five times a week for an hour and a half at CCCEEC. Two days are devoted to instruction, one day to lab work, and the remaining two days are used for writing skills development, college advising, review, and/or field trips. For more information call Alexis at 215-685-1900.

Haverford State Hospital

Continued from Page 5

of sale for 61 +/- acres at the price agreed in the signed Agreement of Sale, or to go back to the drawing board and return with a plan with more public space in the spirit of the Master Plan, or for the Township to scrap this Developer, pay them for their research product, and find another Developer who will use the parameters of the Master Plan with the public space as the center piece and the private development as a smaller feature. Unfortunately, the Township signed agreements such that the Township needs to pay Rotwitt a huge fee, regardless of whether this Developer performs.

For additional updates about HSH and Haverford Township, check out the website:

www.HaverfordTaxpayerAlliance.com and www.HaverfordBlog.com. To be added to my e-list of Haverford Township and HSH related info, email me at rushforth@comcast.net with your name and "subscribe." Let's hope that the 2005 report will be far more positive on HSH and Haverford Township.

Jan Marie Rushforth, Bryn Mawr,
Rushforth@comcast.net

Tree Planting in the Darby Creek Valley

By Clyde Hunt

Every year with hurricanes, strong winds and just plain old time the trees in our watershed "take a beating" and suffer some losses. The trees along our streets and streams mature and become senile. As they grow old they become weak of wood and suffer attacks from insects, fungi, even mis-guided pruners and autos.

We need to replace them to keep our streets and streams shaded. Their roots will hold the stream banks in time of flood and drought. A little extra shade and protection from wind and water is often welcome around our homes too. By keeping our neighborhoods attractive, we invite song birds, squirrels, chipmunks and such to share our yards and gardens.

PECO equates 200 kilowatt hours of wind power each month as worth the impact of planting 179 trees. When they

The member municipalities of the Eastern Delaware County Council of Governments held a storm water workshop on December 16, 2004. The session, which was conducted by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc., focused on ways municipal employees can clean up area waterways.

Everyday activities performed by local governments, like washing or fueling a vehicle, can potentially result in pollution. Fuel spilled on the ground can get washed by rainwater into the storm sewer system and eventually enter a creek or river. Washing vehicles near a storm drain can also put fuel, oil or other pollutants into the storm sewer system. The workshop provided practical suggestions on ways to limit the impact that these and other municipal operations can have on the quality of our creeks, streams and rivers.

The workshop is just one in a series of efforts municipalities are making to respond to the federal clean water requirements contained in National Pollution Discharge Elimina-

tion System (NPDES) Phase II. NPDES contains six minimum control measures that every community must implement to help improve water quality.

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build a wind farm with windmills 100 miles away, it somehow pales to provide locally the effect of even one, tall, full-grown, tree on the stream bank or shading our home.

In the past 10 years DCVA has planted or given away to be planted about 500 trees. It has also assisted other watershed groups and townships to choose the best trees to plant. But just planting a tree doesn't guarantee the tree will survive to a ripe old age. Nor does it assure that trees will sprout up where they are most beneficial. You must take that action—and encourage others to act wisely too. Five hundred trees in Delaware County is but a drop in the bucket, a sputter on a hot sidewalk—compared with what needs to be done to keep our watershed/our county green. Plan now to plant your tree(s) this spring—for your own spot of green.

Municipalities Hold Storm Water Training

tion System (NPDES) Phase II. NPDES contains six minimum control measures that every community must implement to help improve water quality.

DCVA Remembers Zoe Mask

We are saddened by the death of one of our founding members, Zoe Mask. Zoe was on our board of directors for many years and was always willing to help wherever she was needed. We are grateful for her dedication and her example of local stewardship. We extend sympathy to her family.

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcv.org. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Dave Cannan, Kathryn Goddard Doms, Victoria Donohoe, Liz Feinberg, Dave Forrest, Clyde Hunt, Bill Gothier, Jan Haigis, Rosemary Kesling, Joseph P. Martin, Ryan Richards, Jan Marie Rushforth, Alan Samel, Fritz Thornton and Erin Walsh. Photographs courtesy of Dave Cannan and Alan Samel. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. Printed on recycled paper. 2005.



“Meet the Creek” Event Introduces Folks from Some Upper Tributaries to Darby Creek

On June 27th about 20 folks gathered at the home of Bob and Kate Doms of Berwyn to be introduced to Darby Creek. The guests showed pluck in responding to the invitation to meet Darby Creek, since none of them knew that the small tributaries and ponds on their properties are part of the Darby Creek drainage! The guests had a look at a map of the Darby Creek drainage and were interested to trace the path of the water from Berwyn in northeast Chester County all the way to Philadelphia. Everyone took DCVA brochures and hand-outs on erosion control.

Clyde Hunt, a DCVA past-president, and formerly of the U.S. Forestry Service, led the participants on a walk along a tributary and a pond on that tributary. Fortunately for Clyde, properties that exemplified good stream bank management and not-so-ideal stream bank management were nearby. Using two properties to illustrate his points, Clyde explained that roots and dense plants along stream banks in forested areas help to prevent erosion, whereas a bare bank encourages erosion. He pointed out that in gardens that have lawns, a border of unmown grass next to a stream or pond also can help to prevent erosion. He further explained that trees overhanging a stream are beneficial to fish as the shade cools the

water. He provided the names of the trees that were encountered on the walk, and pointed out that many of them were there because they were water-loving and favored areas close to the creek. The participants learned a great deal about good creek management and the Darby Creek.

As it grew dark, everyone went inside. Clyde showed the guests slides of Darby Creek kindly organized by Anne Ackerman. The presentation began with slides of the upper tributaries in Radnor, and continued downstream to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. The slides showed the creek at various points along its journey, but also during various seasons of the year. Autumn leaves and small waterfalls were interspersed with photos of sparkling snow in winter and leafy banks in spring and summer. Slides showing the historical homes and buildings along the creek were particularly interesting to some of the guests. The room was very quiet when Clyde told everyone about the homes flooded in the most recent flood. The presence of Dave Cannon, Gisela Hunt, and Gwen Coronway was appreciated, as they contributed to the question and answer session. All of the guests and DCVA members present agreed that it was a successful event.

JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

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

**We invite you to fill in the form below, check member category, and mail form with your check to:
The Darby Creek Valley Association, P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill PA 19026**

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Your Municipality _____

Representative (if organization member) _____

Type of Membership:

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

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 29, 2005
8:30 a.m. Brunch; 9 a.m. Meeting

DCVA Annual Meeting & 20th Anniversary Celebration.
Springfield Friends Meeting.
1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield.

Saturday, February 19, 2005
9 a.m.

DCVA Board Meeting
Springfield Friends Meeting.
1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield.

Saturday, March 5, 2005
9 a.m.

DCVA Annual Conference.
Springfield Friends Meeting.
1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield.

Saturday, April 30, 2005
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DCVA Cleanup. Various locations along the creek.



Darby Creek Valley Association

P.O. Box 732

Drexel Hill, PA 19026