

President's Pen:

View from the Stream Bank

The Darby Creek watershed is getting plenty of attention this spring! The StreamWatch Program, under Alan Samel's capable leadership, is gearing up for its annual sampling of "stream critters" on April 23rd. John and Jan Haigis are busy organizing the April 30 Darby Creek Clean-up – the largest ever, with 17 clean-up locations. And their educational placemats are a wonderful new tool for recruitment and awareness-building about the watershed and the clean-up! Look for the placemats in local restaurants during April.

Our Trails and Recreation Committee is presently undertaking an assessment of the maintenance and repair needs of the trail system in the watershed – no small feat! And all paddling enthusiasts please take note: the popular Governor Printz Challenge will be back! Planning is underway for the Delaware County Council-sponsored second annual Riverfront Ramble to be held in September. Launched last year to promote the Delaware River as a destination, the Riverfront Ramble will include a variety of activities in addition to the canoe race, including the Swedish Colonial Society's reenactment ceremony and a Lenape encampment, both planned for areas of Governor Printz Park.

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Annual Cleanup Adds New Sites and Game Placemat Publicity

**Darby Creek Cleanup To Be Held
Saturday April 30, 2005**

The 21st Annual Darby Creek Cleanup has added three new sites to the cleanup roster, as well as adding a new educational dimension to publicizing the project this year. DCVA Watershed Game placemats designed by co-chairs Jan and John Haigis are being offered free to restaurants in the Darby-Cobbs Watershed who promise to use them in April to help educate the public about the DCVA and its annual spring cleaning event.

The cost of the placemats is being defrayed by the following local sponsors whose generosity has made this new educational outreach possible: DJ's Endless Garage Sale in Holmes; E.J. Meloney, Inc. in Lansdowne; Main Street Insurance Center in Darby; John Molloy Roofing in Philadelphia; PastTimesPresent.com in Darby, The Sierra Club, and Senator Connie Williams. A special thank you goes to Sharon Savings Bank for sponsoring a second run of placemats so that we have 20,000 rather than 10,000 to distribute throughout the watershed. Please patronize these folks who are assisting our work this year and if you know of a restaurant that would like to use the DCVA Game placemats, please contact Jan and John at (610) 583-0788.

The three new cleanup sites this year are Morton /Stony Creek with Mario Cimino as captain, (610) 328-9698; Secane/Muckinipattis with Captain Jack Bergin, (610) 761-7108; and Yeadon/Cobbs Creek being co-captained by Vanessa Bullock, (484) 410-4831, and Andrew Brazington, (610) 449-0173. A site in Lansdowne where a group of residents from Pennock Terrace have worked with us on the day of the cleanup for the last 15 years has become an official site this year captained by Jack

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Participate in StreamWatch On April 23

The DCVA StreamWatch event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23. As in the past, samples will be collected from three sites on Darby Creek; if there are enough people, the number of sites might go up to 4, which would be great!

StreamWatch chair, Alan Samel, promises that if you join in this activity, you will have a lot of fun! You will get to wade into the stream, collect samples, see the stream critters, and talk with others that have a common interest, the health of Darby Creek.

If you want to have an impact in our watershed and you don't mind getting a little bit wet, or if your school group or other organization wants to help, call or e-mail Alan Samel at (610) 446-1658; vze57rbj@verizon.net.

In the fall, the annual identification workshop will be held. The type of insects collected will tell us if the water quality is acceptable or impaired and whether there have been changes in the water quality during the years that we have been participating in this program.

DCNR Approves ... the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Goes Public!

We were delighted by the large attendance at our March 16 meeting for public officials to share the final Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (DCWCP). The Plan has now received final approval by DCNR. Attendees heard a summary of the Plan's goals and recommendations and were asked to have their municipalities pass resolutions of support for it. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from David Burke, the DEP Water Management Division official assigned to the Darby watershed, about the relationship of the DCWCP to other planning initiatives and program requirements for the watershed.

Burke contrasted the voluntary nature of the DCWCP, and its broad focus on natural and cultural resources within the watershed, with the more narrow focus of the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Management Plan on addressing water quality conditions and required improvements. With Delaware County Planning Department's Karen Holm also in attendance, municipal officials had the chance, as well, to address questions to her about the Act 167 Stormwater Management Program and local ordinance requirements.

Our March 19 meeting, held to announce the Plan's completion to the public, also had a great turnout! Bill Frasch gave a description of the Plan's contents and related the work on the Plan to the many other efforts DCVA has pursued, or is pursuing, to restore and maintain healthy conditions in the watershed. We were pleased to have DEP's David Burke address this audience, as well.

Several attendees from the Springfield area expressed concern and frustration about the recent flooding and property damage they have experienced, and questioned if the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan's recommendations will address their issues at all, or in a timely way. Anne Ackerman noted that a task force of state and federal officials has been named to evaluate flooding problems in the area and make recommendations. The Springfield residents were encouraged to let their public officials know that their flood damage problems have not been satisfactorily addressed. Meanwhile, it was noted that while the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan and Darby Creek Valley Association's other stewardship activities, and the measures being undertaken by our municipalities and other agencies, will necessarily take time to bear fruit, still they are very important to putting the Darby watershed on the path towards long-term health.

Visit DCVA's website for more information about the Conservation Plan and all of the activities of the organization: www.dcva.org

DCVA Marks 21 Years of Stewardship at its Annual Meeting in January

Past, present and future blended as the Darby Creek Valley Association met to celebrate its 21st Anniversary at its annual meeting January 29 at Springfield Friends Meeting. A member was honored and a new board of directors was elected as members planned for the association's future.

Community Activist William J. Frasch was the recipient of the Robert T. Doherty Ribbon of Green Award, named after civic leader Bob Doherty, and given to that person who best exemplifies dedication and stewardship toward the natural resources of the Darby Creek Watershed.

"Bill Frasch is the kind of person who not only talks about taking care of the creek....he does it," said outgoing DCVA president Fritz Thornton.

Frasch, who lives in Darby, helped found the organization in 1984 and has been an active board member ever since.

At the meeting Karen Holm of the Delaware County Planning Department discussed a new stormwater management ordinance that the County has been working on for several years. Steve Beckley also addressed the group, telling attendees about plans for greenways along the creek. Other items discussed at the meeting were the upcoming StreamWatch snap shot of stream health and the annual Darby Creek Cleanup (see articles on the first page.)

After the annual meeting, a board meeting was convened to elect officers for the coming year. The new officers are:

President: Robin Mann

First Vice President: John Furth

Second Vice President: Katherine Goddard Doms

Recording Secretary: Gwen Coronway

Corresponding Secretary: Jan Marie Rushforth

Treasurer: Richard Carroll



Left to right, Ribbon of Green Award Winner Bill Frasch, newly elected DCVA president Robin Mann, and outgoing president Fritz Thornton. See additional pictures from the annual meeting on page 8.

Creek Cleanup Contact List

Saturday, April 30, 2005
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rain or shine.
 General Chairmen:
 Jan & John Haigis, 610 583-0788

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

Blue Bell Inn/Cobbs Creek:
 Jim Malin, 215 724-1724

Briarcliffe: Lisa Simmonds, 610 237-1691
Clifton Heights:

Dave DiPhillipo, 610 284-3319
Darby: Dave Bannon, 610 532-5620
Drexel Hill: Terry Kane, 610 449-4411
Glenolden: Joe Dolan, 610 583-7680
 & Gwen Conway, 610 583-0836

Haverford: Tim Denny, 610 446-9397
Lansdowne: Bonnie's Wondergardens
 610 259-1733

Marple: Bill Brainerd, 610 325-3127
Lansdowne/Pennock Terrace:

Jack Kelly, 610 623-5156
Morton/Stony Creek:

Mario Cimino, 610 328-9698
Newtown Square/Fox Run:

Marty Milligan, 610 353-7024
Radnor: Dave Cannan, 610 745-6843
 & Robin Mann, 610 527-4598

Secane/Muckinipattis:
 Jack Bergin, 610 761-7108

Springfield: Dave Damon, 610 544-5432

Upper Darby/Collen Brook Farm:
 Clyde Hunt, 610 449-9333

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

Yeadon/Cobbs Creek:
 Vanessa Bullock, 484-410-4831
 & Andrew Brazington, 610 449-0173

Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum:
 Mike McMenamin, 215 365-3118

(This year the cleanup at the Refuge is on Saturday, April 23, one week prior to the general cleanup.)

Help preserve the watershed! Clean up Darby Creek on April 30th.

A Dock at Bartram's Garden To Be Built as Part of Two Million Dollar Grant

Schuylkill River Development Corporation, the lead agency in the development of the "New Schuylkill Riverfront" between the Fairmount Water Works and the Delaware River, announced it has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the William Penn Foundation. The William Penn Foundation funds will be used to design and construct two docks on the Schuylkill Riverfront as well as enable SRDC to plan and execute a number of programs.

"We are thrilled with the news," said Jerry Sweeney, Chairman, Board of Directors of SRDC. "Support from the William Penn Foundation has been a critical element of our success. Kathy Engebretson was instrumental in helping us get this far and we plan on honoring her legacy and the Foundation's continued confidence through flawlessly executing our mission."

In an effort to increase public access to the river, SRDC will design and construct two docks in partnership with the Fairmount Park Commission, the Capital Program Office and the John Bartram Association. One dock will be located at Bartram's Garden and another at Chestnut Street. The funds from the William Penn Foundation will cover more than half the cost to design and build the docks. The remaining dollars will come from funds raised by the John Bartram Association and appropriation from the City Capital budget. SRDC plans to have the docks completed by this fall and is in the process of determining programmatic uses.

"We are currently talking with a number of boat operators and will be accepting proposals on how best to utilize the docks," said Joseph R. Syrnick, CEO of SRDC. "We would like to create an attraction that would be of interest to tourists and area residents alike."

Darby Creek Watershed Flood Task Force Created by DEP

On August 1, 2004, portions of Delaware County, Montgomery County, and the City of Philadelphia suffered major flooding. As a result of the flood, Governor Rendell created the Darby Creek Watershed Flood Task Force to examine the flood control issues in damaged areas. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (COE) were tasked with investigating the flood damaged areas in the Darby Creek Watershed and recommending projects to assist the affected communities in recovery and prevention of future flooding.

The DEP and COE have visited the City of Philadelphia, five municipalities in Delaware County (Colwyn Borough, Darby Borough, Haverford Township, Springfield Township, and Upper Darby Township), and Lower Merion Township in Montgomery County. A joint report is now being finalized by DEP and COE that discusses observations and recommendations from the investigations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Richard Strittmatter, DEP, Bureau of Waterways Engineering at 717-772-0441 or at rstrittmat@state.pa.us

DCVA Trails and Recreation Committee

The Trails and Recreation Committee of DCVA will continue the work of maintaining and marking trails along Darby Creek. Present trail marking locations are the Blue Bell Tavern in Philadelphia, Collen Brook in Drexel Hill, and the Grange and Glendale Park in Havertown. The committee members are taking this activity to other locations this year.

There is renewed interest in hiking. One hike would start at Township Line and State Roads (U.S. 1), go upstream along the Darby Creek, cross Burmont Road, and end at Merry Place on Glendale Road in Havertown. For information, contact Bob Shaner at 610 449-7297.

Radnor Enviroteers Join Hands to Install Christmas Trees at Clem Macrone Park in Garrett Hill



Staffers from Delaware Riverkeeper Network, members of Bryn Mawr Scout Troop 19, cadets from Valley Forge Military Academy and Radnor residents get ready to install recycled Christmas trees as part of the community tree revetment project.

protect the streambanks," noted Cannan. "They will also catch sediment within their branches which will create a fertile seed bed. Vegetation will eventually grow in the seed bed with root systems passing thru the Christmas tree branches and eventually into the streambanks, thus stabilizing the banks even after the Christmas trees have decayed."

Cuttings of Silky Dogwood, Silky Willow and Arrow Wood were also inserted thru the Christmas trees into the stream bank which will eventually sprout, and their root systems will aid in holding the streambank together as well.

Planning and technical assistance for the project was provided by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Riverkeeper employees Dan Salas and Dave Williams secured required permits, mapped out the sections of the creek that would be restored and demonstrated to attending volunteers the proper way to place and attach the Christmas trees to the streambank.

Cannan noted, "The Delaware Riverkeeper Network secures grant monies to provide the consulting expertise for this unique environmental project. This allows cash-strapped municipalities to perform environmental restoration projects that normally wouldn't happen because of lack of funding due to very tight capital improvement budgets."

"Volunteers are also essential to these type projects," said Cannan. "We were very fortunate to have had Valley Forge Military Academy provide us with some cadets. Some of those Christmas trees were pretty heavy and we could not have made such good progress without the energized and hardworking cadets."

Bryn Mawr Scout Troop 19, whose members are regular attendees at Garrett Hill's environmental improvement projects, also provided enthusiastic scouts as well as additional tools, gloves and waders for the project.

The Community Tree Revetment Project was reviewed and received unanimous support from Radnor Township's Board of Commissioners, Board of Parks and Recreation and Environmental Advisory Committee as well as logistic support from Radnor's Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments.

"This is a demonstration project that illustrates an inexpensive way to stabilize our creek beds as well as recycle our Christmas trees," said Cannan. "We will be monitoring the site over time, and if the streambanks are restored as planned, we'll consider making this an annual event in the ongoing efforts to protect and restore our valuable environmental resources in Radnor Township."

Cadets from Valley Forge Military Academy, Boy Scouts from Bryn Mawr Troop 19 and Radnor Township residents joined hands March 14, 2005, to install recycled Christmas trees as part of a streambank restoration project on Valley Run in Garrett Hill's Clem Macrone Park.

Radnor Commissioner and Darby Creek Valley Association member Dave Cannan organized the Community Tree Revetment Project, as part of ongoing environmental improvement undertakings in the wooded section of the park. "This is a creative way to do much-needed streambank restoration at no cost to the taxpayer," said Cannan.

Approximately one hundred recycled Christmas trees were picked up curbside from Radnor residents after Christmas by Radnor Township Department of Public Works and stored at Radnor's 100-acre Skunk Hollow Park until the installation date. Community volunteers placed the trees end to end and anchored them to sections of severely eroded streambank.

"The Christmas trees will help slow the velocity of the stream, especially in storm surges, which will help



Cadets from Valley Forge Military Academy, scouts from Bryn Mawr Troop 19, and technical assistants from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network install Christmas trees as part of the community tree revetment project at Clem Macrone Park in Garrett Hill.

My Science Fair Project

By Britta Stuhltrager

Doing my science fair project on the Muckinipattis Creek was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I will never forget it. My science fair project

was based on the health of the Muckinipattis just behind our house. The title was: "Is the Water In the Creek Cleaner Before Or After It Rains."

On a sunny, windy January 1st, my dad and I set out to get my first sample for the project. I stepped out-



Britta Stuhltrager with her science project about the Muckinipattis Creek.

side with my logbook and trusty pen in my hands. My dad came out with the materials we needed to test the water. We tried to go down to the creek from our backyard but we couldn't due to the prickly bushes that had grown over the path. We decided to go across the church parking lot, down the hill, and across the bridge to the creek. When we came to a bank of sand, I bent down, got the thermometer out of the plastic bag, and put it in the water. While the thermometer was in the water, I took out my pen and made my first entry into my logbook. After a few minutes I took out the thermometer and the reading was 45 degrees.

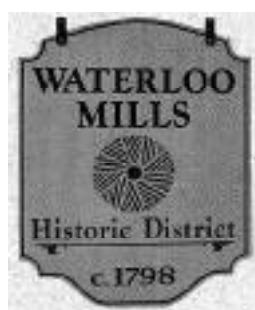
Dad and I took a 500 ml sample of creek water home for additional testing. We tested that sample for four things. The tests we performed were dissolved oxygen, pH, bacteria, and nitrogen. After the tests were completed, I recorded the results in my logbook. This first sample was a dry sample, meaning that it had not rained in many days. The pH was 7, the dissolved oxygen was 13 parts per million (ppm), and the nitrogen was 0. I had to wait two days to find out my results on the bacteria test. The test came out positive, which means there are bacteria in the creek.

On January 7th I took a wet sample. It just finished raining the day before. The temperature was 44 degrees. The bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and pH results were the same as the dry sample. However, the nitrogen was different this time. The test showed that the creek had 5 ppm of nitrogen. This was good because nitrogen helps aquatic plants grow. On January 18th I took my last sample. It was a dry sample. The water temperature was 32 degrees. The results were the same as the last sample I took on January 7th.

After getting the results together, I wrote a report on my project. I concluded that the creek was not any cleaner after a rainstorm but did have higher levels of nitrogen. The run-off from the rainstorm brought nutrients to the creek to help vegetation in the water grow. I won second prize at my school science fair in the environmental sciences division and won honorable mention at the Delaware County Science Fair. I also won an award from the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association. I really enjoyed going to the creek to test the water and spending time with my Dad.

Waterloo Mills Preserve

Darby Creek Valley Association members who enjoy visiting beautiful



and interesting areas of the watershed should explore the Waterloo Mills Preserve. This piece of open land is located in Easttown Township, Chester County,

and Newtown Township, Delaware County. It was donated to the Brandywine Conservancy in 1998 and is now managed by the Conservancy.

As part of this 170 acres, there is an 18th century village, mill race remnants, wildflower meadows, mature woods and over a mile of meandering Darby Creek. The village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; it includes an old gristmill, a barn, a wheelwright and blacksmith's shop, and two houses.

The property was once a research site for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with the village gristmill serving as a laboratory. The Conservancy encourages scientific research and makes the preserve available to local schools and other groups. The property is open to Brandywine Conservancy members from 9 am to 5 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. If you would like to visit Waterloo Mills but are not currently a member, or would like to request a group visit, you should contact the Conservancy at 610 388-2700 or emc@brandywines.org.

Activities Planned at Morton Mortonson House

The Norwood Historical Society invites DCVA members to help at its cleanup day on April 23rd and to come to its Colonial Day on April 30th from 11 am to 4 pm. Both events are at the Morton Mortonson House in Norwood. The Colonial Day will feature displays of colonial crafts and house tours.

Comments on Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual

By Maya van Rossum



Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and 2000 recipient of the DCVA's Robert P. Doherty Ribbon of Green award, was appointed by DEP Secretary McGinty to the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's) Manual oversight committee. Below are some of Ms. Van Rossum's comments on the latest draft of the Manual.

Protection, restoration and replication of the natural hydrologic cycle must be maintained as the primary guiding principle for the BMP Manual.

It is the hydrologic cycle that governs stormwater runoff and flooding and drought conditions. When the natural hydrologic cycle is kept in balance, human induced stormwater runoff and the harms associated with it (flooding, drought and pollution) are avoided and/or minimized to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, it is critical that the BMP Manual embrace and respect the hydrologic cycle and make its protection, restoration and replication the manual's highest guiding principle and priority.

Quantified standards should remain in the BMP Manual as presented and are critical for clear understanding and effective implementation.

It is important for the BMP manual, albeit a non-regulatory document, to contain clear, concise and quantifiable standards to the greatest extent possible. This is critical for a full understanding and effective implementation of the BMP manual and will also be helpful in achieving the goals of Act 167 and the MS4 program. Numeric standards and guidelines are essential for ensuring that the decisionmakers and the regulated community understand the goals we are striving for and have the information necessary to meet those goals in concrete and quantifiable way.

The Riverkeeper supports the use of the 2-year storm as the focus for the provided standards.

Two-year storms are responsible for a good portion of the flooding and erosion which stormwater management tries to address. Because the force and volume of a 2-year storm increases as impervious surfaces increase, and because 96% of all rainfall in our region is delivered in storms smaller than the 2-year storm, the need to address the 2-year storm grows

as suburban sprawl and land use disturbance increases. In addition, the smaller storm events are responsible for a major part of water quality problems experienced through the region because it is the "first flush" of the storm that carries the bulk of the pollution including solids, microorganisms, metals, nutrients and organic compounds. Significant pollutant removal can be provided with infiltration designed for a small quantity of runoff. And experts have found that 2-year volume control, if designed in a proper way with broad and even distribution, can often also achieve 100-year peak. Therefore, by including infiltration designs that at least address the 2-year events, we are addressing both the water quality and water quantity problems associated with stormwater runoff.

Section 8 of the BMP Manual discussing stormwater practices for highways and roads is woefully inadequate.

This section needs to provide a better discussion of how to integrate stormwater BMPs into state highway construction. In addition, the PENNDOT program and recommendations section is weak and needs work – all but 7 of 15 recommendations begin with "consider," 3 of the remaining 8 are limited to "where practical" or "as much as practical," 2 call for "continue efforts to," one is merely a monitoring requirement. The only two affirmative action recommendations discuss use of vegetation.

The manual presented heretofore is innovative and will be highly effective at protecting our communities from the ravages of increasing stormwater runoff. It is frustrating that a manual that throughout provides solid information, recommendations and criteria is so weak when it comes to roadway and highway projects which are among the most damaging projects from a stormwater, environment and quality of life perspective. PA has more state highway mileage than any other state in the union. Considering this reality, we need much better detail and guidance in the highway/roadway section of the manual.

The system designed to credit nonstructural solutions and to incentivize their use and application is critically important and effective.

While the crediting system effectively encourages the use of preventive and nonstructural measures, it does so without going too far and without giving so much credit as to undo its own good intentions. It is important that the credit system is careful and conservative in its calculations and methodologies. What is presented accomplishes this end effectively.

The concept of trying to unify the way credit is given to the
--Continued on the next page.

Discussion of Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual

Continued from previous page.

BMP's selected on various development sites is very important. The worksheets provided in the manual are exceedingly helpful and have this unifying effect. They are an important and effective strategy to give strength, understanding and the ability to implement the crediting system.

The Riverkeeper applauds the creation and implementation of a methodology that incentivizes nonstructural and other BMP strategies. While the worksheets and incentive system may appear complicated at first, it is far less complicated than dealing with the aftermath of a flood or managing the issues raised by drought conditions. We need to take the time and do the work up front to avoid the hardships and heartache created by growing stormwater runoff. This manual and the incentive/worksheet system is a huge step in that direction.

SUMMARY: One of the most beneficial and beautiful aspects of this manual is that it looks at stormwater in an integrated way, addressing all facets of the issue in a cohesive and coordinated fashion as possible. It is important that we not try to force redundant treatment trains on projects that can be addressed with simple and effective solutions. To do otherwise undermines the incentives that will turn this manual into an on-the-ground reality.

For more information on Pennsylvania's Stormwater BMP Manual and other environmental issues affecting the Delaware River Basin, visit Maya van Rossum at the Delaware Riverkeeper's web site - www.delawareriverkeeper.org



An Update on the Heinz Refuge and the Athos I Oil Spill

By Bill Buchanan

When the tanker Athos I began to leak what has now been determined to be 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the

spill. The FWS continues to assess the health and welfare of the Delaware Estuary and is continuing its oiled wildlife recovery efforts.

The John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum served as the main command center for the recovery of oiled wildlife. All impacted wildlife was brought to the Refuge before being sent on to Tri-State Bird Rescue in Delaware. (Those that died were



Geese that were victims of the Athos I Oil Spill

Delaware River on November 26, 2004, fouling approximately 57 miles of shoreline, one of the first responders was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). With the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum just downriver from the spill site and with other National Wildlife Refuges further downstream, the FWS had a vested interest in the outcome.

FWS Law Enforcement agents gathered information on every oiled bird and other species of wildlife that were recovered, whether dead or alive. They sent out recovery teams on both land and water, in response to reported sightings. The most recent tally of affected wildlife received from the Coast Guard indicates that 366 birds have been treated and released, while 178 others perished. Just how many more may have drowned or made their way to inaccessible areas no one really knows.

Working with the Coast Guard as the lead agency, the FWS coordinated efforts with local, state and federal agencies, contractors, and volunteers to make every effort to deal with both the short and long term consequences of the oil

kept at the Refuge as possible forensic evidence.) Natural Resource Damage Assessment teams also met at the Refuge to record findings on the environmental impacts of the spill as the information unfolded.

Fortunately, because of a quick response in placing a boom in the Darby Creek at its confluence with the Delaware River, no appreciable oil came upstream into the refuge. Only a few oily spots were found on the Refuge, and a few slightly oiled gulls were observed. As an additional precaution to protect the 145 acre impoundment, a boom was also placed at the water control structure on Dike Road.

Throughout this incredibly complex and busy event, the refuge continued its regular programs and weekend guided walks; the doors of the Cusano Environmental Education Center remained open.

There is continued concern about the overall health of the river and bay, and whether returning horseshoe crabs and shorebirds will be impacted this spring. Only time will tell just what the short and long term effects of this spill may be.

More Annual Meeting Photos (See story on page 2)



Alan Samel (right) explains the StreamWatch program to Bob and Mary Ellen Scott.



Karen Holm, Delaware County Planning Department, speaks to attendees about Delaware County's Act 167 Plan..

President's Pen

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Meanwhile, Kathy Doms' Project Pericles will link up her Ursinus College students with elementary school children to visit nearby stretches of the creek this spring to measure water quality.

On another front, the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan is now finished, printed and approved by DCNR! We will soon complete the process of listing the Darby Creek Plan with the Rivers Conservation Registry, enabling DCVA and other organizations to qualify for DCNR funding of restoration and other projects recommended in the Plan. Also, we expect to hear any day if Bill Frasch's considerable efforts will be rewarded and the application to EPA for technical assistance funding will be approved, to monitor and evaluate all stages of the planned clean-up of the Lower Darby Creek Superfund site.

We continue our efforts to discourage development projects that have the potential to negatively impact the Darby Creek and its tributaries. Jan Marie Rushforth has represented us well, as a tireless advocate for a plan for Haverford State Hospital that adheres to the original conservation objectives endorsed by the community and the DCVA.

Meanwhile, local governments in

the watershed are in the process of reviewing and adopting Stormwater Management Ordinances, under Delaware County's Act 167 Plan. The ordinances will encourage new development and redevelopment to use the new best practices for managing stormwater and environmentally sensitive site design techniques. Some of the municipalities in the watershed have already taken the important next step of identifying their biggest problem areas for stormwater runoff and pollution, and targeting them for retrofitting.

A decision is imminent on the Delaware County Planning Department's application for DCNR funding to develop a plan for a Darby Creek Greenway. Our Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan gives establishment of a Greenway top priority among recommended actions, and we are very hopeful that the funding will come through.

These various initiatives complement each other, building awareness, promoting a sense of stewardship for the watershed, and making positive changes. Whether you have an hour or a whole day, we would welcome your help. Please join us!

Robin Mann

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcva.org. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Bill Buchanan, Dave Cannan, Bill Frasch, Jan & John Haigis, Rosemary Kesling, Bill LeFevre, Robin Mann, Alan Samel, Bob Shaner, Richard Strittmatter, Britta Stuhltrager, Fritz Thornton, and Maya vanRossum. Photographs courtesy of Bill Buchanan, Dave Cannan, John Haigis, and Jim Stuhltrager. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. Printed on recycled paper. 2005.



Darby Creek Cleanup

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Kelly, (610) 623-5156. Volunteers for the Hoffman Park site in Lansdowne should report to Bonnie's Wondergardens, (610) 259-1733, to sign in and get supplies. And an old site at the Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek is being renewed this year by Captain Jim Malin (215) 724-1724. Please see the complete cleanup site list on page 3 of this newsletter and remember that the cleanup date at Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum is Saturday, April 23, because of the tides.

Jan and John have sent letters to a number of public, private and parochial schools in Delaware County to make them aware of the DCVA Cleanup as a service opportunity for their students. DCVA will provide a letter documenting a student's participation if requested by the school.

More to Do:

According to Jan and John, "There are still a few things you can do to help make this year's Cleanup successful. Join a cleanup crew at a site near you; find additional restaurants to take placemats." What else? "We still need donations of refreshments for volunteers, either in cash or in kind, and we still need the use of pick-up trucks with drivers to help get trash bags from non-dumpster sites into dumpsters at other locations. We could also use a truck or two with a crane to help haul heavy objects out of the Creek, especially where the banks are very steep and high. If you can help with any of these items, please contact us at (610) 583-0788. Thank you for what you have done and will yet do to make this 21st Annual Darby Creek Cleanup a success!! We can't do it without the addition of your hands, your energy and your commitment."

Governor Printz Challenge Will Be Held in September

The Challenge is back! This canoe race was held annually for five years in the 1990s on the Darby Creek. It was started by the Friends of the Swedish Cabin and was supported by the Darby Creek Valley Association. The DCVA is bringing the Governor Printz Challenge back as a part of the River Front Ramble. This year, the River Front Ramble is celebrating Pennsylvania's 325th birthday. Everyone can take the challenge by coming together to plan, organize, promote and hold the race. The challenge for competitors is to enter the race and enjoy the experience.

The race will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2005. It will be on the Darby Creek between the Heinz Wildlife Refuge and the Delaware River. For information, contact Bob Shaner at 610 449-7297.

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: (The Board recently approved an increase in the dues structure to support our programs.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member.....\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Group\$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member\$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Municipal.....\$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen / Student\$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member\$250.00 |

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 23, 2005

StreamWatch, various locations on Darby Creek

Saturday, April 23, 2005

Cleanup at Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum.

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

DCVA Cleanup. Various locations along the creek.

Wednesday, May 11, 2005
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Advances in Stream Ecology
Sponsored by Mason Dixon Task Force and Stroud Water Research Center. Held at the Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale PA
Call 717 771-9870 to register.

Saturday, May 21, 2005
9 a.m.

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

Saturday, September 24, 2005

Governor Printz Challenge.



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