



**President's Pen:**

**View from the Creek Bank**

Simpler lifestyles needed! Our consumer crazy lifestyles compound energy and pollution problems. Do you find yourself wrapped up to the point of being tied down by computers, video games, SUVs, running to keep schedules for various events which, upon examination, are of questionable value? Environmental degradation and more big government taxes. Is this really increasing your quality of life?

Real family values, clean air and water: are you promoting these things?

Darby Creek Valley Association believes in conservation of natural resources, development of open space into better open space. How else to preserve the integrity of our air, water and land – your children and grandchildren's air, water and land?

Our Rivers Conservation Grant aims to do this, but its success depends on active community, grass-roots support, from the citizens of all of the thirty one (31) communities involved.

The environmentalists need more action enough of all this planning,

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**Join us at our social event this fall:**

**Annual Banquet Will Be October 14<sup>th</sup>**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Award Dinner will be held this fall on Sunday, October 14, 2001, at the Lamb Tavern, Springfield and Eagle Roads, in Springfield. A cash bar will be available at 5:30 p.m. with a sit-down dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Robert Wendelgass, Pennsylvania state director of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, will be the guest speaker. He has been state director of Clean Water Action for almost eleven years, working on a variety of issues related to drinking water, clean water, toxics and pesticides at the local, state and national level. He coordinated Clean Water Action's campaigns to prevent weakening of Pennsylvania's antidegradation program, Water Quality Standards, and Special Protection Waters Program. He served as an adjunct member of DEP's Water Resources Advisory Committee for the development of Pennsylvania's Source Water Assessment plan. He has also led Clean Water Action's statewide campaign to reduce the use of pesticides in schools in order to protect children's health and the environment. Bob has been employed in community organizing and advocacy work for twenty-five years, previously working as director of a senior citizens' lobbying organization and before that as director of a neighborhood based community group.

Mark your calendar now and then watch the mail for your dinner invitation. Join us for an entertaining evening!

**DCEN To Hold Annual Conference**

The Delaware County Environmental Network (DCEN) 2001 Conference will be held Saturday October 27 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The conference, which costs \$10.00, will be held at the Ridley Creek State Park headquarters.

State Senator Ted Erickson, R-26<sup>th</sup> District, will speak on several environmental matters, including open space preservation. Senator Erickson, elected in April, is a member of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Formerly he was administrator of US EPA, Region III. Most recently he was executive director of Delaware County. One of his last acts in that post was helping obtain \$325,000 from the County for

the preservation of 34-acre Greenbank Farm in Marple Township.

Also speaking at the conference will be Tom Reeves, past president of the Valley Forge Audubon Society and a frequent bird walk guide at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, and Angie Lyter Palfalvi, education director at Ridley Creek State Park. They will address the group on wildlife in Delaware County.

Representatives of DCEN member groups are encouraged to update attendees on their organizations' activities. For more information about the conference, call Monica Starr at 610 892-9484.

## Fifteen Tons of Trash Pulled from Creek

As expected, we did not pull as much trash and debris out of the creek during this year's clean up as we did last year after Hurricane Floyd, but a substantial amount was still collected—approximately 15 tons.

The volunteer turnout was good in some areas in comparison to past years but not as good in other areas. One area where we had a good turnout in comparison to past

years was in Darby. DCVA coordinated with the Borough to throw a cook-out. This enticement brought out a large group of kids who worked very hard during the clean up and did an excellent job.

Next year a greater effort has to be made to drum up more volunteers in all of our locations. Frankly, in a few of our clean up locations, there were almost no volunteers. If anyone has any ideas on how to attract more volunteers for our efforts, please contact Thomas D.



At Glendale Park in Havertown, Vicki Shaner (seated) registers cleanup volunteers, standing l-r, Danielle Laws, Carolyn Laws, and Tim Denny.

Houghton, chairman of the clean up, at 610-268-1414.

Overall, it was another successful year, and we all look forward to next year's clean up. We thank all the volunteers, especially the area captains, and the following organizations for their continued support of DCVA's annual cleanup:

- Sharon Savings & Loan;
- Springfield Lions Club;
- Darby Rotary Club;
- Darby VFW.

## Pair Kayak Down Darby Creek

To see our world in a different way, get yourself a kayak and start paddling in Darby Creek. Bruce Cox and his son, of Havertown, did just that this spring. They entered the Creek at Route 320 (Sproul Road) and went all the way to just below Garrett Road. "The Creek was pretty low in spots, where I had to portage. My son is lighter and in a kayak with a very shallow draft, so he usually could remain in the kayak," Bruce Cox said.

They found the creek quite clean. In the water they spotted carp 18" long and quite a few trout. Hawks soared overhead, following the updrafts on the pleasant spring day. Marsh marigolds brightened the banks with gold, and yellow-flag iris could be seen poking through the vegetation.

The trip took just about 3 hours. The distance covered was about a third of the creek's length to the Delaware River at Tinicum. The pair's goal is to cover all of the Creek from Rt. 320 to Pine Street in Darby, close to where the Creek becomes tidal. Mr. Cox and his son have kayaked many of the creeks in the state. He refers those interested to a guide book, *Keystone Canoeing* by Edward Gergler, published by the Seneca Press, 3rd Edition, 1993.



DCVA member and site captain Steve Cottrell takes care of another bag of trash at the cleanup at Ithan Creek.

## Steve Cottrell Leads Cleanup Volunteers in Ithan Creek

DCVA member Steve Cottrell led 30 volunteers on a successful cleanup of Ithan Creek in Radnor's Ithan Valley Park for DCVA's annual creek cleanup. An inaugural DCVA cleanup site, Cottrell wanted to bring attention to the need to eliminate litter along this major tributary of Darby Creek.

Cottrell also pointed out the dire need to control and eliminate the intense amount of invasives choking and destroying the beautiful foliage planted years ago when the land was part of an estate.

The cleanup presented Cottrell with the opportunity to introduce the volunteers to the wonderful existing trail system within the park. Regular trimming along the trails by volunteers will keep this area a jewel of Radnor's popular hiking trail system.

Additionally, Cottrell pointed out the poor condition of streambanks within the

park that will require streambank stabilization and restoration.

After the cleanup, volunteers enjoyed snacks as they sat near a large pile of full trash bags, evidence of their hard work. And the volunteers' cleanup efforts were captured by a camera crew from Radnor's cable public access Channel 21 for local TV show "Round 'Bout Radnor." The Radnor-centric television program is well known for celebrating community oriented events.

DCVA and Steve Cottrell thank all the volunteers for their unselfish efforts to help keep Ithan Creek litter-free – especially John Shirreffs (age 12) of Bryn Mawr—who has never missed an annual cleanup in Radnor Township since DCVA added those sites seven years ago.

## Haverford High AWARE Uses County Conservation District Grant to Monitor Darby Creek

Members of the Haverford High School Environmental Club AWARE spent May 30<sup>th</sup> on the banks of the Darby Creek, testing and recording the quality of water samples they gathered both up and down stream on the Haverford State Hospital property. Thanks to a grant from the Delaware County Conservation District, the students were able to purchase equipment to do their research on the creek. This is the second year that AWARE received a \$250 grant from the Conservation District.

The club members found evidence of a healthy eco-system, with high amounts of dissolved oxygen in the creek water, but they expressed concern that future construction of impermeable surfaces on the property could cause silt deposits in the creek. They observed a blue heron, schools of minnows and a carp in the water, and mayfly larvae.

## DEP Lists Portions of Darby Creek as Impaired Waters

Four sections of Darby Creek have been listed as impaired waters by DEP. The length of the areas and the reasons for the designation are as follows:

- 18.75 miles of the lower portion of Cobbs Creek because of habitat modification, municipal point source pollution, and urban runoff;
- 13.64 miles of the lower portion of Darby Creek because of habitat modification and urban runoff;
- 2.15 miles of Hermesprota Creek (a tributary of Darby) because of habitat modification and urban runoff; and
- 6.98 miles of Muckinipattis Creek (another tributary of Darby) because of habitat modification and urban runoff.

Because these areas are impaired, DEP must now determine Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these sections. See the next column for information about how this process works.

## Stream Sampling Assesses Health of Darby Creek in Havertown



*(Left to right) Erin Samel (14), Alan Samel (kneeling), Bill Brainerd, and an English teacher from the area check results of June 2001 stream sampling on Darby Creek in Haverford Township.*

## What are TMDLs?

*(The information below was taken from DEP's Fact Sheet, "Watershed Management and TMDLs." The complete Fact Sheet is available on DEP's website at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wqp/wqstandards/Facts/fs2248.htm>)*

Using the watershed approach begins with a comprehensive assessment of water quality problems in the watershed. After water quality problems are identified, a planning process occurs to develop strategies that can successfully address and correct water pollution problems in the watershed. Pennsylvania is using this process for establishing total maximum pollutant loadings, or TMDLs, to clean up polluted streams so that they meet water quality standards. Water quality standards are the combination of water uses to be protected and the water quality criteria necessary to protect them.

*--Continued on page 10*

## Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership Announces Survey of Residents

How often do you think about where rainwater drains to from your roof, yard, or street? Does it filter through the ground? Rush down a storm drain? Does it mix with pools of motor oil on the street? The Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership is sponsoring a public survey that encourages watershed residents to think about these crucial questions. Why? Because those who live in a watershed, (a watershed is all the land that flows into a common body of water), have the power to make their streams cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable places to visit.

The survey asks watershed residents their opinions, concerns, and level of awareness about the Darby-Cobbs. The results of the survey will be used to create an educational video about the watershed's history, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. In particular, the video will explain how everyday actions by residents can positively or negatively impact the Darby-Cobbs.

The survey is inserted in the middle of this newsletter. To participate in the survey, simply fill in your responses, fold and mail the page to the Partnership according to the mailing instructions enclosed. Copies of the surveys are also being distributed to public libraries, municipal buildings, schools, and environmental education centers.

Municipalities in the Darby-Cobbs Watershed include Aldan Borough, the City of Philadelphia, Clifton Heights Borough, Collingdale Borough, Colwyn Borough, Darby Borough, Darby Twp., East Lansdowne Borough, Easttown Twp., Folcroft Borough, Glenolden Borough, Haverford Twp., Lansdowne Borough, Lower Merion Twp., Marple Twp., Millbourne Borough, Morton Borough, Narberth Borough, Newtown Twp., Norwood Borough, Prospect Park Borough, Radnor Twp., Ridley Park Borough, Ridley Twp., Rutledge Borough, Sharon Hill Borough, Springfield Twp., Tincum Twp., Tredyffrin Twp., Upper Darby Twp., and Yeadon Borough.

## Authentic Swedish Bible Donated to Friends of the Swedish Cabin

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin are happy to relate two exciting events. First the cabin was featured in the April 2001 issue of the magazine "Early American Life." Then the story, "The Enduring Log Cabin" led to a letter from the Hopewell Museum in New Jersey which offered to donate an antique Swedish Bible to the Friends.

Den Gammla Svenska Bibeln is 12 inches high, 25 inches wide when opened, and 4.5 inches thick. Silver latches secure the pages of the book. The cover depicts scenes from Scripture in gold leaf. The Swedish text inside is elaborately decorated in red and gold.

The Friends organization plans to display the Bible in the Cabin in a wooden and Plexiglas case.



*Margery Holstrom from the Hopewell Museum in New Jersey presents an antique Swedish Bible to Dave Anderson of the Friends of the Swedish Cabin.*



## Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day on October 13<sup>th</sup>

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin will hold their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Cabin, 9 Creek Road in Drexel Hill.

Activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Colonial and Indian crafts and lore and cabin tours will be featured. Visitors will be able to see the new Swedish Bible.

Lunch and refreshments will be available. A \$1 donation is requested; children under age 12 are free. The rain date is Sunday, October 14th.

## EPA Redefines Area Included on Superfund List

EPA has added the Lower Darby Creek Area to its Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites. However, the final listing includes only the Clearview Landfill and the Folcroft Landfill and Annex. Originally EPA had proposed that 4 additional properties be included: the Sun Oil Darby Creek Tank Farm, the former Delaware County Sewage Treatment Plant, the former Delaware County Incinerator, and the Industrial Drive Properties.

EPA decided not to include all of the properties after considering public comments received after the sites were proposed. It determined that existing data was inconclusive as to their contribution to the contamination in Darby Creek. The owners of the Tank Farm, former Sewage Treatment Plant and former Incinerator intend to voluntarily address contamination on their properties under Pennsylvania's Land Recycling Program. EPA is doing additional testing on the Industrial Drive property and then will determine what action should be taken.

Now that the landfills have been added to the NPL, EPA will conduct a comprehensive environmental investigation including sampling of soil, groundwater and creek water, and sediment to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

## DEP Fines Owner of Clearview Landfill

In August DEP fined Richard R. Heller, the owner of the Clearview Landfill in Darby Township, \$59,500 for dumping waste at the landfill without a permit.

Heller and his company, Clearview Land Development, operated the illegal landfill in the 1970s. The Delaware County Court of Common Pleas ordered that the landfill be closed in 1973, but it was not until 1976 that Heller shut down the landfill. Then in 1997 DEP discovered that Heller's City Wide Services waste hauling company was processing and disposing of solid waste on top of the closed landfill. The department has been monitoring and documenting activities at the site ever since, finding municipal waste in several locations and along the banks of Darby Creek. DEP petitioned Commonwealth Court for a permanent injunction against Heller and his companies. The court ordered that all processing and storing of waste on the site be stopped and that all waste be removed by March 31, 2001. DEP has documented that some waste still remains, leading to the assessment of the penalty. It intends to go to court again if necessary to get Heller to finish cleaning up the area.

Clearview Landfill is one of the lower Darby Creek sites that has been added to the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. (See article above on this page.)

*For background information about subjects discussed in this newsletter (such as the superfund status of the Lower Darby Creek and the planning process for the former Haverford State Hospital site), read previous issues of our newsletter on line at our website: [www.dcv.org](http://www.dcv.org).*

## Stormwater Runoff Is Subject of New Handbook by Delaware Riverkeeper



Because of sprawl development, rain water that was once absorbed into the ground is now collected on parking lots, roads and rooftops and then dumped into streams, wetlands, lakes, and rivers. The result is flooding, erosion of streambanks, the loss of habitat, and a decline in water quality. To prevent this degradation of the watershed, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has written a new handbook: "Stormwater Runoff: Lost Resource or Community Asset?" The publication is a guide to preventing, capturing, and recovering stormwater, thereby reducing flooding and pollution.

The book, although easy to read, is well documented. Fact sheets giving information about conservation design methods, Best Management Practices, and natural resource protection techniques, are included; they can be copied and distributed to groups. Maya K. van Rossum, the author, tells us that "Only when stormwater is recognized as a resource that is lost and an asset when saved, can communities begin to sustain development while protecting water quality and stream health."

The handbook is available for \$15 plus \$4 shipping and handling. Request a copy by calling (215) 369-1188.

## Bargain Fuel Oil Available

For \$5, anyone in Pennsylvania can join the Energy Cooperative and buy heating oil all year at 20 to 30 cents off the market price per gallon. Homeowners can lock in a price of \$1.19 per gallon. A maintenance contract is also available. The supplier is Dave Hanly, Inc., Collingdale. Call or write the Energy Cooperative at 215 413-2122, 1218 Chestnut Street, Suite 1003, Philadelphia 19107.

## Update on Haverford State Hospital Property

by Greg Vitali, State Representative, 166th District

On June 12, the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners approved a final master plan for development of the former Haverford State Hospital site. The final plan, which was developed by Carter van Dyke Associates with substantial public input from the community, is a combination of two proposed plans that had been aired in detail at three public hearings held about developing the site.

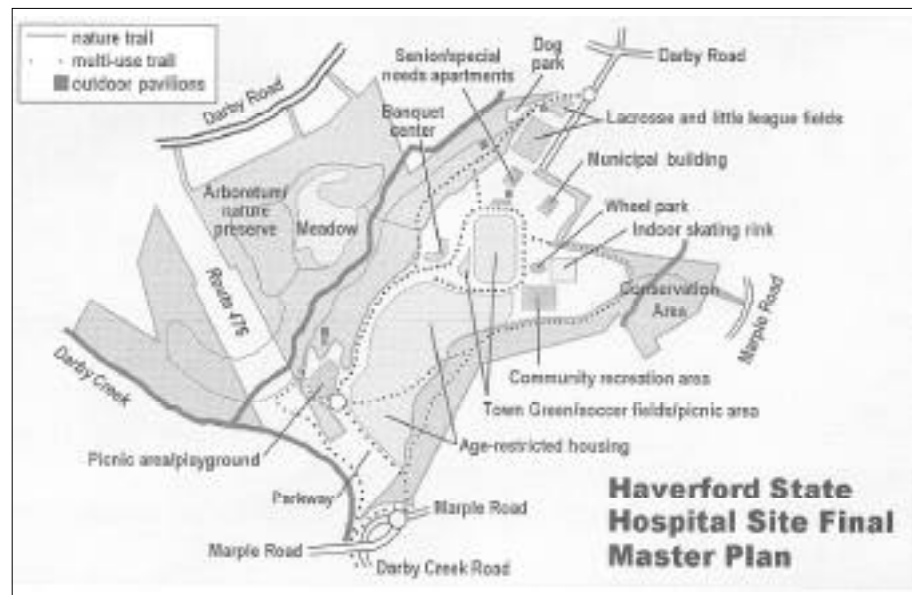
The plan is an attempt to strike a balance among open space conservation, community recreation, and revenue-producing development. It includes the conservation of 135 acres of undeveloped open space; relocation of the township municipal building to the site; a community recreation center with meeting rooms, a gymnasium and a pool; a township green and picnic pavilions; an indoor ice skating rink; a township-owned and operated banquet facility; apartments for seniors; and possibly 23 acres of age-restricted housing.

Now that the township has officially expressed the community's wishes about what should be done with the site, it is time to negotiate with the state to purchase the property and develop the plan.

At an informal negotiating session on July 19, the director of the state Department of General Services' Bureau of Real Estate, Mike Adams, told township officials that the state is willing to cooperate with the township in implementing the plan. The state and the township must agree on specific issues such as the purchase price for the site and cleanup costs.

Villanova University School of Law remains interested in acquiring a portion of the site, specifically the 23-acre portion set aside in the township plan for age-restricted housing.

A date for a second negotiating session has not been set. In any event, DGS' Mike Adams says it probably will be at least three years before the first shovel full of dirt is turned in development of the proposal.



## Vitali Launches Global Warming Website

This summer State Representative Greg Vitali (D, 166<sup>th</sup> District) launched a new website that focuses on global warming as a Pennsylvania issue. The site, [www.gregvitali.com](http://www.gregvitali.com), provides information and links to other resources about climate change, Pennsylvania's role in it, and its future consequences for the state's residents, environment and economy. "We must begin to understand global warming as a Pennsylvania problem, not just an international problem whose solution is someone else's responsibility," Vitali says. "There are many things Pennsylvania can do as a state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

## Growing Greener Grants Awarded

The last week of July Governor Tom Ridge announced the recipients of the third round of Growing Greener grants worth a total of almost \$30 million. Organizations in Delaware County awarded grants were the following:

- **Eastern College:** \$352,201 for Upper Lake Restoration – demonstration and educational outreach;
- **Natural Lands Trust:** \$31,277 to convert a pond to a stormwater treatment wetland;
- **Swarthmore College:** \$108,036 for Crum Creek Watershed Partnership water quality restoration; and
- **Villanova University—Institute for Environmental Engineering Research:** \$85,500 for Villanova stormwater porous concrete demonstration site.

Other area winners of grants for projects covering more than one county were:

- **Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center:** \$187,160 for Cobbs Creek Watershed Stewards Initiative;
- **Philadelphia Earth Force:** \$148,610 for Earth Force Delaware Watershed Green Initiative;
- **Stroud Water Research Center:** \$95,971 for Stream Day traveling exhibit.

Materials for the 4<sup>th</sup> round of Growing Greener grants will be available in November and December. Workshops will be scheduled in the region in those months and applications will be due the end of February.

## Public Input from Water Forums Available on DEP Website

Based on public input from more than 1,700 citizens, DEP has created a web page with a wealth of water information that includes a summary of issues raised at the 15 statewide water forums it conducted throughout the spring.

The forums outlined basic water resource challenges and opportunities, both locally and statewide. They also helped to raise public awareness while gathering citizens' thoughts on Pennsylvania's water resource needs and issues.

All public comments received at the forums are now available online. During the forums, DEP provided a postcard for Pennsylvanians to submit their written water resource comments and concerns. A summary of postcard comments is also available on DEP's website.

Important issues raised at many of the forums included the need to update the state water plan, the need for education on water resources and the practice of water conservation, and the need for better land use practices in conjunction with better water resource planning.

DEP currently is reviewing all of the comments received. Based on the findings, DEP will identify areas for enhancement of its regulatory programs and areas where legislative action may be needed. The information gathered at the forums will provide important strategic direction on the efforts needed in Pennsylvania to meet its future water challenges.

For more information, visit the DEP website, [dep.state.pa.us](http://dep.state.pa.us) (directLINK "water forums".)

## DEP's New Service: eNOTICE

Interested in what DEP is doing in your community? You can keep track of all permit applications through a new eNOTICE service. Go to [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) and click on the "eNOTICE" logo. Create your own password-protected eNOTICE account, tell DEP what municipalities you want to watch and what permits to track. After that DEP will send you an e-mail anytime a new permit application is received from someone in your municipality. You will be sent free e-mail notification of comment periods, public meetings or hearings, and final decisions on the permits.

## DCNR Grant Applications Due October 31<sup>st</sup>

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is accepting applications for nearly \$30 million in grants for park, recreation and conservation projects. Funding is available for rail-trails, community recreation, rivers conservation, critical natural areas and open-space protection, recreational trails, and snowmobile/ATV trails and programs.

The Community Conservation Partnerships Program will combine about \$20 million in funding from the Keystone Recreation Park and Conservation Fund, with \$8 million in Growing Greener funds, \$1 million in Pennsylvania Recreational Trails funding and \$500,00 from the Snowmobile/ATV Fund.

DCNR offers one application cycle, one application form, one set of guidelines and one manual for its six grant programs. The goal is to provide grants and technical assistance to help communities and nonprofit organizations conserve natural and cultural resources, provide outdoor recreation, enhance tourism, and foster community and economic development. Since 1995, more than \$155 million has been awarded under the program.

For more information on the DCNR grants, call (717) 783-2656, or visit the grants web site at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants.htm). The grant manual, including application forms and workshop information is available online.

The deadline for submitting applications is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Loans Available to Municipalities for Waste Water Treatment Facilities

The U.S. EPA has awarded \$52.7 million to help reduce water pollution in Pennsylvania. The EPA grant, which was matched with \$10.5 million in state funds, supports the state's clean water revolving fund that provides low-interest loans to municipalities for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and other water quality management activities.

Projects for wastewater treatment facilities include planning, design and construction of new facilities and improvements to existing treatment plants, sewers and collection lines.

Pennsylvania has received more than \$672 million over the past 11 years from EPA for this fund. As loan recipients repay their loans, the funds are available for new projects in Pennsylvania.

## Invasives Workshop Held in Radnor Township

John Munro of Munro Ecological Services in Harleysville recently led an invasives workshop at Fenimore Park in Radnor Township.

In cooperation with Radnor Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), Parks and Recreation Department, and the support of the Board of Commissioners, Munro has been hired by the township as an environmental consultant on ways to protect and preserve Radnor's environmental resources within its park system and other public-owned lands.

Munro already has an excellent reputation in Radnor due to his recent work on a major streambank restoration project on Little Darby Creek in the Willows funded by a WRAP grant and his supervised installation of a natural reed filter bed that has successfully prevented algae blooms in Fenimore Pond.



**John Munro (far right) demonstrates an invasives removal tool for Mary Coe, president of Friends of Radnor Trails, and DCVA member Steve Cottrell.**

The invasives workshop was attended by a group of over 50 volunteers (many were DCVA members) who got a brief but detailed lesson on how to identify local invasives, and then spent the rest of the day removing them from the park's woodlands.

A major reason for a tremendous amount of progress in removing the stubborn invasives in just one day was DCVA member Steve Cottrell's efforts in enlisting members of Radnor High School's championship soccer team. The young volunteer athletes mowed down invasives as effortlessly as they regularly mow down opposing soccer teams.

Despite the successes of the day, Munro stressed that it would be up to local neighbors of township parks to create a volunteer "invasives corps" so as to have a team that will devote a little time on a regular basis to "weed" our public woodlands.

And while controlling invasives

**We have no progress report this issue on the Coventry Woods proposed development in Springfield Township. The latest plan by the developer has been withdrawn.**



**Members of Radnor High School championship soccer team help mow down invasives at Fenimore Park. Left to right: Jeff Eagle, Joe Scheider, Ryan Doyle, Scott Schoemaker, and John Shirreffs.**

## News from John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

### Oil Spill/Remediation

- The nursery stock has been replenished and is growing with the help of an irrigation system that has been installed. The immediate remediation site has been fenced off to allow the young plantings to develop.
- The Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) continues among all the parties while Sunoco assesses ten additional areas of concern found within the 5 pipelines in the Refuge.
- Sunoco was expected to remove the heavy stone ballast on the Haul Road by the end of the summer. This has not occurred though and no new time frame has been given.

### CEEC Administrative Wing

The additional \$600,000 needed to add the administrative wing to the Cusano Environmental Education Center was approved by the House of Representatives and is expected to pass the Senate. The conference committee must consider the matter before the final budget is approved; however, Congressman Curt Weldon is optimistic that the funding will be available in the 2002 budget.

### Boardwalk

It has been a year and a half since the boardwalk that crossed over the north end of the impoundment was destroyed by Hurricane Floyd. Funding for the rebuilding is finally available. The preliminary design and engineering work have begun, and soil samples have been obtained to help determine weight-bearing loads for pilings. The new boardwalk will be handicapped accessible.

### National Wildlife Refuge Week

This year National Wildlife Refuge Week is October 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Activities scheduled include a Darby Creek canoe trip on Saturday October 13th, a nature photography walk, wildflower and bird walks, the viewing of the Refuge video "Islands in the Marsh," and a family nature Ramble on Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>. For information about any of these activities call the Refuge at (215) 365-3118.

## Fish Derby Held at Saw Mill Park



**DCVA member Craig Wheeland looks on proudly as his daughter Lucy (age 4) shows off her first fish—a trophy trout.**

DCVA member Craig Wheeland watched proudly as his daughter Lucy (age 4) caught her first fish at the 7th annual Fish Derby at Saw Mill Park in Radnor Township.

That was a common sight at the popular free event which brought out 180 kids and is sponsored by Radnor and Tredyffrin Police Departments and the Chester Valley Sportsmen's Association.

New this year was a Friday evening session. Unfortunately, the temperature was stifling, and the trout were not very active. But even if the kids did not catch a fish, they still got a free soda, hot dog, T-shirt, lots of prizes and a fun excursion out with the family.

Happily, the cooler regular Saturday morning and afternoon sessions brought lots of trophy trout and some very happy and excited kids and parents.

And thanks to Tom Blomstrum, Director of Radnor's Parks and Recreation Department, access for people of all abilities and the environmental features of Saw Mill Park continue to improve every year.

Planned in the near future are railings to assist the sight-impaired and additional plantings of native trees and shrubs planted by local neighbors under the leadership of DCVA member and longtime community activist Judy Sherry.



**Wink Herron (striped shirt) of Wayne casts a line for his daughter Emily (14) at Radnor's 2001 Saw Mill Park Fish Derby.**

## Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

The chief mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is the protection and management of fish and the regulation of recreational boating. It also plays a role in protection of stream water quality as that directly affects the health of the aquatic community. People who observe dead fish in streams or releases of potentially hazardous materials can contact the agency to report their observations.

In addition, earthmoving or construction activities in and along streams can negatively impact aquatic life. Unless this type of work is done in strict conformity to established plans, damage to the aquatic environment can result. People who observe activity which may cause damage to fish habitat can report it to the agency for investigation.

The regional office responsible for Delaware County can be reached by phone at 717 626-0228. The mailing address is PA Fish & Boat Commission, Southeast Region Office, PO Box 9, Elm, PA 17521. Further information about the agency can also be found on [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us) or by contacting Jeffrey Bridi, SE Region Manager, at [jbridi@state.pa.us](mailto:jbridi@state.pa.us).

## Ed Spiller Named Tredyffrin's Top Police Officer

Ed Spiller, a 15-year veteran of the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, was named the department's top cop for 2001. The award goes to officers for their "contributions to the citizens of the township, dedicated work ethic, teamwork, professionalism and community service."

A longtime member of DCVA and the Chester Valley Sportsmen's Association, Spiller, along with fellow Tredyffrin police officer John DiMaio, is well known for launching the popular annual Fish Derby at Saw Mill Park in Radnor Township (see accompanying article about this year's event).

"I am not surprised he received the award," said Dave Cannan, Radnor Township commissioner and DCVA board member. "Ed is an inspiration to me as a public official. I have been working with him since he created the Saw Mill Park Fish Derby seven years ago. His dedicated and enthusiastic civic-mindedness is contagious. Without Ed Spiller and his ability to consistently generate large groups of enthusiastic young volunteers, DCVA would never have been able to accomplish the stream habitat and streambank restoration projects we did on the stretch of Darby Creek that runs along Saw Mill Park."

Spiller helped coordinate volunteers for the projects from the student council and wrestling team at Conestoga High School where he is an assistant varsity wrestling coach. The stream improvements were funded with a grant from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and overseen by Fish and Boat field supervisor Karl Lutz.

DCVA congratulates Ed on receiving his well deserved award and expresses sincere appreciation for his dedication to improving Radnor's Saw Mill Park section of Darby Creek as well as continually educating our youth on the importance of protecting the Darby Creek watershed for the future.



## Environmental Futures Planning Process

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Environment Commission was created by Governor Tom Ridge to set environmental priorities for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It recommended an Environmental Futures Planning Process (EFP2) for DEP that will focus on results in the environment first and activities second. To implement the recommendations, DEP is reorienting its management and planning to a watershed-focused, priority-setting approach. For the first time, the department will involve stakeholders in what has been an internal process.

DEP has outlined 3 statewide goals: Goal 1: Sustain, conserve, protect, enhance and restore Pennsylvania's environment, natural resources and ecological diversity.

Goal 2: Reduce, towards the ultimate goal of eliminating, harmful effects from environmental contaminants and conditions.

Goal 3: Engage all Pennsylvanians as active and informed stewards of the environment.

Teams have been established to determine baseline conditions, prioritize addressing the cause of environmental problems, and establish planning objectives. Each team will have a leader and will be made up of DEP staff representing various environmental programs. The team will identify key stakeholders in the watershed or on the issue representing watershed organizations, municipal and county officials, business and industry, agriculture, county conservation districts, legislators, environmental groups and educators. The stakeholders and the general public will be asked to act as a "sounding board" throughout the planning process.

The EFP2 program is being implemented for the first time in 2001 to coordinate with preparation for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. For more information about the Environmental Futures Planning Process, contact Ed Pinero at (717) 772-8911. A fact sheet about the process is available at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us).

## Public Interest Groups Evaluate Federal Spending: Projects in Pennsylvania and New Jersey Denounced as Environmentally Harmful

The 2001 printing of *Green Scissors*, a rogues gallery, lists 74 federal government projects its authors consider wasteful, environmentally harmful spending. The authors are Friends of the Earth, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and US Public Interest Research Group. Three of the projects included this year are of special concern to Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents: the Delaware River Deepening Project, beach restoration, and the Clean Coal Technology Program.

The biggest ships these days need a channel 50 feet deep, but the Delaware River deepening will stop at 45 because the federal government will pay 80% of the \$311 million cost only to that depth. To dig deeper would require a higher local cost share. Five of the six oil refineries that would be prime beneficiaries of the project have declined to commit to deepening their approach channels to take advantage of a deepened river. However, lack of economic justification did not deter all 21 Pennsylvania representatives from voting to fund the project. Except for their votes on this issue, Fattah, Hoeffel, and Coyne would have gotten 100% scores for 2000 from the League of Conservation Voters. All four South Jersey representatives voted against the project because the dredged soil would be piled up to 75 feet high in their districts. None of the soil would come to Pennsylvania because the cost of trucking it inland would be high.

Congress pays for beach restoration in a number of states, but New Jersey gets the most money: \$122 million in 2001. Almost every beach in the state is replenished with sand that is pumped from the ocean bottom and spread up to 50 feet wide ashore. The project decimates benthic and beach ecology, and it leaves water cloudy. Its strongest advocates are resorts and beach front property owners.

In both the river deepening and beach restoration projects, the Army Corps of Engineers is the prime contractor, as it is in 12 of the 18 water projects listed in 2001 *Green Scissors*. Traditionally Congress trusted the Corps own cost-benefit analyses in deciding what to fund, but a year and a half ago Dr. Don Sweeney, a Corps economist, revealed the

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### Three projects are of special concern to Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents: the Delaware River Deepening Project, NJ beach restoration, and the Clean Coal Technology Program.

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economic benefit of his employer's \$1.2 billion plan to expand locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers was exaggerated. About this time the *Washington Post* printed internal Corps documents showing a plan to

grow the agency's annual budget from \$4 to \$6 billion through "makework" and rosy economics. Lt. General Joe Ballard, the Corps Chief, at first denied all, then was forced to retire. Secretary of Defense Cohen recommended several deputies be disciplined. President Bush asked for a 14% cut in the Corps budget. Yet the Corps keeps its many friends on the Hill, for the pork it serves them.

Congress has already given \$2 billion since 1984 to power companies and other users of coal to find ways to make coal burn cleaner. President Bush wants to give them much more. The new Democratic chair of the Senate Appropriations committee, Robert Byrd of coal-rich West Virginia, will certainly agree. Two Pennsylvania plants hope to share this largesse. In Schuylkill County, Waste Management Processors plan a coal-burning coal-to-oil refinery. In Indiana County, Reliant Energy is building a power plant that will burn coal incompletely, with fewer air emissions but more ash. The Clean Coal Technology Program encourages use of the most polluting fossil fuel when burned coal yields twice as much carbon dioxide as natural gas. It also encourages destructive mountain top removal and long-wall mining.

## Wetlands Being Created in Cobbs Creek Park

The Fairmount Park Commission is developing an exciting project to create a wetland in Cobbs Creek Park in the large mown lawn area on the west side of Cobbs Creek. The site is across the stream from the future Cobbs Creek Environmental Center. Work will include removal of invasive plants, streambank stabilization, excavation, and planting of new native wetland plants. The wetland will improve the environmental health of the area by providing wildlife habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species, by purifying the water through a natural filtering process, including trapping excess sediments and nutrients, and by allowing storm water to percolate back into the ground, protecting the quality and quantity of groundwater. The project is supported by Upper Darby Township and is funded by the PA DEP and the Fairmount Park Commission.

## President's Pen

*Continued from page 1:*

"time lines" and meetings. Common sense action is needed. Clean the creek, plant proper streamside vegetation, label the storm drains, monitor for and prevent non-point pollution. These activities are far more valuable than mall shopping, over organized sports and social events. In fact, they are a sport and a social event combined, and you will not need any new clothes.

The value of leisure time: fishing (not frenetic bass tournaments), boating (canoeing, kayaking or other non-motorized boating), walking. These are the rewards of a clean, green creek. Our Rivers Conservation Plan can only bring this to fruition with your active support. You are the grass-roots support.

We need volunteer help in education, water monitoring, riparian (stream side) restoration, watershed based planning and creek advocacy. We need YOUR help. Call, write and tell us what you can do and where you can do it. You will be glad you did.

Thanks.

*Fritz Thornton*

## TMDL's

*Continued from page 3:*

TMDLs can be considered to be a watershed budget for pollutants, representing the total amount of pollutants that can be assimilated by a stream without causing impairment or water standards to be exceeded. DEP has sought to develop TMDLs that take into account resource constraints and, at the same time, fulfill its commitment to protect our valuable water. DEP believes that TMDLs must be developed on a watershed basis to provide a full picture of and solution to water quality problems.

Watershed-based activities can only be affected when local citizens take ownership of their watershed. DEP strongly solicits and supports full public participation in the TMDL process. Watershed coordinators keep citizens and organized watershed groups fully informed of TMDL activities. Early in the TMDL process, informal communications with people in the watershed allow for their submission of information about the watershed that can be used by DEP in developing the TMDL. Later, a formal public comment period and informational public meeting are held to present, discuss and, if necessary, amend each draft TMDL. The ultimate goal is for citizens to understand the dynamics and needs of their watershed and then take the lead in "fixing" them.

The following summarizes the steps in Pennsylvania's TMDL process:

- DEP assesses waters of the Commonwealth and solicits data from the public to determine waters which do not meet water quality standards
- Impaired waters are included on Section 303(d) list of impaired waters following public comment period
- Listed waters are scheduled for TMDL development
- DEP develops the TMDL by determining reduction goals for pollutants to meet water quality standards.
- Local watershed groups and citizens develop implementation plan for TMDL with DEP assistance.

Local groups sponsor remediation activities to meet implementation plan with Growing Greener grants and other funding sources available through DEP and other agencies.

## Volunteers Available

Is your organization always looking for help from volunteers? Area students might be just what you need. A few suburban high schools have a public service requirement. Penncrest and Westtown are examples. Philadelphia high schools are introducing such a requirement this fall; Harry Olsen addressed the DCVA 2000 conference on this subject. Other high schools, such as Strath Haven, Springfield, and Cardinal O'Hara, have public service clubs where students volunteer as a group for a range of projects.

Unity Center, Media, is a faith-based nonprofit that provides worthy projects with volunteers, chiefly from schools and churches. It is run by Jim Ley, a seminarian, with a volunteer staff. No payment is expected although donations are accepted. Call 610 566-8421 for information about Unity Center.

## The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcva.org. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Dave Anderson, Bill Brainerd, Jeffrey Bridi, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Tom Houghton, Rosemary Kesling, Vicki Shaner, Fritz Thornton, Amy Thut, Greg Vitali, and Grace Wheeler. Photographs by Doris Ann Anderson, Dave Cannan and Fritz Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2001.



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**October 5-6, 2001: 2001 PA WATERSHED CONFERENCE: PARTNERS IN PROGRESS.** The Resort at Split Rock, Lake Harmony, PA (Pocono Mountains). A technical training workshop on the process of study design for a monitoring program, defining a healthy watershed, data interpretation, and transforming data into information, that can be used in watershed protection and restoration. Registration deadline September 25. \$40. A few scholarships are available before September 25 to non-profit group members. Call 717 234-7910 for details.

**October 16, 2001: BEYOND THE DETENTION BASIN: How to Improve Stormwater Management in Your Community.** 1 to 5 p.m., Villanova University. A workshop for non-engineers. \$25. For information contact Linda DeAngelis at Villanova, 610 519-4358 or visit [www87.homepage.villanova.edu/robert.traver/](http://www87.homepage.villanova.edu/robert.traver/)

**October 18-19, 2001: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONFERENCE: A DECADE OF PROGRESS IN OUR COMMUNITY FORESTS.** Atherton Hotel, State College. One-day registration \$60; two-days \$110. Deadline October 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information, call Bill Elmendorf at (814) 863-7941.

**November 29, 2001: THE ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT OF URBAN/SUB-URBAN GREEN SPACE. What's being done? & What can you do to help?** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. \$40 if registered before October 1. For information, contact Dennis Burton at 215 482-7300, extension 118, [dburton@schuylkillcenter.org](mailto:dburton@schuylkillcenter.org).

**And don't forget DCEN's Conference on October 27th!**

## Storm Drains Aren't Sewers



If you saw this sign on a storm drain, would you decide not to dump your motor oil down the drain after all? The Marple Township Environmental Advisory Board hopes so. It is attaching 500 of these signs, each 4 inches in diameter, to curbsides adjoining storm drains to keep pollutants out of Crum and Darby Creeks. The project is funded in part by Philadelphia Suburban Water Company. Marple-Newtown High School students will help attach the signs.

### 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.....\$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member.....\$5.00        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member .....\$15.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Member .....\$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen .....\$5.00    | <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, September 15, 2001 | DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Meeting, Springfield   |
| Sunday, September 30, 2001   | Open House and Garden Party, 4-6 p .m.<br>The Finley House in Radnor.  |
| Saturday, October 13, 2001   | Cabin Crafts & Friendship Day, 10 am-3 pm. Swedish Cabin.  |
| October 13-21, 2001          | Natural Wildlife Refuge Week at John Heinz National Wildlife<br>Refuge at Tinicum. Various activities.<br>Call Refuge at 215 365-3118 for information. |
| Sunday, October 14, 2001     | Annual Grange Open House, 1-4 p.m. Free Admission.   |
| Sunday, October 14, 2001     | DCVA Banquet, 5:30 p.m. Lamb Tavern, Springfield   |
| Saturday, October 20, 2001   | DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Meeting, Springfield   |
| Saturday, October 27, 2001   | DCEN Conference, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.<br>Ridley Creek State Park headquarters.  |
| Saturday, November 17, 2001  | DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Marple Friends Meeting, Springfield  |
| Saturday, December 15, 2001  | DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Marple Friends Meeting, Springfield  |

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