



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

We are activists. That means when we see problems not being addressed, we do something about them.

Our clean-up program works to repair and correct damage already done to Darby Creek. But that's not the end. We work at preventing future damage to the entire watershed.

Educating our neighbors as to what actions cause pollution and what can be done to prevent it is equally important. We do this through schools, libraries and the media.

Advocating responsible development seeks to prevent future damage to our communities. We resist change in order to conserve and protect our present and future environment. Who benefits? We do; but more importantly, future generations do.

So called "developers" do their projects and move on. They don't live with their mistakes, short sightedness and broken promises. Short sighted development has brought us Superfund pollution and extensive flooding in

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DCVA Planning Fall Social

Mark your calendar. In lieu of our usual awards banquet, DCVA is planning a luncheon and silent auction for Saturday, November 16, 2002. Watch your mail for an invitation with all of the details. If you would like to donate to the silent auction or to help with this affair in some other way, please call event chair Tom Houghton at (610) 268-0107 or email Tom at

TDHoughton@aol.com

DCEN Conference to Be Held October 26

The annual conference of the Delaware County Environmental Network (DCEN) will be Saturday, October 26, 9 am - 1 pm, at the Delaware County Institute of Science, 11 Veterans Square, Media, 610-566-5126. Speakers are Andy Reilly, Delaware County Council Member, on his new open space program; Jeff Featherstone, Temple University, on sustainable development; and representatives from local environmental groups on recent projects.

There will be an award to the person who comes the longest distance by mass transit. A continental breakfast will be served from 8:30 - 9:00. Cost is \$5 for DCEN members, \$10 for non-members. To register in advance make your check payable to DCEN and mail it to Bill Gothier, 1521 North Providence Rd. Media, PA 19063. As a charter member of DCEN, DCVA encourages everyone to attend.

Help Needed to Assess Stream

Darby 'Headwaters' Communities to Conduct Visual Stream Assessment

The 'headwaters' or far upper reaches of any stream have a significant effect on the overall health of the watershed. Although the entire Darby Creek watershed is highly developed, the upper reaches of the watershed do constitute the least densely populated areas of the watershed. The upper section of the watershed is the only area to be deemed 'unimpaired' by the Department of Environmental Protection's stream assessment process. This is not to say there aren't ecological stresses in the upper section.

In October and November volunteers in Radnor, Newtown, Marple and Haverford will be walking in or along their streams to assess environmental conditions. Environmental Advisory Councils in these townships are looking for people who have (1) 1½ days, about 10 hours, to walk 1.75 miles of

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DCVA Has Another Successful Creek Clean-up

DCVA Thanks Chair Tom Houghton and all the Volunteers



Some of the trash pulled from the creek at the Heinz Refuge this spring.

It is his 30 years as a resident in Prospect Park that motivate Tom Houghton to serve as chair of DCVA's annual creek clean-up. Tom has served since 1999, the same year he moved to London Grove Township, Chester County, where he is a lawyer and elected commissioner.

The April 27, 2002, clean-up purged Darby Creek of 18 tons of trash from 14 sites. Tom recruits site captains, and many other devoted workers. He arranges with Tony Grosso, Delaware County Solid Waste Authority, to have dumpsters at most sites. A month before

the clean-up, he mails captains a flyer to help them find volunteers. Ten days before, he meets with them to distribute gloves and bags donated by PennDOT. After the clean-up DCSWA hauls away its dumpsters and has their contents weighed to document the tonnage collected.

On the big day Tom works in Darby Borough, which despite the efforts of those of us who live upstream year-round, steadily gets cleaner. He shares the credit with the borough and Walt Omlor's crews of offenders sentenced to public service. This year Heinz Refuge was cleaned up the same day as Darby Creek. When it is not, Tom volunteers there too, under Captain and Heinz employee Cyrus Brame.

Tom thinks we might find more volunteers if we had door-to-door leafleting or an overhead banner across a street. He is already looking ahead to the clean-up in 2003. Willing to help? Call Tom at (610) 268-0107.



Volunteers who spent the morning cleaning up the creek at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum enjoy lunch.

Update on the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan

Please refer to the insert page for an update on the status of our Conservation Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed.

To date the draft plan has been made public and has been presented to all of the municipalities within the watershed for their comments. Copies of the plan are available at all of the public libraries in the watershed, and you may also review the document on our website at www.dcv.org.

Three public meetings have been held to date and three more are scheduled within the next month. The goal is to provide all residents with an opportunity to review the document and to register their comments which will be incorporated into the plan. You are welcome to attend any of the upcoming meetings as noted on the insert page. This is your opportunity to become directly involved in the grant process!

If you review the draft plan and have specific comments, please forward them in writing to the DCVA Watershed Conservation Plan at Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA. If you have any questions, call Anne Ackerman, Project Coordinator, at 610 449-9095.

Haverford Township Moves to Buy Former State Hospital Site

With two votes in August, the Haverford Township Commission approved the purchase of the Haverford State Hospital site from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$3.5 million. The agreement reserves at least 120 acres of land for passive recreation and open space. The agreement of sale, if approved by the state Legislature, will be finalized on December 31st.

The next step is for the township to partner with a developer for part of the property. Villanova University would like to be that partner and has offered the township \$3 million for 40 to 50 acres of developed land for a new law school and for graduate student housing. It has also offered to pay for environmental clean-up of the property, which could cost as much as \$7 million. The township, however, has not made a decision about Villanova's proposal.

As it has been doing since the hospital closed, DCVA will monitor the purchase and development of the property.

Confused about global warming issues? EPA has a fact sheet discussing the topic and how climate change will affect our area. You can obtain a copy by calling the Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment, EPA Region 3 at 410 305-2749. More information, including suggestions on what individuals can do, is contained in *Preparing for Climate Change, Mid-Atlantic Overview*. For a copy of that publication write Penn State University/AERS, 107 Armsby Building, University Park, 16802. Or visit the following websites: www.epa.gov/globalwarming/; www.essc.psu.edu/mara/; www.nacc.usgcrp.gov/.

Results of Darby-Cobbs Creek Riparian Buffer Assessment Presented

The spring/summer issue of *The Valley* had information about a current mapping program of the Heritage Conservancy. The organization has been assessing the need for riparian buffers along streams in southeastern Pennsylvania, including Darby Creek. On September 17th the Conservancy presented the results of its work in the Darby Creek Watershed at a workshop at the Cusano Center for Environmental Education at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. DCVA was one of the hosts of the event. The maps were on display along with information about what can be done to maintain and restore streamside buffers in our area. For information about the maps, the conclusions of the study, and the group's recommendations, call Sean Greene at 215 345-7020, extension 122.

Friends of the Swedish Cabin Invite Public to Annual Events

Crafts & Friendship Day October 19

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin are holding their annual Crafts and Friendship Day on Saturday, October 19th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be cabin tours, colonial and Indian demonstrations, crafts, lore, and face painting for children. Refreshments will be available. A \$1 donation is requested from adults; children under 12 are free. Proceeds benefit the Swedish Cabin. The cabin is located at 9 Creek Road in Drexel Hill. If it is your first trip, watch for signs near St. Charles Church on Burmont Road. The rain date is Sunday October 20th.

The Friends also invite the public to two events in December. The annual Trim-a-Swedish Christmas Tree Party will be Sunday December 8th at the Cabin. And a Colonial Lucia is tentatively scheduled for Sunday December 15 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lansdowne. For more information about these events call 610 623-1650 or visit www.bidermon.net/log.htm.

Drought Continues

All of the Darby Creek Watershed is again in a drought emergency situation. Philadelphia Suburban Water Company tells us that the Springton Reservoir is at 35% capacity, close to an all time low. Furthermore, the company reports that water usage indicates that residents are not following the mandatory water restrictions, which require that people reduce water usage by 15%. Here are the rules:

- We cannot water grass, unless it is newly seeded or sodded.
- We cannot use fresh water for watering gardens and landscaped areas unless we use a hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m.
- We cannot wash paved surfaces.
- We cannot use water in fountains, artificial waterfalls, and reflecting pools.
- We cannot wash cars, trucks, or boats, unless by hand on specific Saturdays.
- We cannot fill or top off a private swimming pool.

Previous editions of *The Valley* have listed things that we CAN do to conserve water. See the Winter 2002 edition on our website www.dcva.org or visit the DEP website at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "drought."

DCVA Welcomes New Members

Brent D. Glass, Harrisburg
Janel S. Klein, Rydal
Florence A. Miller, Springfield
Sonja Pettingil & Lee Paynter, Haverford
Peter Hickman, Haverford

Needed: DCVA Membership Chair

Interested in becoming more active in DCVA? We are looking for a new membership chair. The job would entail sending out renewal notices and recording responses. It would also involve promoting the organization and encouraging new membership. If you think that this might be the job for you, please call Fritz Thornton at 610 789-1814.

PRC Asks for Help to Promote Its Educational Programs

Traveling Trunks:

The Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) is expanding its traveling trunks program. To reach more students, it is looking for volunteer teachers to take the trunks to area schools and teach about environmental issues. PRC will provide training. The trunks are self-contained units covering specific environmental topics: recycling, energy conservation, litter prevention, healthy homes alternatives, and environmental consumerism. They are available for all grade levels and include lesson plans, background information, tools for hands-on activities, and materials to support the lessons. To get more information about the program and to investigate volunteer opportunities at PRC, call 610 353-1555, extension 231.

Lens on Litter Photo Contest:

Break out your camera and start fighting litter! PRC wants you to get out there and capture litter at its worst. The annual "Lens on Litter" photo contest helps heighten litter consciousness across Pennsylvania by showing how litter can have a negative impact on our environment, safety, health or wildlife. Over \$3,000 in prizes is available. A limited number of free cameras are also available on a first come, first served basis. Call PRC at 1-888-LITTERBUG to request one. The deadline to submit your photo is November 30, 2002. **Learn more** by visiting www.litterbug.org.

Highway Litter Hotline:

Ever watch helplessly as someone in the car ahead of you tosses trash out the window? Well, you're not helpless anymore! Call the Highway Litter Reporting Hotline. Simply take down the vehicle's license plate number, a brief description of the vehicle, where and when the incident happened and call 1-888-LITTERBUG. The owner of the car will receive a letter indicating that he was caught in the act of littering, accompanied by information on why littering is bad for the environment and a litter bag for the car to discourage future littering. **Learn more** at www.litterbug.org.

Springfield Commissioners Approve Coventry Woods Development

On August 13, 2002, the Springfield Township Commissioners gave approval to the preliminary plan for the Coventry Woods development. 33 single-family homes can be built on the wooded 15.3 acre parcel of land. The Commissioners have imposed 13 conditions, one of which is that the developer meet with abutting property owners to discuss development issues. Area residents feel that their objections have achieved some improvements to the original proposal but are still concerned about a number of issues, including flooding downstream and traffic safety problems in the area. Construction could begin as early as next spring.

DCVA Supports Citizens' Rights to Speak Freely on Environmental Issues

In response to lawsuits filed against Keith Mock (see article in the next column) for criticizing developments in Springfield Township, DCVA sent the following letter to the Springfield Board of Commissioners in support of citizens' rights of free speech:

August 28, 2002

Mr. Michael Puppio
President, Board of Commissioners
Springfield Township

Dear Mr. Puppio:

Keith Mock is being sued for defamation because of statements he made about two Springfield land developments. Storage USA is suing him for statements he made in the press about the presentation of its representatives at the January 24, 2002 meeting of the Springfield Zoning Board. DB Enterprises is suing Mock for statements he made at the March 12th meeting of the Springfield Commissioners.

Whether or not we agree with what he said or think it defamatory, as Americans we have an obligation to protect our shared right to speak freely under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Elected officials like the Springfield Commissioners have a particular obligation to protect the right of individuals to speak freely to government officials. How can government serve them if they are scared into silence by the threat of a lawsuit?

Mr. Mock has a court hearing on one of the suits against him on September 11th. 27PA VC.S.A. Section 8304 allows any government agency, including the Springfield Board of Commissioners, to tell the court it respects the right of citizens to participate in government. We ask you to take the opportunity given you by this law to defend free speech.

On behalf of the Darby Creek Valley Association Board of Directors,

Fritz Thornton, President

Resident of Springfield Township Is Sued for Speaking Out About Environmental Issues Affecting the Township

Keith Mock, a board member of Citizens for Responsible Land Use in Springfield (CRLUS), is the defendant in two SLAPP lawsuits meant to silence his criticism of township development. SLAPP stands for strategic lawsuits against public participation. The term is commonly applied to legal actions claiming defamation without basis that are intended primarily to silence a defendant. One of the two SLAPP suits against him has been withdrawn. DB Enterprises, President Davoud Baravordeh, withdrew its action shortly before a scheduled Common Pleas Court hearing on September 11, 2002, with Judge Proud. Mock requested the hearing under a new Pennsylvania law that grants a hearing to any person claiming to be a victim of a SLAPP suit. Had the case gone to court and had the judge ruled Mock was merely asking Springfield Township to enforce environmental law, DB would have been required to pay Mock's attorney and court costs, currently over \$10,000.

Mock is weighing his options, one of which is to sue DB for his legal fees. DB sued Mock (1) for saying, "We really need to construct the proper silt fences back there. There's sedimentation flowing into the Creek. It's all over the Creek. It's a mess. We need to remove all the trims—all the tree limbs, tree trunks that have been taken down and now just simply piled in a heap...and also to repair the Springfield trail and make sure that it continues to be passable;" and (2) for asking the Commissioners to withhold escrow money until these problems are addressed.

A second SLAPP suit filed against Mock is pending. Storage USA is suing him for statements he made in the *Delaware County Daily Times* and *Springfield Press* about its planned self-storage facility between Smedley Park and Macy's. Mock requested a hearing, but it was denied by Judge Pagano, a former Springfield Commissioner. Mock appealed to Commonwealth Court, which ruled the Judge had erred. Pagano will grant the hearing but has not yet scheduled one.

Storage USA is suing Mock for writing, "These professionals are paid to present a case that these storage facilities are the best and only use appropriate for this property" and that placing the storage units closer together than the zoning code allowed, as requested by the developers, would likely increase the impervious cover of the site.

A third suit against Mock has been threatened but not filed by Claude deBotton, developer of Coventry Woods.

Mock's lawyers asked the Springfield Commissioners to write a friend of the court brief in their client's defense. The Commissioners are allowed to do so under the new PA law. Thus far they have declined to intervene.

GreenWorks Produces Story on Radnor's Environmental Programs

GreenWorks, a project of the Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania, sent a video crew last May to document the many successful environmental projects in Radnor Township.

Dave Cannan, Radnor Township's 7th Ward Commissioner, DCVA member and the group's guide for the day, commented, "Since these Eco-projects are done gradually, it's easy to overlook how environmentally comprehensive and successful Radnor Township has become in protecting our natural resources."

The group started at Fenimore Park to look at one of the six satellite sites for distribution of leaf mulch from Skunk Hollow. The GreenWorks crew had barely finished its first interview with one Radnor resident as he scooped mulch into shopping bags and then put it in his car's trunk, when a steady



Radnor Commissioner Dave Cannan being interviewed by a GreenWorks video crew on the Willow's exit bridge as it goes over Little Darby Creek. From left to right: Radnor Commissioner Dave Cannan, GreenWorks producer Peggy Bradley, cameraman Jack Horgan and soundman Ken Winikur.

stream of residents followed behind. They all were singing the praises of Radnor's leaf mulch program as they each had their unique way of bagging and transporting the nutrient-rich mulch back to their neighborhood gardens.

Commissioner Cannan then showed the GreenWorks crew the reed beds adjacent to Fenimore Pond. The beds filter out nitrogen and other pollutants from the pond water that is continually pumped through the beds and keeps the usual summer algae blooms in check. This successful pond-cleansing system is also currently being installed at the Willows pond.

The next stop for the GreenWorks crew was the banks of Little Darby Creek as it flows between the Willow's exit bridge and where it exits the park to enter Skunk Hollow. This is the site of Radnor's two major streambank restoration projects.

The first streambank restoration project was done under the careful supervision of DCVA member, consultant and master gardener Steve Kosiak. Installed just downstream from the Willow's exit bridge by volunteers using donated native plantings and biologs, approximately 80 ft. of streambank was restored.

After that initial success, the second restoration project was funded with \$50,000.00 of state grant monies. Radnor's Public Works Department used heavy machinery to grade the stream banks to a 3:1 gradual slope which allows stormwater to easily flood out of the stream bed with a minimum of erosion. Volunteers then spent two solid days planting the stream banks, installing biologs, and planting native vegetation.

Both projects survived 1999's Hurricane Floyd while the streambank areas not restored sustained heavy erosion.

GreenWorks then visited the mulching operation at Skunk Hollow where the leaves picked up curbside from Radnor residences are composted.

GreenWorks finished its tour at Saw Mill Park to film Chester Valley Sportmens' Association's annual fish rodeo. CVSA, in cooperation with Radnor's Parks Department, and support from Radnor and Tredyffrin police officers, raise the fish over the year, dam the creek and stock the dammed areas with trout so that each young participant is exposed to the fun of fishing and guaranteed to catch at least one fish.

GreenWorks also received an overview of all the improvements made to the park over the last several years with the cooperation of Radnor's EAC, Parks Department, CVSA, Darby Creek Valley Association, and a cadre of neighborhood volunteers led by Radnor school board director Judy Sherry. Six years ago, Saw Mill Park was a weed-strewn lot often used as a place for vehicles to spin their tires in the existing wetland. In an effort to initiate long-term environmental protection of the park, DCVA, Radnor's EAC and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission under the supervision of Karl Lutz installed several fish habitat improvement sections to the streambanks of Darby Creek as it runs along the park.

Moving out from the creek, pervious pavement was installed to create a walkway so that people of all abilities would have access to the park and the creek without creating runoff

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Mayfield Gardens workers spray wildflower seed at Saw Mill Park under the watchful supervision of owner Harry Hoplamazian and Radnor School Board Director Judy Sherry.

Darby Creek Watershed Benefits from Growing Greener Round IV Grants

On August 7, 2002, Governor Mark Schweiker announced the Growing Greener Round IV grant recipients. Nearly \$34.2 million was awarded to various watershed projects across the Commonwealth. Delaware County received a nice portion of the funding with five grants being awarded within the County.

The Wayne Art Center in Radnor received \$63,367 to fund construction of a demonstration site for stormwater management technologies. (See the next column.)

Natural Lands Trust received \$35,430 for a study of tax parcels along the creek and their feasibility for acquiring easements to preserve open space. Municipalities included in the study are Eddystone Borough, Edgmont Township, Marple Township, Newtown Township, Nether Providence Township, Ridley Park Borough, Ridley Township, Springfield Township, Swarthmore Borough, and Upper Providence Township.

Three grants were awarded with funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Zone Management Program, which assists some Growing Greener applications. The following projects received National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funds through the Growing Greener Program:

- Springfield Township received \$7,941 to fund 1000 feet of riparian buffer restoration (35' wide), including a training session to be held on the removal of invasive species on West Rolling Road along the Darby Creek.
- The Delaware River Keeper Network received \$71,400 for 350 feet of streambank restoration using natural design techniques. The project also includes restoring the riparian buffer along 800 feet of the Darby Creek in Bartram Park in Darby Borough.
- The Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council was awarded \$55,216 to supply municipalities with disks that read "No Dumping Drains to Creek," which will be placed on stormdrains through out the municipalities. The grant will also provide educational material for residents including news releases. This grant includes municipalities in various counties. In Delaware County, those included are Radnor, Marple, Darby Borough, Ridley, Upper Providence, and Newtown.

For a complete listing of all Growing Greener Round IV Grants awarded, go to the DEP's press release at: www.dep.state.pa.us/newsreleases/

A reminder! Now is the right time to start planning next year's applications. Although the next grant round has not yet been announced, planning for a successful grant takes months of preparation. Contact Jim Grabusky, DEP Watershed Manager at 610-832-6191, and Bill Gothier, Delaware County Watershed Specialist at 610-892-9484, for assistance.

Wayne Art Center Receives Growing Greener Grant

Radnor Township's Wayne Art Center, situated in the headwaters of the Ithan Creek watershed, recently received a \$63,367 matching Growing Greener Grant for an innovative stormwater management system as part of its upcoming expansion project.

The Art Center's new building program includes a large parking area, and this Growing Greener Grant will help fund the design and construction of a porous pavement program with a stone filtration bed as the primary stormwater management system. Additionally, several "rain gardens" will be designed and constructed to treat and evapo-transpire the Art Center's roof runoff prior to infiltration.

With the Wayne Art Center at the upper ridge of the 125-acre basin that drains to the Radnor Middle School in central Wayne, and the zero runoff goal of the stormwater management system under most storm events, this project has major implications for the future of the Middle School site. The Radnor School Board has voted to keep the Radnor Middle School in Wayne and with renovation of the enduring 75-year-old structure a likely scenario, any holding and infiltration of stormwater in the upper drainage basin makes that goal more attainable.

Additionally, the rain garden and pervious stormwater system will be incorporated into the educational aspects of the Art Center curriculum. Radnor commissioner and DCVA member Dave Cannan commented, "While this Growing Greener Grant helps address an immediate stormwater management need, of equal importance are the long-term educational benefits this working demonstration project provides the Art Center members as well as contractors and developers in the region who are considering using such Best Management Practices in their future construction projects in our urban and suburban watersheds."

Delaware County Conservation District Has Mini-Grants Available

The Delaware County Conservation District is looking for projects to be funded by the District's Mini Grant Program. Awards up to \$500 are available for projects relating to natural resource conservation and/or water quality. The next deadline for applications is **October 31, 2002**. Previous projects have included riparian buffer restorations, stormwater workshops, stormdrain stenciling, development of outdoor classrooms, etc. Most organizations and associations in Delaware County are eligible. The District's goal is to promote conservation projects with little administrative hassle; we all know the headaches associated with most grant programs. These grants are perfect for groups who need stepping stone funds for small projects. For details on eligible projects and to receive an application, click on the District's website www.co.delaware.pa.us/conservation/conservation.html or call Bill Gothier, Conservation District Watershed Specialist, at 610-892-9484.

Heinz Refuge 30th Anniversary a Great Success



On the weekend of June 29-30 the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum celebrated its 30th anniversary with a plethora of events from music to artisans and live animal demonstrations to historical walks and talks.

The weekend was topped off with a ceremony to dedicate the very popular observation platform along the east impoundment in memory of former refuge employee and first caretaker of the "Tinicum Wildlife Preserve," Jim Carroll.

Jim's wife, Doris, along with a large contingent of family and friends, were on hand for the unveiling of a plaque with his image on the structure. Carroll retired from the USFWS in 1987. Representatives from the USFWS Regional Office in Massachusetts as well as from Rep. Curt Weldon's office were present for the event.

The 30th Anniversary event served as a model for what will be a very big event next year when the refuge will be one of only three refuges in the Northeast Region of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) to be highlighted as focus refuges for the NWRS's Centennial. In addition, Tinicum will be placing special "centennial emphasis" on other events throughout the next year as the NWRS marks this very special anniversary.

The refuge is a tribute to grassroots activism and hard work and is truly an "island of nature" in a "sea of urbanization." It is home to the last remaining freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania and a haven for birders and nature lovers of all varieties. The refuge is open every day from 8 a.m. to sunset. There is no admission fee.

For information on the refuge and its programs call (215) 365-3118 or check out the website at <http://heinz.fws.gov>.

Heinz Refuge Undergoing Improvements to Main Entrance/Parking Area

Major improvements to the main entrance road and parking areas at the Heinz Refuge began August 12, 2002. The main entrance is located at 86th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard in southwest Philadelphia.

Included in the improvement work will be a re-designed entrance road and main parking area with landscaped improvements, paving of the main entrance and service road with water pervious materials, and the addition of a new entrance gate, lighting and security cameras.

The work is expected to take about 2 months to complete and during this time all visitors will be asked to park, diagonally, at the end of Lindbergh Blvd. Physically challenged individuals are asked to call the refuge at (215) 365-3118 to make accessibility arrangements prior to their visit.

DEP Secretary Meets with Members of Winning Envirothon Team

DEP Secretary David E. Hess congratulated members of Pennsylvania's Envirothon team from Penncrest High School in Delaware County for their hard work that earned them third place in this year's International Envirothon competition held July 29-August 4 at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. Secretary Hess met with the students August 13 and presented them with falcon T-shirts.

"This is an outstanding accomplishment, and one that continues Pennsylvania's unequalled record of placing more times in the top three slots of that competition than any other competitor," Secretary Hess said. "We are very proud of the Penncrest High School team. They should feel a terrific sense of accomplishment."

Team members are Christina Kleinberg, David Cohen, Elizabeth Pondo, Nicole Shapiro and Brad Potter. Penncrest teacher advisors are Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz. Lorelle Steach serves as the Pennsylvania Envirothon Program Coordinator.

Teams from 49 states and Canadian provinces were in this year's competition, totaling over 250 students. Pennsylvania Envirothon teams have placed first, second or third in 11 of the 15 national competitions, and never worse than 10th overall.

The Envirothon is based on a program that was originally developed in 1979 by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

In Memoriam Hal Lockwood

Harold (Hal) Lockwood, Jr. died May 5, 2002 at 78 years of age. Hal was one of the charter members of DCVA and served as the organization's attorney during the early years. He was a lifelong environmental activist, active in the Sierra Club and the Save-The-Delaware Coalition. We offer our sympathy to his family.

News Briefs from Around the Watershed

Tinicum Township Receives Grant for Lazaretto

In May Tinicum Township received a \$200,000 Community Revitalization Program grant to help preserve the Lazaretto. The money will be used for a study of the 10-acre site and, hopefully, for a down payment on its purchase. More money is needed to save the 203 year-old former quarantine station for Philadelphia-bound immigrants. The township is on record as wanting to save it, and area local and state elected officials have been supportive. State Representative Ron Raymond, R-162, secured the grant.

Havertown Superfund Site For Sale

The Havertown Superfund site on Eagle Road is for sale. The 2.823 acres site which includes the former Natural Wood Preservers location, is valued at \$875,000. Over an acre of the land is the capped Superfund site. The soil and ground water were contaminated with dioxins, PCP, arsenic and other toxins. EPA worked at the site for a number of years, capping the contaminated soil in November 1996 and installing a water treatment plant, which was just completed this spring. Most of the problems in the area seem to be under control, but the Haverford Township Environmental Advisory Committee and EPA continue to monitor the site.

County Council and Natural Lands Trust Are Developing Maps for Open Space Preservation

Delaware County Council and the Natural Lands Trust are working together to develop maps for 20 municipalities in the least developed parts of the county. The goal is to help the municipalities protect remaining open space and to promote orderly land development. When the base maps are finished, the county planning department will meet with local officials to review the maps. A second phase of the program will create open space network maps. The county will pay \$3,750 per municipality for the first and second phase of the project. Any phase 3 work by National Lands Trust, such as assisting with open space acquisition, will be at the municipalities' expense. Municipalities in our watershed that are part of the agreement are Newtown, Springfield, Haverford, Marple, and Radnor.

Tinicum Township Interested in Ownership of Governor Printz Park

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission now owns Governor Printz Park, a 7.2 acre tract of river-front land. The Board of Commissioners of Tinicum Township is working to acquire the land. It would agree to retain and maintain the property in its present use as a public historic park.

Philadelphia Water Dept Receives Security Grant

EPA has awarded security grants to seven publicly-owned large community water systems in Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Water Department is one of the recipients. It will receive \$115,000 to increase the security of its system.

Grants Will Be Used to Control Erosion and Flooding on Muckinipattis Creek

State Representative Nicholas A. Micozzie, R-163, obtained 2 grants from the state Community Revitalization Program to control erosion and flooding on Muckinipattis Creek, a tributary of Darby. Upper Darby Township will receive \$145,000 to construct wire-and-stone walls on the stream banks and lay rocks or concrete on the creek bed over about 1,000 feet in the Primos area of the township. Darby Township will receive \$90,000 to elevate driveways and construct earthen berms to protect the 200 block of Academy Avenue from flooding.

Ridley Township Buys Morrow's Marina

Ridley Township now owns the former Morrow's Marina, a 14-acre site on Darby Creek. It purchased the property to preserve the last parcel of open space in the township. Part of the \$1.55 million cost was offset by a \$400,000 Growing Greener grant. A bond issue will pay for the rest, but revenue generated by boat rentals and other income-producing activities is expected to cover township costs within two years.

Ridley School District Receives Education Grant

The PA Department of Education has announced 2002 school recycling grants. Each of 16 recipients were awarded \$3,000 to help implement recycling programs. One of the winners is the Ridley School District. It is partnering with Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium, American Ref-Fuel Company and the John Heinz Refuge. Their project will use hands-on activities, on-site fieldtrips, assemblies and technology with elementary and middle school students to teach about solid waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Merry Place Has New Tree House

This summer Merry Place in Glendale Park in Haverford Township showcased its latest addition: an elaborate tree house designed and built by 12 University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture graduate students. The tree house has a series of ramps designed to allow walkers and children in wheelchairs to reach the top. Money for the project came from the Merry Place Fund and the John D. McDonald Memorial Foundation.

Morton Morton House Receives Community Development Block Grant

A \$77,000 federal Community Development Block Grant has been awarded by Delaware County Council to the Morton Mortenson House. The money will be used to add a ramp, repair windows and doors, and secure the foundation. The work is being done this fall.

The Morton Morton house was built about 1750 and is located on the confluence of the Darby and Muckinipattis Creeks in Norwood. In February 2000 the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Environmental Futures Planning Process Setting Environmental Priorities in the 21st Century



Background

The 21st Century Environment Commission created by the Ridge/Schweiker Administration to set environmental priorities for the next century recommended that DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) change its process for deciding how to allocate resources to focus on results first, and activities second. EFP2 addresses how decisions are made about what each and every DEP employee does. The process connects management of the department directly to improving the condition of the environment.

Environmental conditions will drive DEP priorities, and staff and resources will be assigned to address the top priorities. Measured improvements in environmental conditions will indicate progress. A team of DEP staff developed the new planning process.

The process involves:

- I. Setting statewide environmental goals.
- II. Identifying the condition of the environment and its related causes based on 17 indicators.
- III. Establishing objectives to address the causes.
- IV. Carrying out strategic activities to meet the objectives.
- V. Evaluating environmental conditions and the effectiveness of DEP activities on a regular basis.
- VI. Revising objectives and activities based on the evaluations.

Goals and Indicators

Goal #1: Sustain, conserve, protect, enhance and restore Pennsylvania's environment, natural resources and ecological diversity.

Indicators:

- A. The number of lakes and surface water stream miles supporting their designated use for aquatic life.
- B. The number of designated groundwater sampling points for each groundwater basin located in the watershed that meets the primary drinking water standards.
- C. The number of water resources being used beyond their sustainable yield.
- D. The acres of land by use.
- E. The number of days, and the number of Pennsylvanians affected when air quality does not meet health standards.
- F. The index of ecological diversity.
- G. The number of ecosystems or species threatened or endangered by environmental conditions.
- H. The quantity of waste (by type) generated, recycled, re-used and eliminated.

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

Indicators:

- A. The quantity of pollutants released to the air, land and water.

- B. The annual mean pH of Pennsylvania's precipitation.
- C. The number of public water supply systems meeting all drinking water standards & maximum contaminant levels.
- D. The quantity of waste disposed (by type, such as municipal, residual, hazardous, infectious and chemotherapeutic and radioactive)
- E. Energy use by fuel type.
- F. The number of lives lost and property damaged from floods and from mining.

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

Indicators:

- A. The number of businesses/commercial activities, government agencies, communities and individuals implementing sustainable practices.
- B. The number of community-based groups performing activities toward improving their environment.
- C. The level of environmental literacy of Pennsylvanians.

EFP2 Watershed Teams

Thirty-four watershed teams have been established to address the indicators at a watershed scale.

Each team has a leader and is made up of DEP staff representing various environmental programs. The team also will identify key stakeholders in the watershed 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 team will work to identify the baseline conditions in the environment using available information. Once the baseline has been established, the team will ask for feedback and make adjustments if appropriate. The team will use the information on existing conditions to prioritize the environmental problems that should be addressed first, and the stakeholders and public will have a chance to comment on the priority list. Priorities will be combined in a statewide list.

Environmental conditions will drive DEP staff resources and budget decisions, and will also show where community groups, local governments, farmers and others need to work with DEP to address environmental priorities.

The DEP Watershed Manager for our watershed identified as 2D, 3G (Delaware Estuary) is Jim Grabusky. He can be reached at the following: jgrabusky@state.pa.us or call (610) 832-6191.

**Is Our Watershed Healthy?
Learn More: www.PaWatersheds.org**

GreenWorks Features Radnor Environmental Programs

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problems. Boulders, recycled from construction at Radnor Elementary School, were installed along the perimeter of the park along with a healthy dose of large sugar and red maple trees. A recent improvement is a small bridge installed by Boy Scouts over a tributary to Darby Creek at the park's downstream border.

Additionally, a wildflower garden, the brainstorm of Radnor's special projects director Burt Grossman, was just planted.

The GreenWorks crew left Radnor at dusk with several hours of excellent footage noting Radnor's many environmental success stories. The successes are an example of what local partnerships can accomplish as stewards of the environment. Look for the GreenWorks video production this Fall.

Stream Assessment

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Darby or Crum Creeks or (2) 2½ days, about 16 hours, to be team leaders who will attend a 4-hour training session Sunday October 6 or Saturday October 12, do follow up stream assessment, plus all the work of regular volunteers.

Volunteers will be trained in what to look for, then given forms on which to record the width of protective vegetation along the stream, extent of tree canopy, bank stability, channel conditions, fish and invertebrate habitat. They will record storm sewer outfalls and structures that discharge to the stream. They will take pictures. Their data will be entered into a computer to generate a comprehensive report on stream health that will be available for use by the communities.

If you have the time and would like to learn what to look for in a stream, call and volunteer (you do not need to live in any of these townships):

Radnor: Dan Malloy, 610-688-5600

Newtown: Joe Standen, 610-356-0200

Marple: Bill Brainerd, 610-356-4040 or 610-325-3127

Haverford: Joe Martin, 215-895-2363

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is coordinating the project.

Get Free Car Check!

The Departments of Transportation (PennDOT) and DEP are conducting a free, voluntary vehicle emissions pilot program to test the performance of Onboard Diagnostics (OBD) checks. Drivers who have vehicles registered in 17 counties are encouraged to participate. If you are having your car inspected for safety or having routine maintenance/repair work performed, why not ensure your emissions-related systems are working as well? The free car checks are available at two inspection stations in each of the following counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, Westmoreland, Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, York, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia.

Model year 1996 and newer gasoline vehicles will receive an OBD check and a gas cap leak check. Drivers whose vehicles are older than 1996 (and without the OBD computer connection) can have just the gas cap leak check and a visual emissions inspection performed. The agencies hope to collect data from 12,000 vehicles. During the free tests, an inspector will attach a cable to your vehicle's onboard computer to see if any emissions equipment is damaged or otherwise malfunctioning. If the OBD system detects a problem, a diagnostic trouble code will be stored in the vehicle's computer helping the inspector to properly diagnose problems.

If your car's dashboard is already displaying a "Check Engine," "Service Engine Soon," or an engine symbol light, your data would be particularly valuable. The free check does not affect the result of any official inspection. You do not have to perform repairs as a result of this voluntary OBD check (but it would be a good idea for the environment).

Find out what stations in these counties are offering the checks and more information on the OBD I/M Check Pilot at www.drivecleanpa.state.pa.us/drivecleanpa/info_obd.htm. Contact Arleen Shulman or Brian Trowbridge at (717) 787-9495 for more information.

President's Pen

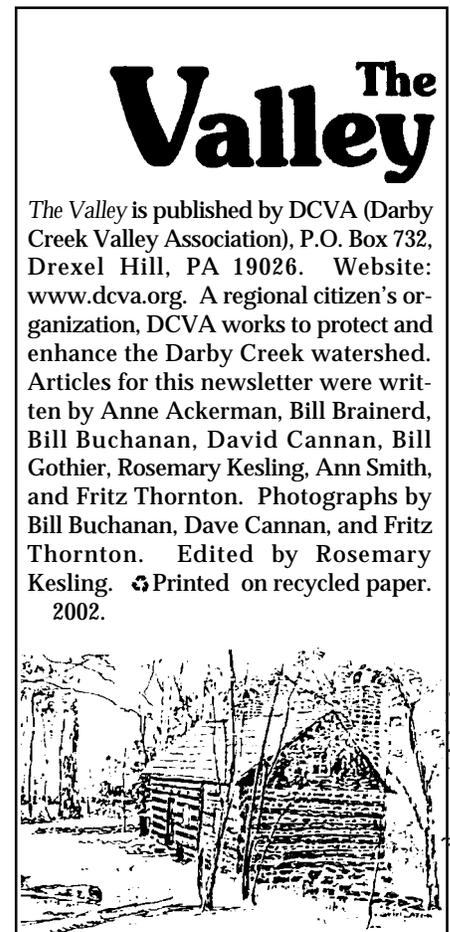
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Darby Creek Valley. How does such planning benefit any community?

We talk of climate changes, global warming, finite water supplies, etc., but our leaders still OK questionable construction, filling flood plains and wetlands—decisions based on old computer models, past history and dollars such projects are supposed to bring in over the often hidden costs to the community.

We activists should call for a moratorium on all construction and paving until our communities can be assured we're not trading short term tax and political dollars for long term polluted landfills, downstream flooding, drought and inadequate supplies of our utility resources such as water, sewer, gas and electricity.

Fritz Thornton



The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcv.org. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Bill Brainerd, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Bill Gothier, Rosemary Kesling, Ann Smith, and Fritz Thornton. Photographs by Bill Buchanan, Dave Cannan, and Fritz Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2002.

Water Monitoring Day

National Water Monitoring Day is October 18. It is a nationwide event to educate the public about water quality issues and the role of volunteer watershed monitors. A snapshot of water quality will be taken to document improvements made in the 30 years since the passage of the Clean Water Act.

America's Clean Water Foundation, the lead agency for the event, is patterning it after Pennsylvania's annual "Watershed Snapshot." The Foundation is working with federal and state agencies, including PA DEP's Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program.

Monitors are asked to test water for a core set of water quality parameters and to enter data on a "Year of Clean Water" website: www.yearofcleanwater.org.

To register for the event, order a monitoring kit, or get more information, visit the website. For information on Pennsylvania activities, contact Diane Wilson at 717 787-3730 or e-mail diawilson@state.pa.us.

PA Land Trust Association Establishes New Email Address

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) is a statewide nonprofit organization that networks with all types of organizations working to promote voluntary land conservation. PALTA supports the work of land trust efforts by building a positive climate for land conservation in the Commonwealth, and can be a great resource for watershed groups looking to protect riparian land areas.

PALTA's Executive Director, Andy Loza, has recently acquired a new email address. If you need to communicate with Andy or the organization, please contact the PA Land Trust Association at 105 Locust St., Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 230-8560 or info@conserveland.org.

The organization is supported in part by memberships and would welcome your support.

Upcoming Conferences:

Pennsylvania Community Forestry Conference: A Better Understanding of Urban Forests and their Care." October 17-18, 2002, Atherton Hotel, State College. For more information, call (814) 863-7941.

Third Annual Goddard Forum: "Biodiversity: Addressing a Global Issue Locally." December 5-6, 2002, Days Inn Penn State, State College. For more information, including information about receiving teacher education graduate credit, call Robert McKinstry at (814) 865-9390.

Third Statewide Volunteer Monitoring Summit. February 21-22, 2003, at Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. Aimed at volunteer monitors, watershed associations, wildlife organizations, municipal officials, agency representatives, educators and students. For information contact POWR at (717) 234-7910 or visit www.pawatersheds.org

JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

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

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Your Municipality _____

Representative (if organization member) _____

Type of Membership:

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

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

CALENDAR

- Friday, October 18, 2002 National Water Monitoring Day
- Saturday, October 19, 2002 DCVA Board Meeting. 9 a.m.
Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield
- Saturday, October 19, 2002 Cabin Crafts & Friendship Day at the Swedish Cabin
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, October 26, 2002 DCEN Conference. 9 am to 1 pm.
Delaware County Institute of Science, Media.
- Saturday, October 31, 2002 Deadline to apply for Delaware County Conservation District
Mini-Grants
- Saturday, November 16, 2002 DCVA Fall Social and Silent Auction.
Details to be announced soon!

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