



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

It is an exciting time in the Darby Creek watershed and for our organization. We are nearing the end of our quest for the Darby Creek Conservation Plan, which will identify both the most challenged parts of our watershed and its greatest assets.

With the completion of the plan, we will be moving from an organization whose focus has been understanding the watershed and identifying its most significant challenges and assets, to an organization that is moving toward improving and preserving the watershed's resources for future generations.

Shortly the collective consciousness of all of the people living in the urbanized areas of Pennsylvania will be raised regarding the effects storm water has on the water quality of our streams. They will be informed about how their activities can directly affect water quality in their watershed. This education is required to be performed by their municipalities because of Phase II of the US EPA's NPDES program. The municipi-

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Annual Cleanup Will Be April 26th

DCVA's annual creek cleanup will be Saturday April 26th from 8 am to 1 pm. This is our 19th cleanup, but there is still work to do. We need everyone's help. Please join in the effort by meeting other volunteers at a site near you. The list of area captains is on page 3. If you have any questions, call the chair of the cleanup, Tom Houghton, at 610 268-1414, or one of the section captains.

**The Darby Creek Heritage Greenway
Is Keystone of the Darby Creek Watershed
Conservation Plan**

The Conservation Plan is scheduled to be completed in May in celebration of Watershed Awareness Month in the Commonwealth. The concept of the greenway will serve as the catalyst for implementing the goals of the Conservation Plan.

Meetings have been and will be held over the next few weeks to finalize public and municipal input for the plan. Municipalities will then be asked to pass resolutions of support which will enhance each municipality's future applications for funding.

The first implementation project will be for the DCVA in partnership with the municipalities and the Delaware County Planning Department to file application for funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the development of a greenway linking municipalities and residents from the headwaters to the Delaware River in a mission of local stewardship.

This is an exciting time for the Darby Creek Watershed. The plan has been developed with unprecedented municipal and public participation and support from a multitude of resources. The plan is a milestone in the history of the Darby Creek Watershed and is evidence of what people can do when they share a common mission. Implementation will be our gift to future generations. We invite all residents to join us in making the dream a reality.

It's Streamwatch Time Again!

On Saturday, April 19, we will be hip deep in water collecting insects from Darby Creek. Why insects? I'll tell you. Collecting insects is easy. You get in the water with a net, you shake up the bottom, and then you see what kinds of insects get caught in the net. The type of insects we collect tells us if the water quality is acceptable, or impaired. There are some insects that need high quality water and others that do not. If we collect a lot of mayflies, for example, that is a pretty good indication that the water quality at that site is pretty good. Mayflies cannot live in stressed or polluted water. Collecting insects is a really simple way to gather important information about the water quality of Darby Creek.

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Darby Creek Valley Association Wins State Award

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) has selected the Darby Creek Valley Association as winner of its annual Service Group Award competition.

PRPS presented the Service Group Award during an awards ceremony at the 56th Annual PRPS State Conference held this year in State College, PA. Mr. Derron LaBrake, new President of the Darby Creek Valley Association accepted the award on behalf of DCVA and President Emeritus, Fritz Thornton, who was unable to attend.

"Recipients of this award have made outstanding contributions or demonstrated an ongoing commitment to some facet of the field of recreation, parks and leisure," according to Susan Lohoefer, Chairperson of the PRPS Recognition and Awards Committee. "Each has been selected by comparing credentials to stringent criteria established by the Society."

Tim Denny, Haverford Township Parks & Recreation Director, prepared the winning submission. Tim wrote, "The value of the Darby Creek Valley Association is evident in its commitment to the Valley in the past, present and future. The Association wants to retain the remaining natural "wildness" of the watershed and to work toward the recreational use of the entire 30-miles of valley as parkland...Paths for hiking, jogging and bicycling, summer fishing and boating, winter ice-skating and cross-country skiing are part of the long-range plan." Tim continued, "DCVA envisions a day when there will exist a valley-long park for all Delaware County residents to enjoy and will continue to work with concerned state, county and local municipalities and authorities, until the park becomes a reality. In the meantime, DCVA volunteers in communities throughout the watershed are working hard to monitor and improve the health of the Darby Creek and its surroundings."

PRPS is the principal professional organization promoting quality recreation and park opportunities for all citizens of the Commonwealth through education, training, technical assistance and other support to local, county, state and national recreation and park providers. The Society is a non-profit membership association with more than 1,800 members statewide.

Editor's Note: Thanks, Tim! This is a great honor for us. We appreciate your many contributions to the preservation of our Darby Creek Watershed!



New DCVA President Derron LaBrake (right) holds award presented to our organization by Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Society. Tim Denny (left) DCVA member and Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Director, nominated DCVA for this honor.

Meet DCVA's New President: Derron LaBrake

Derron L. LaBrake, P.W. S. (shown in picture at left accepting Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society award), has lived in Haverford Township with his wife and three daughters since 1994. They sold their house and moved here from East Pikeland Township in northern Chester County where Derron grew up and lived for over 30 years.

While living in East Pikeland, Derron served on the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee. He has always believed that it is important for environmental professionals to be involved in their communities, lending their knowledge and experience to their neighbors.

Derron is a Graduate of West Chester University with a Bachelors Degree in Biology with an Ecology concentration. He has been working as a Consulting Ecologist since 1987. In 1994, he became a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist. Over his 15+ year career, Derron has worked on environmental projects all over the U.S. that have involved wetlands, ecological risk assessment, and hazardous waste investigations. Most of his work has been in southeastern Pennsylvania and central New Jersey. He has performed ecological assessments on everything from tidal marshes, streams and rivers, to wetlands and mature forests. He brings a unique level of professional experience to the DCVA, with his knowledge of both state and federal regulatory programs and his knowledge of the habitats of southeastern Pennsylvania. Derron currently works for Schoor DePalma, Inc. out of their Kulpville, PA office as a consulting Ecologist. He is currently working on a dam removal project in Upper Merion Township and a stream relocation project in Middletown Township (Bucks County).

Welcome New Members

Bruce Bayne, Ardmore
Day-Temp Corporation, Lansdowne
Victoria Donohoe, Narberth
Carl DuPoldt, Edgemont
McCall Country Club, Upper Darby
J. Andy Smith, III, Devon

Creek Cleanup Contact List

Saturday, April 26, 2003.

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rain or shine.

General Chairman:

Tom Houghton, 610 268-1414

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

Glendale Park, Havertown:

Tim Denny, 610 446-2672, Ext. 8

Naylor's Run, Upper Darby:

Pete Leahy, 610 622-0320

Springfield Swim Club, Springfield:

Dave Damon, 610 544-5432

Kent Park, Clifton Heights:

John Pecko, 610 622-5456

Powell Park, Darby:

John Haigis, 610 583-0788

Glenolden:

Joe Selfridge, 610 586-1740

Idle Hour Tennis Club, Drexel Hill:

John Buggy, 610 446-8048

Brookside Park, Fox Run:

John Isdell, 610 325-9633

Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum:

Cyrus Brahme, 215 365-3118

(This year the cleanup at the Refuge is on Saturday April 19, one week prior to the general cleanup.)

DCVA and Friends of the Swedish Cabin to Have Picnic

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin have invited DCVA members to join them for a potluck picnic at the historic cabin located adjacent to the Darby Creek in Drexel Hill. The picnic will be Sunday, June 15th, at 2 p.m. Those with names A-M bring salad or appetizer; N-Z bring desert. Drinks and meat will be provided. Call 610 623-1650 for more information. The Cabin is one of many historic treasures in the watershed. The partnership among the Township of Upper Darby, the Friends of the Swedish Cabin and the Upper Darby Historical Society and township residents is an example of what local stewardship can accomplish.

Robin Mann Awarded Ribbon of Green; Addresses DCVA at Annual Meeting

Robin Mann is a Director of the Southeastern Pennsylvania group of the Sierra Club. She is an authority on water issues. DCVA President Fritz Thornton presented her with the Bob Doherty Ribbon of Green Award at our January 25, 2003, annual meeting.

In her address, Robin acknowledged that the Sierra Club, because of its size, must focus on environmental policy and law, pressing government for enforcement. She commended DCVA for personal involvement with Darby Creek, a habit of stewardship the Club can't often afford.

Robin commented on a number of issues: local, state, and national. The following issues in Southeastern Pennsylvania are of concern to her:

1. Toll Brothers' Valley Forge Development. Negotiations between Toll Brothers and the National Park Service are on hold. Reportedly a price for the land Toll Brothers owns inside the National Historic Park has been agreed on, but Congress has yet to appropriate the money.
2. Venice Island Development, Manayunk. The Philadelphia Zoning Hearing Board approved a rezoning to let residences be built on this Schuylkill River Island wholly in a floodplain. Common Pleas Court reversed the ZHB. Commonwealth Court reversed Common Pleas Court, a decision it is being asked to reconsider. The case may go to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Robin would prefer to see the Island restored to its natural state.

Pennsylvania issues: Pennsylvania has better water laws than most states, despite flaws in the recently passed Water Resources Planning law. Robin is optimistic about the Rendell administration and its nominee to head the Department of Environmental Protection, Kathleen McGinty,

who comes to Harrisburg without apparent debts to pay. Bill Frasci stated his concern that DEP is funding non-profit organizations, threatening those groups' independence. Robin agreed that this could be a problem, adding that some Growing Greener grants are given to groups with political connections. She said the Sierra Club accepts no government money.

National Issues. In 2001 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the federal government couldn't stop an Illinois landfill from harming an isolated wetland. Now the Bush administration has issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that states its intention to remove from Clean Water Act protection not just isolated wetlands but intermittent and ephemeral streams. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates 20% of the nation's wetlands, 20,000,000 acres, could be left defenseless. Robin credits EPA head Christie Whitman for keeping the Advance Notice from being even worse although the final rule hasn't been published. These wetlands now will be protected by state and local law or not at all.

Congratulations to Robin and thanks to her for her work to protect our environment and for her continued involvement in the DCVA over the years.



At DCVA's annual meeting, Fritz Thornton presents Robin Mann with the Ribbon of Green Award.

Darby Borough Celebrates "History with a Future"

What do Hot Air Balloons, Rubber Ducks and "The Peaceable Kingdom" have in common? They all will be part of the Darby Borough Sesqui-Centennial Celebration on May 2-4, 2003.

"Settled in 1682, Darby Borough was incorporated on May 3, 1853, and the 150th Anniversary of that incorporation is a good opportunity to celebrate Darby's past, present and future and have fun" said John Haigis, who is helping to coordinate the celebration. "We were once all part of Darby and we are looking forward to being able to celebrate some of the area's treasures."

The theme of the event is "History with a Future" and the schedule of events includes an essay and poster contest in the schools; a free concert on Friday, May 2; a community fair and flea market on Saturday, May 4th with historic tours and displays; a Dance Saturday night; and a dedication of Bartram Park and a Darby Rubber Duck Derby on Sunday, May 4. A historic pageant being written centers on the role of Darby Creek as a cradle of liberty.

Additional information can be found on the web site www.Darbyhistory.com

EarthFest 2003 To Be Held in Radnor April 26

DCVA member Dave Cannan announces a major Earth Day event sponsored by Main Line Unitarian Church (MLUC) to be held Saturday, April 26th, 10 am-5 pm, at Dittmar Park in Radnor Township

Leaders of the MLUC's Environmental Task Force decided they wanted to do something really special for this year's Earth Day. Several brainstorming sessions resulted in the creation of an environmental event that will not only be fun for people of all ages but will provide a variety of ways for people to learn how to save money while making a difference for the planet with everyday choices.

Featured events will include a solar home exhibit, a juried environmental art show, a children's "Walk for Wind Power," an interactive watershed display, solar and hybrid vehicle exhibit, and speakers, games, music, and food.

"Scheduling issues have led to this exciting event to be held on the same day as the Darby Creek Valley Association's annual creek cleanup," noted Cannan. "But the Earth Day activities will be going on until 5 p.m. and so DCVA members and other volunteers are encouraged to stop by after the cleanup."

For more information contact Dave Cannan at 610-745-6843 or davecannan@aol.com

Earth Day Every Day in the Darby Creek Watershed: the theme for this year's Earth Day, April 22, is "Sustainability for Pennsylvania—It's In Our Hands." Sustainability is one of the goals of our DCVA education program. Join in our many activities as we spring into summer in our Watershed.

Heinz Refuge Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Refuge System



The John Heinz National wildlife Refuge at Tinicum celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System on Friday, March 14, 2003, with participants representing Congress, local schools, staff, volunteers, and friends of the Refuge. The primary focus was the placing of various articles into a time capsule that will not be opened until March 14, 2103. In the photo above, Fritz Thornton puts a copy of Friends of Heinz Refuge President, Jean Diehl's, statement into the time capsule. Behind Fritz is Cyrus Brame, refuge staff member who was refuge centennial coordinator.

Historical Society Events

Celebrate the Early Days at Collen Brook: Life on the Farm" on Sunday, June 1, 2003, from 1 to 4 p.m. Watch sheep sheering, candle making, quilting, cider making, colonial food preparation, apple butter making, blacksmithing, beekeeping with live exhibit, soap making, demonstrations of farm tools and early Indian tools, open air museum of old farming equipment, early children's games, children's picture taking in colonial dress on old wagon, storytellers, items to buy, refreshments, strolling fiddler, tours of house and grounds! Collen Brook is located at Marvine Road and Mansion Avenue in Drexel Hill.

On Thursday May 8th, attend the Open House at the Sellers Library, 75 State Road in Upper Darby. From 3-8 pm see the wonderful archival collection about the history of the area.

For a calendar of other historical society events in the watershed, call Anne Ackerman at 610 449-9095.

The Overnight Adventure of Friends Central Students

By Zachary Lobb, 8th Grade

On Thursday March sixth, a group of Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Graders set out on an overnight adventure in the Delaware Bay. Their goals for the adventure were to gain a better understanding of the importance of the Bay and the species residing in it.

Dawn came, damp and dreary, with rainstorms in the forecast. Arriving around 8:35, the watershed adventurers began the day with a discussion of the upcoming adventure. After briefly discussing our plans for the days ahead, we marched to the cafeteria to remove our provisions from the freezer. As adventurers lugged their baggage to the awaiting bus, the accompanying Eighth Graders erupted in cheers of support and excitement. The loading process took roughly half an hour. Adventurers ran back and forth in an attempt to speed the loading process, which only resulted in confusion.

Once we had clambered aboard the bus, the Eighth grade team consisting of Lara, Sarah, Sam, and Zach took attendance and confirmed the presence of each and every adventurer. We were off. The bus ride was uneventful, a quiet drive to Smyrna, Delaware. The rain continued right through the morning, heavy at times but causing no real travel delays. Through the ride, the fifth graders amused themselves by playing several intense rounds of the MAGIC card game, all of which came to a brutal and exciting end. In the eighth grade section of the bus, there was little to be heard.

Arriving just before Lunchtime, the Eighth Graders amused themselves with spiteful jokes about their unsophisticated surroundings, while the rest of the party began the unloading process. The party was pleasantly surprised to find a clean house filled with charming Pirate memorabilia. We were promptly greeted by our buccaneer host Captain Bob, who proceeded to lay down the ground rules.

After we were safely inside, and out of the weather, the Eighth Graders, along with Mr. Ross and our Guest Parent, Mrs. Glen ventured upstairs to claim sleeping quarters. We were

pleased to find several rooms, all with sufficient bed space. While the eighth graders opted to sleep alone, Mr. Ross conceded to share a room with several fifth graders, and Ms. Hensel and Mrs. Glen shared quarters with the girls.

Lunch was lively, and the energetic munching was interspersed with sporadic laughter and animated giggling. The Eighth Graders were involved in a heated debate about the elusive host Captain Bob and what his duties in the house might consist of. Following lunch, the entire group set out for the aquatic studies center.

After weathering the storm, the adventurers stumbled into the aquatic center, dripping with rain and marsh water. Once we had removed our rain gear, we spread out to several activity stations, all related to marsh ecology. The majority of the group moved through the activities with ease, while Sam and Zach struggled to construct numerous wooden creatures. The activity ended in disaster, though several interesting hybrid species emerged amidst the confusion. In the end, we learned several things:

-The bay and surrounding marshland serve as a habitat for species vital to our ecosystem

-The loss of species, however minor it may seem, can have severe and drastic effects that may be irreversible on the existing ecosystem (all creatures serve a purpose)

-Horseshoe crabs have been around for millions of years, during which they have changed very little; their blood is used in several medications

-Marshes are vital to our planet because they serve as a habitat for many animals, and are also a natural water filter, which naturally purifies the surrounding water

Again, we weathered the storm, arriving home wet and shivering, though we had learned a good deal about the aquatic species inhabiting the Delaware Bay. While Jordan made a fire, several kids returned to their beds to get some rest. As the rest of the group was resting, Adam and several other adventurers played a quick game of Risk. As evening approached, the rest of the ad-

venturers gradually assembled around the fire.

As the team of cooks began to plan out the evening meal, Mr. Ross along with a group of die-hard adventurers set out in search of the bay. After the trekkers had left, the cooking team got to work, planning a hearty meal consisting of meatball subs, pizza, and fruit salad.

Once dinner was done, and the kitchen had been cleaned, the group received a bit more free time before returning to the living room for a group meeting in which we discussed what we had learned. We were pleased to hear that everyone had enjoyed the day. We also discussed tidal flooding. While it creates travel complications, tidal flooding helps cleanse the landscape around any tidal body of water. Once we had concluded our discussion, we listened to a couple scary stories, and then had dessert.

Once after dinner activities concluded, the adventurers finally made the trek up to bed. The night was long and there were no extraordinary occurrences, though Sam blessed us with some comical madness, before he too, hit the sack.

The morning arrived, sunny and bright. Breakfast consisted of pancakes, waffles, and cereal devoid of milk. Today's meal was short and quiet, followed by a thorough clean up. The adventurers then made their merry ways upstairs to pack up in preparation for departure.

Once everyone had packed, we assembled outside for a game of *Migration*. *Migration* depicts the importance of tidal wetlands by showing what occurs when they are destroyed. When wetlands are destroyed, migratory birds no longer have a safe place to rest and are forced to not migrate. This means they may freeze, and the effects can be horrible. In the end, only Lara and Jillian successfully migrated.

Once all the baggage was stowed, we pulled out. In two days, we had learned how tremendously important the marshlands are to our planet. As well as learning about marshlands, we learned a lot about teamwork and had a good time.

With almost 60 attendees DCVA Annual Conference Outgrows Facilities of the Springfield Peace Center

With a "full house" in the serene setting of the Springfield Peace Center, representatives from the watershed at large joined together for the 14th annual Darby Creek Watershed Conference.

"The Stream that Binds Us," the new color video which focuses on the Darby Creek watershed was introduced by Joanne Dahme of the Darby-Cobbs Partnership (see articles on the next page about the video and about the Partnership.) The video will be used to introduce residents to the beauty of the watershed, the multitude of available resources and the many projects underway to protect and enhance the watershed. It was great to see our own Tom Houghton, Bill Frasch and Fritz Thornton "on screen," and to hear John and Jan Haigis who provide the musical introduction and connecting theme for the video with their rendition of the "Darby Creek Valley" (words they wrote to the tune of "Red River Valley.") Scenes included the Heinz Refuge and annual clean-ups, the historic Swedish cabin, chemical monitoring by area students, the new Cobbs Creek Environmental Education Center in West Philadelphia, residents describing their efforts to protect the Muckinapattis and Hermesprota Creeks, a beautiful community garden cared for by local residents, the Cobbs Creek Golf Course—an example of integrated pest management, and Radnor Middle School stu-

dents sharing their activities in Skunk Hollow Park with visiting students from the city.

The DCVA has several copies of the video which will be available as part of our May celebration of Pennsylvania Watershed Awareness Month.

Diane Kripas from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources spoke on "Why Greenways Now" and plans for funding for the Darby Creek Heritage Greenway, the keystone of the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. The goal is for the Darby Creek Greenway to be the pilot greenway for Delaware County as part of the Commonwealth's proposed network of greenways across the state. Over the next several months, the DCVA in partnership with the municipalities will be working with the Delaware County Planning Department and DCNR to develop a scope of work for the proposed project.

Jennifer Wesson and Eugene Briggs gave an excellent presentation outlining the Renaissance Program and Open Space Mapping developed by Delaware County Council (see also article on page 8) Many expressed concern that although the Renaissance Program was to focus on economic revitalization, little

emphasis was placed on open space. Gene Briggs said that that was the decision of the officials and residents living in the individual municipalities, and was not a decision of the County's. He advised the DCVA and individuals attending to let County Council know of their concerns about the preservation of open space in the eastern corridor of the county. The DCVA will follow up on the request of those attending to know who the members of the respective Task Forces are.

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Update of the Delaware County Planning Department's Open Space Mapping and Renaissance Initiatives presented at the 14th Annual Darby Creek Watershed Conference sponsored by the Darby Creek Valley Association. (Left to Right): Eugene C. Briggs, Manager of the Policy Section, and Jennifer Wesson, Senior Planner of the Environmental Section, of the Delaware County Planning Department.



Doug Ross and his students from Friends Central Middle School tell conference attendees about their environmental studies on a tributary of Darby Creek.



Karen Holm, Delaware County Planning Department, gives an update on the status of the Stormwater Management Plan for the Darby Creek.

The Darby Cobbs Watershed Video: "The Stream that Binds Us"

In January 2003, the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership, which includes state, county and municipal representatives as well as grassroots and nonprofit organizations, released a video entitled "The Stream That Binds Us." The video, produced by GreenWorks, was made possible through a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program.

The video was done following a survey conducted in the fall of 2001, which was created to educate area residents about how their actions impact the Darby-Cobbs watershed and to learn their opinions, concerns and level of awareness about the Darby-Cobbs watershed. These surveys were distributed to schools, libraries, municipalities, EACs and watershed groups to share with residents within the Darby-Cobbs watershed. 342 completed surveys were returned. The results were analyzed, and the areas of watershed education needed were assessed. Some of those who filled out surveys were interviewed for the video.

The video explains the watershed concept and how people can work together to improve the water quality of the Darby-Cobbs, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. As it says on the video box, "We are all part of nature's grand scheme, and each of us can make a positive difference."

The partnership intends to make copies available to schools and libraries within the watershed. The video will also be presented to civic and community groups, homeowners associations, and service club meetings with brief presentations by Partnership members. Also, the Partnership will request some time at Township and Borough Board and Commissioners' meetings to share the video and discuss the long-term goals of the Partnership.

The video can be downloaded from the Partnership website at www.phillywater.org/Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership/Education.

The Darby Cobbs Watershed Partnership Update

The Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership and the Cobbs Watershed Management Plan Focus group are moving forward with the next steps in the creation of the Cobbs Watershed Management Plan. The Management Plan is intended to be a comprehensive document that combines both the input and requirements from a wide range of regulatory and grassroots plans and other programs that affect the watershed. It will draw scientific and technical data, public input, as well as data from a wide range of sources, including Delaware County's Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan, the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan, the Sewage Facilities Plan and others. In addition, the Management Plan relies on extensive data (and modeling of that data) collected by the Philadelphia Water Department and its consultants on behalf of the Darby-Cobbs Partnership. The Management Plan will also incorporate requirements relative to the NPDES Phase II permitting and potentially the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load for the watershed.

In the fall of 2002, the Darby-Cobbs Steering Committee created a list of 10 major goals for the watershed, drawn from public meetings, the Act 167 and River Conservation Plan process, as well as meetings hosted by the Partnership over the past 2 years. The goals also reflected regulatory program goals. A focus group was convened in November of this year. This group was presented with the list of 10 major watershed goals and asked to indicate the importance or weight of each goal by assigning points to each.

Since the meeting, the facilitator-consultant has been using the results to develop an alternatives analysis. On April 15th, this group will re-convene to participate in a weighting exercise to select the criteria to determine the top priority management alternatives. At the upcoming meeting the focus group narrow down these management alternatives from ten to a final list of four or five.

The Public Participation Committee is inviting municipal officials and civic leaders in the Cobbs Creek basin to par-

ticipate in a Cobbs Creek Bus Tour. The Saturday May 3rd event is designed to familiarize municipal officials and civic leaders with the *breadth* of resources in the watershed and to *engage* them more fully in development of the Management Plan. This event is intended to provide a more intimate connection with the watershed, the issues and their fellow stakeholders. Several presentations will be given during the course of the day to demonstrate to participants how the Management Plan can address local quality of life issues as well as meeting regulatory requirements. The tour will begin at the headwaters of Cobbs Creek in Haverford Township, and will wind downstream to the confluence of the Darby and Cobbs Creeks in Colwyn. Several stops will be made along the way highlighting significant sites in the watershed and will conclude at the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center, where a community watershed celebration will be taking place.

For more information on the Partnership, visit www.phillywater.org/darby-cobbs/.

EPA Remedial Project Manager Will Speak at DCVA Meeting

Kristine Matzko, EPA Remedial Project Manager, has accepted our invitation to present up-to-date information concerning the Superfund site in the Lower Darby Creek at our next DCVA meeting. The meeting, Saturday May 17, 2003, will be held at Springfield Friends Meeting at 9 am. Kristine transferred from the Office of Watersheds, EPA Region III, to her present position in the Fall of 2002.

Kristine will also contact the new Community Involvement Coordinator at EPA and invite her to attend our meeting.

All members and guests are encouraged to join board members at this informative session.

Delaware County Council's Plan to Revitalize the County: The Open Space Mapping Program and the Renaissance Program

In the County Council Chairman's Message for 2002, John J. McFadden laid the framework for both the Open Space Mapping Program and the Renaissance Program. He enumerated open space acquisitions and lauded the activities of the Open Space Task Force led by Councilman Andrew Reilly. Chairman McFadden also announced "the beginning of the renaissance of Delaware County." He described Council's plan - "to revitalize our County and fight our greatest challenge, the slow downward spiral of some communities in eastern and southern Delaware County."

County Council's two-pronged, Countywide approach was designed to address the diverse needs of both its developing and developed communities, to deal with both sprawl and blight. The objective is to encourage the County's 49 municipalities to create strategic plans for protecting their most important remaining open properties while promoting orderly land development and revitalization. This major land use initiative is aimed at conserving open space in 20 western and northern municipalities while promoting redevelopment in the other 29 municipalities in the eastern and southern parts of the County.

To carry out the Open Space Mapping Program, Delaware County Council initiated a partnership between the County Planning Department and Natural Lands Trust (NLT), a locally based, nationally recognized conservation agency. Staff from the two agencies are taking a team approach to the three-phase Program.

In June 2002, the first phase of the Program commenced as governing bodies of the 20 eligible municipalities were asked to request that the Planning Department-NLT team prepare digital, geographic information system (GIS) maps of their existing protected lands and natural resources. The team then began to meet with local officials to assist them in deriving land preservation and planning conclusions from the map findings.

With the data collected, NLT has

begun work on Phase Two, the creation of a series of planned open space network maps reflecting the community's vision of its future landscape. Municipal representatives will prioritize lands for acquisition or protection as well as choose an additional feature of their landscape (i.e. trails, scenic views, riparian buffers) to be mapped.

The costs for Phase One and Two will be borne by the County. During an optional Phase Three, NLT will be available to provide, at municipal expense, follow-up services. Among these will be its *Growing Greener- Conservation by Design* program, technical assistance with open space acquisition, and development of land management plans.

The timetable for completion of a municipality's mapping will depend on the availability of local officials for meetings/work sessions, the extent of the data that is accessible, and the depth to which the community wishes to pursue open space related issues. For more information on the Open Space Mapping Program please contact Jennifer Wesson by telephone at 610-891-5130 or via email at wessonj@co.delaware.pa.us.

The Renaissance Program consists of two phases, planning and implementation. On behalf of County Council, the Planning Department has been entrusted with administration of the planning phase of the Renaissance Program; these efforts are being coordinated by the Department's Policy section.

The first phase provides funding for the development of five Renaissance Action Plans that address the economic development and revitalization needs of the County's 29 eastern and southern municipalities which have been grouped into corresponding Renaissance Planning Areas (RPAs). For each RPA, the County hired a consultant to work with a Task Force of constituents to identify needs and prioritize projects that address the five critical elements of the Action Plan. These five critical elements include economic development, housing, infrastructure, transportation, and public safety.

The objective of each Action Plan is to map out a five-year revitalization strategy for the RPA by preparing a prioritized list of implementable projects that work toward sustainable economic development. Each Action Plan identifies a locally agreed upon common revitalization vision and set of goals that achieve that vision. More importantly, each Action Plan identifies specific RPA projects and programs with the level of detail necessary for the municipalities to pursue a multitude of funding opportunities. The five Action Plans were completed at the end of March and presented to County Council in early April.

County Council will soon consider the highest priority projects of each RPA for funding under the second phase of the program. County Council has set aside \$1 million to help the 29 municipalities leverage other funding to complete the projects. For more information on Phase Two of the Renaissance Program, please contact Eugene C. Briggs by telephone at 610-891-5218 or via email at briggse@co.delaware.pa.us.

Settlement Proposed Between PennPIRG and Tincum

Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group (PennPIRG) and Tincum Township have filed a proposed settlement of the litigation regarding the operation of the township's sewage treatment plant. The proposed consent decree, which has been filed with the U.S. district court, requires Tincum to complete construction of a new settling tank no later than January 30, 2004. The new settling tank should resolve Tincum's violation of its biochemical oxygen depleting (BOD) materials permit limits. BOD robs water of the dissolved oxygen that is vital to aquatic life. The court and the U.S. Department of Justice are reviewing the proposed consent decree.

COMMENTARY

On this page are two opinion articles about the county Renaissance program submitted by members of DCVA's board of directors. If you would like to submit a letter to the editor or an op-ed piece about an issue of interest to DCVA members, you are encouraged to do so. Please mail your article to Rosemary Kesling at 248 Friendship Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, or email your article to kesling@voicenet.com. (E-mail is preferred. Please put "DCVA" in the subject line of the email.) The Valley is published three times a year, in January, April, and September. The views expressed are those of the writers and not of the organization.

Comments on the Renaissance Plan

By John Furth

About a year ago Delaware County announced with great fanfare a Renaissance Program. The purpose of the program was to engender a "rebirth" of 29 municipalities in eastern and southern Delaware County. The remaining 20 municipalities in central, northern and western Delaware County were to be included in open space preservation and land use initiative. In announcing the project, County Council Chairman John J. McFadden said "public input is necessary for the success of the program which encourages economic development and community revitalization as well as protection of open space and promotion of smart growth."

I attended two of the meetings of Area 5, which includes Clifton Heights, East Lansdowne, Millbourne and Yeadon Boroughs and Upper Darby Township. Each time, I listened for two hours to the panoply of problems besetting these communities— concerns with deteriorated housing and problems associated with Section 8 housing, traffic problems, the need for economic development, train station improvements, sewer improvements and storm water management. There was little or no mention of parks, greening, open space, and enhancement of recreational facilities. The Planner/facilitator took notes and led a discussion of priorities, offering no independent suggestions.

Each renaissance area is to receive about \$200,000, hardly enough to undo the effects of 100 years of unplanned development(s). I suspect the County Planning Department knows this but being mere servants cannot speak out against leaders who use nice words like renaissance and rebirth but end up trivializing them.

How about using the \$200,000 to plan a real renaissance, beginning with a Greenway along Darby and Cobbs Creek, from Havertown to the Heinz Wildlife Refuge? What little open space there is left in eastern Delaware County is along the Creeks. This land should be purchased or protected from development by appropriate zoning. Construct walkways and bicycle paths. One example: it should be possible to walk from Lansdowne to Hoffman Park along Scottdale Road without having to compete with cars on the roadway. And

—Continued on page 11

The Renaissance Program in Planning Area 4

By Bill Frasch

Planning Area 4 consists of 10 municipalities—9 boroughs (Aldan, Collingdale, Colwyn, Darby, Folcroft, Glenolden, Norwood, Prospect Park, Sharon Hill) and the township of Darby. After a series of meetings, these municipalities decided on a prioritized group of implementable projects. The draft plan as submitted by the consultant for the Delaware County Planning Department, Kise, Straw, and Kalodner, outlines revitalization goals, strategies and project development.

Of particular interest to our efforts in the valley are the following quotes from the plan:

- "Improve Recreation Access. Planning Area 4 is ideally suited for recreation, with its close proximity to the Tinicum National Environmental Center and Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, recreational amenities along Darby Creek, and a variety of community parks and historic points of interest throughout the area. These recreational assets, however, are not easily accessible. The Action Plan recommends expanding the recreational opportunities of the Tinicum Environmental Center and Heinz Wildlife Refuge to the north side of Darby Creek to provide direct access for residents of Planning Area 4. Currently the land is underutilized. In addition, it is recommended that clear and convenient connections be made between municipal parks, residential areas, town centers, historic sites, the Tinicum Environmental Center and Heinz Wildlife Refuge, Darby Creek recreational opportunities, and the East Coast Greenway along the Delaware River."

- "Heinz Wildlife Refuge Expansion/Access Project—Expand the recreational opportunities of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge to the north side of Darby Creek."

- "Create clear and convenient connections between municipal parks, residential areas, town centers, the East Coast Greenway, Heinz Wildlife Refuge, and area historic sites."

There does not appear to be funding resources listed for the recreational projects. There is no reference to the River Conservation Plan or the Darby Creek Greenway development although these were commented on at the January public meeting in Glenolden by 2 of our members. The document refers to Task Force activity but does not identify them in any specific way. Also, the rosters of those attending the public meetings do not identify the attendees, i.e. elected municipal government, or their employees, or the interested citizen. They do list those people from County Planning and the representatives of Kise, Straw, and Kalodner. Only one person from *The News of Delaware County* attended one meeting. Over the period of 6 monthly meetings, a total of 84 people from the area attended. 28 people from the area attended the January meeting in Glenolden which was the highest representation.

This effort can be a very positive tool for the future of our Darby Creek communities improvements, but our efforts will be needed to support the ambitious proposals and to monitor progress and effort by local government so that the plans succeed.

Birds of the Darby Creek Headwaters

By Dani-Ella Betz, Conservation Coordinator, Lower Merion Conservancy

The Lower Merion Conservancy has just released "2002 Birds of Lower Merion," a report highlighting the birds recorded by volunteers at 16 Bird Watch sites located in Lower Merion Township. Four of these adopted sites are found in the Cobbs Creek watershed: Remington Road Retention Basin, Shortridge Park, Wynnewood Valley Park and a backyard in Narberth. More than 4,000 birds were counted at these sights in 2002.

Lower Merion is blessed with a multitude of meandering streams, stretches of which are nestled in township parks. Many uncommon birds have been found in the headwaters of the Cobbs Creek watershed like veeries, Swainson's, Louisiana and northern waterthrushes. The Louisiana waterthrush is an excellent indicator species. Its breeding abundance has been correlated with the density of trees in a woodland and it depends on aquatic insects and crustaceans for sustenance. This waterthrush, a bird found near streams in woodlands, has been seen again after a one year absence.

The headwaters of Cobbs Creek is also a haven for migrating birds, as well as residents. Green-backed herons, wood ducks, and sandpipers all rely on open space set aside in this built-out suburb. In addition, yellow-throated, black-and-white, blackpoll warblers were found.

The Lower Merion Conservancy relies on residents to adopt sites across Lower Merion. Since 1997 BirdWatch volunteers survey their sites monthly, recording the number of birds and species observed. The Conservancy then compiles the data and annually summarizes the results in the "Birds of Lower Merion" report. After years of data have been gathered, the Conservancy hopes to gain insight into the status of our local bird populations and assess the condition of our natural areas.

For your copy of "2002 Birds of Lower Merion," or to learn more about the Conservancy's birdwatching programs, please call the Conservancy at 610-645-9030 or check out the report on the web at www.lmconservancy.org.

Draft Tinicum-Fort Mifflin Trail Study Report Now Available

By Julie Bell, National Park Service

The draft Trail Development Study Report for the Tinicum-Fort Mifflin Trail is currently available on the internet and can be downloaded from the following site: www.nps.gov/phso/rtca/tinfort/index.htm. Instructions for downloading the files are included, as well as a virtual tour of the trail corridor and project contacts.

The draft report is the culmination of a 5-year planning process that began at the end of 1998, when the Executive Directors of Fort Mifflin on the Delaware and the John Bartram Association approached the National Park Service to request assistance in studying the feasibility of a trail from Historic Bartram's Garden south to Fort Mifflin in southwest Philadelphia. The project evolved to include a broad spectrum of partners and expanded to include Tinicum Township and other areas of eastern Delaware County. The Trail Advisory Committee has grown to more than 50 members.

The study report describes potential trail alignments for three distinct segments of the 20-mile loop trail, which includes connections to historic sites, recreational areas, public lands, and other community resources such as employment centers and transportation hubs. The proposed trail network includes long-term, off road pedestrian and bicycle paths within the Cobbs Creek Parkway and Darby Creek corridor with cross connections between Delaware and Philadelphia counties. The proposed trail network supports the goals described in the Darby Creek Watershed River Conservation Plan to increase open space and recreation and restore public access to the stream corridor; and to identify and protect historic, cultural and ecological resources. The report includes an action plan. The draft report now on the internet is being revised, and will be finalized following a meeting with the Trail Advisory Committee April 21st. It is expected the report will be made available to the public late spring, 2003. For more information on the project and how you can get involved, please contact Dennis Winters at the Clean Air Council (215-567-4004 ext 233) or John Madera at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (215-238-2854).

Municipal News

Radnor Township has decided to purchase 62 percent of its electricity from pollution-free, wind-generated sources. It announced its intent at the U.S. Department of Energy's 2nd Wind Powering America Workshop held February 26 in Philadelphia. It will purchase 1.4 million kilowatt hours of NewWind Energy™, a product of Pennsylvania-based Community Energy, Inc., for a three-year contract term. The electricity will be supplied by the new Mountaineer Wind Energy Center, the largest wind generating facility in the eastern United States. The purchase makes Radnor the nation's leading municipality among wind purchasers.

Most of the purchase will be funded by the electricity savings that resulted from using energy efficient LED traffic lights. Radnor also switched its energy supplier to the Energy Cooperative, saving additional money on its electric bill to help fund a portion of the wind energy purchase.

Compared to the average electric generation in the Mid-Atlantic region, the Mountaineer Wind Energy Center will offset approximately 200 million pounds of air pollution annually. This is the carbon dioxide equivalent of planting over 14 million trees or taking almost 29,000 cars off the road.

More information is available at www.radnor.com & www.newwindenergy.com

Aldan Borough has received a \$100,000 grant from DEP to partially fund a storm water drainage project to relieve flooding at Providence Road and Sycamore Avenue. The additional money needed to complete the project will probably come from borough sewer funds. The project will improve almost 1500 feet of storm sewer lines and seven additional inlets. The project is expected to begin late this summer.

Morton Borough council is applying for Community Development Block Grant funding for storm water management on North Morton Avenue between Route 420 and Amosland Road. The area is in the flood plain; during heavy rains, flooding is a problem.

Student Athletes and Garrett Hill Residents Join To Fight Invasive Plants

In an impressive display of positive community/university relations, an army of civic-minded student athletes from Villanova University hooked up with Garrett Hill residents on a recent Saturday to rid Radnor's Clem Macrone Park of invasive plants as part of a hands-on Invasive Plants Workshop at Clem Macrone Park sponsored by Radnor's Parks and Recreation Department and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

"This is the second year in a row that Villanova University has eagerly assisted the residents of Garrett Hill in ridding our park of these invasive plants which are a serious threat to the health of our parks and waterways," commented Radnor Commissioner and DCVA member, Dave Cannan.

John Munro, the township's environmental consultant began the morning and afternoon cleanup sessions with an overview of why it is important to remove invasive plants in our parks as well as in our own backyards. "Invasive plants are non-native plants whose reproductive systems along with a lack of natural predators allow them to rapidly take over a woodland and deprive native plants of vital sunlight and nutrients," said Munro.

Jack St. Clair, coach of Villanova's women's crew team brought approximately 30 of his rowers to help out. Members of Villanova men's football, track and soccer teams as well as the Brothers of Villanova fraternity Phi Sigma Kappa added about 40 more strong bodies that helped make quick work of most of the invasives in the wooded section of the park.

Noticeably keeping up with the adults with equal determination was youngster Rabah Maghoul, a 5th grade student at the Vanguard School.

Commissioner Cannan noted, "We again demonstrated today a genuine partnership between Villanova University and our neighborhoods that shows we can work together as we continually strive to make this a better community."

Delaware Estuary Video Available

A new video is now available from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary titled "Exploring the Delaware Estuary." The video was produced through a \$34,560 Growing Greener Grant. It is available free of cost to educate students and community organizations about the connection between Pennsylvania's watersheds and the welfare of the estuary. The video explores the unique environment of the Delaware Estuary and how daily actions, both individually and collectively, have an impact on its habitat and resources.

The estuary, where the salt waters of the Atlantic Ocean and fresh waters of the Delaware River mix, provides a diverse wealth of biological resources, which are introduced in the video. The video highlights the ecological, historical, social, economic, agricultural, geographic and political factors that influence the estuary. The video also describes one of the greatest threats to the estuary nonpoint source runoff into the rivers, streams or tributaries of nine counties in Southeast Pennsylvania.

The video is available by calling the Partnership at 800-445-4935.

View of the Renaissance Plan

Continued from Page 9:

how about a trail from Darby Borough to Tinicum and improving Cobbs Creek Park by adding the old Sears site to the park? This would enhance the attractiveness of the adjacent residential areas, i.e., make them more desirable places in which to live. In addition to increased recreational facilities it should be possible to walk to stores, to public transportation, to libraries, to movie theaters and to schools.

Let's make the high residential density of eastern Delaware County an asset, not a liability. Darby Creek and Cobbs Creek serve as the boundaries of many of the municipalities in the area. Cobbs Creek separates Philadelphia from Upper Darby and Darby Creek separates Clifton Heights from Upper Darby. Historically, the creeks have divided and kept the municipalities apart. In a true renaissance the creeks would bring the municipalities together.

Report on DCVA Annual Conference,

Continued from Page 6:

The young people from Douglas Ross's environmental studies class presented an overview of their recent survey of the East Branch of Indian Creek in Montgomery County. What enthusiasm! A dedicated teacher and a great group of young people. (See an article on page 5 by one of the students, Zachary Lobb, about the students' recent trip.)

Donald Gephart, Southeast Region Parks and Recreation Supervisor, DCNR, talked about funding options—this was at the request of several municipalities from earlier meetings on the Conservation Plan. Don outlined sources of funding available for planning, acquisition, and/or development of parks, recreational areas, greenways, conservation plans, rails to trails projects and preservation of natural habitats. DCNR also offers technical assistance for project development. Most DCNR grants require a match in funding or in-kind services. Given the population of Delaware County, Don noted that Delaware County lags behind other southeastern Pennsylvania counties in grant money received from 1995-2002. We hope to change that as County Council has offered the services of a grants writer to assist communities in developing grant projects.

Tim Denny, Recreation Director for Haverford Township, shared his vision for marketing projects within a municipality. Tim noted that he felt powerless when he started as Recreation Director and didn't even have a budget and now has a full service program for all ages which generates capital for additional programs. Merry Place, which was developed for children with special needs, is now a beautiful park on the banks of the Darby Creek with programs for all ages. Tim indicated he would be available to those interested in more "How to Do" ideas. Call Tim at 610 446-2672.

Karen Holm, Manager Environmental Section, Delaware County Planning Department, gave a brief update on the status of the Storm Water Management Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the conference a success.

Phase II and 167 Stormwater Plans

By Bill Brainerd

I. How Phase II and 167 Stormwater Plans Differ

Phase II plans are required by the 1972 federal Clean Water Act, also known as the Water Pollution Control Act; 167 plans are required by Pennsylvania Act 167 of 1978

Phase II plans primarily regulate water quality; 167 plans regulate water quantity and quality.

Phase II plans regulate municipal operations, storm sewers, construction and common urban pollutants; 167 plans regulate construction only.

2. Phase II Plans

The Clean Water Act (CWA) established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires permits for discharges to surface waters. EPA delegates the program to the states, pending satisfactory enforcement. In Pennsylvania permits were already required under our 1937 Clean Streams Law.

At first EPA and what is now the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) required permits only for point sources, those from an outfall pipe. 70% of those were municipal sewage treatment plants, 15% other sewage treatment plants, and 15% industries. Together they cause 15% of water pollution nationwide.

In the 80's EPA was sued for ignoring the other 85%, the nonpoint source pollution that comes from many different places, not just one pipe. Congress was forced to amend the CWA in 1987 to require NPDES permits, too, for stormwater runoff from urban areas. The new controls were two-phased. Phase I required an NPDES permit of the following:

- A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) serving 100,000 people or more. An MS4 is supposed to carry only stormwater, not sewage. Philadelphia and Allentown were the only Pennsylvania cities covered by Phase I. Pittsburgh wasn't because it has mainly combined sewer outfalls (CSOs) subject of a different pollution control program. A CSO is supposed to carry stormwater and sewage in a big storm.
 - Certain industries, among them logging, mineral mining, oil, chemicals, and wood processing.
 - Construction sites of over five acres.
- DEP began enforcing Phase I in 1992.

EPA was to have prepared regulations for Phase II by 1993, according to the CWA, but it didn't publish its final Rule until October 1999. DEP's protocol implementing the Rule took effect March 10, 2003. Phase II now requires a permit of an MS4 serving an urban area with fewer than 100,000 people. There are 940 of these small MS4s in Pennsylvania including all 49 Delaware County municipalities. Over the next five years they must reduce water pollution to the maximum extent practicable. They must evaluate their progress, keep records, and report to DEP when asked.

Any small MS4 may write its own Phase II compliance plan, to be approved by DEP. However, most will find it easier to adopt the meticulous plan and model ordinances written

by EPA and DEP. The plan sets six requirements a municipality must meet, at a minimum:

- Set an example in its own operations. A municipality must inspect detention basins on public land and clean them of sediment and debris yearly. When maintaining municipal vehicles, it must use a commercial car wash which recycles water or wash vehicles over a pervious surface; capture fluids; recycle fluids and batteries; not hose down work areas; and clean up spills promptly. Optional are finding alternatives to road salt and ways to use fewer chemical on public lands.
- Pass an ordinance prohibiting non stormwater discharges to an MS4, including dumping. An MS4 may have illicit cross connections to sewer, industrial, or private lines. A municipality must map its MS4, inspect outfall pipes twice a year to see what's coming out, trace the source of nonstormwater discharges, stop them, and educate the person responsible. Exempt are discharges from firefighting, irrigation, individual car washing, lawn watering, and swimming pools if dechlorinated.
- Pass an ordinance requiring erosion and sediment (E and S) controls during construction on sites of more than five acres and one to five acres with a point source discharge to surface waters or to an MS4. Many county conservation districts, including Delaware County's, have long required E and S controls under Clean Streams Law regulations. A municipality may use the conservation district to review construction plans. This requirement seems primarily aimed at municipalities that fail to consult their conservation districts to learn if a development has satisfactory E and S controls.
- Pass an ordinance requiring permanent, post-construction best management practices (BMPs) to control stormwater. Only here does Phase II regulate water quantity as well as quality. EPA's regulations don't mention quantity, but they do suggest the municipal ordinance require infiltration, a BMP to reduce runoff volume, and detention, a BMP to reduce runoff rate, that is, volume per second. DEP's guidance for municipal ordinances openly says the volume and rate of stormwater discharge from new construction and redevelopment may not increase bank erosion in a receiving stream. The Guidance says infiltration and detention meet its requirements to control both quantity and quality. DEP seems to be preparing municipalities for its impending Act 167 plans which also require infiltration and detention. EPA's regulations boldly suggest municipalities direct growth to some areas and away from others to protect water quality. They also recommend municipalities dedicate funds to save open space.
- Educate the public. A municipality must distribute DEP-written literature, speak to groups, run public service announcements and mark storm drains warning people of the pollutant potential of sediment, lawn chemicals, dog waste, motor oil, trash, and other common discards.
- Public Involvement. Partly to meet a legal requirement, partly because doing is learning, a municipality must hold public meetings to initiate, then evaluate, its Phase II program and to recruit volunteers to monitor it.

DEP says it got no new money for Phase II and neither will municipalities. The latter may unite in a Phase II plan where responsibilities and costs are shared.

Act 167 Stormwater Plans

Pennsylvania Act 167 of 1978 required counties to prepare stormwater plans for their major streams within two years of promulgation of guidelines by the Department of Environmental Resources. DER was authorized to pay 75% of the cost of plan preparation.

Until recently few plans were prepared anywhere in the state. The guidelines weren't published until 1985 and DER didn't press counties for action on them. If a stream flowed through several counties, DER required all counties to cooperate in a single plan. Many chose not to cooperate out of unfamiliarity with the guidelines, so even willing counties failed to prepare plans.

Delaware County was an exception. DER wanted to make Ridley Creek a pilot for its guidelines, then being written. The Creek begins in Chester County, but the planning department there chose not to participate in a pilot, so DER funded the Delaware County Planning Department to hire consultants to write a plan for the Ridley in Delaware County only. This plan, completed in 1983 and revised in 1988, was one of the first to follow a procedure later required by DER and now the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of all 167 plans:

- 1) Divide the watershed into subwatersheds. There are 65 in the Ridley plan.
- 2) Use a computer to calculate the pre-construction amount and rate of runoff from each subwatershed and at points along the Creek. Inputs to the computer are soil type, land use, time of concentration (the time it takes water to travel the longest path in the subwatershed to the discharge point) and channel length, slope and volume.
- 3) Do these calculations again assuming increased land development, that is post-construction.
- 4) Require new construction in upstream subwatersheds to reduce the rate of post-construction below pre-construction runoff. Act 167 only requires these rates to be equal, but upstream developers must actually release runoff more slowly than before development if the downstream rate isn't to increase. Sustained runoff from an increased number of developed parcels upstream, even if each releases at the pre-development rate, can raise the rate downstream, in violation of Act 167.
- 5) Appoint a watershed plan advisory committee (WPAC) to guide the process. On it are representatives from watershed municipalities and a few nongovernmental groups.

The Ridley plan included a model ordinance for municipalities to implement, requiring developers to submit drainage plans.

The new Chester Creek plan is a cooperative effort of the Delaware and Chester County Planning Departments. It follows the Ridley procedure, with refinements:

- 6) It applies to redevelopment as well as new construction.
- 7) In 70 out of a total of 123 subwatersheds, the post-construction is to be 50% of the pre-construction rate of runoff.

In 6 others it is to be 75%. In the remaining 47 it may be 100%. The Ridley plan ordered rate reductions in just nine of 65 subwatersheds. Thus the Chester Creek plan is more rigorous than the Ridley Creek plan.

8) It protects water quality. In 2001 DEP ordered 167 plans to infiltrate into the ground one inch of rain or the net increase in runoff from a two-year 3.4 inch storm, whichever is more. It offered to let developers of streamside construction reduce the amount of rain to be infiltrated if they'd reserve a streamside buffer. The Chester Creek WPAC chose to make a 10-50 foot buffer mandatory for streamside projects. Neither the Ridley Plan nor Act 167 require infiltration or even that water quality be protected. They regulate only water quantity. DEP's legal basis for now requiring infiltration and water quality protection is unclear; however, it is environmentally necessary. It may be its regulations for Pennsylvania's Clean Stream law, which prohibit degradation of surface waters below their present use.

9) Projects that cover no more than 2000 square feet of land with impervious surface are exempt from the requirement to reduce their runoff rate but not from that to protect water quality. The Ridley plan exempted projects up to 7500 square feet.

The Chester Creek plan was approved by the Delaware County Council and Chester County Commission in June, 2002. Municipalities are required to implement its model ordinance or equivalent within six months of DEP approval of the plan, now pending.

A 167 plan for Darby Creek is being prepared by DCPD and may be done by summer, 2004. Settlement of a Delaware County lawsuit required 167 plans for the Darby and Crum with a new plan for the Ridley starting with the Darby.

Don't Dump – Drains to Creek

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council recently received a PA DEP Growing Greener Grant to purchase **storm drain plaques** that read: "**No Dumping – Drains to Creek.**" Soon these plaques will be on storm drains throughout the Darby Creek watershed. Several municipalities participated in the program and will soon receive the plaques to place on their storm drain inlets. The methods of placement vary in each municipality. The plaques will also be seen throughout the greater Philadelphia region. These plaques help fulfill some of the requirements of the new NPDES Phase II permits for the participating municipalities. The purpose of the program is to help prevent pollutants from being dumped into the inlets, which drain to streams. Most people believe these inlets go to storm sewers and then the treatment plant, but instead drain directly to creeks. Hopefully this will create a better awareness. The participating municipalities in the Darby watershed include: Marple, Radnor, Darby Borough, Newtown, Sharon Hill, Collingdale, Ridley, and Swarthmore. Storm drain plaques are guaranteed to last ten years, much longer than the stencils that are also used to mark inlets.

CUB SCOUT ECOLOGY DAY AT THE GRANGE

On Saturday April 26th, the Grange in Havertown will be host to a special event. The cub scouts from Pack 500 in Bryn Mawr will be holding their second annual "Ecology Day" on the Cobb's Creek which flows behind the Grange Estate. This section of creek will be the focus of a clean-up by the scouts and fish community sampling by a scientist from the Academy of Natural Sciences' Patrick Center for Environmental Research. The demonstration and sampling will help to document the environmental health of the creek within this section. The scouts, as part of DCVA's cleanup, will remove trash along the creek that may have accumulated over the past year.

Paul Overbeck, father of one of the scouts and Fisheries Scientist from the Patrick Center, will be leading the event along with several Pack 500 den leaders. Mr. Overbeck will be using an approved technique of fish collection called backpack electroshocking. The sampling in the creek will provide the scouts with live specimens of fish which they will help identify, measure and release back to the water. Additional samples of fish and aquatic insects and other information will be available for the scouts to review in helping them to increase their aquatic environmental awareness.

Streamwatch

Continued from Page 1:

This year we will monitor the upper, middle, and lower portions. The upper portion sampling will happen at Skunk Hollow in Radnor; the middle portion will occur in Havertown; and the lower portion will be conducted in Darby. Each site occurs in a different setting in our watershed and should provide a good indication of water quality in Darby Creek from the upper to lower portions. But we need your help. Last year we had a great time! We spend a lot of time looking at the surrounding landscape, taking water chemistry readings, and of course, looking at the critters we pull out of the stream. The event really is a great chance to get involved and learn more about the water quality of Darby Creek and how aquatic insects can be a treasure and not a pest to our surroundings.

Sampling will start at the site in Darby at 9:00, move to the Havertown site around 11:00, and finish at Skunk Hollow around 1:00. If you are interested in learning more about the streamwatch, or if your school group or other organization wants to help, call or e-mail Alan Samel (see below.)

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

Alan Samel (610) 446-1658
Or carol.samel@verizon.net

President's Pen

Continued from page 1:

polities in our watershed will be looking to us to support their education efforts. Phase II will also require storm water ordinances, for those who don't already have one, to be passed in all of the watershed's townships and boroughs. One of those new ordinances will enable municipalities with the authority to put a stop to non-storm water discharges to our streams. Others ordinances will focus on cleaning and treating storm water runoff before it reaches the stream, and at long last those new ordinances will be addressing the storm water volume, instead of just preventing increases in peak storm water discharges.

All of these new requirements, while they are burdensome to our municipalities, will improve water quality in the Darby Creek watershed, which will benefit all of its residents. Improving water quality has always come at a cost, but the benefits have always been worth it. To defray some of the costs associated with the Phase II program, our watershed municipalities will be looking to organizations like the Darby Creek Valley Association for help and for volunteers. In order for all of us to have cleaner water, we are all going to have to make some small sacrifices.

Don L. LaBuck

Delaware County's 2nd Annual Computer & TV Recycling Event

In conjunction with one of its Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days this year, Delaware County will collect electronic equipment. On June 21, 2003, at the Emergency Services Training Center in Darby, residents may safely dispose of the following items: computers, monitors, printers, mice, scanners, computer peripherals, keyboards, fax machines and televisions. There is a limit of 3 computers or televisions per vehicle. Call 610 892-9716 if you have questions.

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, Julie Bell, Dani-Ella Betz, Bill Brainerd, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Joanne Dahme, Bill Frasch, John Furth, Bill Gothier, John Haigis, Tom Houghton, Rosemary Kesling, Derron LaBrake, Zachary Lobb, Paul Overbrook, Marissa Pappas, Alan Samel, Bob Shaner, James Stuhltrager, and Jennifer Wesson. Photographs by Joe Ackerman, Ned Connelly, Frank Doyle, Tom Smith, and Fritz Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2003.



In Memoriam: DCVA Remembers Michael Coghlan and Carl Flinterman

We are saddened by the untimely death of Michael J. Coghlan, who was a member of the Darby Borough Council. Mike served as a liaison between the Council and the DCVA on a number of issues. Mike knew the watershed from Radnor to the Delaware as few do. He will be sorely missed, but his spirit and commitment to the preservation and enhancement of our local environment will be with us as we carry on.

Carl Flinterman, former DCVA board member, died January 9, 2003, at the age of 88. Born in Bala Cynwyd, he was a procurement analyst for the Federal Government. A veteran of World War II, he was a radar operator for the 14th Air Force which succeeded the Flying Tiers (a volunteer group) in the Asian Theatre. He received a degree from Temple University in 1974. He was active in politics as a Democratic Committee Man for his precinct and served on the Environmental Advisory Committee for Haverford Township. His civic interests were many and varied. As a member of the organizing committee, he helped create the first board of directors for the Darby Creek Valley Association. He served as a director and participated in many activities.

DCVA extends its sympathy to their families. Memorial trees will be planted in memory of Carl and Mike this spring.

Heinz Wildlife Refuge Manager Retires



At the Dick Nugent Retirement Dinner at Drexelbrook, Dick is presented with a gold pocket watch by refuge staff member, Erika Scarborough. The watch inscription is, "In gratitude from all the species you have touched."

JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

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

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Your Municipality _____

Representative (if organization member) _____

Type of Membership:

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

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 19, 2003	Streamwatch Water Monitoring on Darby Creek. See page 1 of this newsletter for information.
Thursday, April 24, 2003 8 pm.	Annual Meeting of the Haverford Township Historical Society. Llanerch Presbyterian Church, Havertown. Program by Claire Stratton on "The Babies' Hospital" in Llanerch.
Friday, April 25, 2003 1 pm.	Annual Arbor Day Celebration at Sycamore Park in Lansdowne. John Craft will present a program on "Lenape Lifeways." The public is invited.
Saturday, April 26, 2003	DCVA Annual Cleanup. Various locations along Darby Creek.
Saturday, April 26, 2003 10 am - 5 pm	EarthFest in Dittmar Park in Radnor.
Saturday, April 26, 2003	DCVA Annual Cleanup. Various locations along the creek.
Monday, April 28, 2003 1 - 3 pm	Celebration of Arbor day at the Grange Estate
Tuesday, April 29, 2003 7:30 pm.	Meeting for the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan in Haverford Township. Lynnewood Elementary School.
Friday-Sunday, May 2-4, 2003	Darby Borough Sesqui-Centennial Celebration.
Thursday, May 8, 2003 3 - 8 pm	Open House at Sellers Library, Upper Darby
Saturday, May 17, 2003 9 am.	DCVA Board Meeting, Springfield Friends Meeting. Speaker: Kristine Matzko, EPA Remedial Project Manager
Sunday, June 1, 2003 1 - 4 pm.	Early Days at Collen Brook: Life on the Farm. Marvine Road and Mansion Avenue in Drexel Hill.
Sunday, June 15, 2003 2 pm.	Joint Potluck Picnic, Friends of the Swedish Cabin and DCVA. Swedish Cabin, Upper Darby.
Saturday, June 21, 2003 9 am - 3 pm.	Electronics Recycling in Delaware County, Emergency Services Training Center, Darby.



Darby Creek Valley Association

P.O. Box 732

Drexel Hill, PA 19026