



President's Pen:

View from the Stream Bank

As we celebrate our 20 years of operations, we are reassessing our mission. I want to share with you what we have found.

Education

Strengths: Quality of newsletter and conferences, stream monitoring programs.

Weakness: Lack of specific funding.

Conservation

Strengths: Annual cleanup, ability to get specific grant funding (i.e. Rivers Conservation Plan and various streamside improvement grants.)

Weakness: Lack of steady long term funding.

Citizen Action:

Strengths: Many and diverse types of members, regular meetings, leadership energy and member energy.

Weakness: Diverse opinions on how to get the job done. Propensity to get bogged down. Volunteer's inability to stay with project to completion. Need for youth movement.

In short, we agree on our mission: to protect and enhance our entire watershed, Darby Creek and its tributaries, through conservation, education

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Public Workshop for Residents of the Darby Creek Watershed to be Held June 29th

Come learn how residents and municipalities within the watershed can work together to meet the new state mandates for storm water management in our watershed.

Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2004

Location: The Clifton Heights Fire Company Hall

**20 West Baltimore Avenue
Clifton Heights**

Time 6:30 pm.

A light supper will be provided between 6 and 6:30 pm.

Sponsored by the Eastern Delaware County Council of Governments, this free workshop will provide those attending with an update on the stormwater issues of concern in the

Darby Creek Watershed and an overview of the new state requirements designed to improve the health of our Darby Creek Watershed.

Speakers from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Delaware County Planning Department, the Delaware Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Darby Creek Valley Association will be on hand to provide information and to answer questions.

If you plan to attend, please call David Forest at the Lansdowne Borough Hall, 610 623-7300, extension 214, to reserve a place. We hope you will join us as we begin to implement our Rivers Conservation Plan.

Darby Creek Cleanup a Success

Dave Damon of Springfield perhaps put it best by saying "[A] great group of volunteers of all ages removed lots of debris" as hundreds of volunteers from Radnor to Tincum came together on April 24 and cleaned out the year's accumulated shopping carts, tires, auto parts, air conditioners, lawnmowers, stove parts, bicycles, vacuum cleaners and other debris from Darby Creek. In some locations, heavy rain the previous evening turned the water to chocolate soup, and safety concerns prevented people from getting into the water, but the banks and other accessible areas still presented a bountiful harvest of trash. Fritz Thornton, President of DCVA, reported a decrease in trash from previous years but acknowledges that DCVA is not out of a job yet. Several new locations were added to this year's roster of cleanup locations including "unnamed tributary No. 3" near Walsh Park in Springfield, and the organization is looking to identify more locations next year. For help in organizing a cleanup on your section of the creek, please call (610) 583-0788.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

Thanks to the many volunteers throughout the watershed who made the cleanup a success including Captains Lisa Simmonds (Briarcliffe), Dave DiPhillipo (Clifton Heights), Tom Houghton (Darby, Powell Park), Terry Kane (Drexel Hill), Joe Dolan (Glenolden), Tim Denny (Haverford), Bill Brainerd (Marple), Martin Milligan (Newtown Square), Dave Cannan (Radnor), Dave Damon (Springfield, Swim Club), Clyde Hunt (Springfield, Walsh Park), Mike McMenamin (Tincum, Heinz Refuge), Pete Leahy (Upper Darby), Fritz Thornton, Bill Frasch, Jan Haigis,

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County Council Proclaims April 24, 2004, Darby Creek Cleanup Day



Darby Creek Valley Association members accept County Council Proclamation. Left to right: Tim Denny; Jan Marie Rushforth; Council members Michael Puppio, Andrew Reilly, and Linda Cartisano; Fritz Thornton, President of DCVA; Councilman Tim Murtaugh, and Tom Smith.

Whereas, the Darby Creek Valley Association is sponsoring Darby Creek Clean-up Day Saturday, April 24, 2004, in an extensive effort to revitalize and beautify Darby Creek; and

Whereas, this one-day effort will include 33 miles of clean-up from Chester County into Radnor Township to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge; and

Whereas, Delaware County volunteer fire companies, as well as participants in the Delaware County Community Service Program, Boy Scout troops, civic organizations and trout-stream regulators have been recruited to participate in this massive effort to beautify Delaware County; and

Whereas, the central purpose of Darby Creek Clean-Up Day is to remove everything from the creek that is not indigenous to the creek and preserve one of the County's natural resources; and

Whereas, this idea has been supported by every governmental institution along the route of the creek in order that Darby Creek may once again be populated by wildlife; and

Whereas, Darby Creek Clean-Up Day promises to bring rejuvenation and life to Delaware County making it a better place to live.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that We, the County Council of Delaware County, hereby declare April 24, 2004, to be

Darby Creek Clean-Up Day

in Delaware County. We extend our sincere best wishes to the Darby Creek Valley Association in their efforts to beautify Darby Creek and extend our support to this effort on behalf of all citizens of Delaware County.

Proclaimed: April 20, 2004

(Our thanks to County Council for supporting our efforts!)

Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for Darby Creek Watershed Nears Completion

The Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for the Darby-Cobbs Watershed is currently under review by the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC), which is comprised of County Planning Agencies and Conservation Districts, municipal officials, DCVA, and other interested parties. The finalized plan, which should be released sometime this fall, will be comprised of 3 volumes: Volume I – Executive Summary, Volume II – Plan and Ordinance, and Volume III – Technical Data (available for viewing at County offices). The consultant, Borton-Lawson Engineering, is also preparing a Municipal Handbook, which will explain the plan in layman's terms and provide municipalities with detailed information concerning best management practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for stormwater management in the watershed. For more information on the plan, contact Karen Holm of the Planning Department at 610-891-5213.

Key Documents to Serve as Basis for Implementing our Watershed Conservation Plan

Three manuals were published in March by the Center for Watershed Protection, under a cooperative agreement with EPA. The manuals are the first of a series of eleven in the Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series. The series is designed to provide a foundation to assist local and state officials in crafting urban watershed restoration plans. Each manual is about 100 pages long; some also include a CD with software to enable data collection and storage.

The eleven manuals are:

1. An Integrated Framework to Restore Small Urban Watersheds
2. Methods to Develop Restoration Plans for Small Urban Watersheds
3. Storm Water Retrofit Practices
4. Stream Repair and Restoration Practices
5. Riparian Management Practices
6. Discharge Prevention Practices
7. Previous Area Management Practices
8. Pollution Source Control Practices
9. Municipal Practices and Programs
10. The Unified Stream Assessment: A User's Manual
11. The Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance: A User's Manual.

The three manuals that have been published so far can be downloaded free from www.cwp.org for the next few months. Five more manuals are expected to be published this summer.

DCVA StreamWatch Collects Samples from Darby Creek Samples Will Be Studied in the Fall

By Alan Samel, StreamWatch Chair

The April 17 stream-watch will be remembered as a beautiful day! A bunch of friends had a great time walking in the streams taking bug samples and getting wet. Many thanks to all who participated. I especially want to thank the folks from



the Senior Corps who did the water quality readings; thanks Gwen and Marty! The combination of water quality measurements and the kind of critters pulled from the stream provides an estimate of the water quality at that sample site.

We had a beautiful day to get wet! What a great way to meet others and learn more about Darby Creek!! We started first in Darby at Bartram Park. The park was a bit of a mess due to stream bank rehabilitation work. But that didn't stop us. We took our samples and went to the pavilion to see what we caught. We were pleasantly surprised to see some critters that we have not seen here before. Was it good luck or a sign that the water quality of that stretch of the creek was improving? One year does not mark a change, but we are very hopeful. Next, we went to the Havertown site on Darby Creek Road. Because this was also opening day for trout season, we got to interact with some of the fisher-persons. They were great; we were a little skeptical about sharing the creek that day. Some (the more knowledgeable ones) were very in-

terested in what we were sampling. They were able to adjust their bait to what we found. Our last site was Skunk Hollow in Radnor. Many thanks to Dave Cannan for getting the good folks of Radnor Services to open the gates for us. Our day ended with some of the more adventurous volunteers exploring the deeper portions of the stream. But this is only part of the Stream-Watch program. Part two is the identification of the critters pulled from the stream. We then can identify the level of water quality for that section of the creek.

Stream-Watch – Part 2

The first part of the stream-watch program involves wading into the creek and taking samples of the critters that live in the stream. Those critters are placed in preservative for later identification. Part two is the identification part. The identification part involves separating the bugs from the crud: the leaves, twigs, and mud that are in the sample bottles. Once the bugs are separated, they are identified and classified as being sensitive or non-sensitive to pollutants. In combination with water quality measurements taken the day of sampling, we can make an estimation of the water quality of the stream at that sampling site.

On April 17, a small

army of volunteers took samples from three locations along the creek; Bartram Park, along Darby Creek Road in Havertown, and Skunk Hollow. Two samples were taken from each site for a total of six samples. So now we need to separate the bugs from the crud and identify what we have. Sounds hard, doesn't it? Sounds too technical, doesn't it? Nah! It is a lot of work and it is time consuming. But it is not hard and you do not have to be the next coming of Rachel Carson to help out! We Need You!! On Saturday October 2, we will have an insect identification workshop at Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield. Did I mention that we need you? The workshop will be from 9:00 to 3:00. Actually, consider it more of an open house. Come when you can and help where you can. We need all the help we can get (hmmmm, I think I mentioned that already). Our goal is to process the 2004 samples. We will also have opportunities to discuss what we did April 17 (bug collections, remember?), what the information we gather means, what can we do with it, etc. Best of all, you not only get to learn more about Darby Creek, you get to meet people with a common interest, a clean Darby Creek that can be enjoyed by all! If you are interested in being a part of the workshop, please call me at (610) 446-1658 or e-mail me at alan.samel@verizon.net. But put October 2nd on your calendar now!



Bartram Park Restoration

As the summer begins and people wander down to the Darby Creek in Darby Borough, they will notice a completely different Bartram Park than they remembered. Once the area was a row of homes constantly subject to flooding from the creek and then after Hurricane Floyd a muddy field with steeply eroded banks. Today, the park has been restored to about as close as anything can come to a rural riparian area.

First the majority of the field that once held homes has been planted with native trees and contains various no-mow zones. Areas have been left open due to a pipeline crossing; however, this also serves as a great walking trail. In the stream channel itself, several rock deflectors have been installed to create fish habitat. Several species of fish can now be seen swimming among the rocks. The deflectors will also help curb some erosion along the bank. The biggest change noticeable at the park is the giant stone weir in the middle of the creek. Although it does not appear "natural," it is a nice structure providing an interesting water flow. The stream is forced to flow through the points of the weir creating scour holes and semi-rapids. This also creates a backwater area along the bank. Various types of fish can be seen in both areas. The banks along the weir have been stabilized and graded to a gradual slope. Native plants were installed as well. An exposed sewer line was fixed and covered with stone and soil.

The project, which has endured several delays and funding issues, was finally completed using a Coastal Zone Management Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The \$76,000 grant was awarded to the Delaware County Conservation District, which hired the Delaware River Keepers and Biohabitats to design and implement the various steps. The Delaware County Sewer Authority also partnered and provided much of the stone and hauling as an in-kind service. An official "opening" event is being planned for later in the summer. For more information, contact Bill Gothier at 610-892-9484.



Giant stone weir in Darby Creek at Bartram Park provides habitat for fish.

Riparian Buffers: The Link Between Land and Water

By Melanie Wertz

Riparian zones/areas are stream banks, floodplains, or areas along the shore of a water body. A buffer is an area of vegetation established in that riparian zone that can be forested or planted in grasses. These areas are critical to the health of our watersheds because they link the land and adjacent land uses to the water in the stream. If a riparian buffer is adequate and properly maintained, it will provide many benefits to water quality. The important point is that there is some kind of vegetation there to assist in filtering pollutants, nutrients and surface runoff that may degrade water quality.

"If a riparian buffer is adequate and properly maintained, it will provide many benefits to water quality."

Originally, most of the land east of the Mississippi River was forested, and the watersheds and stream ecosystems in our region were developed in association with forest plant communities. The macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) that are native to our streams rely on trees along streams to provide habitat and food. These aquatic insects play an important role in water quality. Several assessment programs have been developed using macroinvertebrates to determine water quality. The EPA Rapid Assessment Protocol, The Citizens Volunteer Monitoring Program and DEP Stream Assessment biologists use macroinvertebrates identification to monitor water quality in streams. Aquatic insects provide a basic link in the food chain as well as other "ecosystem services" such as processing organic matter.

Additional benefits of riparian forest buffers include:

- **Bank stability:** A framework of tree roots help to hold the soil together to resist the erosive action of flowing water and to stabilize the stream bank.
- **Flood and Erosion Control:** Plants and tree stems slow water velocity and root systems keep soil porous so excess water is absorbed into the ground.
- **Increased In-Stream Habitat:** Stream velocity slows around fallen trees and branches, creating favorable areas for fish. Fallen debris traps leaves, seeds and other material in the stream, allowing it to decay and be used by stream dwelling organisms. Woody roots of native trees form a tight network of roots over a bank surface and provide additional surface area (habitat) for aquatic species. "Small forested streams are about 2.5 times wider than meadow streams, significantly increasing the available surface area of benthic substrates, directly affecting the habitat available for most stream organisms." (Dr. Bernard Sweeney, Director and Senior Research Scientist, Stroud Water Research Center)
- **Channel Shading and Temperature Buffer:** Leaf canopy provides shade that helps to moderate water temperatures. Maximum summer temperatures in a forested stream may be 10-20 degrees cooler than in a deforested stream. Temperatures

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Riparian Buffer Planting on Foxes Run

The banks of the stream known as Foxes Run in Newtown Township's Greer Park have new protectors. On Saturday, May 22 volunteers gathered to plant trees and shrubs along the banks of the stream feeding into Darby Creek. Guided by Bill Gothier of the Delaware County Conservation District and Anne Murphy of the Chester, Ridley, Crum Watershed Associations, the volunteers planted native trees such as River Birch, Red Maple, Pin Oak, Green Ash and Tulip Poplar along with native shrubs such as Arrowwood, Common Ninebark, Silky Dogwood, Sweet Pepperbush, Black Chokeberry and Shadbush Serviceberry. The riparian buffer planting was sponsored by the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

Before planting began, Gothier spoke of the benefits of plantings along stream banks such as Foxes Run. The benefits of such riparian planting include stabilization of the stream banks, providing a habitat for animals and insects essential for the ecosystem, filtering runoff, and most importantly, providing shade to cool the water. Gothier said Foxes Run is a first order stream, defined as a stream with no feeder stream running in turn into a larger body of water, in this case, Darby Creek. He pointed out that the nearby pond acts as a heat collector, making it even more important to shade the stream and cool the water before it enters the creek. According to Newtown Supervisor John Custer, the riparian buffer planting is intended as a demonstration project to show residents what can be done, and he said he hoped the project would spark resident interest in planting other areas along the stream.

Riparian Buffers

Continued from the previous page:

ture changes of only 4-10 degrees usually alter the life history characteristics of macroinvertebrates.

- **Minimizes Ultraviolet Light Damage to Stream Communities:** UV light measurements are important because they affect both gross and net algae production.
- **Sequesters Pesticides:** Many pesticides are broken down within buffer soils. The wider the buffer the greater the opportunity for contaminants to be trapped and decompose before entering surface or ground water.
- **Reduces Nutrient Inputs:** Microbes in organic forest soils convert nitrate to nitrogen gas through denitrification. Nutrient uptake by plants and trees, practically younger growing trees, is demonstrated at different levels in many studies. Some studies have shown nutrient removal levels up to 65%.
- **Wildlife Corridors:** Forested riparian zones provide wildlife habitat for food, shelter, nesting and finding mates.

Based on research studies by Dr. Bern Sweeney, Stroud Water Research Center, planting trees on smaller streams is the most beneficial best management practice (BMP) that can be done to improve water quality in Pennsylvania. Creating riparian buffers in the Darby Watershed is one of our projects for the coming year. Look for details in our fall issue.



A throng of over fifty environmentalists converged on Brooke Farm Trail in Radnor Township on Saturday April 24th to participate in the Darby Creek Valley Association's 20th annual Earth Day cleanup of the Darby Creek. When finished, the group produced well over 50 bags of trash along with a rusty bicycle, several large sheets of rusty metal and a variety of types of construction lumber.

Growing Greener 2 Bond Issue Proposed

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is considering legislation to place a \$800 million bond issue on the ballot in the fall election. Also known as Governor Rendell's Quality of Life Proposal, the bond issue would provide \$200 million per year over the next four years for protecting open space, farmland and forests and enhancing amenities at State Parks; cleaning up abandoned mines and mine drainage and rivers and streams; and revitalizing downtowns, local parks and trails and greenways.

Also before the General Assembly is legislation that lays out in detail how funds will be raised to pay debt service on the bonds and provide permanent annual allocations for the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener). A primary source of revenue will be an increase of \$5 in the municipal waste tipping fee. For more information on the Growing Greener 2 proposal, visit www.keepgrowinggreener.org.

Delaware County Applying for Grant to Fund Heritage Greenway

The Delaware County Planning Department is moving forward with plans to apply for funding for the Darby Creek Watershed Heritage Greenway. Karen Holm and Steve Beckley from the Planning Department are developing a scope of work for the proposed Heritage Greenway plan. The goal of the greenway is to network the 4 counties and the 31 municipalities within the watershed in a mission of local stewardship of the watershed. We will keep you posted as this project progresses.

Governor Rendell Announces Regional Partnership to Restore Tree Cover

On April 30th in Lansdowne, Governor Edward G. Rendell launched "TreeVitalize," an aggressive four-year, \$8 million partnership to plant more than 20,000 shade trees and 2,000 acres of forested riparian buffers to restore tree cover in southeastern Pennsylvania.

"The five-county Philadelphia region has lost more than 5 million trees over the last 15 years," Governor Rendell said. "TreeVitalize is designed to halt that loss and revitalize our older communities, improve our air and water, and enhance the quality of life for our citizens," he said. "It will provide our local governments, which many times lack urban forestry resources, the financial and technical tools to encourage the protection of trees."

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is leading the regional partnership in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to restore tree cover in cities and towns in the five county region.

According to the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station, the region currently has about 34 percent tree cover ranging from a low of 1 percent in Marcus Hook, Delaware County, to a high of 73 percent in Bridgton Township, Bucks County.

In addition to coordinating resources to support tree plantings, TreeVitalize aims to train 2,000 volunteers in proper tree care techniques.

The Governor's proposed 2004-05 budget calls for a major new investment in land conservation and community revitalization to help protect open space, improve community parks, protect forested riparian buffers, and improve downtown areas. The investments are part of the Growing Greener expansion, an environmental initiative that builds on the work of previous administrations, and requires a voter-approved \$800 million bond (See article on page 5).

For more information on TreeVitalize, visit www.treevitalize.net.

Haverford Superfund Site in News Again

Although residents had been told that the Haverford Township Superfund Site at Lawrence and Eagle Roads had been remediated, they now have renewed concerns. At a meeting in Haverford Township on April 21st, the US EPA admitted that additional contamination has been found. The contamination is in deep groundwater, but the extent is not yet known. The EPA is installing additional monitoring wells and may decide to drill extraction wells on the site to remove the contamination. There is also an abandoned sewer line on the site which may be leaking contaminated water into the soil. The sewer line is going to be sealed off.

Residents do not drink the groundwater from the site, but contamination could eventually pollute Naylor's Run and Cobb's Creek. More information is available from the EPA's remedial project manager, Jill Lowe, at 215 814-3123.

Haverford Township Residents Work to Save the Finelli Tract

Haverford Township is working to acquire a parcel of land known as the Finelli Tract. The land is in the Cobbs Creek corridor; its purchase would be a positive addition to our Rivers Conservation Greenway Plan. The Finelli Tract is of historical significance as it is adjacent to Nitre Hall, which dates back to the 17th Century. Both the Haverford Township Historical Society and the Haverford Township Environmental Advisory Committee would like the property to be acquired.

The township is pursuing two possible funding sources for the purchase. One possibility is a federal appropriation of \$475,000 for the purchase. Senator Specter and Congressman Weldon are working with the Board of Commissioners to seek this aid. The township has also applied for a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the purchase.

Haverford State Hospital Update

DCVA is continuing to monitor the proposed development of the Haverford State Hospital Site. There are concerns that the commissioners are encouraging more extensive development to maximize immediate profits at the expense of open space and long-term community enhancements. The preliminary plan of the site developer, Goldenberg/Pohlig, contained almost 300 housing units. A final plan is now being developed. In addition to the number of housing units, residents are interested in the number and location of athletic fields and the inclusion of a community center.

Whalen Tract Is Developed

On September 25th, 2003, the Upper Darby Zoning Board approved the variance requested by the Developer, Pennoni Associates, to expedite construction of 54 twin houses on the approximately 7 acre Whalen tract, which is along Darby Creek just downstream of the Swedish Cabin. In preparation for the development, the Levis house, a majestic stone house built in the 1820s by the mill owner to oversee his domain, was demolished the week of May 16, 2004. The back yards of the new homes will extend all the way to Darby Creek.

Composting Classes Offered

Composting in your back yard is an activity that reduces waste and produces a wonderful soil amendment. If you would like to get started in this activity, consider attending a class at the Pennsylvania Resources Council. Classes will be held the following days: Thursday, June 24, 7-9 pm; Wednesday, July 14, 5-7 pm; Tuesday, August 3, 7-9 pm; Wednesday, September 15, 7 to 9 pm; Wednesday, October 6, 5 to 7 pm.

For \$25 a person or \$35 a couple, you will receive a compost bin provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Call PRC at 610 353-1555, extension 228, for more information.

Villanova University Students And Garrett Hill Residents Work To Rid Clem Macrone Park Of Invasives



John Munro of John Munro Ecological Services (center) instructs members of Villanova University's Women's volleyball squad on the fine art of removing invasive plants from Clem Macrone Park in Garrett Hill, Radnor Township.

In an impressive display of positive community/university relations, students from Villanova University's women's volleyball squad and Villanova's Environmental Group (VEG) joined hands with Garrett Hill residents this past March to help rid Radnor's Clem Macrone Park of invasive plants as part of a hands-on Invasive Plants Workshop sponsored by Radnor's Parks and Recreation Department and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

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.

Radnor Commissioner Dave Cannan noted, "No township budget can accommodate the financial cost that comes with the ongoing labor-intensive tasks necessary to rid our parks of these invasive plants. That is why I am so grateful for the generous work of the volunteers."

Flight Path from Philadelphia Airport Is New Concern

Residents of Haverford Township have been studying Philadelphia International Airport's expansion-redesign and runway extension project. They have concluded that the project will affect the residents because increased noise, vibration, loss of privacy, air pollution, safety and reduced property values will result from the greatly augmented and expanded jet overflights that will occur. DCVA is following this development and will provide more information in future issues of *The Valley*.

Naylor's Run Greenway

Five students from the University of Pennsylvania, City Planning Division, have studied Naylor's Run as part of their graduate studies. They have issued a report with recommendations "to enhance stream remediation and improve flood hazard mitigation along Naylor's Run." Their report has been presented to Upper Darby officials, and the township is studying implementation of the report's suggestions. The following are excerpts from the executive summary of the report.

Flooding on Naylor's Run threatens hundreds of properties, including many homeowners. Though the township has produced measures that have reduced the impact, the risk from a catastrophic storm event remains. With the realization that flooding can cause property damage in excess of the value of a property, this plan proposes two alternatives intended to reduce the impact of flooding in the short term and entirely remove the flooding threat to properties in the long term. Acquiring and converting at risk properties in the floodplain into a new green space not only diminishes the safety and property risks but expands the Township's limited open space inventory with a multi-function greenway surrounding the creek. Improvements to athletic fields and parking lots as well as the enhancement of riparian buffers and restoration of wetlands can work together towards a reduction in the impact of heavy storm events on downstream properties.

Objectives

- Reduce Impact of Flood Events—Flooding represents the greatest threat to both people and property presently.
- Incorporate Thinking about Floodplain Priorities into Regular Township Activities
- Redevelop Distressed Neighborhoods
- Make Naylor's Run an Attractive Amenity for the Community

Proposals

Alternative 1: This short-term strategy focuses on improvements to the area north of the Barclay Square Shopping Center. The primary elements of this alternative are ecological restoration of the creek and natural features in the floodplain.

Alternative 2: This long-term strategy involves major physical changes to the portion of the creek south of the Barclay Square Shopping Center. This alternative proposes large-scale acquisition of properties within the floodplain south and east of the Shopping Center and their replacement with a linear green space.

Implementation

Implementing these alternatives requires more than funding and project management; institutional changes, proactive stewardship, and public-private partnerships are necessary. Institutional changes regarding how Upper Darby manages and protects land within its floodplains are the basis for good stewardship and sustainable solutions. Technical assistance and grants are available from the federal and state governments to undertake exactly the sorts of improvements proposed. Partnerships and public participation provide the dedicated human capital to make projects successful and long lasting. Together, these efforts represent the underpinning for a successful effort to mitigate flood hazard along Naylor's Run.

Veterans Adopt Restoration of Grave Sites in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery

Working in cooperation with the Friends of Darby Methodist Meeting Cemetery, the VFW Post # 598 has adopted the restoration and preservation of the cemetery on the site of the old Mt. Zion Methodist Meeting on Springfield Road in Collingdale, which was founded in 1808. Members of the Post have been working to restore and preserve the grave sites of the approximately 30 veterans of previous wars—the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the American Civil War, and the Spanish American War, who are buried there.



Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 598 at the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery in Collingdale.

Biographies of those buried on the site tell the story of some of the early history of Delaware County and of the Boroughs of Darby, Collingdale and Sharon Hill. The Friends of the Darby Methodist Meeting Cemetery welcome input from families who have relatives buried on the site and from area residents interested in becoming involved in this local preservation effort.

At the recent special Memorial Day celebration sponsored by the Veterans Council of Darby Borough the message of the veterans to those in attendance was, “As we stand on rededicated sacred ground, we cannot forget the sacrifices made by our service men. We must never, never, forget them.”

To date part of the cemetery has been cleared, but there is still much to be done—more research and documentation to complete and work to salvage the old grave markers. For additional information, contact Lindy Wardell, President of the Friends Group at lforwardell@rcn.com.

Volunteers

A perspective from our President: Fritz Thornton

Volunteers are the lifeblood of conservation organizations such as DCVA and FOHR. The successful saving of necessary wetlands, endangered species, historical landmarks and the like from mindless development and urban sprawl depends largely on galvanizing efforts of unpaid civic minded citizens.

In this day and age of two income families and innumerable demands on leisure time, it seems that the younger generation has less time and/or desire to enjoy the relaxing benefits of woodland walks, bird watching, canoeing and other such non-competitive exercise.

Looking back on 75 years of a life that included intense competition in sports and business, I find the most satisfying and enjoyable memories are of those activities involving communing with nature. Mountain climbing, hiking, canoeing— away from mechanized hurley burley — are the memories that have remained meaningful long after golf scores and tennis matches were forgotten. Working at making the environment a little better seems to be a better legacy for our children than material things.

That is the view from my perspective and that is why I volunteer.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Public Ownership Of the Historic Grange Estate in Haverford Township

On Sunday, June 13, 2004, the Friends of the Grange, Inc., on behalf of the residents of Haverford Township, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the purchase of this historic and environmental treasure by the Township of Haverford. The unanimous vote by the municipality Board of Commissioners to purchase the 9.9 acre site, less than 24 hours before the property was to be sold at public auction as a prime development site, is a testimony to the vision of the community’s elected officials to respond to the public will.

The SAVE THE GRANGE campaign, spearheaded by a coalition of community organizations, rallied residents of all ages from the township and county at large. It was also the testimony of the late Stephenson Fletcher from the Haverford College Arboretum as to the significance of the gardens and woodlands, heritage of The Grange, the help of the media, and the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Barnett, then owners of the Grange (Note: Mr. Barnett is a nephew of Benjamin Hoffman, the last private owner of the estate), and the support of the Delaware County Council that resulted in the success of what was a truly public grass roots campaign.

Now 30 years later The Grange Estate is a key historical, cultural and environmental center in the region.

DCVA Welcomes New Members

Robert E. Bartmann, Lansdowne

E.D. Silberstein, Aldan

George C. Wood, Bryn Mawr

McCall Golf & Country Club
Upper Darby

Real Life Darby Creek: Stream of Courses

A Reminiscence by Tom Smith

Darby Creek sent chills through me as a child and it never fails me, now. Nothing beats the real world. To my thinking, nothing beats the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tincicum. I coursed my way.

As a child I padded as a blank slate beyond my backyard. I learned from real life experience. Stream (lesson) courses took me from my home to Tincicum. I coursed my way.

My boyhood home was on the last residential block in my township. Back of my backyard was "the Woods." The Woods featured a "Big Rock." For a time these sights wowed me, and constituted the outside world, as I knew it. *Nature, thrilled me, by seeing it.*

A rim wall yawned to the rear of my woods-and-stony park. In time I climbed it. Aloft, from an unimagined patch, I looked down upon a steep slope that cascaded with a carpet of trees of ancient lineage. My eyes caught a glistening light from a silver hemline. The hem parted a valley. Time ticked long before my wide eyes tucked.

I recall my surprise over the fact that a waiting, inviting valley, blushed beautiful behind my home. The silence of the grand sweep was punctuated by a plucking of my heart, as it had never been plucked. The fronting park seemed almost to have vanished. The "Woods," behind me, seemed suddenly less amazing and the "Bib Rock" shrank from majestic granite prop to mere bauble.

In time I took in the immense majesty of the stream valley. I learned what constituted a watershed. I learned that the valley's stream had a name, "Darby Creek." Stream courses taught me the valley claimed three parts. The upper reaches were the headwaters.

The middle rolling current stretch was the fall-line-mill zone. The lowest ebb-and-flow stretch had a name, too. In name: Tidewater.

Time served as a proctor readjusting my life's studies toward Tincicum. I traced my way by stream courses.

Ignorance lessens with learning. Learning gleans with life's lessons, by maturing introductions. As a child I padded as a blank slate beyond my backyard. Fortunate I am. I retain perfect recall of my first "park." By my mind's eye the Woods and Big Rock have resumed their early first awe. The mere bauble (Big Rock) has returned to Giant size. The Woods have regained wonderment.

Masters, "learning" and "quest," taught me and tugged me to Tincicum. Again, I traced my way there by lesson courses.

Darby Creek sent chills through me as a child and it never fails me, now. To my thinking, nothing beats the real world. To my thinking nothing beats the Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tincicum.

The other day an idiom tripped my lips, "real world reality." I paused. It is a sad current commentary when so much of what we choose to call "reality" is no longer real, and pokes poorly contrived. Friends tell me they never met with a turtle. Oh my! I met many a upstream Turtle before I ever met their Heinz Wildlife cousins.



Students participating in the Delaware County Envirothon use the Biltmore Stick at the Forestry Station.

Penncrest High School Wins 2004 Pennsylvania State Envirothon

The team from Penncrest High School in Delaware County took top honors at this year's State Envirothon competition. More than 320 students from all 64 Pennsylvania counties competed in the 21st annual Envirothon held May 26 on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of environmental resources and the interactive relationships between resources and human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The 2004 current environmental issue theme was "Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment."

The Penncrest students had advanced to the state competition by winning the Delaware County contest for the 11th straight year. Fourteen teams from seven high schools had competed in the county event. The Penncrest team won with a new County high score of 471 out of 500.

The Penncrest team will represent Pennsylvania at the 2004 Canon Envirothon in Buckhannon, West Virginia, from July 26 to August 1.



Over 100 posters from 6 different public, private, parochial, and home schools were entered in the 2004 Delaware County Conservation District Poster contest "The Living Soil." This picture shows the winners in the Grades 4-6 category.

Miscellany

- **"Backyard Wildlife Habitat"** is coming to the Darby Creek Watershed. It is a program that helps people save a place for wildlife in their own backyards by improving air, water and soil. DCVA has ordered the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Starter Kit, planning guide, and video from the National Wildlife Federation. These materials will be used in our watershed education program for the first time this summer.
- **Upcoming Conference:** "Watersheds: The Air, Land, and Water Connection" is the theme of the 5th Annual Pennsylvania Watershed Conference and Youth Track. The conference will be held from September 30th to October 2nd, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Allentown PA. For more information, contact the Wildlands Conservancy at 610 965-4397, extension 23, or email ckocher@wildlandspa.org or ppingel@state.pa.us. The conference is sponsored by PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Management with Growing Greener funds.
- The Delaware County Conservation District has awarded two minigrants for the Spring 2004 Round. The first minigrant is titled A Colonial Garden Ecosystem. Garnett Valley Middle School was awarded \$500 to construct a pond for students to study. The second grant was awarded to Penn Wood West Junior High School for their project titled- Monitoring Naylor's Run Wetland for Wildlife. The \$500 award will go to the purchase of materials to use to report and present information about the created wetland. The Conservation District has two minigrant rounds each year. with a maximum grant of \$500. The next deadline for a minigrant is October 30, 2004. For more information go to www.delcocd.org or call Bill Gothier at 610-892-9484.
- Work on the **Glendale Nature Trail in tribute to Bill Miehle** will begin this summer. As an Eagle Scout project, a Boy Scout from the troop at Annunciation Roman Catholic Church in Haverford Township is coordinating efforts to complete the Glendale Nature Trail. The trail was Bill's dream for many years, and DCVA looks forward to completion of the project as a tribute to him.
- **The Cusano Environmental Education Center at the Heinz Refuge is offering special programs** during the summer. Although it normally closes at 4 p.m., it will remain open every Wednesday through August until 8 p.m. In addition each second Wednesday of the month there will be a special program and each third Wednesday of the month there will be an evening walk. For information about the special programs, call 215 365-3118.
- On Monday, June 21st, at 6 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Cobbs Watershed Management Plan Focus group to present the Final Watershed Management Plan. The plan addresses the concerns of the Cobbs Creek communities with respect to recreation, water quality, flooding and watershed stewardship. The meeting will be at the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center, 700 Cobbs Creek Parkway. If you would like to attend, RSVP to Marissa Pappas at PEC, 215 563-0250, extension 112.
- **The Chanticleer Foundation has been honored** by having the latest volume of "Flora of North America" dedicated to it and its founder Adolph Rosengarten, Jr. Representatives of the Board of Flora North America dedicated the volume at Chanticleer on May 16th. Chanticleer is a pleasure garden of 31 acres located at Church Road in Wayne. It is open to the public from April through October. Call 610 687-4163 for information.
- The next Delaware County **Household Hazardous Waste collection** will be held on Friday September 17th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rose Tree Park, in Media. In addition to the regular items collected (pesticides, solvents, cleaners, toxic and caustic materials, oil-based paints and stains), **computers, monitors, scanners, printers, fax machines and portable TVs will be accepted.** So mark your calendar and clean out your basement and garage. For more information, visit www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle.
- On February 28th, our own **Fritz Thornton** was one of 12 men who was **inducted into the Haverford School's Hall of Fame.** Congratulations, Fritz!

President's Pen

Continued from Page 1:
and citizen action. We differ on how to best accomplish this mission.

You are all invited to attend our Board meetings which occur the third Saturday of every month at 9AM at the Peace Center, 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield, to experience all of the above for yourself.

Fritz Thornton

Cleanup Thank You

Continued from Page 1:
and the hundreds of volunteers who turned out to help create a ribbon of beauty throughout the watershed. Special thanks also go to Representative Ron Raymond, Sharon Bank, Senator. Connie Williams, Sue Cordes of the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority, Walt Omler of Delaware County Community Services and many other businesses, organizations and individuals. Thank you. We truly could not do it without your support.

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcv.org. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Dave Cannan, Patrice Carroll, John Furth, Bill Gothier, John Haigis, Karen Holm, Rosemary Kesling, Michael Levin, Alan Samel, Fritz Thornton and Melanie Wertz. Photographs courtesy of Delaware County, Joe Ackerman, Dave Cannan, and Alan Samel. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2004.



Residents and Organizations, including DCVA, honored with Heritage Commission Preservation Awards

At the Delaware County Council meeting on May 4th, the Heritage Commission of Delaware County presented its 26th Annual Preservation Awards. DCVA received one of these awards in the category of publications for "The Valley" newsletter. Mary Ellen Scott, active with the Upper Darby Historical Society and the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, nominated DCVA for this award.

Haverford Township Historical Society was also honored with one of the awards for its publication: *Images of America: Haverford Township*. The book of photographs celebrates the people, buildings and neighborhoods of a past that is clearly reflected in the character of Haverford today.

The Heritage Commission has been presenting these awards with County Council since 1978 to highlight National Preservation Week. The Commission selects the award recipients from nominations submitted by residents and organizations throughout the County. They are selected for outstanding contributions to the preservation of our County's heritage in four categories: Construction, Publications, Special Programs/Special Projects, and Outstanding Individual.



A. Richard Paul, Chairman of the Heritage Commission of Delaware County, presents a preservation award to Rosemary Kesling, editor of the Valley. Back row, left to right: County Council members Andrew Reilly, Michael Puppio, Linda Cartisano, Tim Murtaugh. Front row: County Council member Mary Alice Brennan, Rosemary Kesling, A. Richard Paul, and Upper Darby Historical Society volunteer Mary Ellen Scott.

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, June 19, 2004
9 a.m.

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

Monday, June 21, 2004
6 p.m.

Cobbs Watershed Management Plan Focus Group, Cobbs Creek
Community Environmental Education Center.

Tuesday, June 29, 2004
6:30 p.m.

Workshop on Stormwater Management.
Clifton Heights Fire Company Hall.

Saturday, July 17, 2004
9 a.m.

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

Friday, September 17, 2004
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Collection.
Rose Tree Park in Media.

Saturday, October 2, 2004
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Insect Identification Workshop. Springfield Friends Meeting.
1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield.



Darby Creek Valley Association

P.O. Box 732

Drexel Hill, PA 19026