



**President's Pen:**

**View from the Stream Bank**

As we look back on the year just past, and ring in the new one, DCVA members have much to be proud of, and much to look forward to. The year 2005 saw the finalization of the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan and its adoption by 15 of the watershed's municipalities. DCVA was awarded an EPA grant to monitor the development of a remediation plan for the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site. There were a record number of leaders and locations in the annual Darby Creek Clean-up in April. DCVA partnered with the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, the Tincum Historical Society and the Heinz Refuge to bring back the Governor Printz Canoe Challenge in September. And these are just highlights.

We look forward to a busy spring. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, DCVA will co-sponsor the Delaware County Environmental Summit with the Delaware County Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change, a great opportunity for outreach, networking and sharing about efforts to promote the enjoyment and protection of the Darby Creek watershed and to improve the quality of life for all of its residents.

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**DCVA Annual Meeting To Be Held  
Saturday January 28**

DCVA's annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 28, 2006, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield and Old Sproul Roads. Lunch will be provided at 11:30. All members, prospective members, and interested community residents are invited to attend. There will be a report by the President on the organization's activities of 2005, followed by a speaker on the topic, "Flooding of 2004: Following up on the Task Force Study of Flooding in the Darby-Cobbs Watershed."

Directors and officers of DCVA will be elected for the coming year. The nominating committee has recommended that the following be elected to the board for a 3 year term. New nomi-

nees are noted with an asterisk.

- Anne Ackerman
- Jan Haigis\*
- John Haigis
- Carolyn Laws
- Robin Mann
- Joseph McLoughlin\*
- Jan Marie Rushforth
- Alan Samel
- Fritz Thornton

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. After the annual meeting a short board meeting will be convened to elect officers for 2006.

DCVA thanks the nominating committee: Bob Shaner, Chair; Clyde Hunt, Carolyn Laws, Andy Saul, Tom Smith, and Toni McIntosh (alternate).

**DCVA To Co-Sponsor  
Environmental Summit February 18**

The Delaware County Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change and the Darby Creek Valley Association will sponsor an Environmental Summit on February 18, 2006 at the Cusano Education Center at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. The purpose of the Summit is to inform and involve residents within eastern Delaware County of the opportunities to become involved in effecting positive environmental changes. There will be panel discussions on water quality, air quality and land use, as well as a presentation on the role of Environmental Advisory Councils in promoting positive environmental decision-making by municipalities. In addition to co-sponsoring the event, DCVA will take part in the water quality panel discussion, sharing information on the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. Registration is free and begins at 8:30 am. A box

lunch will be provided to the first 100 registrants. Please register on-line at: <http://delcoenvironmental.tripod.com/index.html>. For directions to the Refuge, call 215 365-3118.

**DCVA Members Invited to  
Watch "Life on the Delaware"**

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom invites DCVA members to lunch and a meeting January 21st at the Peace Center, Springfield Friends Meeting. Lunch will be at 1 pm, followed by a screening of the environmental film, "Life on the Delaware." This is an opportunity for DCVA members to meet and interact with members of another organization that uses the Peace Center as its primary meeting place.

## Mark Your Calendar Now for the 22nd Annual Darby Creek Clean-up

The 22nd annual Darby Creek Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2006, and once more volunteers are invited to gather throughout the Darby Creek Watershed to remove shopping carts, tires and other debris from the streams and tributaries we all share. "April 22nd is Earth Day," said Jan Haigis, co-chair of this year's event, "and it is also the 22nd year that the Darby Creek Valley Association has sponsored the clean-up. We were in 19 locations last year and hope to be in even more this year."

Clean-up locations include Lansdowne, Darby, Yeadon, Radnor, Havertown, Upper Darby, Morton, Secane, Springfield, and many more along streams including Cobbs Creek, Darby Creek, Stony Run, Naylor's Run, the Muckinapates, and Unnamed Tributary No. 1. "Students can use the clean-up to satisfy part of their public-services requirements," said Haigis. "It's a lot of work and it's a lot of fun."

The Cleanup Placemaps so popular last year will be available again to local restaurants. Several municipalities are expected to help promote the use of the Placemaps which will feature a storm water management theme in 2006.

To volunteer or to find the location of a clean-up near you, please call (610) 583-0788 or log on to www.dcva.org.

DCVA welcomes Letters to the Editor. If you have an opinion about an issue of importance to the watershed, please send your letter to DCVA, PO Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, or e-mail kesling@voicenet.com (e-mails should indicate "DCVA Newsletter Submission" in the subject line.)

## Membership Committee Update: Support for the DCVA Comes from Far and Wide!

By Kathy Doms, Membership Chair

The Darby Creek Valley Association is proud to have over 200 members including individuals, families, corporations and governmental agencies. It is a great benefit to the organization that the members are drawn from throughout the watershed, from the eastern and western headwaters all the way to the Delaware River. Our most distant members are Mary Jane Smith from Largo, Florida, and Dr. and Mrs. Gayle Lawrence from Edina, Minnesota. We are grateful for their support, and the support of all of our members!!

An increase in dues was approved by the DCVA board at its March 19, 2005 meeting:

Individual .....	\$25
Family.....	\$35
Senior & student .....	\$10
Non-profit group .....	\$35
Corporate & municipality ....	\$50
Life member .....	\$250

This is an increase of \$10 for individual and family membership. It is an increase of \$15 for corporate and municipality members, and a \$150 increase for life members. The former membership fees were much lower than those of similar organizations; the previous

life membership fee of \$100 was particularly low and out of proportion to the benefits it provided. The board felt that the increases will allow the DCVA to continue and to expand its programs. There is no increase in the senior or student membership fees.

The DCVA board and its membership committee fervently hope to increase our membership in the upcoming years. Even more importantly, we would like to increase the participation of our members in DCVA programs and other activities to conserve our watershed. Remember that all members are welcome at all DCVA events, from tree planting at Naylor's Run, to the annual spring cleanup throughout the watershed. Watch your newsletter for upcoming events. Be sure to check off the activities in which you would like to participate on the membership renewal envelope that you will soon receive. The new envelope has a space for email address, so we hope that this will allow quicker communication among members. Even if you cannot actively participate in the activities yourself, your membership fee is greatly appreciated and used to further the conservation efforts of this hardworking organization. Thank you!!

## Letter to the Editor: Animal Endearment Lacks Common Sense

by Andrew Saul

The borough of Rose Valley recently held a community meeting to discuss the white-tailed deer management options open to it and its residents. Deer in some areas of the borough have seriously eaten people's plants; in other areas, hardly at all. But there continues to be concerns about Lyme disease, which deer spread. In addition, the number of car accidents, even fatalities, deer have caused by jumping out in front of cars over the state is rising. Pennsylvania is now the No. 1 state in the country for deaths from deer/car collisions.

But the concern that most moves me is the connection between the explosion of invasive plants in Southeastern Pennsylvania and the overpopulation of deer.

As was pointed out by our main speaker and long time biologist, Tim Smail, there is a strong link between deer populations and invasives. Deer are considered fussy eaters. Unless they are very hungry, biologists tell us they will dine almost exclusively on native plants--oaks, hickory, and shrubs like mountain laurel and rhododendron, shunning the faster growing, more opportunistic invasive plants.

They rarely touch multiflora rose, bittersweet, honeysuckle vines and shrubs, burning bush and Japanese knotweed--so these and other invasives flourish as

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## DCVA's TreeVitalize Program: It's a Win, Win, Win Situation!

by Clyde Hunt

**Win 1.** The Darby Creek Valley Association wins because we received nearly 1000 native streamside trees and shrubs to plant along the Darby Creek and its tributaries such as Naylor's Run. Several of the wetlands in our watershed have been flooded and washed out during recent storms. The roots of these trees and shrubs will help hold the soil when storm waters threaten. On Grace Wheeler property adjacent to the Haverford State Hospital 800 trees were planted by volunteers from Delco Anglers Association.

**Win 2.** The township of Upper Darby wins because its flood damaged parklands along Naylor's Run have been stabilized with native species. The steep streambanks and grassed meadows will not have to depend on just grass to hold the soils. Less grass means deeper roots, tougher stems and more natural streamside vegetation that will not require costly mowings every few weeks.

**Win 3.** Forty environmental science students from Upper Darby High School and another 30 from Cabrini College will gain first-hand opportunities to plan, plant, mulch, and prune and map the locations they have planted. Twelve of our own DCVA members also gained experience in this planting when they too worked with shovels, wheelbarrows and rakes on December 3rd to plant and mulch more than 100 additional trees. We are often at our best when we do more than just talk about improving our surroundings. We all gain when we teach by example and learn by doing. In the coming years we will keep track of the trees we planted. We will weed, water and protect them until they can fend for themselves.

**Win in the future.** We will keep you informed of our TreeVitalize program progress as we plant more trees in the coming springs and falls. As you become aware of bare stream banks and eroded wetlands, let us know their locations so we can plug the gap and win back some open spaces within our watershed. Thanks for your awareness and concern.



*Leader of this project, Clyde Hunt, above, tells us, "Often we are at our best when we do more than just talk about improving our surroundings. This fall DCVA and Upper Darby High School students planted more than 100 trees and shrubs. We all gain experience when we teach by example and learn by doing."*



*Above left, planting Crew #2 digging holes for 45 trees behind flood control dam structure along Naylor's Run. From left to right, Carolyn Laws, Bill Gothier (DELCO Conservation District), Andy Saul (with wheelbarrow) and Malcolm Moore, Upper Darby High School student. In the photo above right, Kathy Doms and her children (foreground) gain first hand experience planting riparian trees.*

## In Memoriam: The Bunting House 1730-2005



For nearly three centuries the Bunting House stood along Darby's Main Street above Darby Creek watching and participating in the birth and development of our region, state and nation. Home to many generations of the Bunting family, the building became the Bunting Friendship Freedom House in the 1960's and became a symbol of the quest for racial harmony. Following a bank foreclosure in 1997, the building was purchased for \$20,050 on April 30, 1998 and was allowed to deteriorate. The owners applied for a demolition permit in October, 2005 and the house was finally demolished between December 16 and 19, 2005. The loss of the building is a loss for us all and a wake-up call to all preservationists. Unless we are vigilant and all work together, more history will be lost needlessly to the wrecker's merciless claw.

## 2006 Conservation District Poster Contest

Once again, The Delaware County Conservation District will sponsor its annual Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Water Wise," chosen to emphasize the importance of our water resources and encourage responsible uses of them. The contest is open to all school students, from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Entries will be divided into categories based on grade level, and first, second, third, and fourth place prizes will be awarded in each category. Posters are due to the District on April 21, 2006, and judging will take place on May 2, 2006.

One of Delaware County's winners from last year's contest, Jolan Strickland of Glen Mills Schools, won at the state competition hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Jolan's poster has been forwarded to the National Association of Conservation Districts for judging at the national level.

For more information, visit the District's website at [www.delcoed.org/poster\\_contest.htm](http://www.delcoed.org/poster_contest.htm) or call Bridget Thompson at 610-892-9484.

## Watershed Planning Handbook Published

EPA's Office of Water has published a guide to watershed management to help various organizations develop and implement watershed plans. The *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters* is aimed toward communities, watershed groups, and local, state, tribal, and federal environmental agencies.

The 414 page handbook is designed to take the user through each step of the watershed planning process: watershed monitoring and assessment, community outreach, selection and application of available models, best management practices, effectiveness databases, implementation, feedback, and plan adjustment.

The handbook is intended to supplement existing watershed planning guides that have been developed by agencies, universities, and other nonprofit organizations. This handbook is more specific than other guides about quantifying existing pollutant loads, developing estimates of the load reductions required to meet water-quality standards, developing effective management measures, and tracking progress once the plan is implemented.

The handbook is available online at [http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed\\_handbook](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook). You can also order a free copy from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications by calling 800-490-9198 or by emailing [ncepimal@one.net](mailto:ncepimal@one.net). When ordering, please refer to EPA document number: EPA 841-B-05-005.

EPA has published several other major technical documents for the control of NPS pollution on its web site during the past 6 months, including 3 separate Management Measures Handbooks: Urban Area, Forestry, and Wetlands and Riparian Areas. These are located at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/categories.html>. EPA also has a new Section 319 Success Stories section on its web site, at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/Success319/>

## The Global Challenge of Water: A Conference for Educators and Concerned Citizens

Friday, 3 February 2006, 9:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
United Nations Headquarters, New York City  
Co-Sponsored by U.N. Dept. of Public Information

For educators and administrators at all levels and disciplines and other concerned citizens, this conference will provide resources for enriching curricula and school activities. Water-related issues affecting health, food, sustainable development, supply & demand and water & conflict will be explored, along with UN involvement.

The registration fee is \$60 if postmarked by the deadline, January 18. An optional buffet lunch is available for \$30 and an optional guided U.N. tour at 4:30 p.m. is \$10.

More information is available at [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org).

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site

# Fact Sheet

November 2005

### EPA Continues to Make Progress

Investigations into contamination at the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site in Philadelphia County and Delaware County, Pennsylvania are progressing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has obtained permanent access to the Clearview Landfill property after a long legal process. Obtaining access will allow EPA to sample this important property. By sampling the Clearview landfill EPA will identify how much, what types, and the locations of the remaining contamination at the site, coming closer to the completion of the ongoing remedial investigation.

At the Clearview landfill, both soil and groundwater samples will be collected. EPA and its contractors will be conducting this sampling. The crew will wear protective clothing while drilling groundwater wells on the Clearview landfill. EPA and contractors will also cut down grass, shrubs, and trees to clear the way for the equipment to get to remote sampling locations.

Sampling will include the installation of 9 groundwater monitoring wells along Darby Creek, the center of the landfill and other areas of former landfill activity. Deep soil borings will be taken (similar to those taken in the city park), to provide an informative view of soil and soil gas at varying depths beneath the surface.

### What you might see

The sampling event will begin in mid to late November 2005. EPA and contractors will be using drill rigs and small trucks during this sampling event on Clearview landfill. Workers will be wearing protective clothing while they work on the landfill site. It is important that all citizens keep off landfill property during the sampling event. The landfill is private property and should not be accessed.

### What has happened so far?

To date EPA has sampled Cobbs and Darby Creek (summer of 2002), the Eastwick Park and surrounding residential neighborhood (summer 2003 and 2004). EPA has also installed groundwater monitoring wells in the Eastwick Park. Stream water, groundwater, soil and air samples have already been collected. The planned sampling event is a key part of EPA's sampling program to investigate contamination at the Clearview landfill.

### Next Steps

After sampling is finished, EPA will complete the sampling project by analyzing the samples and quality checking the results. Once this information is validated, EPA will use the final results to complete the Remedial Investigation on the Clearview landfill.

Once the Remedial Investigation is complete, the Feasibility Study can begin. The Feasibility study is the point where EPA evaluates different methods to cleanup the site. From those options reviewed, EPA decides on a preferred method of cleanup for the site. Once EPA has selected a method of cleanup, it will present a Proposed Remedial Action Plan to the community. This plan will describe EPA's preferred method as well as others that were considered during the Feasibility Study process. At this time, a public meeting will be held and an official public comment period will open for the community to provide feedback on the proposed plan and alternatives.

If anyone has questions about the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site, EPA can be contacted. Call Megan Dougherty, Community Involvement Coordinator at 1-800-553-2509, extension 4-5534, [dougherty.megan@epa.gov](mailto:dougherty.megan@epa.gov) or Kristine Matzko, Remedial Project Manager at 1-800-553-2509, extension 4-5719, [matzko.kristine@epa.gov](mailto:matzko.kristine@epa.gov).

Information is available on the web: <http://epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PASFN0305521>

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to \$50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. A TAG grant was awarded to the Darby Creek Valley Association related to the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund site in May 2005. For more information, please contact Bill Frasch at 610 583-2986.

## Friends of the Swedish Cabin to Hold Annual Pea Soup Supper

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin will host the annual Pea Soup Supper Benefit on Saturday, March 25, 2006, at Lansdowne Presbyterian Church in Lansdowne, PA. Punch and "nibbles" will precede the supper at 5:30. At 6 "bottomless bowls" of authentic Swedish pea soup will be served accompanied by Swedish breads and cheese, dessert and coffee or tea.

There will be door prizes, and a musical program will follow supper. Admission is \$12 for members of Friends of the Swedish Cabin and \$15 for nonmembers. Advance reservations by March 7 are recommended as seating is limited to the first 110 guests.

To receive a reservation form, call Dave Anderson at 610 449-3577.

## Lansdowne Borough Receives Grant to Improve Streambank Erosion

Lansdowne Borough was the recipient of a DEP Coastal Zone Non -Point Pollution grant to develop a restoration plan for Hoffman Park along Darby Creek. Currently the park's streambanks are severely eroded and riddled with concrete debris. Invasive species such as *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese Knotweed) have also gained a strong foothold in the park. The grant will provide for the planned removal of invasive species and develop future management efforts.

The main focus of the grant is to develop a stream channel restoration design that will stabilize the channel and decrease future erosion. The first step is to study the flow and sediment characteristics of the channel. This is accomplished by flow, width, depth, and pebble measurements in the channel itself. The data will then be used to design structures that will alter the stream flow to create a stable channel. Fish habitats will also be incorporated into the design, which will encourage the fish population to frequent this section of stream. This will be beneficial to fisherman who would not otherwise use the park. Stabilizing the streambank erosion will create a safer area than the current drop-off, while decreasing the amount of sediment currently being eroded into the stream. This is important because sediment can change the flow patterns of a stream causing damage to additional sections of the stream channel. Increased sediment loads also choke out the in stream "critters" that rely on a stone bed to survive, and without food, fish cannot survive.

The Hoffman Park Coastal Zone grant will run from October 2005 until March 2007. Addition funding will be sought for construction once the design and study have been completed. The Delaware County Conservation District and Delaware River Keepers have partnered with Lansdowne on this effort.

## Lansdowne Plans for Park and Trail along the Darby

Plans for a gateway park and pedestrian/bike path along the Darby Creek will soon be underway in Lansdowne. The Borough received a \$14,000 grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to create a design for the improvements. The park will be located on vacant ground the borough recently acquired at the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Scottdale Road. The pedestrian/bike path will lead from the park south along the Darby Creek to Hoffman Park, Lansdowne's largest active recreation area. Together, the park and trail will allow area residents to safely walk to Hoffman Park and improve access to the Darby Creek.

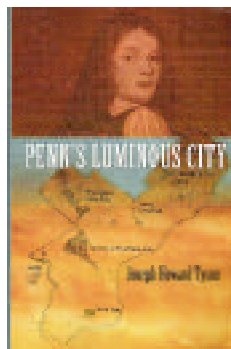
## Haverford Township Finally Makes Decision on State Hospital Property

With a second vote early in December, the Haverford Township Commissioners rescinded a December 2003 Agreement Plan with Haverford Hills Associates to sell 61 acres for \$30.65 million. Instead the commissioners authorized the negotiation of a new sale with the same developer for 38.2 acres for 17 million. The new development will consist of 192 age-restricted condos and 100 age-targeted carriage houses. In the new plan the township will get 31.2 acres of active recreation space and about 133.7 acres of open space. Both numbers are significantly larger than what would have been received in the original plan.

For additional information about DCVA and its programs, including copies of previous newsletters, visit [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)

## Penn's Luminous City by Joseph Howard Tyson

Review by  
John Haigis



What do W.C Fields, William Penn, Darby Creek, Greenways and Feng Shui have in common? The answer is the new book *Penn's Luminous City* by Joseph Howard Tyson. Published by iUniverse ([www.iUniverse.com](http://www.iUniverse.com)), *Penn's Luminous City* is characterized as a miscellany in the style of writers such as Francis Daniel Pastorius and Henry David Thoreau, and one which Tyson says, "pursues common threads through a variety of subjects." "The present work," Tyson continues, "utilizes biography, fantasy, poetry and magazine article format to delve into city planning, history, architecture, theology, genealogy, horticulture, and ecology [with] tangents on canal boating, Fanny Kemble, Freemasonry, W.C.Fields, Quaker Theology, the Seebees, etc." It is a unique blend that is informative and fun to read.

The book begins by pointing out that Pennsylvania has more streams than any other state except Alaska, and then shows how those waterways influenced our past and can help influence our future. Recognizing the importance of greenways in restoring harmony, balance and well-being, Tyson looks at past and ongoing efforts to create natural connections, including the Darby Creek Valley Association's efforts to create a "ribbon of green" and presents additional possibilities for the future. A student of history and the human condition who has done his research and provides his sources, Tyson is well suited to undertake a work of this scope, and the result is fascinating.

## Free Environmental Programs Available to School Districts in Watershed



*Students at PRC's Environmental Living Demonstration Center learn about watersheds with the help of an Enviroscape.*

Pennsylvania's Academic Standards and include engaging age-appropriate activities. Most of the programs can be conducted in the classroom, and others provide outstanding field trip opportunities.

Through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, PRC is able to offer these programs and limited transportation subsidies--first come, first served--to schools free of charge. In order for school districts to participate, PRC must have a letter on school district letterhead signed by the superintendent of schools stating that the district agrees to participate and will find value in the environmental education programming offered. Once the letter is received, any school in the district can make arrangements with PRC for the free programs.

The following K-12 programs are available:

- Watershed Awareness
  - Raindrops to Rivers: The Water Connection
  - Pond and Creek Ecology (field trip)
  - Forest Ecology (field trip)
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Greener Lifestyles
- Energy & Resource Conservation
- Composting/Worm Composting in the Classroom
- Litter Prevention
- Visual Blight and Community Planning (ViewFinders Too Curriculum)
- Environmental Consumerism
- Pennsylvania Songbirds
- Recycling is Magic
- Recycling Olympics

For more information on the EITC program, call Barbara Van Clief at PRC, 610 353-1555, ext. 221, or email [vanclief@prc.org](mailto:vanclief@prc.org).

Resolve for 2006: I will encourage my friends and neighbors to join DCVA and to help improve our watershed.

## Delaware County Environmental Network Annual Meeting

The Delaware County Environmental Network held its annual meeting last November at the Springfield Township Building. The DCEN invited Matt Royer, Staff Attorney at Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future to speak about the role of citizens in the development process. Matt gave a great presentation and provided the audience with handouts to help guide them through the land development, permitting, zoning, and appeals processes. Matt also provided a list of general 'rules to live by' when working on a development issue. The guidance is available on DCEN's website- [www.delcoed.org/dcen.htm](http://www.delcoed.org/dcen.htm)

The meeting also provided time for representatives from local organizations to speak about up and coming events and concerns. Approximately 25 representatives spoke briefly about their organization. Topics ranged from land development to proposed energy systems. A complete list can be found on DCEN's website.

DCEN meets monthly at the Delaware County Conservation District on the first Thursday. For more information on this group, which was founded by members of DCVA, contact 610-892-9484.

## HHW Collection Dates

The Delaware County Solid Waste Authority has announced the schedule for the 2006 Household Hazardous Waste Collection events:

- Saturday May 6, Marple Transfer Station, Broomall
- Saturday June 3\*, Emergency Services Training Center, Darby Township
- Saturday September 16, Covanta Delaware Valley, City of Chester
- Friday September 29, 2006\*, Rose Tree Park, Media

The June 3rd and September 29th events will also collect electronics (computers, monitors, printers, portable TVs, etc.) The collections are 9 am to 3 pm and are held rain or shine. Call **610 892-9716** or visit [www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/hhw.html](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/hhw.html) for more information.

## Tinicum-Fort Mifflin Trail Completed

The Clean Air Council is pleased to announce the completion of the Feasibility Study for the key segment of the Tinicum-Fort Mifflin Trail that connects historic Fort Mifflin, in southwest Philadelphia, to Governor Printz Park, in the community of Essington, Delaware County. This multi-use trail travels along the Delaware River waterfront, linking important historic, cultural, natural and economic resources to one another and to neighboring trail networks. This segment of the Tinicum-Fort Mifflin Trail will also eventually serve as a main stem of the Pennsylvania East Coast Greenway.

The study also examines the feasibility of extending this trail segment from Fort Mifflin to FDR Park in south Philadelphia. The Feasibility Study, which was completed by Campbell Thomas & Company, is available for download on the Tinicum-Fort Mifflin Trail section of the Council's website, located at [www.cleanair.org/Transportation/tfmtrail.html](http://www.cleanair.org/Transportation/tfmtrail.html). If you have problems downloading the Feasibility Study or would like to request a hard copy, please call 215-567-4004 x. 103 or e-mail [elinn@cleanair.org](mailto:elinn@cleanair.org)

### President's Pen

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We will continue our efforts to promote improved stormwater management, partnering with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in promoting the selection of priority stormwater problem areas for replacement management measures, or retrofits.

And already, planning for this year's Darby Creek Clean-up, to be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, is in full swing. Leaders John and Jan Haigis are hard at work recruiting assistance with outreach to sponsors and, of course, leaders and volunteers to turn out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for the annual facelift to Darby Creek and its banks. This year, DCVA will be seeking some additional support from the watershed's municipalities, in promoting the clean-up and providing heavy equipment where it is needed to tackle large foreign objects spotted in the creek. And back by popular demand will be the Darby Creek watershed placemats, promoting the clean-up to many restaurant customers.

In addition, DCVA will continue its various efforts to improve awareness, enjoyment and stewardship of the watershed's resources - with tree planting, trail maintenance, the annual Streamwatch and other educational activities. As a new member of the Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water, a

statewide coalition of watershed organizations, DCVA will also lend our perspective and support in advocating for effective state-level policies and procedures that will support, and not undermine, the important efforts being made in Delaware County and its municipalities to address stormwater pollution and other important concerns.

Looking ahead, the date has been set for the 2006 Governor Printz Canoe Challenge - September 22<sup>nd</sup> - and DCVA will be working with our partners to spread the word about the event to the region's canoeists and kayakers. But why wait until a race in September? Take your canoe or kayak, or borrow one, and check out the great trip down from the Heinz Refuge launch to the Delaware River this spring!

It is a privilege to have worked this past year with the dedicated and knowledgeable group of individuals who make up the DCVA's Board of Directors. Our members are well-served by them. And their greatest reward is to see their own enthusiasm reflected in others' participation and involvement in DCVA endeavors. So mark your calendars for our upcoming events, come join us, and bring a friend!

*Robin Mann*

### Letter to Editor

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oak seedlings are munched.

So the borough is hoping to initiate a plan to bring bow hunters on both private property and borough ground to cull the herd if the community largely agrees. I think this is all to the good, as the borough has far too many invasives on its two larger public parcels--the Wildlife Sanctuary and Long Point. People who continue to protest against a deer hunt should be required to sign up to pull invasives on the borough's 30-plus acres of public land.

Finally, it is my suspicion that areas overgrown with invasives are less hospitable to birds and small mammals. There is apparently less food value in such places and the high density of invasives is not to their liking. When I walk through the wildlife sanctuary, ironically I rarely hear birds and almost never see squirrels, chipmunks, mice or larger mammals. The protesting animal lovers have a lot to answer for.

## The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: [www.dcv.org](http://www.dcv.org). Articles for this newsletter were written by Dave Anderson, Margaret Camp, Kathryn Doms, Clyde Hunt, Dave Forrest, Bill Frasch, Bill Gothier, John Haigis, Rosemary Kesling, Carolyn Laws, Robin Mann, Andy Saul, Bridget Thompson, Fritz Thornton, and Barley Van Clief. Photographs courtesy of Sue Cochrane, John Haigis, Jack Kesling, Carolyn Laws, and Rich Paul. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2006.





## Lifeblood of Conservation

The lifeblood of a wetland is water. The quality and unrestricted flow of that water in many ways defines the viability of its associated wetlands.

Darby Creek, the lifeblood of Tincum Marsh, is fortunate to have two volunteer organizations working to enhance and preserve it. The first of these organizations, our own Darby Creek Valley Association, has worked on behalf of Darby Creek since 1983 when the creek had an "open sewer" status. Today, as a direct result of its hard work, this same stream has been upgraded to a class 1A stream by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Our organization accomplished this through education efforts and through annual creek clean-up campaigns. An average haul of trash removed from the creek each year is about 12 to 15 thousand pounds. The record haul, after Hurricane Floyd was 84,000 pounds.

The DCVA also monitors water quality on an ongoing basis, thus providing information about the life of the creek. In addition DCVA works with municipalities to enforce pollution and littering laws and to prevent irresponsible development.

The principal focus of DCVA is upstream Darby Creek. The Heinz Refuge downstream on Darby Creek is the recipient of the results of all the members' hard work.

The second volunteer organization working to enhance

and protect Darby Creek (and its associated wetlands) is the Friends of the Heinz Refuge (FOHR), an organization that began its life in 1997 at the request of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS which manages the Refuge benefits from this partnership in several ways. First, FOHR provides assistance with refuge environmental education programs – an activity which helps to prepare today's students for their future role as custodians of tomorrow's environment. FOHR also helps out by raising funds – through grants, contributions, and managing a book/nature shop at the refuge. These funds provide assistance to the FWS for several programs and projects on the refuge which might otherwise languish due to federal budget "crunching." FOHR has several hands-on opportunities for volunteers covering such venues as trail development and maintenance, guides for structured walks, a photography group, wildlife census and monitoring, and much, much more. The principal focus of FOHR is the lower Darby Creek wetlands.

Both organizations are always in need of more volunteers. The work we do is hard but there is a great sense of satisfaction that, as a result of the work we do, we can enjoy a clean creek with shade trees and hiking paths, good fishing and canoe/kayak trails. Continuing vigilance, monitoring and clean up is needed by all concerned citizens in order to keep the Darby Creek Valley clean and green.

To join DCVA, fill out and mail the form below. To join FOHR, write FOHR Tincum, P.O. Box 333, Folcroft, PA 19032.

### JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Your Municipality \_\_\_\_\_

Representative (if organization member) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# CALENDAR

Saturday, January 21, 2006  
1 p.m.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Meeting.  
Screening of "Life on the Delaware," Springfield Friends Meeting

Saturday, January 28, 2006  
9 a.m.

DCVA Annual Meeting, Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield

Saturday, February 18, 2006  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Delaware County Environmental Summit, Cusano Education Center  
at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, March 18, 2006  
9 a.m.

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

Saturday, March 25, 2006  
5:30 p.m.

Annual Pea Soup Supper Benefiting the Swedish Cabin  
Lansdowne Presbyterian Church, Lansdowne

Saturday, April 22, 2006  
9 a.m.

22nd Annual Darby Creek Cleanup  
Various locations along the creek

Saturday, May 6, 2006  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection  
Marple Transfer Station, Marpit Drive & Sussex Boulevard, Broomall



**Darby Creek Valley Association**

**P.O. Box 732**

**Drexel Hill, PA 19026**