



**President's Pen:**

**View from the Stream Bank**

The early start on daylight savings and a burst of spring weather have arrived as I sit down to write about all the goings on in the Darby watershed. It is a busy time!

First, let me salute on behalf of DCVA and all of its members our 2007 Ribbon of Green award recipient, Bob Shaner, whose stewardship of and devotion to the organization over the years has been so critical to its successes. And let me welcome our two new board members, Jaclyn Rhoads and Vanessa Bullock. We know their fresh perspectives and energy will enhance our efforts in important ways.

The DCVA's springtime activities began with participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Environmental Summit sponsored by the Delaware County Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change. Hats off to Jaclyn Rhoads as the inspiration behind this informative and inspiring gathering!

We are now poised for two of our major instream events of the year, the StreamWatch Program and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Darby Creek Clean-up. If you have not had the opportunity to join Stream Watch leader Alan Samel for the spring

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**DCVA Annual Clean Up on April 28**

**Spring is Coming and So is the DCVA Watershed-Wide Darby/Cobbs Cleanup.**

Despite a late and bitter start to winter, spring will arrive in March and when spring arrives, the annual DCVA Creek Cleanup can't be far behind! As of press time this year, a **record 26 sites** are slated to be spiffed up on **Saturday, April 28, from 9 to 1**, all up and down the Darby/Cobbs watershed. Hundreds of volunteers of all ages will pull the accumulated debris of winter out of the water, just in time for us all to enjoy the beauty of the Darby Creek Valley this spring and summer.

Please review the List of Sites and Captains (page 2) and choose where you and your family will help out this year. The Captains are waiting to hear from you, and when you contact them, they will let you know specifically where to meet them on April 28. Remember, if you wish to help out at **the Heinz Wildlife Refuge part of our Cleanup this year, it will happen the week before on April 21, from 8 to noon**, because of tidal considerations.

If you can't get out and clean the Creek, but would like to help, we are still seeking sponsors to help defray the cost of tee shirts and place-maps. Perhaps your employer or a local business you frequent would like to make a contribution. Please ask them! We have a letter available with all the details for you to take to them. Just call us at (610) 583-0788 and we'll see that you get a copy by email or regular mail.

Finally, we are reinstating a tradition this year by having a light picnic lunch for Captains and volunteers who wish to attend. It will begin at 1:30 pm on April 28 at the Morton Morton House, located on the Muckinapates Creek where it flows into the Darby and

then the Delaware, in Norwood. (You can reach it by following Route 13 into Norwood and turning left onto Winona Avenue. Follow Winona to the ball field and make a right and then a quick left back onto Winona and look for signs to the MM house driveway on your left.)

Here's a chance to meet other Creek Cleaners, have a bite to eat and see a beautifully restored 1750's home in our watershed, owned by a cousin of John Morton, who signed The Declaration of Independence. If you plan to attend, check with your Captain before you leave your Cleanup site to get your ticket.

Thanks from all of us at DCVA for being part of our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Watershed-Wide Cleanup! We couldn't do it without you!

Jan and John Haigis, Co-Chairs, 2007 DCVA Watershed-Wide Cleanup, (610) 583-0788, email: janhaigis@yahoo.com.

**StreamWatch Is  
April 11th**

**MARK IT DOWN!** The next StreamWatch will be Saturday April 11. As in the past, we will be taking samples from at least 4 sites on Darby Creek: Bartram Park (Darby), Haverstown (below the hospital), Skunk Hollow (Radnor), and the Brandywine Conservancy (Easttown). There is a chance that we may take samples from one or two more sites although we are not sure yet. In the past, this has been a lot of fun for all. It is a great chance to get in the creek and see what is living in the creek, and see what it tells us about the water quality of Darby Creek. Put the date on your calendar and plan to join in the effort. Call Alan Samel at 610 446-1658 for details.

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## 2007 Darby-Cobbs Cleanup List of Sites and Captains

**Briarcliff/Crescent Park:** Lisa Simmonds (610) 237-1691

**Bryn Mawr/Ithan Creek:** Jan Marie and Alan Rushforth  
(610) 520-1968, rushforth@comcast.net

**Clifton Heights/Kent Park to Swedish Cabin:**  
Michael Wenk (610) 324-9350

**Darby Borough - 2 sites:**

**Blue Bell** - Scott Maits, cityactivist1@yahoo.com

**Powell Park to Suplee Dam** - Dave Bannon (610) 532-5620

**Drexel Hill/ Idle Hour Tennis Club:**  
Terry Kane (610) 449-4411

**Glenolden - 2 Sites:**

Gwen Coronway - (610) 583-0836

Joe Dolan - (610) 583-7680

**Haverford/ Glendale Park:** Tim Denny (610) 446- 9397

**Lansdowne/ Hoffman Park:** (report to Bonnie's  
Wondergardens) Bonnie McShane (610) 259-1733  
John Pecko (610) 453-7583

**Lansdowne/ Pennock Place:** Jack Kelly (610) 623-5156

**Marple/St. Luke's Church:** Bill Brainerd (610) 325-3127

**Morton/Stony Creek:** Mario Cimino (610) 328- 9698

**Newtown Square/Fox Run:** Marty Milligan (610) 353-7024

**Norwood/Morton Morton House:**  
Judy Anastasi (610) 583-3002

**Radnor:** Dave Cannan - (610) 745- 6843  
Robin Mann - (610) 527-4598

**Secane/Muckinapates:** Jack Bergin (610) 761-7108

**Springfield Swim Club/Indian Rock Park:**  
Dave Damon (610) 544-5432

**Tinicum/ Heinz Wildlife Center:**

(Please note: Due to tides, this Cleanup is on April 21, 8-12)  
Mike McMenamen (215) 365-3118

**Upper Darby/ Collen Brook Farm:**  
Clyde Hunt (610) 449-9333

**Upper Darby/ Naylor's Run/ Garrett Road:**  
Pete Leahy/Upper Darby Marines (610) 622-0320

**Yeadon - 2 Sites:**

Andrew Brazington - (610) 622-2849  
Vanessa Bullock - (484) 410-4831

**New Sites:**

**Cobbs Creek below Millbourne**  
Jeanette MacNeille (484) 461-8107

**Colwyn/Tribet Place:** (Confluence of Darby and Cobbs  
Creek) Michelle Dunn/ PA CleanWays  
(877) 772-3673, ext. 37

**Radnor Valley Country Club/Conestoga Swim Club**  
(Meet at Swim Club Parking Lot at 9 am)



Four sites along Darby Creek and its tributaries have received TreeVitalize grants to remove invasive species and restore a native riparian

buffer. Darby Creek Valley Association is coordinating the following sites: Collenbrook Park, Mansion Park, the Swedish Cabin, and Penn Pines Park.

The mission of the TreeVitalize program is to develop a public private partnership, through regional collaboration, to address the loss of tree cover in the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region. One of the focuses of this tree cover restoration is on riparian corridors. Riparian buffers not only provide substantial environmental benefits to our streams and wildlife, they also provide a number of economic, recreational and aesthetic values. The restoration of the riparian buffers at these sites will help protect the water quality of Darby Creek and its tributaries.

DCVA is offering two opportunities to participate in this project: after the board meeting on April 21st and/or on the afternoon of our annual cleanup, April 28th. If you are interested in volunteering at one of the plantings, please call Clyde Hunt at 610 449-9333 or the Delaware County coordinator, Jamie Anderson, Conservation District, 610-892-9484.

## Canoe Ramble 2007? Are You Interested?

The Johann Printz Canoe challenge was reinstated two years ago. It had begun as a canoe race, the Johann Printz Challenge Cup. The race, open to canoeists and kayakers, was from the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum to Governor Printz Park. When the Challenge was reinstated, it was decided to include in the event recreational canoeists and kayakers who were interested in canoeing down Darby Creek at a more leisurely pace. This year, a naturalist, to explain the flora and fauna of the Refuge, the largest wildlife refuge in an urban area, would accompany the canoeists and kayakers. We would also observe the encroachments on the marsh, such as the remnants of the Folcroft landfill. This part of Darby Creek is where New Sweden and Pennsylvania began and we would make stops at the Morton Morton house in Norwood and the Morton Homestead in Prospect Park. The Morton Homestead was also at one time a busy ferry terminal. The ramble would conclude with lunch at Governor Printz Park. The event would be held in September, on a Saturday when the tides are favorable (i.e. outgoing) and rental canoes or kayaks would be available.



For the event to take place we need both participants and organizers. If interested, either as a participant or an organizer, write us, email us, or call John Furth at 610-622-3939.

## DCVA Founding Member Receives Ribbon of Green Award



*DCVA Vice-president John Furth (left) presents Ribbon of Green Award to Bob Shaner*

This year's recipient of the Robert Doherty Ribbon of Green Award is Bob Shaner. A special plaque was presented to him at our Annual Meeting. The plaque noted his twenty-three years of service to the Association and it is not coincidental that his years of service correspond precisely with the years that DCVA has been in existence. Bob was one of the founders of the DCVA, and served the organization in many capacities. He was for many years a co-captain of the annual stream clean up. He knew our by-laws and was the "go-to" person if there was a question or a problem about procedure. He was on the Swedish Cabin Committee, which led to the formation of the Friends of the Swedish Cabin and the preservation of that historic site. With his wife Vicki he arranged fund raisers including auctions, tailgate sales and our Annual Banquet, and for many years he chaired DCVA's nominating Committee. Most recently he was instrumental in reinstating the Canoe Challenge.

Truly a worthy recipient—congratulations, Bob!

**For more information about DCVA, including previous editions of *The Valley*, visit [www.dcv.org](http://www.dcv.org).**

## DCVA Annual Meeting Held January 24

Newly elected Congressman Joseph Sestak addressed the annual meeting of the Darby Creek Valley Association on Saturday, January 24th, and was warmly welcomed. Saying "I'm here to listen," Sestak, the highest ranking member of the military to ever serve in either the House or the Senate, described life as a freshman Congressman. He noted that his experience as a Navy Admiral was being sought but also acknowledged the complexity of the issues facing the people of the district. "When I was dealing with the Pentagon it was like 20,000 ants on a log," he said, "with each one thinking they were in control of the log...I think Congress will be harder still." Sestak spoke about a number of local issues with national impact that he is reviewing, including the proposed redesign of the airport. "The models measure sound, not noise," he said and indicated he is preparing his own study paper to look at how long-term exposure to noise affects things like children's ability to learn. On the topic of flooding, he said the maps being used by FEMA and other agencies have old and outdated information. "It's critical that we get better data. Some people may be in a flood plain and not even know it" he said. Many in the crowd discussed the tremendous impact that building upstream has on the flooding problems experienced by downstream communities.

Earlier in the meeting, Bob Shaner, one of the founding members of DCVA in 1984, received the "Bob Dougherty Ribbon of Green Award" for his contributions to responsible earth stewardship. (See article in the first column on this page.) Members of DCVA elected Board of Directors and were briefed on upcoming events. For additional information visit [www.dcv.org](http://www.dcv.org).



*Newly elected Congressman Joe Sestak addresses watershed residents at DCVA's annual meeting.*

## Update on Darby Creek Greenway and Delaware County Open Space Initiative

Progress has slowed with the Darby Creek Greenway Plan development, a process being conducted by the Delaware County Planning Department. A meeting planned for February to discuss updating the Darby Creek Stream Valley Park Master Plan was canceled. The update of the 1987 Master Plan, for the stretch of stream corridor between Garrett Road in Upper Darby Township and MacDade Boulevard in Darby Borough, is intended to provide an example for the rest of the watershed municipalities, looking at stream valley trails, parking, bridges, signage, maintenance and other considerations for establishing and maintaining a linear greenway and providing facilities for

trail users. DCVA hopes that County officials will get the planning initiative back on track.

Meanwhile, the Open Space, Recreation and Greenway Plan (OSRGP) initiative, to develop a comprehensive open space, recreational and greenway areas implementation plan, is moving forward. DCVA serves as a member of the Advisory Committee for the initiative. The March meeting of the Advisory Committee focused on reviewing draft goals and strategies for the plan. DCVA intends to lend active support to the County's efforts to invite broad public participation during the public outreach phase of the process.

## Newly Restored Blue Bell Inn Shares Its History to All

The Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek has a new lease on life. After Hurricane Floyd inundated the building, the Fairmount Park Commission performed extensive renovations and installed a caretaker. The Blue Bell took part in OcTrolleyFest 2006 last October and will once more be one of the clean-up sites during the 23rd Annual Watershed Wide Cleanup on April 28.

As a witness to history for at least the past 241 years (since 1766), and being a meeting place and hub of activity for the past 360 years, the Bell and its surroundings have many stories to tell. Recent research indicates that the Bell is located on what was the Minquas Indian Path, a major fur trading route between the Dutch trading posts along the Schuylkill and the land of the Susquahannocks. In 1646, 35 years before the arrival of William Penn, Swedish Governor Printz built a grist mill next to the Bell in the stream the Indians called Karakung; the Swedes called Mondal (or place of the mill); and we today know as Cobbs Creek. It was the first water driven mill in what would become Pennsylvania and the birthplace of Pennsylvania industry.

During colonial days, the Bell Inn was a stopping place on the main road between Philadelphia and the Southern Colonies. In 1777, Washington's troops encamped nearby both before and after the battle of Brandywine, and in November of 1777 the Bell was the scene of a skirmish between 2500 troops under Lord Cornwallis and 28 American partisans during the campaign to clear out the river approaches to Philadelphia. In September 1781, the Bell watched the troops of French General Rochambeau march by on their way to victory at Yorktown, ending the Revolutionary War.

The first omnibuses to and from Darby rattled by in the 1830's, and after 1837, Proprietor Charles Lloyd was involved in helping slaves to freedom. The first horsecars rumbled by in 1858

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## Marker Sought for Site of Pennsylvania's First Water-Powered Mill

In January of 2007, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission received an application for a historic marker to commemorate the site of Old Swedes Mill, located in today's Cobbs Creek next to the Blue Bell Inn. Built by Swedish Governor Johann Printz in 1646, some 35 years before the arrival of William Penn, the mill was described by Campanius as "a fine mill, which ground both fine and course flour, and was going early and late. It was the first that was seen in that country." According to Ashmead's *History of Delaware County* Printz was much pleased with the mill, "which runs the whole year, to the great advantage of the country, particularly as the windmill, formerly here before I came, would never work, and was good for nothing."

The mill was a "Norse" or "Splash" mill, where the force of the water turned horizontal paddles in the water which directly turned the connected shaft and millstone, eliminating the need for complicated gearing. There is a model of the mill at the Hagley Museum in Delaware and another example in the Mercer Museum in Doylestown. "Sweeds Mill" was noted on Holm's map of Pennsylvania as late as the

1680's and the square holes in the rock below the present dam, noted by Ashmead in the 1880's, are believed to date back to the original mill.

In 1926, as part of the celebration of the Sesquicentennial (America's 150th Birthday), the Swedish Colonial Society with the help of the Swedish Crown brought a mill from Scandinavia and erected in on the spot, but that mill was washed away in a flood several years later.

In the present day, the mill site and Creek are both within the extensive green belt of Cobbs Creek Park and part of the Fairmount Park System. The application for the historical marker points out that the early Swedish settlements were eclipsed by the waves of immigration that came with Penn and that a marker at the site would help to establish a baseline for understanding the early history of the Commonwealth. It is to be hoped that this gathering place for more than 360 years and birthplace of Pennsylvania industry, will, this year or next, finally receive the attention it deserves. For more information, contact John Haigis at (610) 583-0788 or [johnghd@yahoo.com](mailto:johnghd@yahoo.com).

## Visit the Heinz Refuge this Spring: Varied Activities Available



Great birding, hiking trails and other wild activities abound on the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum located at 86th & Lindbergh Boulevard in Philadelphia! J.N. "Ding" Darling's conservation cartoon traveling exhibit runs through mid-June, Rachel Carson's 100th birthday will be celebrated in May, and year round weekend nature walks and workshops offer enjoyment to all. For further information call (215) 365-3118 or visit our website <http://heinz.fws.gov>.

## Jeff Featherstone to Speak at DCEN Spring Meeting May 1

The Delaware County Environmental Network (DCEN) will hold a spring meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 7:30 p.m., at the Springfield Township Building on Powell Road. The speaker will be Jeffrey Featherstone, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Temple University. He will speak about the Applicability of the Pennypack Study to our watersheds in Delaware County. DCVA is a founding member of DCEN, and all DCVA members are invited to attend.

## 2007 Delaware County Envirothon

The 15th Annual Delaware County Envirothon will be held April 24, 2007. The Envirothon is an environmental competition in which teams of five students, grades 9 through 12, compete against other Delaware County high school teams in five subject areas: Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry, and a current issue topic which is updated each year. This year's current issue topic is "Alternative Renewable Energy." Each high school is permitted to send two teams of five to the event. Professionals in each area of expertise develop the tests: PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, DCNR - Forestry, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Envirothon is sponsored locally by:

- The Delaware County Conservation District
- Cooperative Extension Service
- D.C.N.R. - State Parks
- The Delaware County Environmental Network

The first place team is eligible to compete in the statewide Envirothon competition, taking place at Penn State University, Main Campus, this year. The statewide competition involves over 60 teams from across Pennsylvania, with one entry from each county. The local winner receives funds to assist with expenses in attending the state competition. The winner of the state competition then goes on to the International Competition. Last year, Penncrest HS placed first at both the local and statewide competitions. They then went on to place 2nd at the International Competition held at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. The following schools also competed in last year's event: Sun Valley HS, Strath Haven HS, Haverford HS, Glen Mills Schools, Garnet Valley HS, and the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur. For more information and a complete listing of last year's results, check out the District's website at [www.delcocd.org](http://www.delcocd.org).

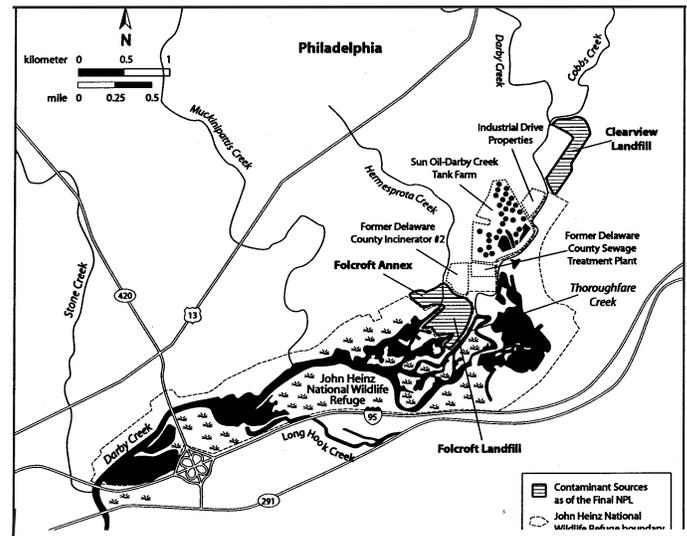
DCVA, with a grant from the EPA, has hired a consultant, Mary Rooney of EnviroAce Inc. to monitor and explain to the public the ongoing efforts to remediate the effects of the various toxins placed in the Clearview and Folcroft landfills. The location of the landfills is noted in the Figure.

While operating the landfills, waste was placed along the edges of the creeks. When the landfills were closed, they were covered. Years later, EPA investigators found that the covers were eroding and contaminated runoff was seeping into Darby Creek. EPA collected samples at the landfills and reviewed previous sampling reports. This information showed that at the Clearview Landfill soils and seeps contained metals, polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs, and petroleum byproducts. At the Folcroft Landfill the groundwater wells contained metals and solvents.

EPA is conducting Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies (RI/FS) at the landfills. This investigation includes comprehensive environmental sampling of the soil, groundwater, surface water, stream sediments and landfill seeps to determine the type of contaminants and the spread of contamination. EPA has sampled the Clearview Landfill, the city park, and Darby and Cobbs Creeks. In 2005, EPA collected stream samples from Darby Creek and soil samples from the City park as part of the ecological investigation. After a long legal process, EPA in October 2005 finally received federal court-ordered access to the Clearview Landfill. In 2006 EPA started sampling the Clearview Landfill collecting soil, air, and groundwater samples. EPA also installed groundwater monitoring wells on the landfill property.

Reports on these remedial investigations/feasibility studies should be available late this year or in 2008.

## TAG Update



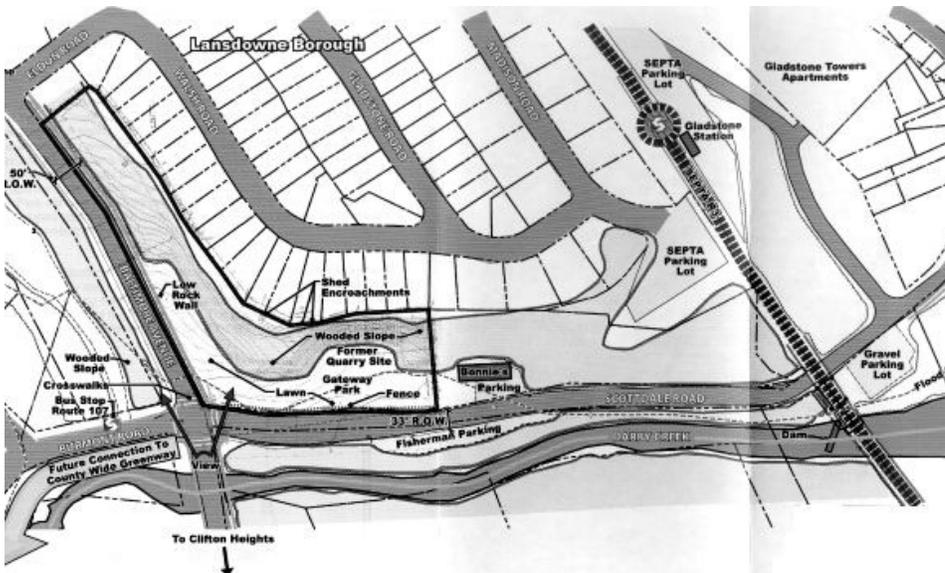
## 2007 Delaware County Conservation District Poster Contest

Once again, the Delaware County Conservation District will sponsor its annual Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Conservation's Power," chosen to emphasize the importance of working together to protect our natural resources and encouraging 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 20, 2007, and judging will take place on May 1, 2007. An awards ceremony will be held later in May for all winners. All first place posters will then be forwarded to the state poster contest.

For more information, visit the Conservation District's website at [www.delcocd.org](http://www.delcocd.org) or call Bridget Thompson at (610) 892-9484.

## Lansdowne Gateway Park and Trail and Hoffman Park Improvement Projects Move Forward



DCVA is pleased to see the finalization of the Lansdowne Gateway Park and Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail Master Plan, bringing Lansdowne Borough officials a major step closer to realizing their goal of providing the community with a welcoming greenspace at the intersection of Baltimore Pike and Scottdale Road, and an inviting and safe route along Darby Creek and Scottdale Road, from Baltimore Pike to Hoffman Park. The streambank restoration accompanying the trail along Scottdale Road will provide important water quality benefits to Darby Creek while buffering walkers and cyclists from automobile traffic with plantings of native trees and shrubs. Funding for the first phase of the project is already in hand, allocated by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation from federal highway enhancement funds.

The improvements are slated to continue downstream, with a streambank restoration and stormwater management project along the edge of Hoffman Park. This project, designed by the Delaware Riverkeeper, will include regrading a section of the streambank and installation of rock veins to deflect creek flows away from the streambank, providing improved access for fishing. A 1,500 foot stretch of the creek is to be planted with native trees, shrubs

and wildflowers provided by the Tree Vitalize program, in addition to trees provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Delaware Estuary Program. Lansdowne is seeking Growing Greener funding for this project.

We applaud Lansdowne officials for pursuing these creative projects, which will improve the aesthetics and walkability of the area while offering very beneficial buffering to this stretch of the Darby. We hope these projects will inspire future efforts to restore the creek's banks downstream and extend the trail and 'ribbon of green' past Hilldale Road and down to Lansdowne Avenue. We look forward to playing our part to see this happen.

**Briefly Noted:** Michael Jordan, President of the Pilgrim Gardens/Aronimink Civic Association would like to alert DCVA members to potential commercial development of a property behind Bella Vista Road, near Darby Creek and Pilgrim Park. His organization is interested in spearheading an effort to preserve the parcel as open space. For more information about this and other zoning issues in the Civic Association area, visit the Association's website at [www.pgacivic.com](http://www.pgacivic.com).

## Heinz Refuge Photo Group Offers Program for Students

The Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum Photo Group will offer its annual "Learning About the Environment Through the Lens" program on Saturday, April 28, 9 am to 3 pm, and on Saturday, May 5, 9 am to 12 noon. Pre-registration is required.

The program is free and open to all high school age students in the area (age 14-18) or grades 9-12. The program is limited to 6 students as that is how many identical 35 mm SLR cameras are available for use. The cameras are manual and use traditional film.

The program is divided into 3 portions over 2 consecutive Saturdays. The first one, April 28, will consist of a morning session of classroom work that includes a short presentation on the history and significance of the Darby Creek Watershed, Tinicum Marsh, and the Heinz Refuge. There will also be an introduction to photography including composition, proper exposure, and field ethics.

In the afternoon the students will photo document, based on a central theme, utilizing the resources of the refuge. Each student will be paired with a Photo Group mentor who will guide the student in the field.

On the second Saturday (May 5) students will edit their photos; each student will create a poster board display. In addition they will work as a team to create a "collective display."

Upon completion of the program students will receive a certificate, T-shirt and all their unused photos. Their work will be exhibited for several weeks at the Refuge. Each student will also be given a folder full of handout material on all the subject matter discussed in the class and more. All film, processing, and other materials are provided free of charge.

If you are a student who fulfills the age and/or grade requirements and has an interest in photography as well as the natural world, this is a great opportunity! To register, or to get more information, call (215) 365-3118.

## Upcoming Programs and Special Events in the Watershed

### Native Bee Monitoring Program: April 23

DCVA members are invited to a free special guest program at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum on Monday April 23, 2007, at 1 pm. Biologist Sam Droege of the U.S. Geological Survey, an expert on native and exotic bees, will speak about a national monitoring program that he is developing. Bees are responsible for pollination of most plant species, which in turn, of course, produce oxygen and food supplies that support all animal life (including us). Sam is looking to build a national network of volunteers and educators to help him capture, identify and monitor populations of these important pollinators, as well as trends of native vs. exotic species. Most of our native bees are small non-stinging insects that lead solitary lifestyles. Come join Sam at the Cusano Environmental Education Center for a fascinating program, followed by a field training exercise on how to get involved in the national bee monitoring program.

### Haverford Township Historical Society Heritage Festival: May 6

The Heritage Festival will be held from 11 am to 5 pm on scenic Karakung Drive alongside Cobbs Creek in Haverford Township. Tours of Nitre Hall and Lawrence cabin will be offered throughout the day as well as demonstrations of colonial-era tasks such as woodstove cooking, colonial lighting, blacksmithing, antique firearms, Windsor chair-making, bobbin lace making, and calligraphy. There will also be live music, food, wine-tasting, pony rides and games for children.

Special activities will include a 5K run the morning of the festival and a juried photography exhibition. For more information call Tricia Woodman at 610 924-0658 or visit the society's website at [www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org).

### Rain Garden Workshop: May 10

On Thursday May 10 at 6:30 pm at the Springfield Township Municipal Building, a free Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Workshop will be held. Rain barrels and rain gardens are a great way for homeowners to reduce stormwater runoff on their properties. Call the Delaware County Conservation District at 610 892-9484 to register for the workshop--the first 25 Delaware County residents who register will receive a free 50 gallon rain barrel.

### Farm Day at Historic CollenBrook: June 3

Early Days at CollenBrook: Life on the Farm will be held Sunday June 3rd from 1 to 4 pm. CollenBrook Farm is located at Marvine Road and Mansion Avenue in Drexel Hill. Activities will include sheep shearing, colonial food preparation, apple butter making, blacksmithing, early medical practices, beekeeping with a live exhibit, demonstrations of farm tools and early Indian tools, and 18th century games for children. Tours of the house and grounds will be given and refreshments will be available.

In addition to this special event, the CollenBrook house and grounds are open for tours every Sunday from May through October from 2 to 4 pm.

### Tree Tenders Training: September 11, 18, and 25

The TreeVitalize program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is providing Tree Tenders Training to residents of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The workshops for Delaware County will be in the fall on Tuesdays, September 11, 18, and 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lansdowne Twentieth Century Club, 84 S. Lansdowne Avenue.

The hands-on training will cover tree biology, identification, planting,  
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## Delaware County Environmental Summit Held February 24



*Gary Stolz, Deputy Refuge Manager of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum welcomes Congressman Joe Sestak to the Delaware County Environmental Summit*

The 2nd Annual Delaware County Environmental Summit, organized by Delco's Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change (DCCEC), was held Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Cusano Environmental Education Center at John Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum.

The day consisted of presentations on environmental education including 4H programs (agriculture and environmental science in middle and high schools) and watershed education, air quality violations and landfills in Delaware County, and global warming and energy use. Elmore Hunter from Yeadon Borough and Kathy Goddard-Doms of Darby Creek Valley Association gave the presentations for the first panel. Alisha Deen from Clean Water Action presented information on itsbucket brigade which represents a sampling technique for collecting air samples. They have worked on collecting samples around the Sunoco Refinery. John Furth, also a DCVA board member, gave a brief overview on the  
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## President's Pen

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stream sampling, we hope you'll sign up this year and join us for this fun, and rewarding event.

Meanwhile, John and Jan Haigis have pulled out the stops for the clean-up this year. With the record number of clean-up captains and sites, and as many recruits as possible, this year's event promises to provide cleaner waters to vast numbers of Darby watershed residents -- human and animal alike.

We continue our involvement with Delaware County's development of its Open Space, Recreational and Greenway Plan implementation initiative. We are looking forward to the important role of reaching out and encouraging active public support for the preservation, stewardship and enhancement of the open spaces and natural resources and parkland that are so important, not only for the health of the Darby Creek, but for the quality of life of all the County's residents.

As the pages within describe, our TreeVitalize program will be very active again this year, scouting out opportunities to green the watershed with new trees, and the Education Committee is busily planning spring and summer activities.

We look forward to seeing you along the creek!

*Robin Mann*

## Tree Tenders Training

--Continued from page 7:

and proper care. It includes information about urban stresses on trees, basic tree pruning and root care, and community organizing.

The course is designed for both lay people and experts. It is free, but registration is required. For more information, contact Julianne Schieffer at 610 489-4315 (jxs51@psu.edu) or Mindy Maslin at 215 988-8844 (mmaslin@pennhort.org). To register online, go to [www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org) and choose "Tree Tenders Training."

## Report on Environmental Summit

--Continued from page 7:

status of the Folcroft and Clearview landfills in Delaware County.

The last panel on global warming and energy use was represented by Suzanne Leta Liou of Environment New Jersey, Richard Whiteford of the Environmental Defense, and Larry Menkes with the Energy Coordinating Agency. This panel provided information on the status of global warming, the anthropogenic contributions to global warming, and energy saving tips. Richard Whiteford and Khiet Luong (Pennsylvania Environmental Council) have kindly offered to show the movie *An Inconvenient Truth* and give a powerpoint presentation as part of Al Gore's training series at possibly two locations in June and July.

The summit was packed with useful information provided by the presenters as well as exhibitors set up throughout the center. Elected officials also provided their perspectives on environmental issues in Delaware County. State Representative Bryan Lentz and Congressman Joe Sestak provided comments in the late and early morning, respectively, which was a first for the Delaware County Environmental Summit.

The summit continues to be well attended and will continue to be offered every year in February. If you are interested in more information about the summit and other events, please visit the Delco's Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change website at <http://delcoenvironmental.tripod.com>.

## Blue Bell Tavern

--Continued from page 4:

and the first electric trolleys in the 1890's. The trolleys continue to rumble today.

The Friends of the Blue Bell are elated that the Bell is once more presiding on its highway of history, and hope Col. Jonathan Grappin, the ghost of the Blue Bell and Friend of the King, is happy too.

## Resources Available:

- **BEST PRACTICES FOR FIELD DAYS: A PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDEBOOK AND CD** for organizers, presenters, teachers, and volunteers: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD8208.html>
- **ROADSIDE DUMPS AND WATER QUALITY** (Penn State University, 2005, 27 pp.) focuses on ways to tell whether a dump may be affecting water quality. Available from PSU, Pubs Distribution Center. 814-865-6713.
- **IT PAYS TO SAVE WETLANDS!** Colorful activity placemat. Grade 4 to adult. EPA 843-E-06-002
- **DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS OF URBANIZATION ON WETLAND QUALITY** (Center for Watershed Protection, 2006, 191 pp.) intended for local natural resource managers and land planners. Third in a series, available free for download at <http://www.cwp.org/wetlands/index.htm>.

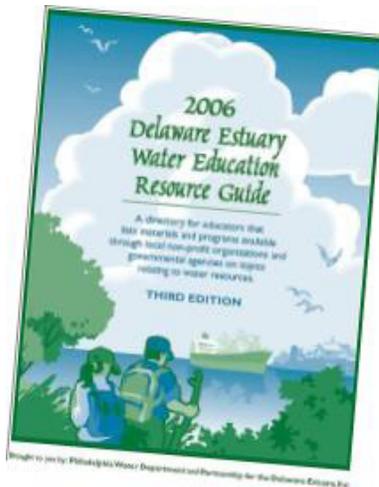
# The Valley

*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 contributed by Anne Ackerman, Jamie Anderson, Shaun Bailey, Bill Buchanan, Jaclyn Dispensa, John Furth, Jan and John Haigis, Michael Jordan, Rosemary Kesling, Anne Livingston, Robin Mann, Alan Samel, Gary Stolz, Bridget Thompson, and Tricia Woodman. Photographs courtesy of Jaclyn Dispensa, John Haigis, and Jan Rushforth. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. © 2007.



## Water Education Resource Guide Available

The Delaware Estuary, or the tidal portion of the Delaware River, is the most-valuable natural resource in our region, yet little is taught about it in our schools. For this reason, the Philadelphia Water Department and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary have published a reference tool entitled the **2006 Delaware Estuary Water Education Resource Guide**. In it, teachers and other interested individuals can find detailed information regarding a wide variety of materials and programs available to them from the many non-profit organizations and government agencies located throughout the tri-state area. Its 107 pages are filled with a wealth of environmental wisdom worthy of any lecture or field trip.



To be included in future editions, receive a hard copy, or for additional information, please contact Dee Ross at (800) 445-4935, extension 106. To download a PDF copy of this third-edition text, simply visit [www.DelawareEstuary.org](http://www.DelawareEstuary.org). And, while you are there, visit the "Links" Web page to explore a comprehensive listing of partners working to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary for current and future generations.

## Educator Workshops To Be Held in April

Environmental Concern Inc. and the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge are offering two educator workshops:

- **WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands for Early Childcare Providers** will be held April 27 from 9 am to 4 pm. The course will introduce the subject of wetlands through fun and interactive activities in lesson plan format. The cost of \$45 includes the Wonders of Wetlands curriculum guide.
- **Wetland Plant ID for Educators: Making Wetlands Come Alive** will be held April 28 from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost of \$50 includes the Ralph Tiner Field Guide to Nontidal Wetland Identification.

Both workshops will be held at the Refuge. Pre-registration is required. Call Sarah Toman at 410 745-9620 or register online at [www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org). Ask about scholarships and ACT 48 credits.

### 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, April 14, 2007

StreamWatch. Various stations along Darby Creek. (See page 1)

Saturday, April 21, 2007  
9 a.m.

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

Saturday, April 21, 2007  
Following Board Meeting

Tree Planting. Call Clyde Hunt at 610 449-9333 if you can help.

Saturday, April 28, 2007  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DCVA Watershed-wide Cleanup. See list of sites on page 2.  
Picnic for creek cleaners will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the Morton Morton House. (Note: Heinz Wildlife Center part of the cleanup will be April 21, 8 am to noon)

Tuesday, May 1, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

DCEN Spring Meeting. Speaker: Jeff Featherstone  
Springfield Township Building, Powell Road, Springfield

Sunday, May 6, 2007  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Haverford Township Historical Society Heritage Festival  
Karakung Drive, Havertown

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Awareness Day at Morton Morton House in Norwood  
Includes appraisal of small antiques for nominal fee, house tour, and water testing demonstrations by the DCVA.  
For details and directions visit: [www.norwoodpahistorical.org](http://www.norwoodpahistorical.org)

Sunday, June 3, 2007  
1 to 4 p.m.

Farm Day at Collen Brook in Upper Darby

Tuesdays, September 11,  
18, & 25, 2007

Tree Tenders Training. Workshop as part of TreeVitalize program.  
Lansdowne Twentieth Century Club. (See page 7)

Saturday, October 20, 2007

3rd Annual OcTrolleyFest in Darby Borough  
For details: [www.ectrolleyfest.org](http://www.ectrolleyfest.org)

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



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