



President's Pen:

View from the Stream Bank

As I write, March is displaying its characteristic indecision about spring. Yesterday began with a chilly wind and snow flurries, then gradually warmed and cleared to an afternoon sunbath. Overnight, the temperature dropped again, and this morning saw a thin layer of ice coating the surface of ponds and vernal pools in the area.

But there is no indecision on the part of DCVA's energetic and determined spring events leaders. They have been in high gear for weeks, to bring about our signature springtime events: the StreamWatch program on April 19 and the watershed-wide Darby Creek Clean-up on the following Saturday, April 26. We greatly appreciate Alan Samel's expert leadership of the StreamWatch program. And we marvel at the creativity and stamina with which Jan and John Haigis plan and coordinate the clean-up, and keep this year's 34 captains in the loop.

Beyond the immediate benefit that these hands-on activities provide, they also advance the tremendously impor-

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24th Annual Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek Cleanup Scheduled for April 26

Once again it is that time of year when DCVA members come out in droves to clean up the Darby Creek. This will be the 24th year for this, our signature event. Last year about 650 people collected about 25 tons of material! To accomplish this again this year, we need everyone's help. A list of sites and captains is on the next page—just chose a location near you and let the captain know that you are willing to work! Hopefully we will have good weather, but we work rain or shine; dress appropriately (gloves are important; waders are a plus).

Note also the sponsors listed on the next page. Be sure to patronize businesses that contribute to our community in this way and thank them for their support. If you or your business would like to be added to the list, contact our hardworking co-chairs, Jan and John Haigis at 610 583-0788; e-mail janhaigis@yahoo.com. As they have told us, "We really live in a very beautiful area and this is a chance to really make a difference. It's a lot of work but it's also a lot of fun." See for yourself on Saturday April 26th beginning at 9 a.m.

Annual StreamWatch Is April 19

By Alan Samel

Ah, Spring is in the air, rain is in the gutters, and the bugs are starting to crawl. But wait, that means that it must be time for our annual DCVA StreamWatch! I never could get anything past you guys....The annual StreamWatch is scheduled for Saturday April 19. As always, this is a rain or shine event. As always, we will start at Bartram Park in Darby at 9:00 a.m. This year we will have the same four sites we have been testing for, well, forever (not literally!). The results from the samples we took last year were very encouraging; there was an upturn in water quality at all sites. But one data point does not make a trend. So, it will be interesting to see

what the 2008 samples will look like.

Because we spend a lot of time in the water, don't forget your waders. If you do not have a set, now is a really good time to get a cheap pair.

As always, we really need everyone's help. Your energy powers this project. The turn-out recently has been great; there has been a lot of interest and a lot of people willing to help out. This is a really fun day for everyone. And I hope you can join us. Please call 610 446-1658 for more information or to let me know if you can help. And if you know anyone new that might be interested, encourage him (or her) to join us.

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Darby Creek Valley Association 2008 Watershed-Wide Darby/Cobbs Creek Cleanup Sites & Captains

**Saturday, April 26 9-1 (unless noted)
To Volunteer, contact Site Captain below**

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

Bryn Mawr/Ithan Creek:

Jan Marie and Alan Rushforth (610) 520-1968

Clifton Heights/Kent Park to Swedish Cabin:

Michael Wenk (610) 324-9350;

Clifton Heights/Gillespie Park:

Barbara Keffer (610) 853-6334

**Cobbs Creek/Upper Darby: 10 am across from
152 Glencoe Rd - Eliza Bronson (610) 352-5295**

Collingdale Park/Jackson/Hermasproda:

Joe Ciavarelli (610) 586-0500

Darby/Blue Bell on Cobbs Creek:

Scott Maits, cityactivist1@yahoo.com

Darby/Powell Park to Suplee Dam:

Jan & John Haigis (610) 583-0788

**Darby Creek Road near Marple Rd entrance to
Haverford State:** Bob Stump (610) 449-2258

Drexel Hill/ Idle Hour Tennis Club:

Terry Kane (610) 449-4411

Glenolden – 2 Sites:

Joe Dolan – (610) 583-7680;

Girl Scouts, Mrs. Lowry

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

Haverford Twp/Naylor's Run/Bailey Park:

Jean Marie Lorello, jema313@yahoo.com

Haverford Twp/Cobbs Crk/Grange Estate: [on Apr 19]

Roy Sandstrom (610) 446-9196

Tinicum/Heinz Wildlife Refuge [on Apr 19, 8-12]:

Mike McMenaman (215) 365-3118

**Lansdowne/Hoffman Park: (report to
Bonnie's Wondergardens)**

Bonnie McShane (610) 259-1733, John Pecko (610) 453-7583

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

Marple: 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: Robin Mann (610) 527-4598

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

Springfield Swim Club/Indian Rock Park:

Dave & Melanie Damon (610) 544-5432

Upper Darby/ Collen Brook Farm – 3 sites:

Clyde Hunt (610) 449-9333; Barbara Marinelli

Pilgrim Gardens Civic Assn (610) 449-0277;

Tom Hamilton, Mansion Pk (610)789-5009 (pre-Apr 26)

Upper Darby/ Naylor's Run/ Garrett Rd:

Pete Leahy/Upper Darby Marines (610) 622-0320

Yeadon/Cobbs Creek/65th & Chester:

Co-Captains, Andrew Brazington (610) 622-2849,

Vanessa Bullock (484) 410-4831

2008 DCVA Cleanup Sponsors

Our thanks to the following DCVA Cleanup Place-
map sponsors whose contributions covered the cost of
our 2008 placemaps and t-shirts:

Benett's Men's Store, Darby

John M. Bergin, General Contractor, Secane

Brandywine Conference and Visitors Bureau

Darby Community Development Corporation, Darby

Kathy and Bob Doms and family, DCVA Board

Eastern Mountain Sports, Haverford

Jan and John Haigis, DCVA Board

Alvin Holm, AIA, Philadelphia

Robin Mann, President, DCVA

The Radnor Conservancy

Radnor Valley Country Club

Jan Marie and Alan Rushforth, DCVA Board

Andrew Saul, DCVA Board

Sierra Club of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Sharon Savings Bank, Darby

Nancy Bonsall Shultz, descendant, Darby's Bonsall
settlers (1683)

Jaclyn Rhoads, DCVA Board, Residential Mold Services

We also wish to thank the following agencies who
provide supplies and in-kind services on behalf of the
DCVA Cleanup every year: Delaware County Solid
Waste authority, Delaware County Community Ser-
vice Court, Delaware County Conservation District and
PennDOT. We also wish to acknowledge the help of the
municipalities who regularly arrange for pick up of the
bagged and piled debris we collect in areas where we
can't provide a dumpster.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for your generous
and continuing support of our efforts! Because of you
and our Cleanup captains and volunteers, the Darby
Creek Valley gets cleaner and healthier every year!

Greenway Plan Update

By Steven Beckley, Senior Planner

The Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD) has been proceeding with preparation of the Greenway Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed. A draft of the document is well underway. DCPD is being assisted with development of the plan by a steering committee comprised of representatives from watershed municipalities, the County Parks Department and Conservation District, and the Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA).

The most recent Steering Committee meeting was held on January 15, 2008. The Committee was apprised of progress made over the past year on both the watershed-wide greenway plan and the pilot segment area master plan for the Darby Creek Stream Valley Park. DCPD presented the four main types of greenways proposed in the plan. They include green connections, transit-oriented, road-based, and water trails. Draft maps showing the location of the 12 greenway corridor segments were presented to the Committee.

DCPD's consultant, Urban Research and Development Corporation (URDC), has completed a first draft of the Stream Valley Park Master Plan; it is in the process of being edited. The document, which is an update to a 1987 plan, proposes a 4.6-mile multi-use trail primarily on land that is already in public ownership. It will run through six municipalities starting at Garrett Road in Upper Darby, south to Pine Street in Darby near the Colwyn Borough line. In 2007, DCPD met with study area representatives to discuss the specifics of feasibility, planning, and management of a trail. Their recommendations were incorporated in the draft document.

Portions of the draft Darby Creek Greenway Plan will be reviewed by the Steering Committee at its next meeting in the spring of 2008, and in subsequent meetings over the summer. The document will then undergo internal review and editing before it is released to the public. The plan is expected to be finalized by December 2008.

TAG Update

By John Furth

Three years ago the DCVA received a grant to secure the services of a Technical Assistant to oversee EPA's study of two superfund sites, the Folcroft and Clearview landfills. This grant was to have expired the end of this month. Both studies are ongoing and for a variety of reasons the Feasibility Studies have been delayed. After discussion with officials at the EPA, the Technical Assistance Grant to the DCVA has been extended for one year—to April 2009.

In January Joe Yorke and I met with Congressman Sestak who expressed concern and will provide what help he can to

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In Memoriam

Grace Russell Wheeler

May 17, 1927 - March 26, 2008

By Grace Sharples Cook

Grace Russell Wheeler, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, spent her childhood in Edgewater Park, New Jersey, on the lip of the Delaware in a house called Neshaminy Hall. The river was a delight to her; ships chugged by, and the un-groomed wetlands in estuarial waters built a keen awareness of nature. She viewed herself as a tenant in a long thread of humanity, and hoped to tread lightly on the natural world.



Her Father, Norman F.S. Russell, was the President of U.S. Pipe and Foundry, a Fortune 500 corporation. As a life-long trustee of Jefferson University and a director the First Pennsylvania Company, he was heavily involved in the civic life of Philadelphia, and served as a powerful role model for volunteerism and social responsibility to all of his children. He influenced both Grace and her sister, Ella, by encouraging them to think independently, work for their living, and develop an understanding of politics and economics. Their older brothers, Norman and Louis, went to Princeton University, but when it came time for his daughters to attend college, he suggested that they should both go to an innovative new institution founded by a friend of his – Bennington College in Vermont.

It was at Bennington that they learned how to think beyond the traditional to the creative and the practical. They wore blue jeans with the cuffs rolled up, men's shirts, and sneakers, and did chores in the college gardens and farm. Grace Wheeler learned how to pluck a chicken, harvest crops, and help do the work to bring a meal to the table.

She graduated from college in 1948 with a major in Political Economy. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Wheeler was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey to the State's planning commission, and became active in Republican politics in Burlington County. She often told her children that campaigning door to door, conducting opinion polls, and observing local political leaders wrangle over funding initiatives were great lessons in real-world problems. Ever curious about human decision-making and market behavior, she began her career in market research at the Alderson and Sessions, Inc. market research firm, and worked there until 1954 when she married her first husband, Philip Price Sharples. They lived in Bryn Mawr at the confluence of Darby and Ithan Creeks, raising three children. She remained in the house until her death.

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Two Ribbon of Green Award Presentations Made at Annual Meeting in February



From left to right, Robin Mann, DCVA president; Bob Shaner, Ribbon of Green committee chair; Andy Saul, award winner; Clyde Hunt, award committee; Robert Mask, accepting award posthumously on behalf of his wife Zoe Mask, and Carolyn Laws, daughter of Zoe Mask.

By Bob Shaner

Two Ribbon of Green Awards were made in February 2008. An award was given to Zoe Mask posthumously. The other went to Andy Saul.

Joe Mask served on the committee that recruited the original board of directors for the new Darby Creek Valley Association in January 1984. The individuals Zoe wanted as directors all were elected. Then the new board elected its own officers. Zoe had recommended the individuals who became president, first vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Time has shown that Zoe made great choices.

Andy Saul is everyone's favorite volunteer. Where ever one goes to a gathering of volunteers, Andy will be there doing his thing, which is anything that needs doing. For everyone's pleasure, we know Andy will keep right on doing what we like best, which is always his way.

Tree Planting Opportunity Along Banks of Darby Creek

If you would like to plant trees after you clean Darby Creek, you can do just that by meeting in the parking lot below the Swedish Cabin at 11 am on the same day as the cleanup: Saturday April 26. Organized by local environmental steward John Pecko, volunteers will plant trees donated by DCVA to help hold the soil, slow down runoff, and make the creek even more beautiful. To participate or for further information, call John at 267 228-5837.

Progress Made in Establishing East Coast Greenway

The East Coast Greenway is coming to Cobbs and Darby Creeks. The project that began in 1991 with a vision to create a nearly 3000 mile bike and walking path (non-motorized human transportation) from Maine to Florida is making progress. The Schuylkill River Trail from Boat House Row to Locust Street was recently marked as an East Coast Greenway route, with planning well underway to extend the Greenway to the Grays Ferry Bridge and beyond.

Piece by piece, the plan slated for completion by 2010 calls for the Greenway to enter Pennsylvania across from Trenton, New Jersey, pass through lower Bucks County, go across Philadelphia to the Schuylkill River Trail, then across the Grays Ferry Bridge to Bartram's Garden. The segment most recently approved as an interim trail would cross a short section of Southwest Philadelphia and connect with Cobbs Creek above the Blue Bell, and then travel south to the confluence of Darby and Cobbs Creek and then to the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. Long-range plans call for a bike route along the Delaware River around the airport. The Greenway then will cross into the State of Delaware near Marcus Hook and continue south.

"The route past the Blue Bell will connect with some very scenic and historic areas," said Scott Maits, Blue Bell caretaker and member of the DCVA Board. "From Pennsylvania's first water-powered mill, to the Minquas Indian Trail, to the Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, to the area's oldest existing trolley line, to connections with the Underground Railroad the area has been an important crossroads for more than 360 years." Maps and directions will be available later this year and the Greenway is expected to be 50% completed on off-road paths by 2010. Additional community support is always welcome and necessary. For additional information, please visit the web site www.greenway.org or e-mail ECG Steering Committee Member Scott Maits at cityactivist1@yahoo.com.

Group in Upper Darby Urging Township to Enact Single Stream Recycling

A group of Upper Darby residents has been promoting an effort to establish a single-stream recycling program in the township. Single-stream recycling allows residents to place plastics, paper products, glass and aluminum/bi-metal cans into one bin for curbside pick-up. Lansdowne and Media Boroughs currently have this system in place. It is believed that such a system would significantly increase both the number of people who recycle and the amount of recyclables collected. Currently Upper Darby only recycles paper and aluminum cans.

For more information please visit www.upperdarbyrecycle.org or contact Barbarann Keffer at 610-853-6334 or at barbarann.keffer@yahoo.com.

DCVA Committee Encourages Municipalities to Establish Environmental Advisory Councils

By Carl DuPoldt

The DCVA Environmental Advisory Council Establishment Committee has been in existence since December, 2007. We have been working to promote Environmental Advisory Councils within the Darby Creek Watershed.

On February 19th of this year we wrote all of the municipalities within the watershed that do not have EAC's. Initial phone and e-mail follow-up contacts have been made. Invitations to the EAC Conference at Villanova University on March 8, 2008, went to all municipalities as part of the February letter. Approximately 100 individuals attended the March conference. DCVA had an exhibit at the conference. We also made a presentation at the Delaware County Environmental Summit on February 23, 2008. An EAC panel consisting of Robert Feuer and Gary Snyder presented case studies of the Marple Township EAC and the Nether Providence EAC.

We are now establishing liaisons with these municipalities. To date, we have liaisons with Norwood Borough, Easttown Township, and Narberth Borough.

The municipalities that are in need of liaisons include: Aldan Borough, Clifton Heights Borough, Colwyn Borough, Collingdale Borough, Darby Borough, Darby Township, East Lansdowne Borough, Folcroft Borough, Glenolden Borough, Milbourne Borough, Morton Borough, Prospect Park Borough, Rutledge Borough, Sharon Hill Borough, Tinicum Township, and Yeadon Borough. The committee will continue to promote the formation of EAC's for watershed and quality of life enhancement within the Darby Creek Watershed.

The committee has also been in contact with municipalities that currently have EAC's: Haverford, Lower Merion, Marple, Newtown, Radnor, Springfield, Tredyffrin, and Upper Darby Townships and Narberth Borough.

Activities that DCVA and the EAC's are working on together are as follows: DCVA membership; support for the DCVA stream cleanup; support for the Darby Creek and East Coast Greenway Projects; support for watershed and environmental education projects; exchange of ideas on areas of common concern; MS4 Stormwater and NPDES programs; Environmental Resource Inventories; Stream Watch programs; exchange of ideas on funding programs that benefit both groups; flood protection programs; land use management activities; and preservation of historical sites.

Throughout the process, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Green Buildings Solutions and Supplies, A Division of Fox Ridge Marketing, Inc., have provided a significant amount of support. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council has set up a network through a web site, www.eacnetwork.org that is an excellent resource for all EAC's.

Report from Upper Darby's Newly Created EAC

By Thomas Judge, Chief Administrative Officer
Upper Darby Township

Upper Darby Township Mayor F. Raymond Shay, has appointed the following Township residents to serve on the newly created Environmental Advisory Council (EAC): Marianne Grace - Upper Darby Township Council; Thomas P. Wagner - Upper Darby Township Council; Joan Toennissen - Resident; Narinder Budwal - Resident; Stacey Hawley - Resident

EAC's were authorized by action of the State Legislature in Act 177 of 1996 (amended Act 148 of 1973). The general mission of the EAC is to aid and advise municipal officials on making sound environmental decisions. The committee's duties include:

- Identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to protect and improve the quality of the environment.
- Make recommendations about the use of open land.
- Promote a community environmental program (recycling)
- Advise local government agencies about Environmental issues.

Mini-Grants for Water Quality and Pollution Prevention Educational Programs Available through the Conservation District

The Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Program for Conservation Districts will award up to \$2,500 for Pennsylvania educational projects that:

- * Target farmers, local government officials, contractors, homeowners and other adult audiences;
- * Support the Conservation District's County Implementation Plan (Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy) if the project will take place within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay basin;
- * Promote the theme, We All Live Downstream, by addressing local Nonpoint Source (NPS) water pollution issues;
- * Educate the target audience on how their activities can impact water quality within a watershed; and
- * Encourage the target audience to take action to reduce NPS water pollution, improve local water quality and, ultimately, their local watershed(s).

The application for this grant is available online at <http://www.pacd.org/resources/nps/minigrants/app.htm>. The deadline to apply is May 15, 2008. For more information, e-mail hannah-smith@pacd.org.

2008 Envirothon

An Envirothon is an environmental competition in which teams of five students, grades 9 through 12, compete against other high school teams in five subject areas: Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry, and a current issue topic which is updated each year. This year the topic is Recreational Impacts on the Natural Environment. Every high school is permitted to send two teams.

Study materials and various publications are available to educators to help their students prepare for the event. High schools who currently participate develop teams in various ways such as establishing Environmental Clubs, incorporating material into classroom activities and then rewarding students who perform well by placing them on the team, or a host of other methods.

Professionals in each area of expertise develop tests: Pa. Fish & Boat Commission, Pa. Game Commission, DCNR - Forestry, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Envirothon events are also conducted on the state and national levels. Penncrest High School finished in second place, 1 point behind the first place team at the state competition in 2007. 2008 will be our 16th Delaware County Envirothon. The Envirothon locally is sponsored by Delaware County Conservation District; the Cooperative Extension Service; DCNR - State Parks; and the Delaware County Environmental Network.

The first place team is eligible to compete in the statewide competition to be held May 19-20, 2008, at Penn State University. The statewide competition involves over 65 teams from across Pennsylvania. The local winner will receive funds to assist with expenses in attending the state competition.

Currently teams from these high schools have registered: Haverford, Penncrest, Sun Valley, Strath Haven, and Glen Mills. Any high school that is interested is encouraged to contact Delaware County Conservation District - Ed Magargee at 610 892-9484. We will supply you with the necessary information and study material.

Haverford State Update

By Jan Marie Rushforth,
Haverford Township 4th
Ward Commissioner

DCVA is assisting with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. Under the grant, Natural Lands Trust is conducting the Ecological Assessment at the forested areas of the Haverford State Hospital site in Haverford Township. The attached photo is from January 7, 2008, at HSH, where David Steckel and Andrea Stevens from Natural Lands Trust showed Jan Marie Rushforth where they would be conducting the winter natural assessment. The Weather Testing Equipment has been installed and is recording data; and the Stream Testing Equipment will be going in soon. Education for teachers is being planned for the spring. The first trail to be constructed will be overlooking the scenic valley for the South Brook.

The demolition of all of the 23 hospital buildings along with the environmental remediation have been completed and the grading is happening. The project is moving along as planned with bids for ball fields. The entire project is on course to be a positive transformation for Haverford Township!



A good idea whose time may have returned:

Trolley Tourism Transit

With gas prices continuing to go up and people seeking sustainable "green" solutions, public transit is reporting its highest ridership in fifty years. According to an annual report published this past March by the American Public Transportation Association based in Washington, D.C., light rail, which includes streetcars and trolleys, led the increase, with ridership rising 6.1 percent in 2007, driven by surges in New Orleans, Denver, St. Louis and Philadelphia.

Before the automobile changed the landscape, people traveled by streetcars and trolleys and nearly every city street had its streetcar line. Interurban lines connected cities from Maine to Florida and nearly every part of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties was accessible by trolley. Today, despite the best efforts of National City Lines (a holding company funded by General Motors, Firestone, Standard Oil and Phillips Petroleum to replace trolleys with buses) the region is still blessed with significant parts of its light rail system. The West Philadelphia subway-surface (Green) lines including the No. 11 which began as a horse car line in 1858, the art deco Route 15 along Girard Avenue, the trolleys from 69th Street to Sharon Hill, Collingdale and Media, and the High Speed Line to Norristown are all remnants of a vast network that once connected us all with one another and with the wider world. These remnants are valuable assets for the future.

Trolleys provide a nonpolluting means to move large numbers of people efficiently and economically and the United States is seeing a resurgence of light rail, not only for daily transit but also as a means of economic development utilizing heritage tourism. Heritage streetcars operate successfully in 20 U.S. cities and are in the planning or construction phase in 40 more. In Dallas; Denver; Baltimore;

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Earth Day at the Grange Estate

Earth Day will be celebrated at The Grange Estate on Saturday, April 19, with an all-ages interactive presentation on "Protecting the Watershed" at 10:30 am. The program is open to the public and is free of charge. It will be held at the Barnett Environmental Center at the Carriage House on The Grange Estate.

The theme will focus on preserving clean water for Pennsylvania's streams by learning what may be stressing them and the aquatic life they contain and by understanding how adults and children can protect and improve them for our own benefit.

The presentation will include both live and preserved stream critters. Children will be given an opportunity to pollute a watershed model that will demonstrate how easily pollution spreads and contaminates an entire stream basin. Virginia Ranly of the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education will conduct this exploration of stream ecology.

The current ten acre Grange Estate is part of an original 500-acre land grant made by William Penn that included portions of Cobbs Creek. There is a spring on the property which feeds into the creek.

Prior to the presentation there will be a Cobbs Creek Cleanup at 9 am, which will concentrate on the west bank of the creek behind the Grange property. The Grange also invites gardeners to get spring off to a great start by helping beautify the grounds for the upcoming season during the hours of 10 am until 3 pm. The public is invited to participate in any or all activities for as long as they wish.

The Grange is located at Myrtle and Warwick Avenues in Havertown. The Friends of the Grange is a non-profit volunteer organization that preserves and maintains the mansion and offers programs to the community in history, gardening, and the environment. Membership is open to the public.

For more information, call the Grange office at 610-446-4958.

—Grace Russell Wheeler, *Continued from Page 3*

While a young mother, Grace Wheeler enrolled at Temple University's graduate school, receiving her Masters of Business Administration in 1968.

Interested in early childhood education and specifically in the teaching methods of Maria Montessori, she helped found the first Montessori School in the state of Pennsylvania. Called "The Children's House," the school took root in 1962 and grew into the Gladwyne Montessori School.

Divorced in 1976, Grace Wheeler returned to work, conducting market research for the Jackson Laboratories (Bar Harbor, ME), the U.S. Information Service, The Franklin Institute, Widener University, the Please Touch Museum, and the World Affairs Council. She joined the Board of Directors at Arcadia University, and the William Penn Charter School (PC), a Quaker coeducational school in East Falls, Philadelphia. Her work on the Board of Overseers at the William Penn Charter School became a large part of her life, and she served as Clerk (Quaker nomenclature for Chair of the Board), from 1975-1985, chairing the school's decision to admit girls.

In 1980 she married her second husband, Alexander Bowman Wheeler, Director of Planning and Development at Children's Hospital. She enjoyed 11 happy years with him until his death in 1991. Each summer they spent a month at his cottage in Somesville, Maine, including their blended family in the circle of their happiness.

An intellectual who was also deeply concerned about the surrounding environment, Grace Wheeler took responsibility for the land she lived on. She was an active member of the Darby Creek Valley Association. She served as membership chair for years, and she was involved with major stream bank restoration on Darby Creek as it passed through her property. Her interest in the creek's history led her to do a research paper on the local inhabitants, grist mills, and the creek's development from the time of the Lenape Indians to the present.

She decided to personally explore the waterway and purchased an inflat-

able rubber raft at a garage sale, climbed into it with her sister Ella Torrey one summer morning, and launched the expedition not far from the Saw Mill River. The plan was to travel the two miles back to her home by water, but a sharp branch pierced a pontoon at 4:00 p.m. and the boat sank near Goshen Road. Ms. Torrey recalled that "my sister said there were more ruffles than runs" on the voyage, "and the sun was going down" so they were glad to abandon the project to head home to recover with a hot bath. "The creek is different when you're in it," she remembers her sister saying.

Deeply affected by her husband's death from cancer, Grace Wheeler invested her time and energy in new initiatives. She joined the board of a non-profit social services organization called Family Support Services that runs child welfare, early intervention and educational extended day programs in Philadelphia and Delaware County. She also remained active in the Bennington College community.

Although Ms. Wheeler was in failing health in recent years, she remained both active and influential in the causes she believed in: The William Penn Charter School, education, and environmental conservation. Steven Kuter, Director of the Conservation Easement Program at the Natural Lands Trust, reports that **a conservation easement on Grace's 37 acres was recently concluded.** This easement, one of eleven in Delaware County, is by far the largest Natural Lands Trust conservation easement ever received in the County. Mr. Kuter writes that the easement will "ensure that **the land will remain as open space in perpetuity**, providing habitat for wildlife, **protecting the water quality of the Darby Creek**, and protecting the pastoral landscape."

Contributions in her name may be made to The Grace Russell Wheeler Scholarship Fund c/o Jack Rogers, Director of Development, The William Penn Charter School, 3000 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144 or to Bennington College – The Office of External Relations, One College Drive, Bennington, VT 05201.

President's Pen

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tant objective of building awareness and a sense of stewardship among community members for the Darby watershed and its resources.

Special recognition is also due to Carl DuPoldt and Kathy Doms for spearheading a new initiative to encourage those Darby watershed communities currently lacking Environmental Advisory Councils to establish them. EACs are important allies for us in promoting proper stormwater management and other good stewardship practices, the Greenway and other initiatives at the municipal level.

Finally, a note of great thanks to the sponsors of the Clean-up and our other financial supporters who make our work possible.

Robin Mann

Family Programs Available at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge

A number of programs for families are available at the Heinz Refuge at Tinnicum. Consider these activities:

- Make and Take Story Time. At 1 p.m. on the 3rd Saturday of each month, this program for children 3 to 5 includes stories and take home crafts.
- Nature Explorers. 2 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month for ages 6 to 10. Refuge staff investigates natural wonders with children.
- Anytime, students can borrow a fun-filled backpack to take out on the trails to learn about trees, insects, or mammals. Ask about the program at the front desk.
- Fishing Rod and Binocular Loan Programs for all ages. If you would like to fish but don't have a rod or want to bird watch but don't have binoculars, you can borrow from the Refuge. Children under 16 must be with an adult. Anglers over 16 must have a Pennsylvania fishing license. Ask about the program at the front desk.

Resources

The following resources, which might be of interest to DCVA members, are available on the Internet. They are recommended by WREN (Water Resources Education Network), a project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund with funding from PA DEP.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING VULNERABLE STREAMS AND WETLANDS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL
Center for Watershed Protection, 35 pages, 2007, makes the case for expanded local protection of vulnerable streams and wetlands that may not be fully protected by state or federal law due to their perceived isolation from perennial or navigable waters. Available at: <http://www.cwp.org/wetlands/articles.htm>.

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF PARKS: HOW PARKS HELP KEEP AMERICANS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES FIT AND HEALTHY

Trust for Public Lands, 24 pages, 2007, outlines the ways in which parks, open space, greenways, and trails support and promote healthy lifestyles, potentially decreasing health care costs. Intended to make the case for parks as a wise community investment. Available at www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21053&folder_id=175

TROUBLED WATERS: AN ANALYSIS OF 2005 CLEAN WATER ACT COMPLIANCE

US PIRG Education Fund, 40 pages, 2007. Using data provided by U.S. EPA, reports that 51% of major PA facilities exceeded their Clean Water Act permits at least once in 2005. Available at www.pennenvironment.org/clean-water.

WATER IMPLICATIONS OF BIOFUEL PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES

The National Academies, 4 pages, 2007. National interest in greater energy independence is changing the national agricultural landscape and has raised concerns about possible impacts on water resources. Available at <http://wren.palwo.org>. Go to Resources.

TAG Update

—Continued from Page 3

clear-up these sites. Congressman Sestak had just met with the EPA and is familiar with these Superfund sites. [The Folcroft but not the Clearview Landfill is in his District.]

An individual who attended our presentation to the Eastwick PAC last December informed us that there was a revolutionary war cemetery at or near the site of the Clearview Landfill. Although potentially interesting, the hand drawn map presented to us was imprecise, and we have not been able to obtain historical documentation.

The Clearview Landfill was once known as Heller's Dump. A documentary, entitled *Toxic Waters* was made about the dump and is available for on-site viewing at the Eastwick Library.

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcvva.org. Articles for this newsletter were contributed by Steve Beckley, Grace Sharples Cooke, Carl DuPoldt, Michelle Ferri, John Furth, Thomas Judge, Jan and John Haigis, Barbarann Keffer, Rosemary Kesling, Robin Mann, Jan Marie Rushforth, Alan Samel, Roy Sandstrom and Bob Shaner. Photographs courtesy of Grace Sharples Cooke, Carl DuPoldt, and Jan Marie Rushforth. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. © 2008.



Environmental Summit



About 50 concerned citizens attended the third annual Delaware County Environmental Summit February 23, 2008. Presenters included Jaclyn Rhoads, Bill Buchanan, Bryan Lentz, Greg Vitali, Kathryn Goddard Doms, Don Kennedy, Joe Sestak, Gary Snyder, and Robert Feuer. Environmental Advisory Councils, stormwater management, and flood plain mapping were among the topics discussed. For more information visit: <http://delcoenvironmental.tripod.com>.

In the picture above, state representatives Greg Vitali, 166th District (left) and Bryan Lentz, 161st District, address the attendees. The event was organized by Delco's Concerned Citizens for Environmental Change.

Trolley Transit: *(Continued from Page 6)*

Boston; Memphis; Little Rock; Tampa, Fla.; San Jose, Calif.; and Kenosha, Wis., as well as across Europe, transit-oriented development and heritage tourism combine for a powerful winning combination.

Trolleys provide identity to an area: Just think of San Francisco's cable cars and the former Philadelphia cars now featured in commercials or New Orleans, where the St. Charles Line is just one example of a heritage line providing a useful service for tourists and commuters alike.

In Philadelphia, where some of the world's finest trolley cars were made, and where heritage tourism may be our largest growth industry, there are numerous opportunities to expand existing networks. Connections to the Philadelphia Zoo, Fairmount Park, the Convention Center, the airport, Heinz Wildlife Refuge, the Darby Creek Greenway, the Cobbs Creek Connector Trail, the Liberty Bell, our sports stadiums, University City, Bartram's Garden, and Independence Park are all possible over mostly existing rails with a fun and cost-effective heritage system. It can be done, if SEPTA and other stakeholders can see that it is in their best interest and if an appropriate level of support can be found. Perhaps it is time for all of us to take a look at the increased ridership that trolleys, old and new, can bring to the region. For additional information visit www.Octrolleyfest.org

JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

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

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

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 19, 2008
9 a.m.

StreamWatch. *See page 1 for information.*

Saturday, April 19, 2008
10:30 a.m.

Earth Day at the Grange Estate in Haverford Township
See page 7 for information.

Saturday, April 26, 2008
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Annual Darby Creek Cleanup
Sites listed on page 2.

Saturday, May 17, 2008
9 a.m.

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

Saturday, May 17, 2008
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Care about Fairmount Park
Blue Bell Island & Woodland Avenue at Cobbs Creek Park
Open House / Clean up for coming East Coast path & storm gardens.
For information call 215 397-3772 or e-mail: cityactivist1@yahoo.com

Sunday, June 1, 2008
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heritage Festival, along Karakung Drive in Havertown
For information, google Haverford Township Historical Society or
Contact Tricia Woodman at johnwman@msn.com

Saturday, October 18, 2008

OcTrolleyFest 2008
Call 610 583-0788 or visit: www.octrolleyfest.org

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



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