



President's Pen

Reflections from the Creek Bank

As a blustery wind hails the arrival of the New Year, it is good to sit in a warmed spot and take a few moments to reflect on the year just passing and to look ahead.

We have been saddened to say goodbye this year to two very exceptional individuals – Gayle Lawrence and Grace Wheeler – who, both, were instrumental in the establishment and development of DCVA, giving so generously of their time and talents.

2008 has been a productive year for DCVA. The successes of our Annual Creek Clean-up, Streamwatch, and Tree Vitalize programs were the fruits of significant labors, respectively, by Jan and John Haigis, Alan Samel and Clyde Hunt, for which we are very grateful. As you will see in these pages we have also seen a major turning point in the establishment of an open space reserve at the Haverford State Hospital site, and we especially celebrate Jan Marie Rushforth and Tim Denny, without whose leadership this could not have happened. We are indebted to John Furth for his persistent oversight of the clean-up process for Folcroft and Clearview. We are pleased to recognize Anne Ackerman, Kathy Doms, Carolyn Laws and Jan Haigis for the Education Committee's successful operation of the week-long summer program at Merry Place. And of course, none of these efforts could happen without Dick Carroll's painstaking work to keep our books straight!

This year has also seen the launch of a new program – our Backyard Buffers initiative. We are very fortunate to have been able to engage Jamie Anderson, former watershed specialist for Delaware County Conservation District, as a consultant, guiding the development of this educational outreach program to encourage improved management of streamside property with 'creek friendly' methods. With her Master's degree in geography and planning from West Chester, Jamie brings very welcome expertise to our watershed stewardship work.

And now, we look ahead to the year-long 25th Anniversary celebration of DCVA, with continuing and new opportunities for member involvement. Please be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on January 31st to hear more. And finally, a special word of thanks goes to Jaclyn and Bill Rhoads for opening up their beautiful, historic home in Norwood to us for a festive holiday gathering to launch the celebration!

25th Anniversary Kick Off

Jaclyn and Bill Rhoads hosted a fabulous kickoff for the DCVA 25th anniversary celebration. Included among the guests were Jack and Esther Hickman (pictured here with John Furth) who have been members since the beginning and for many years supported the Springfield Trail Club's involvement in the annual cleanup. Let's hope that many more of our long time members join us for our 35th anniversary celebration events.



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Page 3: Important information regarding annual meeting and election of Board of Directors

Vernon the Frog by Kathryn Doms

Vernon the frog lived by a creek
 Into his life we will now take a peek
 He loved his sweet home on the log by the stream,
 But what happened to him seems just like a bad dream!

The forest near his home, you see, was not his,
 It belonged to some humans, that's just how it is,
 One day a man came and asked the people to sell,
 The man with the money said, "We'll build a hotel!"

Vernon's people took the money and without second
 thought,
 They said to the man, "Here's the land that you bought!
 Go ahead, cut the forest, and build your hotel,
 with a big parking lot, that will really be swell!"

The man with the money cut down every last tree,
 There was not a bush or a blade of grass left to see,
 Vernon's sorrow was deep, his sorrow was vast,
 He saw that his good life was not going to last.

His friends started leaving; they left one by one.
 They said, "Our life here just is not any fun!"
 "It's too hot!" said the fish, "With no tall leafy trees,
 there's no shade, and the water heats up as you
 can see!

"We're swimming upstream where there's a deep shady
 pool,
 and places to live where the water is still cool.
 It was heartless to cut all of the trees down, it was cruel!"
 And they left, all at once, the whole fishy school!

"Goodbye!" said the bugs, "We have to leave too.
 We needed the land plants that's certainly true!
 The leaves were good food and a good place to hide,
 they were like blankets in winter, now we've no place to
 abide."

"With water so dirty, the plants can't get light.
 The fish cannot breath, this isn't quite right!"
 "We're leaving," they said, "and you should go too.
 There's nothing here, Vernon, nothing for you!"

But Vernon sat still, Vernon held fast,
 He hoped that some humans would come and help fast.
 He waited, and hoped, as the bulldozers roared,
 But just when he thought, "I can't take anymore..."

Some children skipped by, they saw the small frog,
 They saw him alone, all alone on his log,
 They didn't see fish, birds, or even a fly,
 They noticed that nothing alive passed by.

The children grabbed their parents, their teachers, their
 friends,
 They saw the hole in the landscape as something to mend.
 They talked to the owner, the big man in charge.
 "Wait!" They said, "perhaps the hotel could not be so
 large!"

"Hard parking lots don't hold rain at all,
 It's the same with streets, buildings, and malls,
 If you leave the dirt here, the rain has someplace to go,
 It won't end up flooding the towns down below."

"If you planted a lot of bushes and trees,
 They'd be home for the butterflies, birds and the bees,
 They'll hold all the rocks, sand and soil on the land,
 And Vernon's creek would no longer fill up with sand."

"You could plant lots of trees, the sort native to here.
 The land would be pretty, the township would cheer!
 The animals would come, both large and small.
 You'd have both hotel and nature, and be a hero to all!"

"I'll do it," said the man, "it's an admirable plan!
 I'll have the best natural hotel in the land!"
 Vernon's friends came back, they came back one by one,
 And Vernon is happy on his log in the sun.



Illustrated by Amanda Helwig

Mark your Calendars!

Congressman Sestak to Speak at 2009 Annual Meeting January 31, 2009

This year's annual meeting and election of the Board of Directors will be held January 31, 2009 at 9AM Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield and Old Sproul Roads, in Springfield. We will be especially honored to have as our speaker Congressman Joe Sestak

Election of the Board

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, elections will be held for members of the Board of Directors. A Board-appointed Nominating Committee consisting of Andy Saul (Chair), John Furth, Rosemary Kesling, and Carolyn Laws met and conferred by phone and during November and December. They have put forward the following slate of candidates to serve for 3-year terms:

Anne Ackerman
Tim Devaney
Jan Haigis
John Haigis

Carolyn Laws
Robin Mann
Alan Samel
Fritz Thornton

In addition, Barbarann Keffer is nominated for a two-year term.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

25th Annual DCVA Watershed-Wide Cleanup on April 25 is part of DCVA 25th Anniversary Celebration By John and Jan Haigis

The 25th Annual DCVA Watershed-Wide Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th and creek cleaners are needed along the entire length of the creek (or "creek") from Tredyffrin to Tinicum. This is the 25th Anniversary of the DCVA and the 25th year for the cleanup, along with the fact that the fourth Saturday and last Saturday in April both fall on April 25th, all seem like good harmonic convergence and a good way to remember the date. It is an amazingly beautiful and diverse watershed and it is heartwarming to see how much people care about the Creek and its natural beauty.



The annual cleanup began in 1984, shortly after the Darby Creek Valley Association was organized, and over the past quarter century has been one of the organization's signature events. Fishermen, hikers, nature lovers, neighbors, scouts, schools, and just plain folk have gathered to take care of their part of the creek. Over the years, we have taken out cars, sofas, washing machines, Jacuzzi's, bicycles, vacuum cleaners, shopping carts, tires, wardrobes, skis, and a whole host of other items that don't belong in the creek. Each area has a Site Captain responsible for recruiting the volunteers at that location and DCVA and local governments have helped with dumpsters and publicity. It is a community-wide effort. Even though most cleanups take place on our particular day, some sites are cleaned at other times because of tides, weather and schedules. Having grown to the point where we cleaned 30 sites last year, we are planning to have regional coordinators for the upper, middle and lower parts of the watershed this year to help improve our communication and efficiency. The creek gets cleaner every year but there still is a lot to do. We are always looking for new areas to clean and more people to help.

If you are interested in helping, or want to have a new site listed on the placemap, or want to be a sponsor, please call Jan or John Haigis at (610) 583-0788 or visit the web site www.dcva.org. The Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek watershed covers some 77 square miles and 31 municipalities. ***Your help is needed!***

Using Invertebrates and Fish to Study Ithan Creek Restoration

Kristen Much*, Lydia Civello*, Sarah Wadsworth*, and Kathryn Goddard. Department of Biology, Ursinus College, Main Street, Collegetown, PA 19426, kgoddard@ursinus.edu.

Radnor Valley Country Club in Villanova, Delaware Co., PA, plans to restore the stream bank along 2,680 ft. of Ithan Creek and its tributaries in the club's golf course over the next several years. A research group from Ursinus College is currently studying the macroinvertebrate community within the area of the stream to be restored and will continue to study the community that is established following restoration for three years. Further, we are assessing the fish community. We are also assessing the macroinvertebrate and fish communities upstream of the restored area in a forested reach in Conestoga Swim Club to determine if there are vibrant enough upstream macroinvertebrate and fish communities to recolonize the downstream area post-restoration.

Every trip to the Ithan Creek includes an interesting experience for anyone who loves nature in our region of Pennsylvania. One of the most interesting bird species to observe in this area is the belted kingfisher. They swoop around and perch on the huge but beautifully delicate willow trees at Radnor Valley Country Club. They scream at us--probably fearing that we are catching their fish, but we return the fish to the creek unharmed.

Thus far we have found several species of fish in this area of the Ithan Creek including the tessellated darter, common shiner, creek chub, black nose dace, banded killifish, white sucker and other species. The community is similar, as expected, to the community found on the former Haverford State Hospital grounds as reported by researchers from the Natural Lands Trust in December 2008 at a public meeting in Haverford Township.

There is a variety of macroinvertebrates, as expected, in the Ithan Creek through the Radnor Valley Country Club and the Conestoga Swim Club. There are mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, crayfish, scuds, and many types of worms of various phyla. Thus far we have not found any hellgrammites (dobsonfly larvae), but we will let the Radnor Valley Middle School Watershed students know if we do see one- their teachers have promised them a pizza party if they find one! We will present our preliminary data at the Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit in January 2009 in Cape May, NJ.

TAG Update, December 2008 JJ Furth

The Lower Darby Creek Area site consists of two landfills: the Clearview Landfill and the Folcroft Landfill.

The Folcroft landfill is approximately 50 acres in size. The United States Department of Interior was given the Folcroft Landfill and it is now part of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. This "gift" made the Refuge one of the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for contamination from this now Superfund-listed site, and the Refuge is leading the studies on the landfill. From November 2006 through the summer of 2007 groundwater wells were installed and sampled and soil samples were collected. This environmental data will be included in the RI/FS (remedial investigation/feasibility study) for the landfill. The RI/FS will be both an analysis of the site and recommendations of what should be done. The report has not yet been released by the EPA.

The Clearview landfill, which is about the same size as the Folcroft landfill, is privately owned and legal action was required before the EPA could enter the site. Studies include sampling soil, water, and air to determine the nature and extent of contamination. These studies will lead to a human health assessment, which will be included in the RI/FS report for this landfill. This report has also not been released by the EPA.

It should be noted that the two landfills are not the only sources of pollutants entering Darby Creek. In a study on tumor prevalence in brown bullhead fish, Pinkney, Harshburger and Roberts [2004] found 26% (8 of 31) of Darby Creek fish had liver tumors, primarily hepatocellular carcinomas. The incidence of tumors in control fish (Tuckahoe River, MD) was 4% (5 of 117). The difference was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$, chi-square test). Concentrations of the carcinogen PAH (polyaromatic hydrocarbons) in sediments from the Darby Creek sampling area averaged 48.9 ppm and the authors suggest that efforts should be undertaken to identify and eliminate the source of highly elevated PAHs in Darby Creek. They note that the EPA in 1984 "identified 19 significant disposal or fill sites adjacent to Darby Creek from 1953-1983, including many sites that should still be considered significant potential sources of PAHs to Darby Creek (12 acres of formerly open industrial impoundments on the Darby Creek Tank Farm and a 13.5 acre commercial dump/auto repair/junkyard operation near 84 St.) Both of these sites are in the vicinity of the highest PAH sediment concentration found in the recent RI data (124.9 ppm total PAHs)."

Conclusion--there is a lot that needs to be done!

Fifth Annual Insect Identification Workshop a Success!

By: Alan Samel

On Saturday, November 9 we had our fifth annual insect identification workshop. The workshop was at the Peace Center at Friends Meeting in Springfield. Many thanks for letting us take over the room for the day and turn it into our own laboratory.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify the insects we sampled from 4 locations on Darby Creek on March 25. The 4 locations were in Darby (Bartram Park), Havertown, Radnor (Skunk Hollow), and the Branywine Conservancy. Taking samples from the creek is the easy part! You get to wade into the stream, you get a little wet, you get a little dirty, you collect your samples, and you have a lot of fun. And we did. But, it takes a lot of time and a lot of commitment to separate the 'bugs from the crud' and identify what you have in each sample. Why is it important to take samples of water bugs from the creek? The bugs we take from each site tell us a story about the water quality of Darby Creek at that particular site. Some organisms, such as mayflies, are known to be sensitive to pollutants. If the mayflies are in the sample, the water quality at that site is considered to be relatively clean. If the mayfly is not in the sample, and it should be, its absence is an indication of questionable water quality at that site. The little bugs provide a big picture of the water quality of Darby Creek.

A group of 10-12 people got together early Saturday morning to get started. Our goal was to process all the samples collected during the April Stream Watch, 8 large samples jars full of bugs, mud, and crud! Our collection procedure and identification procedure was based on the PA Snapshot worksheet provided by the Pa Department of Environmental Protection, Citizens Volunteer Monitoring Program. The procedure we used in the identification workshop was to pour everything out of the sample jars into flat trays and visually separate any bugs seen in the sample. We did this for approximately 90 minutes. We then spent the next 90 minutes or so identifying the bugs we found. We used microscopes, available reference material, such as textbooks and the identification chart provided by the PA Snapshot people. Once identified, we categorized the insects as either sensitive, moderately sensitive (facultative), or tolerant, based again on the PA Snapshot information.

Sounds tough? Sounds hard? Sounds like rocket science? Nah! We had a some kids, some adults who never saw a mayfly before, and we had some people with some knowledge (okay, maybe more than some knowledge). By the end of the day, everyone could identify the bugs at the level needed. It was a lot of fun. We also spent a lot of time talking about the watershed, including stressors to the watershed, ways to improve the watershed, anything was up for discussion.

What did we learn? What was the water quality of Darby Creek? I use the term 'was' because the stream is ever moving and ever changing. The water quality one day can be very different the next day. That is why the streamwatch event is called a snapshot. Here is what we learned. The water quality at Bartram Park, the most downstream site sampled, was found to have a 'Fair' water quality rating. The Havertown and Brandywine Conservancy sites were found to have a 'Good' water quality rating. The Radnor site was found to have a 'Very Good' quality rating, the highest rating of any of our sampling sites. Fair means that the insects identified were either in the tolerant or facultative category. Fair indicates that a stream location is stressed either by pollutants, changes to the surroundings around the stream, or by changes to the stream itself. Good indicates that, in addition to the tolerant and facultative insects identified, some sensitive species were also identified. Good means that the stream conditions at that site are such that it can provide adequate habitat and environmental conditions for some sensitive species; but there is room for improvement. Very good means that there are quite a few sensitive species in that part of the stream and can provide habitat for sensitive species of stream critters, including some of the more sensitive fish species such as trout.

What's next? We keep sampling, of course! Our database is small and needs to be expanded. We need to determine water quality over time for a long period of time. We also need to increase the number of sample sites to get a bigger picture of Darby Creek. Four sites do not cover a lot of territory, but it is a start. Here's where you come into the picture; we need your help. We need more volunteers for the streamwatch and we need more volunteers for the insect identification workshop. The next streamwatch will be this coming April 18. The next insect identification workshop will be Fall, 2009. Stay tuned for the specific dates. And remember,



Volunteers study the bugs dredged from the creek bottom

Neighborhood Excellence Award to Upper Darby Community Activist

“Recycling Advocate wins National Praise” was the headline of an article in the Delaware County Daily Times in October of this year. The Recycling advocate was Barbarann Keffer. The praise was her receiving a Bank of America 2008 Greater Philadelphia Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award for leading efforts to getting Upper Darby to institute single stream recycling.

Barbarann’s efforts began in December of 2007 with a petition created and written with Dave Schwartz: “We, residents of Upper Darby Township, Pennsylvania, want our recycling service upgraded to a single-stream system, whereby plastic, paper products, cardboard, glass bottles and jars and aluminum, bi-metal and steel cans would be collected curbside from a single bin...” Some 2000 signatures were collected, some via the Internet, some door to door and some by corralling voters in the April 2008 primary.

As Barbarann noted “This success is a shared success for everyone who signed the petition and made phone calls and sent emails to Council. [Petition collectors, in addition to Barbarann and David Schwartz were Jeanette Colgan John Furth, Tanya Tecce and Alison Dobbins.]

In his letter nominating Barbarann for the award, Khiet Luong of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council explained “her conviction to teach her neighbors about the benefits of recycling in a unified request that was clearly heard by [Upper Darby] Township.”

The Bank of America Award includes a \$5,000 grant that the recipient may donate to a charity of choice. Barbarann selected the Darby Creek Valley Association as the grant recipient. “They will plant tree at each of the Upper Darby School District schools and three libraries in the township,” Barbarann said.

Convincing Upper Darby officials to go to single-stream recycling was not easy. Barbarann and other community activists attended Council Meetings, espousing the merits and cost savings related to single stream recycling. Their actions prompted Upper Darby to appoint an Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC), long advocated by DCVA for municipalities in the watershed. The new EAC joined the community activists in recommending single stream recycling, Council agreed, and single stream recycling is currently being implemented.



*Barbarann Keffer and Kathryn Goddard-Dohms
at award ceremony*

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA, 19026. Website: DCVA.org A regional citizen’s organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by: John Furth, John and Jan Haigis, Kathryn Goddard-Dohms (with Kristen Much, Lydia Civello and Sarah Wadsworth), Alan Samel, Barbarann Keffer



DCVA Welcomes New Partner in Creek Stewardship By: **Barbarann Keffer**

This fall, DCVA was delighted to hear from Mary Anne Juliano of Profit Point, Inc., who reached out to us for assistance in conducting two cleanup events in the stretch of the creek from Rockbourne Falls to Kent Park flowing past their property. Profit Point, which specializes in custom gift and loyalty card design and production, has recently relocated to the newly and beautifully renovated Kent Mills property in Clifton Heights, overlooking the falls.

On November 9th and 16th, Profit Point Inc. employees, their family members and friends, recruited by Mary Anne, turned out to clean up litter in and along the creek. DCVA's Robin Mann and Barbarann Keffer took turns assisting with the effort. The first clean up was concentrated upstream of the mill building. The second clean up concentrated on the stretch downstream to Kent Park. The litter was deposited in a dumpster very conveniently located across the small footbridge leading from the mill building to the access road for Kent Park and the path upstream. Participants were rewarded with pastries, coffee and hot chocolate in the lobby of Profit Point offices following the clean ups.

According to a history of the Kent Mills' founder Thomas Kent, made available by Profit Point, the Kent Mills date from the 1840's when Thomas Kent, newly arrived from England, bought up the Rockbourne and several other mills in the hamlet of Oak-

view and converted them to woolen cloth manufacture. The Kent Mills became a major supplier of cloth for Civil War uniforms. The Kent Mills remained in business til 1955, well after the other Darby Creek mills had closed. Uniform cloth was supplied to the government by Kent Mills during the Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish- American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean War.

We are delighted to welcome Profit Point Inc. as a model commercial partner in the stewardship of Darby Creek. And Jan and John Haigis are already looking forward to recruiting Profit Point to the list of Annual Creek Clean-up locations.



Volunteers clean up along the creek in Kent Park

4th Annual Delaware County Environmental Summit



Another year has gone by and the Delaware County Environmental Summit is scheduled for the 3rd Saturday in February (2/21/2009) at 8:30 AM at the Cusano Environmental Education Center in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge on 86th and Lindbergh in Philadelphia. The summit is a free event open to residents in Delaware County and beyond and local and state elected and appointed officials. It is a great forum for getting information on local groups, networking with others, and learning about environmental issues in the county.

This year's theme is environmental education, and invited presenters include educators from Penn State University Sea Grant Program, Chester High School, Radnor School District, and Swarthmore College. State Representative Greg Vitali has offered to give a state house update at this year's forum, and Congressman Joe Sestak has been invited as well.

Students are also invited to bring posters for display throughout the Cusano Center. If you are interested in attending or bringing a poster, please contact Jaclyn Rhoads at 215-209-9637 or jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com. More details about the summit and to register can be found at <http://delcoenvironmental.tripod.com>.

Hope to see you there!

Creek Friendly Back Yards by Jamie Anderson

The DCVA has recently embarked on a "Backyard Buffers" educational program. Through a series of workshops and distribution of educational materials, the DCVA hopes to educate property owners and landscapers on the negative impact that conventional land management methods can have on the water quality and overall health of the Darby Creek. The grasses that we use for lawns in this area are not native to the United States. They require an abundance of fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and water, and their shallow roots do not hold the soil well or provide shade to cool a nearby stream. The program informs homeowners, especially those with streamside property, how to incorporate best management practices to control stormwater runoff, reduce pollution from pesticides and fertilizers, improve habitat for wildlife and aquatic life and reduce erosion and sedimentation. The DCVA hopes that this program will encourage a shift in landscape management practices from conventional methods to a creek friendly approach to land management.

The first of several workshops in our Backyard Buffers Program occurred at the Radnor Township Building on October 23rd, as part of a very well attended stormwater management workshop organized by Radnor Township. Jamie Anderson, formerly of the Delaware County Conservation District, and currently a consultant for DCVA, gave Radnor residents tips about how to have a watershed friendly backyard. This is the first in a series of hands on workshops for property owners within the watershed. The next workshop is scheduled to occur in Easttown Township in late January or early February. Management techniques that Jamie covered included: riparian buffer protection and restoration; sustainable gardening; creek friendly law care; rain barrel and rain garden use in the landscape; habitat enhancement through overall reduction of lawn area and use of native plants; reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use; and eliminating and controlling invasive species.

A second aspect of the DCVA Backyard Buffer program is an educational brochure that introduces the above concepts to the public entitled "Darby Creek Watershed: Creek Friendly Lawn and Garden". The brochures will be used for general educational purposes and as a method to advertise the workshops. They have already been widely distributed throughout the watershed and more will be produced. The initial publication costs were paid for by a grant from the Ethel Sargent Clarke Smith Foundation to DCVA. Help with the development of the grant and the backyard buffers program was provided by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Delaware County Planning Commission, the Philadelphia Water Department and the Keystone Conservation Trust. A Delaware County Conservation District mini grant was obtained to facilitate the purchase of detailed educational booklets developed by the Audubon Society on wildlife friendly yardcare which will

be distributed at the DCVA Backyard Buffers Workshops along with the DCVA brochure. Additional support provided to DCVA has enabled us to engage Jamie Anderson, and we are actively seeking grant funds to expand the educational outreach. Workshops are currently being scheduled and will be advertised shortly. Watch for one in your part of the watershed. We hope that all DCVA members will attend!

DCVA 25th Anniversary Bicycle Tour Series/2009

David Bennett, member of the **Delaware Valley Bicycle Club**, will be leading a series of guided bicycle rides on a monthly basis beginning in March 2009 and continuing thru October 2009. These rides will be scheduled for Sunday mornings when the traffic is the most bicycling friendly. He will be assisted by Scott Maits. These rides will explore segments of the Darby Creek Valley, Cobbs Creek, and other tributaries, and will stay as close to the creek as possible. Some of the rides will take place off road where possible; most will be on roadways. All of these rides will be family oriented. These rides will officially be **Delaware Valley Bicycle Club** rides, will be listed on the **DVBC** ride schedule, and will adhere to all the rules and regulations required by the **DVBC**. The schedule will be listed on a monthly basis on the ride calendar of the **DVBC** on their website www.dvbc.org <<http://www.dvbc.org/>.

David will be the official ride leader for all the rides. You do not need to be a member of the **DVBC** to participate. All participants are required to sign the waiver form which will be supplied by the ride leader at the beginning of each ride.

The first ride is set for March 29th at **John Heinz Wildlife Refuge** and will begin at 10:00am from the main parking lot at the Cusano Center. This ride will be appropriate for all levels of riders and will accommodate children. This ride will be from 5 to 10 miles or so depending upon the wishes and abilities of whoever shows up and will be limited to the off road trails at the refuge. Mountain bikes or hybrids are recommended. Parent or guardian must be present for any riders under the age of 18. It is recommended participants arrive at least 15 minutes early. All rides will begin on time.

The ride leader will stay with the slowest riders. Rain or other unfavorable weather conditions cancel the ride.

Rules and Guidelines follow:

1. All riders must wear a bicycle helmet.
2. All riders are responsible for making sure their bikes are in good working order before showing up for the ride. Participants should have a spare tube, patch kit, and portable pump with them on the ride.
3. All traffic laws will be followed including: Cyclists will stay to the right hand side of the trail or roadway; we stop at all red lights and stop signs; we always yield to pedestrians.
4. All questions about suitability of the rider or the bike, cancellations, rules of the road, or anything else can be answered by contacting David Bennett at dster21@comcast.net or (610) 626-1344. A complete list of rules and guidelines can be viewed on the **Delaware Valley Bicycle Club** website or in the **DVBC** newsletter

Update on “Haverford Reserve” Open Space and Trails to DCVA for 2008

1/29/2009 - By Jan Marie Rushforth

After 10 years in the making, 80% of the former Haverford State Hospital property is preserved - 124 acres for passive green space + 45 acres for active recreation. Since the 2006 closing when Goldenberg-Pohlig bought 40 acres for \$17.5 million, land development was approved; the hospital buildings were all demolished; the ball fields have been graded and planted; the condos and town houses are under construction in the private development area; the South Brook Trail for walks is almost completed; road improvements and utilities have been done (except for road changes at Marple Road at Darby Road.)

Looking ahead on Land Development:

2009 - South Brook and Meadows Trails to open in Spring; 2 ball fields to open in Fall; A contract to be awarded for an Indoor Facility

2010 - Spring - all fields, trails and outdoor facilities to be completed; open for use.

Fall - Indoor facility construction completed.

2011 - Indoor facility opens

DCVA had a key role in a \$45,000 grant from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Matching funds were provided by the developer Goldenberg/ Pohlig as part of the sales agreement signed with Haverford Township in December 2006, along with additional matching funds from Bryn Mawr College and the Math Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia.

The Grant Project included an Ecological Assessment of the Open Space. Through an RPF process, Natural Lands Trust was hired, studied the property for over 1 year, and wrote a beautiful, thorough and interesting report. NLT and Princeton Hydro presented their findings at

a Public Meeting in Haverford Township on December 15, 2008. Their report includes color photos of the trees and fish and birds and critters that are gracing the property, along with impact of the White Tailed Deer. The report shows various invasive plants and suggests which stewardship issues should be addressed. The entire report with maps and photos and summary is on line at

<http://www.natlands.org/categories/article.asp?fl dArticleId=169> - The report will be used as the

basis for a stewardship action plan and trail design.

“This is really something special”, stated Tim Denny, Assistant Township Manager, “not only will this provide the blueprint for developing the trail system at the site, it also gives us the information to establish environmental education programs in a live setting right here in Haverford Township. We are fortunate we’ve had so many intelligent, committed people like Jan Marie Rushforth, Dr Joe Martin, Dr Victor Donnay, Dr Don Barber, Dr Blythe Hoyle, Peter Hickman, Lucetta Alderfer, and “Weecha” Crawford who really care about the environment and this property. We also are fortunate to be working with a developer like Todd Pohlig and the Goldenberg Group who are sensitive to the surroundings”.

This presentation by Natural Lands Trust was the culmination of years of efforts for protecting Green Space at Haverford State. The team began the Grant Project in summer 2006. We hope that the results, reports, maps, and summaries will be up on the DCVA website shortly.



Back row from left: Holly Harper, Natural Lands Trust; Tim Denny, Haverford Township Assistant Manager/ Grant Committee; Peter Hickman, Grant Committee; Dr Blythe Hoyle, Grant Committee; David Steckel, Natural Lands Trust; Dr Victor Donnay, Math Science Partnership/ Grant Committee; Dr Joseph Martin, School Board/ Grant Committee; Christine Altomari and Trevor Conlow, Princeton Hydro;

Front row: Andrea Stevens, Natural Lands Trust; Jan Marie Rushforth, DCVA/ Grant Committee administrator; Lucetta Alderfer, Quadrangle Government Affairs chair, Grant Committee; Katharine Fisher; Michelle Alvare, Flavia Rutkosky, US Fish & Wildlife Service.



Share *The Valley!* Give Memberships in DCVA!

25 Years of Protecting and Connecting in the Darby Creek Watershed

For 25 years we have been protecting and connecting in the Darby Creek Watershed, And if we may say so ourselves, membership in the DCVA makes a mighty fine gift! We are offering gift memberships in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Darby Creek Valley Association. Share the news of *The Valley* with loved ones and friends, by giving them a one full year membership for \$10 (**\$5 for second and subsequent gift memberships**).

Please use the form below to renew your membership and to make gifts of membership to friends and family:

Type of Membership

- Individual Member.....\$10.00
- Family Member.....\$15.00
- Senior Citizen.....\$5.00
- Student Member.....\$5.00
- Organization Member.....\$20.00
- Life Member.....\$100.00

Add your first additional Gift Membership is only \$10 more. \$ _____

Additional Gift Memberships are only \$5 each.

No of additional memberships ___ x \$5.00 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

I am paying for Gift Memberships in DCVA to the following people

My Name is: _____

My phone is _____ *my email is:* _____

Gift Membership Recipient:

Name: _____ Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Gift Membership Recipient:

Name: _____ Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Please feel free to write additional gift membership information on the reverse side.

CALENDAR

- Saturday, January 31, 2009 DCVA Annual Meeting, 9-11AM Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield
- Tuesday, February 17th, 2009 DCVA Backyard Buffers workshop at Easttown Library, 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, February 21, 2009 4th Annual Delaware County Environmental Summit, 8:30 AM Cusano Center, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge
- Sunday, March 29, 2009 DCVA 25th Anniversary Bicycle Tour, First Ride, 10 AM Cusano Center Parking Lot, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge
- Saturday, April 18 2009 DCVA Streamwatch [watch www.dcva.org for Details]
- Saturday, April 25, 2009 25th Annual DCVA Cleanup, 9AM-12 Noon [watch www.dcva.org for Details]
- Third Saturday, Monthly DCVA Board Meeting, 9-11AM Springfield Friends

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