



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

After innumerable meetings and correspondence with the plethora of government and quasi-governmental authorities, rivers and creeks action groups, I sometimes wonder how anything gets done. We are inundated with "interest groups" who must have "input" into the planning of our "watershed initiative."

A recent meeting at the Philadelphia Water Department included 22 people from PWD, PEC, DCPD, DEP, DCNR, CCEC, FPC and their consultants. It is important to note that Anne Ackerman and I were the only ones who were volunteers and not on someone's payroll while there.

After such sessions, I thank the Man Upstairs for our group. We are doers. We don't suffer from the paralysis of analysis. We do just enough planning to organize the job, and then do it, making adjustments as we go along. Guys like Bob Doherty, Bob Shaner, Dave DiPhillipo, Bill Fransch, Pete Leahy, Bill Miele, etc. - they just get in the creek, sample the water, or put signs on storm sewers. Anne and Joe Ackerman run conferences, educational and historical programs. Vicki Shaner mans the dinner. John Furth works on the Swedish

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**Help Clean Up Darby Creek
on Saturday April 24th**



At the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum on March 26th, Cyrus Brame (left), DCVA clean-up coordinator for the Heinz Refuge, and DCVA President, Fritz Thornton, show some of the debris that has found its way to the tidal flats.

--Photo by Bill Buchanan

Individuals of all ages, businesses, and county and municipal government officials are all invited to help clean up Darby Creek! The 15th annual cleanup will be held this year on Saturday, April 24th, at 9 a.m. in most areas of the creek. Because of the influence of the tides, the cleanup at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum will be a week earlier on Saturday April 17th from 8 to 12 noon. Volunteers will be gathering at the 16 locations along the watershed rain or shine. A site map and a list of coordinators is on page 3. Please join the groups of volunteers by contacting the coordinator in your area. Wear clothes that suit the weather. Boots are recommended. For more information, call the chairman, Joe Yorke, at 610 532-8505, or the assistant chairman, Bob Doherty, at 610 583-2726.

**Annual Awards Dinner Scheduled
for Sunday, May 16th**

Arrangements are made and all is set for this year's Annual Ribbon of Green Awards Night. Our new location this year is the Quadrangle on Darby Road (next to the State Hospital grounds) in Haverford. The dinner will begin at 6 P.M., preceded by a wine and cheese table at 5:30 P.M.

This year's speaker is State Representative Greg Vitali, 166th District, who is a member of DCVA and a supporter of our many environmental efforts.

The dinner will be served buffet style with chicken and fish as the main entrees. The food at the Quadrangle is good, and we feel sure you will be happy with this new location. It is also air-conditioned and has an ad-



Greg Vitali

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Annual Awards Dinner Continued from page 1:

equated sound system, two features we lacked in the past. The price remains the same: \$25.00 per person, the same price it has been for the past three years. Keep in mind that this is a fundraiser, as well as being our one big social event of the year.

This year we have added an incentive to members to sell ads for the program book: you can have your dinner free. Any member or friend who sells \$100.00 worth of new ads or patron listings will earn his dinner free. Please see details in the article in the next column. Also new this year is the way we will be handling the annual raffle. We are acquiring three major prizes and additional small items. Tickets for the raffle will be pre-sold. Everyone will receive his raffle book along with the invitations, which will be mailed soon. This gives those of you who cannot make the dinner the opportunity to support us with your sale of raffle tickets.

We also can use some help with the dinner events. If you would like to volunteer, please call Vicki Shaner at 610 449-7297.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 16th of May!

DCVA Welcomes New Members

Mrs. Mildred Anderson, Collingdale
 Fredericka P. Barbour, Haverford
 Louise F. Davis, Haverford
 Lewis Gill, Haverford
 Dana Hardy-Ferniany, Devon
 Joseph E. Hogg, Haverford
 Holland Hunter, Haverford
 Jack Kelly, Lansdowne
 David & Georgia Krajicek, Bryn Mawr
 Vincent R. McElwee, Glenolden
 Maya Van Rossum, Washington Crossing
 Ruth S. Seegrift, Springfield
 John & Trudie Seybold, Haverford
 Ruth A. Walker, Haverford
 James Wisniewski, Springfield

Earn a Free Dinner to the Annual Banquet

As we mentioned in the dinner announcement, your meal at the annual awards banquet can be free! The banquet is one of our major fundraisers; we need everyone's help to make it a successful one. How can your help? By selling \$100 worth of ads or sponsor listings for the dinner program. The ads are inexpensive, and as a bonus, you will receive your dinner free. It's that easy! There are countless businesses and organizations up and down the Darby Creek corridor that remain untapped. We feel confident that they will support our organization if approached. Once they know who we are—the ones who do the creek clean-up every year—and know what else we do, they will probably be anxious to help us. They are the ones who benefit from our activities.

All you need to do is call on one of these companies or organizations, give them a copy of our program from last year and a rate sheet. Please call Vicki Shaner at 610 449-7297 for details, including the program copies and rate sheets, and take it from there.

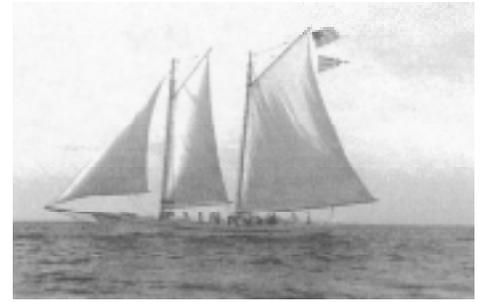
In order to get the program to press in a timely fashion, ad copy is due May 1st, so act promptly.

We sincerely hope you can help with this project and earn your dinner free. Good luck!

Tour the Historic Grange Estate

The historic Grange Estate on Warwick Road and Myrtle Avenue in Haverford Township is now open on weekends. Tours are available every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. The tours highlight the historic residence and the grounds and outbuildings. The Grange Gift Shop on the site has handcrafted items which are available for sale during public hours. Admission is \$2 for adults; \$1 for children under 12.

Beginning in May, the Grange celebrates its 25th year as a publicly owned historic site. For information, call the Grange Hot Line at 610 446-4958.



How Would You Like to Go Cruisin' Down the Delaware River on a Sunny Thursday Afternoon?

Our President, Fritz Thornton, has put together a great trip Thursday, May 6th. It's a sailing schooner cruise in the Delaware Bay Estuary. You'll board the schooner, A.J. Meerwald, at Penns Landing at 1 P.M. and sail until 4 P.M.

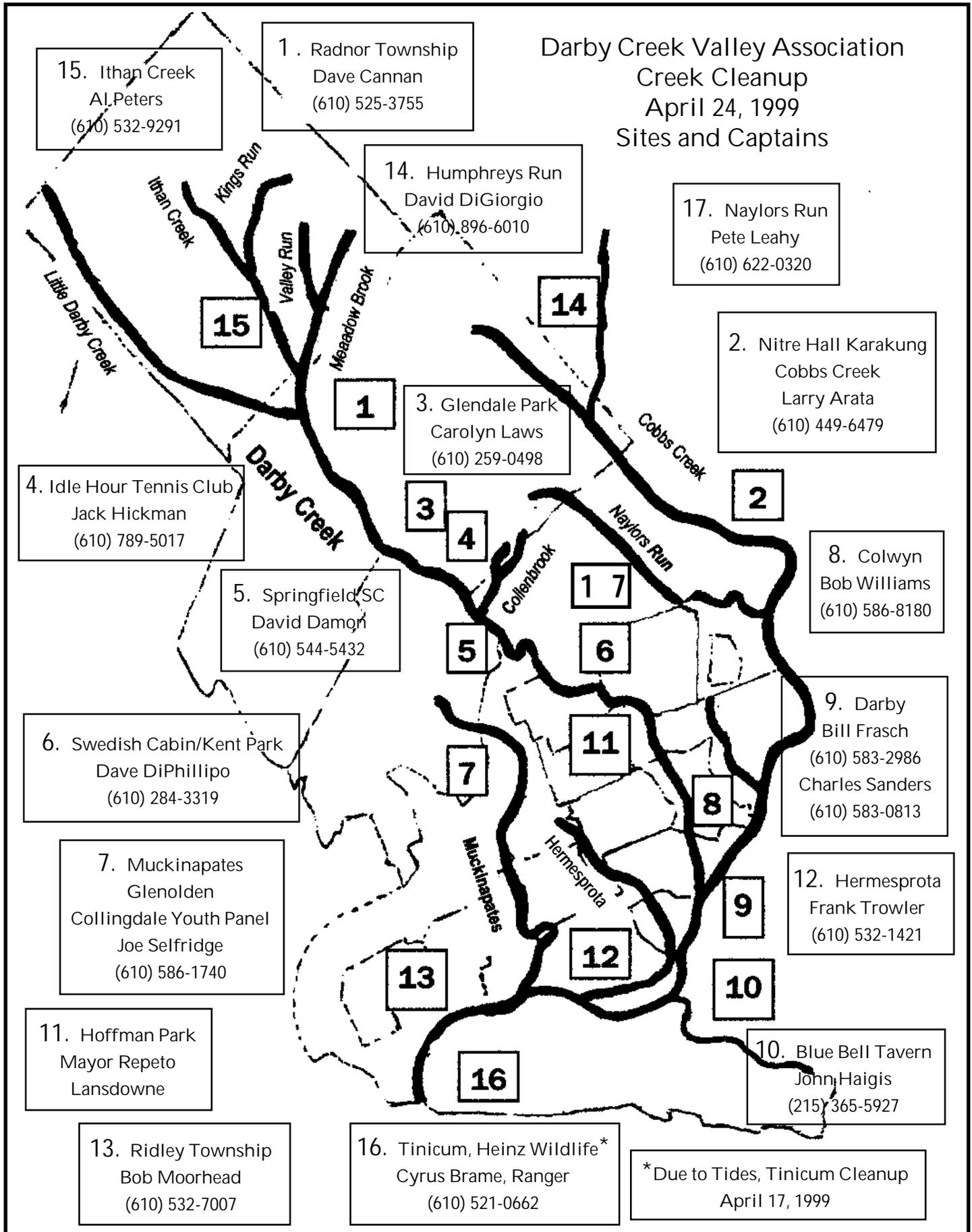
The A.J. Meerwald is a fully restored oyster schooner built in the early 1900's with a 115 foot overall hull and a capacity of at least 40 people. It is a floating classroom promoting ecological and historical awareness in the Delaware Bay region. The experienced sailing crew does all the work, and it has auxiliary engine power in case there is no wind.

The Delaware Estuary consists of the bay, tidal portions of the river and all its tidal wetlands and tributaries. Its habitats are tied together by common water sources: coastal wetlands, beaches, swamps, lakes, streams, pine and oak forests and grassy fields. A great diversity of wild life and 6 million people depend on the estuary for water, land and a high quality of life. As citizens of the estuary, each of us has the responsibility to safeguard these resources for the future.

Do join us for this full afternoon of fun and learning. The cost is \$20.00 per person, non-refundable unless the schooner staff cancels the sail. Because space is limited, the first 40 people to pay will be those who go. This information is being circulated among various civic groups and organizations, so sign up now.

Call Fritz Thornton for additional information or to get the necessary forms to reserve your place. Call him today at 610-789-1814.

Darby Creek Valley Association Creek Cleanup April 24, 1999 Sites and Captains



*Due to Tides, Tincum Cleanup
April 17, 1999

Conference Fulfills Mission

With its theme, "From the Grassroots Up—Developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed," the Annual DCVA Conference held March 6th focused on the following items:

- Goals of the Darby Creek Rivers Conservation Plan funded by DCNR;
- The Storm Water Management Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed to be done by the Delaware County Planning Department to fulfil the requirements of Act 167 and the judgment of the Court on May 15, 1998, after area residents filed suit against Delaware County to force compliance with the Act;
- The Watershed Initiative in the Darby and Cobb's Creeks by the Philadelphia Water Department;
- "The State of the Darby Creek—1998": a summary report prepared by the students at Conestoga High School. Note: Kudos to Pete Marriner and his students for the professional quality of their study.

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Pete Marriner shows a copy of the report that his biology students wrote to attendees at the DCVA Conference.

(Photo by Bill Buchanan)



(Left to right) David Jostenski, Stream Water Management, Bureau of Water Conservation, PA DEP; Nancy Crickman, PA DEP; DCVA President Fritz Thornton; and Howard Neukrug, Office of Watersheds, Philadelphia Water Department, in front of exhibits at DCVA Conference. (Photo by Bill Buchanan)

Conference Attendees Help Set DCVA's Agenda for 1999-2000

The agenda set for 1999-2000 includes, in addition to working on the requirements of the DCNR Rivers Conservation Grant and the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Initiative of the Philadelphia Water Department, the following items:

- To monitor the status of the Haverford Hospital tract in Haverford Township and to take a public position to support the preservation of open space including the woodland and the vulnerable valley of the Darby Creek—its wetlands and steep slopes. (Representatives of the DCVA joined other groups and interested residents to tour the property on March 20th—see the article on the next page.)
- To expand our database
- To insure that Delaware County Council complies with the provisions of Act 167 regarding Storm Water Management as it applies to the County plan for the watershed
- To report to the general membership in November of 1999 about the status of the Delaware County storm water plan for the watershed in regard to the court order of May 15, 1998
- To continue (a) to educate residents and municipalities about the available resources to assist in resolving problems in the watershed—i.e., stream bank restoration, flooding prevention, zoning issues, stream greenways and riparian buffers; and (b) to encourage the role of local stewardship for all residents in our watershed.

Status of the DCNR Rivers Conservation Grant

The following progress has been made toward the Conservation Plan:

An information breakfast was held February 10, 1999, at the Grange Estate for all municipalities within the watershed. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the goals of the Rivers Conservation Grant, the Storm Water Plan to be developed by Delaware County Planning Department, and the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Initiative of the Philadelphia Water Department.

Municipal captains for the municipalities in the watershed have been assigned. Call Fritz Thornton at 610 789-1814 to find out who to call if you would like to help in your municipality.

The DCVA conference was held March 6th.

Preparation for the Public Participation Sessions to be held within the watershed has begun. Residents will be invited to share their concerns/dreams for their individual municipalities and for the watershed-at-large as a key part of the Conservation Plan.

A steering committee has been formed including representatives from municipalities, community groups, educational institutions and local businesses.

Preliminary planning has begun for the Request for Proposals for a consultant to assist in the development of the grant.

Another View from the
Darby Creek Bank:

What Else Can Be Found at the Haverford Hospital Site?

By Clyde Hunt

Unless one studies the Haverford State Hospital site first-hand, it may be difficult to become enthused about it. Many plants and animals may be encountered that we wouldn't readily see in our backyards or nearby parks. Just a short drive from our Delaware County door, a brief walk from our Darby Creek banks, one can find in early March skunk cabbage flowers emerging from winter's dormancy in the wetlands. So you're not excited about smelling skunk cabbage? How often do you experience that aroma? Certainly there's only a small window of opportunity available to us in early spring in undisturbed wet areas. Less than one in a 1000 folks might know that smell (unless you happen to be outdoors in upstate New York or Pennsylvania)!

What about flushing a woodcock within six inches of your foot? That's also a feat not often available to the everyday Delaware County citizen. You won't see woodcock flying along the Blue Route and rarely near the PA turnpike! My guess is that's a one in 100,000 experience. NOVA doesn't often feature them either. But just step close to a hidden woodcock, so that he whirls right up past your face, and you won't quickly forget the excitement. Try that for raising your heart rate!

Without arguing the benefits of native versus introduced species, one of the richest treasures of the Hospital grounds is the wealth of tree species growing there. Large paper birch, native to mountains 300 miles to our north, have been growing on these hillsides for more than 60 years and have obtained exceptional size (to rival New England's white barked birches). Austrian pines native to the foothills of the Alps, scotch pine from northern Europe and Douglas-fir from the Rocky Mountains all grow straight and tall on the Hospital grounds. These conifers have also

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DCVA Urges Preservation of Open Space in Haverford Township

DCVA president Fritz Thornton gave a brief overview of the value of preserving open space in protecting our water resources in the Darby Creek watershed at a recent tour of the Haverford State Hospital property.

Using a sponge to represent the undeveloped grounds of the existing woodlands and meadow, Thornton told a large group of Haverford residents that the currently undeveloped sections of the property play an important part in retaining groundwater and preventing erosion.

If the land is developed as currently proposed with either buildings and/or a golf course, then the development will likely cause stormwater problems downstream. And, as Thornton noted, all of Haverford Township is downstream.

State Representative Greg Vitali (Delaware County-District 166) spoke about gaining consensus in Haverford Township to preserve the property. His plan calling for building only on currently developed portions of the property was echoed in brief presentations by members of the Haverford Township League of Women Voters, the Audubon Society, Citizens for Good Government, and the Haverford Township Civic Council.

Following a question and answer session, residents of Haverford Township were able to stroll the grounds and soak in the beauty of the open space in an urban area.

After hiking the existing trails in the undeveloped portion of the property, most participants spoke of a desire to find a way to preserve this last parcel of open space in Haverford Township.



DCVA President Fritz Thornton speaks at the Haverford State Hospital Grounds to area residents interested in the future plans for the site.

Summer Education Program for Students Planned for Week of June 21st

"Explore the Darby Creek Valley—Past and Present" is the theme of the week long summer education program for area elementary school children to be held June 21-26. Targeted for students who have completed grades 4 or 5, the program will explore the Darby Creek Watershed from the marshes at Tinicum to the upper reaches of the Darby in Radnor. Hands-on activities will encourage our junior historians / environmentalists to investigate man's use and abuse of the valley since the time of the Lenni Lenapes.

A professional educator will be in charge of the program which has an enrollment limited to 15 students. Each participant will be expected to keep a journal of the week's activities. The cost of the program is \$80 per student. This includes bus transportation between sites, educational materials, snacks, and beverages.

For additional details or for an application form, call the DCVA Hotline at 610 789-1814. The program is sponsored by the Historic Sites Committee of the Darby Creek Valley Association.

Productive Annual Meeting Held January 30th

This year's annual meeting held a special and important place in our DCNR Grant activities. We both elected new board members, expected to take an active part in the grant, and heard multiple helpful suggestions from Jim Thorne, a forest ecologist, soil scientist, and environmental planner.

The new board members, voted unanimously by the attendees are Tom Houghton, David DiPhillipo, Grace Wheeler, Carolyn Laws, Dan Simcox, Olga Thornton, and Anne Ackerman. Each of these newly elected board members brings the point of view of a different part of the creek as well as a unique set of talents and skills. We welcome them all. In addition to the new members, the following already hardworking incumbents were re-elected: Rosemary Kesling, Joe Yorke, and Dick Carroll.

Jim Thorne from the Nature Conservancy, spoke on Watershed Conservation Plans. In his comments he noted that urban creeks, such as Darby Creek, have lost their base flow and are prone to flash and scouring floods. He also said that retaining a riparian buffer of at least 15 feet is important. He suggests setting priorities, working with hydrologic planners who can help set priorities for urban streams. In addition he said it is important to engender political support for all projects.

DCVA members asked if upstream wells could be used to reduce flow and redirect water back into the creek at



Jim Thorne, the Nature Conservancy, speaks to DCVA members at the annual meeting, January 30th.

downstream locations. Mr. Thorne felt that this would be a radical step and that it is better to focus on increasing the riparian buffer to slow the flow of the stream. They also wondered if boulders in the stream could be used to slow the flow. Boulders, he felt, were only of value at points of entry of smaller streams or runs. Another question related to the lack of open space for trees. Mr. Thorne suggested selecting shrubs that may be more park friendly. The wisdom of a golf course on the Haverford State Hospital Grounds was questioned. Mr. Thorne noted that there are some golf course architects who are now developing more environmentally friendly golf courses.

Also discussed at the meeting were DCVA upcoming events, proposed plans for the Haverford State Hospital property, and the DCNR grant.

If you weren't there, we missed you, and you missed an interesting presentation and important information on our plans for the creek. We hope to see you next time.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers. The DCVA has many opportunities for rewarding activities that will benefit your neighborhood, your municipality, and your environment. Let us know what your interests are, and we will be happy to help you find a worthwhile project. Call 610-789-1814 to become an active DCVA participant.

Resource Directory Now on Web

The Delaware County Resource Directory is now available on the new website of the Delaware County Environmental Network. The address is: www.angelfire.com/pa/delcoenresource/index.html.

Celebrate Earth Week with Chief Oren Lyons - Faithkeeper, Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy

Free to the public, talks will address environmental justice, the Iroquois Confederacy and democracy, and a sensible relationship between all people and the earth.

- April 16, 4:30 p.m., Bryn Mawr College
 - April 18, 9:30 a.m., Workshop and 10:45 a.m. worship service, Central Baptist Church, Wayne
 - April 18, 8:00 p.m. Westtown School
- For more information, call 215-591-1551.

And Celebrate Earth Day with PRC

The Pennsylvania Resources Council invites everyone to its 1999 Earth Day Celebration on Saturday April 17th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fun for the whole family will include songs by the "environmental troubadour" Glen Waldek; mini-workshops on green building, healthy homes, bird feeders from recyclables, and worm box composting; a fashion show with clothes made from recycled materials; craft activities for children and adults; recycled product vendors, and more. Healthy snacks will be available including free beverages for all those who bring their own cup. The raindate will be Sunday April 18th from 12 noon until 4 p.m.

The PRC Environmental Center is located at 3606 Providence Road in Newtown Square, PA. Call 610 353-1555 for more information.

Trout Derby at Saw Mill Park on May 15th

After the recent work of volunteers at Radnor Township's Saw Mill Park (see article on page 9), we now have an improved natural fishing environment for the May 15 Youth Trout Derby. This free event introduces boys and girls age 5 to 12 to the sport of fishing. For more information contact Radnor police officer Martha Guerny (610 688-0500 x 120) or Tredyffrin police officer John Dimaio (610 408-3667).

DCVA Mini-Grant

The \$500 Delaware County Conservation District mini-grant for Streambank Preservation and Erosion Control is scheduled for completion before May 1, 1999.

The Darby Borough Council will dedicate the site as Bartram Memorial Park. They have also supported re-applying to DEP for the \$ 25,000 matching (WRAP) Grant which was not approved in last year's program simply because DEP received 145 grant requests for an amount far in excess of their budget of \$ 575,000.

Plans are developing to coordinate the dedication of the site with the "Bartram 300: A Gathering," activities at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Many events are planned for the Bartram Family Association. Among them are visits to the Historic Darby Friends Meeting, the Friends Burial Grounds and the Darby Library. More information can be obtained from Darby Library at 610-586-7310 or Historic Bartram Gardens at 215-729-5281.

You can also find information at www.libertynet.org/bartram.

Homework:

Knowing Our Watershed

(We like our members to be informed so we are giving out homework this issue. If you do not already know the answer to the question and have not done the activity recently, get busy. We will have a test next meeting.)

1. What is your watershed address in the Darby Creek Watershed?
2. Take a drive or walk in your neighborhood. See if you can discover how and where the storm water drains. Find the creek at the bottom of the hill and follow it to a larger stream. Observe what happens to the water, to the streambanks, to the land and plants that surround the creek as the water speeds up or slows down. Once you have "sensed" how water flows across the landscape and how varied the landscape can be in just a short distance, you will not only have a more valid appreciation of the task ahead, you will also be a more valuable member of the local stewardship team in your municipality.

Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge Ask for Help to Obtain Federal Funds for New EE Center

The Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum are asking us to help them obtain funds to complete the new environmental education complex at the Refuge. They urge as many people as possible to write to their congressman and ask that an appropriation of \$2.9 million for the Refuge be included in the Interior FY2000 Appropriations Bill. The money will be used to complete the Administrative wing of the complex, to complete site work and exhibit landscaping, to design and construct an observation tower, and to build a visitor's contact station on the Delaware County side of the Refuge.

Although almost \$4.5 million has been raised to date, these funds will cover only the educational wing for classrooms and laboratories and the public use wing. If additional funding is not obtained this year, the construction will have to be done in two separate stages, costing considerably more time and money and disturbing both visitors and wildlife for a prolonged period.

Most of DCVA's members are in the 7th Congressional District of Curt Weldon. A letter should also be written to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior. Both addresses are given below. If you do not live in the 7th District, you can find the name and address of your congressman by calling the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center at 1-800-692-7281. For more information about the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum and its Environmental Education complex and about this letter writing campaign, call 610 521-0662.

The Honorable Curt Weldon
Congressman, PA 7th District
1554 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082

Subcommittee on Interior
The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

DCVA ANNUAL STREAM MONITORING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 22ND

Join us on Saturday May 22nd as DCVA does the annual stream monitoring on our regular sampling sites from Radnor to Darby. Kick nets, waders, and other sampling tools will be provided. If you want to learn more about the health of your watershed and have fun outdoors, call Carol Killmaier (610 325-7168) or Dave Cannan (610 525-3755).

Philadelphia Water Department Combined Sewer Overflow Program

The Cobbs Creek, which is a tributary to the Darby Creek, is a significant recreational resource for Philadelphia residents. The Cobbs is also a receiving water body for the City's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). A CSO combines the functions of the City's sanitary and stormwater sewers during rainstorms. The City has an obligation to ensure the water quality of the Cobbs meets standards set by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In order to meet this obligation, the City is taking a two-prong approach to improving and protecting water quality. First, PWD is making substantial improvements to its CSO infrastructure and management to reduce outflows to the creek. However, the CSO is only one of numerous factors impacting water quality. Therefore, the PWD has also undertaken a watershed planning initiative to address all sources of impairment and to engage all interested parties in the process. Through this process the City will be working with DCVA, the Delaware County Planning Department and other government and grassroots organizations to develop a management plan for overall watershed improvement.

CLEAN MOWER REBATE PROGRAM GIVES RESIDENTS CASH TO TRADE-IN GAS MOWERS

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), PECO Energy and the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) will give residents \$75 towards the purchase of an electric lawn mower and \$20 towards the purchase of an electric weed whacker or edger if they trade-in their gasoline-powered yard equipment.



"Last year more than 200 local homeowners took advantage of the program and retired their gas mowers, reducing air pollution by a ton and a half collectively during the summer," DEP Secretary James M. Seif said. "Retiring your gas-powered lawn equipment is an important step in helping to reduce ground-level ozone, or smog."

Reservations must be made to secure a rebate by calling 1-800-GO-TO-PRC. If you missed the first of the trade-in days in King of Prussia, but you are willing to travel a little farther, you can trade-in your mower at the second location this year—from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at the Bensalem Home Depot in Bucks County.

During the trade-in day, lawnmowers are drained of oil and gasoline, then the fluids and mowers are recycled. Residents will have until June 1st to purchase their new electric mowers and mail in their coupons for the rebate.

"Electric lawnmowers cost no more than three or four dollars to run for the entire summer season," Bruce Alexander, PECO Energy environment project specialist, said. "New electric mowers are much quieter and more energy-efficient than gas mowers."

Emissions from gas-powered engines bake in summer sunlight to form ground-level ozone. The young, the old and those with respiratory problems are most at risk. However, when ground-

--Continued in next column

Report on Annual Conference

Continued from page 4:

Our special thanks to the following for a most informative session:

- David Jostenski, PE., Chief of Storm Water Management, Bureau of Water Conservation, PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Harold Neukrug, PE., Director of Watersheds, Philadelphia Water Department
- Pete Marriner, Biology Teacher at Conestoga High School

We also wish to thank Karen Holm of the Delaware County Planning Department and Nancy Crickman of PA DEP for joining us and providing input. And thanks to St. John's Episcopal Church in Lansdowne and the Reverend Joseph I. Moore for housing the conference.

Inventory of Haverford Hospital Site

Continued from page 5:

survived about 70 winters in our Pennsylvania "banana belt" and still exhibit good vigor. Lastly one can see native dogwoods reaching up 50-60 feet to the sunlight. These average only about a foot of height growth per year, while old oaks stand guard along the Blue Route witnessing changes that have occurred since the colony of Pennsylvania declared its independence.

Now some folks want to change a few more acres! Bulldoze over the skunk cabbage. Push out the woodcock. Cut the old birch, pine, and oaks so that the golf game can be played straight through. Anyone who wants to see old trees can drive upstate. We all know driving a golf ball is more rewarding than finding a lost woodcock! OR WAS THAT FINDING A LOST GOLF BALL? NOW THERE'S A THRILL!!

Clean Mower Rebate Continued:

level ozone concentrations are approaching unhealthy conditions, everyone is at risk.

For more information about this program, call the Pennsylvania Resources Council at 610 353-5199. For information about air quality in Pennsylvania, visit the DEP through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.state.pa.us, or directly at www.dep.state.pa.us (choose Subjects/Air Quality).

President's Pen

Continued from page 1:

Cabin, parks and a myriad of other things. Rosemary Kesling somehow finds the time to put this newsletter, labels and the dinner program together. Dave Cannan takes on the landowners on the upper creek and together with Carol Killmaier manages Stream Watch. Helen Berger, our treasurer, works to keep us straight with our record keeping. There are more of you, too many to name in this brief sketch.

You guys are doers, volunteers that stay with the job until it is done. And all you get is a pat on the back. You should be proud and pleased with what you have accomplished, and without endless meetings and expense.

Congratulations and Thank You.

Fritz Thornton

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.libertynet.org/~dcva. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Clyde Hunt, Bill Frasch, Rosemary Kesling, Vicki Shaner, Ann Smith, Fritz Thornton and Olga Thornton. Photographs by Bill Buchanan, Dave Cannan and Olga Thornton. Photo of Greg Vitali provided by Joel Perlsh Photography. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. Printed on recycled paper. 1999.



Volunteers Improve Darby Creek at Saw Mill Park in Radnor

On Saturday, February 27, under bright blue skies, a hardy group of volunteers labored in the chilly waters of Darby Creek at Radnor Township's Saw Mill Park in an effort to improve the stream for fishing, while adding some protection to the stream's severely eroded banks.

This state-funded fish habitat improvement project evolved from a complaint last spring to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning a series of stone dams appearing one day across Darby Creek at Radnor Township's Saw Mill Park.

It turned out that the well-intentioned Chester Valley Sportsmen's Association had dammed the creek for an upcoming fish rodeo for kids. Unfortunately, the Association lacked the required permits and expertise for such a project, and it was determined that the dams, as placed, would increase the erosion of already impaired stream banks.

So Dave Cannan, vice president of DCVA, and watershed consultant Steve

Kosiak, of Delco Anglers, worked with the club to rearrange the rocks in a manner that would protect the stream bank but would allow the creek to remain a functional site for the fish rodeo.

Later, Dave Cannan and Steve Kosiak, with steadfast assistance from Mary Young (Radnor Township Board of Parks and Recreation) and Tom Blomstrum (Director of Radnor Township's Department of Parks and Recreation), worked with Karl Lutz of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to develop a plan to improve the fish habitat in Darby Creek along Saw Mill Park.

On this special Saturday, volunteers from DCVA, Chester Valley Sportsmen's Association, and members of Conestoga High School's Student Council, with the help of a backhoe, installed seven 16-ft.



(L-R) Karl Lutz, PA Fish and Boat Commission; Dave Cannan, DCVA; Steve Kosiak, Delco Anglers. Volunteers in the background are members of the Chester Valley Sportsmen's Association and members of the Conestoga High School Student Council.

tree trunks and stone to construct deflectors which will create better fish habitat in Darby Creek.

That's the first phase of the plan. The PFBC has offered \$1,500 more in grant monies for supplies to complete the project this summer after trout season.

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:

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

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 17, 1999	Clean-up at John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, 8 a.m. - 12 noon
Saturday, April 17, 1999	DCVA Board of Directors Meeting, 9 a.m., Home of Vicki and Bob Shaner, 1930 Lawrence Road, #D34, Havertown
Saturday, April 17, 1999	Earth Day Celebration at PRC, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 24, 1999	Annual DCVA Clean-up, 9 a.m - 12 noon Various locations along Darby Creek
Saturday, April 24, 1999	Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Emergency Services Training Center in Darby Township, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 610 892-9627 for information.
Thursday, May 6, 1999	DCVA Sail on the Delaware River, leaving Penn's Landing at 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 15, 1999	Youth Trout Derby, Saw Mill Park, Radnor Township
Sunday, May 16, 1999	Annual Darby Creek Valley Association Awards Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Quadrangle, Haverford
Saturday, May 22, 1999	Stream Monitoring at various locations on Darby Creek
Saturday, June 5, 1999	Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Transfer Station in Marple Township, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 610 892-9627 for information.
Saturday, June 19, 1999	DCVA Board of Directors Meeting, 9 a.m., Home of Vicki and Bob Shaner, 1930 Lawrence Road, #D34, Havertown

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