



Fall 2013

### **President's Pen**

#### **Reflections from the Creek Bank**

##### **It's All About You!**

I went to a trail dedication a few weeks ago at Merry Place in Haverford Township. I could not help but think what a wonderful thing it was to have another trail in the watershed and to honor the people who spent so much time getting this trail planned, funded, designed, and built. Here was another stretch of Darby Creek that was now accessible to everyone. I realized that without the efforts of those individuals, this would have never happened. Pretty basic, huh? Well, yes. It is easy to say, easy to understand, but very hard to do. It is all about you!

Without your creativity, efforts, and energy we would not have the means to provide safe and environmentally friendly access to our beautiful watershed. And the Darby Creek Watershed is THE jewel of Delaware County. This watershed is incredibly rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. Few watersheds can boast of such wonderful diversity. That is not to say that the Watershed is without problems. We have two superfund sites on edges of Darby Creek, we have storm water flooding. We have human development and trash. And so the Watershed must rely on the hard work of our small army to keep it healthy and beautiful. It is all about you!

You are the enthusiasm. You are the vigilance. You are the creativity. You are the energy and power to maintain the beauty of the Watershed. To drive local and federal government in the direction that maintains and improves the quality of life in and around the watershed. To provide the creativity and energy to make the Watershed more accessible to people so that they may better appreciate the beauty in their backyard and understand why it is so important to throw trash in a garbage can and not out their car windows or cut their lawns, leave a 5-10 foot buffer between the stream edge and the rest of the lawn, or spend a Saturday helping with the DCVA stream clean up or the stream watch or tree planting. Or just walk or bike along one of the many trails we have in our beautiful watershed.

The DCVA Annual meeting will be held January 25, 2014 at the Haverford Reserve in the Community Recreation Center. This is the same venue as last year. This is a beautiful facility and we thank Haverford Township for making this space available to us! This year, the focus will be on the upper watershed. This is the third part of three annual meetings where the focus was on different sections. Two years ago we focused on the middle section of the watershed, primarily the success story in Havertown that became the Haverford Reserve. Last year we focused on the lower section and the issues and projects in that section of the watershed and were introduced to the organization, Friends and Neighbors of Eastwick. And I am proud to say that we have developed a very good relationship with that organization.

And so we now focus is on the upper portion of the watershed. The program is still being put together, but we already have some speakers lined up that will talk about projects in that will enhance the quality of life along the entire watershed. So, put January 25th on your calendars as a must-do event of the New Year!

As I wrap up my final term as President of DCVA, I want to thank everyone in this wonderful organization for all the energy, spirit, creativity, and drive that is needed to protect and enhance the quality of life in and around this beautiful watershed. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as President. It has been an eye opening experience. But it is time to move aside for the President. Oh, I'll still be around to poke fun at you. And I will still coordinate the stream watch program. And I will always appreciate the 'opportunity' given to me by the Board of Directors.

Thank you.

## **Mark your Calendars DCVA 2014 Annual Meeting**

**Saturday  
January 25, 2014  
9AM  
at the  
Community Recreation and Environmental  
Center ( CREC) at Haverford Reserve**

**Focus:  
Upper Watershed**

**Committee Reports and Updates on the exciting  
work being done by the members of the DCVA  
Election of the 2014 Board**

**Bring your ideas and suggestions for projects  
and improvements in the watershed**

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## Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site Proposed Plan

*TAG Update Submitted by Jaclyn Rhoads*

DCVA, thru its consultant EnviroAce, reviewed and commented on the proposed plan (PRAP) for the Clearview Landfill. This plan is the second to last step in the planning phase before the remedial action for the landfill is completed. The last step in the planning process is a final determination by the EPA as to which proposed action will be undertaken to close the landfill and remedy the area of contaminants.

The list of remedial actions ranged from no action to removing most of the material and ship to another sight, as well as capping the landfill in a variety of ways. The remedial action that seems most likely is the capping of the landfill with an evapotranspiration (ET) cap. This cap allows for some infiltration of precipitation and the growth of trees and other vegetation besides grasses. It also potentially allows for low-impact recreation on the site.

Provided below are some concerns identified with the proposed plan as well as the ET cover. A more detailed memo is available to those that would like to learn more.

- The PRAP does not have a plan for implementation of temporary protective measures. DCVA feels that measures such as fencing and warning signage should be installed immediately and prior to other remedial activities.
- The PRAP does not have an independent step for removal of the operating business in the Southern Industrial Area. Is the removal of these businesses on an independent timeline from the funding/installation of the landfill cap? What is that timeline?
- What happens to the site if the proposed remedial activities don't get funded?
- The report refers to locations of state-listed Threatened and Endangered Species near to the site. Have contaminant levels been compared to their toxicity to the endangered species or surrogate organisms with an additional assessment factor?
- Based on the remedial investigation sampling, City Park soils represent defined human health and ecological risks. Additional sampling is needed to determine the extent of soil contamination in City Park.
- What is the schedule for Pre Design Investigation? Is that work funded?
- The location of the upstream sediment "background" sample location in close proximity to combined sewer overflow discharge locations does not represent a reasonable background sediment sample location.
- The presence of construction debris materials in the soil background samples collected as part of the remedial investigation brings into question what other contaminant sources may be affecting the 'background' samples. These sediment and soil background samples are not acceptable as background concentrations because they have potentially been impacted by outside containment sources (combined sewer or contaminants in the fill).

### TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR WATERSHED!

(Two Actions that Keep DCVA  
on the Correct Path to Protect our Watershed)

*Clyde Hunt's Comments on Tree Planting*

We've just completed two creek-side plantings that were postponed from spring, 2013. First, the planting at Delaware County's Kent Park on the Darby Creek (Beneath the Lindbergh Bridge) was completed on September 27th and 28th. More than one hundred tree and shrub seedlings were planted in a swale area at the dam removal site. This area is too wet for the construction of athletic fields or hiking trails because storm water from streets and parking areas is diverted into this "Detention Infiltration Area". This storm water management technique reduces flooding and filters out urban wastes before they can enter Darby Creek. It also serves as a ground water recharge basin. We could call it a "Percolation Patch" where roots in the wetlands can absorb toxic metals and pesticides before the water enters our trout quality Darby Creek just above Baltimore Ave. in Lansdowne.

A second planting was completed on November 2nd and 3rd on the riparian flood plain along Naylor's Run at Drexel Gardens Park (just beyond the Bond Ave. footbridge). About 230 large trees and small shrubs were planted to stabilize the creek banks and shade the stream before its waters flow under State Rd and into Naylor's Run Park. This area also reduces storm flows following heavy rains. Flood waters that have quickly reached Naylor's Run caused much damage downstream.



*Left: Council Members Tom Wagner, Jamie Santora and Jean Koroly along with Mayor Tom Micozzi, join DCVA members Anne Jackson, Clyde Hunt, Jamie Anderson and other volunteers at the tree planting*  
*Above: Jamie Anderson and her daughter Maddie hold the Trees at Work Please Let them Grow Sign*  
*Photos submitted by Tom Judge*

## Accelerating Action:

The Forum for the Delaware River Watershed was a Very Informative Event

*Contributed by Kate Goddard*

The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed was organized to unite non-governmental organizations that are working to improve the Delaware River Basin. The William Penn Foundation sponsored the forum at the Academy of Natural Sciences on October 28-29, 2013. DCVA board member Clyde Hunt attended the forum on October 28th and Kate Doms attended on October 29th.

In the session on youth education on October 29th we learned that involving the public in conservation efforts can be viewed in four steps: 1) develop their awareness, 2) develop their understanding, 3) develop their commitment- convince them that a cause is worthy, and 4) engage them- convince them to show up! It was pointed out that we need to adjust the type of communication that we use to fit the target audience. If the target audience is one person such as the governor or a mayor, one person should be in charge of that communication and only one. Further, we learned that we need to assess our work and make changes in what we do from what we learn from our assessment.

Another presenter in the education session was Laura Moran, an artist. She co-founded a company called Beautiful Traditions whose purpose is to teach children and adults about the environment through art. She sees art as a process -this is in common with science. She also pointed out that inquiry in science is a creative process. She believes that STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) can become STEAM- where the "A" stands for art. This very enthusiastic speaker made a very convincing argument that people of all ages and abilities (and disabilities) can learn conservation principles and basic science through painting, sculpture, and creative writing.

The Session entitled Knowledge Base-Monitoring, Databases, and Modeling was really eye opening. Computer modelers from the US Geological Survey, the University of Delaware and Shippensburg University have designed computer models that allow users to pinpoint sources of pollution in their watershed. Green Valleys Watershed Association has used one of the models to pinpoint farms that are the source of excess sediment in their watershed. The presenters suggested that in the future, many volunteer watershed organizations will be able to use these computer models.

The session on stream restoration which I attended (KD) dealt with efforts to reduce nutrient input (from manure and fertilizer) and sediment into the Chesapeake Bay from Lancaster County Farms. Farmers have been offered incentives to reduce animal concentration areas (ACAs) - locations on their farms where cows loiter. Manure accumulates and mixes with rainwater and mud in these denuded areas where farm animals have eaten or stomped on all the vegetation. Reducing these ACAs and also adding rain gutters to barn roofs so that barnyards don't turn to mud, especially since so many old barns are built next to creeks) will go a long way in reducing pollution in the bay. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) successes and challenges were described. In this federal program farmers are paid rent for land on either side of streams that they turn into riparian buffers.

**There was much to be learned at this excellent meeting!**

**DCVA Represented at Haverford Day, October 6th, 2013**



Haverford Township Day, 2013!!!! Jan Marie Rushforth stopped by the DCVA table and took this picture of Alan Samel and Ann Jackson. Macroinvertebrate Insect Identification, and information about Creek Friendly Lawn Care, Rain Water Run-off Reduction, and Practices that Increase Water Quality and Protect Our Waterways were some of the educational materials provided by DCVA. Jan Haigis helped man the table and brought OCTrolley Fest information. Congratulations to Tim Denny, coordinator of the event!!

## Important: Please Review Prior to annual Meeting

### Nominations for the Board of Directors

The Board appointed Nominating Committee consisting of Donna Adams, Dick Carroll, Ann Jackson, Toni McIntosh, Peter Puglionesi have conferred and are putting forth the following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors.

New Board nominees are:

- Jamie Anderson
- Richard Horwitz, PhD
- Earl Wilson, Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition

Incumbent Board nominees are:

- Richard Carroll
- Kathryn Goddard Doms, PhD
- Carl DuPoldt
- Barbarann Keffer
- Clyde Hunt
- Rosemary Kessling

Jan Haigis and John Haigis have requested Emeritus Board status.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board please contact DCVA at [message@dcva.org](mailto:message@dcva.org). Additional nominees for the Board may be made in writing to the Secretary using the address noted above prior to the Annual Meeting or from the floor at the Annual Meeting. The Board may consist of 9-35 members. The Board, including the new and incumbent nominees listed above would consist of 33 members.

*Congratulations to all of the nominees!!*

*The Valley* is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA, 19026. Website: [www.DCVA.org](http://www.DCVA.org). A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by: Jan Haigis, Kate Doms, Jaclyn Rhoads, Clyde Hunt, Alan Samel, Photographs by Tom Judge, Anne Jackson and John Haigis Editor: Olga Thornton



*Left: Jaclyn with finishers of the 2013 Kayak Challenger*

*Below left: Way to Go!! First canoeists arrive at Morton Mortonson House in Norwood.*

*Below: Life preservers for all as Cub Scouts Pack #92, parents, leaders get ready to launch.*



## Celebrate 30 Years of DCVA Cleanups: Join a Cleanup Crew Next April

*Submitted by Jan Haigis, DCVA Cleanup Committee*

This coming year, Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) celebrates 30 years of cleaning , protecting and enhancing the 77 square miles of the Darby Creek watershed which we all share and enjoy. Since its birth in 1984, the DCVA has sponsored a Creek Cleanup in late April and this 30th year is no exception! On Saturday April 26, 2014 hikers, fishers, picnickers, dog walkers, scout troops, business people, neighbors, DCVA members and their friends will join volunteer Captains who recruit and lead crews of willing workers to clean out the debris, both natural and some unnatural (left behind by humans), which has accumulated since last April's efforts.

To help us celebrate 30 years of stewardship, we hope that you will plan to participate in DCVA and our Cleanup in 2014 - either again or for the first time! Starting in eight to twelve sites in the earlier years, the DCVA Cleanup has grown since 2005 to care for thirty-five to forty-plus areas in the watershed each year. In addition to the main stem of the Darby, the Cleanup encompasses sites on the Little Darby, Muckinapates, Hermasproda, Ithan, Fox Run, Naylor's Run and Stoney Creek, as well as Cobbs Creek, the largest of the main Creek's tributaries. Since DCVA has always been concerned with preserving the historic sites along the watershed's streams, Cleanups take place at CollenBrook, the Grange Estate, the Swedish Cabin and the Blue Bell on Cobbs Creek, as well as at several parks which help protect the watershed which extends from Easttown and Radnor in the north, all the way south to the Heinz Wildlife Center in Tinicum.



*Some "unnatural" debris left by humans uncovered at last year's Cleanup behind the Town Center in Darby. You, too, can become a creek artifact archeologist when you volunteer for the Darby Creek Cleanup next April 26!*

But with more help and sponsorship, we can clean additional sites during our 30th anniversary year. If there's a site you love that needs attention, let us know where it is and whether you or someone you know would like to be a Captain there in 2014. If you have a business or know of a local business that would like to be a Cleanup sponsor, please contact us at (610)583-0788. Sponsors are listed on our Cleanup placemaps, ten thousand of which are distributed free to area restaurants and libraries throughout the watershed. Sponsors are also named on the tee shirts given to Cleanup volunteers.

If you can't join a Cleanup crew, you can always join the Cleanup Committee and help with fund-raising, publicity or the volunteer coordination for the whole Cleanup. Alternately, you could become a DCVA member and help with other activities during the year. The Governor Printz Canoe/ Kayak Race and Ramble in September and the Stream Watch collection in early April, with analysis activities in the Fall, can always use more volunteers. Our Education Committee which plans workshops and conferences would also welcome your assistance. We are an all-volunteer organization, so new members with energy, enthusiasm and fresh ideas are vital to help us continue our important work in the watershed. So whether you are a high school student, a retiree, or somewhere in between, please accept our invitation and join us!

## Paddle for Preservation, The Ramble and the Race

*Submitted by Jaclyn Rhoads and Anne Jackson*

On the weekend of September 15th DCVA held its annual Paddle for Preservation events, the Canoe Ramble on Saturday and a race on Sunday.

### The Ramble:

Padding against the incoming tide and head winds, Jaclyn Rhoads led the paddlers down Darby Creek from the canoe launch at the Cusano Education Center to the boat dock at the Morton Mortonson House in Norwood. Cub Scouts from Pack 92 (with their parents, friends and fearless leader-Noelle Foster) plus other participants enjoyed the adventure and scenic beauty of Darby Creek. Congratulations to all canoeists. The Ramble was quite a Challenge!

### Darby Creek Racers on the Water:

The Darby Creek Race was another great success this September. DCVA enjoyed the Heinz Refuge as several paddlers competed against one another in zipping down the Darby Creek turning around the island by the Ridley Marina and returning to the Cusano Center at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge. Below are the results for the paddlers that participated:

- Cliff Roach – 1:03:49
- Rowans Scups – 1:05:01
- Brad Ethington – 1:09:50
- Dmitry Melnik – 1:10:28
- Glen Green – 1:10:51
- Slava Sadknia – 1:13:34
- Brayton Palmer – 1:18:09
- Keith Shanklin and Allison Geiger – 1:43:01
- Matty Kinsella

These paddlers are truly an inspiration to DCVA and all that get to know them. These same participants come back year after year to enjoy our watershed and we thank them for their dedication to our event. Unknown to many, the paddlers represent gold medalist, international competitors, and world-wide champions. For instance, Dmitry Melnik and Slava Sadknia competed in Russia; Glen Green and Susan Williams competed in US Nationals. Glen maintained a race record around Manhattan for 26 years. Cliff Roach competed for the Mayor's Cup.

It is inspirational to hear their stories and enjoy their company year after year. For those that don't compete, please join us next year to meet the world-renowned experts and then take a canoe out at our canoe ramble also offered every September.

Hope to see you there!

*Many thanks to Jaclyn Rhoads who organizes the event and leads the canoeists, David Bennett, Noelle Foster, Ann Jackson who coordinated the event, Rocco Masticolo, and Wilderness Canoes who provide the canoes for making the Paddle for Preservation a fun event.*



*Jaclyn Rhoads leads paddlers down Darby Creek*



*Ready, Set, Go! Jaclyn Rhoads starts the Kayak Challenge*



*David Bennett helps kayaker at end of Challenge. Jaclyn stands ready to time the next finisher.*

## Stream-Watch a Huge Success!

### The Insect identification Workshop is coming up fast!

*Contributed by Alan Samel*

Put it in your calendars! Put it on your refrigerator door! The DCVA Tenth Annual Insect Identification Workshop will be held Saturday December 7 at the Environmental Center at the Haverford Reserve. That's 10 years of water quality monitoring!

The annual Stream Watch was April 20. Thanks to the small army of volunteers who helped make this a great day. It was a beautiful day to get wet! Samples were taken from five locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby, Darby Creek Road in Havertown (downstream from the Haverford Reserve), Skunk Hollow in Radnor, the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown, and the Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby.

The insects and bugs we collect provide a snapshot of the health of Darby Creek. This is the tenth year of sample collections and identifications. From this long-term sampling, a trend of the stream health at each site has been determined. Each year we compare our findings from the water quality determinations from the previous years. It's a way of getting the big picture from a lot of very small bugs! But getting into the stream and collecting the bugs is only part of the streamwatch program.

The next step will be to identify the bugs pulled from the stream. We then can identify the level of water quality for that section of the creek. The Insect Identification Workshop is scheduled for December 7 in the Environmental Center at the Haverford Reserve. The purpose of the workshop will be to identify the aquatic organisms taken in samples during the April 20 Stream Watch. The results provide an assessment of the water quality of Darby Creek at each site during that period of time will be assessed based on the organisms present during sampling. The 2012 samples showed small increases in water quality at the Swedish Cabin, Bartram Park, and the Skunk Hollow sites, a small decrease in water quality at the Havertown site, and no change at the Waterloo Mills site.

This is not anywhere near as hard as it sounds. Yes, we use microscopes. Yes, the bugs are small. And yes, there is mud and twigs and leaves. But NO, it is not difficult. Heck, last year teenagers processed over half the samples collected! Yes, teenagers. You know, almost adults with no attention span. Those teenagers! And they did a great job. This is the eighth year for this workshop, so we are getting pretty good at it. But we need your help and participation to make this work even better. If you are interested, please contact me at [alan.samel@verizon.net](mailto:alan.samel@verizon.net). Did I mention that lunch is included.....I'll try anything!



### DCVA Members attend Introduction to Birding Program at Haverford Reserve

*Submitted by Anne Jackson*



Alan Samel, Gerry Krieg, and Ann Jackson (not pictured) tackled bird house construction at the Introduction to Birding Program at Haverford CREC on Oct 13. Participants took the bird houses home to provide backyard habitat and bird watching opportunities. I am sure that the wrens, finches, sparrows, and chickadees will be thrilled with the new accommodations. A bird watching walk along the trails of Haverford Reserve topped off the workshop.

## 2013 Octrolley Fest Enjoyed by All

Submitted by John and Jan Haigis

What do the Swedish Cabin, Bartram's Garden, the Marshall House in Media, Woodlands Cemetery, Norristown, Sharon Hill, Independence Hall, Eden Cemetery, the Philadelphia Zoo, Yeadon, and Darby all have in common? They are all accessible from a light rail (trolley) network connecting the entire region. "We still have this amazing system that connects all of us," said John Haigis who helps coordinate OcTrolleyFest, which has celebrated transportation heritage and community since 2005. "Heritage Tourism is possibly the world's largest growth industry and green, sustainable light rail, and the places it connects, can be part of that." This year's celebration on Saturday, October 12 with the theme "Discover a new (and old) world on a trolley" was the first year of a new format. Riders were encouraged to purchase SEPTA One-Day Convenience passes costing \$8 for 8 rides on any trolley, subway or bus. "These places are accessible every day; it's a resource we can utilize." Haigis continued, "Joni Mitchell tells us 'Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone'. We still have this amazing system, as long as, to paraphrase Ben Franklin, we can keep it!"

More information can be found on the web site:

[www.OcTrolleyFest.org](http://www.OcTrolleyFest.org)

(Tune: Beautiful Dreamer by Steven Foster)

Beautiful region, all there to see  
And we can get there aboard a trolley  
So many places that we can go  
8 rides for 8 bucks, it's not too much dough

Beautiful places, beautiful parks,  
Greenery that calls us like the song of a lark  
Riding on SEPTA, riding the rails  
Seeing our history, finding our trails  
From "Trolley Songs", by Jan and John Haigis



Photo Caption: Participants in the Hiking / Trolley Tour listen to historian and DCVA Board member Scott Maits talk about the Swedish Cabin while DCVA Board Member John Furth and others listen – Photo by Jed McKee

## OcTrolleyFest 2013 Art Contest Winners Announced

Submitted by Jan Haigis



Two hundred and sixty-six drawings created by local 5th graders from 11 different schools for this year's OcTrolleyFest Art Contest were on display at Sharon Savings Bank at 9 Chester Pike in Darby from October 10 to early November. This is the fifth year that Sharon Bank has sponsored the Art Contest and the ninth year that the bank has been a major sponsor of OcTrolleyfest, a celebration of transportation heritage and community since 2005. The annual event specifically honors the first trolley to provide service from Philadelphia to Delaware County, which began as a horse-drawn trolley line to Darby Borough in 1858.

The wonderfully varied artwork on the trolley theme is a real tribute to the creativity and talents of the fifth grade students. Appreciating all of the talent exhibited by the young artists, the judges still had to choose winners: First place went to Aloysius Kiamett from St. Cyril Elementary School in East Lansdowne, for his pencil drawing of a horse-drawn trolley. Second place was awarded to Jazmine Ross of the Walnut Street Elementary School in Darby for her color drawing of a modern electrified trolley, and Third Place was taken by Nancy Lam from St. Laurence Elementary School in Upper Darby for her picture of a trolley going over a stone bridge.

In addition to the top three prizes, the judges named 12 more fifth graders for Honorable Mention Awards. In alphabetical order by school, these awards were given to: Kenneth Le of Aldan Elementary; Madelyn Kieh from Bell Avenue Elementary in Yeadon; Judith Samuels of Blessed Virgin Mary School in Darby; Ja'Quan Johnson and Alhagie El-Malik from Colwyn Elementary; Rore Anderson of East Lansdowne Elementary; Ray Bond from Evans Elementary in Yeadon; Maria Grandizio, Deja Kornoski and Dillan Sokalczuk, all from Harris Elementary in Collingdale; Lanayah Garner of Park Lane Elementary in Darby; and Ernestine Giahyue from Walnut Street Elementary in Darby.

We thank Sharon Savings Bank for sponsoring the Art Contest and providing a gallery show in their Darby branch for the amazing output of talent from these fifth grade students. Photos of the three top winners and a panorama of the entire trolley art exhibit can be viewed at [www.OcTrolleyFest.org](http://www.OcTrolleyFest.org). There is also a link there to a YouTube video of the exhibit as well. Those of us on the OcTrolleyFest Committee think that all of those who participated were winners!

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UPDATE( Fall/Winter, 2013): U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Chester, Delaware, Montgomery Counties Regional Watershed Improvement Project

The FINAL Prioritization Report and FINAL Decision Support Tool (DST) available for download at:

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/spe/>

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/SoutheasternPAEnvironmentalImprovement.aspx>

[Erik.J.Rourke@usace.army.mil](mailto:Erik.J.Rourke@usace.army.mil). Also see "The Valley"-newsletter: Fall 2011; Spring-Summer, 2012.

**Background:** The Chester, Delaware, Montgomery Counties Regional Watershed Improvement Project is a collaboration of USACE and PADEP with stakeholder input from local governments and watersheds. DCVA submitted the Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan and other areas of interest. The Project is authorized by Section 566 of WRDA, 1996 to provide design-construction assistance to non-federal entities to address Flooding, Watershed Health, and Water Quality issues. All projects are cost shared: 75% Federal; 25% non-Federal. To provide objective, consistent assessment of flooding, watershed health, and water quality problems, objective data (such as FEMA Risk; Repetitive property loss; % Impervious Surfaces; Riparian Buffer Quality; % Stream Miles Impairment, etc) were compiled in a GIS data base. This data was used to prioritize problem areas and develop a *Decision Support Tool (DST)*. The DST can be used by local entities to coordinate projects that would have the greatest impact. Also the Category and Indicator Weighting Factor percentiles in the DST can be adjusted to reflect level of importance local entities place on a particular problem.

**Requirements for Decision Support Tool:**

ARC EDITOR AND SPATIAL ANALYST LICENSES REQUIRED FOR USE:

Documents Available at websites	Hardware/Software Required
Final Draft Prioritization Report (PDF)	Hardware: PC Desktop/Laptop
DST User Manual (PDF)	Software: Windows XP or Vista; Windows 7. Check compatibility with ArcGIS. Need 1+GB available memory
DST Installer (MSI)	Version 10 ArcMap, "Standard" (ArcEditor)
DST File Geodatabase (GBD)	ArcGIS Spatial Analyst Extension
Analysis can vary in size from 500 acres to several square miles	

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- The Final Prioritization Rank Report and Final Decision support Tool are completed and available for download.
- As of August, 2012, NO federal funding has been appropriated for: Phase 4-Projects alternative development; Phase 5-Preliminary Project Design; Phase 6- Final Design; Phase 7-Permitting or Construction. Update from Army Corp of Engineers is pending.
- It is unknown if local entities have implemented use of the Decision Support Tool.
- Areas of Highest/High Priority are the preferred candidates for consideration. However local funding and support are more important than prioritization number. For example Radnor may have the funding and local support and Darby may not. The project may be done in Radnor.
- Solution to problem in a High priority area (#1) may be a project in a lower priority area (#22)

Riddle for the Young at Heart

I am around long before dawn.

But by lunch I am usually gone.

You can see me summer, fall, and spring.

I like to get on everything.

But when winter winds start to blow;

Burr, then it's time for me to go!

What am I?

Answers to the Quiz on Page 10. More can be found on <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/>

**Part of the FINAL OVERALL PRIORITIZATION RANK REPORT FOR  
DIRECT TO DELAWARE TRIBUTARIES**

Sixty-nine (69) sites were prioritized. The lower the prioritization rank, the worse the flooding; watershed health, or water quality (#1= needs most attention). #69 is higher quality watershed health, water quality; less flooding.

The Area number refers to site on map (see website) that was prioritized.

<b>Analysis Unit/Map</b>	<b>Overall Watershed Name</b>	<b>Priority Classification</b>	<b>Priority Rank (1-69)</b>
<b>Worse 5 Sites</b>			
Area 39-Darby	Darby Creek	Highest Priority	#1
Area 25-East Lansdowne	Cobbs Creek	Highest Priority	#2
Area 40 Morton	Stony Creek	Highest Priority	#3
Area 59-Upland	Chester Creek	Highest Priority	#4
Area 55- Ridley Twp	Little Crum Creel	Highest Priority	#5
<b>Best 5 Sites</b>			
Area 37-Middletown	Dismal Run	Lowest Priority	#69
Area 27-Willistown	Hunters Run	Lowest Priority	#68
Area 41-Middletown	Spring Run	Lowest Priority	#67
Area 9-Willistown	Crum Creek	Lowest Priority	#66
Area 42-Thornbury	Waln Run	Lowest Priority	#65
<b>Other Darby Creek Watershed Sites</b>			
Area 38 Darby	Muckinipattis Creek	Highest Priority	#6
Area 51-Folcoft/Glenolden	Muckinipattis Creek	Highest Priority	#7
Area 11-Haverford	Darby Creek	Highest Priority	#11
Area 20-Haverford	Cobbs Creek	Highest Priority	#12
Area Darby	Hermesprota Creek	High Priority	#15
Area 22-Haverford	Cobbs Creek	High Priority	#17
Area 12-Haverford	Cobbs Creek	High Priority	#18
Area 31-Marple	Whetstone Run	High Priority	#20
Area 13-Narberth	East Branch Indian Creek	High Priority	#22
Area 53-Darby	Hermesprota Creek	High Priority	#23
Area 16-Narberth	West Branch Indian Creek	High Priority	#24
Area 23-Marple	Langford Run	High Priority	#25
Area 48-Norwood/Tinicum	Darby Creek	Priority	#29
Area 4-Radnor	Ithan Creek	Priority	#31
Area 1 Radnor	Little Darby Creek	Priority	#33
Area 17-Newtown	Foxes Run	Low Priority	#44
Area 3-Radnor	Hardings Run	Low Priority	#45
Area 6-Radnor	Ithan Creek	Low Priority	#50
Area 7-Radnor	Meadowbrook Run	Low Priority	#50

## Update: Darby Creek Streambank Restoration and Dam Removal Project.

Submitted by Anne Jackson

American Rivers formerly closed out construction on Darby Creek restoration at the end of June, 2013. At their final walk through, the sites looked as expected. The banks were stable, the vegetation was greening; and the dams were still removed. (They did not grow back!!)

The soil lifts survived the 2.33 inches of rain in May; the 10.56 inches of rain in June (the wettest June on record); the 13.24 inches rain in July (with an 8.02 inch rainfall in one day); the 4.46 inches of rain in Aug; and the 3.26 inches of rain in Sept. There is no stream gauge in Darby Creek to monitor water levels in the Creek.

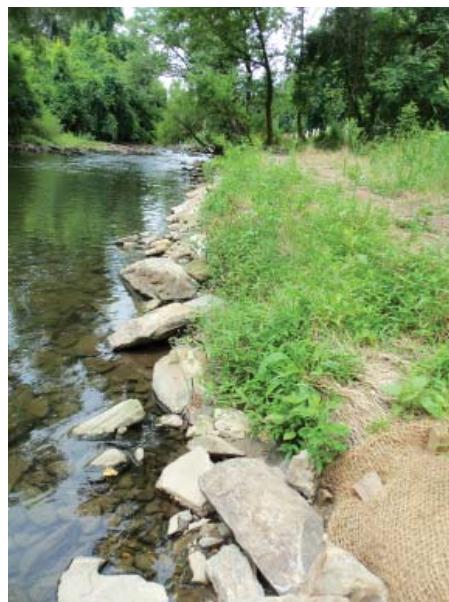
At Kent Park the banks are stable; the grasses and tree stakes are growing on the soil lifts used to restore the banks. No additional stakes have been lost to vandalism. The expanded wetland has expanded.

At Hoffman Park a few repairs were made where the bank was getting undercut. Because a heavy piece of equipment needed to be tracked into the creek, the damaged soil lifts needed to be patched where the excavator drove over them. The grasses and tree stakes and trees are growing. American Rivers is aware of the walking path that has worn off the grasses on the top tier of the soil lift. It appears that fishermen and residents are accessing the creek along this tier.

At 12th Street Dam in Darby: The streambanks are stable. The soil lifts are less green because the creek has deposited sand on the new floodplain and smothered the grass seed. This indicates that the floodplain is working to slow the water during storms. Most of the trees are in good shape except some upstream that were lost in a big storm. Even the planted Sycamore stumps are sprouting. The channel is forming nicely with new point bars and riffle areas. Unfortunately the invasive Japanese Knotweed is taking hold at this site. Removing and/or controlling the Japanese Knotweed would be a good project for DCVA. Up for the challenge???

The PA Boat and Fish Commission collected pre-dam removal data for three years (2009, 2010, 2011) at the three sites. They collected upstream and downstream data at 21 transects for: A) Habitat (measured stream width, depth, substrate, type and quantity of available cover); B) Fish surveys (number and species of fish); C) Water Quality ( Hardness, pH, Alkalinity, H<sub>2</sub>O temp, Air temp, Dissolved oxygen, Specific conductance.). This data is being processed. Report pending.

Post dam removal the PA Boat and Fish Commission will collect the same data at the same sites in 2014, 2016, and 2018. The report of these results to be completed in 2019 at the earliest.



*Hoffman Park: Grasses and tree stakes are growing on bank slope created by soil lifts. Lower right corner: Patched area of the damaged soil lifts. Path made by residents and fishermen has worn off grasses on the top layer of soil lifts.*

Answer to Riddle  
found on page 8:  
Dew



*12th Street Dam, Darby: Root wads and rocks still stabilize the bank. The centrally located main channel meanders down stream. Grasses and tree stakes are growing on bank slope created by soil lifts.*



*12th Street Dam, Darby: Trees planted in riparian buffer. Soil lifts with less grasses because the Creek has deposited sand on the new flood plain. This is good. Grocery cart waiting for the 2014 Clean Up.*



*Kent Park (Looking downstream). The dam is still out!! Grasses and tree stakes are growing on bank slope created by soil lifts. Upper right: Tall grasses in the wetlands.*

Thomas R. Smith, a.k.a., William Penn  
Today, ghost of William Penn picks up instruction via a family, the Bartram.

Ghost Governor Penn treats only unknowns. Close instruction comes in 1727 with amazing: John Bartram (1699-1777), whose known life starts in 1727. William Penn speaking: "Welcome!"

"It is a wonderful day in the Darby Creek Watershed."

Bartram American Progenitor, William Bartram, arrived in 1683. American progenitor Will' Bartram partook in the re-settle of the lowest, fast current spot on Darby Creek proper. Modern: Darby Borough. Why settle there? Why did the spousal couple, William Bartram, settler there?

Going interior-ward, hub point Darby (the currents there), represented the first met stream flow possessing, waterpower-ful currents. The first such currents settlers met which flowed ideal for saw and grist-flour mills, etc.

William Bartram and eleven other of his contemporaries grasped the, fundamental, settler basic need of fast currents. Hence their choice of the head of tidal water site for family staking out.

First come vanguard Swedes had grabbed the spot by the 1660's. ...Perhaps the 1650's or 1640's. Historians of copy of traditional view, chose the year 1669 for start purposes (and from there have speculated backwards going) More agreed on by chroniclers, the Swedes called the huddle spot, "Head of tidewater."

The first settled Swedes did not dot the landscape with Swedish names, but used the names used by the natives. The English contrasted and the tag of "Darby" runs as an example. The Bartram and others first called the stream which brushed Darby: "Darby's Creek."

The few Swedes of the place started to Analogized their names in the 1670's. (One Swede of site Darby took the surname Justice; another, Archer.) Settle spot place was deemed important by two waves: the Swedes, and next the English. Waterpower was their gleam interest.

Perspective: All along the Atlantic seaboard lowest points of fast currents were grabbed and (often) re-grabbed; as per site, Darby.

Quaker English settlers engulfed the tiny seated Swedish cluster. Final once over, among the vanguard English wave was Darby born botanist, John Bartram's grandparents, the William Bartram.

Future botanist John Bartram was parented by William's son, John; hence, young John was a Jr.

In 1707 his parents resettled to a North Carolina Quaker settlement.

In September 1711 an attack by Indians dealt death blows to John, Sr. His wife and, a daughter, were rescued by ransom. Where was John, Jr.? John Bartram, Junior had remained with his Darby grandmother, and was spared the horrors.

News doubtlessly shook boy 'John' to his core.

Fortunately, next year he found an immediate dreamy outlet in an attraction to plants. As a boy he did suffer constant stomach upset and bore a great fear of thunder-lightning, which last fear distraught lifelong. Boyhood death of his father must have bulked a confusion of emotions. It is, is possible, he suffered survivor's guilt. He was young, resilient, he did fare a recovery.

Little is known of the future botanist's youth. He loved farming. Also, he made requisite attendance to a school started by Darby Quakers in 1692. Boy John attended, off and on, after spring planting and after fall harvest.

Next known: In '1723 John Bartram, Jr., wed Mary Maris. In 1727 Mary died and also their second son, Richard. Grieved the farmer budding would-be botanist took to life restart. He bought at an auction a former Swede's tract in Kingsessing.

Upon his new bought tract he erected his famous homestead and started his famous Gardens. Note: Careful house-construct study has debunked a long falsehood. No part of the former Swede's residence was incorporated into his - yet extant - home. Good chance the tract's first home was a Swedish form log cabin.

Stop year 1727 has been reached and one year breached. Unknown facts cease.

For best instruct this piece touted the unknown. It has had the advantage of stump pulling. Tugging at roots it dislodged what was hid and unknown.

**Lest it be forgot! The Darby Creek Watershed was the first interior route used by first wave of European settlers and Indian traders. Early traders bought of Indians beaver pelts. Perhaps the first animal species that was debased to near extinction was the beaver. Forgot, once local stream beaver get poor recall.**

## **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 floodplains. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

My phone is: \_\_\_\_\_ email is: \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |                                |          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Member.....         | \$25.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family Member.....             | \$35.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Citizen or student..... | \$10.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate or Municipality..... | \$50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-Profit Group.....          | \$35.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Member.....               | \$250.00 |

Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please check all the items that apply above.

*DCVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization - All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law*

# CALENDAR

- DCVA Annual Membership Meeting Saturday....., January 25, 2014, 9AM  
CREC At the Haverford Reserve
- Insect Identification Workshop.....Saturday, December 7, 2013  
CREC At the Haverford Reserve  
For additional information contact [Alan.Samel@verizon.net](mailto:Alan.Samel@verizon.net)
- Annual Stream Watch.....Saturday, April 19, 2014  
For additional information contact [Alan.Samel@verizon.net](mailto:Alan.Samel@verizon.net)
- 30th Annual Cleanup.....Saturday, April 26, 2014  
Additional information at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)
- Tree Planting.....Dates TBD  
Additional information: Jeanne Angell [angellsrus@comcast.net](mailto:angellsrus@comcast.net)
- Rain Barrel Workshops.....Dates TBD  
Information on PRC Website: [www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)
- DCVA Board Meetings.....Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield, PA  
3rd Saturday, Monthly (Subject to Change)

Except where otherwise noted, please check [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org) for dates and additional information

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