



**President's Pen:**

**View from the Creek Bank**

Lazy, hazy days of summer? NO WAY! The Darby Cobbs Initiative, the Storm Water Management Program and our Rivers Conservation project are all under way. We're all trying to set meetings with 30 communities without duplicating efforts and stepping on each other's toes.

Meanwhile, at the lower end of Darby Creek, the Cusano Environmental Center construction proceeds amid renewed controversy over Clearview and Folcroft Landfills.

Somehow we found time to run an environmental cruise on the Delaware, conduct a week-long educational program for young school children, and lobby for preservation of open space at the Haverford State Hospital property.

Lest we forget Who is in charge: the drought continued apace forcing us all to amend our wasteful water usage habits. Whatever our efforts Mother Nature reminds us she is the ultimate arbiter in the distribution of rainfall.

Since the last newsletter, in our Annual Cleanup, 400 volunteers pulled out over 400 cubic yards of "stuff" out of the Creek. There was less junk above Baltimore Avenue but

--Continued on page 10

**Inside This Issue:**

River Conservation Plan .....	2
Watch for Announcements of	
Wine Tasting Party .....	2
Haverford Civic Council Meeting ...	3
Darby-Cobbs Partnership .....	3
Haverford State Hospital .....	4
Swedish Cabin News.....	5
Upcoming Conferences .....	6
Radnor Environmental Issues .....	7-8
Saw Mill Park Project.....	11

**Lower Darby Creek  
Is Possible Superfund Site**

By Bill Buchanan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced at an August 18, 1999, press conference that it was recommending that the Lower Darby Creek area be considered for eligibility for a "comprehensive environmental investigation and cleanup." EPA officials said this could lead the way for the area to qualify for Superfund status as the area will probably be added to the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is the list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites in the country.

Officials from EPA were quick to point out that recent samplings from the area indicate that there is "no immediate threat to human health" but that the area warrants a comprehensive investigation and cleanup.

The area has long been a known source of contaminants, and for decades area residents have complained about improperly discarded materials especially at the Clearview Landfill at the northern end of the current site and the Folcroft Landfill at the southern end. Both sites have

--Continued on page 9

**Annual DCEN Conference  
to be Held October 23rd**

Mark your calendars now for the Delaware County Environmental Network's 1999 Annual Fall Conference! The theme for this year's conference is "Gearing Up for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." It will be held Saturday, October 23, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redwood Community Playhouse in Upland.

This conference is known for informing county residents on current environmental issues. The topics on the agenda this year are as follows:

- "10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania—How the Friends Can Assist our Local Communities": Janet Lussenhop, program director of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania.
- Governor Ridge's Sound Land Use Executive Order—Update of the Goals and Input from the Delaware County Land Use Forum: Jim Newlee, representative from Governor Ridge's office.
- Department of Environmental Protection Watershed Initiatives and Goals: Nancy Crickman, DEP watershed coordinator.

- Chester Creek River Conservation and Storm Water Management Program: Carl duPoldt, president, Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association.
- Darby Creek River Conservation Grant Program: Fritz Thornton, president, Darby Creek Valley Association.
- The Darby-Cobbs Watershed Initiative: Ann Smith, project director.

DCVA is a member of DCEN and is represented on the group's board of directors. All DCVA members are encouraged to attend the conference. A registration form is on page 10. Please return the form by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Note: One of Delaware County's historic sites, the Caleb Pusey House (the oldest English-built house in Pennsylvania), is located across from the Redwood Community Playhouse. It will be open from 1-4 p.m. on the 23rd--conference attendees will be able to visit the house after the conference. There is a small admission fee.

## Successful Annual Awards Dinner Held in May

By Vicki Shaner, Dinner Chair

After so many years at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Essington, the banquet committee felt it appropriate to make a change. In light of the pending sale of the Haverford State Hospital grounds in Haverford Township, it was thought that the availability of the Quadrangle, which is immediately adjacent to the hospital grounds, might be the change we were looking for. The site is a more centralized location, and it gave our members a chance to see the wooded land on the banks of the Darby Creek that has become a controversial issue the past year.

The buffet dinner was well received and enjoyed by all. The staff of the Quadrangle did a lovely job for us and the surrounding grounds lent much ambiance.

The location was also fortuitous in that Greg Vitali, our guest speaker, discussed the current status of the debate over the final disposition of the former hospital property. His comments brought on lively debate from the attendees, local political candidates, and office holders as well as private citizens who support differing plans for use of the property.

This year the Robert Doherty Ribbon of Green Award was presented to Anne Ackerman, a charter member of DCVA and a long time environmental activist in Delaware County.

DCVA wishes to thank its many dinner sponsors and contributors, whose members doubled this year, and the many businesses who lent their support either by purchasing ads or contributing to the raffle. We also wish to thank the committee members who helped make the dinner a success.

We are proud to announce that this dinner as a fund-raiser was the most successful ever, earning over \$2,500 in profits. Thanks again to everyone involved.



*DCVA President Fritz Thornton presents the Robert Doherty Ribbon of Green Award to Anne Ackerman at the annual banquet in May.*

## Work Continuing on Rivers Conservation Plan

Work is underway for the Darby Creek Valley Association's Rivers Conservation Plan for the Darby Creek watershed. The plan involves the four counties (Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and Delaware) and 27 municipalities within the Darby Creek watershed. The goal is to develop a grassroots stewardship management plan for the 77 square miles of the watershed under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' River Conservation Program. The communities' needs from water quality to flood prevention to recreational uses will be studied in order to conserve and enhance the area's resources.

Public participation will be the key to the success of the program as residents in each community identify issues of concern, consider options for possible solutions and set priorities for implementation of the plan. The goal is to involve as many parties as possible who have a stake in the protection of the natural resources and in the enhancement of the quality of life within the watershed. The public's role is crucial given the history of land development within the watershed and the social and economic diversity of the many municipalities involved. The youth living in the watershed will also have an important role to play in the development of the plan as they are the future.

The steering committee has been meeting this summer to set goals for the coming year. Public participation meetings will be scheduled beginning this month with a meeting in Haverford Township. If you would like to help, call the DCVA Hotline at 610 789-1814.

### DCVA to Hold a Wine Tasting Party this Fall Next Awards Dinner Will Be in Fall 2000

DCVA is going back to its old ways. For many years, after the Annual Dinner became a permanent fund-raiser, the dinner was held in the fall. For some reason it was changed to the spring. Spring, as you realize, is such a busy time for most people with weddings, graduations, First Communion and other celebrations. At the last board meeting, it was decided that we would return to a fall date. This timing will move us back to October or November, 2000, for our next dinner.

Since it will be so long before we have a social in 2,000, it was suggested that a Wine Tasting Party be scheduled for this fall. Plans are now underway. Watch for announcements when everything is formalized. Wine Tastings are a lot of fun. If you have never been to one, we assure you that you will enjoy it.

If you would like to help with this event, call Vicki Shaner at 610 449-7297 or Clyde Hunt at 610 449-9333.

### State Grants Available

More than \$50 million in state grants for park, recreation and conservation initiatives are available for local governments. The grants are available through PA DCNR and the Department of Transportation. The deadline for submitting a grant application is October 29. For information on grants, contact DCNR, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, at 717 787-5246.

## Haverford Township Civic Council to Hold Public Meeting on the Rivers Conservation Plan

The Haverford Township Civic Council invites the public to its September meeting to discuss Haverford Township's role in developing the Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The meeting will be held **Monday, September 27, 1999, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Union Methodist Church, 200 Brookline Boulevard, Havertown.

The program will discuss the following questions:

- What is the Darby Cobbs Watershed Partnership? Ann Smith, project director.
- What is the Darby Creek River Conservation Grant Program? Fritz Thornton, DCVA president.
- What is the role of the public in protecting our natural resources? Open discussion led by the Haverford State Hospital Committee of the Haverford Township Civic Council. Development of the site of the former Haverford State Hospital will impact on the conservation plan.

This meeting is sponsored by the Haverford Township Civic Council in cooperation with Haverford Township, the Darby Creek Valley Association Rivers Conservation Grant Program, and the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership.

For additional information, call the Civic Council at 610 853-8998.

## Waterways Conservation Stamps Available

The first of the Pennsylvania Waterways Conservation Stamps are now available. The stamps are part of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's new Conserve 2000 program. Funds raised will be targeted to aquatic resource protection, habitat restoration and enhancement, species protection and restoration, pollution assessment and abatement, and recreational access improvement. Individuals who contribute at least \$5 to the Conserve 2000 program will receive a 2000 Pennsylvania Waterways conservation stamp. The year 2000 stamp will bear a John Buxton painting of the Susquehanna River. To make a donation and receive a stamp, call 1-800-355-7645.

## DCVA Working with Other Groups in Darby Cobbs Partnership

It is not just DCVA that is working to improve the Darby Creek watershed. A group of diverse watershed stakeholders sharing our goal have joined together in a partnership. The partnership shares ideas and resources and is open to all those who want to help preserve the watershed. While DCVA is working on the Rivers Conservation Plan, others are involved in the following projects:

Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center exists to empower its urban neighborhoods to build, preserve and protect their human and natural resources. The Center's activities include encouraging minority students to explore careers in science, developing field and indoor laboratories at the Center and reclaiming Cobbs Creek for humans as well as wildlife. For more information, call 215-471-2223.

Delaware County Planning Department is developing a Stormwater Management Plan for Darby Creek. This plan is required by Pennsylvania Act 167. Upon completion of the plan, municipalities in the watershed will adopt stormwater ordinances that developers must abide by. For more information, please contact the Delaware County Planning Department at: 610-891-5200.

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum conserves, manages, and restores natural habitat along the last remaining portion of freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania. The 1,200 acre refuge is one of the most urbanized refuges in the country. Development is underway for the Cusano Environmental Education Center that will serve as a gateway to nature-oriented learning for children and adults. For more information, please call 610-521-0662.

City of Philadelphia Water Department is implementing significant capital improvements to improve water quality and mitigate the impacts of the City's combined sewer discharges to the Cobbs Creek. In addition, the Water Depart-

ment has undertaken a \$1.1 million effort to complete a Darby-Cobbs Watershed Management Plan to identify water quality improvement actions. For more information, please contact Howard Neukrug at 215-685-6319.

Fairmont Park Commission's Natural Lands Restoration and Environmental Education Program (NLREEP) is another part of the City of Philadelphia's watershed management efforts. Its goal is to restore natural areas in Philadelphia's Fairmont Park system, including Cobbs Creek, and to build a constituency for their protection through environmental education, community groups and consultants to develop master plans for ecological restoration and trail improvements. For more information, please contact Nancy Goldenberg at 215-785-0279.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is active in the Darby-Cobbs watershed from several perspectives. DEP is responsible for assessing the biological health of streams in Pennsylvania and has found that portions of the Darby-Cobbs watershed are not currently meeting water quality standards. To improve water quality, DEP will be developing total maximum daily loads for specific pollutants. DEP also provides regulatory oversight to ensure the requirements of the National Combined Sewer Overflow Strategy are met and has the responsibility to review and approve the ACT 167 Stormwater Management Plans. For more information, contact Nancy Crickman, Watershed Coordinator at 610-832-6100.

The purpose of the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership is to coordinate all of these various efforts to maximize positive impact. The Partnership is open to all interested organizations and individuals. To find out more about the Partnership and how you can participate, please contact Ann Smith of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 215-563-0250 or via email at [asmith@pecphila.org](mailto:asmith@pecphila.org).

## Monitoring the Haverford State Hospital Site...

As DCVA members and readers of this newsletter know, DCVA has been monitoring the former site of the Haverford State Hospital since the state decided to close the hospital. Background information can be found in previous editions of the newsletter. Since the April newsletter, the Haverford Township Authority has received proposals from developers for the site's 239 acres—the last large tract of undeveloped land in Delaware County. The Authority is considering 11 of the proposals including those for a hotel and conference center, office buildings, residential development, and age-restricted housing. Some plans would like to see a new Blue Route interchange built to provide access to the site. All of the proposals call for preservation of at least 118 acres, but most of that is steep slopes and flood plains which cannot be developed. Few of the plans offer much land for public use. DCVA and other civic groups are working to preserve the approximately 160 acres that are currently undeveloped, confining development to the approximately 80 acres which have already been developed by the hospital. The Authority has said that it cannot afford to preserve the land without financial assistance from the state or from private foundations. Several DCVA members are active members of the new Civic Council committee described below. For those of you who have not been keeping tract of this issue, the information that the Civic Council has released explaining the committee's establishment is a good summary of the current situation and expresses DCVA's concerns. For more information, everyone is invited to attend the Civic Council meeting on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> (see page 3) and the hearing described below on funding sources on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Civic Council Launches Initiative to Preserve State Hospital Tract**

The Haverford Township Civic Council formally launched an effort to help remediate and preserve the Haverford State Hospital site. On August 5th, the Civic Council created the Haverford State Hospital Committee to work with the Haverford Township Authority by:

- Assisting in preparing grant applications to foundations and state and federal agencies;
- Developing regional partnerships with organizations with compatible objectives who wish to contribute expertise or funding;
- Developing a site Conservation Plan consistent with public priorities and regional conservation plans.

The Haverford State Hospital Committee is seeking volunteers with conservation, remediation, fund-raising, grant writing and legal expertise as well as those who offer their enthusiasm for preservation of our community's natural resources. To volunteer or to get more information, leave your name and phone number on the Civic Council's Hot Line at 610-853-8998.

### **Why the Haverford State Hospital Committee Was Created:**

The Haverford State Hospital is closed and the property is currently owned by the Commonwealth. Other Hospital sites have been sold to commercial interests or preserved as open spaces and parks, depending upon the site conditions and interest in the community.

A major financial obstacle to preserving the Haverford State Hospital site is the presence of asbestos and other potential environmental hazards that represent a potential multi-million dollar liability. The Township's engineer has estimated that the demolition and asbestos cleanup will cost an estimated \$5.9 to \$7.8 million, depending upon whether the three most desirable buildings on the site are reused for public purposes or not. Although most government and private institutional facilities have addressed asbestos cleanup over the last decade, the Commonwealth has thus far shown no inclination to fund the cleanup.

Even if the state does not fund the cleanup, this tract offers the opportunity to preserve more wetlands and woodlands at less cost than most recent land

### **Hearing to be Held September 29**

A public meeting will be held September 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss funding to preserve the open space at the Haverford State Hospital site. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., at the Haverford Township Commissioners Meeting Room, 2325 Darby Road. Local elected officials and members of the Haverford Authority have been invited. State Representative Greg Vitali and representatives from the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Community and Economic Development and the office of Senator Arlen Specter will attend. The meeting is open to the public.

conservation acquisitions in the region (for example, Radnor Township recently acquired 2 acres at a cost of about \$1 million!).

Preserving the woods and wetlands of the site will protect the Darby Creek watershed whose downstream reaches have been degraded by development. It

*--Continued on page 10*

## Volunteers Remove 420 Cubic Yards of Trash from Darby Creek

The annual Darby Creek Cleanup took place in two (2) phases: Heinz Wildlife Center portion on April 17 (due to tidal influence) and the remaining 70 miles of creek and tributaries on the following Saturday. Over 400 volunteers aided by trucks, dozers and dumpsters supplied by townships, boroughs, and the county pulled over 420 cubic yards of stuff from the watershed. There was less trash than last year from north of Baltimore Pike – every year we have a little less than the year before. There were also fewer volunteers in that section of the creek. This drop in volunteers and trash volume, however, was more than made up by a much stronger effort in the Muckinapates and Hermesprota tributaries.

The good news is that the Darby Creek Watershed is getting cleaner every year. God Bless all those who pitch in so selflessly.



*At the Darby Creek cleanup at the Heinz Refuge, (l to r) Olga Thornton of Drexel Hill, Refuge staffer and clean-up coordinator Cyrus Brame, and Ned Connelly of Clifton Heights show some of the debris collected.*



*(left to right) Melanie Damon, Dave Damon, and Samantha Spadea of Springfield work to clean up Darby Creek behind the swim club in Springfield.*

## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE SWEDISH CABIN

### Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day Scheduled for October 16

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Cabin, 9 Creek Road in Drexel Hill.

Activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Colonial and Indian crafts and lore and cabin tours will be featured. Lunch and refreshments are available.

A \$1 donation is requested; children under age 12 are free. The rain date is Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Upper Darby Township Receives Grants for Cabin Improvements

\$75,000 has been approved in federal and state grants for improvements to the Swedish Cabin. On the list of improvements to be made with the funds is a new roof, improvements to channel rain water, and replacement of two rotting logs in the Cabin. HUD is providing \$60,000 of the money and the state of Pennsylvania is providing the additional \$15,000 required. Upper Darby Township will bid this work in the fall of 1999.

### Cabin Friend Is Sickened by Darby Creek Water

On August 14, 1999, seven members of the Friends of the Swedish Cabin participated in the annual commemorative Governor Johann Printz challenge by canoeing from John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum to Governor Printz Park in Essington. The participants were Dave Anderson, Andy Saul, Jon Algotsson, John Rhoads, Jerry Rhoads, Mary Ellen Scott, and Bob Scott. During the first leg of the trip along Darby Creek in Morton, it being an extremely hot day, Dave, Andy and Jon decided to tip their canoe and cool off. After the rescue, the trip continued until a lightning storm forced the expedition ashore in Ridley Park where Chris Templin was called to shuttle the stranded paddlers.

Unfortunately one week later Dave Anderson started feeling ill and visited a doctor. A week later on September 1<sup>st</sup>, Dave went to the Bryn Mawr emergency room and was admitted. After much questioning on his recent whereabouts and out of the country visits, Dave and his doctor concluded that the illness resulted from exposure to Darby Creek water during the canoe spill. The ailment resulted from a bacteria known as *Leptospirivosis*. After approximately 10 days in the hospital, Dave was able to return home with an expectation of a full recovery. DCVA members wish Dave a speedy return to health.

## DCVA Members Enjoy Sail on the A.J. Meerwald

In early May, Darby Creek Valley Association President, Fritz Thornton, led an environmental cruise on the A.J. Meerwald, an historic Delaware Bay oyster schooner.

Forty people boarded at Penn's Landing and spent four (4) hours on the Delaware River, sailing and learning about the estuary's natural history and the influence of humanity on the estuary. The passengers ranged in age from 5 to 80+. We even lifted a wheel chaired gentleman aboard.

Thornton greeted two passengers from the Country of Jordan in his elementary Arabic. All (including the Jordani-ans) helped with the lines, raising, lowering and furling the sails. It should be noted that the cruise was so restful that DCVA board member Andy Saul snoozed on deck. He did help with the sails though.



*Deck hand and interpretive guide Mark Andrews talks about the rich history of the A.J. Meerwald and the Delaware Bay oyster industry to DCVA members during their May cruise.*



*On board the A.J. Meerwald, Captain Bruce Wooster looks on as DCVA members "man the sails."*

## Upcoming Conferences of Interest to Environmentalists

**Pennsylvania Lake Management Society Conference & Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Workshop.** September 30-October 2, 1999. Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony, PA. Sponsored by Pennsylvania Lake Management Society, Canaan Valley Institute, and PA DEP. For more information, contact Lesley Moore at Canaan Valley Institute at 814 768-9684, [cvi@uplink.net](mailto:cvi@uplink.net).

**Pennsylvania Community Forestry Conference.** October 14-15, 1999, at the Battlefield Holiday Inn, Gettysburg, PA. Topic for October 14: Keeping the Green in Greenspace. Topic for October 15: Better Caring for Your Community: Trees and Greenspaces. Sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, DCNR, and PA Urban and Community Forestry Council. For more information, call Bill Elmendorf at 814 863-7941. To register call 814 865-8301 by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**1999 Southeastern Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium: Implementing Best Management Practices.** October 20-21, 1999. Villanova University. Sponsored by Delaware River Basin Commission, PA DEP, Brandywine Conservancy, and Villanova University. For information about content call Professor Traver at 610 519-7899; for information about registration call Linda DeAngelis at 610 519-4358.

**1999 Pennsylvania Environmental Congress.** October 23-24, 1999. Shippensburg University, Shippensburg. On line registration [www.penfuture.org](http://www.penfuture.org).

**Delaware River Watershed Monitoring Congress: "The Delaware, A People's River."** October 30, 1999. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Delaware Valley College, Doylestown PA. Sponsored by Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Call 215 369-1188 for information.

**Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education Conference 1999: "On the Eve of a New Millennium."** November 4-7, 1999. Split Rock Lodge in the Poconos. For more information contact one of the 1999 conference co-chairs, Carissa Reilly, 610 377-9150, or Pat McKinney, 570 622-4124, extension 113.

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conservation Expo.** Held in conjunction with the State Conservation Commission's 51<sup>st</sup> Joint Annual Conference. November 8-9, 1999. Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion PA. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Register by September 30<sup>th</sup>. For information contact Gayle Green at 717 545-8878.

**Designing your Monitoring Program: A Volunteer Monitoring Workshop.** November 13, 1999. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Stroud Water Research Center, Chester County. Sponsored by PA DEP and the River Watch Network in cooperation with the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Stroud Water Research Center and DCNR. To register, call 1 800 769-7670.

## Pollution of Waterway in Bryn Mawr Investigated

Several Radnor Township residents recently reported possible sewage in a waterway on the American College Campus in Bryn Mawr, Delaware County, to DCVA vice president Dave Cannan. The first notification was by a Garrett Hill man who noticed discolored water and an unpleasant odor in a small creek along his regular jogging route on the college campus.

Cannan inspected the site and traced the possible pollution coming from a stormwater outlet pipe along the train tracks of the adjacent SEPTA property.

Radnor Township's sewage department was called, and Dave Buckwater met with Cannan at the site. They attempted to trace the origin of the point source pollution. Later Buckwater finally discovered a possible source coming from a pit in the maintenance area of Bryn Mawr Hospital.

Meanwhile, Cannan contacted Richard Breitenstein of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who immediately met with Cannan at the site and took water samples. The results showed a count of 90,000 fecals. That is compared with water that is discharged from sewage treatment plants that have effluent fecal limits of 200.

Breitenstein noted that the public should know that "fecal coliform bacteria are not [usually] harmful to humans; they are an indicator species. This means that they are usually associated with other types of bacteria found in our guts which are harmful to us if discharged to a waterway and some poor bloke wanders in the water and has skin contact with these nasty bacteria or maybe ingests some of the tainted water. The problem is that these dangerous bacteria are small and hard to detect. But the fecal bacteria are large and easy to detect in a lab test. So if we detect fecals, we assume there are other harmful types of bacteria present also."

Breitenstein met officials from Radnor, Lower Merion and the hospital to discuss the situation. A large pit at the maintenance area of Bryn Mawr Hospital was emptied and inspected. It was discovered that a pipe was connected to the storm sewer. Breitenstein instructed the hospital to seal this pipe. He expressed hope that the pumping and sealing of the pit at Bryn Mawr will resolve the problem seen in the creek by the SEPTA train tracks.

Darby Creek Valley Association would like to thank the Garrett Hill/Rosemont residents who took the time to report this pollution of our local waterways to vice president Dave Cannan. Breitenstein also advised, "if anyone is near a creek and it smells or looks sewagey, call me and I can look at and take a sample and try and verify what's going on."

Breitenstein can be reached at the Pennsylvania DEP at 610-832-6000. Residents of Radnor Township can also make reports on concerns about watershed pollution to DCVA vice president Dave Cannan at 610-525-3755, and he will relay the information to the proper governmental agencies.

## Radnor Residents Searching for Solutions to Stormwater Problems



*State Representative Greg Vitali (left) discusses the stormwater problems at the SEPTA spillway with Dave Cannan.*

As our watershed is going through another drought, it is a good time to emphasize the importance of creating ways to replenish our groundwater. Many of our local municipalities consider stormwater as a nuisance that must be quickly conveyed downstream to someone else's property. However, many watershed advocates are promoting Best Management Practices for controlling stormwater that call for the use of innovative techniques to gather water where it falls in an effort to replenish our groundwater. The importance of groundwater recharge is evident by the number of springs and creeks in our municipalities that have completely dried up during this current drought. A barren spillway along Conestoga Road in Garrett Hill, Radnor Township, is a good example of the standard attempt at managing stormwater.

Some years ago, SEPTA, in an effort to control stormwater on its property at this location, created a spillway where stone and gravel are used in an effort to decelerate the storm water before it hits the roadway and the culvert at the base of the hill. But over the last several years, it hasn't worked. The amount of stormwater is apparently greater than originally estimated which has produced an eyesore as well as considerable erosion and stormwater often sheeting across adjacent Conestoga Road. It's been suggested by the township that trees in cement planters could be used to beautify this site. But simply trying to hide the negative effects of stormwater will only compound the problem.

Looking for a better solution, DCVA vice president Dave Cannan has initiated several meetings regarding this site with SEPTA engineers and officials, State Representative Greg Vitali and environmental engineer and consultant Tom Cahill of Cahill and Associates in a effort to find an environmentally sound, visually pleasing and long-lasting way to restore this site.

Cannan has recently received a written agreement from SEPTA that it will landscape the spillway at its cost if the stormwater from properties above its property is controlled. And a recent discussion with Radnor Township officials has

*--Continued on page 10*



DCVA vice president Dave Cannan gives one of 40 swamp chestnut oaks to Upper Main Line YMCA Environmental Education Coordinator Brian Raichich. DCVA also donated 10 viburnums. The seedlings were part of the 400 tree seedlings donated to DCVA by National Tree Trust last spring and had been nurtured by volunteers at various locations.

Cannan met Raichich at a Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed pond seminar and learned that the Upper Main Line YMCA has a 52-acre property, one third of which is woodlands. Nine acres have been designated as a nature preserve by Natural Lands Trust. Within the woodlands flows the headwater tributary of Darby Creek.

The plantings fit in nicely with Raichih's ongoing stream restoration project on the streams and pond that exist on the Upper Main Line YMCA property.

## WRAP Grant Funds Improvements to Little Darby Creek

Last June, volunteers from DCVA, Main Line Unitarian Church, Main Line YMCA, Radnor Middle School Watershed Program, Radnor Township and interested residents from Radnor and surrounding communities restored about 200 ft. of streambank on Little Darby Creek in the Willows Park in Wayne.

With financial support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Watershed Restoration and Assistance Program (WRAP grant), this project is a continuation of Radnor Township's long range water resources improvement plan for the 30-acre park.

As part of this WRAP grant, John Munro of Munro Ecological Services was hired to develop a Master Plan for the 520 feet of streambanks of Little Darby Creek, tributary Abrams Run and the Willows Pond.

Munro already has a proven track record in Radnor Township where he has successfully kept Fenimore Park pond, as well as nearby ponds at Eastern College, free of algae. For the Willows Pond, he plans to use natural treatment cells of native grasses, create a riparian buffer around the pond to discourage use by the local goose population, and keep the pond spring fed rather than opening an intake vale from Little Darby Creek which would likely increase nutrient loading due to fertilizer runoff from properties upstream. Used together, these methods will rid the multi-acre Willows Pond of unsightly algae without resorting to less successful and environmentally unfriendly chemical treatments.

DCVA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped on this stream bank restoration project. When checking the restoration site after a recent deluge of 4 inches of rain, DCVA vice president Dave Cannan reported that the restored site held together very nicely, while the unprotected banks experienced severe erosion. This is another example of how volunteers are making a difference in improving the water resources of our watersheds.



**DCVA member Caroline Layfield catches her first trout at the Fish Derby in Saw Mill Park, Radnor Township. The derby was sponsored by the Chester Valley Sportsmen's Association.**



**Volunteers place a willows facing as part of a restoration project at the Willows in Wayne.**

**Lower Darby Creek** *(Continued from page 1)*

been inactive as actual landfills for over twenty years.

In 1983 a fire on the Folcroft Landfill, which smoldered for months, turned up drums of improperly disposed chemical compounds as well as biological material thought to have come from hospitals. The landfill, used by Delaware County as well as individual municipalities, was a privately run operation with permits to accept municipal, demolition and hospital waste. The site includes the landfill and an annex which together comprise 62 acres. The Folcroft Landfill and Annex are now part of John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum having been acquired in the 1970's by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Clearview is now the site of a waste transfer station along with several private businesses. The 16 acre site is owned privately and operated as the Clearview Land Development Company. The landfill was actually started by the current owner's father in the early 1950's and had a record of more than 100 violations and notices from both state and federal agencies going back to the late 1960's. Violations included open burning and illegal dumping. The landfill was shut down in 1973 by the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. The site is located in Darby Township where the Darby and Cobbs Creeks merge.

Other sites included in the EPA announcement include the Sunoco Darby Creek Tank Farm, the now defunct Delaware County Sewage Treatment Plant, the former Delaware County Incinerator, and Industrial Drive properties which are currently occupied by salvage yards and a vehicle repair shop. This Industrial Drive area was reportedly used as a dump in the 1950's.

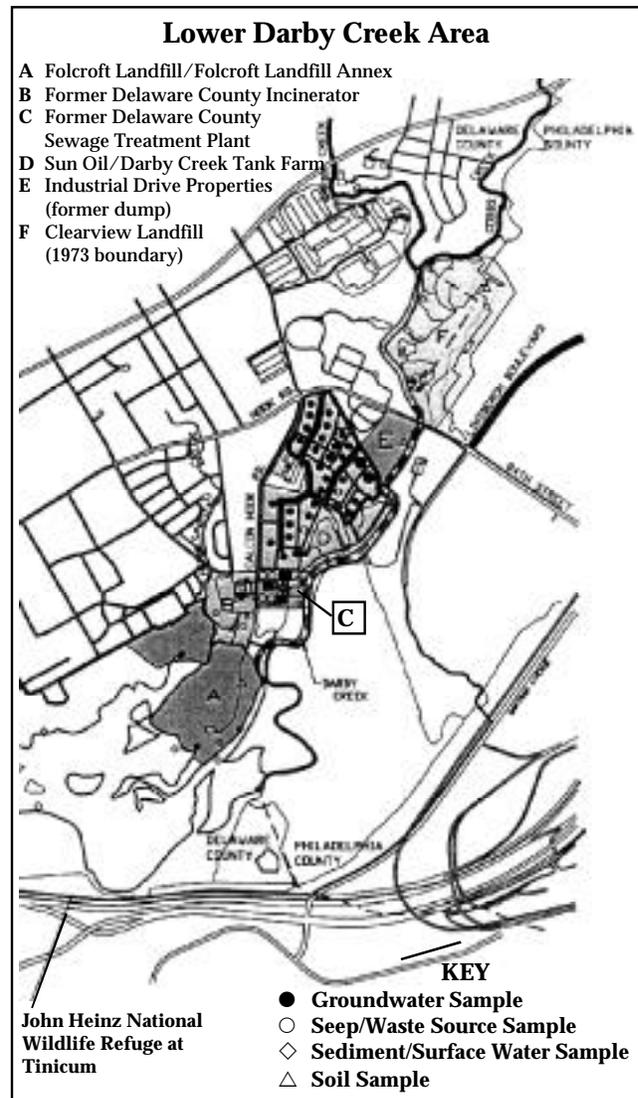
Both the Folcroft Landfill and Clearview have had problems with leaching coming off into the creek. EPA testing has shown that soil, surface water and groundwater within the watershed have been impacted. Contamination found includes heavy metals such as copper, lead and zinc, volatile organic compounds in groundwater at the Folcroft Landfill, PCBs at Clearview, dioxin at the former incinerator, and benzene in groundwater at the tank farm.

Although there is no immediate threat to human health in the area, EPA is concerned about the threat to the environment, especially since the area is within the heart of the Heinz Refuge. In 1990 EPA changed its ranking system for possible listing on the NPL to include environmentally sensitive areas; in 1991 EPA Region III conducted testing and reviewed historical data to consider using Clearview as a model in the new ranking system. The Philadelphia office recommended this to EPA Headquarters in Washington, but no action was taken at that time. In the following decade, with more emphasis being put on protecting our ever shrinking natural resources, it seems as if EPA is finally responding to the concerns of area environmentalists.

EPA officials noted that there is no statute of limitations on prosecuting responsible parties in pollution cases. Waste generators, haulers, and anyone who received illegal transfer of materials without the proper permits can be held liable.

In regard to a timetable for putting the Lower Darby Creek site on the NPL, EPA said, "After finalizing its site investigation package, EPA Mid-Atlantic region will submit its nomination of the site to the NPL with EPA headquarters. A proposal is scheduled for spring of 2000." However, once the site is placed on the NPL list, it could take years to complete studies and planning before actual remediation is done. But for those who have fought and waited for decades, there does seem to be some cautious optimism that eventually something will be done.

EPA will soon be available to answer questions about the Lower Darby Creek site in various communities within the study area. Anyone with questions or with information that might prove helpful to EPA can contact the EPA community involvement coordinator, Hal Yates, at 215 814-5530.



*This is part of a map prepared by EPA on July 20, 1999. The areas marked indicate facility or property boundaries, not necessarily areas of contamination.*

**President's Pen**

*Continued from page 1*

new and enthusiastic help in Muckinapates and Hermesprota tributaries kept the volunteer and collection numbers high.

As ever, many thanks to all of you who have had a hand in the summer's activities, and we look forward to a successful roll into the year 2000.



**DCEN Conference  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete and return to the address below by October 15.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

For additional information, please contact the Conservation District Office at 610 892-8484.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

**Registration**

- Adult - \$10
- Student - Free
- I would appreciate table space for a small exhibit, handouts
- I would appreciate a few minutes to share what our group is doing

**Membership**

- Enclosed is my membership dues/renewal (Due in October)
- Individual - \$10
- Business - \$35
- Group - \$20
- Supporting - \$50

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: DCEN  
c/o Delco Conservation District  
Rose Tree Park - Hunt Club  
1521 N. Providence Road  
Media, PA 19063

**DCVA Sends Best Wishes to  
Longtime Board Member**

Longtime DCVA board member Carl Flintermann is in a nursing home. Grace, our former treasurer, has gone through heart surgery and is no longer able to care for Carl at home.

Grace tells us that Carl, from time to time, remembers and talks about DCVA and his many civic involvements. He would enjoy hearing from us. If you would like, please drop him a card or note. Or if you are in the West Chester area, drop by for a visit. You may want to check with Grace before a visit to determine a convenient time.

Carl's address is: Carl Flintermann, Room 216, Barclay Friends Care Home, 700 North Barclay Street, West Chester, PA 19380.

**Haverford State Hospital Site**

*Continued from page 4*

would offer the potential for public access to wild lands right in our community that residents might otherwise drive an hour more to reach. The most usable buildings on the site might be restored and reused for community activities.

Other public/private partnerships have succeeding in preserving valued open space. This is the largest open tract left in the township and represents a golden opportunity to improve our quality of life, protect our environment and enhance the stature and value of our community.

The Committee and community volunteers will work with the Haverford Township Authority and through regional partnerships to support the Authority's efforts to acquire and fund cleanup of the site and achieve the community's highest priority - preserving natural lands through a combination of private and public funding.

**Radnor Stormwater Problems**

*Continued from page 7*

moved this matter to the September meeting of Radnor's commissioners and then on to the Public Works Board in October.

DCVA extends a special thanks to State Representative Greg Vitali and Tom Cahill for their efforts in assessing and attempting to resolve this major stormwater problem in the Darby Creek watershed.

**DCVA is pleased to welcome  
the following new members:**

**Organization Members**

Beneficial Savings Bank, Drexel Hill  
Crawford & Diamond, Radnor  
Driftwood Marina, Ridley Park

**Individual or Family Members**

Thomas Logan Beck, Ridley Park  
Nancy Crickman, Swarthmore  
Ann & Michael D'Antonio, Havertown  
Elizabeth B. Garrison, Haverford  
Dr. Hans Herlinger, Haverford  
Helen & Holland Hunter, Haverford  
John T. Matthews, Ridley Park  
Mike McCrea, Ridley Park  
Wm. H. Patterson, Darby  
Judy & Alfred Rice, Havertown  
Jan & Alan Rushforth, Bryn Mawr  
Betty S. Schmidt, Haverford  
Daniel J. Siegel, Havertown  
Beth Anne Theroff, Secane  
Mary Jane Wallace, Bryn Mawr



The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: [www.libertynet.org/~dcva](http://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, Dave Anderson, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Rosemary Kesling, Bob Scott, Vicki Shaner, Fritz Thornton and Olga Thornton. Photographs by Bill Buchanan, Dave Cannan and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. © 1999.



## Fish Habitat Restoration Continues at Saw Mill Park--Park Is Also Being Made Accessible to People of All Abilities

DCVA, along with Karl Lutz of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Radnor Township, Chester Valley Sportsmen, consultant Steve Kosiak, and interested volunteers will be joining together at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 25, to finish the second installment of the fish habitat restoration project at Saw Mill Park in Radnor Township. The first part of the project was completed last February.

Stone will be purchased with monies from a \$1,500.00 grant from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Dave Cannan and Steve Kosiak have acquired volunteer commitments for a backhoe and operator as well as tree logs donated from a local arborist.

Also, in an effort to make our parks more accessible to people of all abilities, DCVA vice president Dave Cannan has organized a group of local advocates for those with disabilities to consult with Radnor Township's Parks and Recreation Department. Because Saw Mill Park is a flat linear park, and township funds have been allocated for the park's improvement, an excellent opportunity exists to make Darby Creek accessible to people in wheel chairs, those who need the assistance of canes or walkers, or parents with strollers. Accessibility advocates will be consulting with Radnor Township on improvement plans to Saw Mill Park before the project receives final approval by the township's Board of Parks and Recreation.

Anyone interested in participating in the Saw Mill Park fish habitat improvement project or has ideas on how to make our parks and natural areas accessible to people of all abilities, contact DCVA vice president Dave Cannan at 610-525-3755.



*DCVA members Will Keech (left) and his mother Ann are advocates for those with disabilities. They are consultants on a committee to make Radnor parks accessible to all people.*

### 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:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member.....\$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member.....\$5.00       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member.....\$15.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Member.....\$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen.....\$5.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member.....\$100.00        |

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

Monday, September 27	Haverford Township Civic Council public meeting on Darby Creek Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Union Methodist Church, 200 Brookline Boulevard, Havertown. 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 29	Hearing on potential funding sources for preserving open space at the Haverford State Hospital site. Haverford Township Commissioners' Meeting Room, 2325 Darby Road, Havertown. 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 2	Haverford Township Day
Saturday, October 16	Cabin Crafts and Friendship day at the Swedish Cabin. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, October 16	DCVA Board Meeting. Home of Vicki and Bob Shaner, 1930 Lawrence Road, #D34, Havertown. 9 a.m.
Saturday, October 23	DCEN Conference. Redwood Community Playhouse, Upland PA 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, November 20	DCVA General Membership Meeting. Location to be announced. 9 a.m.
Saturday, December 18	DCVA Board Meeting. Home of Vicki and Bob Shaner, 1930 Lawrence Road, #D34, Havertown. 9 a.m.

 Printed on Recycled Paper

BULK RATE  
U.S. MAIL  
Permit # 17  
Drexel Hill,  
PA 19026

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