



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

Spring's warmer days bring wild-life migrations, flowers, trees and plants to life and renewed resolve to make Darby Creek clean and green.

State and local governments are beginning to realize that building and paving for tax ratables don't produce enough income to offset the needed additional services, traffic snarls and damage to the community infrastructure. And this is without beginning to count the increased flooding and nonpoint pollution that development causes downstream communities.

Suburban sprawl, loss of farmland, brownfields in urban areas are all irrevocably interrelated. Only state and regional plans and regulations can deal with these problems. Our Rivers Conservation Plan, Storm Water Management Plan, Darby-Cobbs Initiative—all have a similar purpose—reduce flooding and pollution. To do this we have to preserve open space, flood plains, trees, streamside plants, etc. If we don't, we'll have more Floyd-like damage, polluted creeks, and Sun oil spill disasters. It only works if concerned citizens actively push their governments to follow these plans.

Fritz Shonk

Inside This Issue:

Rivers Conservation Grant Status..	2
DCVA Conference Report	2
Cleanup Contact List.....	3
Yellow House News.....	4
Haverford State Hospital Update ..	5
Blue Bell Inn Report	5
Radnor Receives WRAP Grant.....	7
Grange Estate Events	9
Membership Form.....	9

Clean Up Darby Creek on April 29th

Volunteers are needed for the annual cleanup of Darby Creek on Saturday, April 29th, 2000, 9 a.m., rain or shine. Because Hurricane Floyd caused extensive damage to the entire length of the creek last September, DCVA needs everyone to help restore our watershed. Note the date now; then join us at one of the 14 sites where volunteers will be gathering (see list of sites and coordinators on page 3). If you have any questions, call Thomas D. Houghton, General Chairman, at 610 268-1414, or contact your coordinator. Clean water begins and ends with us!

Crude Oil Spilled in Heinz Refuge

The Refuge, already compromised by the effects of Hurricane Floyd, is confronted with another catastrophe.

By Bill Buchanan

A crude oil leak was identified at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum on February 5th. The problem was discovered by happenstance when a cross country skier reported a strong odor of petroleum to a refuge staffer. It was soon discovered that oil was literally bubbling from the ground near the impoundment, and within an hour's time Sunoco, who owns the pipeline which had sprung a leak, had oil recovery crews as well as pipeline personnel on the scene.



Spill site at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum as it appeared on the day oil was discovered. Dark patches in the snow are pools of oil that have welled to the surface.

—Photo by Bill Buchanan

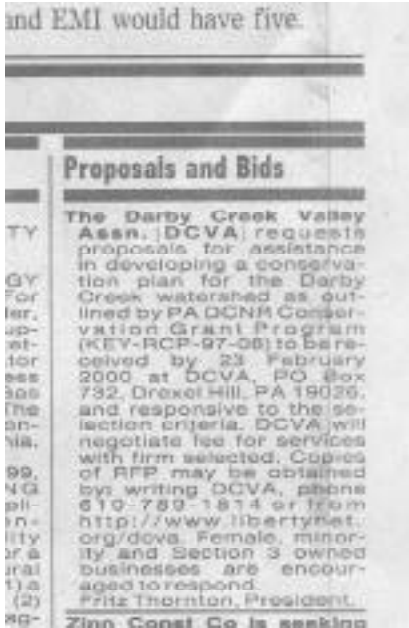
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DEP, EPA, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission were immediately alerted.

Crews worked around the clock for nearly three weeks trying to contain the spill, and to date over 173,000 gallons of oil have been recovered. The spill is the largest pipeline accident involving crude oil since data collection began in 1968.

Sunoco has replaced the damaged miter joint that had sprung the leak, replacing it with a newer "elbow" joint, similar to those found in modern day plumbing. The pipeline is one of two that run from Sunoco's marine terminal at Hog Island to its Darby Creek Tank Farm. There are other pipelines as well that run under the

—Continued on page 6

Status of DCNR Rivers Conservation Grant



Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/24/2000, A7

On January 24th, DCVA advertised for a consultant to help develop the Conservation Plan. The proposals have now been submitted and all have been reviewed. It is expected that a consultant will be chosen by the end of April. This means that the preliminary work is done, and we are proceeding to the next step. We are now looking for members to help with the public participation meetings. Anyone willing to help with these meetings or in any other aspect of this project, call Anne Ackerman at 610 449-9095.

DCVA Welcomes Its New Members:

Seth Blitzer & Letitia Biddle-Blitzer,
Berwyn

Mario L. Cimino, Morton

Colleen & Mark Hagenbuch,
Springfield

Fred & Catherine Piasecki,
Haverford

Another Successful Conference Held March 4th

By Anne Ackerman

Our Annual Conference brought participants together from Radnor to the John Heinz Refuge and from various organizations within the watershed.

Todd Stell, environmental planner for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, presented an overview of the DCNR grant program which offers communities funding for various projects. Nancy Crickman, watershed coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection, reviewed DEP's regulatory requirements as they affect water quality within the Darby Creek Watershed. Karen Holm, manager for the environmental section of the Delaware County Planning Department, reported that progress is underway with Phase I of the Storm Water Plan for the Darby Creek. Kathy Wandersee and Stephanie Barber, Historic Preservation Planners from the Delaware County Planning Department, discussed ways the Planning Department can assist communities with historic preservation issues.

Brian Marengo, program manager for the Office of Watersheds of the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), gave an update on the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Initiative, demonstrating the potential for accessing information and for analysis, utilizing the computer program PWD has developed. Specific issues

were addressed by Tom Larson, of the Brandywine Conservancy, about easements and the plans for Waterloo Mills; Dick Nugent, Refuge manager for the John Heinz Refuge at Tinicum, on the problems of the recent oil spill and hopes for the new Environmental Center which is underway at the Refuge; Joseph Caesar of Fairmount Park Natural Lands Restoration and Environmental Education Program on the goals of the Cobbs Creek restoration project; Harry Olson on the potential for community service learning requirements projected for high school students; Alan Fastman on the soon to be completed Cobbs Creek Environmental Center; and Catherine Hand, DCVA Historic Sites Committee, on the brochure for the Historic Sites/Organizations/Gardens and Arboreta in the watershed. The above is just a sampling of the many projects underway in the Darby Creek Watershed.

Thanks to our many speakers. We've come a long way—but yet miles to go!! How to get involved? Call 610 789-1814.

DCVA Sets Goals at Conference

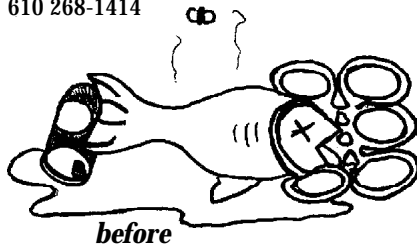
Attendees at the DCVA conference set the following goals for the coming year:

- To focus on the development of the Conservation Plan for the Darby Creek watershed and on networking with the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership
- To continue to expand public awareness of the Darby Creek watershed—its resources and potential for public enjoyment; possibly having tours and walks to introduce residents to the rich heritage of the watershed
- To encourage municipalities to survey their local historic resources and to develop priorities for preservation
- To expand the network among municipal officials and residents to share knowledge and experience related to watershed issues and to identify individual, organizational, and governmental resources
- To encourage volunteer opportunities, i.e., identification of "needs" and structure for involvement since volunteerism is critical to the implementation of all grants
- To continue opportunities for sharing of ideas at meetings to give volunteers a sense of empowerment and accomplishment
- To develop a program structure for community service learning to prepare for state community service requirements
- To encourage school districts to incorporate local history and local watershed education as part of the curriculum.

Creek Cleanup Contact List

Saturday, April 29, 2000

General Chairman: Tom Houghton,
610 268-1414



For information about the Darby Creek Cleanup, contact the coordinator in your community:

Upper Karakung, Havertown:
Larry Arata, 610 449-6479

Skunk Hollow, Radnor,
Dave Cannan, 610 525-3755

Glendale Park, Havertown,
Carolyn Laws, 610 259-0498 and
Tim Denny, 610 446-5317

Idle Hour Tennis Club, Drexel Hill,
Terry Kane, 610 449-4411

Naylor's Run, Upper Darby:
Pete Leahy, 610 622-0320

Springfield Swim Club, Springfield:
Dave Damon, 610 544-5432

Kent Park, Clifton Heights:
Dave DiPhillippo, 610 284-3319

Hoffman Park, Lansdowne:
Mary Repeto, 610 623-7300

Darby: Charles Sanders, 610 583-0813

Colwyn: Bob Williams: 610 586-8180

Ridley Township,
Bob Moorehead, 610 532-7007

Cobbs Creek:
John Haigis, 215, 365-5927

Glenolden: Joe Selfridge, 610 586-1740

Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum:
Cyrus Brahme, 215 365-3118



Ron Thompson from US Geological Survey Spoke at Annual Meeting

By Olga Thornton

Ron Thompson from the Water Resources Division of the US Geological Survey (USGS) spoke at the January General Meeting. He began with a brief overview of the organization and responsibilities of USGS.

USGS is primarily a scientific agency with no management responsibility. Most of its business is with other governmental agencies although it does some business with non-profit organizations such as DCVA. USGS is a Bureau within the Department of the Interior. The function of the USGS is to collect and analyze data and report the results to a contracted agency. In Pennsylvania there are five offices. The SE local office is in Malvern.

Currently USGS has a new director who is restructuring the bureau. Within USGS there are four divisions: Water Resources, National Mapping, Geologic Division (hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes), and Biological Resources. Thompson said that each of these departments has tended to put on blinders in the past and look at its own areas only. One of the goals of the new approach is to work toward a more seamless cooperative process.

Ron went on to discuss Stream Flow Measurement—how it is monitored and how the data is utilized in bridge construction, determining the 100 year flood lines and availability of flood insurance. Flood meters are located along the streams. He noted



Ron Thompson, US Geological Survey, speaks at DCVA Annual Meeting.
—Photo by Olga Thornton

that two local meters, Darby and Waterloo Mills, have been eliminated due to lack of funding. There was some discussion of these two meters. The Waterloo Mills meter is still in place on Brandywine Conservancy property. There were questions regarding its value if still in use by the Conservancy. Ron noted that it is still in use to monitor flow, but the data would not be used by USGS as it could not guarantee the quality of the data. Bob Doherty, a DCVA Director, noted that he plans to research the Darby Meter as he was unaware that one ever existed. Currently there is an active meter in Chadds Ford that is primarily used to monitor flow between Pennsylvania and Delaware.

—Continued on page 8

Annual Dinner To Be Held in October

This year our annual dinner will be in the fall on October 21st. Note that this is a Saturday, rather than our traditional Sunday. It is at a new location also: Charlotte's Restaurant in Newtown Square. Otherwise the evening promises to be the same—an enjoyable social event with DCVA members and friends.

We will be presenting the Ribbon of Green Award and listening to a good speaker. We would like your help in both of these areas. If you would like to nominate a recipient of the Ribbon of Green Award or suggest a speaker, please call the DCVA hotline at 610 789-1814.

The committee has also started selling ads for the program book. For information about how you can help, call Carolyn Laws at 610 259-0498 or Vicki Shaner at 610 449-7297.

You can expect to get your official invitation to the dinner in September.

Yellow House To Be Razed

Upper Darby Township has determined that the “Yellow House,” one of the historic houses in the township, is a safety hazard and must be partially torn down. The structure, a 3-story single family stone house located on Creek Road, near the Swedish Cabin is owned by the township. Before the end of May, township engineers plan to knock off the top two floors, leaving only the first floor.



The yellow house, sitting behind the Swedish Cabin, is scheduled to be partially demolished this spring.

—Photo by John Furth

Preservationists have urged the township to preserve the house. DCVA first vice-president John Furth has long been interested in the structure. In 1998 he commissioned a study that claimed that the house could be stabilized and preserved for as little as \$15,000. The report said that the window frames could be reconstructed, some of the stones repointed, and a pitched roof added for that amount. The municipality, however, feels that the stabilization would not work and that restoring the house would cost about \$150,000. It does not feel that the structure is historically significant enough to justify that expense.

Tom Smith, DCVA member and the township’s archivist, says that the house was built between 1820 and 1840. A fire gutted the house around 1970, and it has been vacant and deteriorating since then. It is, however, one of the few examples of mill tenements still remaining and has an architectural feature typical of the 19th century: rounded window frames.

As John Furth wrote in a letter to the editor in the *News of Delaware County*, March 8, 2000, “the impending demise of the Yellow House reflects the urban ills consuming Upper Darby, and there is little future for a community that does not treasure its past.”

Site Plan for Bartram Memorial Park Being Developed

By Bill Frasch

Ms. Joy Lawrence, a staff member of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, has volunteered to develop a site plan, probably in two or three phases, for the Bartram Memorial Park in Darby Borough. This project was originally funded by a \$25,000 matching grant through the Watershed Restoration and Riparian Planting (WRAP grants) program of the Department of Environmental Protection. The department has awarded an additional \$25,000 grant to the Borough from the new Grow-

ing Greener program which replaces the WRAP funding.

The original site at an existing playground area will be completed as phase one. The second phase will be downstream adjacent to the playground area. It will follow the demolition of the Floyd ravaged 38 residences. Demolition work will probably be completed by June or July. The third phase will be an area where the Darby Creek has completely bypassed an old concrete dam and which is just downstream from the 38 houses in the 12th, 13th, and 14th Street blocks.

Old West Chester Pike Bridge to be Repaired—Eventually

One of the many crippling effects of Hurricane Floyd was the destruction of a small, two lane stone bridge over Darby Creek on Old West Chester Pike in Havertown. The bridge connected Lawrence Road in Marple Township to Mercy Community Hospital and some other businesses. Because part of the bridge’s stone abutment and a retaining wall were washed away, the entire structure will have to be replaced at an estimated cost of between \$1.5 million and \$2 million.

At first PennDOT, which owns the bridge, decided not to repair it because it said that only several hundred motorists a day used it—not enough to warrant the expense. By the middle of February, however, PennDOT had changed its mind because of pressure from commissioners in both Marple and Haverford Townships. Both saw the situation as a safety issue. Using the bridge provides a second route to and from Haverford Hospital and could save motorists up to 10 minutes during periods of heavy traffic on West Chester Pike.

Now PennDOT has agreed to fix the closed bridge if Haverford and Marple Townships will take over the ownership of the road and the bridge once repairs are completed. New highway monies will be used so that no funding earmarked for other projects will be diverted. Unfortunately the bridge repairs are not expected to be completed and the road reopened until sometime in 2003.

PECO Checking for Contamination

Peco Energy Company is in the process of examining a three-acre property in Sharon Hill on Pine Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets and spanning Darby Creek. The site may have been contaminated 100 years ago when it was a manufactured-gas plant. If contaminants are found at the site, Peco says that it will immediately begin a cleanup.

Haverford State Hospital Site Update

The former Haverford State Hospital site continues to be in the news. Since our January newsletter, the township has received a grant for planning, a cell tower has been approved, and a website has been established that will keep us informed with the latest news.

DCNR (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources) announced on March 3rd that Haverford Township has received a Keystone planning grant of \$50,000 to draft a comprehensive plan for the hospital site. The grant, which was received through the help of state senator Richard Tilghman, is \$10,000 more than the township requested. The plan will study ways to preserve open space at the property.

Soon after the announcement, the township created a 5-member committee to draft the plan. Jerry Sacchetti, Haverford Township Authority member and Haverford Township Planning Commission chairman, will chair the committee. Other members appointed are Henry Faragalli, Elmer Funk, Kathryn Yearsley and Peter Puglionesi. The first 3 are Authority members; Puglionesi is a member of the volunteer Haverford Authority Consulting Task Force that prepared the grant proposal. The committee will work with the Authority's municipal planner, Larry Waetzman, but will also hire an approved land-conservation planner to help develop the plan, as required by the grant.

The committee will conduct its business in public. It is committed to preserving the property as parkland as much as possible.

The Haverford Authority Task Force also prepared, for township submission, a \$40,000 matching-funds grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The township has not yet received news of that application.

On March 2nd, the Haverford Township Zoning Board ruled that Omnipoint Communications, Inc. can put a cellular tower on the hospital grounds. Other cellular facilities are already on the site. If ownership of the property is transferred from the state, the company will be required to negotiate a new lease with the new owner.

The Haverford Township Authority has established a website to give information about the property and upcoming events related to it. It did this on the recommendation of the Consulting Task Force which hopes that the website will keep citizens informed about the issues involved in developing the site. Along with pictures of the buildings and land, the website carries results of the natural resource and building surveys of the property. An endangered plant was discovered during the natural resources survey. The web address is www.ecofront.com.

At a regular Haverford Township Commissioners' meeting March 6th, township manager Tom Bannar suggested that the hospital site be used to relocate township facilities. The township's police and fire departments need more space, as does the township library, and the recreation department would like more athletic fields. Mr. Bannar will be meeting with the DCNR and DCED regarding the planning for the site.

Blue Bell Inn Vacated After Damage from Hurricane Floyd

By John Haigis

First, the good news. The Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek is still standing as it has done for the past two hundred and thirty four years. The bad news is Hurricane Floyd did more damage than originally thought, and the building is currently vacant until a structural assessment can be done and needed repairs made.

Despite the bad news, there is much to be thankful for: with the flood waters from Hurricane Floyd up to their knees, the caretakers were evacuated and were not injured; the water eventually rose to nearly five feet above the floor but stopped just below two irreplaceable items (a 1746 indenture and an oil painting by David Brewster) and the electricity (and basement sump pump) remained on throughout the flood.

The problem is the water which soaked the floor boards and joists of the first floor created a mold situation, and prompted health and safety concerns. Fairmount Park, who owns the building, asked that the building be vacated and has installed an alarm system and will monitor the building daily. The structural assessment is expected to be completed by the Park, and it is nearly certain that a complete new floor will be necessary. The search for funding continues so that the little building that welcomed Washington to Philadelphia, witnessed "Washington's Kiss," saw the "Battle at the Blue Bell," and so much more will again be open to the public.

(The Blue Bell is located at 7303 Woodland Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia, where Island Road becomes Cobbs Creek Parkway and Woodland Avenue becomes Main Street in Darby. If you would like to help or would like information about the Blue Bell, please contact John Haigis at (215) 365-5927.)



David Brewster's oil painting of the Blue Bell Inn, 1990

Oil Spill at Heinz Refuge

—Continued from page 1

refuge which transport stored oil from the tank farm to the refinery in South Philadelphia. As a precaution, while the excavation pit is still open for the repair of the damaged line, Sunoco officials say that all other pipelines which run along side the damaged line will also have miter joints replaced with elbow joints.

When the leak first developed there was as much as a 12 inch layer of ice on the impoundment. Officials all have agreed that was a blessing in disguise in that it helped to keep the oil from spreading much more beyond a one acre area of the impoundment. Also, it allowed crews to walk out to cut through the ice and lay in an oil boom which prevented the spread of the crude beyond that perimeter. The downside of the ice was that crews could not really see what was going on in the lower depths of the impoundment as far as aquatic life was concerned.

As the weather began to warm up enough, pumping equipment was put in place so that a large portion of the oil was able to be pumped into waiting tanker trucks and taken directly to large dewatering equipment which was located near the visitor contact station of the refuge. From there the oil was separated and taken to the refinery to be recycled.

While the bulk of the free standing oil has been recovered, officials all agree that it will be weeks before the vegetation and shoreline areas of the impacted zone will be totally cleaned. There is also concern for oil that has infiltrated the soil in the area. In addition all of the equipment and effort put forth to deal with the spill have had severe impacts on the surrounding landscape. Sunoco officials have said that they will take full responsibility for the clean-up as well as remediating all impacts from the spill and cleanup efforts.

Over the last month, as the weather turned warmer, the first wildlife impacts began to surface. Over a dozen fish have turned up dead; two bullfrogs, a muskrat, a Canada goose, and nearly two dozen turtles (two of which died) have been recovered. The living turtles have been cleaned and are being rehabilitated at Tri-State Bird Rescue in Newark, Delaware. Tri-State Bird Rescue, recognized as an authority in wildlife rehabilitation during oil spills, will also be rendering assistance to any other wildlife that is impacted by the oil.

The Office of Pipeline Safety, a federal agency within the Department of Transportation, has approved a new Sunoco safety and inspection plan. Unfortunately, in order for inspectors to walk the length of the pipeline weekly, Sunoco plans to clear a path over the top of the pipeline. The current pipeline trail is 12 to 15 feet wide. Although the oil company has a 200-foot-wide right-of-way, Sunoco discussed with the refuge how much to clear; it looks as if they will probably widen the trail to 50 feet. This will mean the removal of about three acres of trees, included a record white mulberry tree.

A coordinated effort is now being developed and implemented by various state and federal agencies to address the long range situation at the refuge. Sunoco's plans call for its work at the Refuge to be completed by April 2001.



Damaged section of 24 inch pipeline is being removed from a former wooded area on the edge of the impoundment, while workers in background continue to work on extracting oil spilled into the ground and water (2/12/00).

—Photo by Bill Buchanan



Impoundment as it appeared nine days after spill was discovered. The spill is located in the southeast corner of the impoundment.

—Photo by Bill Buchanan

Delaware County Council to Appoint New Environmental Task Force

On March 28th Delaware County Councilman Andrew J. Reilly announced that County Council intends to appoint an Open Space and Environmental Resource Task Force. The Task Force will help design the county's 25 year comprehensive plan.

The Task Force will be geographically representative of the county. It is expected to evolve into an advisory group to implement strategy on environmental resources, parks, recreation and open space. It will also act as a liaison between the county and its municipalities.

Anyone who is interested in serving on the new Task Force should submit his or her name and resume to John Pickett, Director of Delaware County Planning Department, 201 W. Front Street, Media, PA 19063.

Note for Educators:**Deadline for Delaware Estuary
Teacher Education Institute is April 14**

The 2000 Delaware Estuary Teacher Education Institute provides 30 teachers from Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with the opportunity to explore and experience the geographic, scientific, economic, cultural, and historic resources of the Delaware Estuary.

The week-long residential summer program is open to all K-12 public or private school classroom teachers from schools that are located within the boundaries of the Delaware Estuary. The deadline for registration is Friday, April 14.

The Institute provides participants with a mixture of classroom and field experiences throughout the Delaware Estuary and with a greater understanding of the interconnections between human actions and the estuary ecosystems.

The Partnerships for the Delaware Estuary is a regional non-profit organization based in Wilmington, Delaware, that is dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Delaware Estuary, where the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean and the fresh water of the Delaware River mix. The partnership promotes the Estuary as a regional resource, through public education and outreach.

To receive a registration form, or for more information about the 2000 Delaware Estuary Teacher Education Institute, contact the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary at 800 445-4935 or email partners@udel.edu.

**Governor Ridge Announces
Community Recreation Grants**

On March 16 Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge announced more than \$15 million in Community Recreation Grants for 224 local park, recreation and conservation projects in 54 counties. The grants will fund a variety of planning, acquisition and development projects statewide including the upgrading or building of 78 playgrounds and seven pools; acquisition of 1,050 acres for community parks, open space and greenways; enhancements to four zoos and a national aviary; preparation of 40 recreation and conservation plans or studies; and development of 36 miles of trails.

The Community Recreation Grant Program, administered by the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, is being supplemented with Growing Greener funds. Growing Greener funding accounts for more than \$2.3 million of the total grant amount.

Four municipalities in Delaware County are recipients of Community Recreation Grants. They include Brookhaven, which will receive a \$35,000 grant to develop a bike/walk path and passive recreation park and Haverford Township which will receive a \$50,000 grant to prepare a conservation and development land-use plan for the reuse of the Haverford State Hospital site (see article on page 5).

**Follow the status of the former state hospital property through the Authority's new website:
www.ecofront.com.**

Radnor EAC Receives WRAP Grant

Radnor Township Commissioner and DCVA board member, Dave Cannan, announced that Radnor's Environmental Advisory Council recently received an award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for a streambank restoration project at the Willows Park in Wayne.

The well-deserved recognition was for work outlined as part of an environmental plan developed by John Munro Ecological Services and funded by a \$25,000 WRAP grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The 200-foot of streambank restoration was performed by Radnor's Public Works Department and EAC, DCVA members, as well as a diverse and enthusiastic group of volunteers from the surrounding community.

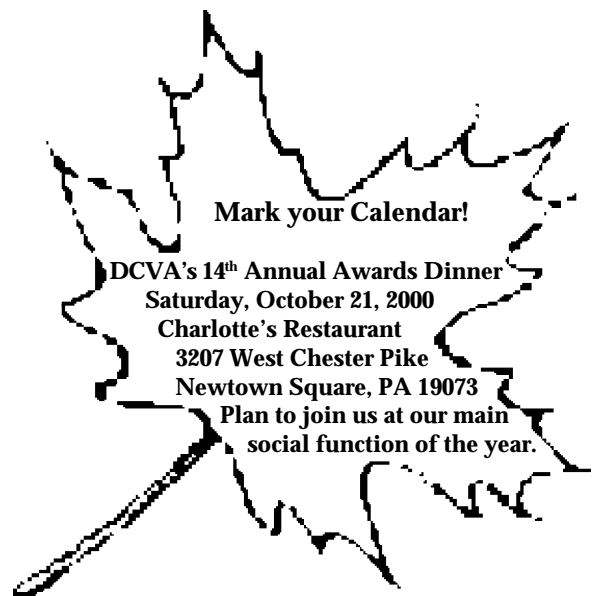
Munro's comprehensive plan for the 30-acre park includes protecting and expanding existing wetlands, creating areas with grasslands, streambank restoration where needed on Little Darby Creek and tributaries as they run through the park, and repairing the existing pond and installing a natural nutrient-filtering system to control annual algae blooms.

Radnor Township has also recently applied for a \$50,000 Growing Greener grant from DEP to fund the work for the pond.

**Delaware County to Study
Old Incinerator Site**

In February Delaware County Council approved an \$83,600 study of the land where its Emergency Services Training Center is located. At one time the County operated an incinerator on the site. A US EPA study of the land released last fall found heavy metals and low levels of dioxin, a carcinogen, on the site. According to County executive director Ted Erickson, the County wants to find out for itself what is on the property so that it can rectify any problems.

The property is part of the area that EPA has recommended be added to the list of Superfund sites.



Annual Meeting Speaker

—Continued from page 3

Ron fielded multiple questions regarding the effects of “impervious” surface on flood levels over time. He said that the best surface to prevent flooding is forest. However, he noted a project USGS was involved in related to the Route 202 expansion. Groups were pressuring PennDOT to use pervious surface. The downside to using pervious surfaces is that carcinogens and pollutants from automobiles would then more readily run off into the ground water.

A question was raised regarding the definition of a flood way. Ron explained the difference between a flood plain, flood way and flood fringe. The flood fringe or the flood plain is the outer limit the water will reach. The flood way is the path of the most powerful flow. The flood way is determined by putting the flood plain into a model and squeezing the outer limits until the surface level is raised 1 foot. The area between is the flood way.

Ron also discussed drought measurement. He noted that drought is difficult to define. To demonstrate drought he used the ground water graph used by USGS to determine the need for drought watches and warnings. He pointed out that in 1999 in Pennsylvania we were at the lowest point in 100 years until September when Hurricane Floyd occurred. Following Hurricane Floyd the ground water was raised to an acceptable level, hence removal of the drought warnings.

USGS is contracted by other governmental agencies or nonprofit organizations through the following process. The agency or organization contacts USGS. USGS reviews the issue and outlines what it can do and the agency outlines what it wants. Through a negotiation and proposal process, a contract is agreed to. Usually 50% of the cost is USGS and 50% the agency.

Ron was a knowledgeable and gracious speaker. He fielded many questions and stayed after the meeting to answer individual questions.

Ron can be reached at:

<http://pa.water.usgs.gov>

Phone: 717-730-6915

PRC to Celebrate Earth Day on April 15

The Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of Earth Day on Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its Environmental Living Demonstration Center, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA. Highlighting the themes of energy and tire recycling, events of the day will include hands-on educational activities for children and adults, including a tire obstacle course and recycled products games. Alternative fuel vehicles and a solar oven will be on display.

PRC's new environmental driveway made from recycled crumb rubber will be dedicated. Rubber-modified asphalt is an economically proven alternative to standard pavements. In general the increased flexibility of this asphalt reduces the occurrence of cracking and rutting, giving a life-span that appears to be about double that of standard asphalts while reducing the highway noise by as much as 75%. Funding was provided by PA DEP under the Waste Tire Grant Program, enacted to facilitate the development of markets for the reuse of scrap tire derived products.

Refreshments will be available. For more information about PRC or the Earth Day activities, call 610 353-1555.

Youth Trout Derby May 13th at Saw Mill Park

By Dave Cannan

Ed Spiller announced that the first two sessions of the popular Youth Trout Derby on Darby Creek at Saw Mill Park in Radnor Township have already been filled. However, Mr. Spiller notes that there is still an open session of fishing from 2 to 7 p.m. for all kids.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 13, with a rain date scheduled for May 14. Admission is free, but all Pennsylvania Fish Commission Rules apply; no artificial lures or flies may be used, and wading is not permitted. The event is sponsored annually by the Chester Valley Sportsman's Association.

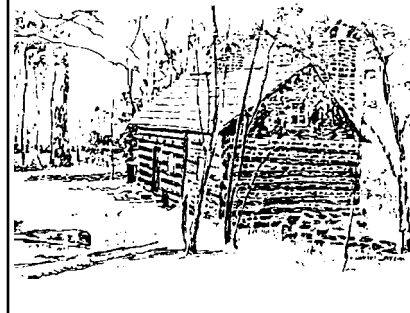
Saw Mill Park is located just across the bridge from the intersection of Darby-Paoli Road and Saw Mill Road in Bryn Mawr.

Because of recent improvements to the park under the careful supervision of Radnor Township's Construction Manager, Burt Grossman, children or adults who require the use of a wheelchair can now use an asphalt trail to get from the handicapped parking area down to Darby Creek. Adults will be available if additional assistance is needed to get wheelchairs to fishing areas.

Additional information is available by contacting Ed Spiller at 610-356-7458.

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.libertynet.org/~dcva. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Bill Fransch, John Furth, John Haigis, Rosemary Kesling, Fritz Thornton, Olga Thornton and Grace Wheeler. Photographs by Bill Buchanan, John Furth and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. © 2000.



Grange Estate Events

The historic Grange Estate is planning a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Friends of the Grange, Inc., the nonprofit organization responsible for the presentation of and programming for one of the historic and environmental treasures in the Darby Creek watershed. Coming events include:

- Celebration of Arbor Day, Sunday April 30, 2000, at 1 p.m. Free
- Annual May Garden Party, Sunday May 21, from 4-6 p.m. The party will be a special celebration of the silver anniversary of incorporation. \$10 Admission.
- Annual Community Open House celebrating 25 years of volunteer efforts to preserve the Grange Estate. Sunday, June 11, 2000. Free.
- Independence Eve Gala, Monday, July 3rd at 7:30 p.m. \$10 Admission. For details, call the Grange Estate at 610 446-4958.
- Summer Camp at the Grange: July 24 through August 18. Call 610 837-6225 or 1-800-284-0973 for information.

Enjoying Cross Country Skiing on Darby Creek

By John Furth

This past winter, for the first time in years there was a real snowstorm followed by cold weather, great for cross-country skiing. So off we went, along Darby Creek—from Kent Park to the Swedish Cabin. Beginning at Kent Park, we passed a relatively new factory, AVA Electronics, and went by Kent’s Mill. Continuing upstream we passed the old mill dam. A downed tree (courtesy of Floyd) blocked our way and we had to detour via Creek Road, underneath the Sharon Hill Trolley trestle. Going past the tranquil mill pond, we viewed a winter scene. To the right was the florist Whalen’s house, dating to the 1850’s.



Darby Creek, looking upstream from just past the Swedish Cabin: one of the beautiful winter scenes seen on a cross country ski trip this winter.

—Photo by John Furth

We passed the Clifton Heights mill complex and off in the distance we saw the Swedish Cabin. Coming closer we also saw the Yellow House (soon to be demolished) and Jean Doyle’s house. Approaching the Cabin and the Yellow House we passed the Cabin and looked up stream. The trail took us past Indian Basin, past Tuscorora, under the Garrett Road Bridge to Bloomfield Avenue.

But time had run out. We returned to the Swedish Cabin. Or is it Finnish?

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.

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 15, 2000	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Marple Friends Peace Center
Saturday, April 15, 2000	Recycled Tire Rally, Earth Day Celebration at PRC 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 29, 2000	Annual DCVA Darby Creek Cleanup, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Sunday, April 30, 2000	Appraisal, Auction & Auto Event, Sponsored by Delaware County Historical Society. At Thomas Chevrolet. For information, call Barbara Kelly, 610 892-1011
Tuesday, May 2, 2000	Envirothon sponsored by Delaware County Conservation District
Saturday, May 6, 2000	Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Marple Township Transfer Station, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Rain or Shine
Saturday, May 6, 2000	Clean Lawnmower Program: turn in your gasoline-powered lawnmower or weedwhacker/edger at the Home Depot in Upper Darby (5342 W. Baltimore Pike.) Get a \$75 or \$20 rebate on a new electric mower/edger. Call 1-800-GO-TO-PRC for information
Saturday, May 13, 2000	History of Tincum Marsh Canoe Trip at John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tincum, 8:30 a.m. Call 215 365-3118 for information and reservations.
Saturday, May 20, 2000	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Peace Center
Saturday, May 20, 2000	Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Chester Township Transfer Station, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Rain or Shine
Saturday, June 17, 2000	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Peace Center
Saturday, October 21, 2000	DCVA Annual Awards Dinner, Charlotte's Restaurant, Newtown Square

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