



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

Preserving our Darby Creek Valley's natural assets is what we are about. This requires much more than a massive cleanup day once a year. Preventive measures are necessary all year around as well.

The toughest problem we have is non-point source pollution. It is diffuse and incremental. Oil, rubber, plastic and fertilizer from roads and lawns are just a few items that add to the pollution as they go downstream.

Suburbanization has created many small landowners rather than a few large farms and estates. These must be dealt with differently, on a grassroots-town meeting level where the municipal commissions and landowners learn about and deal with directly non-point source pollution problems.

That is what we are doing with our Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Rivers Conservation plan. We work to educate adults and children that we all live downstream, and what we do affects our natural environment. We're gaining, but the irresponsible use of water is still outpacing us. Use of brown water for irrigation of farms and gardens, low-flo

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Be Part of Our Mission of Local Stewardship:

Volunteers Needed for 18th Annual Creek Cleanup

Volunteers are needed for the annual cleanup of Darby Creek on Saturday, April 28th, 2001, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Because the creek is still suffering from the aftermath of 1999's Hurricane Floyd, all of the communities along the 33 miles of creek will welcome your help in ridding the creek bed and banks of debris and trash. In particular, Darby Borough, which was hard hit by the flood, needs help from its residents and welcomes help from others. Volunteers will be gathering at 15 sites (see list of sites and coordinators on page 2). Note that the cleanup at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum will be one week earlier, Saturday April 21, because of the tides. If you have any questions, call Tom Houghton, general chairman, at 610 268-1414, or contact your area coordinator.

DCVA Streamwatch Lives on!

Like an emerging mayfly, the DCVA streamwatch has risen again! After two dormant years, we will again start to monitor the health of our streams by identifying the insects that play a critically important role in our waterways. The type of insect found is a reflection of the health of that portion of the stream. For example, a stretch rich in mayflies and stoneflies can be considered a fairly healthy stretch because mayflies and stoneflies are widely recognized as being sensitive to outside contaminants. On the other hand if your stream does not have mayflies or stoneflies and it should, that is a sign that the stretch is in a stressed condition. The ability to monitor stream health using aquatic insects is a very cost-effective way and a lot of fun, too!

Our short-term plan is to start modestly. This year we have chosen a single site on Darby Creek at the intersection of Darby Creek Road and Marple Road. The collection date will be Saturday, June 2 rain or shine. We will start at 8:30

a.m. Our goal this year is to take meaningful samples from the stream. But even more important than the samples themselves, we want to train individuals who want to participate in the streamwatch program. We need to rebuild our streamwatch network. If you participated in the past, we need you! Alan Samel and Dave Cannan are the streamwatch coordinators.

Our long-term vision is to have at least one sample site in every stream in the watershed, collect the data, and communicate the results to all interested parties. If your organization/school is already sampling on one of the streams, please contact us.

If you want to have an impact in our watershed and you don't mind getting a little bit wet and you don't mind getting up a little bit early, then give us a call for more information!

Alan Samel (610) 446-1658;
Alan.Samel@usa.dupont.com
Dave Cannan (610) 525-3755;
davecannan@aol.com

Creek Cleanup Contact List

General Chairman: Tom Houghton, 610 268-1414
 Saturday, April 28, 2000. Rain or shine.
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Upper Karakung, Powdermill Park, 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

Naylors 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: Ken LeSage, 610 622-1125 or 215 317-8085 (cell)

Darby: John Realer, 610 534-2139

Ridley Township, Bob Moorehead, 610 532-7007

Cobbs Creek, near Blue Bell Tavern: John Haigis, 215, 365-5927

Glenden: Joe Selfridge, 610 586-1740

Brookside Park, Fox Run, Newtown Square: Lisa McCaulley, 610 359-9810

Briarcliffe, Crescent Park tributary: Lisa Simmonds, 610 237-1691

Idle Hour Tennis Club, Drexel Hill: John Buggy, 610 446-8048

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

Note that cleanup at the Refuge is one week earlier on April 21, 2001, because of the tides. Meet at the Refuge parking lot at 86th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard or at the Southbound Route 420 Refuge parking lot, just north of Interstate 95.



Members and friends filled this dumpster in Kent Park in April, 2000. DCVA is looking for volunteers to repeat the feat throughout the watershed on April 28th.

Rivers Conservation Plan Update

The 3rd municipal partnership meeting was held on January 18th, 2001. Tom Cahill presented an overview of the Rivers Conservation Plan (RCP), and described the significance to municipalities within the watershed. In order to obtain municipal input to the RCP process, a two-page questionnaire was provided to every attending municipal official.

As of now, Cahill Associates is awaiting results/input from the municipal officials. Once this information is collected, Cahill Associates will meet with Project Team Members, Andropogon Associates and Campbell Thomas & Co., to discuss their specific input to the *Biological Resources and Historic Resources* sections of the Plan.

Collection of GIS data is nearing completion. The Philadelphia Water Department has provided important data, such as streams, lakes, sub-basins, roads, county boundaries, municipal boundaries, USGS topographic quads for study area, and Cobbs Creek Combined Sewer Overflow outfall locations. Other GIS data, including wetlands, geology, soil series, school districts, floodplain boundaries, railroads, and landmarks, were retrieved by Cahill Associates from various sources on the Internet (PASDA, TIGER, NWI, USFWS, NHD). Land use data, a vital component of the RCP, has been purchased from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for approximately. The request for land use data was made in January, after efforts to receive the data "in kind" were denied, and Cahill Associates is currently waiting for delivery of the land use GIS data set.

In addition to GIS file acquisition, many other issues are involved before Task 2, *Collection and Analysis of Resource Data* is complete. The DCVA has provided maps of historic stream networks courtesy of the Delaware County Historical Society, and from this Courtney Marm of Cahill Associates has created "historic streams" data coverage. Currently, only Haverford Township has

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Master Plan for Haverford State Hospital Site To Be Completed in June

The Planning Grant/Steering Committee for the Haverford State Hospital site met with representatives of Carter van Dyke on March 20 and March 29. Carter van Dyke is the consultant hired by the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners to prepare a master plan for the land. The March meetings were working sessions to review preliminary usage alternatives in order to formulate three recommended scenarios for further discussion. It appears that there is agreement that 160 undeveloped acres should be reserved for open space and passive recreation. And it appears that the following core set of desired uses is being considered for the remaining 65 or so developed acres: municipal offices; apartments for Seniors—age restricted housing; recreation center; ball fields; banquet facility.

Steering committee meetings (which are open to the public) are scheduled for April 16, April 23, and May 7. The next public participation meeting, at which the 3 scenarios will be presented, will be Wednesday April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Lynnewood Elementary School on Lawrence Road in Havertown. The third and final public participation meeting is scheduled for May 17th. After both public meetings, the consulting firm will prepare the final report. The Haverford Township Commissioners are scheduled to review the Master Plan at their June 11th meeting.

If you are interested in attending the steering committee or public participation meetings, verify dates, times, and locations of the meetings by calling Tom Bannar, Haverford Township Manager, at 610 446-9403.

Coventry Woods Development Update

The Springfield Planning Commission did not consider the proposed Coventry Woods development at its April 5th meeting (see background information about this issue in the January 2001 newsletter.) At the request of one of the commissioners, the township solicitor wrote a letter to Mr. Damico, the developer's attorney, informing him of the township's dissatisfaction with the poor technical quality of the preliminary plan. The commissioner feels that more information is needed to make an informed decision. He is particularly bothered by the lack of a landscaping plan, which he feels is critical since Mr. DeBotton intends to clear-cut most of the developed area. Mr. Damico responded with a letter in which he agreed that the technical information should be provided. More importantly, he agreed to let the township prepare the Landscaping Plan at the developer's expense. Mr. Damico requested a continuance so that the developer's engineer could make the required changes. Assuming this is done in a timely fashion, the plan will be reconsidered at the

Help Monitor Our Darby Creek Watershed

Notice a break in a sewage line? A clogged storm sewer inlet? Debris blocking the flow of the creek under one of the bridges? A strange odor or color? Call your municipality's office immediately!

Report the date, time, specific location and description of concern. Give your name and phone number and ask for a return call with information about how the problem was addressed.

The municipalities in our watershed are:

Municipality:	Phone:	FAX:
Aldan Borough	610 626-3554	610 622-3597
Clifton Heights Borough	610 623-1000	610 623-3343
Collingdale Borough	610 586-0500	610 586-9065
Colwyn Borough	610 461-2000	610 461-2709
Darby Borough	610 586-1102	610 534-1987
Darby Township	610 586-1514	610 586-0779
East Lansdowne Borough	610 623-7131	610 622-5403
Easttown Township	610 687-3000	610 687-9666
Folcroft Borough	610 522-1305	610 522-1114
Glenolden Borough	610 583-3221	610 583-2040
Haverford Township	610 446-9403	610 446-3930
Lansdowne Borough	610 623-7300	610 623-5533
Lower Merion Township	610 649-4000	610 645-6152
Marple Township	610 356-4040	610 356-8751
Millbourne Borough	610 352-9080	610 352-9081
Morton Borough	610 543-4565	610 543-8392
Narberth Borough	610 664-1080	610 664-0803
Newtown Township	610 356-0200	610 356-8722
Norwood Borough	610 586-5800	610 586-5802
Prospect Park Borough	610 532-1007	610 532-3514
Radnor Township	610 688-5600	610 971-0450
Ridley Park Borough	610 532-2100	610 532-2447
Ridley Township	610 534-4800	610 534-2545
Rutledge Borough	610 544-1028	610 544-1028
Sharon Hill Borough	610 586-8200	610 586-3991
Springfield Township	610 544-1300	610 544-3012
Tinicum Township	610 521-3530	610 521-3392
Tredyffrin Township	610 644-1400	610 993-9186
Upper Darby Township	610 352-4100	610 734-7709
Yeadon Borough	610 284-1606	610 284-2138

May 3rd Springfield Township Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will probably express its approval or disapproval of the Preliminary Plan that evening. If so, the Board of Commissioners will vote on the developer's Preliminary Plan and the waiver requests at the regular monthly Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, May 8, at 8:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in attending the meetings when this issue is discussed should check with Springfield Township at 610 544-1300 to verify when the item is on the agenda.

GreenSpace Alliance Releases Annual Land Preservation Report

County	Acres Protected in 2000	DVRPC Annual Goal (Acres)	Total Acres Protected	Total County Acreage
Bucks	2,791	8,235	39,018	397,955
Chester	4,229	10,555	63,260	486,207
Delaware	267	754	14,449	122,059
Montgomery	1065	4,034	28,619	311,860
Philadelphia	11	46	11,204	91,282
Totals	8,363	23,624	156,550	1,409,363

The GreenSpace Alliance of South-eastern Pennsylvania, a project of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, has released its annual report on the region's open space preservation. According to the report, in 2000, 8,363 acres were protected in the five county Philadelphia area. This was a little more than the amount saved in 1999 but is only 35% of the goal established by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). The DVRPC goal was set to protect enough land to preserve rural landscapes and provide connected corridors of open space for conservation and recreation. A disturbing fact is that the population of the 5 county Philadelphia area decreased by 3.6 percent between 1970 and 1990 while the amount of land developed increased by 32%, according to DVRPC figures. Statewide the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that Pennsylvania lost 545,000 acres to development from 1992 to 1997, making our state fifth in the nation in acreage of land developed, even though Pennsylvania is one of the slowest growing states in population. Preliminary

U.S. Census figures rank Pennsylvania 48th in population change with an increase of only 3.4% from 1990 to 2000.

Delaware County protected only 267 acres in 2000, a disappointing figure. The County is hampered by the lack of an active open space program—in 1996 the voters rejected a \$100 million dollar bond issue to establish such a program. The GreenSpace Alliance believes that the lack of open space in Delaware County is one of the reasons people are moving out of the County.

County residents, however, are encouraged that a 34 acre farm along Palmers Mill Road near Springton Reservoir was preserved early this year. Turning the property into parkland was accomplished by a cooperative effort of the Delaware County Historical Society, Marple Township, Delaware County, the Natural Lands Trust conservation group, and a private citizen. County residents are also hoping that land will be preserved this year at the Haverford State Hospital site.

The table shows figures from the GreenSpace Alliance 2000 report.

PRC Sponsors Clean Communities Awards

The Pennsylvania Resources Council, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, is looking for Pennsylvania communities that have achieved success in fighting litter. A municipality or a nonprofit organization that has had a successful cleanup between March 1 to May 15, 2001, is eligible for a monetary prize of \$1,000, \$500, or \$250 to be used to continue community work. Nominees will be judged on how a community litter problem was solved, on what plans were made to prevent the problem from reoccurring, and on how multiple groups cooperated in the solution to the litter problem.

For more information, call the Litter CLEARinghouse at 1-888-LITTERBUG.



Celebrating our Garden Heritage in the Watershed

The Gardens Collaborative Presents the World's Largest Garden Party

In May The Gardens Collaborative's 26 Philadelphia area gardens, arbore-tums and historic houses have planned 100 special events. Six of the gardens in the Collaborative are in the Darby Creek Watershed: the American College Ar-boretum in Bryn Mawr, Chanticleer in Wayne, the Grange Estate in Havertown, Haverford College Arboretum in Haverford, Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, and the Arboretum Villanova in Villanova.

For more information or event cal-endars, visit The Gardens Collaborative website: www.libertynet.org/gardens

PA Legislation Would Help Owner Occupied Historic Properties

With one phone call or letter, you can help rehabilitate 70,000 historic homes in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania House Bill 90 and House Bill 91 provide tax incentives for owner-occupants of historic residential properties. The House has passed HB 90 by unanimous vote, and it is now in the Senate Finance Committee. The National Trust for Historic Preservation urges Pennsylvania residents to call their state senator to help make the bill a law. Ask your senator for his support of the two house bills and ask to have the legislation included as part of the Budget Tax Bill.

For further information, assistance in contacting your Senator, and to provide feedback on your contact, call Preservation Pennsylvania at 717 234-2310 or visit Preservation Pennsylvania's website at www.preservationpa.org.

Make a call. Make a difference.

Historically Speaking

First-Class Year for Radnor Township

On March 12, 2001, Radnor Township celebrated 100 years as a first class township with two open houses at the Willows and a reenactment of the 1901 meeting of the board of commissioners that voted to have Radnor become a first-class township. These events were the first of many activities planned to celebrate the centennial. "We are going to be having a year-long celebration with one or two events each month," said Alexis Andriopoulos, public information and telecommunications officer for the township. "It is a good way of getting people to come together and enjoy the history of Radnor Township." For additional information, call Radnor Township at 610 688-5600.

Grange Estate Open for Weekend Tours

The Grange Estate is now open on weekends for regular tours, 1-4 p.m. The admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Special tours can also be arranged at other times. This year's community open house is Sunday, June 10th, with an antique doll exhibit in the Mansion, a plant sale, and other activities. Admission is free on that Sunday.

Other special events include a Flea Market on Saturday, April 21st, special Mother's Day activities on May 13th, a Garden Party fund raising event on Sunday, May 20th from 4-6 p.m., Father's Day tours on June 17th, and the annual Independence Eve Gala on Tuesday, July 3rd, 7-9 p.m. For information about any of these events, call the Grange Hotline at 610 446-4958.

The Swedish Cabin in Drexel Hill is open weekends, weather permitting, from 2-4 p.m. For information or to make arrangements for special tours at other times, call 610 623-1650.

Endangered Site Spotlight:

As reported in our last newsletter, the Lazaretto in Tincum Township is in danger of being torn down. It was built in 1799 and for most of the 1800s every ship going to Philadelphia had to stop at the Lazaretto so that the passengers could be inspected for sickness. To learn how you can help save the building, call Tincum Township at 610 521-3530.

News from the Norwood Historical Society:

Join the Norwood Historical Society Earth Day Clean Up of Norwood's premier historic property, The Morton Morton House on Saturday, April 21, 2001, from 9 am to noon. Immediately following the clean-up, between 12 noon and 4 p.m., celebrate Awareness Day activities with colonial crafts including pottery, blacksmithing, 18th century medicine, clothing and textiles. Talk with colonial interpreters, tour the house, and have your photo taken in authentic stocks and pillory. Light refreshments will be sold. Clean-up volunteers, please call Joe Butler at 610-532-0334. Any other questions please call Judy Anastasi at 610-583-3002.

The Norwood Historical Society is continuing its 2001 lecture series on Thursday April 26, 7 p.m., at the Norwood Borough Hall, 10 W Cleveland Ave., Norwood, PA. Please come and enjoy Mr. John Clark, attorney and previous president of the Delaware County Historical Society. Mr. Clark's lecture will provide valuable and enjoyable information on colonial "New Sweden." Call Mr. Frank Boyle at 610-532-0467 for details. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided after the talk. We look forward to meeting you.

Information about the Norwood Historical Society activities can also be found on its website: www.Norwood.freehomepage.com

Growing Greener Grants

March 9th was the deadline for Round III of the Growing Greener Grant Program. There were 17 grants submitted to the DEP for projects in Delaware County. The projects included stormwater management, streambank restorations, innovative Best Management Practices, and environmental education and spanned all the major watersheds in the County. The DEP will announce the winners after July 1, 2001. The next Growing Greener Round is set for Fall 2001. If you would like more information about the Growing Greener Grant Program, Bill Gothier, the Conservation District Watershed specialist, is available for assistance. He can be contacted at the Delaware County Conservation District in Media at 610 892-9484.

Grower Greener Grant to be Used to Build Tidal Gates in Tincum

In June 2000 Tincum Township was awarded a grant for \$261,000 to replace an old flood prevention system on Long Hook Creek with new, self-regulating tide gates. Long Hook Creek flows from Darby Creek through Tincum to the Delaware River. At one time the Creek flowed wide and deep. Now, however, Interstate 95, buildings and an earthen dike hem it in. Blocked culverts under a freight train line prevent it from running through to the river. And the old Jansen Avenue Tide Gate keeps out most water from the Darby Creek. The stream is usually just a trickle in the Lester section of Tincum Township; it can flood, however, with storm water runoff, like it did because of Hurricane Floyd.

The grant will be used to build two new gates on the Creek that will open and close automatically with the tides, protecting the area from flooding and bringing in fresh water bearing oxygen that fish need to live in the stream. The gates will allow for tidal flushing to help with sediment and vegetation buildup.

The tide gates are expected to be installed by July 2002. Funding for the project comes from the Growing Greener program.

Public Flocks to Cusano Center Opening at Heinz Refuge

One Exhibit Is a Topographical Map of the Darby Creek Watershed

Despite a cold, windy, wet day, hundreds of people came out on January 20th to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum for the public opening of the Cusano Environmental Education Center (CEEC).

Several partner organizations were on hand to distribute material and offer a wide array of information on subjects ranging from watershed protection to endangered species. Special treats included live animals provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Philadelphia Zoo, Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, Inc. and the Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Environmental folksinger and songwriter, Glen Waldeck, provided entertainment.

In the education wing of the CEEC kids were given the opportunity to work on various projects including making special bird feeding balls of peanut butter and seed, caterpillar to butterfly craft, and a wetland hide and seek.

In the main exhibit area folks were treated to the first look at the various interactive video displays featuring Bill Nye "the science guy" and a very informative one on the Heinz Refuge and the importance of wetlands. A watershed exhibit uses actual water going into a topographical map of the Darby Creek Watershed from Radnor to Tinicum. It shows how the tidal wetlands at the Refuge act like a sponge in absorbing floodwaters.

There are many other displays telling of the rich history and culture that are an integral part of the fabric of the Tinicum area. The CEEC will provide a new dimension for those who work at the refuge, especially in the area of environmental education, and will provide meeting space for the community.

The Cusano Environmental Education Center is open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no entrance fee and plenty of parking. Groups are welcome and arrangements can be made for special group presentations. For more information, call 215 365-3118.



Visitors check out the display at Heinz Refuge Cusano Environmental Education Center showing the major bird migratory routes through the U.S. and locations of the over 500 National Wildlife Refuges in relation to them.

Service Project for Martin Luther King Day

Written by Sarah Nagle

7th Grade Watershed student at Radnor Middle School

On Martin Luther King day our school, Radnor Middle School, organized service projects. Some of them were baking cookies or visiting senior citizens. Sean Mahoney and Jimmy Mahady wanted to do something different, something that related to Watershed. Watershed is a 7th grade program that is different from regular class. We study a local creek or river. This year we are studying the Darby Creek which runs through Skunk Hollow. We study this area and its past and present. The three sections of our year are called Sense of Place, Sense of Time, and Sense of Quality.

Jimmy and Sean organized a service project that anyone could do, whether they were in Watershed or not. On January 15 the people who signed up for the project met at the Willows at 12:00 pm. Mr. Springer and Mr. Savitch, the watershed teachers, were the adults in charge. They handed out black garbage bags and we went to work. We picked up any trash that we could find without interfering with the geese. When we were finished there, we moved to Skunk Hollow. There we picked up trash, (and even some shorts) and anything else we could find. We also cleared out branches or anything that was in the way of the path so people could walk through without tripping. It was a fun and helpful service project; we even had a snowball fight or two! Now Skunk Hollow is a little cleaner for anyone who wants to use it, like us, the Watershed class, when we go there once a month for field studies. I think Martin Luther King would be proud!

Theme of Conservation District Poster Contest Announced

The Delaware County Conservation District announces this year's theme for the annual poster contest: Nature In Your Neighborhood. The contest is open to students in grades K-12. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top four posters in each of the 5 grade categories. For a full list of contest rules, please contact Monica Starr at 610 892-9484. Posters are due by April 27th. Last year's contest, Water for Life, provided over 400 unique posters. The Conservation District hopes to get another excellent turnout this year!

George Ambrose, Lansdowne
Mr. & Mrs. David Bennett, Lansdowne
Bill Brainerd, Media
Steve Cottrell, Villanova
J. Mervyn Harris, Wallingford
Derron L. LaBrake, Havertown
Joanna McGrath, Springfield
Philippa Strahm, Lansdowne
Robert P. Thomas, Philadelphia
Craig Wheeland, Rosemont

*Welcome to
our New
Members!*

Local Schools Benefit from Refuge's Donated Computers

Three schools in the Bartram Cluster are benefiting from their ongoing partnership with the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. Patterson Elementary and Vare and Turner Middle Schools have all received computer equipment thanks to the Refuge and its volunteer service organization, Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (FOHR). They were recently selected as one of the recipients of the "2001 Computer Awards Program" sponsored by Video Computer Store, a national television show produced through the Computer Personalities (CPSI) family of companies. The program targets nonprofit organizations that are making a positive change in their communities.

A total of 20 computer systems were distributed to the schools who participate in partnership activities with the Refuge through the Earth Stewards program. In this program students learn about the environment over the school year and work on a variety of service learning projects in the Spring.

Recently, representatives from the Refuge staff and FOHR were at Vare



3/2/01: Heinz Refuge brings computers to Vare Middle School. 1-r, Teacher Steve Madjeskasteve; Heinz Refuge staff member Julie Rowand; Friends of Heinz Refuge volunteer Shirley Robbins; Students Alexis Allen and David Brown.

Middle School and spent time with eighth graders who are working on a research project about trees native to the Refuge. After determining which trees are found there, they will grow some from seedlings and transplant them to the Refuge.

FOHR president, Jean Diehl said, "This is what we are all about. It's exciting to think that the Earth Stewards was one of the programs selected for this [the Computer Awards Program] and is a tribute to the continued relationship between the Bartram Cluster and the Heinz Refuge. Hopefully, it will set an example for other districts throughout the area to partner with the Refuge and FOHR."

Earth Force

Jean Wallace, Director of Education for Philadelphia Earth Force, spoke at the DCVA annual conference. Her organization is a national nonprofit promoting environmental education. Its programs are suitable for grades 4-10; most often they are used in grades 7-8. They engage students in outdoor projects to bring lasting improvement to the community.

GREEN stands for Global Rivers Environmental Education Network. Students work to improve or protect water quality. They observe a stream, test its water, compare their findings with experts, and focus on a manmade problem that is interesting, important, and able to be helped. They consider causes, learn about government or corporate policy affecting the problem, then explore options for making sustained change. They decide on an action plan, implement it, then evaluate their work.

CAPS stands for Community Action and Problem Solving. It allows students to work on a wider range of environmental problems like animal cruelty, graffiti, urban blight, in addition to water quality. These programs are for the classroom. There is also a version of GREEN for after school.

About 60 area teachers, 50 of them in Philadelphia, are teaching CAPS or GREEN. They attended a 3-day workshop and received materials to help students make effective decisions. We welcome Earth Force to the Darby Creek watershed education program!

Annual Month Long Celebration of Earth Day in Our Watershed

Celebrating the Earth Day Theme: The Earth Day 2001 theme in Pennsylvania is "Clean Watersheds! Clean Water!" Governor Tom Ridge's Earth Day message emphasizes that the theme "reflects the simple truth that keeping our watersheds clean protects the water we drink, provides a healthy wildlife habitat, and creates recreational fun for families all over the Commonwealth." Communities are sponsoring clean up programs as part of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Program.

A Sense of Place

DCVA's Education Program: Information about Darby Creek Valley Association's public education program will be available at the public libraries, municipal buildings, and schools in the watershed. "A Sense of Place, Knowing Home—Getting to Know our Darby Creek Watershed" explains what we can do together to protect the watershed.

The Darby Creek Rivers Conservation Plan and YOU: Public participation community meetings are being held throughout the watershed during April and May. Check local media for details. The goal of the meetings is to define local and watershed issues, priorities, and options for solutions.

DCVA Will Be Participating in Watershed Snapshot 2001:

This annual program sponsored by the Bureau of Watershed Management will be held from April 20 - 29. The focus for 2001 is on stream categories and characteristics that will tell the story of individual streams and their aquatic life. Monitoring options include water chemistry, habitat, benthic macro-invertebrates, weather conditions and land use surveys. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at 717-787-5259 or email: ra-citizensmonitoring@state.pa.us

**Annual Meeting Report:
Five New Board Members
Elected
Dr. Joe Martin Discusses The
Stream as a “Living Breathing
Thing”**

At the annual meeting in January, in accordance with the bylaws, the DCVA Board of Directors was elected. This year there were five new additions: Jim Stuhltrager, Toni McIntosh, George Ambrose, Vivian Leimseider and Ken LeSage. We welcome these new members as we face the challenges to the preservation of our stream.

Following the election of the board, Dr. Joe Martin, Professor of Environmental Engineering at Drexel University



**Dr. Joseph Martin
speaks at DCVA annual
meeting.**

sity spoke to the group about Stream Geomorphology.

Dr. Martin described a stream as a living breathing thing. The

stream moves and meanders within the flood plane. That flood plane has been there long before us. He discussed sediment flow and run off. He noted that sediment flow is the worst when there is all farmland along the stream.

Dr. Martin expressed concerns about putting storm water inlets at every intersection, especially on streets near or at the beginning of feeder streams. Why? Because these areas of a watershed are more likely to be hilly, and storm water in a pipe usually generates greater velocity than on a road surface (possibly because there are better things to do with stormwater than making it easy for homeowners to get it far away from their house.)

According to Dr. Martin, the average suburban lot has a large amount of impervious surface; thus huge amounts of runoff are generated. He said that this volume of water, as well as its velocity, gouges out stream banks at points below the storm water outfalls, during and shortly after rains. He also noted that

the increased volume of water in the stream during rain events are harmful to fish and macro-invertebrates as they get washed down a stream—often to areas where the food supply is less abundant. A stream’s best food values are in the upper reaches—the 1st and 2nd order areas—where trees along the banks can feed and shade and shape the small streams.

Dr. Martin, during the Q & A period, was asked about a study that compared the fate of rainfall on an undisturbed meadow and on a typical suburban lot of the same slope and soil characteristics. The answer depends on what percentage of the rain soaks into the ground to replenish the groundwater and thereby the stream’s base flow; what percentage is taken up and/or evaporated from trees and vegetation; and what portion becomes runoff. But it was clear that the current practice of piping stormwater away from suburban lots by municipal engineers and the large amount of impervious surface around our homes are the major reasons for flooding and the depletion of groundwater supplies. Dr. Martin noted that he is working on projects to reverse these trends. He said that he has devised some new sort of dry wells that homeowners could sink in their yards to collect roof water and water on driveways. Disposing of grey water—waste water from kitchen sinks and clothes and dish washers via these dry wells or cesspools—was common in the old days and might be added to jobs dry wells could perform.

Dr. Martin wondered whether dry wells could be required by municipal ordinance—at least for all new housing construction. In the meantime he applauded people who have used rain barrels to collect water off their roofs to water their gardens, etc.

Among his important points was that pervious paving works. However, its efficiency is determined by how carefully one maintains the surface. Small leaves, ground into dust by car tires do plug the pores in this type of paving so that regular maintenance is needed.

Also Dr. Martin would like to encourage municipal governments to allow development only in areas where the surface and soil is impervious. (This would leave the better draining soils for groundwater recharge or farming.) So he recommends building houses only on clay soil and on hillsides where the soil is thinner. No doubt a builder will have more headaches working on the side of



Inadvertently the picture in the last newsletter, labeled Indian Rock, was of the Indian Basin. Some years ago someone, possibly associated with a civic group (The Redmen of America?), carved the basin out of the granite and the group held ceremonies there. The Indian Head rock, pictured here, is a promontory that, viewed from the appropriate angle, appears to be that of an Indian’s head.

a hill, but the residents will usually have a better view!

Finally Dr. Martin noted that while combined sewers, in places like West Philly, certainly deserve some of the in-vective they have received for overloading sewer plants and washing out the bacteria that break down the waste, there is a silver lining. By diverting some of the stormwater away from the outfills on Darby and Cobbs Creek—at least during the early stages of a serious rainstorm—these combined sewers are keeping some quantities of stormwater out of the Darby and Cobbs and so making flooding a bit less of a problem. The concern is the impact on sewage affluent on water quality. DEP and PWD are working to address this.

All of us should be doing more to control the runoff on our own property. Dr. Martin’s talk was worthwhile and challenging to municipal officials charged with stormwater problems.

Annual DCVA Conference Report

About 40 participants came to Springfield Friends Meeting March 3 for the 12th Annual DCVA Conference. A near-theatrical display by the Friends of the Swedish Cabin welcomed attendees. A table spread with 17th century cabin building tools provided an historic setting as Kalle Andersson sat at a nearby bench shaping a remarkably smooth, tapered tomahawk handle. David Anderson, his *nom de pseudonym*, took the opportunity to turn back to the 21st century.

Tom Smith, archivist of the Upper Darby Free Library, or John Blunston, shared a copy of Pennsylvania's unique charter of 1701 and then gave an update on the celebration of the 200th anniversary during Pennsylvania Heritage Week!

The conference began with John Furth, DCVA 1st Vice President, as moderator.

Courtney Marm of Cahill Associates, presented an overview of the issues being addressed as part of the DCNR Darby Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. Courtney is assisting grant project coordinator Michelle Adams. Issues include development, impervious surfaces, storm water drainage pipes which have been paved over, channelization of the stream, floodplain encroachment, nonpoint source pollution, increased siltation and sedimentation, lack of riparian buffers, poor landscape practices, and escalating flooding, to name a few. The Darby Creek RCP is to be completed by December. Participants shared particular concerns during the question and answer period.

Patrick Starr, SE Regional Director for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, reported on the status of the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership. One of the major concerns is how the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) and municipalities within the watershed will be able to meet the requirements to be set by DEP for TMDLs for impaired streams.

This is one of the reasons the partnership has evolved. The PWD continues to do much of the technical work involved in water quality monitoring. The Public Participation committee has received a grant to create a video for the partnership in addition to receiving funding for the teacher education program which will conclude in May. Municipalities and organizations are being asked to initiate resolutions of support for the Partnership.

Clyde Hunt, a retired forester and former President of the DCVA and current board member, narrated a slide show

on streamside trails and riparian buffers, using model streamside development in Syracuse, NY, and in Germany to illustrate his points. Part of the Rivers Conservation Plan will include options for development of such trails and buffers within the Darby Creek watershed.

Three speakers then addressed the topic of environmental education, a priority of the DCVA.

Jean Wallace, Coordinator of Philadelphia Earth Force, which promotes the

teaching of environmental education in schools, outlined the six steps of CAPS (community action and problem solving):

1. Survey community environmental problems
2. Select one or more to work on
3. Determine the policies or practices that cause the problems
4. Explore options for influencing these practices
5. Form a plan of action
6. Reflect on and evaluate the students' work.

Doug Ross, partner of Earth Force and teacher of environmental science at Friends Central Middle School, introduced two of his 8th graders: one who has chosen to work on urban blight, the other on water quality within the watershed. (Friends Central is located in the Indian Creek subbasin of the Darby Creek Watershed.) The latter will join 19 classmates in a variety of projects on the watershed near their campus. The projects will include chemical monitoring, planting riparian buffers, terracing where necessary, removing invasive species and replanting with native ones, marking storm drains and removing trash. Doug has received a Growing Greener grant to enlist ten other teachers in schools along the Darby or Cobbs Creeks in outdoor environmental programs like his own.

George Ambrose who teaches environmental science at Penn Wood West Junior High School in the William Penn School District, presented how his 9th graders learned to assess the water quality of a stream by the insects found in it. George and his students used the Leaf Pack program developed by the Stroud Water Environmental Education Center. The students anchored a net bag full of leaves into the Darby Creek. The students gave insects several weeks to feed on the



Attendees at the DCVA Conference look over one of the displays. left to right, Tom Smith, George Ambrose, Bill Gothier, Steve Kosiak, and Bill Brainerd.

leaves and then retrieved the bags. They then sorted the insects into caddisfly larvae, stonefly nymphs, and mayfly nymphs. They counted each species, then multiplied the number of stoneflies by 1 because they are least tolerant of pollution; mayflies by 2; caddisflies by 3. The higher the sum of these three numbers, the more polluted the creek.

Dick Nugent, manager of Heinz Wildlife Refuge, told attendees about current issues at the Refuge. He noted that the cleanup of last winter's oil spill hurt the Refuge more than the spill despite Sunoco's conscientious efforts.

Alan Samel and Dave Cannan, coordinators for our DCVA volunteer stream monitoring program, outlined plans to revitalize the program. (See page 1 in this newsletter.) Note: Our DCVA "Watershed Snapshot" will be taken during the June 2 workshop.

Bill Gothier, the Watershed Specialist for the Delaware County Conservation District was then introduced to the group. Bill noted he is responsible for reviewing all applications for state funding and is willing to assist anyone to prepare a grant. Bill also noted that the Delaware County Conservation District has its own funds from which to make a limited number of grants up to \$500 within the County.

Bill Frasch, DCVA board member and member of the Rivers Conservation Plan Steering Committee questioned PennDOT's policy of rebuilding rather than redesigning stream bridges even when the old design has proved to be inadequate. The DCVA board will research this matter.

Our thanks to all who gave their input at the conference in identifying goals for the coming year. Also, DCVA thanks Anne Ackerman for another wonderful job in coordinating this event for us.

Ian McHarg

Ian McHarg died March 5, 2001. He was a leading environmentalist in our area and was the keynote speaker at the first DCVA conference. He was a source of continuing support and inspiration as we expanded our DCVA programming. Our DCNR Rivers Conservation Plan will be dedicated to Mr. McHarg as our expression of thanks. For those of you who missed it, we are printing his obituary, with permission, from the Philadelphia Inquirer of Wednesday, March 7, 2001.

Ian McHarg, 80, Penn professor, innovative environmental thinker

By James M. O'Neill
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Ian McHarg, 80, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania for more than 40 years whose groundbreaking ideas on the environment helped transform the way development occurs, died Monday of pulmonary disease at Chester County Hospital.

Mr. McHarg, who founded the landscape architecture and regional planning department at Penn in 1954, became a darling of the "ecology freaks," particularly after the 1969 publication of his book *Design With Nature*, which exhorted designers to conform to, rather than compete with, nature. "He was an extraordinary figure," said G. Holmes Perkins, a former dean of Penn's architecture school who hired Mr. McHarg to create a landscape architecture department. "He gave the field a new lease on life by making the world aware of the environmental impact of development."

The strapping, red-haired Scotsman was a colorful character as well as a force for change in the stodgy field of landscape architecture, and his ideas have been implemented in small communities and large cities throughout the world, from Medford in the Pinelands to Nigeria's capital, Abouja.

Before the age of Greenpeace and recycling, he developed what became known as McHarg's Method, in which planners inventory every level of detail about a place, from the rock layers to the vegetation to the hydrology - and then

take this into account when developing the site. His method is the basis for computer-run geographic information systems, an essential tool for today's urban planners.

When Mr. McHarg arrived at Penn in 1954, after earning degrees from Harvard University, landscape architecture was in the doldrums. After years of success driven by the likes of Frederick Law Olmstead, the field had become a backwater after the Depression of the 1930s.

"He took the field and turned it into an exciting discipline," said Carol Franklin, a student of Mr. McHarg's in the 1960s and now a principal of Andropogon Associates Ltd., of Philadelphia. "He changed the globe's way of thinking about landscape." His books, his role as host of the 1960s CBS-TV show *The House We Live In*, and his teaching at Penn have all helped spread his message. Today, Franklin said, architects and planners throughout the world incorporate his ideas in their work.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Smyser McHarg; sons Alistair Craig, Malcolm Lennox, Ian William and Andrew Maxwell; and two sisters. His first wife, Pauline Crena deFongh, preceded him in death.

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the London Grove Friends Meeting, Route 926 and Newark Road, in London Grove, Chester County.

Reprinted with permission from The Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 7, 2001.

President's Pen

Continued from page 1:

plumbing, etc. help conserve water, our most precious asset.

We need all the help we can get from our watershed neighbors to do the job. It is neverending, but it is worth it. Thanks for your help.

Fritz Thornton

Rivers Conservation Plan

Continued from page 2:

been digitized into the GIS database. In addition, Karen Holm of the Delaware County Planning Commission will share data available from the Planning Department, including the Stormwater Management Plan for the Darby Creek and information about areas of natural diversity (PNDI), sewage treatment plant locations, sewer and water service areas, surface water intakes, and planning history within the watershed.

**Mark your calendar now:
DCVA's annual awards
dinner will be Sunday,
October 14, 2001.**

The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcv.org. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Judy Anastasi, Bill Brainerd, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, John Furth, Tom Houghton, Clyde Hunt, Rosemary Kesling, Sarah Nagle, Judy Rice, Alan Samel, Andy Saul, Monica Starr, Fritz Thornton, and Olga Thornton. Photographs by Joe Ackerman, Bill Buchanan, John Furth, Ron Holmes, and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. © 2001.



Celebration of National Arbor Day

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. Celebrations emphasize that tree planting is a personal demonstration of stewardship. The following Arbor Day celebrations will take place in our watershed:

- Wednesday, April 25. PennDel Arbor Day event, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Ridley Creek State Park in Media. Staff and professional arborists will share tree knowledge and plant a tree at the state park. For information, call Angela Lyter Palfalvi at 610 892-3908 or e-mail: ridleycreek@dnr.state.pa.us
- Friday, April 27. 1 p.m. Celebration of Arbor Day at the Historic Sycamore Tree Park at 47 East LaCrosse Avenue in the Borough of Lansdowne. The public is invited to this celebration sponsored by the Lansdowne Tree Advisory Board.
- Sunday, April 29. 1 – 3 p.m. The Historic Grange Estate in Haverford Township. Memorial plantings will be dedicated. Light refreshments. Admission Free.

One of the programs of the National Arbor Day Foundation is Tree City USA. The program means more trees and better tree care in thousands of towns and cities, providing direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in communities of every size. Is your municipality a Tree City USA Community? Look for the signs in your area or call



your municipality's office. If you would like a free Tree City USA booklet, write The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410.

“Planting Trees in Your Community Forest by Sylvan and Friends,” a publication of the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council and Penn State Cooperative Extension, is available free to Pennsylvania residents. It is a 40 page illustrated manual developed for use by schools and youth groups. It covers tree biology, community trees, planting sites, purchasing trees, planting methods, tree care, and tree protection. For a copy, call Penn State's Publications Distribution Center at 814 865-6713 or download a copy at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/-FreePubs/uh125.html>.

The Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership will publish a calendar of events taking place in the watershed during April and May. For a copy, call Ann Smith of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 215 563-0250 or email: asmith@pecphila.org.

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

Wednesday, April 18	Second Public Participation meeting for Haverford State Hospital site. 7:30 p.m. Lynnewood School, Havertown.
Saturday, April 21, 2001	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Marple Friends Peace Center.
Saturday, April 21, 2001	Creek Cleanup at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, 8 a.m. - 12 noon. Meet at Refuge parking lot at 86th Street & Lindbergh Blvd. or at Southbound Route 420 Refuge parking lot.
Saturday, April 21, 2001	Cleanup of the Morton Morton House, Norwood, 9 a.m.-12 noon, followed by Awareness Day activities, 12-4 p.m.
Monday, April 23, 2001	Meeting of the Historic Sites Committee, 9:30 a.m. The Paper Mill House in Newtown Township. Call 610 449-9095 for details.
Thursday, April 26, 2001	Lecture on "New Sweden" at Norwood Borough Hall, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 27, 2001	Celebration of Arbor Day at the Historic Sycamore Tree Park, 1 p.m. 47 E. LaCrosse Ave. in Lansdowne. The public is invited.
Saturday, April 28, 2001	DCVA Darby Creek Cleanup, 9 a.m - 1 p.m. All along the Creek.
Saturday, April 28, 2001	Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Marple Transfer Station.
Sunday, April 29, 2001	Arbor Day Celebration at the Grange Estate in Havertown. 1-3 p.m. Free.
Saturday, May 5, 2001	Darby Creek Canoe Trip. 9 a.m. John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Pre-registration required. Call 215 365-3118.
Saturday, May 5, 2001	Clean Mower Rebate Program. Turn in gas powered lawn equipment at Home Depot in Bensalem, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 1 800 GO-TO-PRC for details.
Thursday, May 17, 2001	Final public participation meeting for the Haverford State Hospital site. 7:30 p.m. Call 610 446-9403 for location.
Saturday, May 19, 2001	DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Marple Friends Peace Center
Saturday, June 2, 2001	Streamwatch. 8:30 a.m. Darby Creek at Darby Creek Rd. & Marple Rd.

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