



President's Pen:

**Whose Creek This Is
I Think I Know - Its Ours!**

As we approach the Year 2000, DCVA's mission becomes more diverse and complicated. Thanks to the involvement of people, too many to name, our watershed is now clean enough to have the Commonwealth's special blessing as a First Class Conservation Creek, giving us trout stocking status below as well as above West Chester Pike.

We are now expanding our mission to include constant in-stream monitoring, identifying and eliminating non-point pollution and, now creating a watershed wide conservation plan. This last task was awarded us by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources when in June we received a grant to create a "Comprehensive Rivers Conservation Plan" for the Darby Creek Watershed.*

It's the new age, our world is getting smaller, more technical, information crowded as well as people crowded. Us "old guys" are still puzzling over Web Sites, Email, Search Engines, etc. We need young folks to help us with this. We need to educate all our citizens (especially our children and students) that

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**DCVA Is Awarded Grant to Develop
Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

DCVA has received a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Rivers Conservation Program to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for the Darby Creek watershed.

Our goal is to develop a plan that will address the unique urban/suburban circumstances and challenges along the most diverse Watershed in Delaware County. The document will become the key planning tool for the 21st century for the preservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment of the Darby Creek Watershed. Once implemented, the quality of life of all residents within the Watershed should be enhanced.

The Conservation plan will include the following:

- a history of the planning process

- mapping of the area
- zoning and land use patterns
- a comprehensive inventory of available resources
- analysis of data
- a listing of concerns/recommendations, needs, and dreams for which priorities will be recommended
- options for implementation with the goal to develop a best management practices plan for the Watershed
- identification of responsibility for implementing each item and phase of the plan
- to provide for continued public input
- to prepare a final draft reflecting public input
- to submit the plan for public review

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DCEN Conference to be Held October 17

Delaware County Environmental Network (DCEN) will hold its 1998 Annual Conference on Saturday, October 17, 1998, at the Jefford's Mansion, Ridley Creek State Park, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Delaware County: Preparing to Meet the Environmental Challenges of the 21st Century."

Topics to be covered with guest speakers include the following:

- "Delaware County—Past and Present," Marianne D. Squyres, President, Delaware County Historical Society
- "Options for the Future—Land Use and Planning," Peter R. Williamson, Project Manager, Natural Lands Trust
- "As Part of the Region," Barry J. Seymour, Assistant Executive Director of Regional Planning, DVRPC

- "Getting Out of the Jam," Jill Sebest Welsh, ACCP, Delaware County Transportation Management Association
- "Planning for the Challenges of the 21st Century," Thomas H. Killion, Chairman, Delaware County Council

There will also be an opportunity for county environmental organizations to highlight their activities and plans for the coming year and to display their literature.

A registration form for the conference is on page 5. Please return the form by October 12th. DCVA was a founding member of DCEN, whose purpose is to facilitate a network among groups and individuals who seek to maintain or improve the quality of the environment in the County.

—Registration Form on Page 5

DCVA Members and Friends Enjoy Annual Awards Dinner

By Vicki Shaner

From all reports our dinner was its usual success. The food, the ambiance, the speaker and the camaraderie were a #10 in everyone's mind. For those who volunteer their services all year long, as well as our guests, this is a wonderful way of getting together for an evening of fun and relaxation.

Professor Patricia Bradt of Muhlenberg College's Environmental Science Department (and sister of President Fritz Thornton) gave us a great presentation on the biological life in creeks and lakes.

Mayor Rendell was invited to address the group on behalf of the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center's cleanup project last January. Unfortunately, the Republican convention search committee came to town that weekend and the mayor was obliged to escort the committee around town. Members of the Cobbs Community Environmental Center were able to attend, however, and accepted a special award from DCVA for their cleanup efforts.

Congratulations to our 1998 Ribbon of Green Honoree: Margaret Passmore. Maggie has been working with DCVA since the spring of 1996 to help establish a volunteer Stream Watch. Because she was unable to attend, the award was accepted on her behalf by another active Stream Watch volunteer, Carol Killmaier.

While I was able to do all the preparation work, my handicap prevented me from attending the dinner. I want so much to thank those who stepped in, in my absence, and did my job the night of the dinner. I especially want to thank Helen Berger for serving as chair for that evening and also for her work prior to



Dr. Patricia Bradt talks about "Critters in the Creek" at DCVA Annual Dinner. Husband Jack Bradt handles visual boards.

the dinner soliciting advertisers for the program. Thanks are also due to Rosemary Kesling who typeset the program, to Clyde and Gila Hunt and Olga Thornton for conducting the raffle, to Mary Furth and Jean Doyle for their assistance with the invitation addressing and mailing and the table set ups, and to Bob Doherty and Anne and Joe Ackerman for their assistance. In addition, I want to personally thank Dave Cannan for his kind offer to transport me to the dinner.

I am happy to report that the banquet netted a handsome \$1,700 profit for DCVA. This income would not have been possible without everyone's hard work and cooperation.

We are now in the process of making plans for next year and would appreciate everyone's input. If you would like to work on the banquet committee, please call me at 610 449-7297. We are hoping to move "up creek" and would appreciate suggestions for a possible new location. Our membership is growing upstream and a more central location would be desirable.

Thanks again to everyone.

Stream Watch Update

By Carol A. Killmaier

For the Stream Watch program, the summer was quiet. We did, however, spend an afternoon and morning with girls from a summer camp at Friends Central School. Dave Cannan spent an afternoon at Indian Creek West near the school performing a habitat assessment and looking at benthic macroinvertebrates with the girls. The girls then spent a morning at Cabrini College with Alan Samel and myself sorting one of the samples that were collected at Indian Creek West this past spring. A discussion followed, led by Alan, to help the girls draw conclusions about the health of Indian Creek West. From there the girls spent time in the Poconos with Maggie Passmore (yes, the same Maggie Passmore who left our area and now lives in West Virginia.) looking at a healthier stream for comparison. The girls were bright and energetic and a joy to work with.

We are also winding down activities for our current grant period. This summer, at Cabrini College, our summer interns processed all the samples that were collected this spring at eight stations along the creek and its tributaries. Shortly volunteers will begin the process of checking samples and recalculating metrics for accuracy. Once this is done, we will release the results on the current health of Darby Creek. A big thank you to our two student interns, Ji-Sun Yi of Bryn Mawr College and Susan Hinchey of Cabrini College who performed the painstaking, tedious task of sorting through our samples. Everyone wishes them much success in the future. In addition, I would like to thank Anna Cruise, Biology Chair at Cabrini College, for approving the laboratory space to DCVA. We greatly appreciate your generosity and that of Cabrini College.

That was our quiet summer. If you are interested in conducting studies along a section of the creek near you, please contact me at (610) 690-1632. We will meet in November to discuss our schedule for 1999. The meeting is open to everyone, and we encourage new members.



We have a new address!

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

MerryPlace Is Dedicated

By Dave Cannan

On May 17th, 1998, DCVA president Fritz Thornton participated in the ribbon cutting to open a new fishing pier on the banks of Darby Creek in Glendale Park, Haverford Township. This was one part of the dedication ceremonies for MerryPlace, a playground and park designed especially for use by children with disabilities. DCVA consulted on proper placement of the pier on the creek's banks so as to prevent erosion and stream bank destabilization.

DCVA also donated \$300.00 to purchase a brick for the Walk of Life, a walkway that circles a new gazebo in the park. The bricks, with the engraved donors names, were sold to raise money for this unique project.

There was also the planting of a tree by the Compassionate Friends, an organization of parents who have lost children.

The concept for MerryPlace originated a few years ago when Courtney Donovan, whose young son is disabled, met with Tim Denny, the Haverford Township Director of Parks and Recreation, and asked why there were not more public park areas with access for disabled children. That conversation led to the creation of this special public park that could be used by everyone, but with special attention given to providing access to those with disabilities.

Especially noteworthy is that construction of the new facilities was all done with labor, materials, and funds donated by local volunteers. And the whole project would not have been possible without the family of Meredith "Merry" Topp, a much admired parks and recreation coordinator and Haverford high school coach who died of cancer in August, 1994, at the age of 49. \$13,000.00 of a fund set up in her name was donated to this park, also named for her.



(Above) DCVA president Fritz Thornton speaks at the dedication ceremony for MerryPlace.

(Right) DCVA president Fritz Thornton and Pat Brown, the first person to donate to the MerryPlace Fund, cut the ribbon for the new fishing pier at the park. Also participating were Merry Troop's children, Lauren, Jesse, and Catherine, her husband Tom, and Haverford Township Ninth Ward Commissioner, Jack McDonald.

Another Successful Darby Creek Clean Up



Once again DCVA held a successful clean up of Darby Creek on April 25, 1998. Over 400 people helped to remove about 400 cubic yards of trash and debris from the Creek and surrounding areas. DCVA thanks chairperson Joe Yorke and all DCVA members and volunteers who helped in this effort. In the photo above, cub scouts work in Apache Park.

Will Keech, motoring about Merry Place in his wheelchair, and his mom Ann, both DCVA members, remarked that this was a great day and they were pleased with the creation of an outdoor recreation and gathering place for the community that everyone can enjoy.

Ann noted that she often observes that places that are designed to be accessible for those with disabilities are also so much better for non-wheelchair users too.

"The whole community benefits," she said, "including folks pushing strollers, toddlers, the elderly, and people that have invisible disabilities such as balance difficulties and vision problems."

She added, "Now we can all reach Darby Creek and enjoy the water and woods around us. Thank you and congratulations to all who made this possible!"





Fall Programs and Activities in the Darby Creek Watershed



October 4th: Collen Brook to Host Living History Encampment

On October 4, 1998, the Upper Darby Historical Society will present a Civil War living history encampment at the Collen Brook Farm from 1 to 4 p.m.

The encampment will be presented by the 26th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Civil War Reenacting Unit. This living history program will feature an exhibit of enlisted and officer's tents, uniforms, foodstuffs, drill and fighting techniques. They will interact with spectators, letting them try on uniforms and handle equipment. The civilian members will present information on ladies clothing, the roles of women during the war, and mourning practices. Camp activities include pay call, mail call, and rations distribution. They will demonstrate the care, inspection, loading and firing of the rifle musket.

Tours of the grounds and mansion will also be provided. The Collen Brook Farm is located at Marvine Road and Mansion Avenue in Drexel Hill. For further information, call 610 789-2324.

October 10th: Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day at the Swedish Cabin

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin invite everyone to Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day on Saturday, October 10, 1998, at the Swedish Cabin in Drexel Hill. Activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Colonial and Indian demonstrations, crafts and lore, and cabin tours will highlight the day. Lunch and other refreshments will be available. A \$1 donation is requested from adults; children under 12 are free. The rain date will be Sunday, October 11th.

October 10th: Darby Borough "Passport to History" Day

The Darby Borough Historical and Preservation Society will hold its second annual Darby Borough "Passport to

History" Day on Saturday, October 10, 1998, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A community flea market will be held in the municipal parking lot and other activities are planned for Main Street. A van will be available for tours of several historic sites and houses in Darby including a tour of the Scott Mansion, Woodburne, at Little Flower Institute at 11 a.m. Plans are being made for lunches and dinners to be available for visitors. The Society's 1999 History Calendar, Small Pieces of Darby Borough History (replicas of historic buildings) and Thomas J. DiFilippo's book, *The History of Darby Borough* will be for sale.

October 10th: Haverford Township Day

The annual Haverford Township Day will be celebrated October 10th under the sponsorship of Haverford Township in cooperation with the Haverford Township Civic Council, fire companies, business and civic groups. The day will be a celebration of community pride with a smorgasboard of activities, including a 5 K race, a craft fair and flea market, food, and entertainment for all ages. The center of activities will be on Darby Road between Mill and Manoa Roads in Havertown. The day will begin with a parade at 10 a.m. and continue through the afternoon.

October 11th: Open House at the Grange Estate

Open House at the historic Grange Estate, Myrtle Avenue and Warwick Road in Havertown, will be held October 11, 1998. The events will include a plant sale, a bake sale, attic treasures, tours, demonstrations, and a visit from Woodsy Owl (mascot of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service). Activities are from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free.



October 17th: Groundbreaking for the Environmental Educa- tion Center at Heinz Refuge

It's finally happening! The groundbreaking ceremony for the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge's National Environmental Education Center will be held on Saturday, October 17, 1998, at 2 p.m.—rain or shine. The Center will be constructed by the end of 1999. The building will contain an exhibit area, resource library, gift shop, meeting rooms and classrooms.

This is an exciting time for the Refuge and because DCVA is such a strong partner of the Refuge, the staff has extended a personal invitation to DCVA members to participate in this special event. Exciting activities are planned for the entire family. Activities begin in the morning and include guided nature walks, a children's discovery table and a short concert by local artist, Glen Waldeck.

October 31st: Heritage Commis- sion Seminar on "Historic Preser- vation within your Municipality"

On Saturday, October 31, 1998, the Heritage Commission of Delaware County will sponsor a seminar on "Historic Preservation within your Municipality." To be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Delaware County Community College, the seminar will cover the range of "tools" available to municipalities to protect their historic resources. These tools range from surveys of all of the historic sites to demolition ordinances, historic district ordinances, historic overlays, and listing on the National Register.

A variety of perspectives will be offered to participants through different speakers. Speakers will include Michel Lefevre, Community Preservation Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, township and borough officials with experience in these various tools, and county preservation advisors. For further information, call (610) 891-5329.



November 14th: Workshop on Basic Archival Practices

Are you interested in knowing more about how to acquire, organize, preserve, and advertise historical materials? If so, you want to attend a workshop sponsored by the Historic Sites Committee of the Darby Creek Valley Association in cooperation with the Delaware County Historical Society and the Delaware Valley Archivists Group. These and other related questions will be discussed at the workshop which will be led by Margaret Jerrido, a professional archivist. Attendees will have an opportunity to share their ideas with each other and receive feedback from the workshop leader.

The workshop will be held November 14, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the historic Grange Estate, Myrtle Avenue and Warwick Roads, Havertown. It is designed to meet the needs of service and civic organizations and religious institutions within the area. There is a fee of \$20.00. Registration is limited to 40 participants, so please sign up early by calling (610) 449-9095. Partial funding is being provided by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations.

November 21st: DCVA General Membership Meeting

A general membership meeting of the Darby Creek Valley Association will be held Saturday, November 21, 1998. There will be a speaker on the topic of "Initiating the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Darby Creek Watershed." The meeting will be held at Villa St. Theresa in Darby at 9 a.m.

November 22nd: Unsustainable Sprawl—Sustainable Alternatives

CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 22, 1998
Topic: " Unsustainable Sprawl—Sustainable Alternatives"

Place: Temple University, College of Engineering, Auditorium
Time: 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Admission: \$20 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 students, some free community seats
Contact: Elaine Cohen (610) 352-2689 or Susan Curry (215) 591-1551

The conference will inform the attendees, involve them in interactive discussions, and then engage them in designing solutions and action projects to address the following key questions:

- How, and why, do we find ourselves overwhelmed by sprawl? What have been the causes? What is unsustainable about it?
- What is the magnitude of the problem here in S.E. Pennsylvania? What are the impacts on the human and natural environments? What are the costs?
- How do we make the transition to a sustainable pattern of development? What is required for development of sustainability? How can we provide sustainable preservation of nature and patterns of resource use?

Attendees will consider these questions. Achieving change through legislative and policy changes, land use planning, zoning, expansion of public transportation, vehicle innovations, other measures, and changes to the American dream will be discussed.

Fall Activities: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

- GUIDED WALKS every weekend
- WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS
 - Tinicum Marsh, An Introduction to Environmental Education



- Projects Wild
- Learning Tree
- PRE-TRIP ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS for People Planning to bring a Group to the Heinz Refuge. Workshops will be held through November.

For details and/or reservations for any of these programs, call the Refuge at (215) 365-3118.

**DCEN Conference
REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete and return to the address below by October 12.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization Represented: _____

For additional information, please contact the Conservation District Office at 610 892-8484.
Please check the appropriate boxes:

Registration

Adult - \$10

Student - Free

I would appreciate table space for a small exhibit, handouts

I would appreciate a few minutes to share what our group is doing

Membership

Enclosed is my membership dues/renewal (Due in October)

Individual - \$10

Business - \$35

Group - \$20

Supporting - \$50

Total Enclosed: _____

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

Future of Haverford State Hospital Grounds Still Undecided

By Dave Cannan

The Haverford Authority met on Tuesday September 15, 1998, to discuss the future use of the 239 acre Haverford State Hospital property. The state has closed the hospital and is planning to transfer the property to someone—probably Haverford Township—but that is not guaranteed.

It could sell the land to the highest bidder. The state department of Public Welfare wants the township to come up with a plan before it decides

whether to give all or part of it to the township. The property is bordered by Darby Creek and has large portions of wooded areas, steep slopes, wetlands and a beautiful riparian buffer on that side of Darby Creek.

Haverford Township recently surveyed township residents to find out how they thought the property should be used. The results of the survey were given at the Authority's meeting. "Protecting the environment" and "maintaining open space" rated the highest as factors to be considered in the planning process and for future uses. Increasing the tax base came in last.

The planner hired by the township, Larry Waetzman, gave a presentation of possible uses for the site. He showed a map delineating all steep slopes and wetland (or "unbuildable" areas) and then proposed that the rest of the property be developed. In this scenario 44%

of the 239 acres could be developed, with two major parcels of "buildable" land in 30 acre and 70 acre parcels surrounded by unbuildable land. The 70 acre section is land currently developed with old hospital buildings and grassy areas, but the 30 acre section is currently wooded and inaccessible to automobiles. The planner said that it might be

necessary to get access via a new ramp from the Blue Route (which would have to go over Darby Creek) so a business complex could be built there.

It is possible, therefore, that the Haverford Authority may disregard the taxpayers' wishes to protect the environment and maintain open space. This is not just a Haverford issue. The depletion of this last major parcel of open space in the area would have a major detrimental impact on the Darby Creek watershed and quality of life in the region.

The DCVA has taken a position in favor of protecting the Creek and the area surrounding it and of retaining as much open space as possible. We encourage Haverford residents to contact their commissioner and state representative. Residents of surrounding areas can also contact their state representatives and the governor (after all the state does still own the property). Tell your elected officials that you expect them to make sure the Haverford Township Authority follows the wishes of the survey report for the Haverford State Hospital property.

Survey of Haverford residents rates "Protecting the environment" and "maintaining open space" highest.

American Liberty Elm Tree Project

By Bill Frasch

In 1991 Mr. Robert Dougan, leader of Boy Scout Troop 63 at Lansdowne Presbyterian Church, was contacted by his friend Roy Hill to undertake an American Elm tree planting project. The scouts received financial support from the Lansdowne Allied Youth Council and the Lansdowne Borough government.

The first 125 trees were received from the Elm Research Institute in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. They were planted by Troop 63 members in Shrigley Park beside the Darby Creek. Mr. Dougan cared for them. He discovered that some were dying; the cause could not be immediately detected. Subsequent testing revealed that the area had been used for dumping of ashes from coal fires long ago. Nineteen of the original plantings were then transplanted to a site along a tributary of the Darby Creek at Greenwood Avenue in Lansdowne. Fifty replacement trees supplied by the Institute were also planted there.

The Borough decided that the proceeds of sales of the trees would be used for scouting activities. The troop sold them for \$25.00 each to Borough residents and \$60.00 each to others. Approximately 40 trees have been sold.

The proceeds have been used to pay for summer camp. Those who participated in the planting, transplanting, and caring for the trees received credit toward their summer camp costs. During 1996 and 1997, 3 scouts were able to totally pay for their summer camp. Six others received partial payments. Three others will have 24% of their bill paid for in 1998.

The proceeds have also been used to purchase tents, cooking utensils, rope, ground cloths and other camping gear.

One original tree is left. It is so large that special equipment would be needed to move it. If the remaining trees are not sold this year, they will probably remain where they are.

Perhaps a further elm tree planting project can be promoted. Hopefully it could be in conjunction with the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Bartram.

(Mr. Robert Dougan and Mr. Robert Wetzel of Troop 63 provided the information for this article.)

Historic Sites Committee Reports Summer Education Program a Success

The summer environmental education program entitled "Where Do You Live—Explore the Darby Creek Valley Past and Present" was received with great enthusiasm. We had 15 youngsters from a cross-section of the watershed. Gerri Eisenstein, a master teacher with the William Penn School District, was our teacher/coordinator for the course. She maintained the educational standard we had set for the program. Our historic sites and their volunteers did a grand job and offered stimulating introductions to the respective sites.

Through field study in the Darby Creek, students learned about the DCVA's Stream Watch program and their own role as local stewards of the environment. The program was sponsored by the Historic Sites committee of the DCVA in cooperation with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Plans are to offer the program again next summer. For details about the program, call (610) 449-9095.

Adelphia Cablevision Tears Up Little Darby Creek While Laying Cable

By Dave Cannan

In August of 1998, the Department of Environmental Protection said that it would fine Adelphia Cablevision up to \$3,000.00 for tearing up a section of Little Darby Creek in Radnor Township.

The township has also requested the cable franchise restore the damaged creek banks and adjacent wetlands.

The cable company was apparently laying down new fiber optic cable although reportedly they did not have township permission to work in the area and had not requested the proper permits from DEP.

DCVA member, Lamar Layfield, noticed the damage when he came upon a backhoe stranded in Little Darby Creek as he was taking a Sunday walk along the Brooke Farm trail in Wayne.

Layfield contacted DCVA Vice-President Dave Cannan who filed a complaint that Monday with the DEP and also notified Radnor Township Manager Bob Crofford and Environmental Advisory Council member Vince Cerniglia.

Tuesday morning, Cannan, Cerniglia, Radnor's Public Works director Dan Malloy, and DEP inspector Abdel Nassani surveyed the damaged area.

Adelphia was instructed to immediately stabilize the stream banks with



Backhoe left stranded in Little Darby Creek by Adelphia Cablevision leads to investigation of damage to area.

soil retention barriers and plant grass seed in the large areas of exposed soil and was informed later about the fine.

Cannan made a formal report to the Radnor Township Commissioners and suggested that the township request that Adelphia's fines be used for a Community Education Project (CEP). This would allow moneys from the penalty for this violation to be put towards purchasing the biologists, trees, and shrubs needed to secure the damaged stream banks, which could be installed by volunteers from DCVA and other environmental groups.

Cannan also suggested that the entire restoration project be taped for local cable public access in an effort to educate the public about streambank stabilization and protection.

Norwood Residents Working to Save the Mortonson House

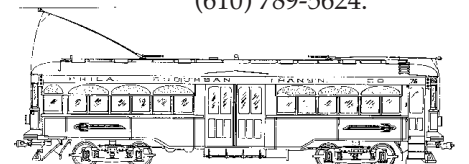
The historic Mortonson House is located near the confluence of Darby and Muckinipattus Creeks. Accessible from Winona Avenue in Norwood, the house stands behind the Lower Park, near the old Boys' Club. The house, which was built between 1730 and 1760, is the oldest surviving building in Norwood Borough. The Norwood Historical Society is facing a vital task: raising the estimated \$150,000 for needed repairs, upkeep and restoration of this historic treasure. Volunteers are needed to help plan and run events, raise funds, write grants and do research. To contribute or to volunteer to help, contact Martin Shields at 610 583-8775 or make a contribution payable to the Norwood Historical Society, c/o Borough Hall, Norwood, PA 19074.

Project 76 Aims to Bring an Historic Trolley to Delaware County

Do you remember the big red trolleys of the Red Arrow Lines? Would you enjoy seeing and riding one of those trolley again? Then Project 76 needs you!

Project 76 is a cooperative community effort to bring back former Red Arrow Lines center door trolley number 76. This car was built in 1926 by the J.G. Brill Company located in southwest Philadelphia. It was the last heavy steel trolley built for the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company, the predecessor to the Red Arrow Lines. It was used on the trolley lines to Media, Sharon Hill, Ardmore and West Chester for almost 50 years.

A large show of community support is necessary to convince SEPTA to bring this car to the suburbs for charters and special events. If interested in helping out, please contact Mr. Zubair Khan at (610) 566-5039 or Mr. Matthew Nawn at (610) 789-5624.



Information on Environmental Issues Available through Email

Are you a person who

- * Doesn't have time to search for environmental information?
- * Wants some notice on local environmental activities or pending environmental legislation but doesn't want to be overwhelmed by excess rhetoric?
- * Wants to become part of an informal network of concerned environmental advocates?

Via the internet, members of Darby Creek Valley Association, Main Line Unitarian Church Environmental Concerns Task Force, and the Central Baptist Church of Wayne Environmental Group have started an informal exchange of environmental information that affects our local watersheds.

If you would like to get regular emails on environmental issues important to the above groups and other local environmental advocates, send an email requesting to be added to this environmental network to davecannan@aol.com.

DCVA Welcomes New Members:

Joseph and Joan Batory
 John Borders
 Patricia Bradt
 Thomas V. Gargan (Life Member)
 Mrs. Florence M. Pratt
 Alan Samel
 Ed and Matt Spiller
 Jethro Steinman
 Fairmount Park Commission
 Borough of Lansdowne
 Okehocking Heritage Society
 Philadelphia Water Company

DCVA Awarded Grant

Continued from page 1:

- to develop a plan for continuing public participation in the implementation of the plan
- DCVA will directly involve as many parties as possible who have a stake in the protection of the natural resources of the Darby Creek Watershed. We expect to work with the four counties in the Watershed (Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia) and with all of the municipalities. Our goal is to involve the educational institutions, civic and environmental organizations, businesses, libraries, and the general public.

President's Pen

Continued from page 1:

we cannot be a throw away society,** that we all live downstream, that we all must be the stewards of our environment and that history must be preserved.

We currently have 6 (six) grants, some Federal, some State and some local—all working towards this end. Dealing with the paperwork, the alphabet crazy bureaucracies, and recalcitrant administrators is frustrating, annoying and time consuming. But in the end we will have cleaner water, more fish and wildlife, hiking trails and an informed public who realizes that these woods and streams are their common property and each citizen has an obligation to participate in preserving its environmental good.



* See Article on Grant on page 1

** See Article on Chester County Water in the next column

GVA's Sustainable Watershed Management: A Model Program to Balance Water Resources with Land Development

By John Hoekstra
 Green Valley Association

Beginning in 1994 the Green Valleys Association (GVA) began planning the Sustainable Watershed Management Program (SWM) in northern Chester County. The study of the French and Pickering Creek watersheds was completed and published in January 1997. The Stony Run and Pigeon Creek Study was completed in August 1998. These studies were funded by grants from private foundations, PA DCNR, and local municipalities.

What is SWM?

The fundamental resource management objective proposed by this program is to measure the tolerance limits of the natural system and balance the human use of these land and water resources so that we can live within the carry capacity of these natural systems. The following water resource management objectives have been established based on this concept, with modeling methodologies developed to achieve these objectives:

- Maintain stream base flow, in particular during drought periods
- Maintain groundwater levels in order to protect existing and future wells.
- Assure that stream flooding is not increased.
- Prevent groundwater contamination, particularly from nitrate.
- Minimize additional point and nonpoint source pollutant inputs into surface waters.

To quantify the critical links between land development and water resources, the GVA's consultant, Tom Cahill of Cahill Associates, has developed a series of "models" for application on a watershed basis. In this program the different impacts on the hydrologic cycle are described by different but overlapping models. The Model Program includes a variety of both technical and institutional objectives and

related work tasks, all of which are designed to provide the local government with the capability to evaluate potential impacts of development, and more importantly to modify any given proposal to mitigate that impact.


On June 9, 1998, at the meeting of the Federation of Northern Chester County communities, the GVA formally launched the Implementation (Phase II) of the Sustainable Watershed Management Program. This program seeks to provide the tools for municipalities in northern Chester County so that they can make informed and objective land-use decisions while providing for sustainable water resources.

Mr. Terry Hough, DCNR environmental planner, commended the Association, stating, "the Sustainable Watershed Management Program could serve as a model to others as to how to plan for a sustainable future."

For more information about the GVA's program, call John Hoekstra at (610) 469-4900.

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 Hoekstra, Rosemary Kesling, Carol Killmaier, Vicki Shaner, and Fritz Thornton. Photographs by Dave Cannan and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. Printed on recycled paper. © 1998.



John Bartram 300

By Bill Frasch

May 21, 1999, will mark the 300th Anniversary of the birth of John Bartram in Darby, Province of Pennsylvania. The family homestead was on the Springfield Road close to the Darby Creek. Bartram was not the first son so he did not inherit the family farm. When he married, he bought land on the banks of the Schuylkill River and built a stone house with his own hands. He was a farmer, but his lifelong interest in plants and medicines soon became his main activity. He had no formal education but taught himself Latin and corresponded with famous people internationally. His keen observations of nature and his meticulous collections of specimens soon resulted in his appointment as a Royal Botanist at a salary of fifty pounds a year.

America's first botanist will be honored by a symposium in May 1999 to be organized by the Academy of Natural Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Historic Bartram's Garden's (a Fairmount Park house and garden), Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Botanical Club, and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

The Darby Library Company, founded in 1743, was assisted by Mr. Bartram in its first purchase of books. There is a record of a letter dated June 21, 1743, from Bartram to his

agent in London, Peter Collinson, which eloquently urges the agent's support in the purchase and shipping of the books. The Library will be submitting a paper to the symposium.

The National Geographic Society is developing an article for the occasion. It has taken pictures of the library and of William Bartram's famous 1792 book, *Travels*. It is Bartram's personal copy of the book given by him during his life to the library.

In addition, plans are being developed for a tree planting and stream bank erosion control project in Darby Borough on the banks of Darby Creek owned by the Borough. Some of this property may have been part of the Bartram family farm. Records are being checked to confirm this.

New Gardens Collaborative Brochure Available

The Gardens Collaborative has a new brochure on the Gardens of the Philadelphia-Wilmington Region. Five of the gardens and arboreta featured are in our Darby Creek Watershed—the American College Arboretum in Bryn Mawr, Chanticleer in Wayne, the Grange Estate in Havertown, the Jenkins Arboretum in Devon and the Arboretum Villanova in Villanova. Free copies are available at the Grange Estate.

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 and to prohibit dumping and construction on the floodplain. 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 entire 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

Sunday, October 4, 1998	Civil War Living History Encampment, 1 - 4 p.m. Collen Brook, Mansion & Marvine, Drexel Hill
Saturday, October 10, 1998	Darby Borough Passport to History Day, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Main Street
Saturday, October 10, 1998	Haverford Township Day, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Darby Road between Mill & Manoa, Havertown
Saturday, October 10, 1998	Cabin Crafts and Friendship Day, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Swedish Cabin, Upper Darby
Sunday, October 11, 1998	Open House at the Grange Estate, 1 - 4 p.m., Havertown
Saturday, October 17, 1998	Annual DCEN Conference, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Jefford's Mansion, Ridley Creek State Park
Saturday, October 17, 1998	Groundbreaking of new Environmental Education Center, 2 p.m. John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum
Saturday, October 24, 1998	DCVA Board of Directors Meeting, 9 a.m. Home of Vicki Shaner, 1930 Lawrence Rd #D34, Havertown
Saturday, October 31, 1998	Historic Preservation within your Municipality Seminar, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Delaware County Community College
Saturday, November 14, 1998	Basic Archival Practices Workshop, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Grange Estate
Saturday, November 21, 1998	DCVA General Membership Meeting, 9 a.m. Villa St. Theresa, Darby Call (610) 789-1814 for more information.
Sunday, November 22, 1998	Unsustainable Sprawl—Sustainable Alternatives Conference 12:30 - 5 p.m., Temple University
Wednesday, December 2, 1998	Annual MACWA Conference



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

**NOTE OUR NEW
ADDRESS!**