



# BVA 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## Letter from President

Dear BVA Members,

BVA's role in watershed conservation and education found strong expression in our 2008 programs and projects. As a watershed association our focus is on water resources and the Brandywine Creek in particular. BVA's pioneering Red Streams Blue Program continued to move ahead with new restoration plans in four of the watershed's substandard streams. Following on our past leadership in land application technology, flood control and water supply planning, and soil conservation programs, BVA continues its leadership role in watershed conservation.

Our work to improve the watershed is accomplished through education. Whether we are presenting new ideas to local officials who can put these ideas to work or teaching the lessons of conservation to our school children, BVA's educational role illustrates the power that good science and friendly persuasion can have in making the Brandywine a better watershed.

The work of the Association is accomplished through a dedicated and experienced staff with the strong support of BVA's volunteer Board of Directors. Through their participation in numerous committee meetings, board meeting and public events, BVA's directors ensure that the Association's focus is on its mission and that the human and financial resources are effectively dedicated to this task.

2008 saw the Capital Campaign pass the two-thirds mark on its way to the goal of \$3.2 million. The results of this campaign are being expressed through the Red Streams Blue Program, in improvements at the BVA's Myrick Conservation Center, and by the strengthening of our endowment to ensure that BVA will continue its important work.

Thank you very much for your support over the past year. Your continued support will be critical during the current financial situation. While we will face challenging times in the year ahead, BVA remains financially sound, organizationally strong, and accurately focused on the important issues for our valley. As you review the accomplishments for 2008, I hope you will feel your support has been well used and have the same sense of satisfaction that we have in making our watershed a better place.

Sincerely,

Duncan Allison  
President

### BVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duncan Allison, President  
Fred Smith, President Elect  
Brenton R. Grant III, Vice President  
Josephine Parman, Secretary  
Thomas A. Varley, Treasurer

Ronald M. Agulnick  
Ray Ajalli  
Martin J. Andrejko  
Kara Coats  
Leighton Everhart Jr.  
G. Winfield Fairchild  
James Fava  
Stephen L. Gardiner  
William Gotwals  
Marjorie Hoffman  
Thomas McCaffrey  
Carl J. Meister Jr.  
Christopher Patterson  
Thomas W. Piersol  
Tracy Schindler  
F. Grier Wakefield  
Bruce West  
Andy Woods

### Director Emeritus

David Dorsett

### STAFF

James E. Jordan, Jr.  
*Executive Director*  
Robert G. Struble, Jr.  
*Watershed Conservation Director*  
Giselle Cosentino  
*Education Director*  
Cynthia L. Jaros  
*Development Director*  
Emily Cost  
*Education Program Coordinator*  
Betsy Stefferud  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Art Taylor  
*Maintenance Technician*  
Kathy Bergmann  
Jane Fava  
*Red Streams Blue Coordinators*



# BVA Year

## Watershed Conservation

In 2008 BVA completed the initial phase of the Red Streams Blue Program. This program will define BVA's role in watershed conservation for the next decade and perhaps beyond. Four restoration plans have been completed for impaired subwatersheds. These include Plum Run and Radley Run which are tributaries to the main stem just south of West Chester. Little Buck Run in the Parkesburg area and Valley Run between Coatesville and Downingtown also have completed restoration plans. With these plans BVA can now move ahead to implement restoration projects that will improve stream quality. The Red Streams Blue Program will monitor stream quality changes which will be reported in the State of Watershed Report and in BVA communications.



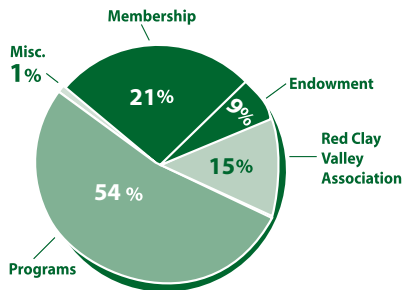
By December of 2008, Campaign Co-Chairs Carl "Bunny" J. Meister, Jr. and Sandra Retzlaff with support from community volunteers and staff raised a total of \$2,171,682 in gifts and pledges from generous BVA supporters.

With a total goal of \$3,192,300, the Make a Splash Campaign has successfully reached it's two-thirds mark. Our work continues as we seek philanthropic partners who share our vision and will assist BVA in:

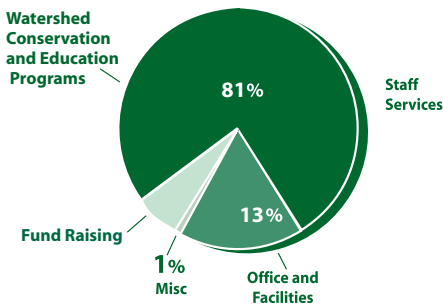
- Improving the facilities at our Myrick Conservation Center Headquarters,
- Developing and implementing new Watershed Protection/Improvement Programs including Red Streams Blue
- Expanding Environmental Education programs and
- Raising our endowment to ensure that relevant existing and new programs can continue and to provide for increased maintenance on facilities.

## Financial Overview

**TOTAL INCOME \$599,2828**



**TOTAL EXPENSES \$622,656**



The Association accounts are audited by Whisman, Giordano and Associates. The audit report will be available in July 2009.



To convey the message of conservation to individuals and groups within the watershed, BVA continued the Local Issues Series for municipal leaders and coordinated 26 municipalities as part of the Municipal Separate Storms Sewer System (MS4) program. In addition to these programs for the general public, BVA also coordinated the Brandywine Creek clean-up which attracted over 125 volunteers and cleaned nearly 20 miles of stream.

## Brandywine Fundraiser Makes Waves

In 2008, BVA hosted the first ever Brandywine Polar Plunge. 102 brave individuals took the plunge on February 9, 2008 and raised \$8,396 for our conservation efforts in the watershed. This signature event also raises awareness about BVA's education programs as well as Red Streams Blue.



# in Review

## Myrick Center/Property Improvement

Seasonal changes abound at the Myrick Conservation Center, BVA's 318-acre property. Yet, the most subtle of changes in 2008 was the finalization of architectural and site plans for BVA's new equipment storage building. This 3,200 square foot pole barn will store mowers, tractors and vehicles which are currently being stored in the Browning Barn. This will eventually free up space for the education department. The building was designed with a multitude of innovative stormwater management techniques which will be a showcase for the local community. It is expected to be completed in 2009.



Dick Vermeil breaks ground for new building.

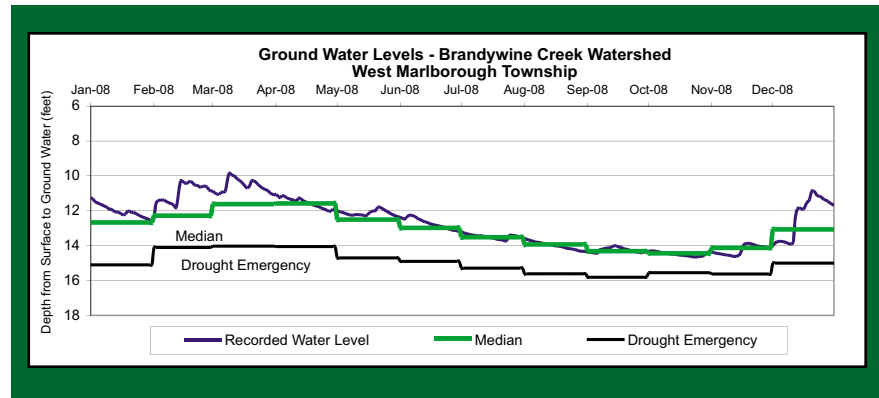
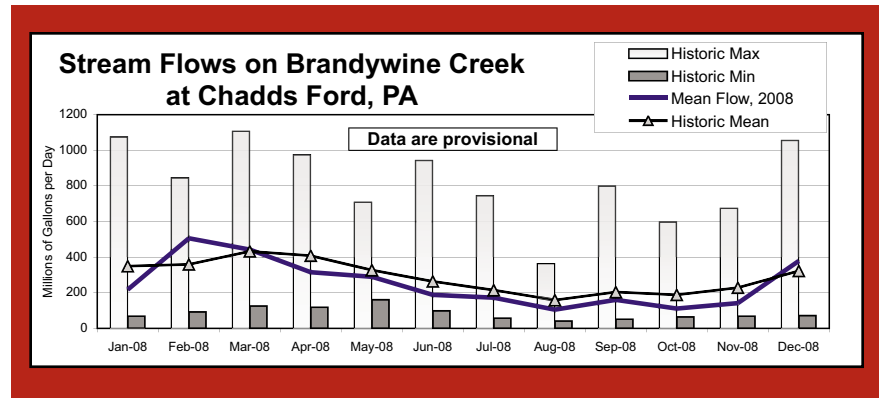
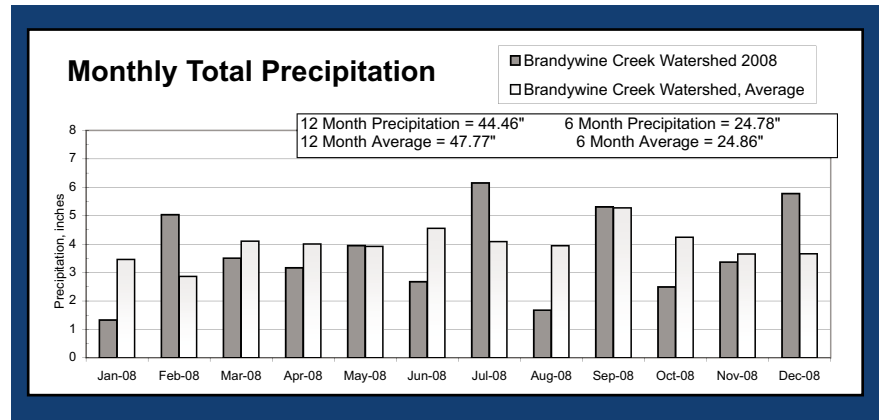
Two Eagle Scout Projects were accomplished in 2008. Four new picnic tables were constructed and a bird house demonstration area was created. The bird houses are located near the parking area and are species specific teaching tools.

## Events

Nearly 120 volunteers participated in the Myrick Center Volunteer Work Day in September. Volunteers completed projects including a tree planting, painting, mulching, invasive plant removal and the installation of a fence near the barn.

Over 760 people attended the third annual Jam on the Brandywine. Six bands jammed for the crowd including Montana Wildaxe and The Cameltones to gross over \$14,000. Beer brewed with water from the Brandywine Creek and a BBQ was generously provided by Victory Brewing Company. Starbucks Coffee volunteers also provided beverages to support the day's fundraising efforts.

## Summary of 2008 Water Conditions

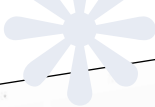


  
**BVA 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

## Education Highlights of 2008

- Joanna Fox is announced as Environmental Instructor of the Year for her enthusiasm and love of learning and teaching.
- Terri James, teacher at Westtown School, was selected as BVA's Teacher of the Year. Ms. James' effort to get her students outside is inspiring.
- "Third Thursdays" series for members and friends is launched.
- School programs in the fall and spring are met by overwhelming positive reviews from teachers and school staff.
- Summer Campers got wet and dirty every day!



  
*November 7, 2008*  
Dear BVA,  
I absolutely LOVED being with you guys today. Thank you sooo much. My favorite part of this trip was the afternoon. Walking through the Lenape woods was incredible. The teepees and pretend fire "place" made it seem so real. I especially enjoyed the scenery of the woods. The multi-colored leaves on the ground and the trees made me feel like I was in a movie. Even the new kind of bugs were interesting. Don't get me wrong, though. The morning half was amazing, too. The adventure teams was pretty cool. At this exact moment, my favorite activity was the Earth one. You know, where you have to fit a ton of kids on a stump. It taught me about life. Each time you attempt to do something, it won't perfect the first time around. Thanks again!!!!

Yours truly,  
Sarah

