



Volume LXIII No. 3
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Watershed NEWS

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Red Streams Blue Program Moves West

With the completion of restoration plans for Plum Run and Radley Run, the next step will be to secure funding to implement the restoration projects in these plans. BVA, along with other local organizations, has submitted grant proposals to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Growing Greener Program. These grants would provide funding for several major restoration projects on both the Plum and Radley Runs.

While the funding is being developed for these restoration projects, the Red Streams Blue Program moved to Valley Run between Coatesville and Downingtown and Little Buck Run in the Parkesburg area. Assessments have been completed for both of these streams and the assessment reports are expected by the end of summer. Before the year is complete, restoration plans will be developed for both of these streams.

The initial stream surveys indicated that parts of Little Buck Run were in good condition and might be unimpaired. This would be the first stream in which such an improvement has been noted. If these initial field results hold up, BVA will request DEP to change the stream's status from impaired to unimpaired.

Valley Run was a different story. Housing and commercial development cover much of the subwatershed and stormwater is a major problem. Valley Run may be a candidate for retrofit programs to deal with current stormwater problems.

In an effort to improve water quality in the Northern region of the

watershed, this spring BVA teamed with the Chester County Conservation District to acquire a horse-drawn no-till corn planter for use by Amish farmers. This year farmers were able to plant more than 300 acres using the no-till planter. This type of planter does not disturb the soil, resulting in less soil erosion. The majority of the corn in this region is planted using the no-till technique. Over the 30 years that no-till has been used, the equipment and practices have been improved and the results are generally better than conventional planting methods.

Looking ahead, the next program area will likely be in the upper part of the watershed where agriculture is a major influence. Problems resulting from agricultural activities are corrected more easily and less expensively than in the more developed regions. In addition, results can often be seen more quickly.

To keep current with the Red Streams Blue Program, a page is being developed for the BVA website. Users will be able to see the progress throughout the watershed as well as note specific conditions at sampling points in the different subwatersheds being assessed. Look for this new feature in the fall.



BVA's horse drawn no-till corn planter being used by farmer near Honey Brook

BVA NEW MEMBERS

Mr. G. Mark Adams
 Ms. Martha Bent
 Pam and Taylor Brumfield
 Mr. & Mrs. James E. Brunke
 Mrs. Anna Mary DelVescovo
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fuchs
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice J. Gustin
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kelly
 Ms. Barbara A. Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. George G. Platz
 Mr. Andrew Schaum
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Senko
 Mr. Timothy Joseph Trott, Esq.
 Mrs. Patti Weeks

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 9/20 -
 Jam on the Brandywine

Saturday, 9/27 -
 Volunteer Day

Saturday, 10/25 or 11/1 -
 Delaware Valley Orienteering Night Hike

Annual Meeting-
 Details in September

Tea-Off FOR WATER RESOURCES

This year's annual golf outing moved to the Delaware portion of the watershed and featured the Championship Course at DuPont Country Club. Rescheduled from its original date in April, the outing took place on a beautiful June day over a very challenging golf course.

BVA has hosted previous golf outings on courses in the watershed that showcased major Brandywine streams or tributaries such as the Broad Run Golf Club and the Radley Run Golf Club. The outing not only provides an afternoon of challenging golf, but also an opportunity to understand how golf courses are working to better manage water resources and protect the streams in our valley.

BVA thanks the golfers who took part in the outing as well as sponsors - AQUA Pennsylvania, RETTEW Associates, Hankin Foundation, Veterinary Specialty Center of DE, Larmore Scarlett LLP, Manito Abstract Company, Patterson Schwartz Real Estate, and West Bradford Grill.



3 Ways to Remember BVA

There are many ways to remember BVA in your estate plan. Here are three options to consider:

1. Instruct your lawyer to prepare a simple, inexpensive codicil to your existing will, creating a bequest for BVA.

2. If you are over 65 and disappointed with the income you are receiving from your long-term stocks or your certificates of deposit, consider BVA's charitable gift annuity program. Besides providing attractive tax benefits, this easy-to-accomplish gift may reward you with higher annual income.

3. If you have a sizable estate, let us show you how a charitable trust may benefit both you and BVA. Again, the tax advantages are significant and may offset any legal costs.

Some of the gift arrangements are revocable and others cannot be changed once established. There are many variations, so a giving plan can be tailored to your needs, desires and capabilities. We urge you to check with your professional advisor before completing any planned gift.

If you would like to speak to someone about how you can make a legacy gift, please contact Cynthia Loveland, Development Director, 610-793-1090, cloveland@bva-rcva.org.

Please note: This information should not be considered as legal, tax or financial advice. Consult your professional advisor for further information and guidance.

BVA WISH LIST

- New/lightly used animal puppets - native wild animals only please
- New/lightly used children's area rug
- New/lightly used plastic bins with lids (50-100 gallon sizes)
- New/lightly used aquarium nets, pond nets, insect nets
- Yogurt cups - clean and dry - no lids please
- New/lightly used children's nature books - native plants & animals only please



Make a Splash! PROTECTING OUR Water for Future Generations

BVA's Campaign Reaches \$2 Million

Through the generosity of our friends and supporters, BVA has raised over \$2 Million towards its \$3.2 Million campaign goal (64% of goal).

Funds raised will be used to:

- Develop and implement new Watershed Protection Programs including Red Streams Blue
- Expand Watershed Education programs
- Improve the facilities at our Myrick Conservation Center Headquarters
- Grow our endowment to ensure that relevant existing and new programs can continue and to provide for increased maintenance on facilities



BVA staff with new utility vehicle made possible through generous support provided by the Longwood Foundation.

For additional information on the Make a Splash campaign or to find out how you can help, please contact Cynthia Loveland, Development Director, 610-793-1090, cloveland@bva-rcva.org.

Volunteer Work Day at the Myrick Conservation Center

September 27, 2008

8:30 – 12:30

8:30 AM-Registration and light breakfast with Starbucks Coffee Company

9:00 AM-Work begins on projects including:

- Native Tree Planting
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Gardening
- Building and Trail Maintenance
- Litter Clean Up
- Painting
- Building maintenance

12:30 PM-Lunch

This event is sponsored by Starbucks Coffee Company who will be providing coffee as well as support through their Make Your Mark Volunteer Program. These funds will be used to help defray the cost of supplies and materials used during the Volunteer Work Day.

RSVP by Monday September 22nd

Email: water@bva-rcva.org or call (610) 793-1090 for additional information

The Myrick Conservation Center is a 318-acre facility that consists of active farm fields, wetlands, forest and an extensive network of hiking trails, all of which are used as part of our environmental education programs throughout the year.

Nature's Notes



Whooo's Awake? Me too!

Nature's night life is a busy time, especially in summer. While you are sound asleep, stars are twinkling in the night sky, crickets are chirping, and raccoons are flipping over rocks in the Brandywine Creek searching for crayfish to snack on. During the night some animals are hunting, and other animals are burrowed in dens sleeping. The animals out at night are searching for food in the cooler weather of a dark night. These animals are nocturnal, they're awake at night. Can you think of some examples of nocturnal animals? If you thought of opossums and bats, you're right! There are many more. These animals are often unseen by people, because most people are active during the day.

Have you ever been on a night hike? Or have you ever been camping and heard an owl late at night? Or maybe you wondered who sleeps in a hole in the ground or in a tree? Maybe you already know that Great Horned Owls have a call that sounds like they are asking "Who's awake? Me too!" Would you like to find out which owl makes a call that asks "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?"

Join us for the upcoming
Night Hike to learn this
and more!

*Your Friend,
Red Fox from the
Groundhog's Burrow*



THIRD THURSDAYS FOR NATURE ENTHUSIASTS

Get back to nature with family and friends

You believe in the mission of your local watershed organization. You are probably a lifelong learner and nature enthusiast. This new series of programs will run the third Thursday of every month and is designed exclusively for members of the Brandywine and Red Clay Valley Associations. Most programs are geared to teens and adults but some are appropriate for families with children over six.

 = Family Friendly Program

September 18th – Night Hike

7:00-8:30 PM

You hike the Myrick Conservation Center by day, but do you know what it looks like and sounds like by night? Experience the wondrous sights and sounds of twilight with a knowledgeable naturalist. Bring a flashlight.

October 16th – Fall Tree Identification

6:30-8:00 PM

The best way to learn your trees is to go out with a field guide and someone who knows trees better than you! Learn how to use a field guide, basic plant vocabulary and then use bark, twigs and leaves to help you identify the trees that display those spectacular fall colors.

November 20th – Natural Wreaths and Ornaments

6:30-8:30 PM

Prepare your home for the holiday season while spending time socializing with your neighbors. You will go on a short walk to collect natural materials to supplement any supplies you would like to bring from home. Also, you can bring your own glue gun, tacky glue, and any shapes, forms, grapevine wreaths or other items you would like to decorate. Some natural materials, glue and demonstration projects will be provided.

Payment and registration are required by the Monday before your program. Children 12 years old or under are free and must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$5.00 for adults. Parking is on the office side of the property. Meet at the Browning Barn.





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Climate Change and Water Resources of the Brandywine Watershed

At its June meeting the BVA Board adopted the following position statement which addresses the impact of potential climate change on the water resources of the Brandywine Watershed. The statement is intended to present actions BVA can take in our watershed and not the broader issue of climate change itself.

There is increasing scientific evidence that our climate is changing. Scientists forecast that greenhouse gases will cause average temperatures to rise further by a few degrees Fahrenheit over the next several decades. Winters may be warmer and shorter and summers hotter with increased frequency of extremely hot days. More high intensity rainstorms are likely to be experienced, continuing what has been happening during recent years.

The increased likelihood of damaging rainstorms will increase the magnitude of surface run-off and cause higher stream flows accentuating stream bank erosion. Storm water management becomes even more critical in such situations. Because warming temperatures are likely to increase evaporative water loss in between storm events, it also becomes more important to ensure that rainfall can recharge ground water and not be lost in surface runoff. Maintaining ground water levels is necessary to ensure stream flow during dry periods.

Expected increases in surface runoff and the depletion of ground water associated with climate change will exacerbate trends already being felt from changing population density and land use. The population of Chester County is expected to increase by a further 85,000 residents by 2020. More people will require more water, particularly during the hotter summers. More impervious surface from roads, car parks, driveways and compacted soils around homes usually results in more surface runoff of rainfall.

What is the Brandywine Valley Association doing about all this?

The Brandywine Valley Association is committed to addressing any impact on our water resources, including the potential impacts of climate change, so as to maintain our streams and wildlife and ensure that there are adequate water supplies for future generations. The following highlight some of BVA's efforts:

- The BVA has been involved in conserving our Brandywine Creek watershed since 1945, promoting management practices for land use that reduce surface runoff and allow rainfall to penetrate the soil and recharge the ground water.
- Long term planning has been a major emphasis to ensure that large reservoirs such as Marsh Creek on the East Branch and Rock Run on the West Branch were constructed to provide flood control and critical water storage for periods of extended drought.
- BVA staff have provided technical support to municipalities to help them plan and deal with storm water management.
- Our Red Streams Blue program is aimed at reducing the effects of storm water runoff and restoring streams so that water quality meets state standards.
- Educational programs for schools, children and adults by BVA staff cover a wide range of subjects so that our citizens have an understanding of the critical role of water in maintaining a sustainable environment in our watershed.
- The BVA collaborates with the Chester County Water Resources Authority, Chester County Conservation District, the 45 municipalities in our watershed and many other organizations to protect and enhance the water quality of the Brandywine Creek.