

Volume LXIII No. 4
November 2008

Watershed NEWS

BVA Leadership

OFFICERS

- Duncan Allison
President
- Frederick Smith
President Elect
- Brenton R. Grant, III
Vice President
- Josephine Parman
Secretary
- Tom Varley
Treasurer

STAFF

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

Annual Meeting Highlights

BVA's 63rd Annual Meeting featured awards for watershed conservation and environmental education and practical advice for improving our home landscapes. For the first time in 18 years the Clayton M. Hoff Conservation Award was presented to Dan Greig, Manager of the Chester County Conservation District. In making the presentation, BVA President Duncan Allison noted Dan's 30 years of service with the Conservation District. Many of his initiatives have improved the operation of the District as well as its effectiveness in the Brandywine Watershed and throughout Chester County. Dan's work with the mushroom farmers, the home builder's associations, and with county and state organizations has helped to make the Chester County Conservation District a model for other districts in the state and beyond.



Clayton M. Hoff Conservation Award recipient Dan Greig (center) with BVA President Duncan Allison (right) and BVA Executive Director Bob Struble

Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority also recognized the accomplishments of Terri James and presented her with a \$500 check for her work.

The evening's keynote address was given by Dr. Doug Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware. He spoke on the subject of "Increasing the Carrying Capacity of your Property." His presentation described the relationship between native plants and insects and how the increase in invasive plants has changed the insect population and the species that depend on these insects. Dr. Tallamy's message was that planting native landscape material will attract a more diverse population of insects, birds and mammals and will create a more sustainable landscape for our homes and our watershed.

In other business, BVA President Duncan Allison noted the achievements of BVA over the past year, cited the Polar Plunge as BVA's newest event and reported to the members and guests that the Capital Campaign has exceeded the \$2.1 million level toward the goal of \$3.2 million. Treasurer Tom Varley reported on the financial condition of the Association, noting that 2007 income had exceeded expenses and that in 2008 additional funds were added to the endowment as well as creating two new endowed funds. Members also elected two new board members: Mark Heavener and Grier Wakefield. Reelected were current directors: Ray Ajalli, William Gotwals, Josephine Parman, Frederick Smith and James Fava. Executive Director Bob Struble reported on major BVA activities including the Red Streams Blue Program and improvements at the Myrick Center.

Two environmental education awards were presented by BVA Education Director Giselle Cosentino. She recognized Joanna Fox as the Environmental Instructor of the Year for her enthusiasm and unending desire to learn new things. Terri James, a teacher at Westtown Friends School, was selected as the Environmental Teacher of the Year for her love of using the outdoor classroom. The



BVA Education Director Giselle Cosentino (left) with Teacher of the Year Terri James.



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BVA NEW MEMBERS

- Ms. Edith Hollister
- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Blomer
- Mr. & Mrs. Bernadette & Bill Brown
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian J. Coons
- Mr. and Mrs. Stacey Cunningham
- Ms. Lisa J. D'Andrea
- Judy Bennett & David Eccles
- Ms. Anne Debenham
- Ms. Laura C. Deckman
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Dieschbourg
- Mr. Thomas M. Evans
- Mr. & Mrs. Wilhelmus C. Groenhuyens
- Mr. Mark Heavener
- Ms. Deneen Heffernan
- Mr. Baker & Mr. French
- Mr. & Mrs. James K. Leader
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. May
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Newcomb
- Ms. Tiffany Peterson
- Dr. & Mrs. Charles Potter
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul V. Tebo
- Mr. & Mrs. Guillermo Tellez
- Mr. & Mrs. F. Grier Wakefield
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Walkup

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Thursdays (Wreath, Ornaments)

Thursday, November 20th

Holiday Open House

Friday, December 12th

3rd Thursdays (Gift Wrapping)

Thursday, December 18th

3rd Thursdays (Family Stargazing)

Thursday, January 15th

2nd Annual Polar Plunge

Saturday, February 7th

3rd Thur. (Climate Change/Renewables)

Thursday, February 19th

3rd Thursdays (Maple Sugaring)

Thursday, March 19th

BVA WISH LIST

- New/slightly 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
- New/lightly used children's nature books, featuring local plants & animals only please
- Empty coffee cans with lids

Make a Difference with Meaningful Gifts this Holiday Season

Do you get tired of trips to the mall and wading through holiday catalogs in search for the perfect gift? Instead of giving conventional gifts this holiday season, why not make a donation in your loved one's name to a worthy cause?

This holiday season you can make a

donation to BVA in honor or in memory of someone you love. A tasteful acknowledgment of your honorary contribution will then be mailed to the individual or family. Your gift will support vital watershed education, important marketing and communication efforts and property management needs that would otherwise go unfunded.

A gift envelope has been enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.



Leadership participation in annual giving is now recognized by The Headwaters Society to salute donors who contribute \$2,500 or more in a single fiscal year, Jan 1 to Dec 31.

Turn Losing Stocks into a Winning Situation for BVA

-Liquidate stock assets for the most valuable liquid asset- the Brandywine Watershed!

Enjoy the benefits of making a charitable contribution with a gift of stock. Traditionally, gifts of stock have been made using appreciated securities. However, there are advantages to donating depreciated stock as well.

Depreciated Stock

When the market takes a downturn, there are advantages to using stock proceeds as a gift to BVA. If for one reason or another it makes sense to sell a stock and it is beneficial to show a loss for income tax purposes, sell the stock yourself to realize the loss. You can then receive additional tax benefit by generating a charitable contribution tax deduction through the donation of the cash proceeds of the sale to BVA. Making a Gift

Electronic transfer is the easiest and fastest

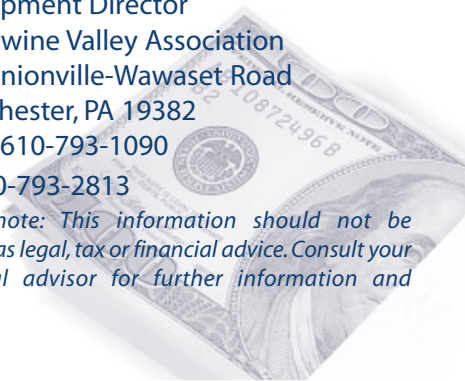
way to transfer stock proceeds or stock to BVA. Please contact Cynthia Loveland at 610-793-1090 or email cloveland@bva-rcva.org for transfer instructions and your broker can complete the transaction. You can even have your broker make the call for you! Once your broker processes the request, the transfer is instantaneous.

Contact Information

In order for BVA to properly credit your contribution, it is best for you or your broker to send a written notice of the transfer to:

Cynthia Loveland,
Development Director
Brandywine Valley Association
1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382
Phone 610-793-1090
Fax 610-793-2813

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



COMPLETE SUCCESS!
 4th Annual Volunteer Work Day

On September 27th 118 volunteers turned out for the 4th Annual Volunteer Work Day at our Myrick Conservation Center. The volunteers were comprised of neighbors, members, scouts, school groups and partners from the Starbucks Coffee Company. Some came with tractors, others with chain saws or garden tools; all came with a good work ethic and great enthusiasm that was not dampened by somewhat drizzly weather. They completed 18 different projects including native tree planting, invasive removal, mulching, gardening, painting and a litter pick-up.

Over 15 members from the West Chester Garden Club came out to lead efforts to completely redesign and plant our flowerbeds at the entrance to our office. These beds will serve as a focal point to all who visit our headquarters next spring and summer.

A special thanks to our friends at the Starbucks Coffee Company who supplied many volunteers, hot coffee and breakfast treats and also the funds to purchase many of the materials that were used that day. Also, thanks to all of our volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning to contribute their time and talent to make this day a success.

CAMPAIGN *Makes a Splash!*
 IN DELAWARE

Campaign volunteers and organizers are making their way up and down the Brandywine to spread the word about the Make a Splash campaign to raise \$3.2 Million. Led by co-chairs Bunny Meister and Sandy Retzlaff, volunteers have raised over \$2.1 Million and are currently planning for outreach throughout the watershed in 2009. If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please call Cynthia Loveland at 610-793-1090 or email cloveland@bva-rcva.org.



Photo taken at a recent campaign event hosted in Wilmington, DE. Chris Patterson, BVA Board Member & Campaign Committee Member (Left), joins hosts Brock and Yvonne Vinton (Center), and Jamie O'Rourke (Right).

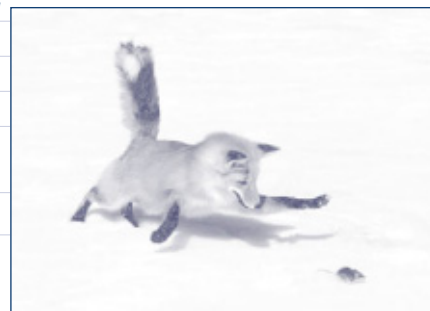
Nature's Notes

Where did all the frogs and turtles go?

The plants and animals of the surrounding watershed have turned in for winter and the leaves are falling to the ground to blanket the landscape in the cooler weather. But where do all of the animals go in winter? Many of them hibernate, or sleep for much of the winter. Animals hibernate so that they can save energy during the winter when food is hard to find. Frogs, turtles, salamanders, and snakes will usually bury themselves deep in the mud along the Creek for their winter home. Some birds, like Canada Geese, will fly hundreds of miles during their annual migration in order to find food during the winter. Other animals, like deer and foxes have special adaptations, or characteristics, like thick fur, that allow them to stay active during cold winter months. Can you think of an adaptation? If so, I'd love to hear from you! Send your answer to water@bva-rcva.org and write *Animals in the subject line*.

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

*Your Friend,
 Red Fox Hunting
 in the Snow*



**Help Spread our Work:
 Is Watershed Education
 in Your School?**

Once the locust leaves begin to blanket the ground near the office we know that the property will be getting quiet again. This fall, we taught hundreds of local school children about the Lenape Indians, how to work as part of a team, and some of the outstanding functions of wetlands. Our students leave us with a positive experience in nature and are more likely to retain what they've learned! Teachers love to bring their students to us!

This is what they are saying about our work:

"The facilities are absolutely beautiful and interesting and it is great to see kids interacting with and learning about nature and relationships." -Teacher at St. Maximillian Kolbe School

"I was very pleased with the entire process- from registration,

email communication and the delivery of the program. Well done!" -Teacher at Unionville Elementary School

"We reviewed in [the] classroom in [the] p.m. [I was] surprised how much they remembered!" -Teacher at West Bradford Elementary School following a program at Broad Run Park.

Does your child or grandchild participate in our school programs? If not, please help spread the word about our work! We can conduct programs at the Myrick Conservation Center, other local natural areas or even onsite at a school.

If you know a teacher who would appreciate our hands-on style of education please have her/him contact **Emily or Giselle at 610-793-1090**.

Thanks for helping us continue our good work in the watershed!

-Giselle Cosentino, Education Director



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SAVE THE DATE

Brandywine Valley Association

Polar Plunge

Save the Date
Sat, Feb 7, 2009

Register Online in December
www.brandywinewatershed.org



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

The hills came alive with the sound of music at the Myrick Conservation Center for the third annual Jam on the Brandywine held on September 22nd. Six bands, including Montana Wildaxe and The Cameltones, performed for over 760 people to raise nearly \$13,000!

Generous sponsorship was provided by Victory Brewing Company, Starbucks Coffee Company, Acorn Capital Management, LLC, Aztec Copies, Brandywine Valley Life, Carl Doubet Jr. Jewelers, Cass & Company, The Hogan Firm, Gateway Funding, Northbrook Canoe Company, The North Face, McComsey Builders, Inc., McGovern, Inc., Meadow Springs Farm, Regester Associates, Inc., Roosevelt Dairy Trade, Victory Brewing Company and West Chester Scoop.

Upgraded Website Debuts

If you have not looked at BVA's website recently please checkout the new and improved site: www.brandywinewatershed.org. There are many new features on the site including the Red Streams Blue Program, the ability to renew your membership or join online, many new educational resources and a list of current and upcoming activities.