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Watershed NEWS

BVA *Leadership*

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Red Streams Blue Coordinators

Red Streams Blue Receives Project Funding

With four restoration plans now complete in Plum Run, Radley Run, Valley Run and Little Buck Run, the next stage in BVA's innovative Red Streams Blue Program is to begin restoration projects. In a recent round of grants through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program, BVA received a grant of \$95,000 to fund a restoration project in Radley Run and the Chester County Conservation District received \$141,000 to begin restoration programs in Plum Run.

The Radley Run project will involve a stream restoration in Thornbury Township along the upper portion of Radley Run. The Plum Run grant is the beginning of a long-term watershed renaissance initiative that will eventually have a total investment of over \$1 Million. Projects will include stream restoration as well as stream corridor improvements and stormwater management projects. Also anticipated in Plum Run is a rain barrel program in the upper portion of the watershed to address stormwater from the heavily urbanized portion of Plum Run.

In addition to these grants, funding is being requested for projects in Little Buck Run and Valley Run. A project is under



Cross vanes will be one technique used to restore impaired streams

design in the upper portion of Doe Run which will restore a section of that stream impacted by severe streambank erosion.

Additional funding requests have also been submitted to begin education programs for landowners in the project areas, a critical step in the process. To date nearly \$600,000 has been raised for the Red Streams Blue Program. This program is part of BVA's effort to further improve quality in the Brandywine Creek. It is a model not only for the Brandywine Watershed but also for many other watershed organizations working to improve water quality.



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BVA NEW MEMBERS

- Harper Meek and Kristine M. Bartosial
- Mr. and Mrs. James W. Ash
- Mrs. Christine Bennett
- Mr. Eric Burling
- Mr. and Mrs. Douglas R Corrigan
- Mr. and Mrs. Craig W. Cullen
- Ms. Michele Dunleavy
- Mr. and Mrs Joseph Francis, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark D Goossen
- Ms. Alexandra Hills
- Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Andrea Hoover
- Tom Kenny and Janet Marklund
- Ms. Paige King
- Ms. Diana Lorine
- Ms. Pamela Nagy
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Jill Nugent
- Ms. Christy Rydel
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven G. Simms
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Walsh

BVA WISH LIST

- New/lightly used plastic bins with lids (20-30 gallon sizes)
- New/lightly used children's nature books, featuring local plants & animals only please
- Used maple sugaring equipment – spiles, evaporating pan, materials for display & to use
- Small suitcase on wheels
- Portable CD player Boombox
- Old Tennis balls

No-Till Farming: A Win-Win for Farmers & Watershed

Have you seen any plowed fields recently? No, farming has not been disappearing from Chester County. Farmers have been practicing conservation tillage, mainly no-tillage. This means that they do not plow or till the soil. Any weeds at the time of planting are killed off by a contact herbicide with no residual activity. Special planters cut through the soil surface and place the seed at the right depth. After harvesting the crop, the plant residue is left on the soil surface.

The process of plowing and tilling the soil reduces the carbon content and organic matter, and soil structure slowly declines.



No till planted corn growing through a cover crop mulch

No-till maintains organic carbon and improves soil structure. Soil with more organic matter and surface residue is more stable and not eroded so readily, will not crust, and allows better infiltration of rainfall.

The increasing use of conservation tillage was mostly responsible for the 43% reduction

in soil erosion nationally between 1982 and 2003. Since sediment is the number one pollutant in the Brandywine, further adoption of no-till and conservation tillage will help to reduce sedimentation together with riparian buffers and stream bank restoration projects. Through the Red Streams Blue Program, BVA has made a horse drawn no-till corn planter available to Amish farmers in the Watershed.

Farmers have been finding that no-till can reduce their costs in addition to improving soil structure and reducing soil erosion. Labor input is reduced and carbon dioxide emissions avoided. No-till is a win-win for the environment and for the financial bottom line of the farm.

At present no-till is practiced on just over 50% of field crops in our region. It is expected that within the next few years 80-90% of fields will be no-tilled. Farmers know full well that they must maintain the full productive capacity of the wonderful soils that characterize so much of the Brandywine Valley – for the next crop and to ensure optimal cropping potential for future generations of farmers.

Duncan Allison,
President
BVA Board

Large Equipment Building Nears Completion

Thanks to the generosity of BVA supporters, the Myrick Conservation Center welcomed a new addition this spring! Our new large equipment storage building will house new property maintenance equipment and provide indoor workspace for staff and volunteers. The historic Browning Barn will then be freed from storing maintenance equipment to provide productive and ample space for our education programs.

As a part of BVA's Make a Splash campaign, this new expansion marks the beginning of a three phase capital enhancement project. Planning for barn improvements have already begun with implementation expected to start this fall. Then, much needed office renovations will provide staff with a more efficient work environment and also include the addition of a centrally located kiosk to welcome visitors to our Center.

With leadership provided by Campaign Co-

Chairs Bunny Meister and Sandy Retzlaff, BVA volunteers and staff have secured over \$2.24 Million in gifts and pledges from generous foundations, corporations, governmental grants and individual community members. To get involved or receive more information on how BVA will protect our water for future generations, please contact Cynthia Jaros, Development Director, at 610-793-1090 or email cjaros@bva-rcva.org.



New Equipment Building will house tractors, mowers, and other maintenance equipment

SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS ARE STILL OPEN! CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY AND REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BRANDYWINEWATERSHED.ORG!

Exciting Summer Opportunities for Teens, Ages 13-15

Yes, summer schedules fill quickly, but some things are worth squeezing into the schedule! The BVA is offering teens three weeks of programs that will enhance a resume and build unique personal knowledge.

Basic Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT for the Outdoors) is a two week experience for teens who love the outdoors or are considering a career in environmental sciences and/or working with children. Skill building will focus on team work, canoeing and working with children. An overnight camping trip concludes the first week. During the second week these leaders will work directly with eight and nine year olds, leading by example and teaching future stewards how to do the same. Teens who participate in this program, which runs July 6-10 and July 13-17, will receive a certificate of completion. The cost for the two week program is \$595 for BVA members.

Please visit www.brandywinewatershed.org for complete summer camp information.



Wildflowers

With warm weather and soaking rains, the wildflowers are in full bloom. Each spring, native wildflowers emerge from the warmed soils and grow their stalks, buds, leaves and colorful petals. Some wildflowers grow from the seeds that fell into the soil from the year before and others grow from their roots or on branches of trees and shrubs. They need sun and sometimes shade, along with nutrients in the soil and a lot of rain. There are many different types of these wildflowers in the watershed, of all colors and shapes that you may see on a short walk in the woods or fields. One flower that grows on an evergreen shrub is Mountain Laurel, found mostly in higher elevations. Look for its shiny green leaves and small pinkish-white, cup-like flowers. Remember that wildflowers grow not just for our enjoyment and delight, but also to feed wild animals and insects like the pollinating bees that help our gardens and other flowers to grow. So, when you see a flower growing in a wild area, be sure to stop and take a closer look at the way it grows, and count the petals, or check if it has a flowery scent. Observe these flowers in their natural habitat for all to enjoy!

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

*Your Friend,
Eastern Bluebird
enjoying warm weather*



Brandywine Clean-Up

A beautiful spring day welcomed more than 150 volunteers from local businesses and community groups for the Annual Brandywine Creek Clean-up on April 25th. The volunteers removed over four tons of trash and 65 tires from 25 miles of the Brandywine Creek. Thirty-six employees from the ArcelorMittal Steel plant participated for the third year. They removed 3,480 pounds of trash as well as scrap steel which was recycled for use in their mill. The company also provided generous sponsorship of this event.

Other sponsors for the clean-up included Aqua Pennsylvania and Starbucks Coffee Company. Volunteers came from Boy Scout Troop 52 in Downingtown, Venture Crew 543 in West Chester, Allied Waste which also provided dumpsters, and students from West Chester Henderson Ecology Club and the Kennett and Unionville Chadds Ford High Schools.

The Clean-up was also generously supported by Northbrook Canoe Company and Brandywine Outfitters which provided canoes. Hickory House Caterers provided lunch for the volunteers and the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority accepted the waste.



Volunteers from ArcelorMittal clean the West Branch at Coatesville



Brandywine Valley Association
1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Unionville, PA
Permit No. 15



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Music Series
Thursdays-June 25th thru August 13th

JAM on the Brandywine
September 19th

Volunteer Work Day
September 26th

6th Annual Golf Outing
October 19th

Benefiting BVA with Your Home Sale

Thinking of selling your home? The Legacy Property Fund is a tax advantaged technique for generating charitable gifts from the sale of your property...any property. It's a way to boost individual gifts to worthy charities like BVA at no cost to you. When anyone is selling property, they can create tax benefits for themselves and redirect the savings to public charities of their choice. The savings typically range from 3 - 5% of the sales price (\$30,000 - \$50,000 on a \$1 million sale). BVA is partnering with Keystone Conservation Trust, who manages the Legacy Property Fund, to raise funds for our mission. For more information contact the BVA Office.

Brandywine Hills Point to Point

For the first time in recent memory beautiful weather welcomed the more than 1,000 spectators to the 67th running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point races on Sunday April 5th. Radnor Hunt Foxhunters were the presenting sponsor and were also well represented among the spectators. The races were all competitive and included, for the first time, a Lead Line Pony Race. This race was so popular that two heats were required to accommodate all the entries.

The event also included parading of the hounds by the Radnor Foxhunt and stick pony races for the children. The Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point is the biggest event for BVA and the proceeds help to support the

Association's watershed conservation and education program.

*Father and
Son compete in
Leadline Pony
Race*

