



Volume LXIV No. 1
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WatershedNEWS

BVA *Leadership*

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Polar Plunge Was a Huge Success

Over 560 people joined BVA for the 2nd Annual Brandywine Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 7th and together raised over \$17,000. A total of 196 brave plungers registered to jump into the icy waters of the Brandywine Creek (registering 33 degrees Fahrenheit) and helped BVA promote awareness of our conservation efforts in the watershed.

This unique event doubled in size in its second year due to its popularity and appeal to all ages!

Golden Plunger Award Winners

Individual Fundraiser: Tim Still, T & T Home Repair, Unionville, PA
Team Fundraiser: The Unionville High School Interact/Longwood Rotary Team
Largest Team: Kennett High School Earth Club with 24 members

Best Costume:

1st Place	The Brandywine Babes
2nd Place	The Love Bugs
3rd Place	The Snowmen

Honorable mention goes to the following for their enthusiastic spirit and adept fundraising skill: Jon Sanville, Kennett High School Earth Club, April Filiavit, The Snowmen, Aztec Printing, John Hodges of Embreeville Mill, Derek Stoner and The Young Waterfowlers.

Special thanks to all of our volunteers who worked on this event and for stand-by services provided by Fame Fire Company Water Rescue

Team and Good Fellowship Ambulance Club. Generous support for this event was provided by Acorn Capital Management, Aztec Printing, Brandywine Valley Heating and



196 plungers test the 33 degree Brandywine water

Air Conditioning, Brandywine Picnic Park, Chadds Ford Fireside Shop, Delaware Valley Concrete, Landmark Automotive Services, Unionville High School Interact with Longwood Rotary Club, The North Face, Register Associates, Inc., Sylvan Stoltzfus Builders, T & T Still Home Repair, Trail Creek Outfitters, Tikaro Interactive, Starbucks Coffee Company and West Chester Men's Service Club.

BVA NEW MEMBERS

- Ms. Eileen K. Beck & family
- Ms. Judith Bullitt
- Ms. Elisa Burger
- Mr. Philip Calabrese
- Mr. Edward Camelli
- Mr. & Mrs. Warren Ingersoll Claytor
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry J. Conway
- Mr. John R. Cornwell
- Ms. Emily Cost
- Rafael & Tamara Costa
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Doyle, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Doug Engler
- M. J. & C. I. Faulkner
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gansky
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Haenn
- Ms. Barbara Allen Hill
- Mr. & Mrs. A Dunham Hollister, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holliday
- Mrs. Hedvika L. Knoth
- Ms. Anna Kreuzberger
- Ms. Janice E. Kuehn
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth K. Kuzman
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Labroli
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lyons
- Mr. Robert T. Mantell
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. McKenna
- Mr. Richard Mitchell
- Mr. William O'Neill
- Mr. & Mrs. Brent Passarello
- Mr. & Mrs. William S. Schriver
- Ms. Edith Sylvester
- Mr. & Mrs. Marc Tecce
- Mr. & Mrs. James Tornetta
- Dr., Susan B. Ward
- Mr. David J. Werkiser

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 (20-30 gallon sizes)
- New/lightly used aquarium nets, pond nets, insect nets
- 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
- Digital Cameras – minimum resolution of 6 mega pixels
- Binoculars, new or lightly used
- Small suitcase on wheels
- Stethoscope

Management Realigns to Better Serve our Watershed Community

BVA is pleased to announce a realignment of staff leadership.

For the last 33 years, Bob Struble diligently led BVA, and is now eager to focus on Red Streams Blue and other conservation efforts in the watershed. In his new position as Watershed Conservation Director, Bob will have the opportunity to conduct more speaking engagements and to concentrate on the growing challenges of conservation in our watershed.

Bob's steadfast dedication has grown this organization from a three-person office located in West Chester in 1976 to its present location at the scenic 318 acre Myrick Conservation Center. Our center is staffed by seven full time employees, two part time Red Streams Blue Coordinators and over thirty part time Environmental Instructors serving over 10,000 school children annually.

Jim Jordan, who previously served as the Managing Director since 2003, has been asked by the Board to be the Executive Director and will be responsible for overall operations of both BVA and RCVA. Prior to joining the staff at BVA, Jim served on the RCVA board for 13 years and was board president for two years. Jim has over twenty years experience with the NVF Company as Environmental Manager and Agency Liaison. An avid outdoorsman, Jim has been recognized for his leadership in community service and conservation issues.

BVA is excited to have a full time professional dedicated solely to watershed conservation. Both Jim and Bob look forward to expanding BVA's leadership role in watershed conservation and education.

NEW BUILDING TO ENHANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE WATERSHED

Staff are preparing for a new addition to the Myrick Conservation Center. As part of BVA's Make a Splash campaign, a new equipment building is now under construction. Large equipment including our tractors and work truck will soon be stored in the new building to free up much needed space for our environmental instructors and education program supplies. The new building will also provide workspace for facility projects needed to maintain the 318 acre property.

To date, BVA has secured over \$2.23 million in gifts and pledges from generous foundations and individual community members. To volunteer or receive more information about BVA's Make a Splash Campaign, please contact Cynthia Jaros, Development Director, at 610-793-1090 or email cjaros@bva-rcva.org.



Dick Vermeil, Honorary Chairman, is joined by BVA staff and Make a Splash Co-Chairs Sandra Retzlaff (second from left) and Bunny Meister (second from right).

SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS FILL QUICKLY! REGISTER ONLINE TODAY AT WWW.BRANDYWINEWATERSHED.ORG!

Summer Camp Scholarships are available! Call 610-793-1090 for an application.

Register your Classroom/Group for Spring Programs Today

We offer an exciting variety of environmental education programs for ages 4-18.

Topics include:

- * Watersheds and Wetlands
- * Lenape Lore
- * Stream Study by Canoe
- * Habitats and Ecosystems
- * Integrated Pest Management
- * And much more!

Programs run at the Myrick Conservation Center or can be conducted at your school. Call us for details! Teachers and group leaders can register today for programs by contacting Emily at 610-793-1090.



SUMMER CAMP
Education

What's the Story on Migrating Song Birds?

Soon, you may notice that the Canada Geese, who flew south to find food during the winter, will be returning. You may also have observed the big appetites of the birds at your backyard birdfeeder or in the fields and woods around your school or home. These birds are filling up on grains and seeds for the winter. Their task is important, as they must survive the cold temperatures so that they can build a nest in time for spring. They are the future parents of the clutch of eggs that will hatch when the weather warms.

If you have a backyard bird feeder, try watching the birds

for a few minutes. Can you explain why they do what they do? Is one bird, or one type of bird, eating more than the others? Do the birds fly to the trees when a squirrel or cat stops by? You can also visit the Myrick



Conservation Center and see the bird feeder behind the office building, the crows and hawks in the fields, and the song birds in the woods. If you have a great bird story, we'd love to hear from you! Send your story to water@bva-rcva.org and write *Birds* in the subject line.

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

*Your Friendly,
Eastern Bluebird at
the Feeder with Friends*

Family Nature Day with BVA

Sunday, May 17th 11:00 – 2:00 PM

Kick off BVA's Yearlong Family Green Hour Challenge by spending the afternoon outdoors exploring the beautiful Myrick Conservation Center. Activities may include:

- Lenape Village Tours
- Guided Bird Walks
- Pond Explorations
- Edible Plant Walk
- Nature Games
- Bug Adventures
- Myrick Center Quest
- Orienteering

All ages welcome! Bring a kite to fly, a ball or Frisbee to throw and a picnic lunch. Come for all or part of the day. The Myrick Center will be closed to dogs during this time.

\$4/adults, \$2/children ages 5 up, children under 5 are FREE.

Family Green Hour Challenge – Learn more at www.brandywinewatershed.org!



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

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point Races
Sunday, April 5th

3rd Thursdays (Spring Greening)
Thursday, April 16th

Brandywine Creek Clean-up
Saturday, April 25th

3rd Thursdays (Family Fishing)
Thursday, May 21st

SAVE THE DATE

09

Brandywine Hills Point to Point



*Rider takes the last fence in the Brandywine Hills
Point to Point, to be held on April 5th
starting at noon.*