

Volume LXV No. 3
December 2009

Watershed NEWS

Building a Better Tomorrow Today

Help BVA Rise to the Challenge!

BVA has received an anonymous challenge gift of \$10,000! Your contribution will help us rise to this challenge and will be matched dollar for dollar. Make your contribution go even further by having your employer match your gift to BVA at no additional cost to you. Dollars raised toward our \$34,000 campaign goal will provide essential support for watershed conservation and education initiatives.

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

Dear BVA Members and Friends,

In a world that's taking surprising turns, you can rely on BVA to conserve and protect the Brandywine Creek Watershed.

Please join us and make a gift of certainty in these uncertain times with a contribution to this year's Outlook Campaign. Your generosity will help us bridge the gap between day-to-day operational expenses and the programs required to protect our watershed.

Now more than ever, BVA relies on your support during these challenging times.

Your unrestricted contribution goes directly to BVA's bottom line. The contributions you make from year to year sustain and support the stewardship of our watershed.

Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for your continued support.

Duncan Allison
President

Frederick J. Smith
President Elect

PS: Thank you if you have already sent your contribution to us.

BVA *Leadership*

OFFICERS

Duncan Allison
President

Frederick Smith
President Elect

Brenton R. Grant, III
Vice President

Josephine Parman
Secretary

Tom Varley
Treasurer

STAFF

James E. Jordan, Jr.
Executive Director

Robert Struble Jr.
Watershed Conservation Director

Giselle Cosentino
Education Director

Cynthia Jaros
Development Director

Emily Cost
Education Program Coordinator

Betsy Stefferud
Administrative Assistant

Art Taylor
Maintenance Technician

Kathy Bergmann
Jane Fava

Red Streams Blue Coordinators



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water@bva-rcva.org
www.brandywinewatershed.org

BVA NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Josh Boughner
 Mr. Wesley Bowers
 Mrs. Valerie J. Bozzone
 Ms. Jenny Cassidy
 Ms. Carolyn Conwell
 Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cooke
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Hutchinson
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Kunkle
 Mr. Mason Noble
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Oksala
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Latta

Chester County Astronomical Society

Date	Cloud Date
12/18/09	12/19/09
01/15/10	01/16/10
02/12/10	02/13/10
03/12/10	03/13/10

Jam on the Brandywine

Over 1,000 people attended the Jam music concert to net nearly \$22,000 for our watershed organization. Generous support was provided by Sylvan Stoltzfus Builders and Southeastern Chester Co. Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Victory Brewing Company, Starbucks Coffee Company, AQUA PA, The Hogan Firm, The North Face, Superior Home Mortgage, Edward Powell Geothermal Division, Concordville Subaru, Out & About Magazine, Meadow Springs Farm, Morvent One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning, East of Maui Surf Shop, Secretariat, Chaddsford Winery, Aztec Copies, Brandywine Valley Life, Northbrook Canoe Company, McGovern, Inc. and Register Associates, Inc.

Busy Squirrels and Students in Fall

Like the squirrels busily caching their nuts this season, school students and instructors have been exploring the far corners of the Myrick Center. This fall, we had record numbers of students participating in our geology program which sheds new light on rocks and minerals and leads budding geologists to an actual corundum quarry on our property. We also had hundreds of students participate in our immersive program about the Lenape people. Students were seen touching furs and bones, throwing spears and corn darts and sitting in a teepee listening to a traditional Native American origin tale. A BVA program is unforgettable. There is no better way to learn than learning outdoors with our talented and experienced staff!

Does your (grand)child's class participate in a BVA / RCVA program? If not, help us spread the word! Give us a teacher's name and school and we'll send her/him a program brochure! Send an email to water@bva-rcva.org.

Environmental Instructors Needed

BVA is now accepting Environmental Instructor applications for the spring teaching season. Available positions are seasonal and part-time with most programs occurring during the school day. This is a great opportunity for retirees, substitute teachers or stay-at-home parents. Experience in science and working with children is preferred but not necessary. Visit www.brandywinewatershed.org for an application.



Lenape Lore

Teachers, don't forget to register today for your spring Environmental Education Programs. Call Emily at 610-793-1090. The early birds get the best dates!

Red Streams Blue Program Enters Construction Phase

With the completion of four Red Streams Blue plans, the program now shifts to several restoration projects within those plan areas. BVA, in partnership with the Chester County Conservation District, has recently received over \$660,000 in funding for specific 'Red Streams Blue' restoration projects. This funding came from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program and through Pennsylvania PennVest Program which also included funding from the federal stimulus program. This funding will help to support major stream restoration projects on the Plum Run, Radley Run, and Upper Doe Run.

On the Plum Run, the design and permitting is already underway and will include a section of the Plum Run in East Bradford Township beginning at Strode's Mill. In Radley Run, BVA is working with Brandywine at Thornbury Homeowners

Association to restore a 1,000 foot section of the Radley Run which run through the development's open space. In this case, the streambank will be sloped back to prevent further streambank erosion and will be planted with appropriate trees and shrubs.

Removal of legacy sediments is the third project on the upper part of the Doe Run. The site, located on a private residence, accumulated sediment behind a former mill dam which has since been breached. This will be the first legacy sediment restoration project in the Brandywine and should provide a model for other such projects.

You can follow the progress of the Red Streams Blue program including pictures of actual construction sites at BVA's website www.brandywinewatershed.org.

Annual Meeting

Friends and members gathered to celebrate BVA's 64 years of service in the Brandywine Creek Watershed for the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at Mendenhall Inn on October 22, 2009. Generously donated items were on display for bidding and generated nearly \$6,000 for the organization.

A highlight of the evening included the presentation of awards. Barbara Norris, from Uwchlan Hills Elementary School in Downingtown, was presented with BVA's Teacher of the Year award for her dedication to using the outdoor classroom and for interweaving environmental education and stewardship into her curriculum as often as possible. Ms. Norris teaches second through fifth graders in the Downingtown Educational Enrichment Program at the school. The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority also recognized Ms. Norris for outstanding work by presenting her with a \$500 check. Holly Merker was honored as Environmental Instructor of the Year. Holly is a local bird expert and gifted educator. She loves sharing the connection between all living things and the watershed on which they rely. We are thrilled to have these two outstanding educators teaching and sharing their talents in our watershed. An award was also presented to the Weller family of West Chester. Rose, Chris, John and Andrew have generously volunteered and supported the BVA in countless ways.

In other business BVA members elected seven new board members: Bill Brown, Dave Dorsett, Karin Dunlevy, Ellen Lake, Sandy Retzlaff and Jerry Schneider. Reelected were current directors: Marty Andrejko, Rob Grant, Tracy Schindler and Bruce West.

The evening concluded with Collin O'Mara, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DENREC) who was the keynote speaker. He spoke of his plans to reenergize the Department while carrying out Governor Markell's goal of sustainability and a thriving green economy in Delaware.

5th Annual Volunteer Day

Nearly eighty volunteers turned out for the 5th annual Volunteer Work Day on September 26th. The big projects of the day included moving into and painting our recently completed Resource Conservation Building and cleaning out of the historic Browning Barn. Other projects completed that day included planting over eighty trees, mulching, winterizing our vegetable and native plant gardens and restoring our native Lenape Indian Village.

To kick off the morning Starbucks Coffee Company graciously provided coffee, hot chocolate and other refreshments.

A special thanks to all of our friends who gave generously of their time and expertise that day.

Only Nuts and Seeds?

After fall rain and cold winds blow leaves from the trees and the weather turns chilly again, what is available for the animals to eat to help them survive the winter? Squirrels, which stay active all winter, will have hidden their fair share of nuts, acorns, and pinecones. When these nuts run out or the acorns begin to sprout, the squirrels take to the trees to eat the new spring buds.

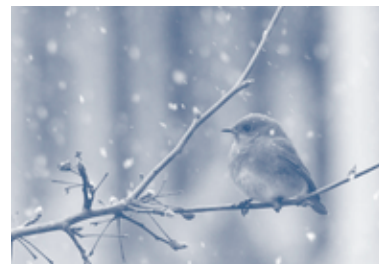
Foxes, both red and gray, also stay active all winter. They will hunt for moles, voles, birds, and rabbits, but what are these animals eating in the winter? Moles often store up their food of earthworms in their underground burrows. Voles will eat bark, seeds and pine needles. Birds, of course, will eat the seeds that are found from standing plants or from the feeders that we fill for them. The Eastern Cottontail Rabbit will eat just about any type of plant food that can be found, including buds, stems, vines, tree bark, the tips of shrubs, and even their own, already digested, pellets.

White tailed deer are also opportunists, and will eat almost any plants that they can find – even near your house or in your garden! They will also eat acorns, berries, corn, hay and mushrooms.

Whatever it takes to get through the winter, whether they're migrating, hibernating, or looking for food nearby, the animals have an important job that takes a lot of energy. We can help them by providing a water source, planting native trees and shrubs, and learning about what they need to survive.

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

*Your Friend,
Eastern Bluebird
Enjoying Warm
Weather*



RAIN BARRELS AVAILABLE

Brandywine Valley Association is making rain barrels available to members as part of our Red Streams Blue Program. The 50 gallon plastic barrels help control roof runoff by storing rainwater which can be used for washing cars, watering plants and other landscape needs. The barrels cost \$65.00 and come with all the parts and instructions needed for installation. We can even give you tips on painting and designs if you want to customize your barrel. Supplies are limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Please call 610-793-1090 for more information.

**BRANDYWINE VALLEY ASSOCIATION'S
POLAR PLUNGE SAVE THE DATE**
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010
REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.BRANDYWINEWATERSHED.ORG





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

Saturday, February 13th
Polar Plunge

Thursday, January 21st
Third Thursdays – Hatha Yoga

Thursday, February 18th
Third Thursdays – Maple Sugaring

Thursday, March 18th
Third Thursdays – Family Stargazing

Sunday, April 4th
Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point

2010

!!!SAVE THE DATE!!!

**68th Brandywine Hills
Point-to-Point Races
Sunday, April 4, 2010
(Easter Sunday)**

Plans are underway for the 68th running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point horse races at the Myrick Conservation Center. The Point-to-Point Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the planning of this family event, a Chester County tradition for 68 years. In addition volunteers are also needed the day of the races to help with set-up, parking, raffle ticket sales, children's activities, and program sales.

The Committee has lots planned for this Easter Sunday event. Bring the family, enjoy a day outdoors watching horse races and participate in the many family oriented activities we are planning. More details to follow in future newsletters and mailings.

If you are interested in helping with the Point-to-Point prior to the day of the races or on race day please contact the BVA Office at 610-793-1090 or email water@bva-rcva.org.