



## Creek Clean-up Shows Improvement

The good news from this year's annual Brandywine Creek Clean-up is a record low yield. Good news because it means that the clean-ups have been making a difference. With less trash collected each year, the volunteer clean-ups are having the impact intended.

In the early days of the clean-up more than 20 years ago, volunteers would regularly find car parts, discarded household items, bottles, cans, plastic containers as well as a variety of other items. In addition, several hundred tires were often part of the haul.

This year the collected trash amounted to less than a dumpster full for the 25 miles that were cleaned. In addition, only 30 tires were collected for recycling. The clean-up was sponsored by Arcelor Mittal and the United Steelworkers, PECO, Aqua Pennsylvania, and Penn American Water Company. Also supporting the clean-up were Northbrook Canoe Company, Hickory House Catering, Starbucks Coffee Company, Allied Waste and the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority. Over 150 volunteers took part in the clean-up which covered the east branch from Downingtown, the west branch from Coatesville and the main stem to Route 926. Volunteers came from Allied Waste, Sikorsky Global Helicopter, Westminster Presbyterian Church, QVC, Boy Scout Troop 52, Venture Crew 543, Henderson High School Ecology Club, and students from Kennett High School.



Two of the more than 150 volunteers recover trash from the Brandywine.

## Brandywine Hill Point-to-Point

The 68th running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point was held on a picture perfect Easter Sunday. This steeplechase event featured four main races, two pony races, and a leadline pony race. In addition to these regular features, activities for the children included stick pony races, Easter egg hunt complete with the Easter Bunny, and education programs presented by BVA's Environmental Instructors. Radnor Hunt Foxhunters was the presenting sponsor with individual races sponsored by James Cochrane Real Estate, Capital & Security Management, Farr Healey Consulting LLC, J. Clifton Edgar, Hickory House Catering, and the Hickman Family. The three mile, 16 jump course provided exciting races for many horses that later compete in the Maryland Hunt Cup and other major steeplechase events. The Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point is BVA's biggest event and helps to support the year round programs in watershed conservation and education.



Mimi Herr on Ninja Scout en route to a win in the Leadline Pony Race at the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point.

## The Mysteries of Mushrooms...

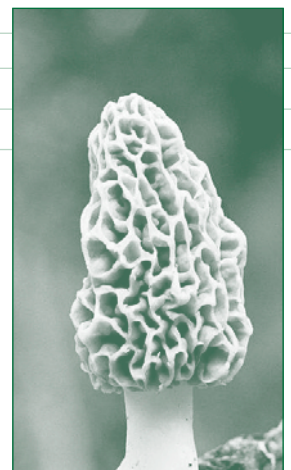
This summer when you're hiking through the woods on vacation or at the Myrick Conservation Center during your neighborhood "staycation," keep an eye out for both the hidden and the showy wild mushrooms. We know this region is a treasured spot for culinary mushrooms grown around the greater Kennett area, but there are also a lot of half-buried treasures growing all around us in nature! Starting in the early spring, the elusive Morel brings mushroom hunters out of their winter hibernation with the fervor of a hungry black bear. Stalking these edible fungi – as well as any mushroom – is a good reason to always use at least three well-researched local field guides, complete with photographs of the mushrooms that you are hoping to identify. (Never try tasting a wild mushroom, or eating any wild food, unless you are with an adult who is absolutely sure of wild food identification.)

If you'd like to try your hand at being a Mycologist, or mushroom scientist, some fun activities to try on your own include learning to recognize mushrooms by their odor, color, habitat and season. You can also try to identify mushrooms by making a spore print. When you find more than one type of the same mushroom, cut the cap of one from the stem and set it "gill-side-down" on a piece of paper overnight. The next day, take a look at the print that is left from the dust-like spores of the mushroom, their color and pattern will help you with the mushroom's identity.

One mushroom colony in Oregon, connected by underground mycelium (thread-like tubes), is estimated to be around 2,400 years old, covering an area of about 2,200 acres! Remember that fungus is important to decaying trees and rotten matter, helping it to decompose into rich, organic forest soils. This nutrient-filled soil is the basis of our healthy forests, which in turn creates the important wooded buffer needed for the water quality of the creeks and tributaries in our Watershed.

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

*Your Friend,  
Hellgrammite Hiding Under a Rock  
in the Stream*



## Third Thursdays for Nature Enthusiasts

Members and nonmembers are invited to an evening of fun and good company while learning something new about nature.

### Thursday, June 17th – Lyme Disease Q & A 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Chester County has one of the highest rates of Lyme disease in the world. Learn how to protect yourself from the ticks that spread the disease, and what to do if you are bitten. Presentation by the Pennsylvania Lyme Disease Awareness Committee, a collaboration of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, the Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., and the Chester County Health Department.

Payment and registration are due by the Monday before your program. Children 12 years old and under are free and must be accompanied by an adult.

**Members: \$5.00 for ages 13 to adult.**

**Nonmembers: \$7.00 for ages 13 to adult.**

**Parking is on the office side of the property.**

**Meet at the Myrick Center Office.**

## Family Nature Day

**Sunday, June 13th  
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Gate opens at 10:30**

Pick one activity or three:

**11:00 - 12:00** - Lenape Village Tour or  
Guided Nature Walk

**12:00 - 1:00** - Edible Plant Walk or  
Stream Explorations

**1:00 - 2:00** - Nature Games or  
Bug Adventures

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

Preregistration required at 610-793-1090.

Bring a kite to fly, a ball or Frisbee  
to throw, a picnic lunch and make  
it a Nature Day!



## Generous corporate support furthers education programs in Coatesville

PECO generously awarded \$15,000 to BVA in support of our Environmental Education Programs in Coatesville and the Annual Brandywine Creek Clean Up. Since 2000, education programs have reached over 10,000 students per year and have been expanded to off-site locations.

As a part of the Make a Splash Campaign, BVA will adapt its successful programs currently run at the 318-acre Myrick Conservation Center in West Chester to meet the needs of students in the Coatesville Area School District. This new education program for school students will be conducted in Coatesville at the Saalbach Farm, a 225-acre satellite property which was donated to the BVA in 1993.

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Campaign Goal:</b>                             | <b>\$3,192,300</b>       |
| <b>Raised to Date in<br/>gifts &amp; pledges:</b> | <b>\$2,808,463 (88%)</b> |
| <b>Still Need:</b>                                | <b>\$383,837</b>         |

Please consider making a meaningful contribution to the Make a Splash Campaign to protect our water for future generations. To donate now, visit our website at [www.brandywinewatershed.org](http://www.brandywinewatershed.org) or contact Cynthia Jaros, Development Director, for more information at 610-793-1090.

Brandywine Valley Association is a 501(c)(3) public charity, and your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.



An Exelon Company

Sixth grade students from Scott Middle School learn about the Brandywine Watershed through BVA's outdoor education programs at Saalbach Farm in Coatesville. Students pictured above with PECO Representative Greg Cary and Jim Jordan, BVA Executive Director.



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

*Return Service Requested*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Delaware Valley Orienteering  
 Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
 10 am – 1 pm Rain or Shine  
 \$6 – BVA member/\$9 non-member per map  
 For more information call 610-792-0502

Family Nature Day  
 Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

# 2010

## BVA WISH LIST

Children's nature books, art supplies  
 and new paint brushes

## Chester County Astronomical Society

| Date     | Cloud Date |
|----------|------------|
| 06/11/10 | 06/12/10   |
| 07/09/10 | 07/10/10   |
| 08/06/10 | 08/07/10   |