



President's Pen:

View from the Creek Bank

2002 was a year of changes in our watershed. The public and governments have begun to realize the vital importance of conserving our most important resource. This shows in much legislation to preserve water resources, prevent pollution, and manage storm water. Enforcement has improved also. New watershed associations are springing up all over the area. "Developers" (or destroyers – you pick the name) of the land are rushing to build and be gone before this wave of conservation forces them to be more responsible financially for the environmental fall out from their projects.

Darby Creek will soon have a Storm Water Management Plan (Delaware County's job), a Darby Creek Management Plan (being devised by PEC and Philadelphia Water Department), a Greenway Plan (Delaware County Developers) as well as DCVA's River Conservation Plan.

With all this overlap I wonder just how we fit in? Our great strength is our volunteers. We know the watershed far better than any paid consultant. But the consultants have time and money

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**DCVA Annual Meeting To Be Held
Saturday January 25
Board Members Will Be Elected**

DCVA's annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 25, 2003, at 9 a.m. at the Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield and Old Sproul Roads. At the meeting Robin Mann, DCVA member, will speak to the group on watershed protection issues.

Robin has been involved with the Sierra Club's wetlands and clean water protection efforts at the local, state and national levels for about 15 years. Locally, she serves as the point of contact for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Group on watershed protection issues. At the chapter level, she serves as Water Issues Chair and helps coordinate advocacy on legislative and regulatory issues related to water quality protection and water resources management. She represents the Sierra Club on the Pennsylvania Wetlands Protection Advisory Committee. At the national level, she serves on the Sierra Club's National Water Committee, where her chief responsibility is chairing the National Wetlands Working Group, which advises Sierra Club staff on legislative and

regulatory issues and supervises wetlands-related litigation.

Beyond the Sierra Club, she is a member of the Stream Watch Committee of the Lower Merion Conservancy, which conducts an annual biological census in Mill Creek, and she is currently serving on the Steering Committee for the revision of Radnor Township's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Robin was recently honored by Clean Water Network as one of "Thirty Heroes for Thirty Years of the Clean Water Act." The awardees were nominated by their watershed neighbors and peers and then selected by an awards committee. DCVA congratulates her on this award.

At the annual meeting, members of the Board of Directors will be elected. See page 5 for the nominating committee report.

All members and interested watershed residents are encouraged to attend the meeting. Call 610 789-1814 if you have questions.

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Planning Ahead:

14th Annual Darby Creek Watershed Conference

Saturday, March 8, 2003, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield

Our Keynote Speaker will be Diane Kripas

Recreation and Park Supervisor, Greenways and Conservation Partnership
Division, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation,
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Topic: "Why Greenways Now"

Exploring the Proposed Greenway Initiative for the Darby Creek Watershed

DCVA Holds Successful Fall Social and Fundraiser



Bob Doherty and Clyde Hunt enjoy lunch at DCVA's fall social.

This year DCVA held a fall luncheon on November 16, 2002. This affair was in lieu of our usual awards banquet. After a lovely lunch, members participated in a silent auction led by Gila and Clyde Hunt. State Senator Ted Erickson (26th Senatorial District) spoke briefly to the group about environmental activities in Harrisburg; Anne Ackerman gave an update on our Conservation Grant, and Joanna McGrath gave us the latest information about the Coventry Woods development in Springfield Township.

Board Emeritus Awards were presented to the following individuals: Joe Ackerman, Bob Dougherty, Gila Hunt, Hal Lockwood, deceased, Gayle Lawrence, Bill Miehle, Bob and Vicki Shaner, and Eugene Finn, deceased.

THANKS to committee members: Tom Houghton, Chair, Dave Anderson, John Furth, Clyde & Gila Hunt, Rosemary Kesling, Jan Marie Rushforth, and Andy Saul.

Mark your calendar now for this spring's Darby Creek Cleanup: Saturday, April 26, 2003.

DCVA to Develop Strategic Action Plan

Based on a meeting last spring with Maya van Rossum, the Delaware RiverKeeper, DCVA is developing a "Strategic Action Plan" to help guide our future actions and activities. As the first step in this process, the Board has approved the following mission statement:

"The mission of the Darby Creek Valley Association is to protect and enhance the watershed of Darby Creek and its tributaries through education, conservation, and citizen action."

The next step is to catalogue DCVA's strengths and weaknesses and then to determine how these influence or impact our mission statement. To get started, we have identified strengths and weaknesses of DCVA. We encourage you to add to these lists. Please send additions to Jim Stuhltrager at james.stuhltrager@law.widener.edu no later than January 22, 2003.

Strengths:

- Monitoring Program (Streamwatch)
- Background and Diversity of Members
- Annual Darby Creek Cleanup
- Annual Darby Creek Conference
- Historic Sites Committee
- Darby Creek Watershed Education Program
- Newsletter
- Regular meetings
- Ability to Obtain Issue Specific Grant Funding (i.e. Rivers Conservation Grant.)

Weaknesses:

- Lack of "One Voice"
- Reluctance to engage in controversial methods of advocacy
- Propensity to get bogged down in tangential issues
- Volunteer status of members makes them unavailable to focus on issues.

County Moves to Drought Watch Status

On December 19, 2002, Governor Mark Schweiker finally removed the Drought Emergency Status in Delaware County. The status was upgraded due to the generous amounts of rainfall and snow in November and December. Delaware County has been under the Drought Emergency Status since February 12. Delaware County has not been completely removed from the Drought Conditions and is currently in a Drought Watch Status, which calls upon residents to voluntarily conserve 5 percent of their daily water use. Residents and businesses are still urged to conserve as much water as possible. For more information on the continuing drought, go to the Department of Environmental Protection's webpage at www.dep.state.pa.us and type in "Drought" in the keyword box, or contact the Delaware County Conservation District at 610 892-9484.

Darby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Nears Completion

The DCVA Steering Committee is reviewing the final plan which will be presented for public comment by early spring. Once accepted by the Board of Directors of the DCVA, the municipalities and DCNR, we will petition DCNR to place the plan on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry. Meanwhile we are developing an action plan for implementation of the options identified in the plan.

Theme for 2003 Earth Day, "Sustainability for Pennsylvania--It's in Our Hands"

The theme for this year's Earth Day, April 22, is "Sustainability for Pennsylvania--It's In Our Hands." An educational packet on this subject has been put together by the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE). Pennsylvania schools and libraries will be receiving the materials soon.

The director of Environmental Education for DEP, Jack Farster, defines "sustainability" as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The contents of the Earth Day packet will give all educators creative tools to address the topic. The packet will include a poster, bookmarks, Pennsylvania's important bird areas, how kids can explore nature in their own neighborhood and even a packet of sweet corn for students to plant. The materials provide background information on the concept in 10 topic areas: agriculture, forestry, industry, products and services, land use, technology, energy, water resources, wild resources, and economics.

The PCEE mailing should reach your school soon. The DCVA encourages all schools, libraries, municipalities, and civic organizations to sponsor celebrations throughout the watershed. Visit our website at www.dcva.org for suggestions and to list your activity.

PennPIRG Files Lawsuit Against Tinicum Township

On May 1, 2002, the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group (PennPIRG) filed a lawsuit against the Tinicum Township Delaware County Sewage Authority and Tinicum Township in the federal district court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. PennPIRG's complaint alleges that Tinicum's sewage treatment plant in Lester, Pennsylvania, is in ongoing violation of permit limits for Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids. PennPIRG is concerned that the violations at Tinicum's facility are harming water quality in Darby Creek and the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. This complaint follows two letters, one in 1996 and another in 2002, that notified Tinicum of PennPIRG's intent to sue under the Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law.

Delaware County Conservation District Meetings Changed

The Delaware County Conservation District has changed the date of its monthly board meetings. The meetings are now held on the first Tuesday of every month at 3:00 p.m. except on holidays. The meetings are open to the public; however, notice of attendance is requested. The District can be reached at 610-892-9484.

DCVA Welcomes New Members

Banny Ackerman, Villanova
Gwen Coronoway, Glenolden
Kate and Bob Doms, Berwyn
Geraldine C. Pettyjohn, Sharon Hill
Sarah VanKeuren & Harry Kalish, Yeadon

Pennsylvania Identifies Several Segments of the Darby Creek Watershed as Impaired

This summer, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) identified the following segments of the Darby-Cobbs watershed as impaired waters:

- 32.3 miles of Darby Creek, Hermesprota Creek, Langford Run, Muckinipattis Creek, Stoney Creek, and Whetstone Run are identified as impaired by urban runoff, storm sewers, and habitat modification.
- 24.8 miles of the Cobbs Creek, East Branch Indian Creek, Indian Creek, and West Branch Indian Creek are identified as impaired by urban runoff, storm sewers, habitat modification, and a municipal point source.
- A 1.7 mile of Little Darby Creek is identified as impaired by urban runoff and storm sewers.

The effect of these identifications by DEP is that these waters are candidates for the development of a total maximum daily load or TMDL. In its most basic form, one can think of a TMDL as a pollution budget. The idea behind the federal Clean Water Act's TMDL program is first to determine if a water does not meet minimum state requirements, known as water quality standards. If the water does not meet standards, the next step is to do a TMDL to bring the water into compliance. The TMDL must identify sources of the pollution and develop an enforceable plan to reduce the pollution with the ultimate goal of bringing the water into compliance with standards.

DEP has not stated when it intends to develop a TMDL for the waters in the Darby Creek watershed. However, for those interested in the process, DEP intends to develop a TMDL for the nearby Chester Creek sometime in 2003. For more information on DEP's TMDL program, please visit its website at (http://www.dep.state.pa.us/watermanagement_apps/tmdl/).

Haverford State Hospital Site Now Owned by Haverford Township

Haverford Township now owns the former Haverford State Hospital site. It bought the property from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$3.5 million. The money for the purchase was borrowed from Commerce Capital Markets at 1.6 percent interest. The sale closed the final week of 2002.

Governor Mark Schweiker signed legislation on November 25th that allowed the transfer of the property. The legislation includes a requirement that 120 acres of the property be preserved as open space and restricted to passive recreation, such as hiking trails. It is expected that a portion of the remaining 92 acres will be sold for development. The township has received about 24 development proposals.

Open House Held at Former Hospital Property on January 4th

State Senator Connie Williams joined Haverford Township Commissioners and a large crowd of community open space advocates to ceremoniously swing open the front gates of the grounds of the former Haverford State Hospital property to the public on Saturday January 4th. The celebration affirmed the recent transfer of the property from the state to the township.

Director Tim Denny and the Haverford Township Department of Parks and Recreation sponsored the well-attended public open house and local residents braved the chilly weather to tour the grounds at their leisure until 2 p.m.

Dave Cannan, 7th ward commissioner and long-standing DCVA member, joining the festivities from adjacent Radnor said, "Protecting the current undeveloped land that runs along Darby Creek on this property, no matter what is planned for the developed portions of the site, has always been a priority for DCVA." After touring the site Commissioner Cannan added, "DCVA volunteers should be very proud of their successful efforts in making sure this property's valuable natural resources end up protected for the long-term enjoyment of all the people of this great community."

Wanted: Watershed Heroes

Watershed Weekly, an online publication distributed by the Department of Environmental Protection, is looking to feature a Watershed Hero each month. If you know an individual or organization that is doing great things in your watershed, and you would like to nominate them, please contact Bill Gothier at the Delaware County Conservation District, 610-892-9484. This is an ongoing feature, so please hold on to this notice, in case someone should come to mind down the road. *Watershed Weekly* can be accessed through the DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us.

Radnor Plants Trees with Grant Monies from PECO

Garrett Hill in Radnor Township will be a little bit greener this spring with the recent planting of 20 street trees obtained through a Municipal Tree Restoration Program (MTRP) grant from PECO. The grant made it possible for the township to extend the green of Clem Macrone Park into the surrounding neighborhood, providing much-needed shade for the street, sidewalks and homes while ensuring trees planted are suitable for growing under PECO electric wires.

Chosen for this planting beginning at the park entrance on Rockingham Road and continuing down the south side of Conestoga Road were low-growing disease-resistant Rutgers hybrid Dogwoods, *Cornus florida* 'x', and Japanese Snowbells, *Styrax japonicus*. This is in addition to the trees that were planted this fall as part of the township's ongoing street tree planting program.

PECO project manager Alex Brown, Chairwoman Jane Golas and the Shade Tree Commission, 7th ward commissioner and DCVA member Dave Cannan, and Radnor Township staff all worked together on the project.

"It has been extremely gratifying to hear the positive comments from residents who have received these trees in front of their homes," said Commissioner Dave Cannan. "We can look forward to a superb flower display in May."

While this is the first time this type of grant has been awarded to a municipality, Radnor Township and the Shade Tree Commission look forward to continuing this positive and environmentally-friendly relationship with PECO for future street tree plantings at appropriate sites throughout Radnor.



Radnor Commissioner Dave Cannan and Shade Tree Commission Chairwoman Jane Golas proudly display a check received from PECO for planting street trees in Garrett Hill as part of their Municipal Tree Restoration Grant program.

Directors Will Be Elected at Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting on the 25th, members of the DCVA Board of Directors will be elected. The nominating committee has recommended that the following be elected to the board for a 3 year term (incumbent directors running for re-election are noted with an asterisk):

- *Anne Ackerman
- *John Haigis
- *Jan Marie Rushforth
- Alan Samel
- *Fritz Thornton

In addition, two members are running for a 1 year term:

- *Andy Saul
- Bob Shaner

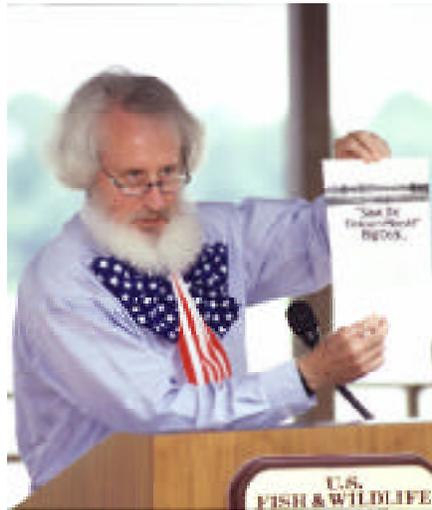
Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The bylaws would allow additional board members; if you are interested in serving, please call Vicki Shaner at 610 449-7297. After the annual meeting, a short board meeting will be convened to elect officers for 2003. The nominating committee consists of Vicki Shaner, Chair; Gila Hunt; Rosemary Kesling; Bob Shaner; and Grace Wheeler.

Update on Refuge Oil Spill Site

The remediation of the area of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge where oil was spilled in the winter of 2000 continues. The staging area that was re-seeded has seen good growth with the irrigation systems installed. Signage to let the public know what is happening is being installed. Sunoco's environmental contractor, Entrix, plans on winterizing the irrigation system to lessen the chances of freezing. Negotiations are ongoing related to the Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) as part of the overall Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). One project being discussed would be to restore up to 5 acres of filled-in habitat on the west end of what is known as the Corp Property, near the central portion of the refuge.

For background information on this problem, read past issues of *The Valley* on-line at www.dcva.org.

Nugent Announces His Retirement



Dick Nugent, Manager of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is retiring after 25 years at Tinicum and 35 in all with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Nugent is being applauded for the many years he devoted to the refuge and his outstanding job of making it a premiere environmental education center. This photo was taken during the dedication ceremony to name the popular observation platform that looks out over the east impoundment.

Heinz Refuge Photo Group Holds Photo Contest

"Photo Fest 2002," a photo contest sponsored by the Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum Photo Group, recently awarded prizes to works in three categories: children, teen and adult. Prizes ranged from \$10 to \$75; all who entered received a t-shirt. The group was pleased with the quality of photographs received and is already promoting the 2003 contest.

The deadline for the new contest is September 30, 2003. All entries must be PRINTS of photographs recently taken at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. To obtain an entry form with complete instructions and rules, stop by the Cusano Environmental Education Center. (Mailed entry forms will not be accepted.) There is no entry fee for children or teens. There is a \$2 entry fee per print for adults (18 and older).

The 2003 Photo Fest Awards Ceremony will take place on Nov. 16, 2003, at the Cusano Environmental Education Center. For information about the Photo Group or Photo Fest 2003 contact Larry DiPietro at 610-485-6629 or Larcedar@aol.com

Students Participate in Educational Programs at Heinz Refuge During National Wildlife Refuge Week

Each year during the second week of October the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week. Included in the activities this fall were special programs for area teachers and students. In this photo, students from Inter-boro High School look on as members of the Senior Environmental Corp of Germantown demonstrate water quality testing methods.



Also looking on are U.S. EPA, Region III, Administrator, Donald Welsh (center, rear) and Heinz Refuge Manager, Dick Nugent (extreme right).

COMMENTARY

On these pages are two opinion articles submitted by members of DCVA's board of directors. If you would like to submit a letter to the editor or an op-ed piece about an issue of interest to DCVA members, you are encouraged to do so. Please mail your article to Rosemary Kesling at 248 Friendship Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, or email your article to kesling@voicenet.com. (E-mail is preferred. Please put "DCVA" in the subject line of the email.) The Valley is published three times a year, in January, April, and September.

Radnor's Open Space Philosophy

By Dave Cannan

After reading reporter Helen Cooper's confusing take on Radnor's 12/16/02 Board of Commissioners' meeting that appeared in the *Suburban and Wayne Times*, *Main Line Life* and *Delco Daily Times*, I feel a need to set the record straight regarding my comments on what I consider a troubling change of direction in the township's open space philosophy.

Simply put, the question I have asked my fellow commissioners and the public to consider was whether land purchased with dedicated open space bond funds can be resold for development and if such a sale is consistent with the township referendum approved by the voters in 1994.

The discussion concerned the D'Antonio property in Wayne, recently purchased with open space bond money to complement the adjacent P&W trail and the 6.5 acres of township parkland on the former Levin property. The plan is to rezone a portion of the open space from land zoned PLU (Public Land Use) to a residential use (R-2) and then for the township to sell it for development. It has been suggested the township would then use the money made from the sale to replenish the Open Space Bond Fund.

Selling township-owned open space for development is contrary to the open space purchase philosophy advocated in Radnor's 1988 and 2003 Comprehensive Plans, 1991 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and 2001 Parks and Recreation Survey.

In fact, the township's 1988 Comprehensive Plan specifically recommends avoiding the sale and development of land zoned for public land use.

And it has always been the township philosophy to attempt to create or add on to contiguous and adjacent parcels of open space. This has been clearly demonstrated with the purchase of the Levin, Forbes, Chew, Young, Leaming-Talucci, Walker and D'Antonio properties.

In the 2001 township-wide survey performed by the Parks and Recreation Department, 52 percent of respondents indicated they wanted the township to acquire new land for "undeveloped conservation, green open spaces and passive park activities." Conversely, the survey indicated that only slightly over 5 percent of respondents were interested in using newly

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Springton Retirement Resort

By Bill Brainerd

A Neutral View of S.R.R.

Springton Retirement Resort is a new development on Route 252 at the Reservoir, across from Springton Tennis and Racquet Club. It has 34 detached and 6 attached units, which occupy 44 acres. The units cost \$ 460,000 to \$ 635,000, plus a monthly maintenance fee of \$1,761 for one, \$1,926 for two, people. Each unit can house up to two people, age 62 or older. When residents move, their homes are sold for them by the S.R.R. Community Association, or if not sold in a year, bought by the Association. The proceeds go to the departing residents. Under the zoning code of Marple Township, where it is located, S.R.R. is designed as a planned residential development (PRD) on land zoned for 80,000 square foot lots, or 1.83 acres. If at least 50% of the total site area is left open, a PRD allows lots of 40,000 square feet, hence, twice the density of the by-right plan. S.R.R. leaves 65% open. Retirement communities generally are considered good developments. They raise the tax base, often substantially, while they generate less traffic especially at rush hours, tax water and sewer facilities less, and send fewer children to schools than do developments without age restrictions. Some municipalities entice retirement communities by exempting them from school taxes. S.R.R. isn't exempt from any taxes.

A Critical View of S.R.R.

I can't remember a development that's been more scorned. First, Philadelphia Suburban Water Company can be blamed for allowing large-scale development so close to the Reservoir. PSWC, owner of the site since the 20s, sold it to U.S. Retirement Communities in January, 2001, for \$ 3,550,000. (U.S.R.C. purchased another 1.83 acres from an individual landowner for \$950,000.) Despite safeguards, some pollution from the houses is bound to reach the Reservoir, especially in big storms. I've heard a joke, I hope, that P.S.W.C. no longer needs the Reservoir and wants to develop it. I've also heard the Public Utility Commission pressured PSWC into selling the S.R.R. site as a condition for a rate increase. A company spokesman says neither story is true. It sold the site to make money, part of an ongoing land sales program. Its annual report lists gains from land sales over the last 3 years. Not for water alone has PSWC completed more than 90 acquisitions and growth ventures in the last 10 years. Watershed land can be valuable real estate. Texas Southern Union Company took over a water company and sold 40,000 acres in Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties to an undisclosed buyer. PSWC is a publicly owned company, traded on the New York Stock Exchange as Philadelphia Suburban Company. Its shareholders want to profit by selling homesites if not water.

Second, the S.R.R. owner and developer can be blamed for cutting down so many trees. Except for a buffer of trees 75 feet wide next to the Reservoir, the site was nearly clear-cut. The PSWC spokesman says before the land was sold S.R.R. plans showed circled trees he erroneously assumed would be kept.

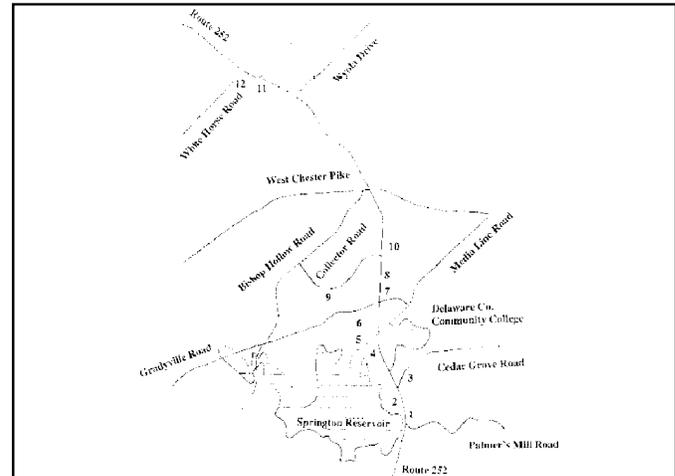
COMMENTARY

The Marple code says that in a PRD, "Existing trees should be preserved wherever possible. The developer shall state the means whereby trees and other natural features will be protected during construction. The Board of Commissioners will discourage excessive site clearing of topsoil, trees, and natural features before the commencement of building operations," section 300-33E. Last summer Jules Lapidés, a member of the Marple Environmental Advisory Board, noticed the 75-foot buffer looked thin. A closer inspection revealed what P.S.W.C. already knew: about 300 trees and 600 shrubs had been cut down and chipped along 2500 feet of Reservoir shoreline. The easement PSWC holds on the buffer prevents any intrusion without its permission. It's unknown who did the deed, although S.S.R. residents who wanted a better view of the water for their money had a motive. The Company could have sued S.R.R. for not protecting the buffer but hasn't. US Retirement Communities promises to replace the buffer trees one for one. Elsewhere it'll plant 900 or more trees in place of the 700 it admits it cut down on the designated construction site. But all the new trees will have trunks 2" or less in diameter. Decades will pass before the site is as wooded as before, if it ever is.

Another problem is that one of the developers, Ned Coslett, was a member of the Marple Board of Commissioners when the Township Planning Commission gave preliminary approval to his plan on December 3, 1999. Planning Commission members could understandably have hesitated to disapprove the plan of a colleague, who was also their liaison to the Board. Coslett left office later that month. Because Marple doesn't require final Planning Commission approval of a PRD, like S.R.R., his plan went straight to the Board, now without Coslett, which approved it in March 2000. The Planning Commission preliminary approval was only advisory, but to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, Coslett might have refrained from bringing plans before either the Planning Commission or the Board for at least a year after he had left township service.

Third, Marple Township can be blamed. It hasn't disciplined S.R.R. for apparently violating code restrictions on PRD tree-cutting. Stricter code enforcement might have saved more of the trees. It is true the Board of Commissioners angrily instructed their solicitor to find grounds for an order to halt work on the development when they heard the buffer had been disturbed. However, no order was later issued. Instead, the Township is reviewing S.R.R.'s proposal to restore the buffer.

I wish Marple, where I live, had bought the site when it was for sale. The wooded point would have made a lovely lakeside park. P.S.W.C. didn't specifically notify the Township it was for sale, but to my knowledge the Township never tried to buy it. Even if PSWC had made an offer to the Township, it no doubt would have been declined. Municipalities in Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester County routinely raise their own taxes with public support in order to buy open space. Delaware County municipalities mostly don't: Radnor, Middletown, and Nether Providence are exceptions. It is a good sign that Marple bought 27.5 acres of open space at Greenbank Farm, January 2001. That land is now a passive park.



Route 252 Projects in Progress or Proposed

1. Joseph Buoni, Developer
26 attached houses on 6.2 acres, \$ 300,000 each
2. Springton Retirement Resort
John Dussling and Ned Coslett, Developers
34 detached and 6 attached houses on 44 acres,
\$ 460,000+ each
3. Enclave West; George Dulgerian, Developer
6 detached houses, on 6.4 acres, \$ 700,000 each
4. Springton Reserve; David D'Agostino, John Holsten
and Sam Dixon, Developers
18 detached houses on 28.4 acres, \$700,000 – \$1,000,000
5. Village of the Four Seasons;
Claude de Botton, Developer
38 detached houses on 47.4 acres, \$ 1,000,000 each
6. Claude de Botton, Developer
An unknown number of houses on 69.7 acres
7. Somerset; Caswell Holloway, Developer
334 condominiums in 11 buildings, 3 or 4 stories
high; a recreation center with a pool; and a 41,400
square foot office building, 3 stories high—all on 43
acres. Residents must be 55 or older
8. Sunrise Assisted Living
92 beds in 77 suites in a 3 story building on 6 acres
9. Springton Pointe Woods
Pulte Homes Corporation, Developer
17 detached and 152 attached houses with a 39,100
square foot commercial center where the collector
road meets Route 252, on 132 acres, \$ 325,000+ each
10. Alberto Guadagnini, Developer
226 condominiums in an unknown number of
buildings up to 5 stories high. Age restricted
11. Episcopal Academy
A school that presently has 1112 female and male
students will build a new campus on these 123 acres,
to be finished September, 2006
12. White Horse; James Nolen, Developer
57 houses on 101 acres, \$ 1,100,000 each.

Open Space in Radnor

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acquired open space for active development.

Radnor first floated the "sale-of-open-space-to-save-open-space" philosophy several years ago when deciding what to do with a turn-of-the-century house on the 13 acres of open space at the former Forbes property. After purchase of the land and development of the soccer fields with open space bond funds, Radnor commissioners subdivided off 2 acres surrounding the existing house from the main property in order to sell it for development.

Alarmed neighbors and open space advocates formed a blue-ribbon committee to consider possible communal uses for the old farmhouse. For logistical and difficult layout reasons, the diverse group decided the house was not usable for community purposes. Instead they recommended it should be torn down and were emphatic that the area be retained as open space to preserve the unique existing vista.

Fortunately, in the fullness of time the commissioners came to see the wisdom of the recommendation and the house was torn down and the open space preserved. Anyone driving down Maplewood Avenue today can easily see how disastrous it would have been to allow decimation of the existing woodland and beautiful open vista with development of another oversized, out-of-scale, multi-million-dollar Mc Mansion.

The notion of the township buying land, keeping the lion's share for public use and reselling a handful of lots may not necessarily be a bad idea. My quarrel is with spending current dedicated open space funds for uses that are completely opposite of what the voters intended.

Dave Cannan is the 7th Ward commissioner in Radnor Township representing Rosemont and Garrett Hill and commissioner liaison to Radnor's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). He is also a member of DCVA. He can be contacted at 610-547-6836 or davecannan@aol.com

Public Drinking Water Systems Improve Waterborne Diseases No Longer a Problem

In November the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US EPA published a report on waterborne disease outbreaks for 1999 and 2000. For the fifth year in a row, there were no waterborne disease outbreaks associated with community drinking water systems in Pennsylvania.

An outbreak is defined as involving at least two persons experiencing a similar illness after consuming drinking water, along with evidence that water is the most likely source of the illness. The CDC reports usually lag two to three years because of the time required to compile and analyze the data from all 50 states.

In the 20th Century, waterborne diseases associated with drinking water were common, often leading to deaths. From 1971 to 1985 Pennsylvania reported more waterborne disease outbreaks associated with drinking water than any other state. Improvements in the state's drinking water systems during the 1990's have led to sharp reductions. Because of more stringent regulations, nearly 250 water systems in the Commonwealth have abandoned unfiltered surface water sources. Also the state DEP has been working with surface water systems to improve them, and low-interest loans through the PENNVEST initiative have been used to improve drinking water infrastructure.

To view graphs and other information, visit the DEP website (www.dep.state.pa.us) directLINK "filtration" and then select "More about Cryptosporidium, Giardia and water-borne disease."

President's Pen

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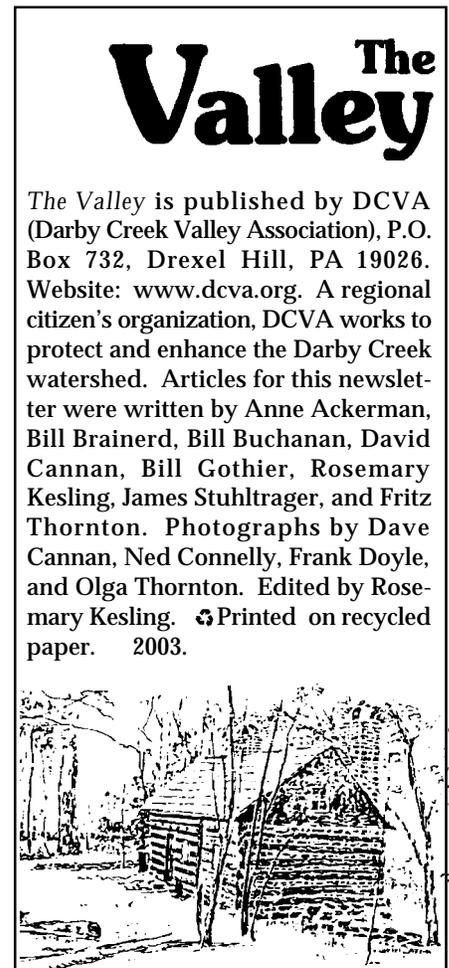
and technical expertise to do these jobs. We, as volunteers, are part-timers and limited as to our effectiveness. We do a great job on our core work: cleanup, education, policing and "jaw boning" (lobbying) for the preservation and improvement of Darby Creek Valley. However, because of our limited resources, much that could be done is not.

Other watersheds have raised money and hired executive directors, secretaries, etc. Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association recently employed a part-time director. This could be our route. Combining with other watershed groups to share administrative costs would be another. These are things we are exploring.

Meanwhile our core work goes on: clean the creek, educate and inform the public (especially kids), plant trees and beautify, support conservation efforts for "Greenways," etc. And work at increasing involved and active membership to do these things.

These are our immediate goals for 2003.

Fritz Thornton



The Valley

The Valley is published by DCVA (Darby Creek Valley Association), P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Website: www.dcv.org. A regional citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek watershed. Articles for this newsletter were written by Anne Ackerman, Bill Brainerd, Bill Buchanan, David Cannan, Bill Gothier, Rosemary Kesling, James Stuhltrager, and Fritz Thornton. Photographs by Dave Cannan, Ned Connelly, Frank Doyle, and Olga Thornton. Edited by Rosemary Kesling. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2003.

3rd Statewide Summit for Volunteer Watershed Monitors to be Held February 21 & 22

On February 21 and 22, 2003, DEP will hold its third Statewide Summit for Volunteer Watershed Monitors. The conference will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College. All those interested in watershed issues are invited to attend.

The two-day agenda will allow participants to choose workshops from four tracks of sessions. Track one will offer sessions for the volunteer monitors just getting started in their monitoring program and/or their watershed group. The second track will offer more advanced sessions for volunteer monitors or groups that are more established in their organizational needs and monitoring program. Track three will be a technical track, designed to help improve technical skills and ensure quality control through some hands-on sessions. The fourth track will offer workshops on diverse monitoring for the volunteer looking to explore different types of monitoring.

The purpose of the 2003 Summit is to focus on enhancing volunteer monitoring programs within the state, providing success stories in monitoring, looking beyond water quality monitoring, and reflecting on the achievements of the Network over the past two years. The Summit is also intended to give monitors throughout the state the opportunity to network with other monitors and service providers within their Network region.

For more information about the summit call 717-234-7910 or visit www.pawatersheds.org/conferences.asp

DCVA Remembers Gene Finn

Charter DCVA member and former board member Eugene H. Finn of Lansdowne died October 21, 2002. He was 81. He was one of the organizers of the Friends of the Swedish Cabin and had served as that organization's president for many years. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, 9 Creek Road, Box 200, Drexel Hill 19026. DCVA extends its sympathy to his family.

County Council Investigates Feasibility of a Darby Creek Bridge

Delaware County Council has submitted a grant application to DCNR for a Darby Creek Bridge feasibility study. The application, authorized by Council in mid-October, requests \$42,108. The bridge, if found to be feasible, would be part of the county Greenway Project and would create a span for walkers and cyclists between Ridley Township and Tincum Township.

JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

The Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of all of the watershed's resources, including water, wildlife, historical sites and the floodplain. The organization's immediate goals are to prevent all forms of pollution in the Darby Creek and its tributaries, to prohibit dumping and construction on the floodplain, and to expand our educational programs for all residents within the watershed. It also seeks to improve water quality and maintain a debris-free stream through clean-ups and public education. DCVA works to preserve historic properties, such as the Swedish Cabin and the Blue Bell Inn. The Association would like to set aside the more than 30 miles of valley for use as a greenway for all residents to enjoy. We need your support. Help us continue to protect the environment for ourselves and our children.

**We invite you to fill in the form below, check member category, and mail form with your check to:
The Darby Creek Valley Association, P.O. Box 732, Drexel Hill PA 19026**

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Your Municipality _____

Representative (if organization member) _____

Type of Membership:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member.....\$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member.....\$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Business Member\$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen\$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member\$100.00 |

To support the many DCVA projects, I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____ in addition to my dues.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, January 25, 2003 | DCVA Annual Meeting, 9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting 1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield |
| Saturday, February 15, 2003 | DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield |
| Friday & Saturday February 21-22, 2003 | Statewide Summit for Volunteer Watershed Monitors State College |
| Saturday, March 8, 2003 | 14th Annual Darby Creek Watershed Conference 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield |
| Saturday, March 15, 2003 | DCVA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Springfield Friends Meeting, Springfield |
| Saturday, April 26, 2003 | Darby Creek Clean-up, 9 a.m. |



Darby Creek Valley Association

P.O. Box 732

Drexel Hill, PA 19026