



President's Pen November, 2010

Reflections from Creek Bank

As I write this, Darby Creek Valley is beginning to sport its bright fall plumage. Beautiful in every season, the Valley is more poignantly so now, for we know that the multi-hued leaves will soon fall and chill winter will follow, the season for reflection and contemplation, as well as preparation for a new spring. As we enter the last quarter of our shared Presidency, we reflect on the many accomplishments of DCVA this year and the many lessons learned as Co-Presidents.

Coming off an exciting 25th Anniversary year in 2009, DCVA has kept traditional events going strong and added to them. Don't miss articles in this issue about our 2010 Darby/Cobbs Creek Watershed-Wide Cleanup, the Stream Watch follow-up Insect Identification workshop on December 4, 2010 to determine stream health, the Governor Printz Canoe/Kayak Race and Ramble held in September, and our special May 1st program celebrating 100 years of the idea of a Greenway along Darby Creek. We partied like 1910, when Arthur Shrigley called for and helped establish a refreshing green walkway along part of Darby Creek in Lansdowne. Thanks to a grant from the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund (ESCS) underwriting this issue of *The Valley*, we also have an article by Board member Kathryn Goddard Doms, explaining many green options to help business people save energy, money, and ultimately, the planet. There is also a "Sustainable and Green" article geared to businesses prepared by Carl DuPoldt and Jan Marie Rushforth.

*If you would like copies of this newsletter to share with businesses in your area, please let us know because the ESCS grant has allowed us to print extras for distribution.*

*Continued on page 3*

The printing for this newsletter is being partially underwritten with a grant from the *Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund*.

Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith was born into a prominent Philadelphia family in 1885. Her father, Walter Clark held a seat on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange and her mother Elizabeth Sergeant Clark was a member of the Society of Colonial Dames of America. After the death of her husband, Philadelphia attorney H. Harrison Smith, Mrs. Smith chose to use her wealth to benefit others through charitable grants. The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund, created from her estate in 1977, benefits organizations located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, with primary emphasis on serving community needs in Delaware County. Wachovia is the Fund's steward.



**DCVA Partied like 1910 at the Dream of a Darby Creek Greenway Centennial Celebration, May 1, 2010.**

Back row: Tom Smith as Arthur Shrigley, David Bennett, John Haigis, Jayne Young, Mayor of Lansdowne, and Darby Borough Councilman, Patrick McKenna. Front row: Ann Jackson, Toni McIntosh, Jan Haigis, and Jan Marie Rushforth.

**Dream of a Darby Creek Greenway - A Centennial Celebration - the Work Continues**

On May 1, 2010, DCVA joined Lansdowne in a reception celebrating the Centennial of the first section of Greenway along Darby Creek created by architect and activist Arthur Shrigley and the Natural History Club of Lansdowne in 1910. *Continued on page 6*

**Inside This Issue:**

Darby Creek Greenway Centennial Celebration.....	1
Room to Grow Greener for Local Businesses.....	2
Sustainable & Green Businesses Can Protect Creek..	3
Proposed Changes to DCVA Bylaws.....	4
DCVA Photos .....	6&7
26th Annual Darby/Cobbs Creek Cleanup.....	8
Tips to Prevent Water Pollution in Creeks/Streams..	8
Governor Printz Canoe/Kayak Challenge/Ramble....	9
TAG Update.....	9
Clyde's Guide for Pruning.....	10&11
Insect Identification Workshop on 12/4/10.....	10
Membership Form...11 and Upcoming Events.....	12

## **Room to Grow Greener For Local Businesses (and Homes)**

### *By Kathryn Goddard-Doms*

Locally owned businesses are vital to our communities. They give the towns throughout the Darby Creek watershed their hometown feeling. They are places to buy quality goods and services, and familiar stops at which we can connect with our neighbors and friends. Now, they can do even more to contribute to our communities by becoming more environmentally friendly.

The two branches of the Darby Creek start in Radnor and Berwyn. As the creek grows wider it is fed by hundreds of smaller creeks as it courses throughout Delaware County and finally enters the Delaware River. All along the way it picks up fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides from lawns and gardens, as well as chemicals from businesses.

#### **Creek friendly business practices include:**

- Landscape your business property with trees, shrubs and perennials. that are native to Pennsylvania. Being “at home,” the plantings will require less water and fertilizer. Fertilizer runoff encourages unhealthy algae growth in creeks and in the Delaware Bay.
- Replace lawns with native trees, shrubs and perennials. These will absorb more water than lawns, concrete or asphalt. Slowing the water flow in this way helps prevent creek flooding.
- Set landscape sprinklers to go on for as short a time as possible, and water before the heat of the day. Adjust sprinklers so that they do not waste water by sprinkling sidewalks or parking lots. This measure reduces water use and slows the flow of pesticides and herbicides into the creeks.
- Are you bold? Put in a green roof, rain garden, and/or rain barrel to cleanse the water that enters our creeks and help reduce creek flooding.
- Make certain that any chemicals used in your business are disposed of according to Pennsylvania or federal laws or guidelines.

#### **Environmentally friendly practices in general for businesses include:**

- Make one person or a committee in charge of going greener; this is proven to work. Set a conservation goal.
- Discourage disposable plastic water bottle use, but recycle plastic, paper, glass, and cans.
- Provide recycling containers for clients or customers.
- Encourage customers to cut down on plastic bag use.
- Turn off equipment and lights when they are not being used. Install energy saving lighting and switches that turn off lights automatically when a room is not in use.
- Encourage communications by email.
- Produce double-sided documents.
- Don't leave taps dripping and keep them in repair. Install water saving toilets and check your plumbing for leaks.
- Save fuel by eating at local restaurants, thereby supporting local businesses.
- Buy local products and produce to save on shipping costs and fuel use, and supporting local businesses and agriculture.
- When possible, schedule deliveries or client visits at low traffic times to save fuel and money.
- Use energy-star-rated appliances to save energy and money, both at home and at work.
- Hotels and motels can get tips on going greener at :  
<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/industry/hotels/GreenerAccom.pdf>

*Continued on page 3*

## Room to Grow Greener for Local Businesses

*Continued from page 2*

Penn State University provides an energy assessment service for businesses. Go to <http://penntap.psu.edu/> for more information. In addition, small business owners in Pennsylvania can apply for 50% matching grants of up to \$7,500 to adopt or acquire energy efficient or pollution-prevention equipment or processes, including boiler and air conditioning upgrades, solvent recovery systems, high efficiency lighting systems and waste recycling. Contact the Office of Energy and Technology Deployment, Small Business Ombudsman's Office at 717-783-8411 or at [epadavantagegrant@state.pa.us](mailto:epadavantagegrant@state.pa.us) with questions before submitting an application.

Local businessmen and women are community leaders. They provide some of the glue that holds our communities together and they have a great deal of influence in local affairs. They are positioned to set an example of environmental stewardship for the entire community. The Darby Creek applauds our local businesses and franchises that are currently exercising creek-friendly and environmentally-friendly practices. We encourage other local businesses to join in the campaign to leave a better environment to future residents of the Darby Creek watershed.

### References:

<http://sbinfoCanada.about.com/cs/environmentbiz/a/envirfriend1.htm>  
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[http://www.greenbiz.com/sites/default/files/document/Tips\\_Bus.pdf](http://www.greenbiz.com/sites/default/files/document/Tips_Bus.pdf)  
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*The Valley* is published by the Darby Creek Valley Association, PO Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA, 19026. Website [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org). A regional all-volunteer citizen's organization, DCVA works to protect and enhance the Darby Creek Watershed. **This issue was edited by intrepid Board member Ann Jackson**, with help from Jan Marie Rushforth and Jan and John Haigis, who believe Ann is both wonderful to work with and fearless in her dedication to DCVA work. When we needed an emergency editor, she jumped right in!

## DCVA Promotes Methods to Reduce Storm Water Run off



*DCVA featured Creek Friendly Lawn and Garden Care at the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Committee's "Water Runoff Awareness Program" in March, 2010.* Ann Jackson, and Jan and John Haigis addressed residents concerns about flooding along Darby Creek. Landscapers and residents learned about riparian buffers, rain barrels, green roofs, rain gardens, native plants and lawn care.

## Sustainable and Green Businesses Can Use Best Conservation Practices to Protect Darby Creek

*By Jan Marie Rushforth and Carl DuPoldt*

A sustainable business or green business is any enterprise that is working to have fewer negative impacts on the global or local environment, community, society, or economy. A triple bottom line business strives to be: 1) good for the planet, 2) good for the people that work for the company as well as its customers, and 3) Profitable. The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia [www.SBNphiladelphia.org](http://www.SBNphiladelphia.org) calls for member organizations to operate within this triple bottom line.

In general, a business is described as green if:

- It incorporates principles of sustainability into its business decisions.
- It supplies environmentally friendly products or services that can replace demand for non-green products and/or services.
- Its practices are greener than its traditional competition.
- It has made an enduring commitment to environmental principles in its business operations.

A sustainable business meets the needs of the present world without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

*Continued on page 5*

## DCVA Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, January 29, 2011

Planning is underway for the DCVA Annual Meeting on January 29. The program will include speakers, awards, lunch, and hopefully, a song from Jan and John Haigis. We will review DCVA's activities in 2010 and plans for 2011. **In addition to the election of members for the Board of Directors, DCVA members will also vote on changes to three DCVA Bylaws described below.**

*We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2011. More information will be available closer to the meeting date. Please check the DCVA website located at [www.dcv.org](http://www.dcv.org).*

### **Election of members for the Board of Directors**

A Board appointed Nominating Committee consisting of Jan and John Haigis, Jan Marie Rushforth Andy Saul, Clyde Hunt, Toni McIntosh, and Ann Jackson met and conferred by phone during August, September, and October. They have put forward the following slate of candidates: **Richard Carroll, Carl DuPoldt, Kathryn Goddard Doms Clyde Hunt, Barbarann Keffer, Rosemary Kesling, Scott Maits, Olga Thornton, and Darren LaBrake.** The first eight are incumbent directors and have agreed to serve again. The new Emeritus Board nominee is **Dave Cannan.** **Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.** After the meeting, a short Board of Directors meeting will be held to elect officers for 2011.

### **Proposed Changes to DCVA Bylaws**

*See additional information in President's Pen*

1. The following change to the DCVA Bylaws is proposed by the Board of Directors to deal with the audit costs and concerns. **The current version of DCVA Bylaws concerning "Audits" is in Section XI, General Provisions, Section 5-Annual Audit. Proposed edit to the Bylaw is in bold and underlined:**

Section 5: Annual Audit or Review: An accountant or accounting firm selected by the Board of Directors shall audit **or review** the books of the Association as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year. The accountant's audit **or official review** shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at its first meeting following



**And Trolleys are Green, too!** History and community came alive in OeTrolleyFest Art by these contest winners, all 5th graders in the Darby Watershed. Sponsored by Sharon Savings Bank in Darby, an Art Contest reception honored Grand Prize, 2nd and 3rd place winners, plus 5 Honorable Mentions. Even the October 1st flood, which closed the bank with the art for 5 days, only delayed judging. The winners shown above received their prizes at the reception at the bank on October 12.

### ***Proposed Changes to Bylaws Continued***

2. The following change to the DCVA Bylaws is proposed by the Board of Directors to allow for more Board members as needed to help supply additional committed people to be active Board Members, Committee members and officers. **The current version of DCVA Bylaws concerning "Number" is in Article IV, Section 3-Number. Proposed edit to Bylaw is in bold and underlined:**

Section 3: Number: The Board of Directors shall be composed of not less than **Nine (9) or more than Thirty-five (35)** members as the Board of Directors may from time to time establish.

3. The following change to the DCVA bylaws proposed by the Board of Directors concerns maintaining 8 Directors to constitute a Quorum for a Board meeting rather than "one third of the total number of Directors." **The current version of DCVA bylaws concerning "Quorum" is in Article IV-Board of Directors, Section 9-Quorum. Proposed edit to Bylaw is in bold and underlined:**

Section 9: Quorum. At least **8 Directors** shall be necessary at all meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### *President's Pen*

*Continued from front page*

In his President's Pen in the last issue, John said: "Hold on. It will be an interesting ride." Little did we know just how true that sentiment would be! When we agreed to hold this office, we had no idea how much time it would take. We never dreamed it would be pretty much a 24/7 commitment. Whenever the phone rings or an email arrives, you never know who wants what, when they want it, or what the topic will be.

We know that everyone is busy these days, but my point here is how the nature of what DCVA is and does has been changed by our various constituencies, old and new, as well as by changing technology. DCVA is expected to address many new, as well as old, needs and issues, as the world around us changes and people become more aware of the threats to our environment, our health, and our well being: solar and wind energy vs. oil; dams or no dams on waterways; the pros and cons of Marcellus shale fracking for gas extraction; development, jobs and tax base needs vs. open space. The list of what DCVA might need or choose to address goes on and on.

While we have computers, cell phones and a myriad of new social networks that may help us communicate quickly, they also raise expectations that we can make judgments or craft policies or letters of support just as quickly, too. And that just isn't true. *To be responsible in what we do as an organization, as well as responsive, takes some time for reflection and the thoughtful crafting of words.* It also takes consideration of your audience and how you would wish them to respond to those words. *Most importantly, it takes some face-to-face communication in real time, not the frustrating, piecemeal conversation one gets via email.* The fact that our Board members are busy people, with family and job commitments, as well as other civic activities, often makes timely email dialogue difficult. Their many commitments also limit Directors' ability to attend meetings and serve as officers or on DCVA committees.

To increase the pool of willing workers, our Nominating Committee suggested and the Board agreed in October that we propose amending our bylaws to increase the upper number of Board members allowed from 27 to 35. In another bylaws change, however, we would keep the definition on a quorum at 8 members rather than the "1/3 of total Board membership" now stipulated. In order to save money as well as additional work by the Executive Committee and Treasurer, another change would allow DCVA to choose to have an annual review rather than mandate a full audit of its books. (See article on Bylaws Changes on page 4.) If approved at our January 29, 2011 Annual Membership Meeting, we hope that the changes will help make the DCVA even more efficient and productive, while also saving us money.

Another plan to increase our effectiveness and keep us on track is a visioning and strategic planning workshop to be

held following our November 20 Board Meeting. Being planned by the Executive Committee in consultation with Board member Palmer Dalesandro, the session will help us assess what goals we have for the next few years and how we can meet them successfully. So, as John said last time, "Stay tuned." And I will add: "There are exciting things ahead and we know you will want to be part of them!" Meanwhile enjoy the beauty of fall and winter in our Darby Creek Valley!

*Jan Haigis, Co-President, DCVA*



In the spring DCVA Stream Watchers collect insect samples to be studied at a fall workshop to help determine stream health.

### **Sustainable and Green Businesses and Homes**

*Continued from page 3*

Storm Water Management can reduce water runoff into creeks in the following ways:

- A. A rain barrel can store rain water for watering plants, keeping the water on your property.
- B. Planting a rain garden can capture more water before it flows beyond your property and gardens can look beautiful.
- A. Converting a regular flat roof to a "green roof" allows rain absorption that would otherwise go into a gutter or off your property.
- B. Replacing regular impervious concrete or macadam with pervious concrete or pervious macadam can both reduce storm water impact and improve rain water absorption through pavement. (There are several demonstration paved areas of green pavement at Villanova University Campus, where you can see all of these storm water management techniques in use).

DCVA appreciates the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund for its contribution toward the printing of this issue of *The Valley*. The ESCS Fund cares about best conservation practices and local resources for protecting Darby Creek and environs.

**Dream of a Darby Creek Greenway - A Centennial Celebration - The Work Continues**

*Continued from Page 1*

The program featured music, fun, and information about the past, present, and future of greenways along scenic Darby Creek. A progress report on the ongoing Darby Creek Greenway project along the entire creek was presented by Karen Holm and Steve Beckley of the Delaware County Planning Department. This celebration coincided with both Watershed Week and Historic Preservation Month.

A newspaper article from 1910 about the first section of greenway described Darby Creek as a "beautiful winding stream with pretty shade trees on either side and its scenery is unsurpassed in Pennsylvania." In 2010, one hundred years later, because of citizen action, steep slopes, and the work, caring and foresight of county and local government officials, that is still largely true. Darby Creek remains a ribbon of green beauty, connecting the 77 square miles and 31 municipalities of the Darby Creek Watershed.



**DCVA Provides Community Education** Jan Marie Rushforth and Mary Courtney stand in front of the DCVA table at the Haverford Heritage Festival, June 6. Others answering questions at the DCVA exhibit were Ann Jackson and Jan and John Haigis. Help was also received from Anne and Joe Ackerman.



**DCVA Plants Commemorative Tree.** Jack Kelly, Ann Jackson, David Bennett, and Steve Beckley plant a tree from DCVA in Pennock Woods to commemorate the Centennial Celebration of Arthur Shrigley's Dream of a Darby Creek Greenway, May 1, 2010.



**The 1904 Trolley Bridge over Darby Creek** is now part of Buttonwood Park, created by SEPTA adjacent to the new Darby Borough Transportation Center, across from the trolley turnaround at 9th and Main. SEPTA also funded six historic signs featuring Darby's transportation heritage and other historic people and events. Designed by Greg Pritchard from materials gathered by the Darby Borough Historical Commission, the signs were dedicated at OcTrolleyFest on October 2, despite the flooding the day before!

## Snapshots of the Darby Creek Watershed



**Lansdowne Mayor Jayne Young** greets David Bennett and Jan Marie Rushforth at a March Borough meeting where they presented gift copies of our 25th Anniversary map, which portrays many historic sites in the watershed, as well as DCVA's history and work. DCVA members made several similar municipal visits in the spring.



**Older Modes Can be Greener.** Darby Borough's 6th Annual OcTrolleyFest celebrated transportation heritage and community, as well as the many green benefits of touring or commuting by trolley. Not only are these 1947 PCC cars painted green, they provide greener rides with less pollution than autos or buses because they are powered electrically.



**A Pathway in the New Buttonwood Park** in Darby Borough provides a walk along the Darby Creek from Main St. to Mac Dade Blvd., when you go to & from SEPTA's new Darby Transportation Center.



**Here We Go Again!** Darby Creek overflowed its banks on October 1, 2010, causing flooding throughout the lower Watershed. The photo above shows conditions in Darby Borough where Chester Pike meets 9th and Main Streets. Sometimes even with new bridges and good storm water practices, too much rain comes too fast and overwhelms the best managed systems. And development upstream is hard to undo.

### **26th Annual Darby/Cobbs Watershed-Wide Creek Cleanup**

Thanks to Barbarann Keffer, Cleanup Chair, John & Jan Haigis, Fundraising Chairs, Captains, and more than 750 stalwart volunteers, the 26th Annual Darby/Cobbs Watershed-Wide Creek Cleanup hauled more than 12.5 tons of trash, tires, shopping carts, kiddie pools, plastic bottles, and runoff barriers from Darby Creek and its tributaries, including its largest tributary, Cobbs Creek. This figure does not include the tonnage we pile up that is graciously removed by local municipalities, whose help we greatly appreciate. As someone once said, "It's a big watershed and somebody's got to clean it." Five new sites and Captains, mostly in the middle watershed, were added this year. Happily they were all volunteers in previous years who wanted to help clean additional Creek places!

Once again DCVA is gearing up to tackle the trash in the creeks and tributaries of the Darby Creek Watershed that flow through the 77 square miles, 31 municipalities, and 4 counties from Tredyffrin to Tinicum. So Save the Date! **The 27th Annual Darby/Cobbs Creek Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 30, 2011.** Do you have a favorite watershed spot that needs our attention? Please let us know and, if you can, join as a Captain there in the spring! **Contact:** [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)



**Some of the young Creek Cleaners in Sharon Hill** took a break in front of a rapidly filling dumpster during the DCVA Cleanup on April 24. Councilmen Michael Finnegan and Scott MacNeil were on hand to help, as well as Cleanup Co-Captain Gem Gabisi, the 2009-2010 Junior Council member, and Cleanup Co-Captain Faith Thomas, who also serves as Council Vice President in the Borough. (Photo by Gwen Peirce)



**Two stalwart young volunteers haul trash from Darby Creek at the Sharon Hill site** during the DCVA Darby/Cobbs Watershed-Wide Cleanup, April 24, 2010. (Photo by Gwen Peirce.)

### **Tips to Prevent Water Pollution in Creeks and Streams**

1. Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of washing them down.
2. Dispose of chemicals properly. Don't pour them into the ground, into old wells or down the drain.
3. Use commercial car washes or wash vehicles over a grassy area.
4. Fix oil and radiator leaks on vehicles and tractors.
5. Put trash in a trash can. Don't litter.
6. If changing oil on a vehicle, dispose of the oil properly; do not put into storm drains that flow into streams.
7. Keep lawn chemicals off driveways and sidewalks. When possible, use natural products instead.
8. Mulch grass clippings. Don't leave them in street gutters or throw into streams.
9. NEVER put trash, tires, or old appliances in a stream or creek.
10. Clean up pet waste. Dispose in toilet or in trash can.
11. Plant trees and shrubs to soak up storm water, preferably native ones.

*Prepared by Jan Marie Rushforth, edited from book marks by Chester County Board of Commissioners*



## Governor Printz Canoe/Kayak Challenge and Ramble

By Jaclyn Rhoads

DCVA held another successful Governor Printz Canoe/Kayak Challenge on September 19. "Paddlers" started at the Cusano Environmental Education Center at the Heinz Wildlife Refuge.

John Furth led the leisurely Canoe Ramble down Darby Creek to the Morton Mortonson House. There the paddlers were greeted by members of the Morton Historical Society who treated everyone to snacks, a tour of the House, and a leisurely rest on the lawn.

The Canoe/Kayak Challenge participants "fast paddled" to the Governor Printz Park at Tincum where they were greeted by cheering friends, DCVA members and snacks.

This year's 1st five finishers were:

1st	Jesse/Vadium Likuchek	42:05:00
2nd	Andrily Lyssikov	43:00:00
3rd	Bill Ruthrauft	43:55:00
4th	Nikita Alshagev	44:55:00
5th	Earl Blackwell	45:18:00

This year's 1st woman finisher:

1st	Janet Jastremski	59:00:00
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The participants are fun-loving people who enjoy the outdoors. This year Jeff Pringle has written a great memoir of the event and his experience which can be found on DCVA's website [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org).

DCVA and others sponsor this event to highlight and preserve the natural and historic treasures of the lower Darby Creek. If you missed the event, don't worry. We will have it again next year.



Jaclyn Rhoads and participants in DCVA's Governor Printz Canoe/Kayak Challenge

DCVA would like to thank the following Governor Printz Challenge sponsors:

Whole Foods for providing snacks and beverages; Residential Mold Services for donating funds; Charles Ford for taking photos; Morton Mortonson House in Norwood for opening its doors; John Heinz Wildlife Refuge for hosting every year; Glen Green for helping spread the word about the event; and Jaclyn Rhoads, John Furth, and Ann Jackson of DCVA for making it all happen so smoothly.

## TAG Update for Folcroft and Clearview Landfill Cleanup

By Jaclyn Rhoads

DCVA has participated for several years in a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) offered by the Environmental Protection Agency, allowing a community group to oversee and provide feedback on cleanup plans for two local landfill sites.

The EPA continues to work on the plans for the Clearview landfill this past year and has begun to provide plans that are available for review. EPA held a public meeting in April to allow people to see maps of the area and the plans for indoor air testing of homes that border the Clearview Landfill.

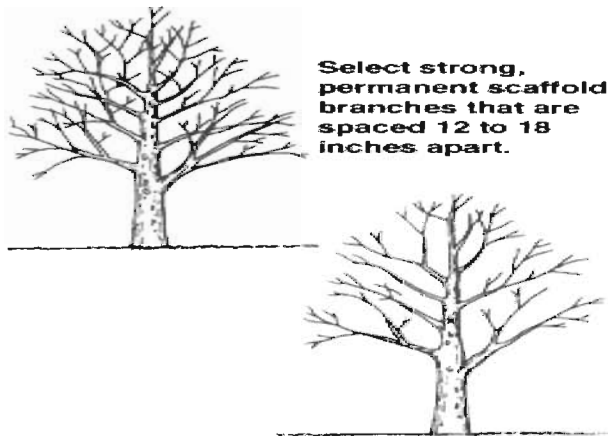
DCVA with assistance from our consulting firm, EnviroAce, has provided feedback on EPA's *Indoor Air Monitoring Plan for the Clearview Landfill* and *Draft Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment of Aquatic Habitats Associated with the Lower Darby Creek Superfund Site* for the Folcroft Landfill. For more information about the landfill sites, visit EPA's website <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hscd/npl/PASFN0305521.htm>. Concerned citizens can find contact information for the EPA professionals in charge of these projects at this website as well.

DCVA also participated in a meeting to look at the re-use of the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site (Folcroft and Clearview Landfills). With funding from the EPA Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, EPA Region 3 requested assistance from E<sup>2</sup> Inc., an environmental firm, to conduct a reuse assessment for the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site.

DCVA provided the following suggestions to E<sup>2</sup> Inc. on the re-use of the sites. First, DCVA is concerned that potential seepage from the Site could hurt watershed health, and that should continue to be monitored. Second, DCVA supports habitat restoration and future recreational uses for both landfills. Possible close-by connections to the East Coast Greenway, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) and explorations of a possible Revolutionary War burial ground, suggest additional tourism and recreational connections. Third, DCVA representatives expressed interest in exploring opportunities for educational partnerships between Heinz NWR staff and DCVA volunteers for public education related to the Clearview landfill site. Fourth, DCVA representatives also noted the need for coordination of planning efforts across municipal jurisdictional lines and mentioned the Council of Governments as a possible venue for that effort.

The TAG committee will continue to keep DCVA members and the public informed on the cleanup efforts and re-use assessment. If you have any questions, please contact TAG chairperson, [jaclyn\\_rhoads@yahoo.com](mailto:jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com).

**P.S.** At a meeting on November 3, EPA representatives reported that a meeting will be held in Eastwick early in 2011, providing a chance for the public to learn more and provide input to the EPA. When available, we will post date, time and place at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org).



### Clyde's Guide to Priorities for Pruning

To prevent most trees from becoming dangerous or a nuisance, some careful pruning of young trees is recommended, sooner rather than later. Such examples include removing:

1. Dead, damaged or diseased branches.
2. Limbs that are crossing or rubbing.
3. Branches attached to or protruding from the main stem at or below "eye height." (7-8 feet in the pedestrian zone over the sidewalk, curb, or parking meter). Branches that grow outward beyond mulch or tree pits are a nuisance to people mowing the grass.
4. Branches over the street (below 12 feet in height) to avoid damage by buses or delivery trucks; or branches growing toward street lamps.

Larger pruning jobs may be done during the dormant or leafless season when the problem branches are easier to view and professional arborists have more time. Eventually, trees growing toward utilities, driveways, or storefronts may be reduced in height and limb length so that the total tree size can be kept in scale with the available growing space. *Delayed pruning will never be as economical as early pruning. The longer the pruning is postponed, the greater the wounds to the tree, and the greater the cost and time required for care and treatment.*

The Darby Creek Valley Association suggests timely pruning of offending trees. A demonstration by an arborist can serve as a learning opportunity for people who wish to do their own pruning. Why not start these pruning improvements now? Your tree will thank you.

*by Clyde Hunt*

## Insect Identification Workshop December 4, 2010

*by Alan Samel*

Put it on your calendars! Put it on your refrigerator door! The DCVA Seventh Annual Insect Identification Workshop will be held Saturday, December 4 at the Peace Center at Friends Meeting in Springfield.

It was a beautiful day on Saturday, April 17, 2010 when samples were taken from five locations on Darby Creek: Bartram Park in Darby, Darby Creek Road in Havertown (downstream from the state hospital), Skunk Hollow in Radnor, the Brandywine Preserve at Waterloo Mills in Easttown, and the Swedish Cabin in Upper Darby. In addition to the samples taken for later identification, some water chemistry samples were taken for analysis with our water quality test kit. We had a great turnout! DCVA thanks the small army of volunteers who helped make this a great day. Everyone had a chance to get in the creek, work with the samplers, and see what is living in Darby Creek.

On Saturday, December 4th, the Seventh Annual Insect Identification Workshop will be *happening at the* Delaware County Peace Center at Springfield Friends Meeting. Starting at 9:00 am, the purpose of the workshop will be to identify the aquatic organisms taken in samples during the April 17th Stream Watch. The results will provide an assessment of the water quality of Darby Creek at each site during that period of time, based on the organisms present during sampling. The 2009 samples showed an improvement of water quality at all sites. Hopefully, we will continue to see that trend in 2010.

Our work on December 4th is not as hard as it might sound. Yes, we use microscopes. Yes, the bugs are small. And yes, there is mud. But NO, it is not difficult. Heck, last year, teenagers processed over half the samples collected! Yes, teenagers. You know, almost adults with no attention span. Those teenagers. And they did a great job! This is the fifth year for this workshop, so we are getting pretty good at it. But we need your help and participation to make this work even better. If you are interested, please contact me at [alan.samel@verizon.net](mailto:alan.samel@verizon.net). Did I mention that lunch is included. I'll try anything! Alan Samel

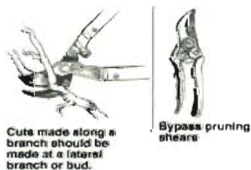
**More Pruning Tips by Clyde Hunt**



Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar.

Make pruning cuts just outside the branch collar

Use scissor type or bypass blade hand pruners or a saw for clean cuts

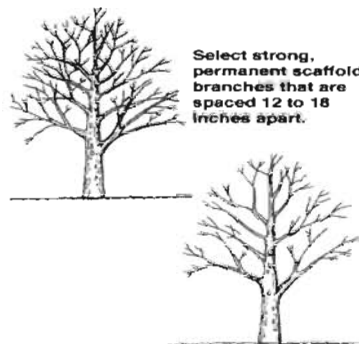


Cuts made along a branch should be made at a lateral branch or bud.

Bypass pruning shears

Avoid over thinning. This stimulates sprouts within the interior of the tree. Trees need leaves on the remaining branches to provide healthy growth. Keep at least half of the foliage on the branches within the lower 2/3 of the tree.

Establish a strong scaffold structure. Select strong permanent scaffold branches that are spaced 12-18 inches apart. (Avoid multiple branches that arise near each other on the same side of the tree



Select strong, permanent scaffold branches that are spaced 12 to 18 inches apart.

If permanent branches are shortened, cut back to a lateral branch or a vigorous bud. Maintain a single, dominant leader. Prune the less dominate stem while the tree is young.

Source: Pruning Young Trees [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)

**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 on the Darby Creek and the Blue Bell Inn. on the Cobbs Creek. The Association would like to see the more than 30 miles of the stream valley used 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 \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone is: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail is: \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual Member.....\$25.00
- Family Membership.....\$35.00
- Senior Citizen or Student.....\$10.00
- Corporate or Municipality.....\$50.00
- Non-Profit Group.....\$35.00
- Life Member.....\$250.00

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please check all items that apply above

DCVA is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization-All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

# CALENDAR

- Saturday, December 4, 2010 DCVA Annual Insect Identification Workshop. 9am, Springfield Friends Meeting. 1001 Old Sproul Rd., Springfield, PA 19064. [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org) or [alan.samel@verizon.net](mailto:alan.samel@verizon.net).
- Saturday January 29, 2011 DCVA 27th Annual Meeting, Noon-3PM. Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Rd. Springfield, PA 19064. [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org) (Snow Date February 5)
- Saturday, April 30, 2011 DCVA 27th Annual Darby/Cobbs Creek Watershed-Wide Cleanup. 9am-1pm. [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)

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### Other Programs in the Watershed

Delaware County Conservation District, PA Resources Council.  
"Green Energy Home Workshops"- All workshops 7:00- 8:30pm. More details at [www.delcocc.org](http://www.delcocc.org) or [www.pcr.org](http://www.pcr.org)

Thursday, December 2, 2010 Morton Borough Hall, Morton, PA  
Tuesday, December 14, 2010 PA Resource Council, 3606 Providence Rd, Newtown Square, PA

Spring 2011: "We All Live Downstream" workshops  
(Dates to be announced)

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Darby Creek Valley Association  
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