



# Red Clay Valley Association



## DEAR RED CLAY MEMBER

2005 showed the Red Clay Watershed what a normal water year looks like. After two years of record high levels preceded by a record low water year, an average year was quite welcome. While the watershed was witnessing an average water year, RCVA's work continued at a high level.

Following the guidance of a long-range plan developed three years ago, RCVA established ambitious goals for the Board and staff to meet the needs of the valley. These programs protected the valley's water resources and expanded education programs for school students and the adult population. The year began with a report from the U.S. Geological Survey which showed that the Red Clay Creek continued its modest improvement. While this was good news, the report also suggested that more could be done. This set the tone for several substantial programs designed to improve stream quality.

RCVA's Water Resources and Scenic Red Clay Valley Committees took on projects to provide specific solutions for the remaining water quality problems. These included developing plans to reforest stream corridors as well as designing a program to upgrade below standard streams. This plan was approved by the Board at the end of 2005 and will play a major role in RCVA's plans for the coming year.

For the past three years, RCVA has been involved with the Red Clay Greenway Trail. This trail will link five major community facilities in Kennett Square while featuring and protecting over a mile of the east branch of the Red Clay Creek. RCVA has helped to raise funds for this project, secure the necessary permits, and coordinate the trail work. This is a major watershed project and the first of its kind in the valley.

In 2005 RCVA continued several long-standing programs. The 17th Annual Red Clay Clean-up attracted over 500 volunteers and netted nearly 15 tons of trash. RCVA partnered with Kennett Area Park Authority for the 10th Annual Trout Rodeo in Nixon Park. For the fourth year in a row, RCVA stocked the Red Clay Creek with brown trout to demonstrate the improved water quality.

RCVA's education programs continued to grow. The Watershed School Program in Kennett and Unionville School Districts focused on current and future teachers. RCVA again participated in the After the Bell Program with Kennett Middle School and took programs to schools in the valley.

The Red Clay Valley continues to improve as a result of our work. This improvement is made possible by your support as a member, your financial support and your involvement in RCVA's programs. Thank you for keeping RCVA an active force in our valley which will help to conserve our valuable resources for this and future generations.

Sincerely,

Edwin L. Mongan  
President

Robert G. Struble, Jr.  
Executive Director

# ANNUAL REPORT 1952 - 2005 Providing 53 Years of Stewardship in the Red Clay Valley

# 2005

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road • West Chester, PA 19382

t: 610-793-1090 • f: 610-793-2813 • email: [water@bva-rcva.org](mailto:water@bva-rcva.org) • web: [www.redclayvalley.org](http://www.redclayvalley.org)

# STATE OF OUR WATERSHED



Since its founding in 1952, Red Clay Valley Association's mission has been to promote the conservation and restoration of natural resources in the Red Clay Watershed.

This mission is consistent through drought years, flood years, and normal water years. In 2005, the valley experienced what might be considered a rarity, a normal water year. With rainfall close to the annual average of 48 inches and streamflows and ground water levels tracking close to the normal range over the course of the year, the valley did not need to contend with the extremes of 2004, 2003, and 2002.

In early 2005, the U.S. Geological Survey reported its annual stream quality evaluation which was both good and bad news for the Red Clay Creek. The good news was that the stream continues to do better on a long-term basis. The bad news was that there is still more to do to achieve the stream quality that we can expect from the Red Clay Creek.

Red Clay Valley Association made stream quality improvement a priority and spent much of 2005 planning and implementing projects which will directly affect water quality. One of the major changes over the years in the Red Clay Watershed has been the removal of discharges to the stream. The remaining problems are the result of non-point source pollution, runoff from surfaces such as urban, suburban, residential, and agricultural areas.

Toward the end of 2005, RCVA's board adopted a plan which will further improve stream quality. Specifically aimed at those streams which are below standard, the plan involves identifying substandard streams, determining the source of the problem, developing pilot projects to demonstrate techniques that can solve the problems, and partnering with the public and private sector to make the plan work. This will be a long-term project but will help to achieve RCVA's goal of having all streams meet the appropriate standards.

In 2005, RCVA began the next State of the Watershed Report. This document shows the trend in water quality and other changes in the watershed that

will affect the Red Clay Creek and ground water. With funding from The Dockstader Foundation and the Fair Play Foundation, the State of the Watershed Report will provide a health check on the Red Clay Creek as well as a reference document for those who are working with the valley's resources.

The Red Clay Greenway Trail has been a major community project for the past three years. RCVA is one of the members of the group working to complete this one and a half mile trail along the east branch of the Red Clay Creek in Kennett Square. In 2005, most of the effort was spent obtaining a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection which allows bridges to be built and the trail to pass under Cypress Street. The permit was received at the end of 2005 and in the coming year the trail will be substantially completed. The trail will not only link five major community facilities, but will feature and protect the east branch of the Red Clay Creek as it passes through Kennett Square.

RCVA's educational role was active once again in 2005. More than 2,500 school students took part in RCVA education programs, at both the Myrick Conservation Center and at schools in the watershed. RCVA took programs to the Kennett School District with the "All About Owls" program being the most popular. The Watershed Learning Center programs continued at Brandywine Springs Elementary School, with every grade participating in specially tailored environmental education programs. RCVA, for the fifth year, participated in the After the Bell Program for students from the Kennett Middle School.

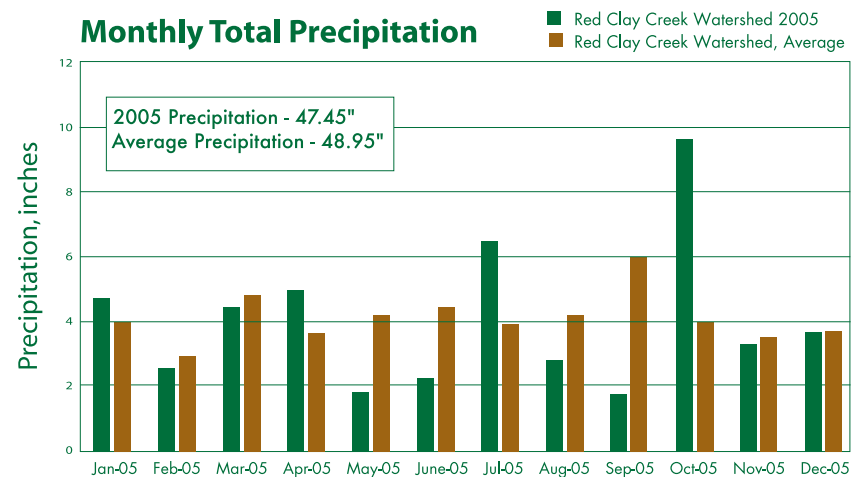
A new program for teachers, known as Watershed School, held its first training session for teachers from Kennett and Unionville School Districts. This program is also designed for future teachers and involved students from West Chester University and Neumann College. RCVA has assumed a leadership role in training current and future teachers how to teach environmental science to meet the Pennsylvania Academic Standards using fun, hands-on techniques.

One of RCVA's very rewarding partnerships is with the Earth Club at Unionville High School. This partnership continued and was expanded to Kennett High School through their own Earth Club. Students from these two schools volunteered at the Myrick Center's organic vegetable garden and teamed up to plant trees and shrubs along the east branch of the Red Clay Creek in front of the Kennett High School. Earth Club members also volunteered at

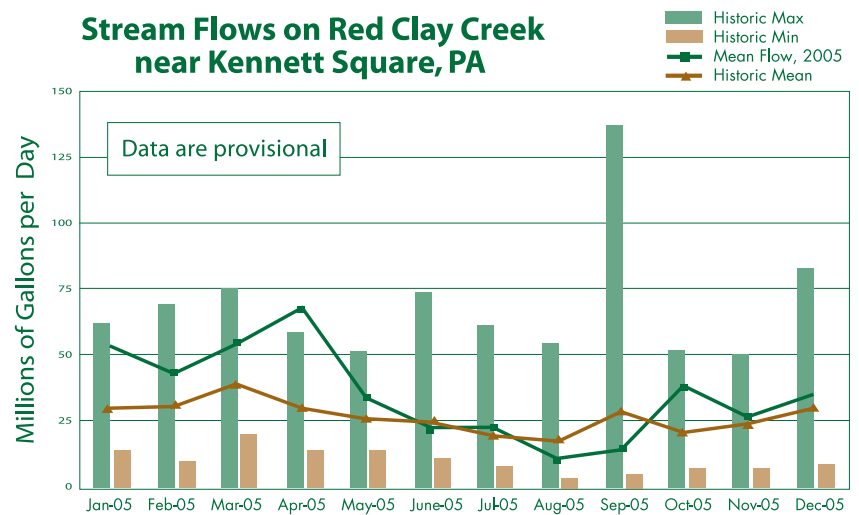
the Red Clay Clean-up and the Myrick Center's Volunteer Day.

Red Clay Valley Association's mission is all about improving the Red Clay Creek. The Association's work continued to show results in 2005. Due to the involvement by active committees and partnering with many community groups, RCVA remains the leader for environmental improvement in the Red Clay Watershed.

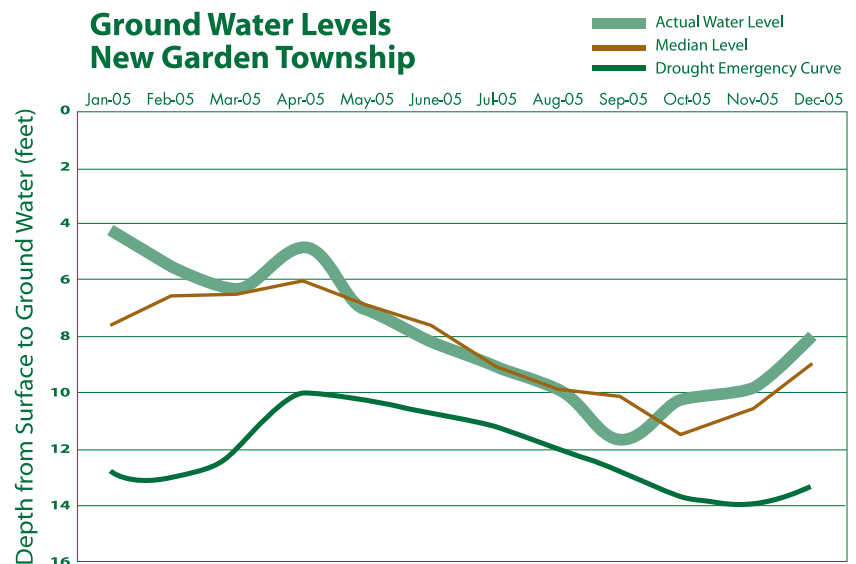
## Monthly Total Precipitation



## Stream Flows on Red Clay Creek near Kennett Square, PA



## Ground Water Levels New Garden Township



# HIGHLIGHTS 2005

## WATER RESOURCES

Noting that the Red Clay Creek is improving annually but many sections do not meet state standards, the Board adopted a plan to improve these substandard streams. The improvement plan will include stream corridor plantings, some of which were begun in 2005.

## OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST

At RCVA's 53rd Annual Meeting, the Outstanding Conservationist Award was presented to Warren Lauder for his more than 40 years of work to reestablish bluebirds in the Red Clay Valley area.

## PHOTO CONTEST

RCVA partnered with The Kennett Paper for the second annual photo contest. The theme was the Red Clay Watershed featuring wildlife or flora. First prize went to John Harrod, second place to Paul Vanore, with Denise Gerrity taking third place.

## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

RCVA teamed up with the Brandywine Valley Association and Penn State Extension Service to present a public workshop on lawn care alternatives. RCVA also partnered with these two organizations and the University of Delaware to host a conference on Mile-a-Minute Weed. The well received Local Issues Series for municipal leaders, agency representatives and conservation groups continued in 2005.

## 17TH ANNUAL RED CLAY CLEAN-UP

Over 500 volunteers turned out for this event, picking up nearly 15 tons of trash from 35 miles of streams and roadways. RCVA co-sponsors this event with Delaware Nature Society, NVF Company, Wilmington & Western Railroad, and Wildbirds Unlimited. WSFS Bank and Starbucks Coffee Company provided additional support. DelDot and local businesses provided trucks and crews for trash transportation. BFI and SECCRA Landfill transported and landfilled the trash respectively.

## NIXON PARK TROUT RODEO

RCVA partnered again with the Kennett Area Park Authority for the 10th Annual Trout Rodeo at Nixon Park. Over 250 anglers showed up to try their skill at catching nearly 500 trout that were stocked. The value of this event goes well beyond the actual day of the rodeo. Not all the trout were caught that day and many anglers, including youngsters, continued to pursue these trout for several weeks.

## RED CLAY GREENWAY TRAIL

Most of 2005 was spent obtaining a state permit to complete trail construction and bridges. That permit was received in October with bridge building and trail construction set for early 2006.

## EDUCATION

RCVA welcomed Giselle Cosentino as the new Education Director. Programs continued to expand in Red Clay Valley schools including the popular "All About Owls" outreach program. Watershed School, designed for current and future teachers, continued in the Kennett and Unionville School Districts and the Watershed Learning Center had its fourth year at Brandywine Springs Elementary School. Students from the Unionville and Kennett High Schools' Earth Clubs volunteered at the Myrick Conservation Center's vegetable garden and worked on a stream planting project. For the fifth year, RCVA continued its involvement in the After the Bell Program with Kennett Middle School students. At the 53rd Annual Meeting the Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Jamie Branham from Kennett Middle School. The award also included \$500 from the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority. Roxanne Witcher was presented the Environmental Instructor of the Year Award for her work with education programs at the Myrick Center and Brandywine Springs Elementary School.



# RCVA LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Vice President*  
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Fred Rogers  
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Richard Stigale  
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James W. Libby

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*Executive Director*  
James E. Jordan, Jr.  
*Managing Director*  
Giselle Cosentino  
*Education Director*  
Robyn Wood  
*School Programs Coordinator*  
Betsy Stefferud  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Diane W. Smith  
*Bookkeeper*

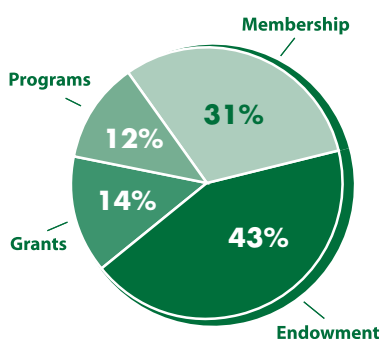
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Association operates on a calendar year basis. During 2005, income from all sources totaled \$121,589. Of that total, \$37,856 was from membership. Income was also received from birdseed sales, education programs and interest. In 2005, \$51,918 was provided by the endowment fund for specific projects which included support for environmental programs, special education projects, and the public information program. Grants and gifts in the amount of \$17,500 were received to support watershed projects and general programming.

Expenses for the year totaled \$114,215. The major expense was \$83,148 representing a cost share with Brandywine Valley Association to cover use of office space and staff services. Other expenses were for newsletters and communications with members and the public, school education programs, environmental projects, and expenses for birdseed sales. RCVA is also handling accounts for the Red Clay Greenway Trail.

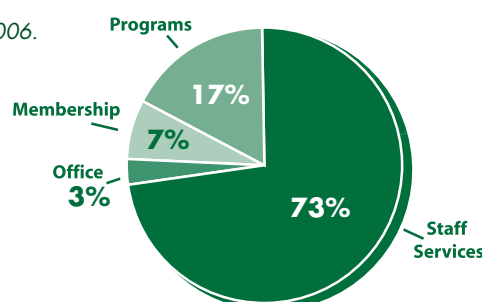
At year end the account balances were as follows: Operating Account \$25,242; Endowment Account \$1,184,311; Trail Account \$74,378.

## INCOME



The Association accounts are audited by Whisman, Giordano and Associates. The report will be available in July 2006.

## EXPENSES





Red Clay Valley Association, Inc.  
1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road  
West Chester, PA 19382

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Kennett Square, PA  
Permit No. 13

# ANNUAL REPORT 2005

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

### Corporate

Artesian Water Company  
Beiler-Campbell Realtors  
Bernardon Haber Holloway Architects  
Clemens, Inc.  
E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co.  
Exelon  
Fenstermacher & Company CPA  
First National Bank of Chester County  
Genesis HealthCare, Inc.  
Government Specialists, Inc.  
Kaolin Mushroom Farms, Inc.  
Key Real Estate, LLC  
Lester Water Treatment  
Longwood Gardens  
M. W. Fontana, Inc.  
MOBAC, Inc.  
Phillips Mushroom Farms  
Register Associates, Inc.  
Rogers Jackson Ltd  
Simpers Agency  
Southeastern C.C. Refuse Auth.  
Starbucks Coffee Co.  
Tri-M Corporation  
United Water Delaware  
Wade & Company LLC  
Wild Birds Unlimited  
WSFS  
YMCA of the Brandywine Valley

### Foundations

E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation  
Ederic Foundation  
Fair Play Foundation

### Conservationist Members

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Mr. M. James Hoffman  
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Mrs. Doris S. Kane  
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Mr. Sam Slater  
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Ron & Eleanor Smith  
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Mr. & Mrs. William H. Tilson  
Mrs. Vincent Verplanck  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Waters  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Weber  
Ms. Joyce Weigel  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. Welsh  
Mr. Stan Wilcox

### Contributing Members

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Mrs. Marcia T. Biddle  
Mr. Charles B. Buonassisi  
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Mr. & Mrs. Z. A. Frangopoulos  
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Mr. & Mrs. Peter Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Homer H. Haggard  
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Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Kinter  
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Mr. Oliver Turner  
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Mrs. Katharine B. Way  
Mr. James Werner & Ms. Christine Bird  
Mr. Arthur Winey

*The Red Clay Valley Association wishes to extend special thanks and appreciation to our individual and family members who provided financial support in 2005, as well as to our many volunteers who so unselfishly gave of their time, talent and expertise throughout the year.*