



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

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• Red Clay Trail Finishing Touches

Red Clay Valley Association



Volume: LIII No. 3  
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# REVIEW

## SUMMER Camp

More than 300 campers from ages four to early teens enjoyed summer camp at the Myrick Conservation Center which combined watershed education and fun in six weeklong programs.



### RED CLAY WATER QUALITY PROGRAM TO BEGIN

Since its founding in 1952, Red Clay Valley Association has focused on improving the quality of the Red Clay Creek. Over the 55 years since RCVA began, Red Clay Creek has improved significantly. Annual stream sampling conducted most recently in fall of 2006 confirmed the improvement in both the east and west branches. Despite this good news, the Red Clay Creek can still improve. Stream samples indicate that phosphorous, probably from treatment plant discharges and surface runoff, still contributes to lower water quality. In addition, sediment in the stream from many years of field erosion and, more recently, from streambank erosion, have resulted in reduced aquatic habitat and, as a result, lowered water quality.



Stream assessments will be the first step in the Red Clay water quality program.

To continue the improving trend in the Red Clay Creek, RCVA will undertake an extended program designed to identify remaining problems, develop a restoration plan to correct these problems, and then implement the restoration project. With initial grant funding RCVA will begin undertaking this program in the fall of 2007. The project will identify one or two pilot areas in streams that do not currently meet state requirements for water quality. Using aquatic biologists, samples will be taken of the streams at strategic locations and the current water quality determined. With that information, which will include chemical and biological sampling as well as stream habitat assessment, problem areas can be identified and the sources of reduced water quality indicated.

The next step will be to develop a restoration plan based on the information collected. The restoration plan will note the problems and applicable corrective measures. In addition, the plan will note potential improvements as a result of implementing restoration projects as well as the costs for these projects. Restoration techniques could include stream corridor plantings, streambank restoration, improvement of point sources or removal of these from the stream, and non-point source runoff improvements.

In addition to developing and implementing a plan, ongoing monitoring will be used to measure the improvement over time.

The water quality improvement program will be a long-term project but is the next and perhaps the most difficult step in bringing the Red Clay Creek to the quality level it can attain. The Red Clay Review will continue to report progress on pilot projects and on the program as it expands to the entire watershed.

# REVIEW

The Review is published quarterly by the Red Clay Valley Association for its members.  
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## STREAM QUALITY IMPROVEMENT NOTED

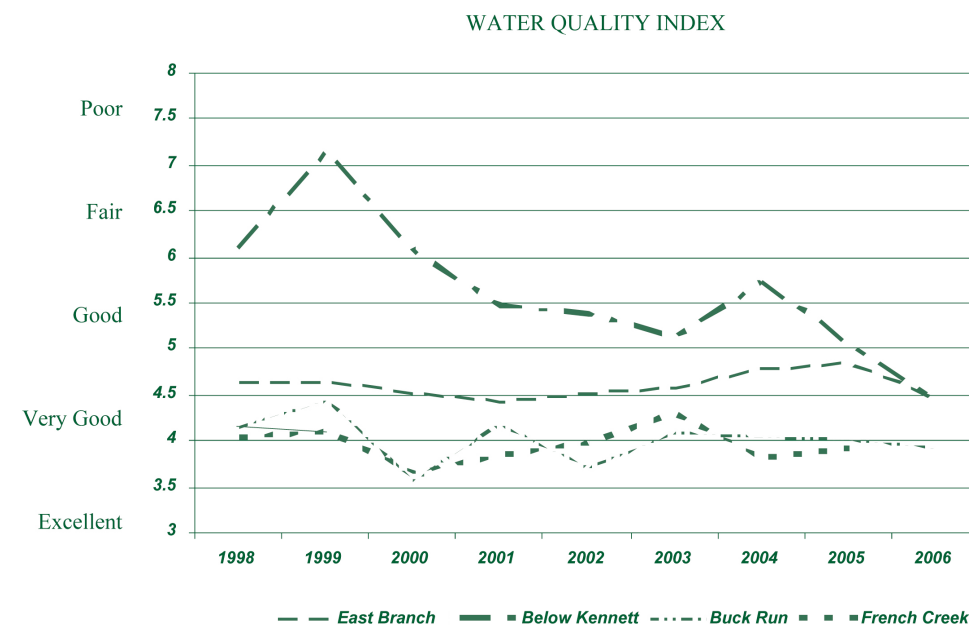
At its annual stream assessment in November 2006, aquatic biologists from the U.S. Geological Survey noted slight but continued improvement in Red Clay Creek water quality. These assessments, which have been made on an annual basis since 1969, indicate that the east and west branches, where the assessment sites are located, have made steady improvement over the last three decades.

By sampling stream biology and water chemistry the U.S.G.S. biologists can indicate current conditions of the stream. These annual assessments show the east branch making steady progress in the 80's and 90's with water quality stabilizing in the last five years. For the west branch, water quality declined in the late 1990's when the sampling point was moved to below the Kennett sewage treatment plant outfall from a point previously above that discharge. The treatment plant effluent reduced water quality but that has since improved significantly with a new sewage treatment plant that went on line in 2001. Since then water quality in the west branch has progressively improved.

The annual surveys indicate that phosphorous is still a problem, especially on the west branch, and that sediment is a problem on both branches. To continue

improvement, both streams will need to see reduced phosphorous levels and reduction in sediment, which is probably the result of streambank erosion.

These assessments now show that the Red Clay Creek is similar in water quality to other streams in the region, which is a dramatic improvement from what was once called the worst stream in the region. While these improvements are encouraging, there is still an opportunity to do better. But future improvements will be more difficult and probably more expensive than what has happened in the past. Please see the article on the Red Clay water quality program which will provide some ideas on how further improvement could occur.



## RED CLAY TRAIL ADDING FINISHING TOUCHES

The last issue of the Red Clay Review noted the dedication of the Red Clay Trail. After six years of work by many community organizations, the nearly completed trail was dedicated at RCVA's Annual Meeting April 19th. What remained was an underpass below Cypress Street and a connector to extend the trail to the west side of the creek between Cypress Street and the railroad tracks in front of the

Kennett Fire Company. This work is now complete and the trail has had some of its route resurfaced to give a finished look from Nixon Park to the Kennett Area Community Pool.

Unfinished work includes signs and bathroom facilities along the trail. Groups providing funding or ongoing maintenance of the trail will also be noted.

When this work is complete, a grand opening will take place later

this year. This trail is a recreational asset to the Kennett area community and a way for many people to better understand and appreciate the Red Clay Creek, along which the trail runs. Future plans include extending the trail northward into East Marlborough Township and southward along the Red Clay Creek in Kennett Township.

## Tee-Off FOR WATER RESOURCES GOLF TOURNAMENT October 22nd

The Radley Run Country Club will be the setting for Brandywine Valley Association's fourth annual "Tee Off for Water Resources" Golf Outing. Situated between Plum Run and Radley Run, the golf course is in a picturesque part of the Brandywine watershed. The fall colors will add to the already beautiful environment. Golfers will assemble at 11:00 AM for lunch and start. Following the outing there will be dinner at the country club where prizes will be awarded to the winners.

This will be an opportunity to enjoy the Brandywine Valley at a beautiful time of year while helping to support BVA's work. For more information on the outing please call the office at 610-793-1090 or check BVA's website [www.brandywinewatershed.org](http://www.brandywinewatershed.org).

## VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

AT THE MYRICK CONSERVATION CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2007 TIME: 8:30 - 12:30

8:30 AM Registration and light breakfast with Starbucks Coffee  
9:00 AM Work begins on projects including: Native Tree Planting, Invasive Plant Removal, Gardening, Building and Trail Maintenance, and Litter Clean Up  
12:30 PM Lunch

**RSVP by Monday September 17th**

Email: [water@bva-rcva.org](mailto:water@bva-rcva.org) or call (610) 793 - 1090 for additional information

The Myrick Conservation Center is a 318-acre facility that consists of active farm fields, wetlands, forest and an extensive network of hiking trails, all of which are used as part of our environmental education programs throughout the year.

## INSECT FIELD DAY AND THE BLINDFOLDED BUG BUFFET OCTOBER 6TH 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

(In partnership with the American Entomological Society)

Join professional entomologists and bug enthusiasts alike for exploratory field walks at the Myrick Conservation Center.

### Featured programs include:

Beginner's Beekeeping, Common Garden Pests, Stream, Pond and Field/Forest Insect Hikes, Local Tree Pests, Insect Pinning Demonstrations, Scout badge work

And, at lunchtime, don't miss the Blindfolded Bug Buffet! Is that a bug in your mouth, or not?! You decide. If you dare... Bring the family, and your own lunch, just in case.

**To register, call 610-793-1090.**

\$6.00 for adults (15 and over)  
\$2.00 for children and BVA/RCVA members.

Supplemental Scout Program (2:00-3:00 PM) \$2.00 per scout. Pre-registration required.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22, 2007  
Jam on the Brandywine

September 29, 2007  
Volunteer Work Day

October 6, 2007  
Insect Field Day

October 22, 2007  
Tee-Off for Water Resources

October 25, 2007  
BVA Annual Meeting

October 27, 2007  
Delaware Valley  
Orienteering &  
Halloween Hike

## CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Dates	Cloud Date
9/14	9/15
10/12	10/13
11/9	11/10
12/7	12/8

The RCVA Review is published quarterly by the Red Clay Valley Association for its Members.

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