

2008

ANNUAL REPORT

Red Clay Valley Association



President's Letter

Dear Red Clay Members,

The work of the Red Clay Valley Association is a continuum. In promoting conservation and restoration of the natural resources in the Red Clay Watershed, new projects are started, others are completed and some continue forward. Our work in 2008 was a clear demonstration of this principle.

After seven years of effort by many community organizations, finishing touches were put on the Red Clay Trail. The trail represents a \$900,000 investment which connects community facilities, protects a mile and a half of the Red Clay Creek, and provides residents the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Red Clay Creek in an urban setting.

As the Red Clay Trail was finishing, the RCVA commenced a new program -- Red Streams Blue. In 2008 a restoration plan was completed for a tributary to the east branch which is considered substandard by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The Red Streams Blue Program will define much of RCVA watershed conservation role in the years ahead.

RCVA also continued established programs in 2008 which include the 20th Annual Red Clay Clean-up and 11th Annual Trout Rodeo. The long standing education programs likewise continued, connecting with over 2,000 elementary and middle school students at the Myrick Conservation Center as well as in the local schools. This is our long-term investment in the watershed. RCVA continued communication with current decisionmakers through the Local Issues Series.

The works of the RCVA are accomplished by the efforts of a dedicated staff, committed Board of Directors, and broad community support. The support of every member helps to make the programs successful and maintain the RCVA as a leader in watershed conservation and education.

As you read this report I hope you will note the many accomplishments but also feel a sense of satisfaction and pride in being part of the effort to conserve and protect the natural resources of the Red Clay Valley for this and future generations. Thank you for your support and for your interest in the future of the Red Clay Watershed.

Sincerely,

Charles Potter
President



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 Red Clay Valley Association Highlights

RCVA Leadership

RCVA Board of Directors

Charles Potter
 President

Rick Lewandowski
 Vice President

S. Damon Sinclair
 Secretary

Kerry Haber
 Treasurer

Harry Alberts
Pam Allenstein
John Bare

Watson F. Brown
E. Kneale Dockstader

John Feliciani
Paul Foster
Mark Hause

David Heckman
Jeff Heinig

Thomas Hubbard
Richard Lighty

Robert Listerman
David L. Myers

Donald P. Phillips
John T. Ransom

Fred Rogers

Burt Rothenberger
Jane Biggs Sanger

Debra Shenk
Richard Stigale

William Tilson
Anne Verplanck
Eva L. Verplanck

STAFF

James E. Jordan, Jr.
 Executive Director

Robert G. Struble, Jr.
 Watershed Conservation
 Director

Giselle Cosentino
 Education Director

Emily Cost
 Education Program
 Coordinator

Betsy Stefferud
 Administrative Assistant

Watershed Conservation

Red Streams Blue

2008 saw the completion of the first restoration plan for the Red Streams Blue Program. For the pilot project a tributary to the east branch of the Red Clay Creek, known as Tributary 414, was chosen. This stream begins in the Longwood Gardens area and continues southward through Kennett Township joining the east branch near Clifton Mills.

The Red Streams Blue Program involves a thorough assessment of the stream using chemical, biological, and habitat analyses. With that information a current assessment of the stream is developed. From that assessment a restoration plan is prepared noting projects that could address problems identified in the plan. RCVA has adopted the tag line "Raising our Streams' IQ." for the Red Streams Blue

While the Red Streams Blue Program is designed to bring the Red Clay Creek to the highest water quality possible, efforts over the past 50 years have collectively improved the streams. Since 1969 the U.S. Geological Survey



has annually evaluated Red Clay Creek. These results show that the stream is getting progressively better and now is equivalent to other streams in the area.

The success of RCVA's watershed conservation program will depend on the support of many partners. In 2008 RCVA continued the Local Issues Series which provides elected officials with ideas that they can implement to improve water resources. RCVA is also partnering with the Kennett Square Golf and County Club on a restoration plan for the East Branch within the golf course.



Program. The IQ stands for Index of Quality and will be the measure of the program's success.

Red Clay Trail

Although the Red Clay Trail was dedicated in 2007, the finishing touches were not completed until the end of 2008. Additional trail improvements, directional signs, and a map of the trail noting those who supported the construction wrapped up seven years of work. The trail represents an investment of over \$900,000 provided from state, county and local governments as well as private foundations and community organizations. The trail is an example of

community cooperation at its best and will be a lasting benefit to the Kennett Square community and the Red Clay Watershed.



20th Annual Red Clay Clean-up

2008 marked the 20th anniversary of this event and it was overwhelmingly successful thanks to the 698 volunteers who participated. More than sixteen tons of trash was collected and removed from our roads and waterways. Interesting finds included several bicycles, 3 shopping carts and huge amount of automobile parts, including 3 dump truck loads of tires!



The Clean-up was organized in partnership with Delaware Nature Society and additional

sponsors included NVF Co., Wilmington & Western Railroad, Kennett Area Park Authority, Starbucks Coffee Company, Wild Birds Unlimited, WSFS, Mt. Cuba Center & Phillips Mushroom Farms.

Nixon Park Trout Rodeo

RCVA partnered with the Kennett Area Park Authority for the 13th year in a row to provide local anglers and young fishing enthusiasts a stocked pond for a day of fishing. More than 200 anglers helped support Nixon Park while promoting a local tradition of fishing and the conservation of water resources.

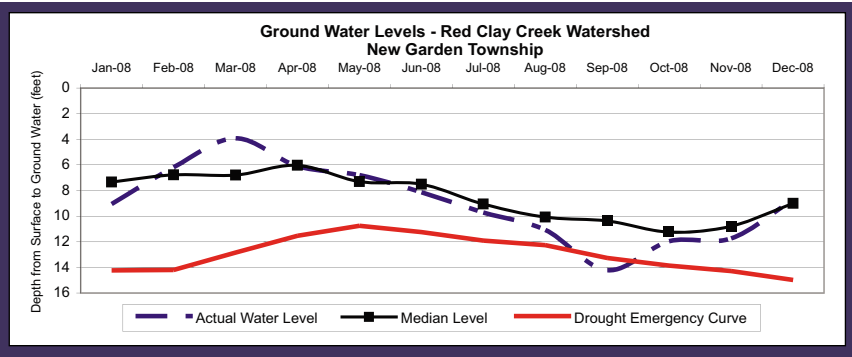
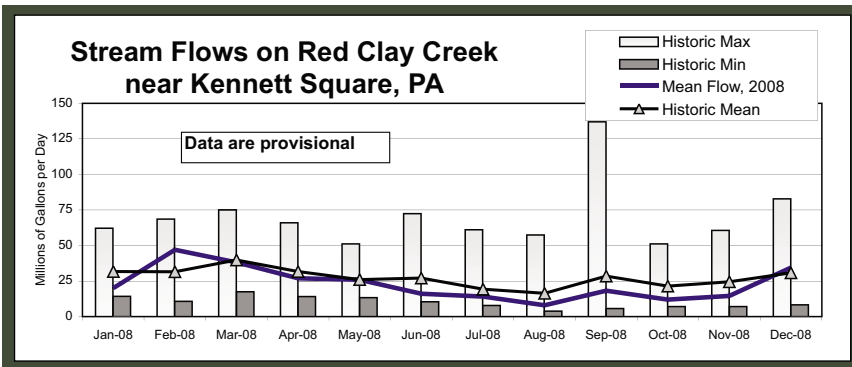
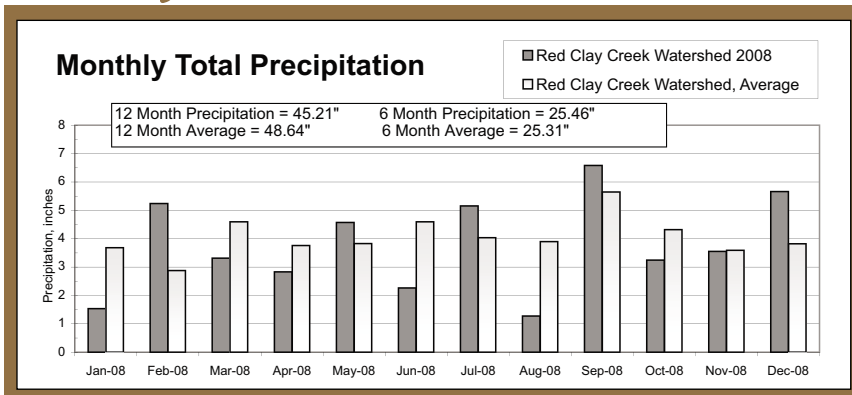
Conservation Projects

A tree planting was conducted in partnership with Kennett High School along the banks of the Toughkenamon tributary in Kennett Township. Dozens of students helped

to plant more than 60 trees which will immediately help to reduce sediment in the Red Clay Creek.

For the third year, RCVA organized Earth Day projects at Brandywine Springs School in Wilmington, DE. All students participated in a school wide contest to see which classroom could recycle the most paper. Each grade also took part in specific projects including a trash pick-up and seed starting while one grade even made gift boxes from old greeting cards.

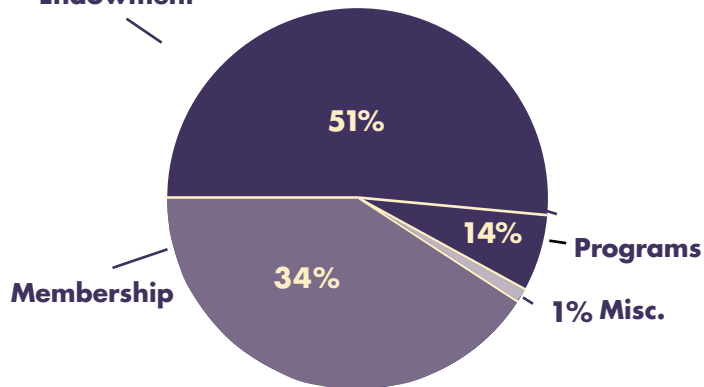
Summary of 2008 Water Conditions



Financial Overview

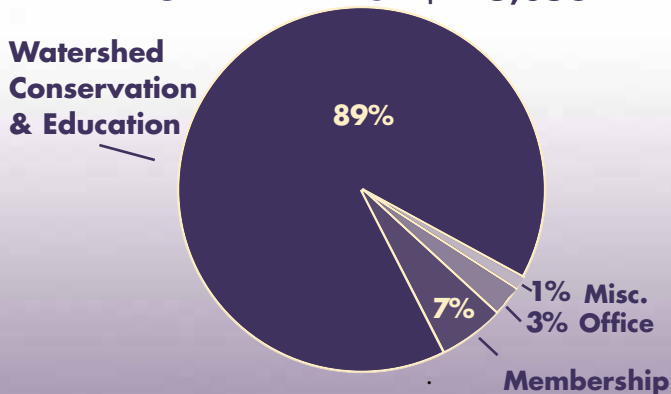
TOTAL INCOME \$121,181

Endowment



TOTAL EXPENSE \$125,058

Watershed Conservation & Education



The Association accounts are audited by Whisman, Giordano and Associates. The report will be available in July 2009.





Red Clay Valley Association, Inc.

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382

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Education Highlights of 2008

- Sarah Thorne Locke and Erika Slowik were awarded the RCVA Teachers of the Year award for their outstanding teamwork in the school garden and nature trail at Greenwood Elementary School.
- “Third Thursdays” series for members and friends is launched.
- School programs in the fall and spring are met by overwhelming positive reviews from teachers and school staff.
- Summer Campers got wet and dirty every day!

