

57th Annual Meeting

On April 23rd members and guests joined the Board of Directors at the Mendenhall Inn for the 57th Annual Meeting of the Red Clay Valley Association. President Charles Potter convened the Annual Meeting and highlighted RCVA activities over the past year including the Red Streams Blue Program, Red Clay Valley Clean Up and our environmental education programs. The Association elected two new board members Lisa Brubaker and Charles Shattuck. The members also elected for an additional term seven board members: Watson Brown, Kneale Dockstader, John Feliciani, Donald Phillips, Charles Potter, Jack Ransom and Fred Rogers. The Association also thanked previous board members Carlos Alejandro and Jeff Heining for their years of service.

The Annual Meeting included presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award to Bill Francisco from Brandywine Springs School. Bill was recognized for raising ecological consciousness at the Brandywine Springs School and spearheading efforts to incorporate a school-wide recycling program. In addition to this award Bill received a free education program for his 4th grade class and a check for \$500 from the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority which was presented by SECCRA Manager Bill Stullken.

RCVA Watershed Conservation Director, Bob Struble, highlighted RCVA's activities over the past year.

The Keynote speaker was Kevin Fleming, a world renowned photographer who served as a National Geographic Photographer for over a decade. Kevin's pictorial presentation highlighted the work in

his most recent book *Wild Delaware*. Kevin, along with *Wild Delaware* guest authors Derek Stoner and Jim White, conducted a book signing for guests that evening.

The evening concluded with all past RCVA presidents, and past recipients of the Outstanding Conservationist Award, presenting RCVA's own Bob Struble with the Outstanding Conservationist Award. During the presentation Charles Potter noted the many accomplishments Bob made towards the conservation of the Red Clay Watershed and also his leadership as RCVA Executive Director for the past 33 years.



A surprised Bob Struble showing the pig he received as Outstanding Conservationist.

Photo by Chris Barber



Teacher of the Year Bill Francisco (right) receives a check from Bill Stullken

Photo by Shawn Weigel

Red Clay Valley Association



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REVIEW

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Clean Up Nets 15 Tons of Trash

734 volunteers turned out for the 21st Annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up held on Saturday, March 28th. From the 40 miles of streams and roads they collected enough trash to fill five 30 cubic yard dumpsters, 15 tons in all, including one dumpster filled with just tires.

RCVA coordinated the Clean Up along with partners Delaware Nature Society, Wilmington & Western Railroad and Kennett Area Park Authority. Additional support was provided by Wild Birds Unlimited, Exelon, Starbucks Coffee Company, WSFS, Mt Cuba Center, United Water, and Phillips Mushroom Farms.

142 students, teachers and parents from the Unionville High School Sports Council arrived in buses that also transported them to various sections. These volunteers were assisted by many other school groups including the Kennett High School Earth Club and Honor Society. Several Boy and Girl Scout troops assisted including over 40 scouts from Troop 22 out of Unionville.

Dumpsters were provided by Allied Waste, Delaware State Parks, Marty Mellinger, Phillips Mushrooms and the Wilmington & Western Railroad. Phillips Mushroom also supplied trucks and crews to transport the collected trash along with Wildbirds Unlimited, Mt Cuba Center, Mike Edison, F.B. Cross, Gomez Excavating, RCVA, Kennett Township and CS Webb; who also provided heavy equipment to help with the larger items. The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority waived tipping fees for the trash collected on PA routes and Senator Liane Sorenson provided funds to cover disposal fees in Delaware.

Kennett Golf Club Project to Improve Stream

The Kennett Square Golf & Country Club has initiated a plan which will result in improvements to the Red Clay Creek. The east branch, which passes through the eastern portion of the golf course, is experiencing streambank erosion and sedimentation during higher flows and is also creating flooding problems for the course. To improve the quality of the stream and to benefit the golf course, the Country Club has engaged an engineer to design and implement stream corridor improvements.

The restoration plan involves regrading the steep, eroding streambank and also reshaping the floodplain to promote faster drainage after floods. The stream corridor, which currently is open, will be planted with shrubs and some trees to improve the riparian conditions and help reduce water temperature and improve aquatic habitat.

Red Clay Valley Association is providing help with the design and planning process as well as assisting with fundraising. This restoration project will be the first of its kind in the Red Clay Watershed and will offer an example for many other areas of the valley that could be improved using similar techniques. The Country Club hopes to complete design and permitting in 2009 and begin construction in 2010.



Stretch of the East Branch to be restored.

Trout Rodeo

The 14th Annual Trout Rodeo was held at Anson B. Nixon Park on May 2nd. Despite cloudy skies and occasional rain, over 350 anglers attended, setting an attendance record. Anglers of all ages tried their luck and skill at catching the brook, brown, rainbow and palomino trout that were stocked earlier that week by RCVA staff and volunteers.

Hundreds of the trout were caught before the rodeo concluded at 4 pm. Trophies and cash awards were presented for largest trout and largest total weight for five fish in one adult and two children's divisions. In addition to these awards, five trout were tagged; and if you were lucky enough to catch one of these trout you won a \$20.00 gift certificate to Buck's Hunting and Dog Training Supplies located in Kennett, a big supporter of this event. For the first time ever, all five tagged trout were caught.

Participants included many families, often spanning three generations and children as young as three years old. Many youngsters were delighted to catch their first fish ever.

The Red Clay Valley Association partners with the Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) for this annual event to help encourage children and families to experience outdoor recreation and also introduce them to Anson B. Nixon Park, a true gem and one of the best kept secrets in Kennett Borough and Kennett Township. In addition to RCVA and KAPA, many local businesses also supported this rodeo.



Young angler shows off his catch.

Nature's Notes Wildflowers

With warm weather and soaking rains, the wildflowers are in full bloom. Each spring, native wildflowers emerge from the warmed soils and grow their stalks, buds, leaves and colorful petals. Some wildflowers grow from the seeds that fell into the soil from the year before and others grow from their roots or on branches of trees and shrubs. They need sun and sometimes shade, along with nutrients in the soil and a lot of rain. There are many different types of these wildflowers in the watershed, of all colors and shapes that you may see on a short walk in the woods or fields. One flower that grows on an evergreen shrub is Mountain Laurel, found mostly in higher elevations. Look for its shiny green leaves and small pinkish-white, cup-like flowers.

Remember that wildflowers grow not just for our enjoyment and delight, but also to feed wild animals and insects like the pollinating bees that help our gardens and other flowers to grow. So, when you see a flower growing in a wild area, be sure to stop and take a closer look at the way it grows, and count the petals, or check if it has a flowery scent. Observe these flowers in their natural habitat for all to enjoy!

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

Your Friend,
Eastern Bluebird
enjoying warm weather



Summer Camp sessions are still open!
Check for availability and register online at
www.redclayvalley.org

Exciting Summer Opportunities for Teens, Ages 13-15

Yes, summer schedules fill quickly, but some things are worth squeezing into the schedule! The RCVA are offering teens two weeks of programs that will enhance a resume and build unique personal knowledge.

Basic Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT for the Outdoors) is a two week experience for teens who love the outdoors or are considering a career in environmental sciences and/or working with children. Skill building will focus on team work, canoeing and working with children. An overnight camping trip concludes the first week. During the second week these leaders will work directly with eight and nine year olds, leading by example and teaching future stewards how to do the same. Teens who participate in this program, which runs July 6-10 and July 13-17, will receive a certificate of completion. The cost for the two week program is \$595 for RCVA members.

Please visit
www.redclayvalley.org for
complete summer camp
information.



Wish List -

New/lightly used plastic bins with lids (20-30 gallon sizes)

New/lightly used children's nature books, featuring local plants & animals only please

Used maple sugaring equipment – spiles, evaporating pan, materials for display & to use

Small suitcase on wheels

Portable CD player - Boombox

Old tennis balls
Chester County
Astronomical
Society

Date	Cloud Date
06/26	06/27
07/24	07/25
08/21	08/22

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West Chester, PA 19382

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REVIEW

Upcoming events

Thursdays: June 25th thru August 13th
Summer Music Series

September 19th
JAM on the Brandywine

September 26th
Volunteer Work Day

October 19th
6th Annual Golf Outing

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PHOTO CONTEST

This year's photo contest is currently underway and the theme is Scenes along the Red Clay Creek. There are four age categories: Student, grades 1-5; Student, grades 6-8; Student, grades 9-12; and Adult. All entries must have been taken along the Red Clay Creek and be in a 5x7 or larger format; submittal deadline is December 15, 2009.

