

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Red Clay Valley Association's Annual Meeting took a look back and a look ahead at managing natural resources in the watershed. Keynote speaker Maggie Lidz, Historian at Winterthur Museum, entertained the 100 members and guests with her pictures of the Lost Gardens of the Red Clay and the Brandywine Watersheds. Focusing on many of the duPont family gardens that began in the early part of the 20th century, she traced the history of these gardens to some of today's best known public places such as Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, Mt. Cuba and Nemours as well as those no longer existing. Her presentation used rare, early pictures of these gardens which can now only remind us of their beauty and elegance.

During the business portion of the meeting Governance Committee Chairperson Eva Verplanck thanked Dave Heckman for his ten years of service as a director which included leadership as co-chair of the Education Committee. The members elected as new directors: A. Duer (Bud) Peirce Jr. and Tom Brightman and reelected current directors Harry Alberts, Paul Foster, Mark Hause, Richard Lighty, David Myers, Jane Biggs Sanger, S. Damon Sinclair and William Tilson. Treasurer Kerry Haber reported on the financial condition of the organization noting that 2009 had ended on a balanced note and that the endowment had improved considerably over the previous year. He also mentioned recent receipt of several grants including a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program.

The annual Teacher of the Year award was presented to two teachers from Brandywine Springs School by

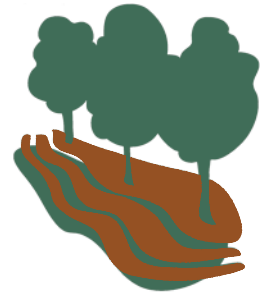
RCVA's Education Program Coordinator Emily Cost. She noted the work of Toni Marioni and Kathy Trivits and their dedication to environmental programs and conservation efforts at the school. Emily also noted that RCVA has been working with Brandywine Springs School through the Watershed Learning Center program as well as collaborating on an annual Earth Day event for the entire school. The Teachers of the Year were also presented with a check from Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) in recognition of their educational efforts. SECCRA has been presenting a check to the Teacher of the Year annually for the past six years.



Teachers of the Year Kathy Trivits (left) and Toni Marioni (right) with RCVA Education Program Coordinator Emily Cost.

The Annual Meeting also included a summary of major events during the past year by President Charles Potter. Watershed Conservation Director Bob Struble presented a slide program highlighting the Red Streams Blue work and the future plans for this program and other watershed activities. Jim Jordan, Executive Director, noted the achievements of the annual Red Clay Valley Clean-up as well as upcoming activity on the Scenic By-Ways program in Pennsylvania. He thanked many of the members present who had supported and contributed to RCVA's success.

## Red Clay Valley Association



Volume: LVIII No. 2  
May, 2010

# REVIEW

The Review is published quarterly by the Red Clay Valley Association for its members.  
1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester, PA 19382  
T: (610)793-1090 F: (610)793-2813 E: [water@bva-rcva.org](mailto:water@bva-rcva.org) W: [www.redclayvalley.org](http://www.redclayvalley.org)

### THIRD THURSDAYS FOR NATURE ENTHUSIASTS

Members and nonmembers are invited to an evening of fun and good company while learning something new about nature.

**Thursday, June 17th – Lyme Disease Q & A  
5:30 to 7:00 PM**

Chester County has one of the highest rates of Lyme disease in the world. Learn how to protect yourself from the ticks that spread the disease, and what to do if you are bitten. Presentation by the Pennsylvania Lyme Disease Awareness Committee, a collaboration of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, the Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., and the Chester County Health Department.

Payment and registration are due by the Monday before your program. Children 12 years old and under are free and must be accompanied by an adult.

**Members: \$5.00 for ages 13 to adult.**

**Nonmembers: \$7.00 for ages 13 to adult.**

**Parking is on the office side of the property.**

**Meet at the Myrick Center Office.**

### TROUT RODEO



Alexander Weeks along with his proud Dad; Alexander caught the largest trout in the 9 & under Division.

### RCVA BEGINS SECOND RED STREAMS BLUE PLAN

With funding from The Laffey McHugh Foundation, RCVA has begun the second Red Streams Blue plan for the watershed. This plan will look at the upper east branch area beginning at the Kennett Borough line in Nixon Park, continuing upstream through the Kennett Country Club, and then to the sources in the Longwood and Willdowdale areas. The initial stream samples have been taken which will be followed by a walk of the entire length of this stream to better understand the problems affecting water quality. With the information developed, an assessment report will be completed. Using the assessment report, the restoration plan will identify problem areas and then indicate the solutions, the priority for each solution, the cost and the partners involved.

The restoration plan should be completed by the end of 2010 and, matched with the previous plan in Tributary 414, will cover most of the east branch drainage area. RCVA is working closely with the Kennett Golf & Country Club which will be implementing a streambank restoration project within the golf course. The Country Club recently received certification by Audubon International which recognized their work to promote wildlife habitat, member education, and practices that improve water quality. The project on the golf course will involve restoring over 2,000 feet of the east branch which suffers from streambank erosion. The site is upstream of an old milldam which, over many years, accumulated soil deposits from agricultural runoff. When the milldam was removed the stream cut a new channel which continues to erode the streambanks during high flows. The repair will remove the steep banks and provide a more gentle slope allowing the stream to flood more easily and not erode the banks.

As the Red Stream Blue planning and implementation work on the East Branch continues, RCVA will work with Longwood Gardens, Unionville High School, and individual landowners.



## RED CLAY VALLEY CLEAN UP – FINDS LESS TRASH

613 Volunteers turned out for the 22nd Annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up that was held on Saturday, March 27th; they collected 12 tons of trash, enough to fill four 30 cubic yard dumpsters, including one with just tires. The good news is that this is three tons less than last year and the second year in a row that we have seen a significant drop in litter. Aside from tires we are not finding the large items such as washing machines, car engines and household furniture that we have found in the past. We have less litter!

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.

The Clean Up covers over 44 miles of streams and roadways from the Kennett square Borough to Kirkwood Highway and includes Anson B. Nixon Park, Auburn Heights Preserve, Ashland Nature Center and Brandywine Springs Park. Volunteers included many school groups and boy and girl scouts; also Troop 41 out of Unionville had over 40 scouts in a group. Several boy scouts and girl scouts also assisted including over 40 scouts from Troop 41 out of Unionville.

Political leaders also turned out in full force to volunteer; they included: Kennett Township Supervisor Mike Elling, DE State Senator Liane Sorenson, New Castle County Councilman Bill Tansey, New Castle County Executive Chris Coons, U.S. Senator Tom carper and U.S. Representative Mike Castle DelDot Secretary Carolann Wicks also helped along with her family.

Dumpsters were provided by Allied Waste, Delaware State Parks, Marty Mellinger, BFI, 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. In total 17 trucks assisted with the trash collection along with a work train provided by the Wilmington & Western Railroad. The South Eastern Chester County Rzefuse Authority graciously waived tipping fees for the trash collected on PA routes and Senator Liane Sorenson provided funds to cover disposal fees in Delaware.

The success of this clean up is due to the generous financial and in-kind support from our partnering non profit organizations and local businesses; and also the support of the 613 volunteers who turned helped that Saturday morning.



Students from the RCVA/DNS Young Waterfowler's partnership program collecting trash along Hoopes Reservoir.

**Thank You!**

## New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Crossman  
Ms. Jaclyn Hicks  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Humphrey  
Ms. Courtney Klien  
Mercer W. Pember

## Wish List

Children's nature books, art supplies  
and new paint brushes

## Chester County Astronomical Society

Date	Cloud Date
06/11/10	06/12/10
07/09/10	07/10/10
08/06/10	08/07/10

### Officers

Charles Potter  
*President*

Richard Lewandowski  
*Vice President*

S. Damon Sinclair  
*Secretary*

Kerry Haber  
*Treasurer*

### Staff

James E. Jordan, Jr.  
*Executive Director*

Robert Struble, Jr.  
*Watershed Conservation Director*

Giselle Cosentino  
*Education Director*

Emily Cost  
*Education Program Coordinator*

Betsy Stefferud  
*Administrative Assistant*

Art Taylor  
*Maintenance Technician*



Red Clay Valley Association, Inc.

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road

West Chester, PA 19382

*Return Service Requested*

---

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Unionville, PA  
Permit No. 13

---

# REVIEW



## **CLEAN UP AWARD**

On April 19th the Red Clay Valley Association was recognized by Delaware Governor, Jack Markell and DeIDOT's Secretary, Carolann Wicks at a ceremony celebrating the 20th anniversary of Delaware's Adopt-a-Highway Program. Governor Markell commended RCVA for its leadership role in reducing litter in Delaware and stated that RCVA has collected more trash from our roads and streams than any other group in the 20 year history of the program. Executive Director Jim Jordan and Vice President Rick Lewandowski accepted the award on behalf of RCVA.

**RCVA Executive Director presents DE Governor Jack Markell with a Clean Up T-shirt w/DeIDOT Secretary looking on.**