

INSIDE:

- Volunteer Day • Natures Notes
- Red Streams Blue • Watch Your Salt!

Check Out RCVA's New Website

If you haven't seen Red Clay Valley Association's website in the past few months you are in for some pleasant surprises. The recently updated site contains much more material, is more user friendly, and has several interactive features.

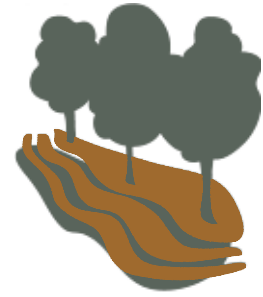
When you go to www.redclayvalley.org you will find a whole new look. The homepage features new tabs and content to highlight upcoming events and recent activities. The Education page focuses on RCVA's education programs where you can see a list of all the programs options available to schools, scout members and adults. Summer camp 2010 information will be posted in February. In addition you will learn

more about the environmental history of the Red Clay Creek area and have a greater understanding of our role in watershed education.

The new Red Streams Blue page will document our work in watershed restoration. You will see our plans for Tributary 414 on the east branch as well as the background of the Red Streams Blue' Program. Other features will include current events, our most recent newsletter, our annual report, and we will archive past newsletters and annual reports as new ones are issued.

You can now also renew your membership on-line! The new site is much more attractive and functional and we hope that you will keep up to date with RCVA activities on-line.

Red Clay Valley Association



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REVIEW

The Review is published quarterly by the Red Clay Valley Association for its members.
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The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links: Home, Watershed Programs, Get Involved, What's Happening, Education, Find Resources, and Contact Us. The main content area includes an 'About Us' section, an 'Upcoming Events' section, and a 'BVA' section. The 'About Us' section describes the RCVA as the second oldest small watershed organization in America, founded in 1952. The 'Upcoming Events' section provides information about RCVA sponsored events. The 'BVA' section mentions the Brandywine Valley Association and provides a website link: brandywinewatershed.org. The 'What is the Red Clay Watershed?' section defines the watershed area and lists the municipalities it encompasses.

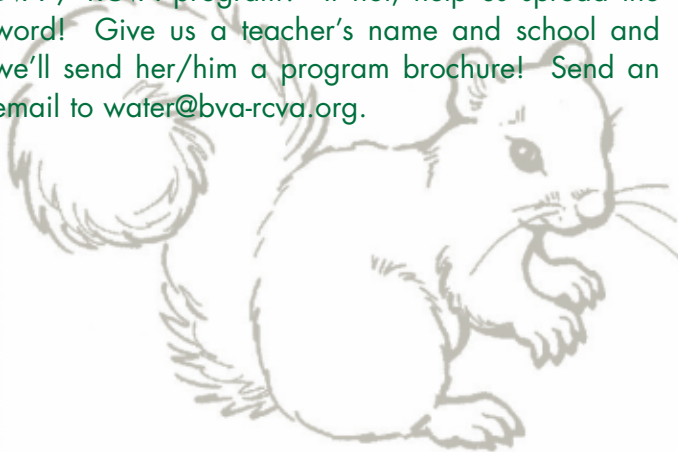
Restoring eroding streambanks is a top priority in Tributary 414



Busy Squirrels and Students in Fall

Like the squirrels busily caching their nuts this season, school students and instructors have been exploring the far corners of the Myrick Center. This fall, we had record numbers of students participating in our geology program which sheds new light on rocks and minerals and leads budding geologists to an actual corundum quarry on our property. We also had hundreds of students participate in our immersive program about the Lenape people. Students were seen touching furs and bones, throwing spears and corn darts and sitting in a teepee listening to a traditional Native American origin tale. An RCVA program is unforgettable. There is no better way to learn than learning outdoors with our talented and experienced staff!

Does your (grand)child's class participate in a BVA / RCVA program? If not, help us spread the word! Give us a teacher's name and school and we'll send her/him a program brochure! Send an email to water@bva-rcva.org.



Red Streams Blue Planning Expands

The first Red Streams Blue restoration plan for a tributary of the east branch is complete and RCVA will now expand the program to the remainder of the east branch area. This includes Longwood Gardens and Willowdale along Route 926, through the Kennett Square Golf & Country Club, Nixon Park, Kennett Borough, and to the west branch at Marshall's Bridge. This new plan will follow the same method as the first and will involve detailed analysis of water chemistry and biology as well as an on the ground evaluation of each foot of the east branch. An assessment of the stream will be given numeric values from which we can determine whether segments are impaired or unimpaired. Following evaluation, a restoration plan will be designed to identify problem areas, indicate the solutions that would improve water quality noting the partners, the cost, and the relative priority.

RCVA will work on the project with groups including the Kennett Square Golf & Country Club, which is already working on plans to make stream improvements within the golf course area, Unionville High School, Nixon Park, Longwood Gardens, East Marlborough Township and Kennett Borough. The planning phase requires some additional funding yet to be raised and will probably entail nine to twelve months work. Once completed, the east branch drainage area will have a coordinated plan which can then be used to win funding and implement restoration projects. You can follow the Red Streams Blue process on RCVA's website.

Environmental Instructors Needed

RCVA is now accepting Environmental Instructor applications for the spring teaching season. Available positions are seasonal and part-time with most programs occurring during the school day. This is a great opportunity for retirees, substitute teachers or stay-at-home parents. Experience in science and working with children is preferred but not necessary. Please visit www.redclayvalley.org for an application.



5th Annual Volunteer Day

Nearly eighty volunteers turned out for the 5th annual Volunteer Work Day on September 26th. The big projects of the day included moving into and painting our recently completed Resource Conservation Building and cleaning out of the historic Browning Barn. Other projects completed that day included planting over eighty trees, mulching, winterizing our vegetable and native plant gardens and restoring our native Lenape Indian Village.

To kick off the morning Starbucks Coffee Company graciously provided coffee, hot chocolate and other refreshments.

A special thanks to all of our friends who gave generously of their time and expertise that day.

Only Nuts and Seeds?

After fall rain and cold winds blow leaves from the trees and the weather turns chilly again, what is available for the animals to eat to help them survive the winter? Squirrels, which stay active all winter, will have hidden their fair share of nuts, acorns, and pinecones. When these nuts run out or the acorns begin to sprout, the squirrels take to the trees to eat the new spring buds.

Foxes, both red and gray, also stay active all winter. They will hunt for moles, voles, birds, and rabbits, but what are these animals eating in the winter? Moles often store up their food of earthworms in their underground burrows. Voles will eat bark, seeds and pine needles. Birds, of course, will eat the seeds that are found from standing plants or from the feeders that we fill for them. The Eastern Cottontail Rabbit will eat just about any type of plant food that can be found, including buds, stems, vines, tree bark, the tips of shrubs, and even their own, already digested, pellets.

White tailed deer are also opportunists, and will eat almost any plants that they can find – even near your house or in your garden! They will also eat acorns, berries, corn, hay and mushrooms.

Whatever it takes to get through the winter, whether they're migrating, hibernating, or looking for food nearby, the animals have an important job that takes a lot of energy. We can help them by providing a water source, planting native trees and shrubs, and learning about what they need to survive.

Until next time, have fun playing outside!

*Your Friend,
Eastern Bluebird
Enjoying Warm
Weather*



WATCH your salt

Most of us know that watching the amount of salt in our diet is important for maintaining good health. During cold weather months, United Water Delaware reminds industrial, commercial and residential property owners that too much salt used to keep paved surfaces clear of ice can also be harmful to nearby sources of drinking water.

To avoid the ill effects of run-off pollution, it's important to manage and follow instructions carefully for the proper application of deicing material. United Water Delaware is working with other water purveyors and government officials to reduce the amount of chlorides that run off into area waterways. All of us can play a role by understanding that much of what we put on the land ends up in the water, and salt is no exception.



UNITED WATER

Wish List -

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

RCVA New Members

Mr. & Mrs. William F. Cooke, Jr.
Kennett Advance Printing House, Inc.

Chester County Astronomical Society

Date	Cloud Date
12/18/09	12/19/09
01/15/10	01/16/10
02/12/10	02/13/10
03/12/10	03/13/10

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



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West Chester, PA 19382

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REVIEW

Upcoming events

Saturday, February 13th
Polar Plunge

Thursday, January 21st
Third Thursdays – Hatha Yoga

Thursday, February 18th –
Third Thursdays – Maple Sugaring

Thursday, March 18th
Third Thursdays – Family Stargazing

Saturday, March 27th
Red Clay Valley Clean-up

Sunday, April 4th
Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point

Saturday, May 1st
Trout Rodeo @ Nixon Park

10

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER PHOTO CONTEST

December 15th is the deadline for entries in the Red Clay Valley Photo Contest, sponsored by RCVA and the Kennett Paper.

Photographers must use Wildlife, Flora or Scenic as the subject matter and all photos must have been taken in the Red Clay Watershed. There are two categories for amateur photographers, students (grades 1-12) and adult.

Photographs must be 5x7 or larger and postmarked no later than December 15th. Photographers are limited to a maximum of three entries and previously taken photos are welcome

