



Red Clay Valley
Association



WINTER
2010-2011

December 2010

• • • WINTER NEWSLETTER • • •



6th Annual Volunteer Work Day

On October 2nd, we hosted our 6th Annual Volunteer Work Day at our Myrick Conservation Center. Over 100 volunteers turned out; including scouts, neighbors, members and school groups. They completed more than 20 projects including a litter pick up along Rt. 842 and Red Lion Rd., mulching, winterizing our vegetable and native plant gardens, monitoring and clean out of our blue



Volunteers harvest squash and other fall vegetables from garden.

bird houses and trail maintenance. The big project of the day was preparing our Historic Browning Barn for its upcoming renovation this month which took over 30 volunteers to accomplish. The work concluded at 12:30 and was followed by a lunch prepared by other volunteers.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers that turned out that day and gave their time and expertise and also Northbrook Country Market, Barnard's Orchard and Starbucks Coffee Company for providing refreshments.

RCVA Leadership

OFFICERS

Richard Lewandowski, *President*

Harry Alberts, *Vice President*

Lisa Brubaker, *Secretary*

Kerry Haber, *Treasurer*

STAFF

James E. Jordan, Jr., *Executive Director*

Robert G. Struble, Jr.,
Watershed Conservation Director

Giselle Cosentino, *Education Director*

Cynthia Jaros, *Development Director*

Emily Cost, *Education Program Coordinator*

Betsy Stefferud, *Administrative Assistant*

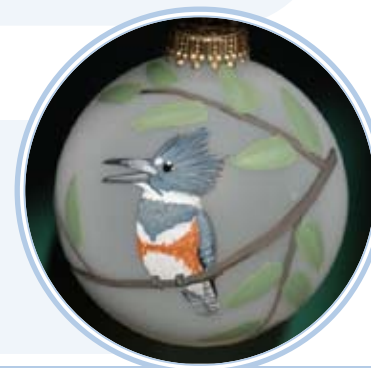
Art Taylor, *Maintenance Technician*

Kathy Bergmann & Jane Fava
Red Streams Blue Coordinators

RCVA HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

The RCVA Holiday Ornament Has Arrived featuring the Belted Kingfisher!

Limited Edition--Order Now! See inside for details.





SAVE THE DATE!

Red Clay Valley Clean Up, Saturday, March 26th



NATURE'S NOTES

Know Your Houseguests • Over-wintering Insects

Think for a moment about the very few things that you really need to survive. In general, living things require food, water, shelter and space. Combined, these four elements create what we call habitat. Do you find yourself sharing your habitat with other animals, perhaps a few that you least expected? Occasionally we may find that animals like insects, mammals, and reptiles take shelter with us. Have you ever had a spider or a mouse in your house? We may not be too thrilled about sharing our homes, but after all, these animals are looking for habitat, too, and they seem to like our warm shelters.

One insect you may find in your house this fall and winter is the Asian Lady Beetle, whose Latin name is *Harmonia axyridis*. This beetle is native - or originally from - areas of China, Russia, Korea and Japan and look like "Lady Bugs," but vary in color from tan to red. They also often have white and black markings in the shape of an "M" or "W" just behind their head. If you live near fields and trees, you may find them crawling up your walls both outside and inside your home. Next to leaving a yellow blemish on walls, they are also known to overtake the habitat of species of lady beetle that are native to North America. Asian Lady Beetles can be found, either in groups or as individuals inside houses, not to reproduce, but seeking a place to over-winter. Small enough to squeeze through cracks on the edges of windows and doors, they are reminders to seal these gaps as an energy conservation measure. With a well-



established population, it's important to remember that these beetles were brought to the US to control damage to crops by aphids, and yet are they are now taking over the habitat of native populations of lady beetles.

Another house guest that you have no doubt noticed this year is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*. This insect, also a native of Asia, was accidentally introduced into the US in eastern Pennsylvania and unlike the Asian Lady Beetle, is considered unwelcome in agricultural fields as it can cause damage to crops.

Stink bugs also make their presence known more so in the fall as they, too, are seeking shelter where they can over-winter.

Warm inside our houses, these bugs may stay active all winter and fly clumsily into light fixtures. The "stink" released by these insects through holes in its abdomen is a defense mechanism meant to prevent it from being eaten by birds and lizards. Scaring, squishing, bothering or even vacuuming the bug can release this odor.

To identify the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug from the native species of stink bugs, be sure to look for the white stripe or band on the next to last segment of the antennae.

Signed, your friend
The Hellgrammite, also over-wintering, except I'll be under a rock in the stream.



Seasonal Adventures Abound



The Early Birds Get the Best Dates! Teachers, don't forget to register today for your spring Environmental Education Programs. Call Emily at 610-793-1090.

If you stopped by the Myrick Center this fall you may have caught a glimpse of children swinging on a team building rope, playing migration games, dressing up in deer pelts like the Lenape or attempting to filter dirty water. Our team of outstanding Environmental Instructors led hundreds of students through a variety of these hands-on and engaging programs this season. Since all of our programs help teachers meet state and district science standards they are win-win for teachers and students alike! Do you know a school or teacher who would benefit from a program like this? Please email water@bva-rcva.org with contact information and help us spread the word!

Third graders getting a closer look at an insect.

Welcome to RCVA!

Upper East Branch Restoration Plan Nears Completion

Earlier this year RCVA began the second restoration plan for RCVA's Red Streams Blue Program. This plan will cover the Upper East Branch beginning at the Kennett Borough in Nixon Park and going upstream to the three headwater areas near Unionville High School, the Traditions at Longwood development, and Longwood Gardens.

Preliminary assessments indicate that all of the areas along this stream are impaired and will require restoration projects. The major impairment, as in most cases, is sediment. This plan combined with the completed plan for Tributary 414, will cover almost all of the Red Clay's east branch drainage area.

Several initial projects are being considered including streambank fencing in areas with horses and livestock as well as a major restoration project along the east branch at the Kennett Golf & Country Club. Red Streams Blue Program has been funded by the Laffey-McHugh Foundation and other generous private foundations. RCVA will be working with the United Water Delaware on several of the proposed projects as well as the Kennett Country Club for their major stream restoration work. You can follow Red Streams Blue's ongoing progress online by visiting RCVA's website.



New Membership Support from May 2010 - October 2010

- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher J. Halligan
- Mr. John Langworthy
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven M. Castorani
- Mr. Louis H. Peters
- Carmel Rickenbach
- Mrs. Paula A. Rogers
- Mr. David Shields
- Mr. and Mrs. William Steller



Red Clay
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2010 2011

FALL / WINTER EVENTS & PROGRAMS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third Thursdays Programs
Dec. 16th, Jan. 20th & Feb. 17th

Polar Plunge
Saturday, February 12th

Red Clay Valley Clean Up
Saturday, March 26th

Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point
Sunday, April 3rd

For more information on these and other programs please visit our website at
www.redclayvalley.org

Register for the Polar Plunge online at
www.brandywinewatershed.org



WISH LIST

- Taxidermy mounts of native animals
- Gardening tools
- Heavy Duty Pencil Sharpener