

RED Streams
BLUE

When It Rains It Pours!

You may have noticed that since May of last year, we've had too much of a good thing...precipitation. The data confirms it and charts tracking precipitation, groundwater levels and stream flow are all above normal in Chester County for the past year. At BRC we've received many calls from landowners about standing water and erosion on their properties asking what they can do. The first thing we share are these charts explaining why we're seeing these symptoms of above normal precipitation. Forecasts and climate change models also tell us to expect more rainfall events above the typical ¼ inch events that we're used to.

One of the best things that we can do is build resilience into our systems and landscapes:

- Clean out storm drain inlets at your curb and on your property.
- Direct downspouts away from your home.
- Reduce impervious surfaces, consider porous paving bricks and other surfaces.
- Consider a rain garden for wet areas of your yard to absorb rainwater.
- Create a no mow zone and replace lawn with native plants, these deeper-rooted plants help with greater water infiltration.
- Plant native trees and shrubs on your property, especially near drainage ditches and stream banks to stabilize soils, absorb rainfall and provide habitat.
- Remember that what falls on the land ends up in the water-don't wash cars on pavement, clean up dog waste, reduce use of herbicides, fertilizers and salt.

To learn more visit our website.
brandywineredclay.org

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When it rains it pours and every drop makes a difference and you can do your part by practicing good stormwater management on your property.



Employees from Aqua Pennsylvania participated as part of the efforts to clean up the Brandywine Creek.



These efforts were made possible by support from:

ArcelorMittal
Aqua Pennsylvania
Flyway Excavating, Inc.
Northbrook Canoe Co.

Pennsylvania American Water
Republic Services
SECCRA
United Steelworks
Victory Brewing Company

Black Horse Run Tree Planting

Students from West Chester Play School, Friends of Everhart Park, West Chester University Stormwater Management class and Women's Rugby team helped to plant 100 trees and shrubs along Black Horse Run on April 23rd. The trees and shrubs will help to stabilize the banks of the stream, provide shade and habitat along the creek and help to filter nutrients from running into the stream. The project is adjacent to a tree planting at Mercer's Mill completed in 2018 and sponsored by a private landowner. This restoration project was made possible by the TreeVitalize Watersheds Grant program, and the Plant One Million campaign, managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program, as well as Aqua PA for projects located within its source water protection zones.



Red Clay Valley Clean Up

Early on Saturday morning, March 30th, almost 800 volunteers assembled to help with the Annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up. At 8 AM volunteers lined up at the Ashland Nature Center in Delaware, Kennett Square's Anson B. Nixon Park and the Kennett YMCA Outdoor Pool to receive clean up supplies, route assignments and Starbucks coffee before moving out to their clean up sections.

The volunteer turnout this year was the second highest, and because of this, more than 90 miles of roadway and streams were able to be cleaned, plus eight parks and preserves. In all, these volunteers picked up more than seven tons of trash. Jim Jordan, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance Executive Director and chairman of the Red Clay Valley Clean Up said "the volunteer turn-out enabled us to expand and cover all of the designated clean up routes." While cleaning up all of this trash, volunteers were able to reunite three individuals with their belongings that had been missing or stolen, including a phone, credit card, and even a purse that had been gone for 13 years!

This community event is also sponsored by Delaware Nature Society, Mt. Cuba Center, Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway Alliance, Kennett Area Park Authority, Phillips Mushroom Farms, Wild Birds Unlimited-Hockessin, DE, WSFS, Constellation, Chandler Funeral Home, Starbucks Coffee Company, Chatham Financial, Champion, Suez Water Delaware, Bike Delaware, Marty's Contracting and others.

Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, and his daughter lending a hand at the Red Clay Valley Clean Up.



Bringing The Classroom Outside

School Programs

School outside? Students are always surprised when we welcome them for the day with this statement. While outdoor education is a valued practice, it is not always practical for classroom teachers to easily incorporate into their daily learning schedule. That is where our education programs come in! Our education staff works with schools to provide onsite programming at our Myrick Conservation Center or outreach or at their school or other nearby location. Our small grouping activities offer engaging and hands-on applications that align with classroom concepts in a multisensory and meaningful manner. Spring is an ideal time to bring the classroom outside for BRC education programs!



All smiles! Parents have commented that programs like our pond studies turn one-dimensional concepts into three-dimensional learning.



Learning through movement gets students out of chairs and actively engaged!



Improving water quality and supporting native pollinators... outreach watershed programs incorporate plantings that connect students with nature on their school grounds.



Successful lifelong learning skills include the ability to work with others on challenges both inside and outside of the classroom.



Summer Camp

Still not sure how that special child in your life will spend their summer? A week at an outdoor nature camp is just what they need to decompress from a long school year. We still have openings in some of our camps. Visit our website for easy online registration.



All campers are guaranteed to get WET & MUDDY!

Still have questions? Please call us at (610) 793-1090.

Earth Day 2019

Brandywine Springs School (Wilmington, DE) welcomed BRC for Earth Day 2019. Students and teachers spent the day learning about watershed conservation, planted trees, learned about orienteering, and participated in a wide range of fun, nature-oriented crafts.



The Value of Open Space for Watershed Protection

We all know intuitively that preserving open space and protecting our watersheds has value, and now a new Return on Environment Report from Chester County Planning identifies the economic values of environmental conservation. For example, open space protection in the Brandywine Creek Watershed provides ecosystem services that result in \$263 million in avoided stormwater capital costs and \$134 million avoided in stormwater system maintenance and stormwater pollutant costs. At the same time there is an average increase of \$11,000 in the value of homes in the county located up to ½ mile from protected open spaces, totaling \$1.65 billion added to the value of housing stock. To see the full report visit www.chescoplanning.org. BRC is proud to have participated and helped fund this report with many of our conservation partners.



Brandywine Hills Point-To-Point Races



Leadline Pony Race



Leadline Pony Race



Stick Pony Race



Jockey John Brophy and William Meister's Battle Aray clearing the stonewall in the Heavyweight Race.



John Dean and the Radnor Foxhounds



Last Fence – Joshua G. (right) and Battle Aray (left) jumping the last fence in the Heavyweight Race to finish 1st and 2nd place.

BRC would like to thank the following Point to Point Sponsors:

Radnor Hunt
 Allerton Farm LLC
 Bartlett Tree Experts
 Capital & Security Management, Inc.
 James A. Cochrane, Inc. – Realtor
 Stephen J. Devine, Esquire
 J. Clifton Edgar
 Nadia Feldman in Memory of
 Dr. Roy S. Feldman

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 The Whip Tavern
 Carol Elizabeth Ware
 Gary & Alex Warzecha



Polar Plunge

Thanks to all of the attendees and participants who helped BRC make the 11th Annual Polar Plunge another successful, but very cold year! The event was supported by Presenting Sponsor: Flyway Excavating, Inc., Hickory House Catering, Trail Creek Outfitters, Longwood Rotary, WSFS, Brandywine Picnic Park, Weeds, Inc., Embreeville Mill, Champion Specialty Advertising, Aztec, Meadow Springs Farm, Del Bittle Music, Brandywine Valley Heating and Air Conditioning, The Daily Local News, McGovern, Brandywine Fine Properties- Sotheby's International Realty



Trout Rodeo

BRC partnered with the Kennett Area Park Authority for the 24th Annual Trout Rodeo. Near record attendance with anglers young and old alike who came to fish for over 600 rainbow, brook and brown trout.

Members of **BRC staff partnered** with **Stroud Water Research** and **Brandywine Conservancy** to visit with two Amish Schools this Spring to educate students, teachers and parents about stream restoration, why planting buffers and trees matter to water quality and fish and flora habitats. Funding for this event, which included stream-side education and trout stocking, was made possible by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



New Members January 1 - May 10, 2019

Jamie Aller
Ms. Kasey Anderson
Ms. PJ Arnold
Mr. James Baas
Harry and Caryl Baetjer
Ms. Stella Barry
Ms. Kathryn Bove
Leslie and David Brewer
Ms. Nicole Carlson
Lenda Carrillo
Ms. Heather Channon
Ms. Stefanie Cherup
Ms. Ali Chisholm
Blayne Connolly
Ms. Courtney Dean

Ms. Frances Demillion
Mr. Franco DiCarlo
Mr. Michael Dysard
Mr. Andrew Elia
Ms. Kate Feryo
Ms. Trena Franklin
Colleen Frens
Ms. Weiyang Gao
Ms. Jackie Halsey
Ms. Susan Harrop
Ms. Tiffany Hudecheck
Ms. Christina Hudecheck
Ms. Meredith Hung
Ms. Kate Hutelmyer
Ms. Stephanie Jen

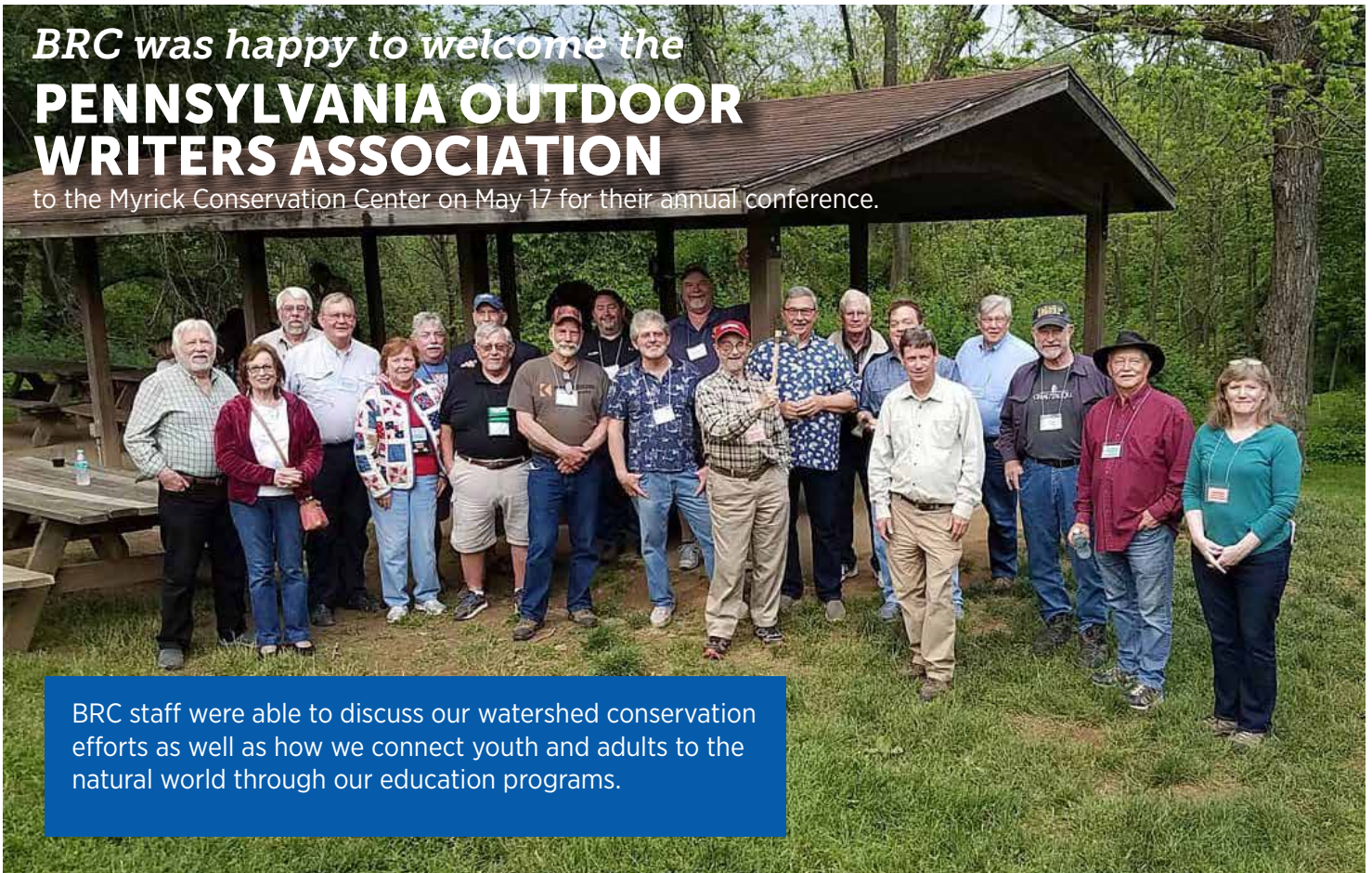
Ms. Melissa Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Jones
Hunter King
Chanchal Kokkuvayil
Johnathan and Rebecca Louick
Ms. Rachel MacElree
Ms. Jennifer Manning
Ms. Roxana McCloskey
Ms. Jennifer McGough
Ms. Elizabeth Moreno
Ms. Kristen Mork-McVeigh
Ms. Kristin Muzik
Ms. Christina Norland
Lee Pearson
Ms. Mary Devereaux Peterson

Ms. Suzann Poppe
Ms. Neeta Rotkar
Ms. Debby Schmidt
Mr. Joe Sciulara
Ms. Heather Shank
Ms. Patricia Sistowicz
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Somers
Ms. Katherine Torrente
Mr. Kevin Tryon
Ms. Kristen Valis
Ms. Lisa Wenturine
Jae Winter
Ms. Kelsey Young

Board Retreat

As part of the strategic plan, BRC hosted a board retreat facilitated by Sylvia & Carter & Associates on April 29th. Topics discussed included board roles and responsibilities, fundraising and development, as well as effective public relations. We are grateful to our board of directors for their ongoing support and participation. Funding for this event was made possible by the Jessie Ball du Pont Foundation.

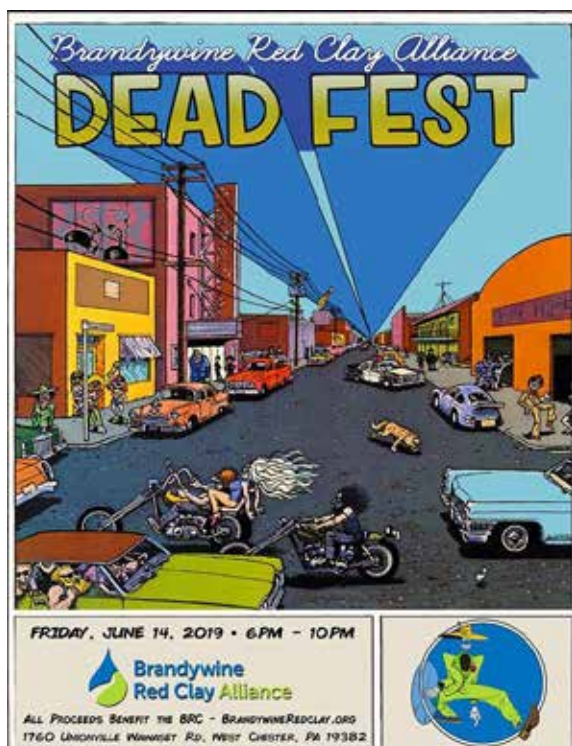
BRC was happy to welcome the
**PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR
WRITERS ASSOCIATION**
to the Myrick Conservation Center on May 17 for their annual conference.



BRC staff were able to discuss our watershed conservation efforts as well as how we connect youth and adults to the natural world through our education programs.

STAY TUNED to our website and social media for upcoming events.

2019 SPRING/SUMMER



UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- 10th Annual DeadFest** - Friday, June 14th
- First Day of Summer Camp** - Monday, June 24th
- Picnic Dinner & Star Gazing** - Friday, July 26th
- Volunteer Work Day at Myrick Conservation Center** - TBA
- Annual Dinner** - Thursday October 24th

WISH LIST

- Native Animal & Wildlife Posters
- Taxidermy Mounts & Insect Collections
- Gently used archery & fishing equipment
- Used Metal/Aluminum Pie Plates, Bowls & kitchen utensils

NOW OFFERING SCOUT PROGRAMS

Call 610-793-1090 to speak with Education Coordinator, Alexa Hart to discuss availability.

