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SCAN ME
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BRC

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County Finalize Merger

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC) and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) are excited to announce that their merger is official as of April 29, 2022.

"The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County is proud to partner with Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, said Ed Camelli, former chairman of TLC's Board of Trustees. The result of this merger will be a stronger, more robust and powerful organization that will continue to protect open space, improve our local waterways and educate our children how to be good stewards of the land and water."



"We, the Board of the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance are thrilled at the merger between our organization and the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. TLC has been a leader in land preservation in the region, and we feel that their mission dovetails perfectly with the BRC's. This is a great opportunity to augment the BRC's preservation efforts, and to bolster our tradition of protecting the beautiful open spaces of our watershed."

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, originally founded as Brandywine Valley Association, was formed in 1945, and in 2015 merged with The Red Clay Valley Association to become the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.

BRC headquarters will remain at the 318-acre Myrick Conservation Center in Pocopson Township, and with the merger complete, will have a total of seven preserves, totaling more than 1,000 acres, and 42 easements on more than 1,200 acres.

"We are excited for this increased stewardship along the Red Clay Creek, says Jim Jordan, BRC's Executive Director and CEO. We are looking forward to the opportunity to strengthen land preservation, and to further enhance BRC's environmental education opportunities and watershed efforts."

IT'S OFFICIAL!!

The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County has merged into Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.

**JOINING
FORCES
FOR:**

- Land Preservation
- Watershed Conservation
- Environmental Education

brandywineredclay.org



LAND CONSERVATION

With the merger of The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County into Brandywine Red Clay Alliance completed this April, a dedicated department for land protection now exists at BRC.

This merger supports the watershed conservation work that serves as the primary objective under BRC's mission as every land protection project serves to eliminate future development and protect natural resources in support of the larger BRC mission. Conservancy staff joined the BRC team to ensure TLC's ongoing projects continue to move forward while expanding to protect lands throughout the entirety of BRC's focus area.

Overall, the total protected lands currently held by BRC post-merger is 2,330 acres. Over 1,200 of these acres are privately owned properties protected via conservation easements that BRC monitor and enforce. Landowners who conserve their land help permanently protect the critical natural resources and open space that ensure clean air and water for all area residents. Many of our easements contain streams, riparian buffers, and wetlands, but even if these resources are not on each property, the elimination of residential building rights helps protect area water quality by limiting the amount of impervious surface area and stormwater runoff from each property that contaminates the area's streams and groundwater.

Two critical water quality projects were completed on Earth Day that permanently protected 107 acres of land in the Red Clay Creek watershed. The small easement is a fully wooded parcel with a tributary running the length of it; the conservation easement permanently protects the riparian buffer and wetlands that make up the acreage to ensure a shaded, cool stream for fish and wildlife. The larger parcel protects 100 acres of open space by eliminating all future development of the easement area and permanently protecting approximately 25 acres of freshwater wetlands and stream corridors for two first order tributaries to the East Branch Red Clay Creek.



Newly protected open space and wetland habitat in the Red Clay Creek watershed.



Newly protected open space in the Red Clay Creek watershed.

If interested in preserving your property, please reach out to BRC today!

TREES FOR CLEAN WATER

Once again, BRC partnered with the Chester County Conservation District to distribute 2,500 free trees, deer protection tubes and stakes to area landowners and municipalities through the Keystone 10 Million Tree Initiative. Students also planted 85 trees along a tributary to the Brandywine Creek at the Myrick Conservation Center behind the Browning Barn. Trees provide many ecological benefits including stabilizing stream banks, shading streams, providing wildlife habitat and helping to remediate climate change.



BRANDYWINE CLEAN UP FILLS 12 DUMPSTERS

On April 23rd, BRC held our largest clean up in the Brandywine Watershed. This year's clean up covered 31 miles of roads and trails, 3 miles of stream banks in 6 parks with 170 volunteers participating. The annual clean-up has grown to cover five sites including the Brandywine Picnic Park area, Modena Borough, Pocopson Township, Downingtown, in Chester County, and First State National Historical Park and Beaver Valley in Delaware. Many thanks to our new partners at Downingtown Municipal Water Authority for coordinating the new clean-up sites in Downingtown and for joining our nine other sponsors to support the event. Also new this year was a partnership with community volunteers and Representative Christina Sappey's office to help fill ten dumpsters of flood debris from Tropical Storm Ida left at the former Brandywine Picnic Park and surrounding areas. In the summer, 21 volunteers from Aqua helped to clean an additional 4.4 miles of stream in Downingtown filling another dumpster of trash.



This community effort would not be possible without the generous support of: Cleveland Cliffs, USW # 4-898, Flyway Excavating, Inc., Aqua, Pennsylvania American Water, Victory Brewing Company, Downingtown Municipal Water Authority, Draper & Kramer Mortgage Corp., and others.

RED CLAY VALLEY CLEAN UP

Early on Saturday morning, March 26th, 729 volunteers assembled to help with the Annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up. We were able to open the event up to groups again, and our objective was the same as in years' past – remove trash from roadways in the Red Clay Watershed to prevent it from ending up in the water.

We accomplished our goal by assigning crews to pick up trash on over 98 miles of roadways which resulted in 11.1 tons of trash and 136 tires removed from the watershed.



Thank you to our generous Red Clay Valley Clean Up sponsors: WSFS Bank, Constellation; An Exelon Company, Flyway Excavating, Inc., Phillips Mushroom Farms, Chandler Funeral Homes, Mt. Cuba Center, Bike Delaware, Kennett Area Park Authority, Delaware Nature Society

PLUM RUN STREAM RESTORATION CONNECTS TO FIRST PROJECT ON PLUM RUN

At the end of 2021, contractors completed the stream restoration on 1,600 feet of Plum Run at Strode's Barn, across from Birmingham Road where the first project was completed on Plum Run in 2010. Since then, we've completed eight projects on 1.8 miles of Plum Run. This spring BRC planted 650 live stake shrubs and 425 trees to complete the riparian buffer along the stream with the help of over 24 volunteers and staff over three work days. This watershed focused approach is a great example of the benefit of a watershed approach over several years that aggregates multiple projects for maximum water benefits. Funding for this project was provided by grants from PADEP Growing Greener and Chester County Planning Commission.



WORK ON LOWER WEST BRANCH RED CLAY WATERSHED RESTORATION ASSESSMENT AND PLAN BEGINS

For the first time in 12 years, BRC initiated a new Watershed Restoration Assessment and Plan. This new plan is focused on the West Branch of the Red Clay Creek from Route 1 downstream to the confluence with the East Branch near Marshall's Bridge. As noted with the success of the Plum Run project, this plan will provide a road map for future restoration on this branch with a watershed focus. Work began with Clauser Environmental assessing previous water quality data, maps and aerial photography and identifying eleven baseline water sampling sites on the main stem and tributaries in this 9.6 square mile sub-watershed. In May, BRC joined Clauser Environmental to collect chemical, biological and habitat data at all 11 sites that will inform our future restoration efforts. This project is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Dockstader Foundation.

CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS OF ALL AGES GET THEIR FEET WET IN THE BRANDYWINE!

In July, BRC led two canoe trips on the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek for aspiring and established watershed professionals. Once again 14 interns from the Wilmington Green Jobs program visited BRC to plant trees and take a canoe trip down the Brandywine. BRC also coordinated a canoe trip for 20 conservation professionals from the Christina Basin Task Force that included streamside natural history presentations covering revolutionary war history, geology and wildlife of the watershed. This group represents many of the organizations working to keep our watersheds clean.



BRC Watershed Conservation Intern, Maura Merganthaler, joined the water sampling team on the West Branch of Red Clay Creek this spring as well as working on riparian buffer projects



TROUT RODEO

Another successful Trout Rodeo was held on April 30, 2022 at Anson B. Nixon Park.



OVER 200 POUNDS OF VEGGIES DONATED TO KENNETT AREA FOOD CUPBOARD

At the start of the Covid pandemic, BRC planted our garden area as a Victory Garden to provide produce for those in need in our community and as a learning resource for our summer camp program. This year tomatoes were in abundance along with peppers and zucchini that were all donated to help those in need in Chester County.





Point-to-Point Photo Credit: Jim Graham



BRANDYWINE HILLS POINT-TO-POINT WELCOMED BACK SPECTATORS ON APRIL 3RD!

Spectators were back at the Myrick Conservation Center for the 79th running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point. Finish Line, Treeline and Garden Fence parking were sold out weeks before race day and despite less than stellar weather the crowds enjoyed the pony and horse races including the inaugural Side Saddle Race, stick pony races, foxhound parade, children's activities, a fabulous raffle and visiting with friends and family. We thank all the sponsors of this event. Proceeds benefit BRC's environmental education and watershed conservation programs.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Radnor Hunt Foxhunters
The Hounds Foundation

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TROUT STOCKING HIGHLIGHTS YEARS OF WATERSHED WORK IN HONEY BROOK

Trout stocking with two Amish schools on the West Branch of Brandywine Creek in Honey Brook resumed again this spring to emphasize the benefits of clean water to this community. BRC led this effort along with our conservation partners, Brandywine Conservancy and Stroud Water Research, to highlight the work on Amish farms to fence livestock out of streams, plant riparian buffers, reduce manure impacts on streams and restore eroded stream banks. Since 2014 we've worked with these partners and local farmers as part of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative's Brandywine-Christina Cluster funded by the William Penn Foundation.



YOUNG WATERFOWLERS PROGRAM FOR TEENS, AGES 11-16!

After a 3-year hiatus this regionally renowned program is back!

Waterfowling is an American tradition that combines hunting with an appreciation of wetlands and their wildlife. To instill a strong conservation ethic for all our natural resources, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC) and DelNature are providing an exciting opportunity for youngsters ages 11 through 16. Participants will study wildlife management, habitat protection, conservation practices and the values of wetlands during a comprehensive introduction to the American waterfowling heritage. Specific topics include identification of waterfowl, conservation ethics, retriever training, wing shooting skills, decoy carving, firearms and water safety and good sportsmanship. An optional hunt will be offered at the conclusion of the program, under the supervision of experienced guides. This is an exciting hands-on all outdoors program. Lunch will be provided.

Parent participation is encouraged, but not required (no extra fee). Participants will have the opportunity to fulfill the hunter safety requirements at no additional charge and will receive a certification card (required for all new hunters in PA and DE).

Led by Jim Jordan, BRC Executive Director, CEO with instruction provided by a host of regional experts, including accomplished carvers, dog trainers and world champion waterfowl callers.

To participate in these programs, a BRC or DelNature family membership is required. For additional information call 610-793-1090
On-line registration now being taken at www.brandywineredclay.org or www.delawarenaturesociety.org



Sundays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
October 16th and 23rd
Myrick Conservation Center
1760 Unionville Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382
\$75, members only



SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp 2022 was record breaking. As a result of our merger with The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County in April, we were able to offer our signature camps at a third location this summer. We also saw over 600 campers this year... the most ever! Not only did campers continue to get "Wet & Muddy Every Day", they forged new friendships and participated in exciting field trips including getting a sneak peak at a new preserve that we will be opening. Older campers were able to stay late for a cookout once a week while our younger campers explored their natural world through sensory activities. Planning for 2023 is already underway.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

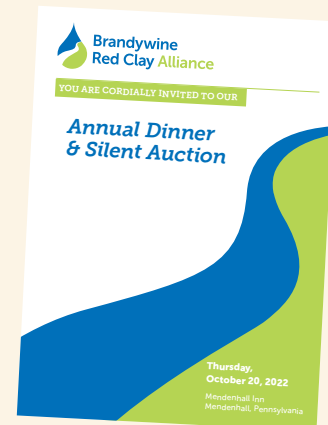
As we continue to build up our school programs since Covid, spring did not disappoint and we continue to see schools returning for field trips to the Myrick Conservation Center. This spring we conducted 53 programs seeing over 3,000 students across two states. As we move forward, we will increase our outreach offerings to bridge the gap schools face with transportation logistics. As a result of our merger with The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County, we have added a new location that offers an excellent stream to teach water studies in Kennett Township, Pennsylvania convenient for both the Delaware and Pennsylvania school districts we serve. In addition, we continue to offer funding to students that qualify for the National School Lunch Program. New program brochures should be available early Fall.

SAVE THE DATE for the beloved Annual Dinner at the Mendenhall Inn

Thursday, October 20th 5:30 – 8:30pm

Please join us as we shine a spotlight on our accomplishments over the last year, including the merger between BRC and the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. We are currently looking for items for our silent auction, including: vacation homes, artwork, restaurant & museum opportunities, sporting outings, memorabilia or other gift certificates and experiences.

Please reach out to the office at 610-793-1090 or contact@brandywineredclay.org if you are able to donate



NEW MEMBERS

Nov. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

Ms. Brianna Alcorn
Nick Alongi
Erin Anderson
Ms. Rhonda Anderson
Joe and Carol Apicella
Ms. Toni Armstrong
Ms. Elena Babinecz
Mr. Conor Balcavage
Mrs. Bardenhagen
Mr. Paul Barrera
Ms. Stephanie Baum
Ms. Elizabeth Bender
Ms. Camelia Benner
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Candace/Raul/Kaila
Berkowitz/Ortega
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Bill Laird
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Fawne Bouchard
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Ms. Jennifer Bozeman
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Ms. Meghan Bradbury
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Ms. Jessica Burger
Mick Burke
Carol Busch
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Ms. Whitney Casella
Ms. Heather Champion
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Ms. Linzee Ciprani
Mr. Matthew Clair
Mr. Keith Clinton
Sarah Coffey
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Ms. Sarah Costa
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Ms. Kristin Culp
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Ms. Megan Denoncour
Ms. Jacquelyn Dietrich
Rico DiFilippo
Ms. Karena DiLeo
Carol and Rob Diskin
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Ms. Ashley Eckert
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Ms. Liana Egee
Mr. Matthew Einstein
Erin Eldredge
Ms. Jessica Eldridge
Ms. Briana Ewing
Mr. and Mrs. William Fantini
Kelly Farrow
Ms. Erin Fay
Ms. Kelly Fiore
Ms. Katherine Fow
Ms. Katie Fultz
Ms. Colleen Gaiski
Ms. Luanne Gates
Ms. Krista Gathercole
Ms. Glasier
Stevie Grasseti
Ms. Sara Gray

Angel Green and
German Vasquez
Ms. Sherry Guo
Ms. Angela Hale
Mr. Kirby Halverson
Mr. Jonathan Harrison
Mr. Gary Helme
Ms. Lauren Henry
Ms. Amy Hertzog
Ms. Allison Hissey
Ms. Hixon
Ms. Natalie Hommes
Ms. Susan Hopkins
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Ms. Courtney Zentz
Mr. Samuel Zug

Please consider an Annual Campaign donation to BRC in 2022 so that we can continue our efforts to preserve our natural resources for tomorrow, next year, and future generations.

BRC has expanded our goals and reach with the merger with TLC, and we would appreciate your support as we increase our watershed and land conservation and environmental education work.

If you've already made a gift to BRC's Annual Campaign this year, thank you! Please share these opportunities with friends and family or consider an additional gift to help us reach our challenge goals.



brandywineredclay; #weheartbrc



Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester, PA 19382 | 610.793.1090
contact@brandywineredclay.org | brandywineredclay.org

Address Service Requested

2022 FALL

BOOKS & BOOTS SERIES

Ages 2 - 7

10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/1 & 12/15

10:00am - 11:30am

Books come to life at the Myrick Conservation Center as Potter the Otter reads a book to inspire. The story continues with an outdoor adventure and craft. Please remember to dress for the weather as the program runs outside.

Members \$6.50, Non-Member \$13 Per Session

Parents and caregivers MUST also register (free of charge)



New programs are added seasonally; please check our website for updates! All programs require registration 48 hours prior to program & a minimum of 6 participants.

To view calendar or register, please visit
www.brandywineredclay.org/events/

WISH LIST

- Carson MicroBrite Plus 60x-120x LED Lighted Zoom Pocket Microscopes
- Woodburning pens
- Gently used (or new) 3D archery targets – Deer, Fox, Rabbit, Raccoon, Turkey, or Woodchuck
- Fishing equipment
- Nature themed photos taken in the Brandywine or Red Clay Watersheds for BRC marketing purposes.

Email photos to eb Bernardino@brandywineredclay.org and include where the photo was taken, the date the photo was taken, and how the photographer would like to be recognized.

